

**Consultation Statement**

**(March 2016)**

**Ashover Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

## **1. Introduction**

This document provides a summary of the engagement that took place in developing the draft Ashover Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

It has been prepared in part to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain.

According to the Regulations, a Consultation Statement:

- a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- b) explains how they were consulted;
- c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;
- d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

## **2. Consultation and Engagement undertaken to date**

The Steering Group leading the development of the neighbourhood plan under the auspices of Ashover Parish Council, identified that strong and effective consultation was key to the successful development and implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. In particular, the consultation aimed:

- To inform as many local people and other relevant bodies and stakeholders as possible of the existence of the Neighbourhood Plan and its development and;
- To seek their views on the proposals being developed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The regulations and best practice identify a number of distinct stages in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is at the third (submission) stage.

## **3. Defining the Neighbourhood.**

The local community is required to decide how they intend to work together to undertake the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. Ashover is a 'parished' area therefore, the Parish Council has led on the neighbourhood planning process.

- The Parish Council applied to the local planning authority (North East Derbyshire District Council) to designate the Parish as a neighbourhood plan area and;
- The District Council (North East Derbyshire District Council) checked that the application was appropriate, and undertook the appropriate notification process, including notifying appropriate stakeholders and publicising the proposed designation on its website.

The designation was made on 16 February 2015.

#### 4. Preparing the draft plan

The next stage was to develop the draft Plan. Residents and stakeholders were involved extensively in this process. This included

- A Steering Group was established under the direction of the Parish Council involving parish councillors and members of the community; minutes of meetings are available on the Parish website (see <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>)
- A community questionnaire was undertaken in 2015 to which 238 or 27% of households responded (the findings of the questionnaire are available via [www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/consultation-undertaken-for-the.html](http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/consultation-undertaken-for-the.html));
- A staffed exhibition/drop-in session was held in July 2015. At this event, which over a hundred people attended, people were asked to give their thoughts and ideas on priority issues for the Plan. The event was extensively publicised including posters around the Parish, through the parish website and social media including face book (a copy of the findings of the exhibition/drop-in sessions are available via <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/consultation-undertaken-for-the.html>);
- A second staffed exhibition/drop in session took place in December 2015 at which the community was presented with the emerging policies. The emerging policies were available to view in large format on presentation boards, as well as via a Power Point presentation. Again the event was very well attended (over a hundred forty people taking part) and extensively publicised (a copy of the findings of the exhibition are available from <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/consultation-undertaken-for-the.html>);
- The emerging policies were then published on the Parish Council website for several weeks after the 2015 event and people were invited to comment on them;
- The promoters of potential housing sites in the Parish met with members of the Steering Group. They were also invited to display their potential housing sites at the consultation event held in December 2015;
- Notices were placed on Parish notice boards, social media and the Parish Council's website asking people to get involved and informing them of the Plan's progress;
- A notice and progress of the Plan were included in the Parish Website, which includes a dedicated section on the Neighbourhood Plan (see <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2016/01/neighbourhood-plan>);
- There were regular meetings and correspondence with planning and other relevant officers at North East Derbyshire District Council;
- There were regular meetings and correspondence with other bodies and agencies such as Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Chesterfield Campaign for Real Ale; and

- The Neighbourhood Plan was included as a regular agenda item at Parish Council meetings - minutes of which are available on the Parish website (see <http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings.html>)

## 5. The Pre-Submission Consultation Process

The draft Ashover Neighbourhood Plan was considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Ashover Parish Council where it was agreed to proceed with the formal pre-submission consultation with the draft plan in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

The consultation period started on the 22nd January 2016.

The draft Plan was publicised effectively in the local community and to wider stakeholders. This included where the plan can be viewed and how to make a response.

- It was made available for inspection on the Parish Council's dedicated neighbourhood plan web page (<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>) including supporting information;
- Copies were made available at convenient locations throughout the Parish such as the parish offices, post office, medical centre and the 'Tuck Shop';
- Parish councillors and other Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Members encouraged people to respond;
- Notices were placed social media and the Parish Council website; and
- All relevant consultation bodies letter (the full list of consultees is set out in Appendix 1) were notified electronically or by letter.

The consultation period formally ended on 8<sup>th</sup> March (though in practice responses that came a day or two after this deadline were considered). This ensured there was at least 6 weeks available for consultation responses to be made.

A total of fifteen responses were received. These spanned a wide range of issues in relation to the Plan. Many were supportive of the Plan and its aims. Other issues notably raised were raised with regard to Policy AP 4 New Housing Provision and Policy AP 5 New Housing Allocations. A numbers of comments were also received in respect of Policy AP 20 Ecology and Bio Diversity in particular the wording of this Policy.

The responses received were considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Plan was then amended accordingly. A few other technical changes were also made in light of updated evidence notably for example in relation to housing related planning permissions in the Parish.

A summary of consultation responses received was produced setting out the main comments received and the Parish Council's response to these. This can be found on the Parish Council web site (<http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>)

The amendments and the revised Plan were considered by the Parish Council which formally agreed the submission of the draft Ashover Neighbourhood Plan to North East Derbyshire District Council.

### **Appendix 1 – Groups and Bodies Formally Consulted**

- North East Derbyshire District Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Derbyshire County Council
- Brackenfield Parish Council
- Wingerworth Parish Council
- Clay Cross Parish Council;
- Holymoorside & Walton Parish Council
- Stretton Parish Council
- Beeley Parish Council
- Matlock Town Council
- Darley Dale Town Council
- Tansley Parish Council
- Rowsley Parish Council
- The Coal Authority
- The Homes and Communities Agency
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- The Highways Agency
- British Gas
- National Grid
- BT Group plc
- Severn Trent Water Ltd
- North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- The Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service and Action Limited
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- National Trust
- Derbyshire Racial Equality Council
- Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum
- National Gypsy Travellers Federation
- Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce (Chesterfield Office)
- Derbyshire Coalition for Independent Living
- Derbyshire Police
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Country Land & Business Association Limited

- Chesterfield CAMRA, (Campaign for Real Ale)
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire
- Rykneld Homes