Local Consultation on Draft Plan

19 June 2018 to 31 July 2018

Protecting rural character while allowing for appropriate development

Have your say!
Consultation runs from 12:00 noon, Tuesday 19 June 2018 to 12:00 noon, Tuesday 31 July 2018
Introducing the Neighbourhood Plan

Your Parish Councils are pleased to present the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for our three parishes of Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston, and Whitmore for local consultation.

The Neighbourhood Plan is extremely important because it will provide us with a powerful tool to help our communities to shape future development in our parishes. It sets out the key policies to guide how we want our settlements to evolve during the period up to 2033. It will empower us to press hard for development that truly meets our identified local needs for housing, community facilities and infrastructure, and it will provide information to developers and planners about the type and location of development that our communities need.

The Plan reflects the desire clearly and strongly expressed by local residents through the community engagement and consultation process to protect the rural character of our parishes and settlements and to meet local needs for housing and community facilities.

In recent years the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent has exposed our parishes and settlements to inappropriate development that puts pressure on our limited facilities, that risks permanently changing the rural character of our settlements, and that adds to the ever-increasing amount of traffic on our roads. The Neighbourhood Plan will have legal status in the planning system and will provide us with the means to resist such inappropriate development.

This booklet is being delivered to all households in the three parishes and sets out the policies of the Plan. The complete Plan can be viewed online, and printed copies are also available to view at key locations, as explained in this booklet. The complete Plan contains detailed evidence to support the policies, as well as the actual policies of the Plan, and a section on other issues that have emerged during the community engagement and consultation process and that the Parish Councils will work on during the years ahead.

There has been considerable local community engagement throughout the preparation of the Plan, including roadshows and public meetings at key stages, the Residents’ Survey in summer 2016, the Local Green Space consultation in summer 2017, regular articles and news items in ‘One Way’ magazine and posted on parish and village hall noticeboards and on the website, and several leaflet drops to all households. The Local Consultation is now your opportunity to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan as it enters the final stages of plan-making and before it is put to the vote in a Local Referendum.

Val Follwell, Chairman, Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council
Mike Kelly, Chairman, Maer and Aston Parish Council
Ian Webb, Chairman, Whitmore Parish Council
Your opportunity to comment on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Local Consultation is your opportunity to comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. It is the final stage of community engagement on the Plan before it goes to examination and Local Referendum.

- The Neighbourhood Plan has been created by the residents of our three parishes of Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston, and Whitmore.
- The Plan has been informed by input received from the residents of our parishes since summer 2015 via public meetings, roadshows and the Residents’ Survey (questionnaire).
- Once it is adopted it will enable us to control the future direction of planning consents in our three parishes.
- It will enable us to protect the rural character and natural environment of our area while accepting appropriate new development.

Viewing the Plan
To view or download the Draft Neighbourhood Plan you can access it from any of the following websites:

- www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk
- chapelandhillchorltonpc.uk
- www.maerastonparishcouncil.co.uk
- www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk

Printed copies of the Plan are available to read at the following locations:

- Aston village hall
- Chapel Chorlton church
- Maer church
- Whitmore village hall
- Castle House, Ironmarket, Newcastle

Contents of the Plan
The Plan contains the policies of the Plan and supporting evidence. It is divided into 6 main sections on: strategic context of the Neighbourhood Area; socio-economic context; land use; natural and historic environment; expected impact of HS2; policies; other issues raised through community engagement. There is also a map section. The Plan is illustrated with charts, tables and photographs. There are feature boxes throughout on issues, opportunities, historical background and comments collected via community engagement activities.

Commenting on the Plan (deadline for comments: 12:00 noon on Tuesday 31 July)
If you wish to comment on the Plan you can do so in the following ways:
Complete and submit the online form at www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk
Complete the paper form enclosed with this booklet and return to a collection point at:

- Aston village hall letterbox
- Chapel Chorlton church
- Maer church
- Whitmore village hall
- Station Stores, Whitmore

Next stages
After completion of the Local Consultation the Plan will be submitted to the Borough Council for a further stage of consultation and for examination by an Independent Examiner. When the Plan has passed examination the final stage will be the Local Referendum.

Please turn out to vote in the Local Referendum on your Neighbourhood Plan!
The chart shows how each policy will contribute to achieving the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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Note about maps
Maps referred to in this booklet can be seen in the full Plan (online and printed copies). Map 33, proposed village envelope extensions for Baldwins Gate, is reproduced in this booklet.
Vision for the Neighbourhood Area

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will maintain and enhance the rural character of the three parishes and protect and enhance the area’s built and natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of all who live and work in the Neighbourhood Area, visit it or travel through it, now and in the future.

It will provide for a range of homes to meet the needs of community members and promote a truly sustainable community and a diversified rural economy. Residents and businesses will be encouraged to adopt a variety of renewable energy technologies that do not adversely impact on the landscape. The plan will promote health and well-being by providing space and facilities for exercise and other leisure activity.

Policies for the Neighbourhood Area

Biodiversity and Natural Environment policies

Purpose

- To protect, preserve, restore and promote the area’s natural heritage, landscape, habitats and biodiversity.
- To protect valued near and distant views and the landscape settings of the settlements.
- To ensure that adequate on-site drainage is provided on all new developments; to avoid flood risk on new developments or increasing flood risk elsewhere.

Policy NE1: Natural Environment

New development must preserve or enhance and not harm or degrade the special rural character and ecological and environmental features of the area, including:

- wildlife areas, including designated Local Wildlife Sites (see Maps 17a and 17b), wildlife corridors, watercourses, sunken lanes, ponds and lakes, woodland, orchards
- the Lowland Raised Bog at Chorlton Moss and other peatland sites (see Maps 10, 11, 12)
- the Functional Ecological Units of Chorlton Moss Local Wildlife Site, New Pool and Oak Wood Local Wildlife Site and Maer Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (see Map 11)
- the Principal Aquifer lying beneath the majority of the Neighbourhood Area, including beneath and to the south of the village of Baldwins Gate (see Map 13)
- other natural habitats, including Habitats of Principal Importance (see Maps 17a, 17b, 18, 25 and 26)
- veteran trees
- mature hedgerows
- night-time environment, including dark skies.
Application of policy NE1
The policy includes a general requirement to consider impacts on the natural environment and also highlights elements of the natural environment that are particularly sensitive. Interference with peat deposits must be avoided.

Over-draining has led to the deterioration of the Lowland Raised Bog at Chorlton Moss, which Natural England has assessed to be capable of restoration. Over-draining must be avoided in future, both at this location and in other peatland areas.

Exterior lighting should point downwards and be designed to avoid spillage beyond the area to be illuminated. Sensor lights on individual timer controls and compliance with BS5489-1:2013 (or its successor) are to be preferred.

Policy NE2: Sustainable Drainage
All development proposals must be designed to include sustainable drainage and water management measures and must either demonstrate that the existing water drainage infrastructure is adequate, or include improvements to that infrastructure to accommodate any additional water run-off.

Application of policy NE2
This policy requires sustainable drainage to be incorporated into development proposals. In addition, developers should ensure that there is sufficient drainage infrastructure capacity to accommodate the proposed development and not cause flooding elsewhere.

Any proposed Sustainable Urban Drainage System should not impact adversely on the existing natural environment and ecologically sensitive sites (see policy NE1).

To avoid flood risk and to protect wildlife corridors, culverting of existing watercourses and infilling of dry ditches should be avoided; wherever possible existing culverts should be opened up.

Community Facilities policies

Purpose

- To identify existing and new buildings and land that are of importance to the community’s well-being.
- To identify and protect green areas of importance to the community.
- To ensure that new development is supported by the commensurate and appropriate augmentation of infrastructure, services and community facilities that are of importance to the community’s functioning and well-being.

Policy COM1: Community Facilities
(a) New community facilities will be considered for approval, provided that they would have no significant adverse impact on:
1 existing community facilities;
2 the amenities of any nearby residential properties;
3 road capacity and safety; and
4 the local, natural and historic environment of the Neighbourhood Area.

(b) Any development proposals relating to existing community facilities will be considered for approval, provided that they would not have any significant adverse impact on the community value of the facility. For a list of these facilities refer to section 3.4. Maps 5a and 5b show the locations of these facilities.

Application of policy COM1
This is an enabling policy for new community facilities and further development of existing community facilities to ensure that the range of community facilities in the Neighbourhood Area remains undiminished. Such facilities could include health, education, retail, tearooms/cafes, formal/informal meeting places, indoor and outdoor recreation, sport and leisure facilities, open space, public car parking facilities.

Policy COM2: Local Green Space
New development must not encroach on Local Green Spaces. In exceptional circumstances, small-scale development may be considered within a Local Green Space, provided that it does not compromise the open quality of that space and enhances its overall community value.

Application of policy COM2
This policy provides protection for Local Green Spaces, whilst enabling small-scale development that complements the community use of a specific Local Green Space. An example would be a small storage and changing facility to support a sports or recreational use. This policy also seeks to ensure that any such developments are accessible to the public.

Policy COM3: Developer Contributions
In considering Section 106 requirements or allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy monies, the following infrastructure priorities in the Neighbourhood Area should be considered:

1 Provision of social infrastructure to support growth, including health, education, sport and leisure and other community facilities, e.g. care facilities and other services;
2 Provision of new open spaces and enhancement of existing open spaces, footpaths, bridleways and routes to support walking, cycling and recreational facilities; and
3 Provision of new bus stops and improved public transport services.
**Application of policy COM3**

This policy sets out infrastructure priorities for the Neighbourhood Area.

Where the upkeep of Public Open Space is to be secured by maintenance agreements, public access to Public Open Space and footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways over the Public Open Space should be secured and protected by appropriate conditions.

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**Design, Character and Built Heritage policies**

**Purpose**

- To protect, preserve and promote the area’s conservation areas and heritage assets.
- To find new uses for disused buildings that make a positive contribution to the local built heritage.
- To ensure that all new development, including replacement dwellings and extensions, is in conformity with the area’s rural character and local built heritage.
- To maintain and enhance connectivity within settlements and between existing and new development and promote ‘active travel’ (walking and cycling) within settlements.
- To protect rural character by ensuring an adequate level of parking provision within settlements and on new developments and avoid on-street parking and car-dominated street scenes.
- To minimise the impact of light pollution on the rural character and natural environment of the Neighbourhood Area.
- To encourage ‘active transport’ within settlements by providing a network of safe pedestrian and cycle routes and open spaces.
- To create safe links between new development and existing routes and open spaces.
- To limit the impact of light pollution on local amenity, the night-time landscape and the Neighbourhood Area’s wildlife.
- To create safe, attractive and uncluttered developments.
- To encourage residents and businesses to adopt a variety of renewable energy technologies.

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**Policy DC1: Local Heritage**

The reuse of non-statutory local historic buildings is strongly encouraged. This includes historic farmsteads, commercial buildings, places of worship and educational buildings. Conversion schemes will be considered for approval, provided that:

- they complement the character and appearance of the existing building;
- the scale and massing of any extension does not over-dominate the original;
- high-quality and durable materials are used.
Application of policy DC1

Historic buildings refers to buildings in Conservation Areas and non-statutory heritage assets. Complementing the existing structure is not necessarily about imitation, but can include well-designed contemporary interventions. High-quality materials could include well-finished and durable modern materials or authentic historic materials, including authentic vernacular materials such as Staffordshire Blue roof tiles and scalloped or fish-scale roof tiles. It would not include ‘mock’ traditional materials, such as plastic fascias or standard concrete roof tiles.

This policy seeks to enable rural diversification and should be applied to all forms of development, not just residential.

Policy DC2: Sustainable Design

All development will be considered for approval provided that it:

1. Complements surrounding townscape in terms of urban form, spacing, enclosure and definition of streets and spaces;
2. Maintains the character and appearance of the existing residential area;
3. Is spaced and set-back to reflect surrounding properties;
4. Reflects the scale and massing of neighbouring residential properties;
5. Reflects the heights of surrounding properties;
6. Avoids the appearance of over development and over urbanisation, taking account of the rural character of the area;
7. Uses high-quality, durable materials, to complement the site and context;
8. Responds to and preserves views and landmarks visible from within sites in the design and layout of the development;
9. Includes high-quality boundary treatments to reflect the local rural character;
10. On the edge of the countryside, takes account of the transition between built area and open landscape, particularly in the built form, landscaping and boundary treatments;
11. Responds appropriately to local topography; and
12. Does not involve the development of public open space.

Application of policy DC2

The policy covers new development, replacement buildings and extensions.

Design and access statements submitted with planning applications should make clear how the requirements of this policy have been met.

In terms of high-quality materials, the policy would be met by authentic local materials and other durable materials with a high standard of finish and durability. The policy would not be met by poor-quality imitation of traditional materials. Samples of materials could be submitted as a planning condition.
Planning applications should make clear how the National Planning Policy Framework’s encouragement for community engagement has been met, recognising that this is a material consideration. Community engagement should be focused on the pre-design stage, so that the community’s knowledge informs the design process. Late-stage engagement, focused on narrow and subjective aesthetic matters, offers little opportunity to influence the fundamental characteristics of a scheme.

**Policy DC3: Public Realm and Car Parking**

New development must demonstrate high standards of urban design by:

1. Providing ease of movement for pedestrians and cyclists, including by connections to surrounding pedestrian and cycle routes and Public Rights of Way;
2. Providing streets that encourage low vehicle speeds and which can function as safe, social spaces;
3. Providing a mix of car parking as an integral part of the layout, so that vehicles do not dominate the streets and spaces;
4. Ensuring that parking space provided within the curtilage of each dwelling is proportionate to the size of the property;
5. Avoiding adverse impacts on the capacity of the highway network, including through generating additional on-street parking;
6. Improving and enhancing existing footpaths and pedestrian and cycle routes; and
7. Minimising the impact of outside lighting sources on the environment and wildlife and minimising light pollution.

**Application of policy DC3**

Applying this policy will require consideration of the impact of the new development, together with the combined impact of other approved developments.

The design of new developments should have regard to legibility of layout and connectivity with existing development and important local routes for ‘active travel’.

The car parking mix should comprise garage and driveway space and could include designated landscaped parking areas for visitors and overflow residential parking so as to avoid on-street parking and a car-dominated street scene.

Garage and within-curtilage parking space should not dominate frontages.

**Policy DC4: Connectivity and Spaces**

New development adjacent to existing footpaths, Public Rights of Way, bridleways, cycle ways, green links or open spaces must take account of their proximity by avoiding negative impacts on amenity, safety, visual appearance, surveillance and functionality.

New development must also consider where possible making connections to the existing footpath and bridleway network.
Application of policy DC4
Development should not turn its back on existing pedestrian, cycle and bridle routes or open spaces, for example by flanking them with hedges or fencing. It is essential that open surveillance be maintained.

It is highly desirable for new development to provide links to existing pedestrian, cycle and bridle routes and open spaces (see above, Policy DC3 Public Realm and Car Parking).

Policy DC5: Street Lighting and Illuminated Signage
We will encourage the following approach to the provision of street lighting and illuminated signage:

- Street lighting should be minimal if at all and should not disturb dark skies;
- Any light source should point downwards so it has minimal impact on the environment, minimal effect on local wildlife and minimise light pollution;
- Individual timer controls shall be installed for each light source, and all lighting should comply with BS5489-1:2013 (or its successor).

Application of policy DC5
Street lighting should be fully shielded. Signage should be shielded to the extent possible and reflection from illuminated surfaces should be minimised. The number of traffic signs, advertisements and the like should not exceed what is necessary to meet the requirements of the law.

Policy DC6: Housing Standards
New housing development must:
1. Include adequate screened storage space for bins and recycling;
2. Ensure permeable surfaces in hard landscape areas;
3. Provide secure, covered space for cycles;
4. Provide electrical car charging points within the curtilage of properties, accessible from parking areas.

Application of policy DC6
The policy addresses variety of issues in housing development, including drainage and external storage, and the uptake of new transport technology. Secure, covered space for cycles could be provided within garage space.
**Policy DC7: Renewable Energy**

All new developments should consider the installation of renewable energy technologies either on an individual building basis or on a development-wide basis, provided there would be no significant adverse impact on the landscape and rural character of the area. Community energy schemes and micro-generation schemes will be considered for approval where there would be no significant adverse impact on the landscape and rural character of the area.

**Application of policy DC7**

This policy is intended to encourage the uptake and use of renewable energy technologies within the Neighbourhood Area and to enable small-scale community energy schemes that are compatible with the rural character of the area.

**Economy and Business policies**

**Purpose**

- To promote rural businesses that will contribute to the local and the wider economy.
- To promote home working and to provide suitable premises and communications technology to enable residents and employers to establish businesses in the Neighbourhood Area.
- To provide suitable indoor and outdoor space for the enjoyment and leisure use of both residents and visitors.
- To promote the Neighbourhood Area’s built heritage and natural assets and incorporate them into the local economy.
- To provide the means for residents and visitors to learn about and enjoy the Neighbourhood Area’s natural and heritage assets.

**Policy EB1: High-Speed Connectivity and Telecommunications**

New development, including both housing and commercial uses, must:

- incorporate High-speed Internet connectivity;
- not impact negatively on the functionality of the existing telecommunications infrastructure.

A connectivity statement should be included with all relevant planning applications to demonstrate that broadband access and speed will be sufficient.

**Application of policy EB1**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that new development is ready for connection to faster services. This promotes sustainable live/work patterns by enabling home working and supporting local business.
High speed is defined by the government’s Broadband Delivery UK office as service that offers “speeds of greater than 24 Megabits per second” (i.e. 24Mbps+, or 25Mbps).

Developers should work with providers of telecommunications infrastructure to deliver the necessary physical infrastructure to accommodate information and digital communications networks as an integral part of all new developments.

**Policy EB2: Commercial and Tourism Development**

*New build development, or changes of use, to create enterprise or employment accommodation supporting rural diversification will be approved, providing it has no significant adverse impact on residential amenity or on the local environment. This includes consideration of noise, disturbance, traffic movement, visual impacts, dust, vibrations and other impacts.*

**Application of policy EB2**

This is an enabling policy and applies to all business-related development, including agricultural, equestrian, tourist and other rural uses.

The policy requires impacts to be assessed. Planning decisions will take account of technical data on impacts (for example highways and environmental health advice). A significant adverse impact would be indicated where development would be likely to result in legitimate complaints from nearby residents on grounds of public nuisance.

Technical reports submitted by developers will be checked by the local planning authority, in consultation with suitably qualified highways and health advisers.

Commercial schemes that incorporate sustainable construction and energy generation, such as solar powered energy systems or ground source heat pumps, are encouraged.

Employment development utilising brownfield sites is particularly welcomed.

This policy should be applied with policy ASP6 of the Core Spatial Strategy and saved policy E12 of the Local Plan.

**Housing Growth policies**

**Purpose**

- To protect rural character while allowing for appropriate development.
- To provide a range of energy-efficient homes to meet the needs of residents of all ages, physical abilities and financial means.
- To identify sustainable locations/sites for housing.
- To provide a range of energy-efficient homes to meet the needs of residents of all ages, physical abilities and financial means.
- To identify existing and new buildings and land that are of importance to the community’s well-being.
To provide suitable indoor and outdoor space for the enjoyment and leisure use of both residents and visitors.

**HG1: New Housing**

New housing development will be considered for approval in sustainable locations. These are:

- within the village envelope of Baldwin’s Gate (see Map 33 on facing page)
- small-scale infill development.

To be sustainable, development must:

1. Not encroach into the open countryside;
2. Not involve the loss of high grade agricultural land;
3. Avoid encroaching onto or impacting on sensitive landscapes and habitats;
4. Not involve the loss of any important community facility;
5. Be supported by adequate infrastructure, or provide any necessary infrastructure improvements as part of the development.

**Application of policy HG1**

The policy seeks to focus development into existing settlements. This helps to make existing settlements more sustainable and prevents those settlements from encroaching into the open countryside or from merging into each other. The village envelope of Baldwins Gate has been extended to include additional land for housing (see Map 33 on facing page).

**Policy HG2: Housing Mix**

Residential developments of more than 5 houses must include a balanced mix of house types to meet local need and deliver affordable housing within the development. This includes houses suitable for those wishing to downsize, young families and first-time buyers and specialist accommodation suitable for the elderly, vulnerable or disabled persons.

Housing development must be tenure-blind, with affordable housing mixed in with the standard market housing. Gated developments fragment the community and will be discouraged.

The proportions of different house types and sizes must be based on evidence of local housing need and this should be demonstrated as part of any planning application.

**Application of policy HG2**

Local evidence of need suggests an under-supply of smaller housing units and indicates a need for a higher proportion of smaller units in new developments. The mix should include both houses and bungalows to meet the needs of both young families and older people.

Compliance with the Lifetime Homes standard is encouraged.
The policy does not seek to modify the affordable housing requirements in the Local Plan in terms of numbers. However, it does make clear that affordable housing must be provided as an integral part of new development, rather than as financial contributions for affordable housing elsewhere.

**Policy HG3: Local Play, Sports and Recreational Facilities**

Access to high-quality play, sports and recreational facilities is an important element of sustainability, and residential development proposals must deliver or contribute to such facilities where this is viable and deliverable, in line with Fields In Trust quantity benchmark guidance, as follows:

- 5–10 dwellings: Local Area for Play;
- 10–200 dwellings: Local Area for Play and a Locally Equipped Area for Play.

Planning applications must also be supported by an assessment of the level of formal outdoor space (including sports facilities) that proposals should deliver, in line with Fields In Trust recommended benchmark guidance.

**Application of policy HG3**

To ensure that local people have access to a range of high-quality open spaces and environmental assets, and that development proposals include appropriate provision and support towards delivering or enabling access to such assets.

**Map 33: Proposed village envelope extensions for Baldwins Gate**

The two extensions to the village envelope are the Kier site at Gateway Avenue and the site at Watering Close plus Holmecroft and No. 2 Lakeside Close.
How to take part in the Local Consultation

Who: Anyone aged 16 or over is eligible to respond to the Consultation.

When: The Consultation starts on **19 June 2018** and ends on **31 July 2018**.

Where: The complete Draft Neighbourhood Plan is available to view as follows:

**Online:** Via the parish council websites and the Neighbourhood Plan website:

- chapelhillchorltonpc.uk
- www.maerastonparishcouncil.co.uk
- www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk
- www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk

**Printed:** Paper copies can be viewed at the following locations:

- Aston village hall
- Chapel Chorlton church
- Maer church
- Whitmore village hall
- Guildhall Customer Service Centre
- Castle House, Ironmarket, Newcastle

**Drop-in event:** A drop-in event will be held at **Whitmore village hall** as follows:

- **2:30pm to 7:30pm, Wednesday 27 June**

Parish councillors and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be available to answer your questions.

How: You can comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan by completing one of the printed response forms enclosed with this booklet or by filling in the online form on the website at **www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk**.

Paper response forms can be returned to collection points at the following locations:

- Aston village hall letterbox
- Chapel Chorlton church
- Maer church
- Whitmore village hall
- Station Stores, Whitmore

**Deadline for responses:** If you wish to comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan your response must be submitted by **12:00 noon on Tuesday 31 July 2018**. No responses submitted after that time can be considered.

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**It’s your neighbourhood – please support the Plan!**

**Please turn out to vote in the Local Referendum**

Visit the website: **www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk**

Email us: cmaw-neighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com

Are you on the Neighbourhood Plan email list?

To join the list, send us an email!