

North Claines Parish Council



North Claines Neighbourhood Plan

2015 - 2030

Consultation

Statement

March 2016



North Claines
Parish Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement provides the evidence to demonstrate that the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan (NCNP) has been produced with the engagement and participation of the local community and other stakeholders with an interest in the area.
- 1.2 The Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of 'The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012'. Section 15 (2) of Part 5 'Neighbourhood Development Plans' of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:
- (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; and
 - (d) Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- 1.3 Section 14 'Pre-submission consultation and publicity' of the Regulations sets out the minimum requirement for consultation of the draft (or pre-submission) version of a neighbourhood plan. These are:
- (a) Publicise, in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:
 - (i) Details of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan;
 - (ii) Details of where and when the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan may be inspected;
 - (iii) Details of how to make representations; and
 - (iv) The date by which those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date on which the draft proposal is first publicised.
 - (b) Consult any consultation body referred to in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 (see Appendix 1.1) whose interests in the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan; and
 - (c) Send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.
- 1.4 A greater level of consultation, engagement and participation by the community has taken place than required by the legislation. This is evidenced within the following sections of this Statement.
- 1.5 The aims of the consultation and engagement process were:
- To develop the plan using volunteers from the community as well as local town councillors.
 - To carry out initial consultation so that the development of the plan was informed by the views of local people and others from the start of the neighbourhood planning process.
 - Engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of events and consultation techniques.
 - Ensure that consultation events were well published and located in accessible locations.
 - Ensure that the results of consultation events were fed back to local people as soon as possible after the consultation event.

2 Neighbourhood Planning Committee

- 2.1 North Claines Parish Council (NCPC) resolved in July 2012 to progress with producing a Neighbourhood Plan. In January 2013 NCPC formally established a Neighbourhood Planning Committee (NPC). The aim of the NPC is to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of North Claines Parish Council that properly reflects the wishes of the electorate and which meets criteria within the Localism Act 2011, Section 9 – Neighbourhood Planning and any other relevant and subsequent legislation. The membership of the NPC consists of a minimum of two Councillors from NCPC and any other members of the community co-opted by the NPC. A copy of the terms of reference of the NPC is included at Appendix 2.1.
- 2.2 The NPC has met regularly throughout the production of the NCPC. It has provided updated reports on the progress of the NCNP at the monthly Parish Council meetings. It has also overseen the instruction and management of consultants that were engaged to help produce the NCNP and its supporting documents and engage with stakeholders.
- 2.3 The NPC has also been responsible for organising engagement and consultation with the community and stakeholders on the production of the NCNP.

3 Pre-Draft Consultation and Engagement

3.1 The Parish Council have carried out a number of engagement and consultation exercises with the local community:

- 7 November 2012 – presentation and public meeting at the War Memorial Hall in Fernhill Heath. A copy of the presentation is included at Appendix 3.1.
- 18 May 2013 – Neighbourhood Planning Open Day event at the War Memorial Hall. A copy of the exhibition boards is included at Appendix 3.2.
- Spring 2013 – Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire in the Parish Focus. A copy of the questionnaire is included at Appendix 3.3
- December 2013 – Various events held locally at Mace, to report back on the results of the response to the Questionnaire. A copy of the exhibition board used for these events is included at Appendix 3.4. The Winter 2014 Parish Focus, included at Appendix 3.5 provided the responses to the Questionnaire. A report analysing the responses was produced for the NCPC. This was put on the Parish Council's website. A copy of the report is included at Appendix 3.6.
- March 2014 – Community Survey Workshop including members of NPC, other members of the Parish Council and members of the Community. A report was produced following this workshop which is included at Appendix 3.7.
- July 2014 and July 2015 – Draft Proposals Exhibition at the 'Fun on the Brum' event. A copy of the exhibition board is included at Appendix 3.8.
- In addition the quarterly Parish Focus has updated the local community on progress with the NCNP. Relevant extracts from the Parish Focus are included at Appendix 3.9.

3.2 The above shows that there has been significant engagement and consultation with the local community in the development of the NCNP.

3.3 In addition, there has been regular dialogue with planning officers at Wychavon District Council (WDC) to discuss policies and issues. There has also been dialogue and/or meetings with other key stakeholders including:

- Worcestershire County Council Highways Authority
- Worcestershire County Council Local Education Authority
- Hindlip CE First School
- Claines CE Primary School
- Wychavon District Housing Department.

3.4 A Strategic Environmental Assessment was undertaken for the draft NCNP. During the process of Scoping the SEA and consulting on the SEA report the following consultees were contacted:

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England.

3.5 A Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Opinion of the draft NCNP was undertaken by WDC. Natural England have been consulted on the Screening Opinion.

4 Consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

4.1 North Claines Parish Council approved the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the SEA for the purposes of consultation on 5 October 2015. Between that date and the start of the formal consultation on 6 November 2015 the following activities took place:

- A special edition of the Parish Focus entitled 'Parish Planning' (see Appendix 4.1) was distributed to every household in the NPA during the week commencing 2 November 2015.
- Press release (see Appendix 4.2) was issued on W/C 2 November 2015 to the Berrows Journal and on W/C 9 November 2015 to Worcester News. Appendix 4.3 provides a copy of an online article from the Worcester News.
- Digital copies of the Draft NCNP and the Strategic Environmental Assessment were added to the Parish Council's website under the 'Neighbourhood Planning' page on 4 November 2015.
- Hard copies of the draft NCNP and the SEA were placed in The Old Library Centre in Droitwich Spa (The Parish Council Clerk's formal address) from 6 November 2015.
- A digital copy and downloadable copy (see Appendix 4.4) of the Consultation Response form was placed on the Parish Council's website on 4 November 2015. The website also included an online survey form.
- Three drop-in sessions; one at Hawford School on Saturday 7 November between 10.00am and 1.00pm and two at Fernhill Heath Baptist Church on Thursday 12 November between 6.00 and 9.00pm and Saturday 14 November between 12.00 and 5.00pm. A copy of the exhibition boards and photographs of the events is shown at Appendix 4.5 and 4.6 respectively.
- Letters to the consultation bodies (list provided by Wychavon District Council) were emailed on 4 November 2015 (see Appendix 4.7 for list).
- A list of local stakeholders contacted in relation to the draft NCNP and SEA is shown at Appendix 4.8.
- Wychavon District Council provided a link from its website to the draft Plan on 3 November 2015.

5 Responses to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

5.1 Appendix 5.1 provides a detailed schedule summarising the responses made by residents, statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and non-residents. In total there were some 38 no. respondents providing comments on the draft plan. There were also 69 copies of the same letter in relation to a specific site submitted as a petition attached to one of the respondent's correspondence.

Number and Type

Resident	19
Statutory Consultee	8
Non-Statutory Consultee	6
Non-Resident and Unknown	5
Total	38

5.2 Below is a breakdown of the number of comments by policy section:

Housing (Policies NCH1 – NCH4)	12
Retail and Employment (Policies NCR1 – NCR2)	5
Transport (NCT1 – NCT4)	10
Landscape and Environment (NCLE1 – NCLE6)	37
Design (Policies NCD1 – NCD3)	4
Community (Policies NCC1 – NCC3)	9
Key Diagram	3
Total	80

5.3 The table at Appendix 5.1 provides a schedule of the comments received and suggested changes where proposed. The table also includes the Parish Council's response to the comments and its proposed changes to the neighbourhood plan.

6 Amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan

6.1 A number of changes have been made to the NCNP arising from the comments and responses on the Draft NCNP. Some of these changes relate to the format and presentation of the document. Others relate to more substantive issues including the number and wording of policies. The paragraphs below provide a summary of the changes between the Draft NCNP and the Submission NCNP.

Section 1: Introduction

6.2 Minor amendments relating to the adopted SWDP; the fact that the Minerals and Waste Local Plans have been considered in the production of the NCNP; the time period is amended from a start date of 2010 to 2015 and that the NCNP once made will give local people more authority and responsibility than they had previously.

Section 2: The Planning Policy Context

6.3 Much of the detail to this section has been moved to Appendix 2.1 – 2.4 of the document. The remainder of the section provides a summary around what the NCNP has to be in general conformity with in relation to both the NPPF and local planning policy. The section removes reference to the Wychavon District Local Plan as this has been superseded by the adoption of the SWDP.

Section 3: Understanding the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area

6.4 Much of this section is deleted with much of the paragraphs dealing with Key Statistics from the 2011 Census having been moved into Appendix 3.1 to sit alongside the tables that provide the source information. The 'historical development' section moves to the previous Section 4.

Section 4: Spatial Considerations and Issues

6.5 This section is renamed 'The North Claines NPA Issues and Considerations' and includes the section on 'Historical Development' from the previous Section 3. The paragraphs providing a summary describing the Parish and its surroundings is retained. Additional information on education and health provision is added following further engagement with Worcestershire County Council and NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.

6.6 A summary of Census information relating to the NPA is provided with further information found in Appendix 3.1.

6.7 Sections on Minerals and Waste relating to the NPA are added to this chapter as a result of representations made by Worcestershire County Council.

6.8 A couple of paragraphs are introduced into this chapter on the importance of the gap between Lower Town and Fernhill Heath.

Section 5: Vision and Objectives

6.9 There has been limited change to this section with some minor amendments to the wording of the objectives. Creating safe, secure and low crime communities is added to objective 10 to respond to representations made by West Mercia Police. The Vision remains the same. It is considered a realistic ambition for the NCNP and there were no objections to it.

Section 6: Strategy

6.10 This section is broadly the same as the Draft NCNP. There were no objections to its content. It is considered a relevant section in providing the context for the policies and provides a high level direction for where and how the NCNP will take the NPA over the next decade and a half.

Key Diagram

- 6.11 The Key Diagram has been amended to reflect representations made. The boundary of Hindlip Park Local Important Historic Park and Garden has been confirmed by Wychavon District Council. A plan is shown at Appendix 6.1 which is taken from Survey of Historic Parks and Gardens, Richard Lockett (1997) which was commissioned by Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust.
- 6.12 The Local Green Space designation has been amended to reflect representations made. There are now two designations relating to greenspace. One relates to Local Green Space, as defined in NPPF (paras. 76-77), and refers to the Brum open space on Droitwich Road. Letters of support for this designation from the Parish Council and the local Women's Institute are included at Appendix 6.2. The second greenspace designation relates to Amenity Green Space and refers to other open spaces and playing fields within the NPA.

Section 7: Policies and Proposals

- 6.13 In order to make this section clearer to the reader and to demonstrate linkages to both the NCNP's vision, the Local Community's views, and objectives and general conformity with the SWDP there have been formatting changes to each of the policy sections.
- 6.14 Each policy section includes subheadings for 'Objectives', 'Community Views', 'Policy', 'Reasoned Justification' and 'Local Plan Compliance' as well as the policy wording. This helps to demonstrate the evidence base and support for the proposed policy. It also links it back to the objectives of the NCNP and demonstrates the policy's compliance with the SWDP. There have been minor amendments and additions to the wording to the 'Reasoned Justification' (previously referred to as an 'Explanation').
- 6.15 The table overleaf provides a summary of the changes to each of the draft NCNP policies.

Section 8: Plan Delivery and Implementation

- 6.16 This section sees limited changes which reflect the changes to policy numbering and the addition of subsections on 'Projects' and 'Delivery Action Plan'.

Section 9: Plan Monitor and Review

- 6.17 Again limited changes have been made to this section. For clarification the Parish Council will monitor and report on the NCNP on an annual basis. A review of the NCNP will take place within two years of the end date of the NCNP or should there be a review of the SWDP within its time period (before 2030).

Draft NCNP Policy	Submission Version	Change	Reason
NCH1: New Residential Development	NCH1A: New Residential Development NCH1B: Site Specific Requirements for Sling Lane/Old Drive Residential Allocation	The policy has been split to include more detail around the requirements for the NP allocation. Reference to the SWDP allocation is removed from policy but retained in Reasoned Justification.	To provide relevant information for the decision taker; remove policy wording that is already in the SWDP and ensure conformity with NPPF.
NCH2: Integrating New Housing	NCH2: New Housing and Infrastructure	The previous policy included design integration and infrastructure integration. The design element has been incorporated into policy NCD1: Development and Design Principles. This policy now concentrates on infrastructure provision associated with new housing.	To ensure that the policy is clear in terms of its intentions for the decision-taker.
NCH3: Housing Mix	NCH3: Housing Mix	The policy incorporates a threshold similar to Policy SWDP 14 to which it will apply. It adds that need should take account of an up-to-date SHMA or Local Housing Needs Survey.	To ensure general conformity with NPPF and the SWDP.
NCH4: Affordable Housing	Deleted	The reasoned justification has been retained and moved to NCH3: Housing Mix. The policy requirement will be dealt with by that policy.	The policy was considered to repeat Policy SWDP15 and not add any new requirement for the decision taker.
NCRE1: Fernhill Health Village Centre	NCRE1: Fernhill Health Village Centre	The section on potential projects has been moved to Section 8. Cross reference to Policy NCLE3: Local Heritage Area added as the two designations overlap.	To ensure that the policy provides a clear indication of how a decision-taker should react to a development proposal in the Village Centre.
NCRE2: Promoting Local Employment Growth	NCRE2: Promoting Local Employment Growth	Wording relating to Green Belt is removed from policy and put into the reasoned justification.	To ensure general conformity with NPPF.
NCT1: Transport and Development	NCT1: Transport and Development	Criteria added in relation to layout for all users including emergency services.	To respond to consultee comments.
NCT2: Public Transport	Deleted	Deleted.	The policy was not considered to deal with land use planning issues.
NCT3: Environmental Improvement Corridor	NCT3: Environmental Improvement Corridor	'Designated transport' replaced by 'A38'.	To remove any ambiguity over designation.

NCT4: Cycle Connections	NCT2: Sustainable Transport Routes	Amended to encompass more than cycle provision. Policy includes a requirement for mitigation should a development near to a route be considered to increase usage.	To ensure that the policy deals with all modes of sustainable travel and that it provides a clear indication of the requirements for the decision-taker.
-	NCT4: Fernhill Heath Rail-Halt Park and Ride Facility	Policy added to support text at Paragraphs 7.36 – 7.39 of draft NCNP. Provides a set of criteria that any proposal will need to satisfy. The policy supports the designation on the Key Diagram.	The consultation on the draft did not lead to any objections to this aspiration and there was support from the relevant statutory consultees. The policy will help to support the community's aspiration to bring this forward.
NCLE1: Connections with the Countryside	NCLE1: Connections with the Countryside	First paragraph deleted as it repeated the last paragraph of the policy.	To remove duplication of the policy.
NCLE2: Local Heritage Assets	NCLE2: Local Heritage Assets	Policy removes reference to designated heritage assets and refers to the significance of non-designated heritage assets. 'Preserved' is amended to 'Conserved'.	To ensure that the policy refers to local heritage assets that are not already protected and that the policy is in general conformity with the NPPF.
NCLE3: Local Heritage Area	NCLE3: Local Heritage Area	No change.	No change.
NCLE4: Green Space	NCLE4: Green Space and Green Infrastructure	Criteria B1 amended to refer to an 'assessment of need' to show that there is a surplus of green space in the area.	Provide clarity for the decision-taker.
NCLE5: Local Nature Conservation Assets	NCLE5: Local Nature Conservation Assets	No change.	No change.
NCLE6: Trees and Woodland and Development	NCLE6: Trees and Woodland and Development	Remove the minimum thresholds for additional new tree planting. Policy is clearer on where off-site planting would be acceptable.	There is no evidence to support the threshold requirement and responding to consultee comments.
NCD1: Development and Design Principles	NCD1: Development and Design Principles	Add section on integration into the existing area previously in Policy NCH2. Add to criteria 5 the application of secured by design.	Ensure greater clarity on the Plan and respond to consultee comments.
NCD2: Detailed Design Elements	NCD2: Detailed Design Elements	Add criteria relating to adequate water supplies for effective firefighting.	Response to consultee comments.
NCD3: Sustainable Design	NCD3: Sustainable Design	Remove reference to 'zero carbon buildings policy'.	To reflect changes in Government policy.

NCC1: Community Infrastructure	NCC1: Community Infrastructure	Criteria added to seek provision of community infrastructure in relation to new residential development.	Policy previously only sought to protect existing facilities rather than provide additional facilities to serve the residents of new developments as well as the existing community.
NCC2: Playing Field Provision	NCC2: Playing Field Provision	No change.	No change.
NCC3: Healthy Communities	NCC3: Healthy Communities	Threshold of 10 or more dwellings added and reference made to GP and dental services. Health and wellbeing referred to the future occupiers of the new developments.	To ensure that the policy is not overly onerous in applying to all new residential development. Providing greater clarity on the requirements of the policy.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The Statement demonstrates how local residents, interested bodies and statutory consultees were consulted on the NCNP. It also provides a summary of the responses made to the consultation and what action and response the NCNPC (on behalf of the Parish Council) has made in relation to those comments.
- 7.2 The Statement also provides a summary of the changes that have been made to the draft NCNP as a result of the consultation responses. As such, the Statement fulfils the requirements of the relevant sections of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1.1

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012 SCHEDULE 1
CONSULTATION BODIES**

Schedule 1 Regulation 3

Consultation Bodies

Neighbourhood development plans

- 1 For the purposes of regulations 14 and 16, a 'consultation body' means –
- (a) Where the local planning authority is a London borough council, the Mayor of London;
 - (b) A local planning authority, county council or parish council any part of whose area is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority;
 - (c) The Coal Authority ^(a);
 - (d) The Homes and Communities Agency ^(b);
 - (e) Natural England ^(c);
 - (f) The Environment Agency ^(d);
 - (g) The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as English Heritage) ^(e);
 - (h) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Company no. 2904587);
 - (i) The Highways Agency;
 - (j) The Marine Management Organisation ^(f)
 - (k) Any person –
 - (i) To whom the electronic communications code applies by virtue of a direction given under Section 106 (3) (a) of the Communications Act 2003; and
 - (ii) Who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority.
 - (l) Where it exercises functions in any part of the neighbourhood area –
 - (i) A Primary Care Trust established under Section 18 of the National Health Service Act 2006 ^(g) or continued in existence by virtue of that section;
 - (ii) A person to whom a licence has been granted under Section 6 (1) (b) and (c) of the Electricity Act 1989 ^(h);
 - (iii) A person to whom a licence has been granted under Section 7 (2) of the Gas Act 1986 ⁽ⁱ⁾;
 - (iv) A sewerage undertaker; and
 - (v) A water undertaker.
 - (m) Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit all or any part of the neighbourhood area;
 - (n) Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the neighbourhood area;
 - (o) Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the neighbourhood area;
 - (p) Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the neighbourhood area; and
 - (q) Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the neighbourhood area.

(a) See Section 1 of the Coal Industry Act 1994 (c.21)

(b) See Section 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (c.17)

(c) See Section 1 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (c.16)

(d) See Section 1 (1) of the Environment Act 1995 (c.25)

(e) See Section 32 of the National Heritage Act 1983 (c.47)

(f) See Section 1 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c.23)

(g) 2006 (c.41)

(h) 1989 (c.29) Section 6 was substituted by Section 30 of the Utilities Act 2000 (c.27)

(i) 1986 (c.44) Section 7 was amended Section s3 (2), 76 (1) and (3) of, and Paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 6 to, the Utilities Act 2000

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Neighbourhood Planning Committee (NPC)

Terms of Reference

1. Aim of the NPC

To deliver, within a given budget, a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of North Claines Parish Council that properly reflects the wishes of the electorate (as defined in relevant legislation) and which meets criteria within the *Localism Act 2011, Section 9 – Neighbourhood Planning* & any other relevant and subsequent legislation

2. Purpose

1. In properly reflecting the wishes of the electorate the Committee will ensure the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan fall under the headings of ...

1. Residential Housing

- To formulate clear policies and guidance on relevant aspects of housing most appropriate for future development within the Parish

2. Economic & Business Development

- To identify & make appropriate provision for business and commercial developments to meet the needs of the local community and ensure the continued economic growth of the Parish

3. Environmental Sustainability

- To ensure that any residential, commercial or other developments within the Parish protect & where possible enhance the natural environment

4. Access to and opportunities within the Countryside

- To provide residents and those working within the Parish with opportunities to access, utilise and enjoy the natural environment including the protection and provision of public rights of way and recreation facilities,

5. Providing Services to the Community

- To identify & make appropriate provision for services to meet the needs of the local community

6. Promoting a Safe and Secure Place to Live and Work

- To work with the Police & community partners to ensure both the design of new & enhancement of existing developments reduces the opportunities for crime and ASB
2. Initial themes are not exhaustive and others may be added during the consultation period and the formulation of objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

3. Membership

A minimum of two (2) Councillors from North Claines Parish Council (NCPC) and a minimum of two (2) others (other NCPC Councillors or local residents) co-opted by the NPC

4. Quorum

Three (3) Members of the NPC

5. Authority

1. North Claines Parish Council Standing Orders – *Standing Order 16*
2. Localism Act 2011 - Schedule 9 - *Neighbourhood Planning*
3. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
4. National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

6. Conditions

1. North Claines Parish Council Standing (NCPC) Orders will apply to all matters relating to the meetings, actions and decisions of the NPC
2. The NPC will be elected from Councillors of NCPC on an annual basis at a meeting of the Parish Council
3. The first meeting of the NPC after election will be to elect a Chairperson
4. The NPC will meet as and when required, but no less than once per calendar month
5. Interim meetings of the NPC will take place on an informal basis & may be closed to the public & press
6. Formal meetings will be announced and the public & press invited as per NCPC Standing Orders

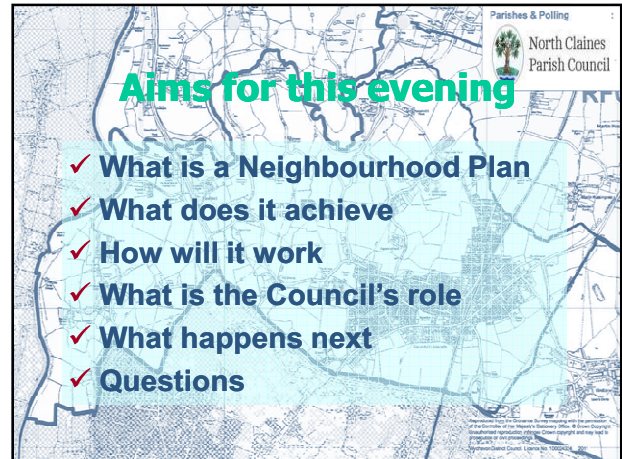
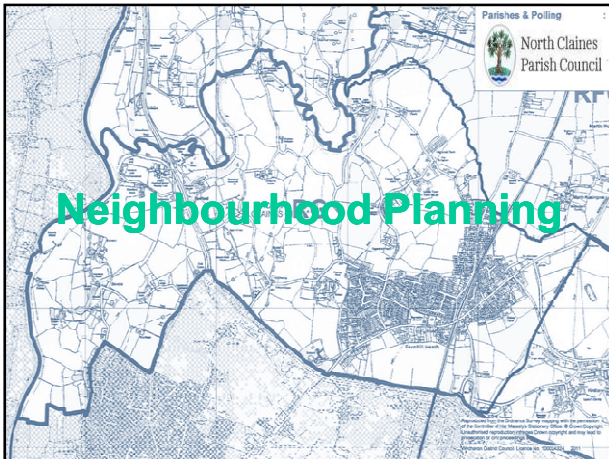
7. Members of the NPC will receive agenda, copies of minutes and other relevant documentation prior to Formal meetings
8. Once approved, minutes from each meeting will be presented to the next NCPC meeting for information & reference and made available to the public as per NCPC Standing Orders
9. Any decisions made at quorum meetings of the NPC will be presented to the NCPC for ratification
10. Unless the NCPC directs otherwise the NPC may arrange to devolve any of it's functions and work to sub-committee(s), Officers of the Council or other appropriate third-parties / individuals
11. Unless otherwise stated relevant documents can be authorised on behalf of the NCPC by members of the NP Committee and signed by the Chairperson of the NP on behalf of the NP Committee
12. The Committee has responsibility for managing the NP budget and all spending decisions ratified by the NCPC
13. Any proposed changes to budgeting and spending will be discussed with the NCPC and ratified before implementing
14. A review of the Terms of Reference will take place every 6-months from the date of this proposal and any subsequent changes provided to the NCPC for voting

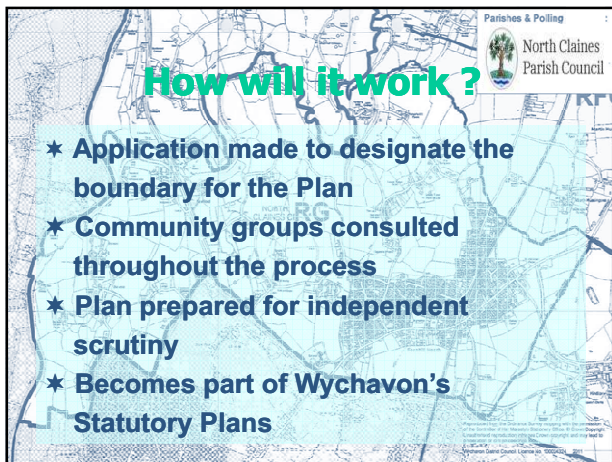
7. Restrictions

1. Only members of the NPC may vote on agenda items
2. Where appropriate recommendations and other matters arising will be referred to the full NCPC for final decisions
3. Members of NCPC who are not members of the NPC may attend both informal & formal meetings in their capacity as a Councillor and will be allowed to speak on any agenda item with the agreement of the Chairperson, but will not be allowed to vote unless / until relevant matters are referred to the NCPC
4. Members of NCPC who are attending NPC meetings are subject to the same rules as Committee members regarding confidentiality & the requirements of the Codes of Conduct

APPENDIX 3.1

PRESENTATION MATERIAL – 7 NOVEMBER 2012





How will it work ?

- ★ Application made to designate the boundary for the Plan
- ★ Community groups consulted throughout the process
- ★ Plan prepared for independent scrutiny
- ★ Becomes part of Wychavon's Statutory Plans



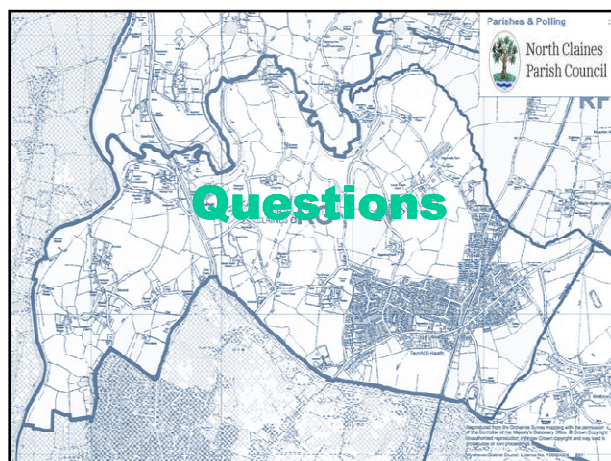
What is the Council's Role ?

- ★ Appoint Steering Group to oversee production of the plan
- ★ Appoints Cass Associates to support creation of the plan
- ★ Explore potential funding streams
- ★ Ensure all critical steps are met along the way



What happens next ?

- ★ Residential Housing
- ★ Economic & business development
- ★ Environmental sustainability
- ★ Engaging with the countryside
- ★ Providing services for the Community
- ★ Promoting a safe and secure place to live & work



Questions

APPENDIX 3.2

EXHIBITION BOARDS – 18 MAY 2013

North Claines Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning



Welcome to this event

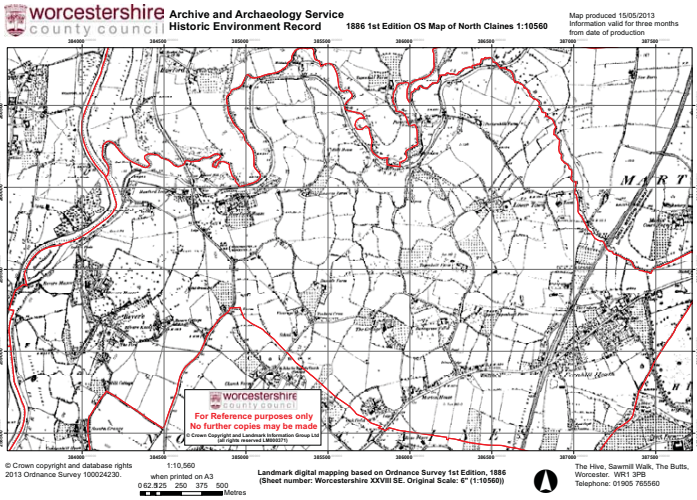
Aim of this event

The following 6 boards provide a portrait of the Parish looking at a range of aspects such as:

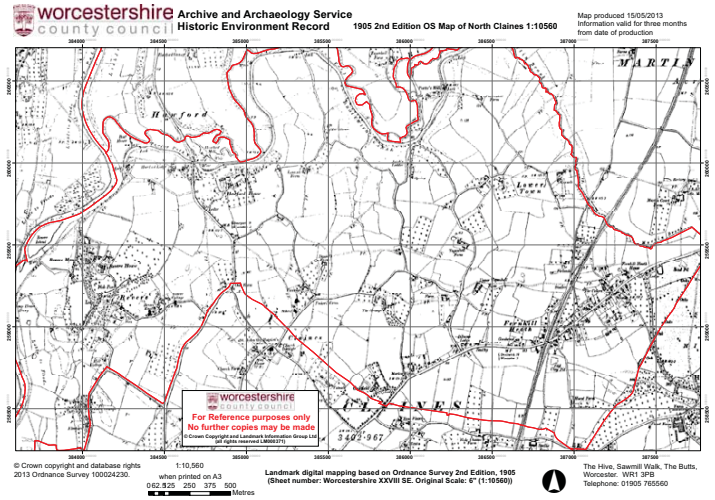
1. Historical development
2. The location of services and facilities and land use designations
3. Transport infrastructure
4. Environmental designations such as flood risk, soil classification and landscape character
5. The character of the area
6. Key statistics from the 2011 Census

We hope you find the information of interest. Should you have any questions please ask one of the Parish Councillors who will be on hand during the event.

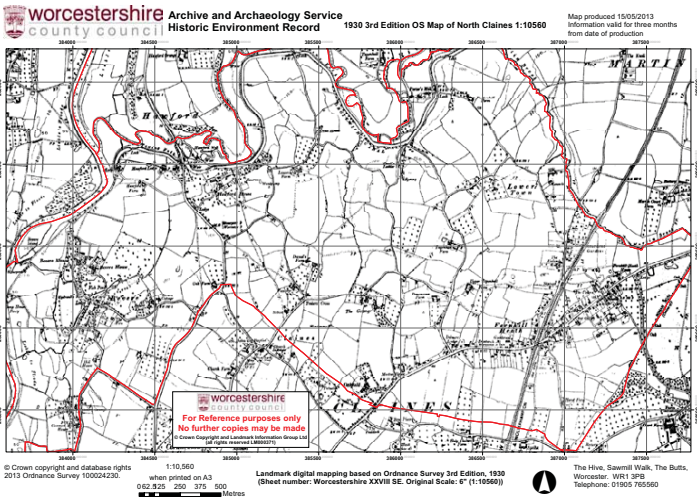
The following maps show the historical development of the Parish from the late 19th Century through to the present day.



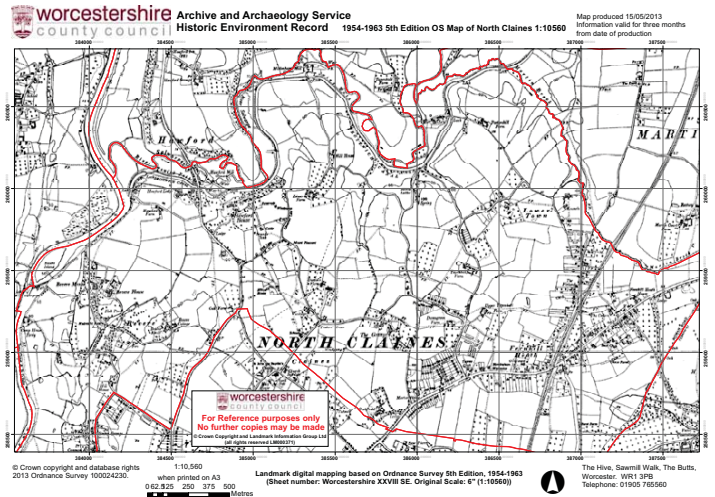
1886



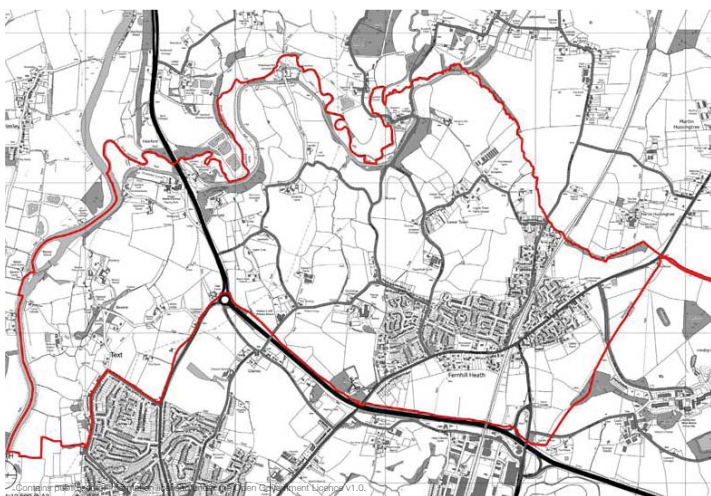
1905



1930



1954-1963

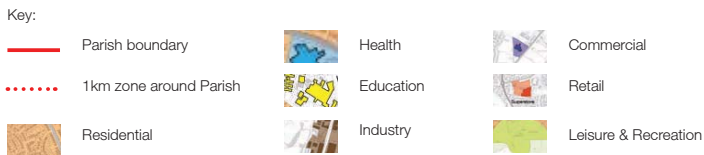
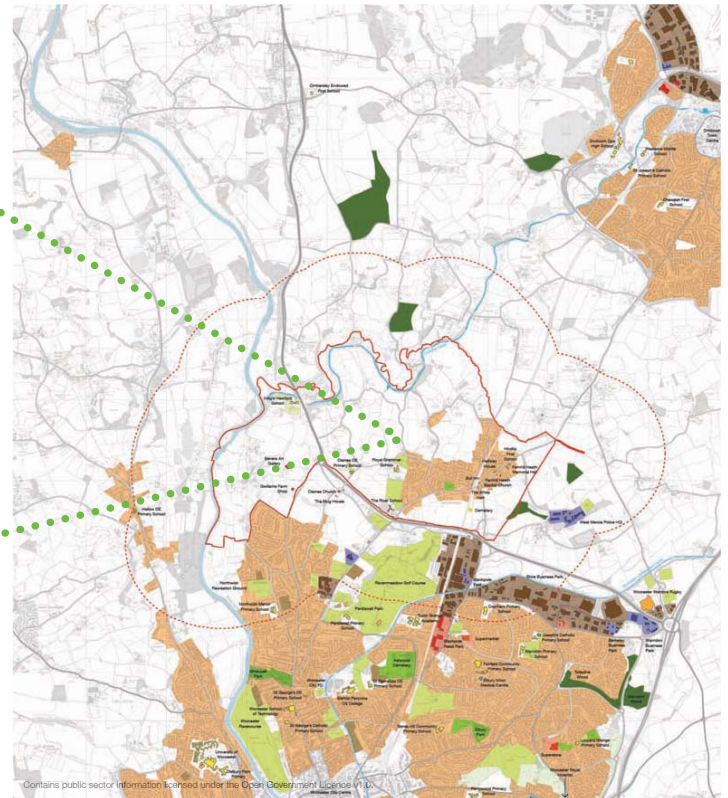
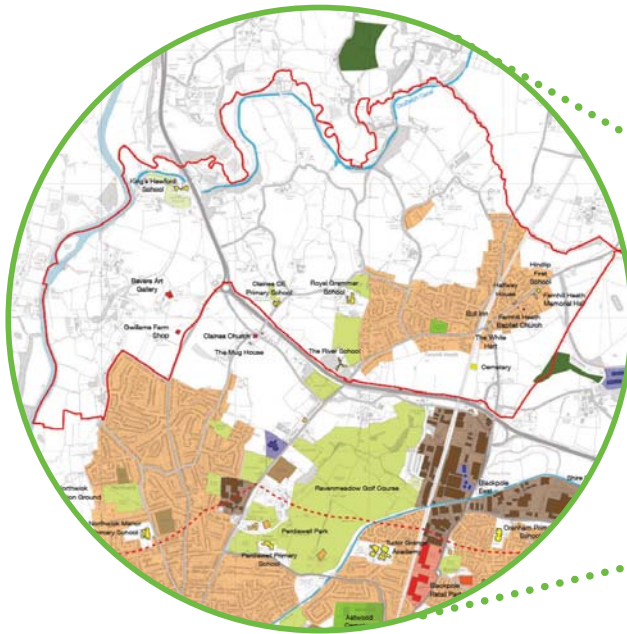


Today



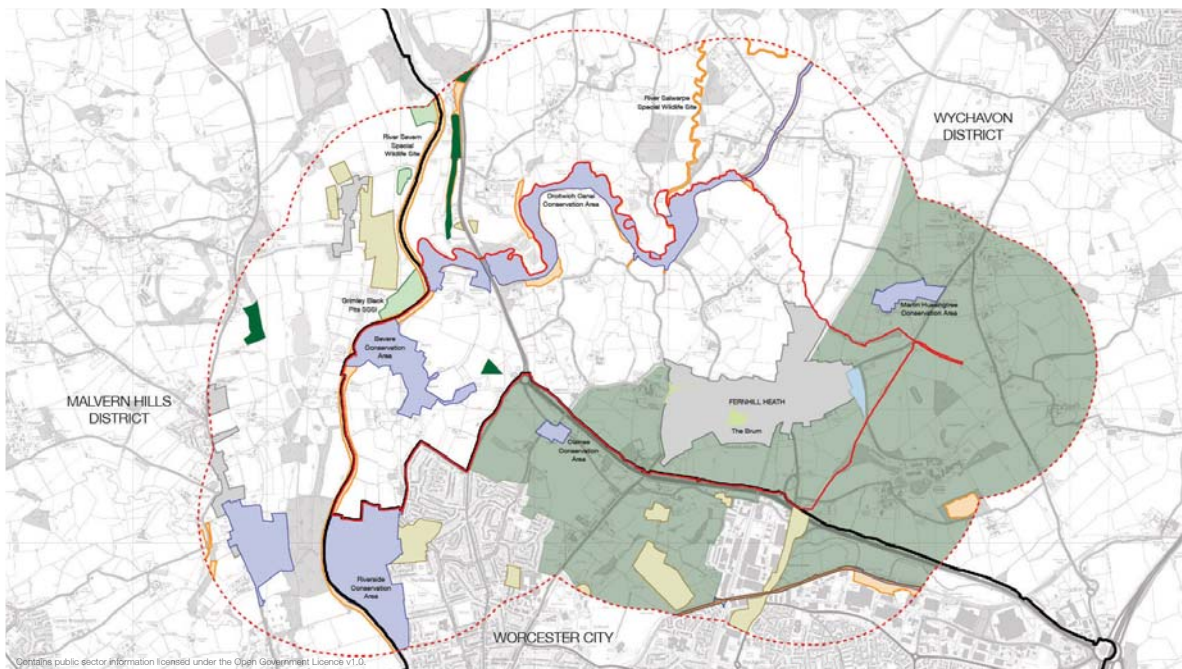
Future

The following maps show the location of services and facilities within and close to the Parish including schools, health centres, shops, employment areas and green spaces.



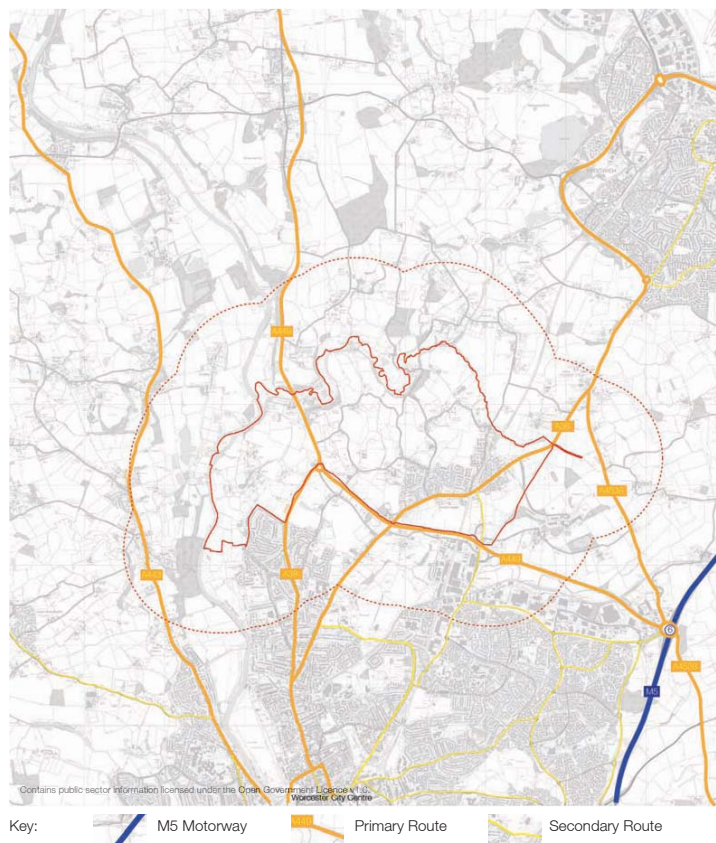
Land Use Designations

The map below shows the land use designations within the current Local Plans for the area. A large part of the eastern end of the Parish is within the Green Belt. Fernhill Heath is recognised as a village that could accommodate additional development within its boundaries. There are two Conservation Areas and two Special Wildlife Sites.



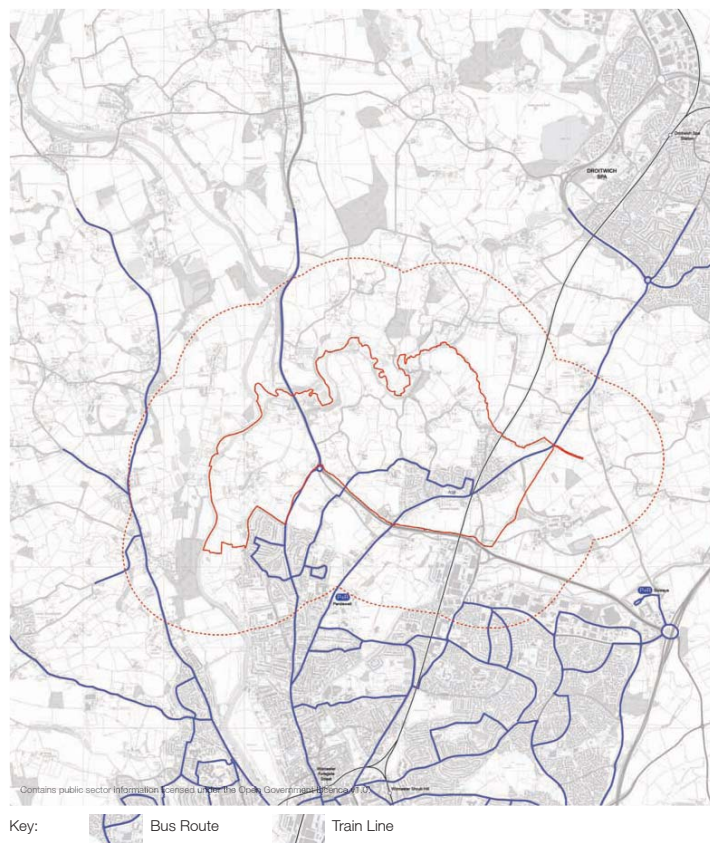
Road Infrastructure

The Parish is well served by road infrastructure with the A38 and A449 crossing through the area. These provide connections to the M5 at Junction 6 and also to Worcester City Centre and Droitwich Town Centre. These routes also provide connections to Kidderminster and Bromsgrove to the north and Pershore, Evesham and Great Malvern to the south.



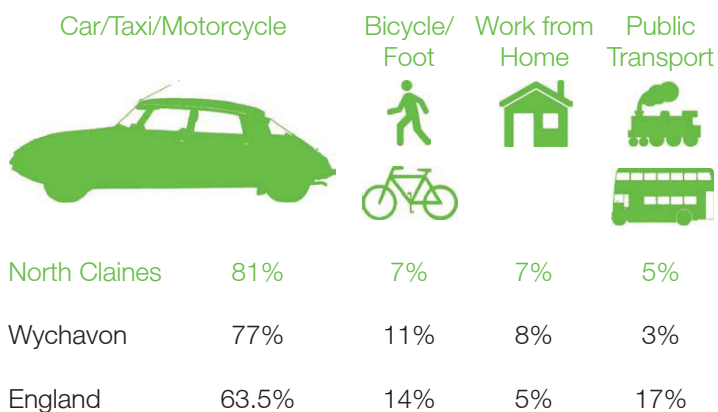
Public Transport Infrastructure

The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton rail line passes through the Parish. Fernhill Heath rail station was opened in 1852 and closed in 1965. The nearest stations to the Parish are Worcester Shrub Hill and Foregate Street Stations and Droitwich Spa.



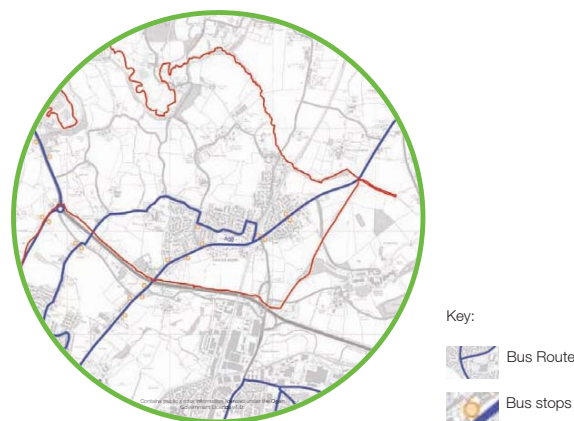
Method of Travel to Work

The following information is taken from the 2011 Census on how people travel to work. Most people within the Parish travel by car, motorcycle or taxi (with the vast majority by car). Below is a comparison with Wychavon and England (note: remaining % is made up by category 'other'):

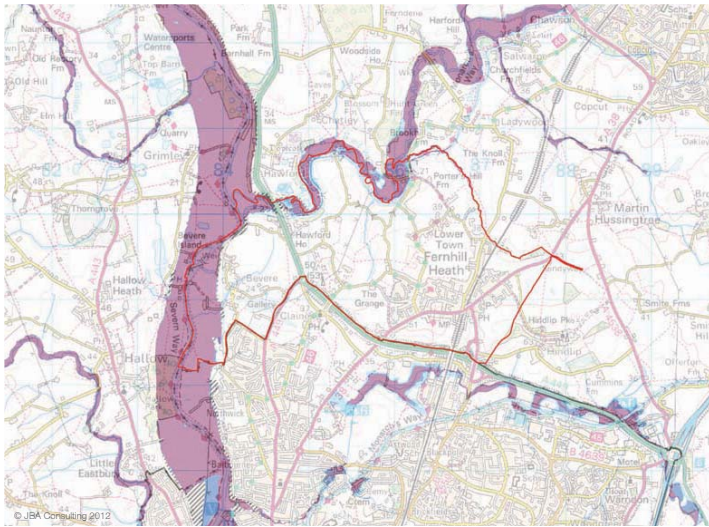


Bus Services

Three bus services run through the Parish. These provide regular daily local connections between Bevere, Droitwich, North Claines, Fernhill Heath and Worcester, as well as further afield to Birmingham and Kidderminster. Local bus stops are shown below:



The following maps provide some information on environmental considerations within the Parish.

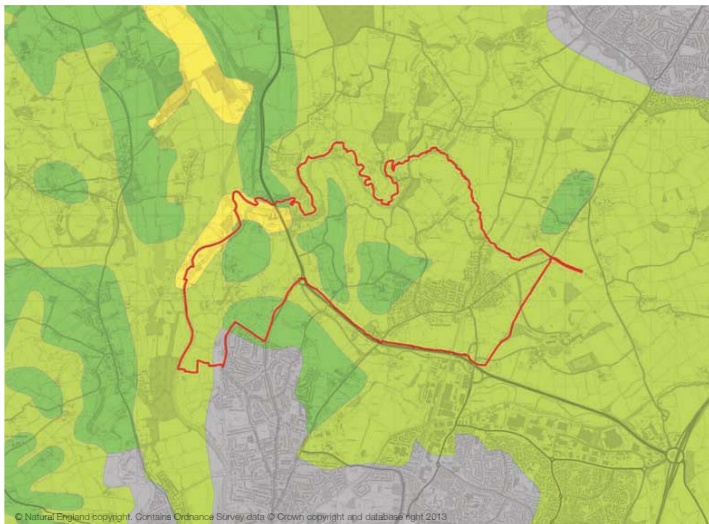
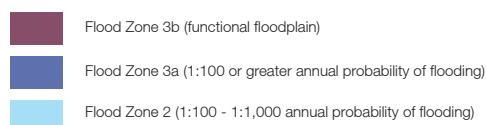


Flood Risk

The Parish is bounded by the rivers Sever and Salwarpe, and Barbourne Brook. Much of the land alongside these water courses is functional floodplain. There is therefore a higher probability that land in these areas will flood.

Beyond these areas the rest of the Parish is in flood zone 1 which has a less than 1:1,000 year probability of flooding. However, there may still be incidents of localised surface water flooding particularly within built up areas.

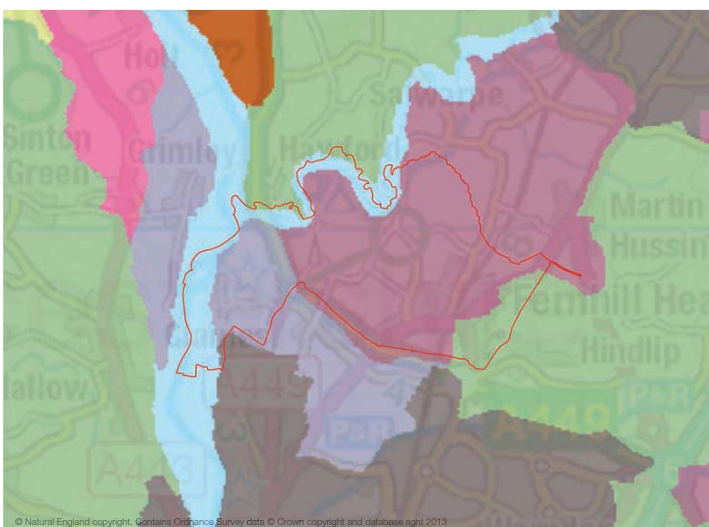
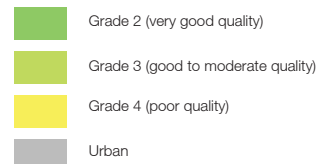
Key:



Agricultural Classification

Much of the Parish is agricultural in use comprising mostly arable land with some pasture for grazing. Most of the Parish consists of Grade 3 land which is of good to moderate quality. There are some pockets of Grade 2 land and one area along the River Sever and Salwarpe that is Grade 4. There is no Grade 1 land in the Parish.

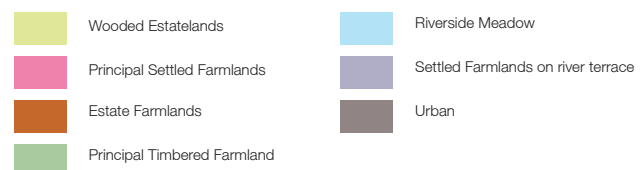
Key:



Landscape Character

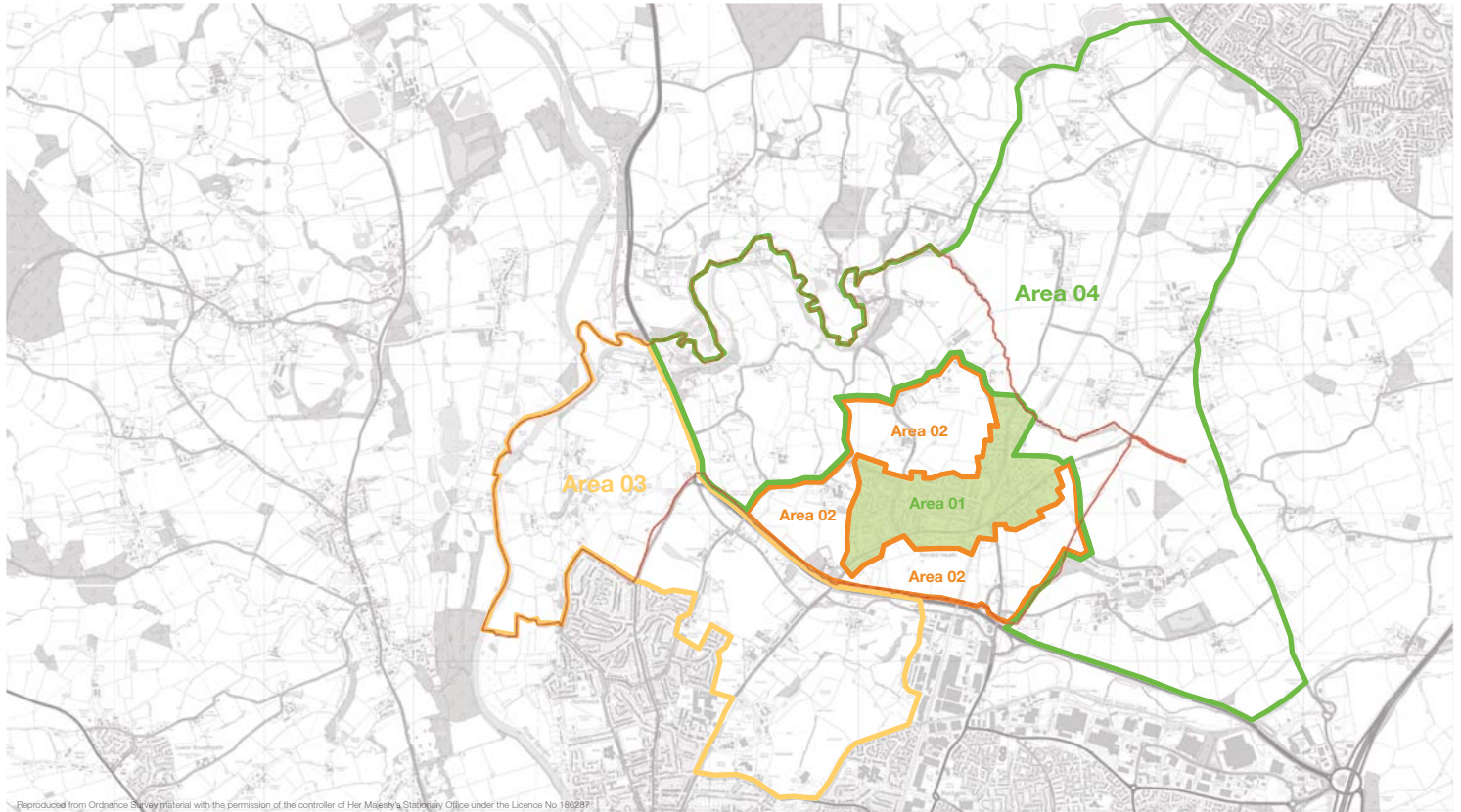
Much of the parish landscape is characterised by settled farmlands and settled farmlands on river terrace. The areas around the Rivers Sever and Salwarpe along the northern and western boundaries have a riverside meadow character. Timbered farmland makes up much of the character of the immediate surrounding area. There are also the two urban character areas of Droitwich to the north east and Worcester to the south.

Key:



The landscape character of the area evolves from south to north with a suburban residential character on the edge of Worcester City before the historic hamlets of Claines and Bevere define a more rural character.

The scale and character of the A449 corridor creates a clear break in the landscape, separating North Claines in the north from Worcester to the south. Fernhill Heath lies on high ground to the north with a mixed character of historic housing and large areas of C20th suburban development. To the north, east and west of the village the landscape becomes increasingly rural with rolling agricultural land defined by hedgerows, trees and pockets of woodland. To the west the low lying land is defined by the historic parkland and isolated dwellings within Bevere and the floodplain character of the River Severn.



01 Fernhill Heath

- Village straddling the A38 connecting Worcester and Droitwich.
- Early development lines the A38. Village expansion north from the 1920s with significant development in the 1960s-70s.
- Elevated position with views out over surrounding countryside and south to Worcester.



02 Fernhill Heath Environs

- Predominantly arable agricultural land on the fringe of Fernhill Heath village and bounded by the A449 to the south.
- Open rural character with isolated farmsteads and views out to wider rolling landscape in the north.
- Elevated position to the south with views of Worcester and the Malvern Hills.



03 Bevere & Claines

- Located between the northern urban fringe of Worcester and the A449.
- Historic landscape with well preserved mature parkland and dispersed clusters of historic buildings around Bevere Green.
- Enclosed riverside grazing meadows to the west.



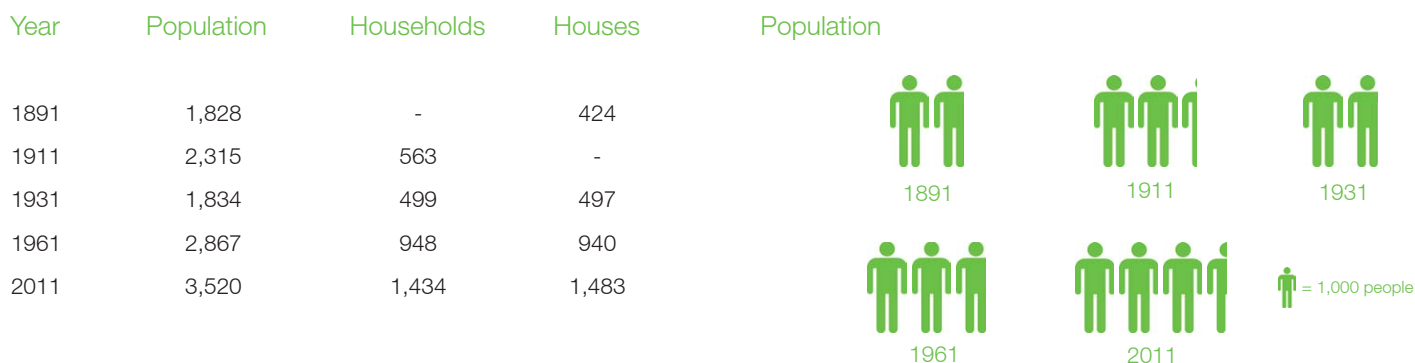
04 Wider Landscape

- Rolling and open rural character.
- Enclosed field boundaries, woodland blocks, historic lanes and historic agricultural buildings.
- Riparian character in the low lying land of the Droitwich Canal corridor and River Salwarpe.

The following information is taken from the Office of National Statistics 'neighbourhood statistics' website:
(www.neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk)

The historical data on population, households and houses is taken from 'a vision of Britain through time' website:
(www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

Parish Population Data:



House Type & House Tenure Data:

(Comparator date with Wychavon and England)

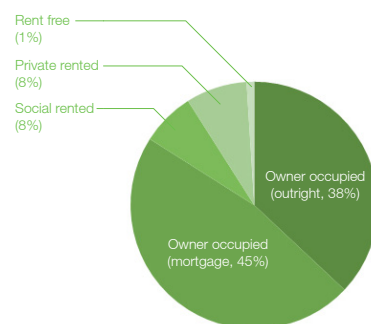
Type	North Claines Parish	Wychavon	England
Houses	89%	89%	78%
Flats & Apartments	11%	10%	21%

Tenure	North Claines Parish	Wychavon	England
Owner occupied (owned outright)	45%	39%	30%
Owner occupied (mortgage)	38%	34%	33%
Shared ownership	0%	0.5%	1%
Social Rented	8%	14.5%	18%
Private Rented	8%	11%	17%
Rent Free	1%	1%	1%

House type



Tenure

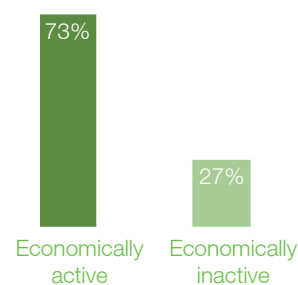


Employment & Education Data:

Employment

Category	North Claines Parish	Wychavon	England
Full time students	2%	3%	3%
Employed, self employed	68%	66%	62%
Unemployed	3%	3%	4%
Retired, Carer etc	27%	28%	30%

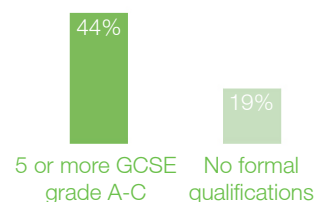
Employment



Education

Education

Category	North Claines Parish	Wychavon	England
Over 16s with 5 or more GCSEs grade A-C	44%	38%	34%
Over 16s with no formal qualifications	19%	22%	22.5%



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE – SPRING 2013

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Spring 2013

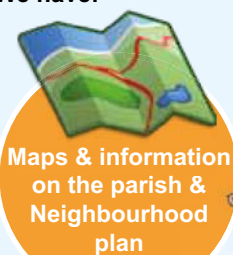


Neighbourhood Plan Event

Our Parish, Your Voice, Our Future

Join the Parish Council and others from **12pm to 4pm** on **Saturday the 18th May** at the **Fernhill Heath Memorial Hall** to see what the Neighbourhood plan could mean for you. You can speak to Parish Councillors and Councillors from Wychavon to voice your ideas too.

We have:



Maps & information on the parish & Neighbourhood plan

Community engagement boards



Free tea & coffee & refreshments for the children



Childrens colouring competition



Representatives from Wychavon District Council will be on hand



Faster Broadband team will be on hand to discuss Broadband Speeds

Various other stalls



Various games and activities coordinated by Chatterbox

We have a short questionnaire inside the magazine for you to fill in and you can return it via post or you can bring it along on the day of our Neighbourhood Plan Event.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible!



Looking Local App

Use this UK-wide app to report local issues to your council, including abandoned vehicles, anti-social behaviour, dumped rubbish, graffiti, potholes, street lighting faults and street furniture damage. You can include a photo, location info and comments to help the relevant authority quickly resolve your issue.

You can also use this app to find and conveniently access local services, including job vacancies, the latest travel & traffic news, choice-based lettings, local health services, information from NHS Choices and many more.

This app is supported by over 120 local authorities and other public bodies in the UK.



Neighbourhood Planning

Regular readers of this Parish Magazine will be aware that the Council has embarked on developing a Neighbourhood Plan that will enable our community to shape the future development of North Claines.

The Parish's application to be designated a Neighbourhood area has been submitted to Wychavon Council and the first stage of consultation will be completed by mid June 2013.

Meanwhile, we are progressing with the next stage of the design, one which is critical to it's success - **your involvement!**

Our Parish, Your Voice, Our Future

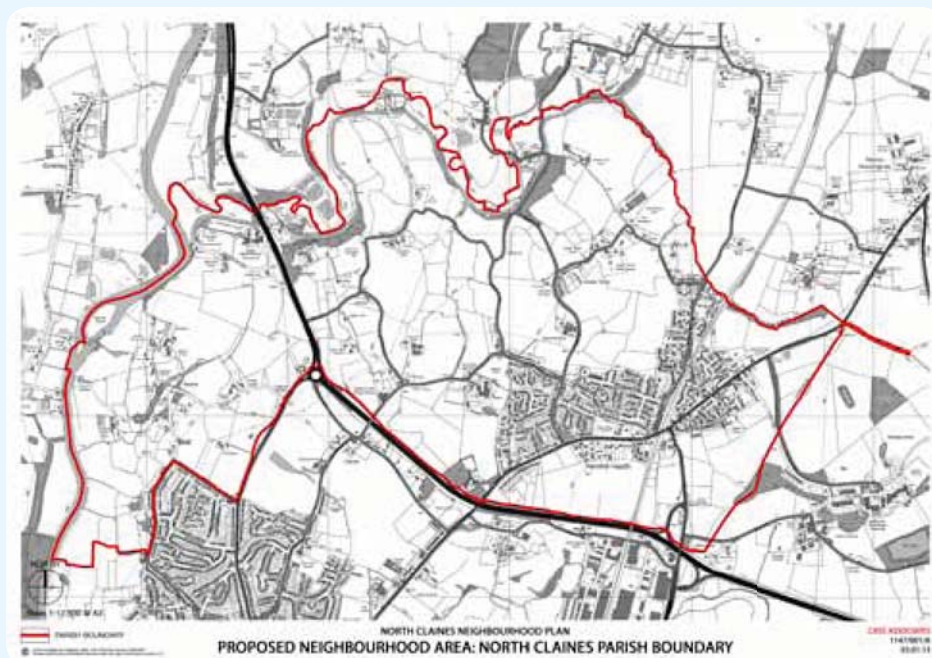
The success of our Neighbourhood Plan will rely on the involvement of as many of you as possible. This doesn't mean we're asking you to attend meetings or pound the pavements canvassing opinions. Instead, we're looking to simply hear your ideas on the future of North Claines.

You can do this from the comfort of your home by contacting the Council via our Facebook page ([facebook.com/northclainesparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/northclainesparishcouncil)) or you can e-mail us at clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk. Equally, you can complete the questionnaire overleaf.

Questionnaire

On the reverse of this page you will find a questionnaire titled '**Our Parish, Your Voice, Our Future**'. It's designed to capture your initial thoughts on what you think the Neighbourhood Plan should include. Do you want to see something on future housing, on business and economic development, or perhaps you have a keen interest on what happens to the environment & countryside. There's also an option for telling us a little more, such as what is it that you like most about living in North Claines.

Completing the questionnaire will only take a few minutes as it's short and simple. This is one of many opportunities



to have your say, but we would love to hear from you.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it to the address provided or alternatively bring it along to the event we are holding at the **Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath, on Saturday 18th May**.

Neighbourhood Planning Event

So you can meet Council members and others involved in the design of the Plan we're holding a Neighbourhood Planning Event on Saturday 18th May from 12:00 until 16:00 at the Fernhill Heath Memorial Hall.

The Event will be your opportunity to discuss ideas as regards future developments across the Parish and share your own thoughts with Council members. You can also hand in your questionnaire in person.

So the afternoon is not just about Neighbourhood Planning there will also be free tea and coffee, refreshments for children and we're planning stalls selling cakes and local produce, colouring competitions and activities for all the family. Parish councillors will also be there to guide you through Neighbourhood Planning, explain further

what it means for North Claines and listen to your points of view.

The Parish Council are committed to designing a Neighbourhood Plan that will set out our vision for North Claines. Your involvement in designing the future of the Parish is critical if we are to continue to live in a secure and vibrant community.

We would welcome as many of your thoughts and ideas as possible and would be delighted to see you on the 18th May, so please pop along for a coffee and a chat.

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services. good value

FREE LOFT & CAVITY WALL INSULATION

To all Wychavon residents who are owner occupiers or privately renting

No catches, make your home warmer and reduce your fuel bills

Did you know that if you have less than 150mm (6 inches) of loft insulation you could get it topped up to 270mm (10.5 inches)

To apply contact:
Act on Energy 0800 988 2881
Limited offer, first come, first serve

Wychavon District Council Insulation Scheme. Terms and Conditions may apply

warmer
worcestershire

Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1PT

North Claines Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan - Questionnaire

Our Parish - Your Voice - Our Future

The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan will help influence and shape the future of our community affecting everyone who lives and works in the parish. We need to know what you think to make sure the plan reflects your views and priorities.

Please tell us a bit about you

Your Name?

What is your Gender? Male Female

What is your postcode?

Are you are a: Resident Non resident

Age: Under 18 19-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76+

Are you currently: Employed Studying Retired Not Working

<i>Please tick one of the boxes for each statement below to indicate your feeling or opinion.</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<p>Housing We need to identify current and future housing needs and plan to deliver the right type and mix of housing to meet those needs</p>				
<p>Economic and business development We need to make appropriate provision for businesses and commercial development to meet the needs of the local community and ensure the continued economic growth of the parish</p>				
<p>Transportation We need to improve traffic flows, reduce congestion and provide increased opportunities for public transport provision within the Parish</p>				
<p>Environment We need to ensure that any development within the parish protects and where possible enhances the natural environment</p>				
<p>Countryside We should provide everyone within the parish with opportunities to access and enjoy the natural environment</p>				
<p>Community Services We need to identify and make appropriate provision for services that meet the communities needs (eg transportation, community centre, sports facilities, doctors)</p>				
<p>Safety and Security We need to ensure that the parish is a safe and secure place to live and work and where possible aims to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour</p>				
<p>Most important issue Which of the above is the most important issue to you. Please specify one only.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 550px;"></div>				

What do you like about living in the Parish?

What would you like to improve in the parish?

What would make the parish a better place to live or work?

Please provide any other comments you feel will help us with shaping the Neighbourhood plan.

Please provide your email address so we can keep you updated on progress of our Neighbourhood plan (optional).

Please post your completed questionnaire to:

North Claines Parish Council
The Old Library Centre
65 Ombersley Street East
Droitwich Spa
Worcs
WR9 8QS

or scan and email it to clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or bring to the Neighbourhood Plan event on 18th May 12pm - 4pm.

Fernhill Heath WI

Fernhill Heath WI is flourishing!

We are a very friendly and welcoming group who meet at 7:30 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Baptist Chapel in Fernhill Heath. Everyone is welcome to come and see what it is all about first before they decide whether to join or not. We have a speaker on different topics each month followed by tea and delicious home made cakes!

Apart from our monthly meeting those who would like to get together for a book group and a craft session do so. We also have social outings and join up with other WI's for quiz and skittles evenings.

WI is a great way to meet other people and no matter where you go in the country there will be a WI group nearby.

If you would like to know more please just come along or contact **Meg Farmer - 01905 454 601.**

Advertise with us

The Parish Newsletter is distributed every 3 months and if you wish to advertise with us, you may do so. Simply choose the size of advert you want and contact the Parish Clerk; **Clare Shinner** at clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or call Clare on **01905 770 226.**

Small ad - approx. 1/16 of a page £10 per issue or £40 a year
Medium ad - approx. 1/8 of a page £20 per issue or £60 a year
Large ad - approx. 1/4 of a page £40 per issue or £120 a year
Very large ad - 1/2 a page - £70 per issue or £210 a year

Connect with us and stay informed

 www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk

 facebook.com/northclainesparishcouncil

Dilmore House Bed & Breakfast



Quality en-suite guest accommodation in Fernhill Heath

Tel: 01905 451 543

APPENDIX 3.4

EXHIBITION BOARDS – DECEMBER 2013

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire: Spring 2013

As part of our evidence gathering to inform the production of the Neighbourhood Plan we undertook a resident survey. The survey was included in the Spring edition of the Parish Focus (The Parish Council's magazine). This is distributed to around 1,299 households in the Parish.

Opinions:

Respondents were asked their opinion regarding a number of potential areas of activity, in terms of the extent to which they either agreed or disagreed [4 point scale – Strongly Agree through Strongly Disagree] with the statement posed. The opinion areas explored were:

- Housing
- Economic and business development
- Transportation
- Environment
- Countryside
- Community services
- Safety and Security

The above aligns with the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Planning Committee.

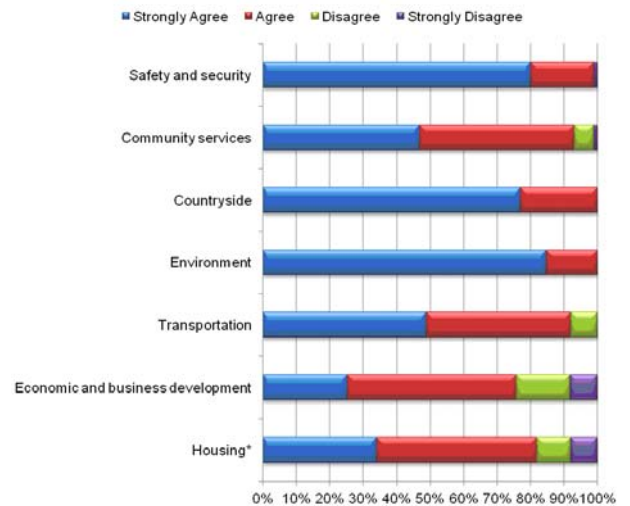
Overall opinion

Over all, those areas that residents agreed required the most attention were:

- Environment (84% strongly agreed)
- Safety and security (80% strongly agreed)
- Countryside (77% strongly agreed).

In contrast, the area least considered as a priority by respondents was:

- Economic and business development (25% strongly agreed)



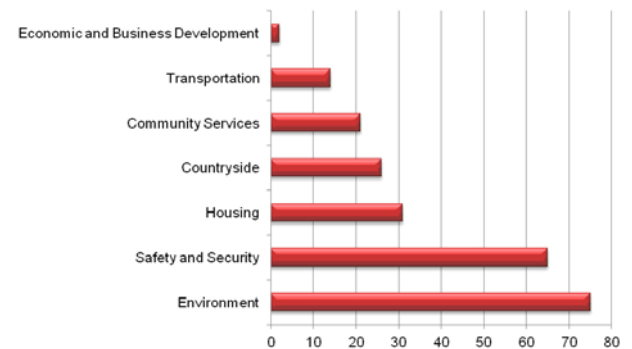
Most Important Issue:

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the issues stated, they considered to be the most important.

- The 'environment' emerged as the most important of the issues, with around a third of respondents (33%) identifying it as such.
- Likewise, 84% of respondents had 'strongly agreed' with the proposed focus activity in respect of the 'environment'.
- 'Safety and security' was considered the most important issue by over a quarter of respondents (28%). Eighty per cent of respondents had 'strongly agreed' with the proposed focus of activity in respect of 'safety and security'.
- Economic and business development was only considered as important by 1% of respondents (2 people).

On the basis of age a slight variation emerged in terms of what respondents identified as the issue they considered to be the most important.

- 56% of those aged 19-30 years considered the environment to be the most important
- 28% of those aged 31-45 considered safety and security to be most important, and further 27%, the environment
- 33% of those aged 46-60 considered the environment to be the most important, and 29% safety and security
- 42% of those aged 61-75 considered the environment to be most important, and 23% safety and security
- 31% of those aged 76 years and over considered safety and security to be most important, and 22% housing.



Positive features of living in the Parish:

Residents were asked what they like about living in the Parish. In total, 236 people (95%) offered comment. On the whole, the parish was considered to be a 'great' place to live, characterised by its locality and rural aspect, convenient location and pleasant living environment.

"Just a great place to live"

The most commonly occurring features that residents liked about living in the Parish related to its rural or semi rural location and proximity to the countryside, urban centres and transport links.

"I like the rural environment and close proximity to Worcester and Droitwich"

The parish was also considered as being friendly, with a sense of community and a village feel and atmosphere. In addition, residents liked the peace and quiet of the parish.

"Very nice area and I like the village type feel"

"Quiet and peaceful with friendly neighbours and residents"

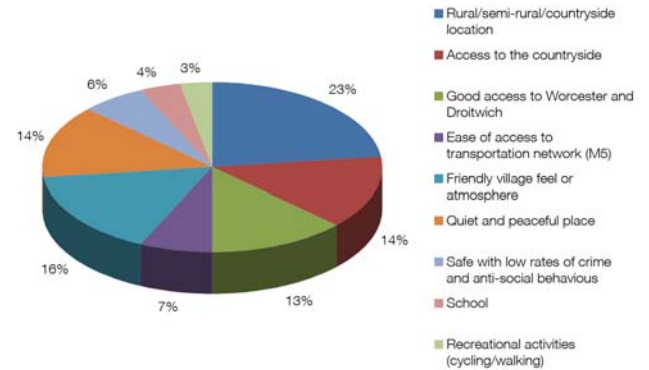
Respondents liked the fact that the parish was relatively safe and free of crime and anti-social behaviour.

"Safe rural feel"

"Very quiet and no crime, and anti social behaviour"

Other features that residents liked about the Parish included:

- the school
- recreational activities, such as cycling or country walks



What people like about living in the Parish:

Suggested improvements:

Residents were asked what they would like to improve within the parish. In total, 211 respondents (85%) offered comment. Nine respondents stated that there was nothing they would change about the parish.

In the main, suggested improvements were focused on:

- access to and the provision of amenities
- travel and transportation, to include roads, foot paths and public transport
- potential and intended development.

In relation to amenities, it was considered that some additional amenities were necessary for the local community. These included health care facilities, activities for members of the community and shops. In terms of specific suggestions:

"The main need will be for a doctors surgery. Imp Post Office and shops"

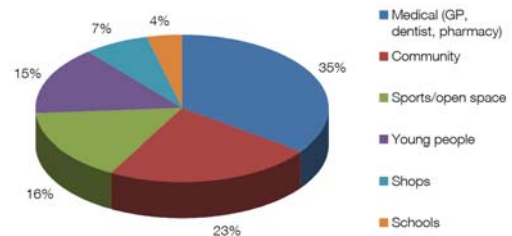
In relation to traffic and transportation, suggestions were for the improvement of the quality of roads and footpaths, for improved traffic management, reduced congestion and improved public transport.

"Tidy up the existing roads and fix the footpaths and widen them to make it safer to walk on"

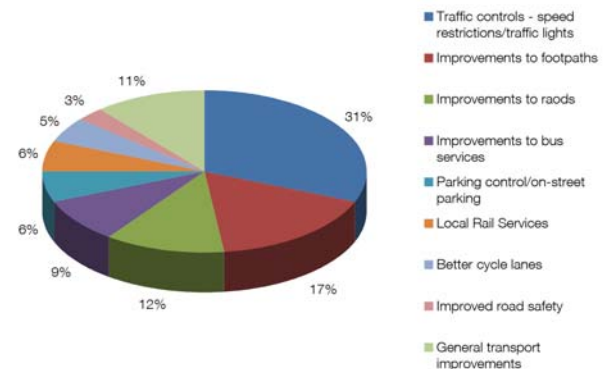
In relation to proposed development in the Parish residents suggested that there should be less housing development and fewer large scale developments.

"Less housing developments. Any further would spoil countryside / environment"

"Fewer plans for large scale development to retain village identity"



Access and local amenities:



Traffic and transportation:

Making the Parish a better place to live and work:

Residents were asked what they considered would make the Parish a better place to live and work. Many of the responses reflected the suggested improvements offered. In the main, many of the suggestions focused on maintaining and preserving the environment, the countryside and the general community of the parish. As expected, repeated reference was made to the threats posed by proposed housing developments and the negative impacts that such activities might have on the environment and the community.

“Protecting, as far as possible, the rural surroundings”

“Not to enlarge housing. To keep village atmosphere, instead of almost merging with Worcester. Keep greenbelt”

Of the 192 respondents (65%) who offered comment, around a fifth indicated that they were against further residential development within the parish, highlighting the negative impacts associated with large scale housing developments. Others suggested that any development should be controlled, carefully planned and sympathetic to the environment.

“No more large developments of houses. We have Warndon Villages that is the largest estate in Europe!!! We shouldn't need more”

“Planned sensitive development reflecting the character of the Parish”

Other specific suggestions made by residents were focused around:

- Community amenities.
- Travel and transportation
- Traffic management

“A community centre to draw community together, more services, particularly Doctors”

“Cheaper and more regular bus transport”

“Railway station allowing commuter access”

Reflecting concern that had been expressed throughout the survey regarding road safety, traffic management and congestion, suggestions offered to improve the parish included:

“Reduced traffic flow on rural lanes”

“Careful attention to traffic access should be given when planning future housing developments”

Other Comments:

153 comments made. Most related to concerns about proposed developments:

- Increasing traffic and congestion
- Harming the countryside and environment
- Preserving the character of the Parish and the village

Some respondents considered that future development was inevitable and as such it should be:

- Carefully planned and managed
- Sympathetic to the character of the local environment
- Not large scale
- Accessible from the A38

65% of residents provided comments

20% Against further residential development

14% Improving and enhancing the provision of village; amenities

11% Better bus services and a local train station

11% Traffic management

9% Speed restrictions

APPENDIX 3.5

WINTER 2014 PARISH FOCUS

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Winter 2014



FUN ON THE BRUM

SATURDAY JULY 26th 12noon - 5pm

There will be lots of things going on at this years event and many of them will be 'free' for children so come along, bring the family and enjoy an afternoon out with plenty to do with both old and new friends to meet up with. It will be a great village event and will include vintage cars, stalls, pork rolls, ice cream, candy floss, teas, cakes, magic shows, inflatables for both children and adults, circus skills, face painting, animals etc etc and for one afternoon only, the train will be stopping in Fernhill Heath again so keep an eye out on the field for a diesel train which will stop at The Brum Halt!

Something for everyone to enjoy. We shall also be supporting 2 charities - St Richards' Hospice and Footsteps.

A BIG PLEA please - we do need folk from North Claines to help us on the day to make it a real success so if you can only spare just 30mins to help us out on the day, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please phone Meg - 01905 454601.

Neighbourhood Plan update

Previous editions of the Parish Focus have outlined the Council's work on designing a Neighbourhood Plan that will set out what type of housing, services and transport networks will best serve the needs of our community in the years to come.

You may remember that following a series of events last year, we asked everyone, via the Parish Focus, to send in their thoughts and views regarding how the Parish should develop in the future. We received hundreds of replies and throughout December the Council held Neighbourhood Planning events where we presented the results of what you said.

The first was on Friday 6th December at the Mace store on the Droitwich Road. Many thanks to Alan Kasch for lending us the shop space & supplying wine and nibbles to entertain everyone who came along...

(continued inside)



Neighbourhood Plan update

(Continued from front page)

The charts and graphs on the following pages outline what you told us, but to summarise the hundreds of replies we received;

- Although the majority of people were against development in the Parish some respondents believed it was inevitable. However, it should be managed in a way that best suits the community
- Others wanted better services and improved transport systems, including better traffic management systems
- Also, respondents wanted to see better amenities such as a Doctors surgery and resources for the community such as a village hall

The survey clearly highlights that a key reason why so many of you enjoy living in North Claines is the rural nature of Fernhill

Heath, Bevere and the surrounding areas. Many of you clearly value living amongst open countryside whilst having good access to Droitwich, Worcester and to regional road networks.

The Council is now planning the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan and we urge you all to contribute your thoughts and ideas on our proposals. Please talk to family and friends and encourage them to get in touch or come along to events we will be holding throughout 2014, so everyone has an opportunity to have their voice heard. We really want to know what you think as we value everyone's contribution.

Please email clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk with any comments or suggestions or if you would like to get involved.

North Claines Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire: 2013



North Claines
Parish Council

As part of our evidence gathering to inform the production of the Neighbourhood Plan we undertook a resident survey. The survey was included in the Spring edition of the Parish Focus (The Parish Council's magazine). This is distributed to around 1,299 households in the Parish.

Opinions:

Respondents were asked their opinion regarding a number of potential areas of activity, in terms of the extent to which they either agreed or disagreed [4 point scale – Strongly Agree through Strongly Disagree] with the statement posed. The opinion areas explored were:

- Housing
- Economic and business development
- Transportation
- Environment
- Countryside
- Community services
- Safety and Security

The above aligns with the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Planning Committee.

Overall opinion

Over all, those areas that residents agreed required the most attention were:

- Environment (84% strongly agreed)
- Safety and security (80% strongly agreed)
- Countryside (77% strongly agreed).

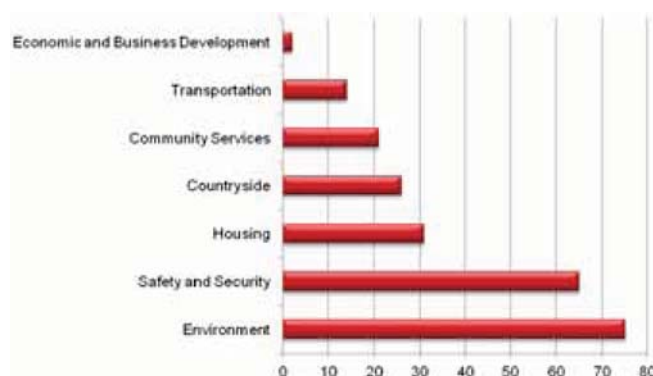
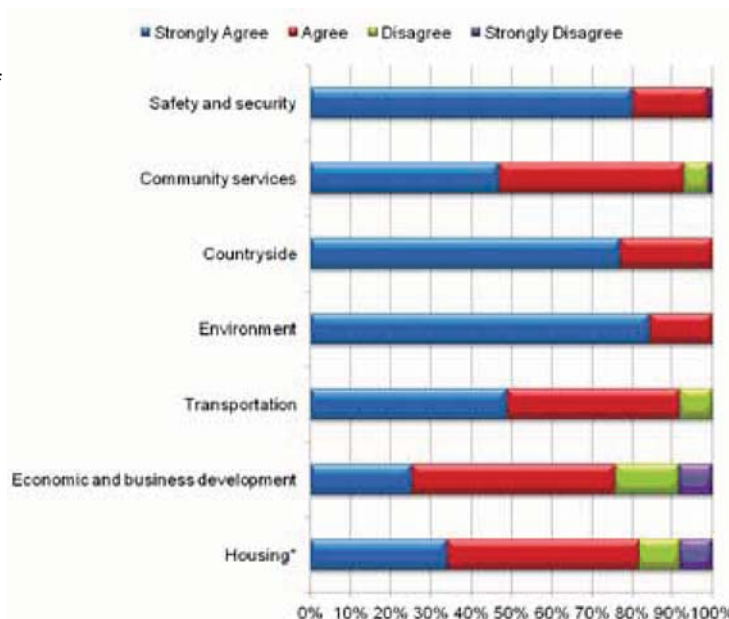
In contrast, the area least considered as a priority by respondents was:

- Economic and business development (25% strongly agreed)

Most Important Issue:

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the issues stated, they considered to be the most important.

- The 'environment' emerged as the most important of the issues, with around a third of respondents (33%) identifying it as such.
- Likewise, 84% of respondents had 'strongly agreed' with the proposed focus activity in respect of the 'environment'.
- 'Safety and security' was considered the most important issue by over a quarter of respondents (28%). Eighty per cent of respondents had 'strongly agreed' with the proposed focus of activity in respect of 'safety and security'.
- Economic and business development was only considered as important by 1% of respondents (2 people).



Positive features of living in the Parish:

Residents were asked what they like about living in the Parish. In total, 236 people (95%) offered comment. On the whole, the parish was considered to be a 'great' place to live, characterised by its locality and rural aspect, convenient location and pleasant living environment.

"Just a great place to live"

The most commonly occurring features that residents liked about living in the Parish related to its rural or semi rural location and proximity to the countryside, urban centres and transport links.

"I like the rural environment and close proximity to Worcester and Droitwich"

The parish was also considered as being friendly, with a sense of community and a village feel and atmosphere. In addition, residents liked the peace and quiet of the parish.

"Very nice area and I like the village type feel" "Quiet and peaceful with friendly neighbours and residents"

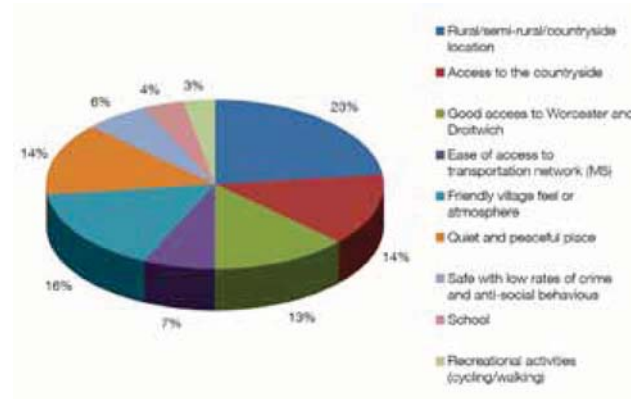
Respondents liked the fact that the parish was relatively safe and free of crime and anti-social behaviour.

"Safe rural feel"

"Very quiet and no crime, and anti social behaviour"

Other features that residents liked about the Parish included:

- The school
- Recreational activities, such as cycling or country walks



Suggested improvements:

Residents were asked what they would like to improve within the parish. In total, 211 respondents (85%) offered comment. Nine respondents stated that there was nothing they would change about the parish.

In the main, suggested improvements were focused on:

- What people like about living in the Parish:
- Access and local amenities:
- Traffic and transportation:

In relation to amenities, it was considered that some additional amenities were necessary for the local community. These included health care facilities, activities for members of the community and shops. In terms of specific suggestions:

"The main need will be for a doctors surgery. Imp Post Office and shops"

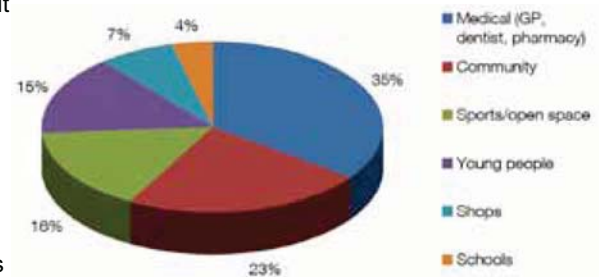
In relation to traffic and transportation, suggestions were for the improvement of the quality of roads and footpaths, for improved traffic management, reduced congestion and improved public transport.

"Tidy up the existing roads and fix the footpaths and widen them to make it safer to walk on"

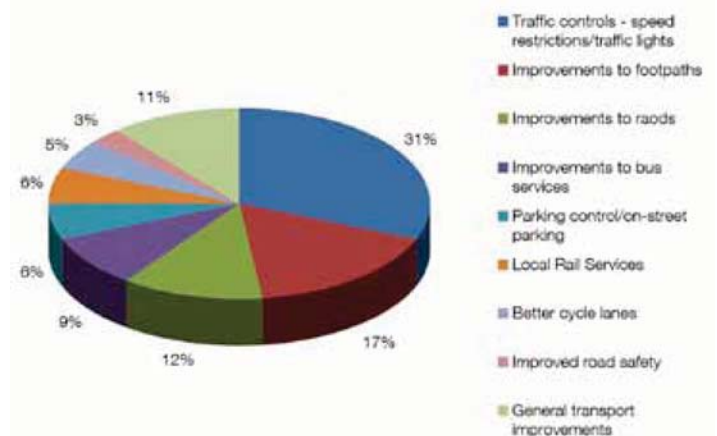
In relation to proposed development in the Parish residents suggested that there should be less housing development and fewer large scale developments.

"Less housing developments. Any further would spoil countryside / environment"

"Fewer plans for large scale development to retain village identity"



Access and local amenities:



Traffic and transportation:

APPENDIX 3.6

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE – RESULTS

North Claines Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Report on the findings from the questionnaire

Introduction

1.1 North Claines Parish Council is in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan can be subsequently used to influence any future development within the Parish.

1.2 In order to inform the Neighbourhood Plan, the North Claines Parish Council undertook a resident survey. Residents were invited to share their views in order to help inform the development of the Plan and shape the development of the parish for the future.

1.3 This report provides an overview of the key findings to emerge from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire survey.

Survey Methodology

2.1 The Neighbourhood Survey, “Our Parish – Your Voice – Our Future”, was printed in the Parish Council’s magazine “Parish Focus” during spring 2013, and copies of the survey were additionally sent to residents throughout the parish. Residents were asked to complete the short survey and return the questionnaire to the North Claines Parish Council.

2.2 The survey was disseminated to the 1,299 households in the parish (Worcestershire County Council Parish Statistics).

Key Findings

3.1 In total, 249 residents responded to the parish survey, reflecting around 10% of Parish residents aged over 18 years.

3.2 There was a slight bias in the survey responses towards retired residents and those aged over 60 years of age. Younger residents (under 30 years of age) were under represented within the survey responses.

3.3 Respondents were highly positive about North Claines Parish, identifying it as:

- a quiet, peaceful and safe place to live,
- having a friendly village atmosphere,
- located in a rural / semi-rural setting,
- having good access to the countryside, towns and cities, and the transport network, to include the M5.

3.4 It was apparent that residents remain concerned about the threat of housing developments within the Parish and the potential impact this might have upon the environment, the villages, and the roads (traffic congestion). There was a general feeling that additional large-scale development should not be permitted, and any

development that does take place should be carefully planned and sympathetic to the (residential, community and natural) environment(s).

3.5 The 'environment' and 'safety and security' were the two most important issues identified by respondents for consideration through the Neighbourhood Plan. Also considered important was the 'countryside'.

3.6 'Business and economic development' was considered as the least important issue by respondents.

3.7 In terms of suggested improvements for the Parish, these were clustered around:

- Protecting and preserving the environment, to include the countryside, sense of community and the 'village feel'.
- Improving the road infrastructure, to include:
 - improving the quality of roads and pavements
 - reducing congestion
 - improving public transport (bus and rail)
 - reducing traffic congestion
 - improving road safety and traffic management
 - reducing speeding
 - addressing on-street parking problems
 - introducing cycle lanes.
- Improving, protecting and increasing village amenities, to include:
 - health care facilities
 - activities for young people
 - community centre
 - protecting the post office
 - providing a small number of local shops.

Over view of respondents

4.1 In total, 249 completed questionnaires were returned from across the Parish. Data published by Worcestershire County Council [date unknown] based on the Census indicates that there are 2,471 residents within the Parish aged over 18 years¹. This suggests that the responses rate for the survey from those aged over 18 years was around 10%.

4.2 In order to inform the analysis of the survey, information about the respondents' characteristics was collected. This allowed for an assessment of the extent to which the responses reflect the profile of Parish residents, and whether there was any apparent difference in views on the basis of age and gender.

4.3 On the basis of gender:

- 52% were female
- 48% were male

¹ Worcestershire County Council, Parish Profile: North Claines
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/Census_Parish_Northclaines.pdf

Note: blanks have been excluded (12)

4.4 On the basis of resident / non-resident status:

- All but two respondents stated that they were resident within the Parish

Note: blanks have been excluded (9)

4.5 On the basis of age:

Age Group	Number	Per cent
Under 18 years	4	2%
19-30 years	11	5%
31-45 years	62	26%
46-60 years	48	20%
61-75 years	78	33%
Over 76 years	35	15%
Blank	11	-

Table 1 Age of respondents (n=249)
Note: cannot directly compare to WCC figures as age bands do not map (see table 2)

4.6 With the exception of those aged under 18 years, feedback was received from across all respondent groups. The age group with the greatest number of responses was those aged between 61-75 years, accounting for one third of all survey respondents. Overall, nearly half of all survey respondents (48%) were aged 61 years and over.

Age Group	Number	Per cent (all)	Per cent > 18 years
Under 18 years	638	20.6%	-
18-29 years	281	9.1%	11%
30-44 years	691	22.2%	28%
45-59 years	744	23.9%	30%
Over 60	755	24.3%	31%

Table 2 Age of residents of North Claines Parish
Worcestershire County Council

4.7 In order to assess the extent to which the survey respondents' reflect the population of the Parish, the two sets of data can be compared. On the basis of gender, the profile of respondents is highly similar to that of Parish residents.

4.8 Comparison on the basis of age is made difficult, as the age bands used within the survey do not reflect the bands used within the Census reporting and those published by Worcestershire County Council (Table 2). Whilst accepting that the age bands are not identical, a general inference can be made about the relationship between the respondent and resident age profiles.

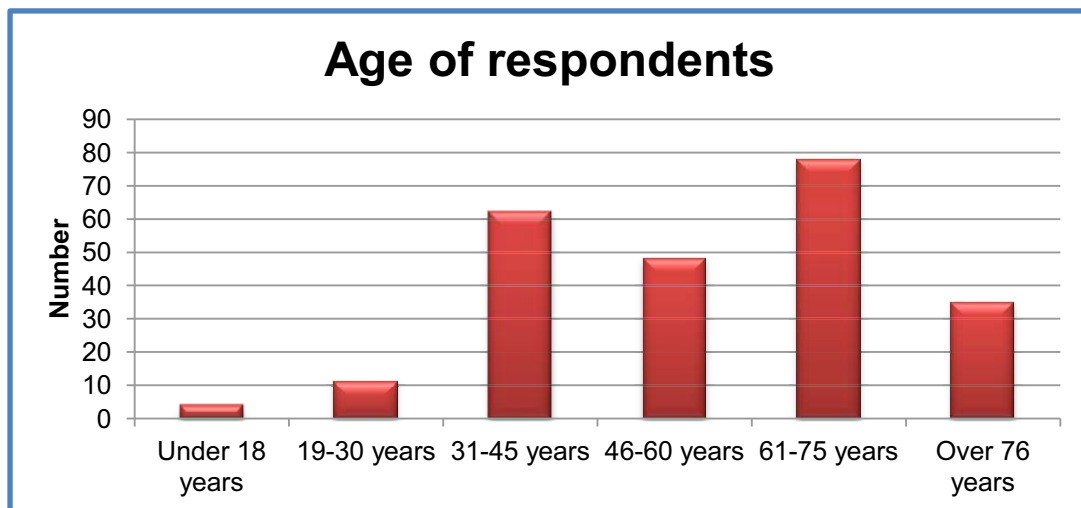
4.9 It can be inferred (Tables 1 and 2), that those aged over 60 years were over represented in the survey responses:

- Respondents aged over 61 years = 48%
- Population aged over 60 years = 31%
- Estimates response rate around 15%

4.10 In contrast, those under the age of 30 years were under-represented in the survey, accounting for 5% of respondents, yet 11% of the population (aged 18 years and over). This group had an estimated response rate of around 4%.

4.11 Those aged 46 to 50 years were under-represented in the survey, accounting for 20% of respondents and 30% of residents. The estimated response rate for this group was around 6%.

4.12 Respondents aged 30-44 years accounted for just over one quarter of respondents (26%) and 22% of the parish population. The estimated response rate for this group was around 9%.



4.13 On the basis of activity status:

- 48% were employed
- 45% were retired
- 4% were not working
- 3% were studying

Note: blanks have been excluded (21)

4.14 A review of the information published by Worcestershire County Council regarding economic activity indicates that 15.3% of the resident population (aged 16-74 years) of the Parish is retired. In contrast, 34% of survey respondents under the age of 76 years indicated that they were retired (to reflect the age groups). Overall, 45% of all survey respondents were retired. This illustrates a survey bias toward retired residents over the age of 60 years.

Opinions

5.1 Respondents were asked their opinion regarding a number of potential areas of activity, in terms of the extent to which they either agreed or disagreed [4 point

scale – Strongly Agree through Strongly Disagree] with the statement posed. The opinion areas explored were:

- Housing
- Economic and business development
- Transportation
- Environment
- Countryside
- Community services
- Safety and Security

Housing

5.2 In respect of ‘housing’, respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

‘we need to identify the current and future housing needs to deliver the right type and mix of housing to meet those needs.’

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
34%	48%	10%	8%

Table 3 Response profile ‘Housing’
N=241

Note *THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY SOME RESPONDENTS IMPACTING UPON THE VALIDITY OF THE RESPONSE PROFILE*

5.3 When interpreting the results for housing, it should be noted that there was a small degree of apparent confusion with the question posed. In a small number of cases, respondents indicated ‘disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’ with the statement where they objected to any further housing development. In contrast, others who displayed a similarly strong objection to further housing development, either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’, recognising that there is a need for consideration of the issue. Likewise, some of those who indicated ‘disagreement’ and those who indicated ‘agreement’ identified housing as the most important issue. This possible varied interpretation of the question potentially invalidates any meaningful interpretation of the response profile.

Economic and business development

5.4 In respect of ‘economic and business development’, respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

‘we need to make appropriate provision for businesses and commercial development to meet the needs of the local community and ensure the continued economic growth of the parish.’

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
25%	50%	16%	8%

Table 4 Response profile ‘Economic and business development’

N=241

Transportation

5.5 In respect of 'transportation', respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

'we need to improve traffic flows, reduce congestion and provide increased opportunities for public transport provision within the parish.'

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
49%	43%	8%	0%

Table 5 Response profile 'Transportation'
N=240

Environment

5.6 In respect of 'environment', respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

'We need to ensure that any development within the parish protects and where possible enhances the natural environment.'

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
84%	15%	0%	0%

Table 6 Response profile 'Environment'
N=245

Countryside

5.7 In respect of 'countryside', respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

'We should provide everyone within the parish with opportunities to access and enjoy the natural environment.'

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
77%	23%	0%	0%

Table 7 Response profile 'Countryside'
N=244

Community services

5.8 In respect of 'community services', respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

'We need to identify and make appropriate provision for services that meet the communities needs (eg transportation, community centre, sports facilities, doctors).'

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
47%	46%	6%	1%

Table 8 Response profile 'Community services'
N=245

Safety and Security

5.9 In respect of 'safety and security', respondents were asked about the extent to which they agreed with the statement:

'We need to ensure that the parish is a safe and secure place to live and work and where possible aims to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.'

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
80%	19%	0%	1%

Table 9 Response profile 'Safety and security'
N=244

Overall opinion

5.10 Over all, those areas that residents agreed required the most attention were:

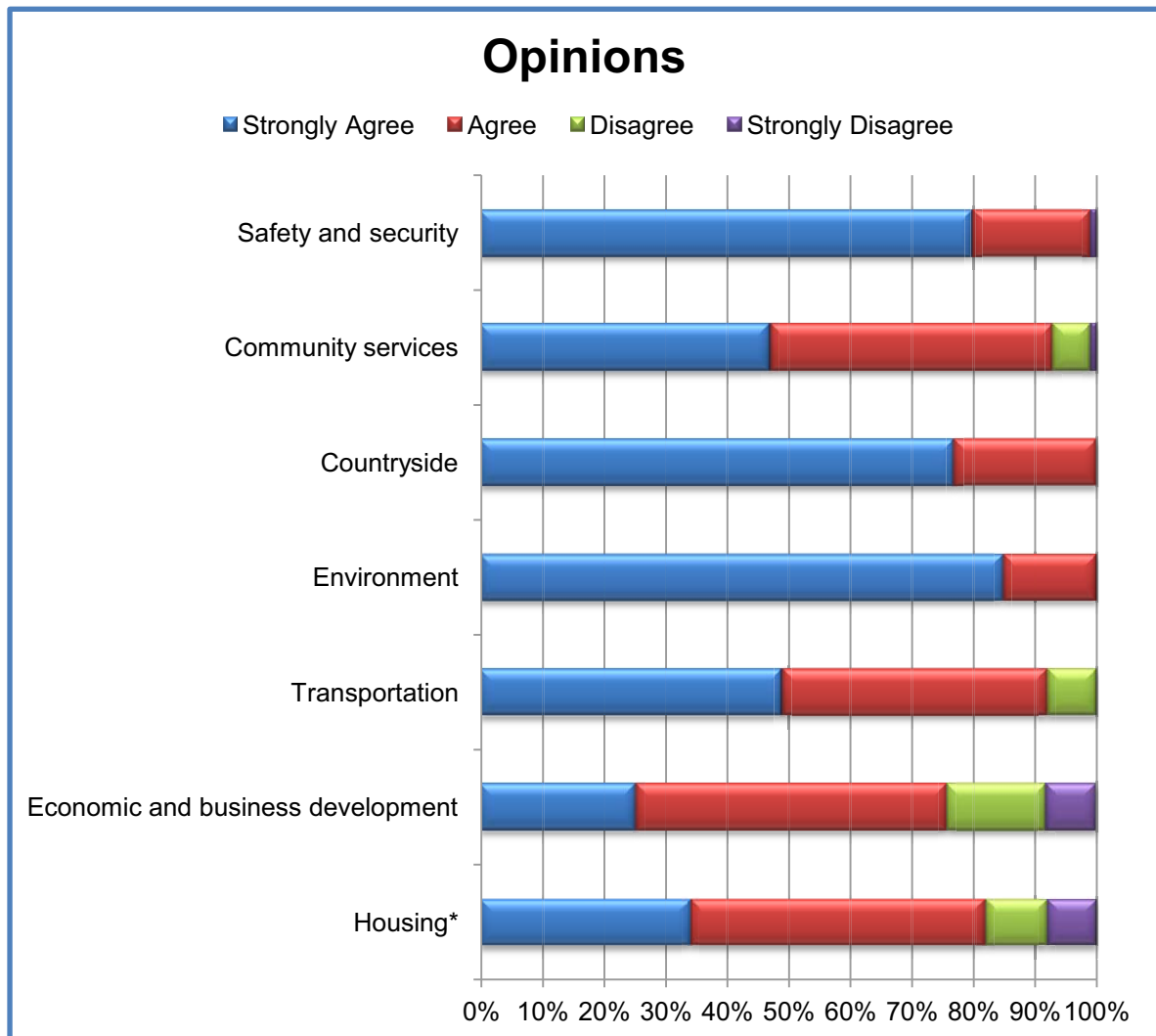
- Environment (84% strongly agreed)
- Safety and security (80% strongly agreed)
- Countryside (77% strongly agreed).

5.11 In contrast, the area least considered as a priority by respondents was:

- Economic and business development (25% strongly agreed)

Issue	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Housing*	34%	48%	10%	8%
Economic and business development	25%	50%	16%	8%
Transportation	49%	43%	8%	0%
Environment	84%	15%	0%	0%
Countryside	77%	23%	0%	0%
Community services	47%	46%	6%	1%
Safety and security	80%	19%	0%	1%

Table 10 Overall opinions
*Housing – question was subject to some misinterpretation that may have skewed the results.



*Housing – question was subject to some misinterpretation that may have skewed the results.

[See Annex 1 for data tables for each of the opinion areas.](#)

Most important issue

5.12 Respondents were asked to indicate which of the issues stated, they considered to be the most important. The ‘environment’ emerged as the most important of the issues, with around a third of respondents (33%) identifying it as such. Likewise, 84% of respondents had ‘strongly agreed’ with the proposed focus activity in respect of the ‘environment’.

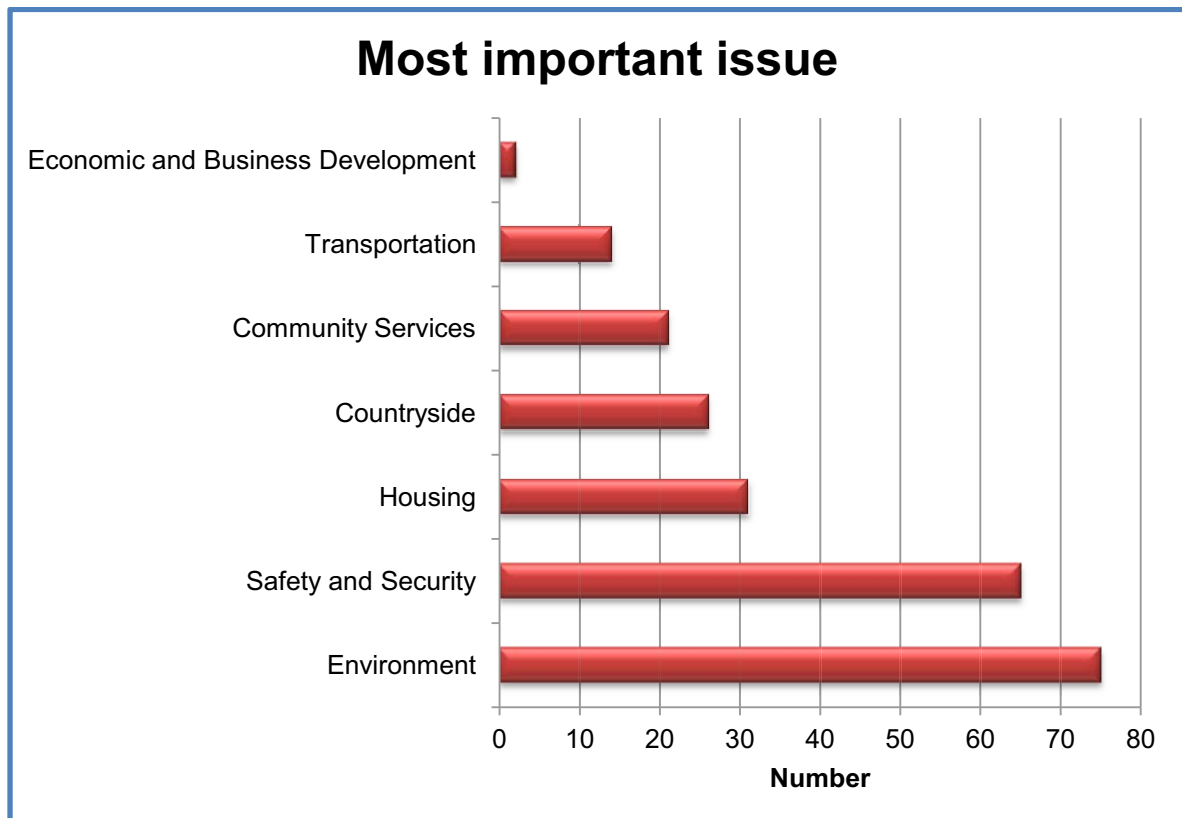
5.13 ‘Safety and security’ was considered the most important issue by over a quarter of respondents (28%). Eighty per cent of respondents had ‘strongly agreed’ with the proposed focus of activity in respect of ‘safety and security’.

5.14 Economic and business development was only considered as important by 1% of respondents (2 people).

Theme	Per cent
Environment	32%

Safety and Security	28%
Housing	13%
Countryside	11%
Community Services	9%
Transportation	6%
Economic and Business Development	1%

Table 11 Most important issue
N=235



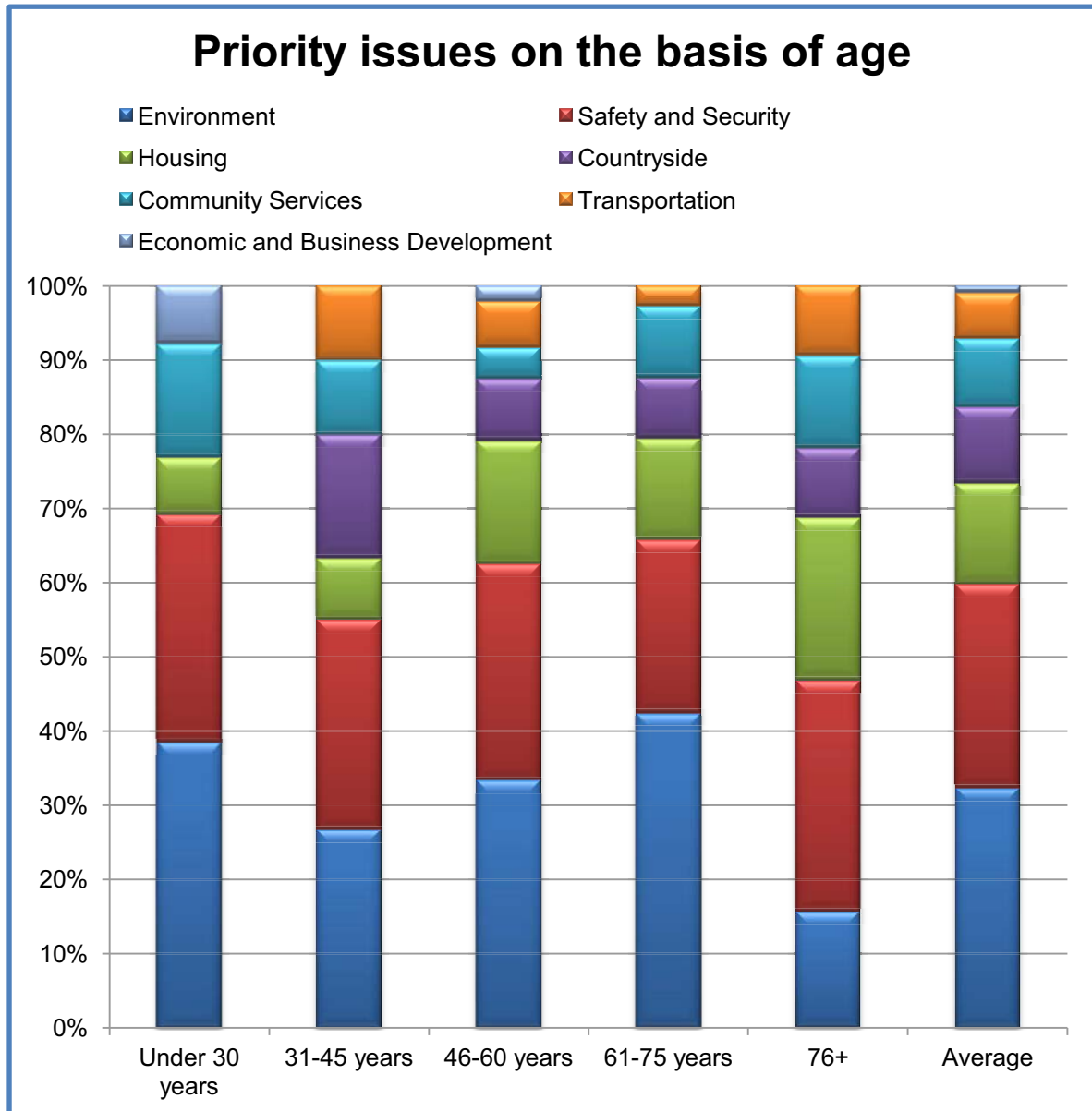
5.15 When considered on the basis of gender, there was no difference in the order of importance attached to each issue.

5.16 On the basis of age, however, a slight variation emerged in terms of what respondents identified as the issue they considered to be the most important.

- 56% of those aged 19-30 years considered the **environment** to be the most important
- 28% of those aged 31-45 considered **safety and security** to be most important, and further 27%, the environment
- 33% of those aged 46-60 considered the **environment** to be the most important, and 29% safety and security
- 42% of those aged 61-75 considered the **environment** to be most important, and 23% safety and security

- 31% of those aged 76 years and over considered **safety and security** to be most important, and 22% housing.

Note: Blanks have been excluded from the analysis.



Positive features of living in the Parish

6.1 Residents were asked what they **like** about living in the Parish. In total, 236 people offered comment. On the whole, the parish was considered to be a **'great place to live'**, characterised by its locality and rural aspect, convenient location and pleasant living environment.

"Just a great place to live"

6.2 The most commonly occurring features that residents liked about living in the Parish related to its **rural or semi rural location** and **proximity to the countryside, urban centres and transport links**.

“I like the rural environment and close proximity to Worcester and Droitwich”

- 89 respondents made comment about the rural / semi rural or countryside location
- 52 made reference to the access to the countryside
- 50 made reference to the ease of access other urban centres such as Worcester or Droitwich
- 28 made reference to the ease of access to the transportation network, with specific reference to the M5.

6.3 The parish was also considered as being **friendly**, with a **sense of community** and a **village feel and atmosphere**. In addition, residents liked the **peace and quiet** of the parish.

- 63 described it as friendly (or having a village feel or atmosphere)
- 54 described the area as quiet and/or peaceful

“Very nice area and I like the village type feel”

“Quiet and peaceful with friendly neighbours and residents”

6.4 Respondents liked the fact that the parish was relatively **safe** and free of crime and anti-social behaviour.

- 23 described it as safe, with reference made to the low rates of crime and anti social behaviour

“Safe rural feel”

“Very quiet and no crime, and anti social behaviour”

6.5 Other features that residents liked about the Parish included:

- the school (15)
- recreational activities, such as cycling or country walks (11).

Suggested improvements

7.1 Residents were asked what they would like to improve within the parish. In total, 211 respondents offered comment. Nine respondents stated that there was nothing they would change about the parish.

7.2 In the main, suggested improvements were focused on:

- access to and the provision of amenities
- travel and transportation, to include roads, foot paths and public transport
- potential and intended development.

7.3 In relation to **amenities**, it was considered that some additional amenities were necessary for the local community. These included health care facilities, activities for members of the community and shops. In terms of specific suggestions:

- Doctors surgery (18)
- More community facilities / amenities (13)
- Facilities for young people (11)
- More open spaces (9)
- Pharmacy / Chemist (6)
- More shops (5)
- A community centre (4)
- Local sports facilities (3)
- More schools / school places (3)
- Dentist (2)

“The main need will be for a doctors surgery. Imp Post Office and shops”

“More amenities e.g. visiting doctor and a pharmacy”

7.4 In relation to **traffic and transportation**, suggestions were for the improvement of the quality of roads and footpaths, for improved traffic management, reduced congestion and improved public transport.

- Traffic controls – including speed restrictions, traffic lights, managing traffic flows, on-street parking and congestion (38)
- Improvements to footpaths (eg. over grown paths, litter, width) (20)
- Improvements to roads (quality eg. pot holes) (15)
- General transport related improvements (13)
- Improvements to bus services, including frequency and reducing costs (11)
- Addressing issues with on-street parking / parking controls (7)
- Local rail services (7)
- Improved road safety (4)
- More / better cycle lanes (6)

“Tidy up the existing roads and fix the footpaths and widen them to make it safer to walk on”

“The state of some of the roads and pavements - particularly in Fernhill Heath”

“Pot holes in the road”

“Better traffic management”

7.5 Specific areas/roads highlighted by residents for road safety and traffic management included:

- Dilmore Lane
- Dilmore Avenue
- Station Road
- A38
- Hurst Lane / A38
- Outside Claines School
- Bull crossroads
- Whitehart pub
- Droitwich Road
- A449 / Blackpole Road
- Danes Green Road

7.5 It was apparent that there was **objection to the proposed development** within the Parish, but residents suggested that in order to minimise the threat and impact on the parish and its residents there could be:

- Improved management (communication, consultation, objection) of proposed development (15)
- Removal of the threat and fear of proposed developments

“Less housing developments. Any further would spoil countryside / environment”

“Fewer plans for large scale development to retain village identity”

“Fear / reduce threat of over development”

7.6 Thirteen respondents made specific suggestions in relation to improved policing (visible) and targeting anti-social behaviour within the parish.

Making the Parish a better place to live and work

8.1 residents were asked what they considered would make the Parish to live and work. Many of the responses reflected the suggested improvements offered. In the main, many of the suggestions focused on **maintaining and preserving the environment, the countryside and the general community of the parish**. As expected, repeated reference was made to the **threats posed by proposed housing** developments and the **negative impacts** that such activities might have on the environment and the community.

“Protecting, as far as possible, the rural surroundings”

“It's fine the way it is but no more housing developments please. Spoiling the countryside”

“Not to enlarge housing. To keep village atmosphere, instead of almost merging with Worcester. Keep greenbelt”

8.2 Of the 192 respondents who offered comment, around a fifth indicated that they were **against further residential development** within the parish, highlighting the negative impacts associated with large scale housing developments. Others suggested that any development should be controlled, carefully planned and sympathetic to the environment.

“No more large developments of houses. We have Warndon Villages that is the largest estate in Europe!!! We shouldn't need more”

“Planned sensitive development reflecting the character of the Parish”

8.3 Other specific suggestions made by residents were focused around:

- Community amenities.
- Travel and transportation
- Traffic management

8.4 Twenty-seven respondents made explicit reference to improving and enhancing the **provision of village amenities**. Suggestions included health care facilities, such as a Doctors Surgery and shops. Other suggestions included areas for young people (3) and a community centre (3).

“A community centre to draw community together, more services, particularly Doctors”

8.5 In terms of **travel and transportation**, 9 respondents made reference to buses, in terms of cheaper fares, improved and more frequent services. A further 12 highlighted that public transport and access to other localities could be further improved through opening a local rail station, such as Fernhill Heath Halt.

“Cheaper and more regular bus transport”

“Railway station allowing commuter access”

8.6 Reflecting concern that had been expressed throughout the survey regarding **road safety, traffic management and congestion**, suggestions offered to improve the parish included:

- Traffic management – to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and improve [the safety and traffic flows of] junctions (22)
- Improve speed control (15)

“Reduced traffic flow on rural lanes”

“Careful attention to traffic access should be given when planning future housing developments”

“The traffic is very heavy most of the time”

“Reduction of speeding vehicles around lanes, side roads”

Other comments

9.1 Respondents were invited to offer other comments that they considered would help in shaping the Neighbourhood Plan. In total, 153 comments were made. The comments largely reflected residents concerns about the proposed new developments and the potential impacts.

9.2 Repeated reference was made to the **risk of increasing traffic and congestion** as a result of any further development. It was considered that the current transport infrastructure potentially might not be able to cope with increased demand / users and that this should be carefully considered and planned. Respondents suggested that if further development has to take place, that it should be small scale and directly accessible from the A38.

9.3 Respondents highlighted the need to **protect the countryside** and the **environment**. Specific reference was made to protecting the greenbelt area and brown field sites, and the impact that any further development might have upon the environment, wildlife and agriculture.

9.4 Respondents cautioned **against future large-scale development** reflecting that of Wardon villages, and repeatedly highlighted the need to **preserve the character of the parish**, to include the village feel and sense of identity. It was felt that a merging of the urban conurbation of Worcester-Fernhill Heath – Claines – Droitwich resulting from any large-scale residential development should be avoided.

9.5 In many respects, some residents considered that future **development** was **inevitable**, despite their objection. If develop was to go ahead, then they felt that it should be:

- carefully planned and managed
- sympathetic to the character of the local environment
- not large scale
- accessible from the A38.

Summary

10.1 Respondents were extremely positive about living in North Claines Parish, highlighting the benefits of rural / semi rural living, providing easy access and proximity to the countryside, whilst maintain access to the city and key transport networks.

10.2 It was clear that residents valued the sense of community and village feel that the parish offered, recognising it as a great place to live. They generally found the parish to be friendly, quiet and peaceful. The proximity to the countryside allowed easy access to nature and other recreational activities.

10.3 In the main, residents were not in favour of any further planned development within the Parish, considering that it would impact negatively upon their community, environment and infrastructure. However, recognising the development was inevitable, they favoured a planned approach that was not large scale, and was sensitive to the character of the local environment.

10.4 Respondents considered that protecting and preserving the environment and countryside were key priorities. Destruction of the green belt and brown field sites should be avoided, and nature and wildlife protected.

10.5 Respondents were also concerned about current and future transportation matters. It was felt that some roads and footpaths within the parish were in state of disrepair and in need of improvement. Likewise, concerns were identified in respect of traffic congestion and road safety issues associated with problematic road junctions, speeding and on-street parking. It was felt that specific traffic management and speed reduction interventions should be explored. In order to help reduce travel congestion and maximise access to towns and cities, improving bus services was suggested and re-opening the train station (Halt) in Fernhill Heath.

10.6 Should further develop take place in the Parish, respondents considered that careful consideration should be given to traffic plans and management, to maintain access and reduce any further impact upon the roads in terms of congestion and road safety.

10.7 Other suggested improvements for the parish focused on the provision of amenities. It was suggested that health care facilities, such as a doctors surgery and pharmacy should be provided within the parish, and there should be a greater provision other amenities such as local shops and activities for younger people.

Annex 1 Data Tables: Counts

Housing

Note: There was some misinterpretation of the question. Care should be taken when considering the results for this question

'we need to identify the current and future housing needs to deliver the right type and mix of housing to meet those needs.'

Housing	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	81	115	25	20	8	249

Housing / Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Under 18 years		2	1	1	4
19-30 years	1	7	2	1	11
31-45 years	19	31	8	2	60
46-60 years	21	16	5	6	48
61-75 years	32	34	6	5	77
Over 76 years	5	20	3	5	33
Grand Total	78	110	25	20	233

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Female	39	61	13	7	120
Male	38	50	12	13	113
Grand Total	77	111	25	20	233

Most important issue	Total
Housing	31

Most important issue: Housing	Total
Female	13
Male	16
Blank	2
Grand Total	31

Most important issue: Housing	Total
Under 18 years	1
31-45 years	5
46-60 years	8
61-75 years	10
Over 76 years	7
Grand Total	31

Economic and Business development

'we need to make appropriate provision for businesses and commercial development to meet the needs of the local community and ensure the continued economic growth of the parish.'

Econ and Business dev	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	61	121	39	20	8	249

Econ/ Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Under 18 years	1	2	1		4
19-30 years	1	9	1		11
31-45 years	19	34	8	1	62
46-60 years	17	22	4	5	48
61-75 years	18	32	17	9	76
Over 76 years	3	19	6	4	32
Grand Total	59	118	37	19	233

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Female	29	65	20	7	121
Male	28	52	19	13	112
Grand Total	57	117	39	20	233

Most important issue	Total
Economic and business development	2

Transportation

'we need to improve traffic flows, reduce congestion and provide increased opportunities for public transport provision within the parish'.

Transport	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	117	104	18	1	9	249

Transport / Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Under 18 years	2	1	1			4
19-30 years	6	3	2			11
31-45 years	25	32	5			62
46-60 years	26	20	2			48
61-75 years	41	28	7		1	77
Over 76 years	13	16	1			30
Grand Total	113	100	18	1	1	232

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Female	54	58	9			121
Male	58	43	9		1	111
Grand Total	112	101	18	1	1	232

Most important issue	Total
Transportation	14

Most important issue: Transportation	Total
Female	8
Male	6
Grand Total	14

Most important issue: Transportation	Total
31-45 years	6
46-60 years	3
61-75 years	2
Over 76 years	3
Grand Total	14

Environment

'We need to ensure that any development within the parish protects and where possible enhances the natural environment.'

Environ	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	206	37	1	1	4	249

Environ / Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Under 18 years	2	1	1			4
19-30 years	10	1				11
31-45 years	56	6				62
46-60 years	42	6				48
61-75 years	70	8				78
Over 76 years	19	14			1	34
Grand Total	199	36	1	1	1	237

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Female	108	15		1		124
Male	91	21	1			113
Grand Total	199	36	1	1	1	237

Most important issue	Total
Environment	75

Most important issue: Environment	Total
Female	40
Male	35
Grand Total	75

Most important issue: Environment	Total
19-30 years	5
31-45 years	16
46-60 years	16
61-75 years	31
Over 76 years	5
Grand Total	73

Countryside

'We should provide everyone within the parish with opportunities to access and enjoy the natural environment.'

C'side	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	187	56	0	1	5	249

C' side/ Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Under 18 years	3	1			4
19-30 years	9	2			11
31-45 years	51	11			62
46-60 years	43	5			48
61-75 years	54	24			78
Over 76 years	20	12		1	33
Grand Total	180	55		1	236

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Female	93	30			123
Male	88	24	0	1	113
Grand Total	181	54	0	1	236

Most important issue	Total
Countryside	26

Most important issue: Countryside	Total
Female	13
Male	12
Grand Total	25

Most important issue: Countryside	Total
31-45 years	10
46-60 years	4
61-75 years	6
Over 76 years	3
Grand Total	23

Community services

'We need to identify and make appropriate provision for services that meet the communities needs (eg transportation, community centre, sports facilities, doctors).'

C' services	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	115	112	15	3	4	249

C' services / Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Under 18 years	4					4
19-30 years	5	5	1			11
31-45 years	25	33	4			62
46-60 years	27	18	3			48
61-75 years	39	34	5			78
Over 76 years	13	18	1	2		34
Grand Total	113	108	14	2		237

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Female	57	59	7	1		124
Male	54	49	8	2		113
Grand Total	111	108	15	3		237

Most important issue	Total
Community services	21

Most important issue:	Total
Community services	
Female	10
Male	9
Grand Total	19

Most important issue:	Total
Community services	
Under 18 years	2
31-45 years	6
46-60 years	2
61-75 years	7
Over 76 years	4
Grand Total	21

Safety and Security

'We need to ensure that the parish is a safe and secure place to live and work and where possible aims to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.'

Safety and Security	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank	Grand Total
Total	196	46	0	2	5	249

Safety / Age	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Under 18 years	4				4
19-30 years	9	2			11
31-45 years	55	7			62
46-60 years	42	6			48
61-75 years	57	19		1	77
Over 76 years	22	11		1	34
Grand Total	189	45	0	2	236

Gender	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Grand Total
Female	101	21	0	1	123
Male	87	25	0	1	113
Grand Total	188	46	0	2	236

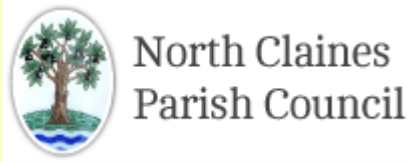
Most important issue	Total
Safety and security	65

Most important issue:	Total
Safety and security	
Female	33
Male	30
Grand Total	63

Most important issue:	Total
Safety and security	
Under 18 years	1
19-30 years	3
31-45 years	17
46-60 years	14
61-75 years	17
Over 76 years	10
Grand Total	62

APPENDIX 3.7

COMMUNITY SURVEY WORKSHOP REPORT



North Claines Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee & Forum

**Outcomes of the Community Survey Workshop
held on Saturday 22 March 2014 at Kings
Hawford School, Worcester**

Report Prepared by Councillor Andy McManus

Background

In December 2013 North Claines Parish Council held a series of events where members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee presented the results of the 2013 Community Survey on Neighbourhood Planning. Subsequently, the Committee agreed to hold one Workshop where the results of the survey (along with other feedback from the community) would be considered by representatives of the community with a view to making recommendations for inclusion in a draft Neighbourhood Plan.

A total of 14 delegates were invited to attend the Workshop where the survey results were discussed under themes that cover all aspects of the Council's work to date on Neighbourhood Planning. These are:

- ✓ North Claines Parish Council's Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Planning
- ✓ Results of the 2013 Community Survey
- ✓ Ensuring proposals promote aspects of renewable energy
- ✓ Identify any vacant or derelict housing within the Parish that could be utilised for future development
- ✓ Identify & protect appropriate locations from further development
- ✓ Outline both the type and nature of development required within the Parish
- ✓ Includes allocation of open spaces, sports and play areas, allotments, parks and gardens
- ✓ Provide opportunities for business to expand and grow
- ✓ Improve existing transport networks

Each of these themes were explored within the context of all types of feedback from the community. The results of this work is presented in this document as 46 recommendations grouped under the headings of the Council's Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Planning

Residential Housing

To formulate clear policies and guidance on relevant aspects of housing most appropriate for the future development within the Parish

1. Work with Wychavon District Council in reviewing the classification of the Green Belt, both within and surrounding the Parish in order to release land the community has identified as suitable for development

2. Land identified as suitable for development (whether designated Green Belt, subject to planning permission or options held for future development)
 - a. North East of Fernhill Heath at Kennels Lane, currently proposed by David Wilson Homes (Mercia) for a development of 88 mixed housing units

 - b. North of Fernhill Heath, currently proposed by Taylor Wimpey for a development of 120 mixed housing units

 - c. Recognise options for the future development of land (across Dilmore Lane to Tapenhall Farm and to north / north east towards Lower Town & Kennels Lane) surrounding the proposed Dilmore Lane development

 - d. East of Fernhill Heath in Bevere, occupied by Gwillam's Farm - currently proposed by Cala Homes & Bellway Homes for mixed housing units

Residential Housing / cont.

- e. East of Fernhill Heath on land adjacent to Grange Lane and south of the Royal Grammar School premises
 - f. On the A38, opposite Dilmore Lane currently designated as Green Belt
 - g. East of the village adjacent to Fernhill Heath House - currently designated as Green Belt
3. Identify opportunities for small scale development to take place on land adjacent to the A38 allowing smoother traffic flow, aiding both access and egress
 4. All developments need to be a mix of design and type reflecting the vernacular architecture within the surrounding communities
 5. No individual development permitted over 2 stories
 6. Every area designated for development is allocated a proportion of space for self-build properties – improving the diversity of development across the Parish
 7. Developers to work with Wychavon District Council in order to provide residents of any new development with access to public transport at suitable times of the day

Environmental Sustainability

To ensure that any residential, commercial or other developments within the Parish protect & where possible enhance the natural environment

8. Focus development on small scale areas where planned, controlled and incremental expansion can occur

9. Maintain the semi-rural feel of the Parish by designating an upper limit (50 units plus) to large scale developments within the Parish boundaries

10. Low density developments to allow for landscaping, footpaths and immediate access to countryside & the rural environment

11. Developments include an environmental policy focusing on how the provision of resources will meet both current & future needs of the community. This policy can include (but is not exclusive to)
 - a. The design of both housing and commercial properties to encourage the installation (where appropriate) of suitable micro wind-turbines to encourage natural energy renewal

 - b. reduce water consumption through the provision of a minimum of 1 water butt per house

 - c. fitting of electric car charging point(s) on every driveway / within a garaged area of a new development

Environmental Sustainability / cont.

- d. suitable roofing design to encourage the installation of solar panels and other forms of small scale energy renewal
 - e. recycling of rain water for the use in toilet flushing systems
 - f. adequate landscaping of land surrounding new developments to ensure adequate water run-off into the environment, not necessarily into existing drainage system, whilst reducing the risk of flooding
12. Adequate off road parking for each development – reducing congestion and the need for ‘slalom driving’ (in the case of 2 / 3 + bedroom properties this would be a base level of 2 vehicles per house)
13. Parish Council to be consulted over the installation of any new street or public lighting to ensure low-intensity systems are used, keeping areas of the Parish safe and well lit, whilst reducing light pollution
14. Identify sites of historical or natural interest through feedback from the community and ‘walking’ the Parish via footpaths, roads and open countryside and designate (where appropriate) said land as protected space
15. Opportunity to turn historical survey into a resource residents can use to discover more about where they live

Access to & Opportunities within the Countryside

To provide residents and those working within the Parish with opportunities to access, utilise and enjoy the natural environment including the protection and provision of public rights of way and recreation facilities

16. Every development enhances the countryside it sits within, encouraging residents to access and engage with the natural environment around them

17. Work with Wychavon District Council in reviewing the classification of the Green Belt both within and surrounding the Parish in order to protect the rural and agricultural environment the community wishes to engage with

18. Include within this review the creation of a green belt corridor, extending north of Bevere Lane and adjacent to the Ombersley Road toward Hawford and the A449, preventing urban sprawl and protecting existing conservation areas

19. Extend the Green Belt to create a buffer-zone within the Parish boundaries, along the River Severn and connecting with the canal network within the Parish to create a conservation area protecting fauna & wildlife

20. Any housing or commercial development includes designation of footpaths that allow residents to access the countryside and rural environment, linking areas of the Parish with an integrated network of footpaths

21. Existing footpaths and bridleways and newly designated footpaths to be accessible to all (including the disabled and wheelchair users where possible) with suitable stiles and gates

Access to & Opportunities within the Countryside /cont.

22. Ensure the footpath network is upgraded (where required) and well maintained allowing their use by both walkers and cyclists

23. Designate land on the corner of Dilmore Lane & the Droitwich Road as green, open space

24. Designate land adjacent to Dilmore Lane (south of the proposed Taylor Wimpey development) as green, open space

25. Identify how 23. & 24. above along with land at Robins Drive, to the front and rear of Agatha Gardens and the Recreation Ground (the Brum) can be fully utilised as green open space

Economic and Business Development

To identify & make appropriate provision for business and commercial developments to meet the needs of the local community and ensure the continued economic growth of the Parish

26. Use land adjacent to Hurst Lane to develop low density, small business units, eco-friendly in design with state of the art telecommunications and provision of high speed broadband – encouraging small start-up business within a semi-rural environment

27. Ensure high speed broadband is introduced to every private (and commercial) property encouraging home grown start-up businesses

28. Work alongside business centres outside of the Parish, most notably the Hawford Business Centre, to develop business skills and start-up opportunities for the Parish to share facilities, resources and business know-how

29. Support local businesses by restricting entry of national retailers into the local market

30. Encourage the expansion of existing commercial sites eg on the corner of the Droitwich Road and Butchers Walk to meet the needs of an expanding population by

31. Via the Localism Act declare interest in purchasing (if offered on the open market) the Post Office, Pubs and General Stores in Fernhill Heath to restrain re-development and retain services for the community

Economic and Business Development /cont.

32. Diversify amenities by encouraging start-ups in existing commercial properties, encouraging a small scale night time economy based on the model of existing pubs and restaurants

Providing Services to the Community

To identify & make appropriate provision for services to meet the needs of the local community

33. Provide an eco-friendly village and community hall, on the green-belt land south of the Recreation Ground (the Brum), off the A38 in Fernhill Heath

34. Work with volunteers and entrepreneurs to establish a range of health & wellbeing, hobby & crafts, education etc classes at the village hall, suitable for all ages, specifically the elderly & retired residents of the Parish, children and young adults (eg cubs and scouts)

35. Enter into negotiations with the trustees of the Working Men's Club and War Memorial Hall in Fernhill Heath, with a view to relocate both groups to a newly built village hall

36. Review the use of the land immediately adjacent to Hindlip CofE Primary School and provide an opportunity for the school to expand into purpose built, modern premises currently occupied by the War Memorial Hall and Working Men's Club

37. Review the current education catchment of the Parish, specifically in relation to Fernhill Heath, to ensure future generations of children living in the area can attend their local primary school, most notably Hindlip CofE & Claines Primary Schools

38. Work with NHS services to provide services of a pharmacy, doctors surgery and dentist, preventing residents having to travel to Droitwich or Worcester

Providing Services to the Community /cont.

39. Pursue in parallel to 38. above the option of 'visiting medical services' that will meet the community's needs without requiring a permanent establishment

40. Identify opportunities for residents to use amenities on the borders of the Parish (eg in Perdiswell) as sports / recreation grounds

Promote a Safe and Secure Place for Work

To work with the Police and community partners to ensure both the design of new & enhancement of existing developments reduces the opportunities for crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

41. Work with Wychavon District Council and partner agencies to identify suitable areas for the installation of CCTV cameras

42. Establish networks of Neighbourhood Watch areas across the Parish, focusing on areas of new development

43. Introduce traffic calming measures on the A38 to reduce speeding and (during peak times) congestion

44. Establish regular drop-in sessions by West Mercia Police in the village hall or other, appropriate site

45. Promote eco-aware street lighting that minimises light pollution whilst improving safety and security

46. Maximum speed limit of 20mph introduced in any new housing or commercial development

APPENDIX 3.8

EXHIBITION BOARD – FUN ON THE BRUM

North Claines Neighbourhood Development Plan

Draft Proposals

The draft proposals below have been informed through a variety of sources. The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Planning Committee has undertaken a number of consultations with the community including a questionnaire survey in the Parish Newsletter (Spring 2013). The results of this survey were fed back to the community through various events during the end of 2013 and start of 2014. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee held a workshop in March 2014 with the task of developing issues and themes from the survey results and other responses.

The Neighbourhood Plan has to conform with the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The SWDP is currently under Examination and has not yet been adopted. However, it is prudent at this stage that proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan align with the general strategic aspirations for the area within the SWDP.

Fernhill Heath is identified as a Category 2 settlement which are villages that have 'at least two key services including a shop and have access to at least daily services for employment and shopping purposes'. As a Category 2 village it is identified for some additional housing. Due to the proximity of the Parish to Worcester City and the lack of available land in the City for the required new residential development the SWDP also proposes to allocate land within the Parish for new housing to meet the City's needs.

We invite you to read through the draft proposals below and provide your comments to us. Members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee are on hand to answer any questions and there is a form to complete to let us know what you think. Your views will be taken into account as we start preparing the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.



Housing

The Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the South Worcestershire Development Plan. At present the SWDP proposes two housing allocations:

- Gawilam's Farm, Bevee (Worcester North Urban Extension) for approximately 250 dwellings
- Dunrove Lane (Station Road, Fernhill Heath) for approximately 120 dwellings.

Cutting planning permission has been granted for residential development at Gawilam's Farm. Further detailed planning applications have been submitted. Additionally, an outline application for residential development has been submitted at Dunrove Lane. These latter applications have yet to be determined.

The Wychevion District Local Plan identifies the land at Sling Lane/Old Drive, Fernhill Heath as 'designated land' that will only be released if it is required for development. The site has direct access to the A38. As the Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to promote sustainable development and growth it will propose this site for around 50 houses. In total the Neighbourhood Plan will provide for around 420 new dwellings on allocated sites.

The Neighbourhood Plan will not support any new residential development beyond the existing settlement boundaries (i.e. in the Green Belt or in the Open Countryside) other than those listed above, with exception of the Claines CE Primary School (See 'School' section below).



Local Heritage Core

The Parish includes two Conservation Areas: Bevee and the Drotwich Canal. It is recognised that Fernhill Heath retains elements of its historical past particularly along the A38 to the east of the village.

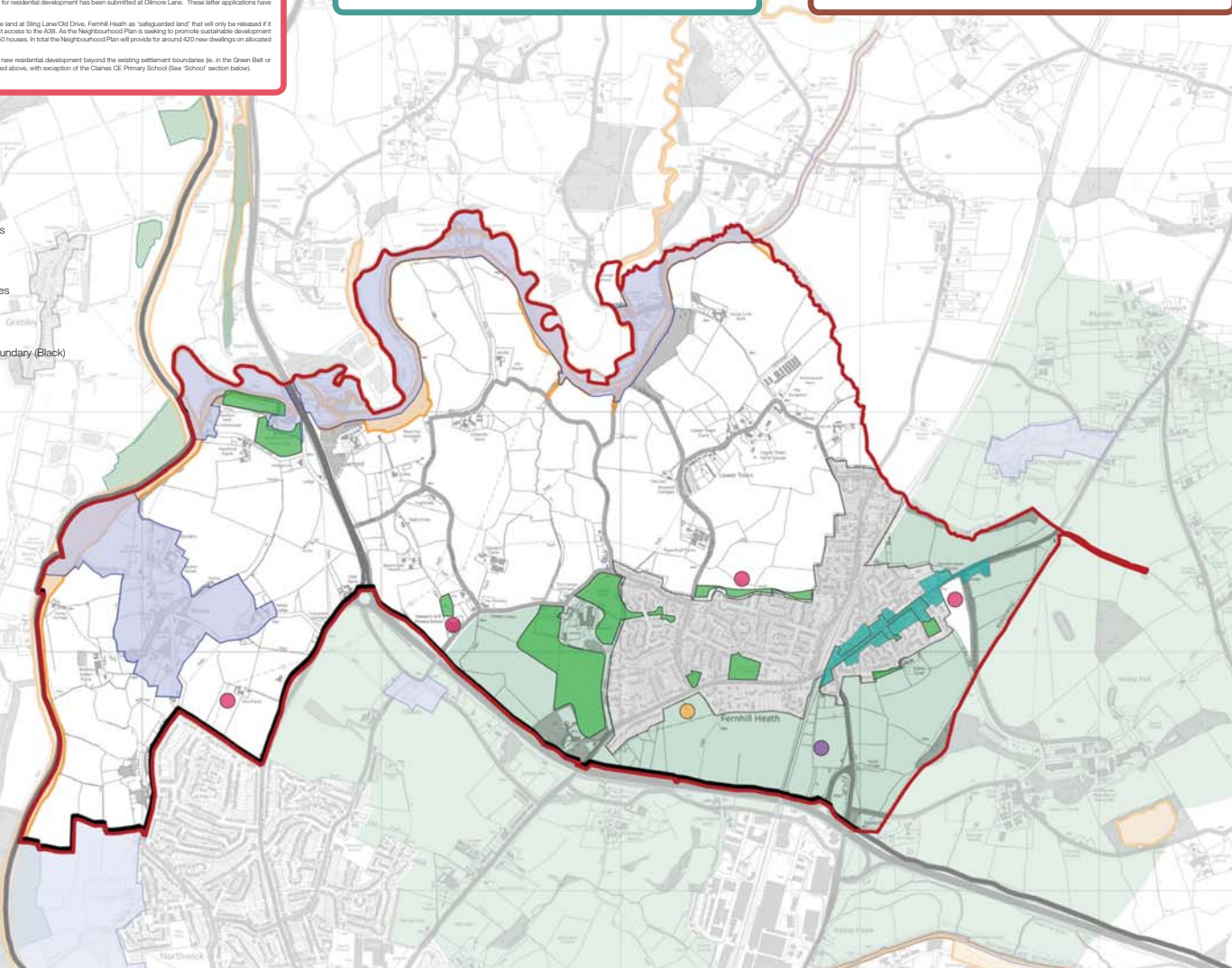
Historical maps from the 1840s Claines T1 Map show the early development in the village along the Drotwich Road between the Old Drive and Hurst Lane. Although there has been much development and redevelopment in the intervening 170 years these areas still reflect of the historic past that it is considered is worth identifying within the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan would also seek to protect and enhance the historic value of the area.



Local Retail Area

With a population of around 3,520 (2011 Census) it is recognised that the Parish has few shops and services located within it to cater for local people. Residents will have to travel, often in the car, to Worcester and/or Drotwich for such facilities. Without a local centre, Fernhill Heath as the main settlement in the Parish, is effectively acting as a suburb to Worcester and Drotwich. There is a need to create a more sustainable village with the appropriate level of services and facilities. The Neighbourhood Plan will identify a Local Retail Area potentially along the A38 Corridor from The Bull Inn and The White Horse to the south to the Hindle First School in the north. This will include a number of shops, businesses and community buildings that are located along the A38. The Plan will seek to protect and enhance local retail and service provision within the area.

- Key:**
- Green Belt
 - Settlement
 - Conservation Areas
 - SSSIs
 - Special Wildlife Sites
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Local Authority Boundary (Black)



Local Open Spaces

The Wychevion District Local Plan identifies The Burn and land at Robin Drive as open space to be protected from inappropriate development. However, it is recognised that the Parish includes other important open spaces that should be given similar protection.

Local open space is land that is in both public and private ownership where the public are able to benefit from access and/or use of the land. This could be a park, recreation ground or school playing field used for formal and informal recreation purposes. It also includes allotments, amenity open spaces and children's play areas.

The Neighbourhood Plan will identify these local open spaces and seek to protect and enhance them for the benefit of the public. This could be in terms of use and/or its contribution to the character of the area.

It will also seek to ensure that new development provides new open space or contributes to improving existing open space with the Parish.



School

There are two primary schools within the Parish. Hindle First School is located in Fernhill Heath and Claines CE Primary School is located in the countryside. Both sites are considered to be constrained in terms of capacity and room for expansion. It is felt that there would be benefits in combining the schools onto a more central site within Fernhill Heath with good access onto the A38 for both public and private transport connections. The aspiration would be to locate the new school on land to the south of the A38. Although this land is in the Green Belt we believe there are exceptional circumstances that justify this proposal. However, this would need to be justified through a planning application. Additionally, discussion with the Local Education Authority and the schools would need to take place to ascertain the level of support for the aspiration. This site could also include community and health facilities such as playing fields and a GP surgery helping to create a community hub around the school.

The two existing school sites could potentially be redeveloped/converted. Claines CE School for housing and Hindle School for retail/community uses.



Rail-Based Park and Ride

Fernhill Heath has a railway station located on Station Road until 1965. There have been various approaches in the past to look at re-opening the station. 81% of people within the Parish travelling to work travel by car, taxi or motorcycle. This is significantly higher than the national average of 63.5%. Only 0% travel by public transport as against 17% nationally. This is not surprising given the Parish's semi-rural/urban edge location. However, the Parish does benefit from having some of the key infrastructure to provide more effective public transport provision.

Additionally, the Parish is well located to the key motorway and road network that is used by road-based commuters within the area and wider region. It is considered that this location could support a viable and sustainable rail-based park and ride facility. This would potentially reduce road-based, commuter journeys to key sites and towns in the area. It could also provide Fernhill Heath and the parish with a rail station that would provide improvements to travel to and from the area and make the Parish a more sustainable place to live and work. The Neighbourhood Plan could identify an aspiration for a rail-based Park and Ride facility on land between the railway line and Hurst Lane.

Although this land is in the Green Belt, national planning policy does allow for such transport infrastructure development provided it can be demonstrated that it is justified in a Green Belt location.

APPENDIX 3.9

PARISH FOCUS - EXTRACTS

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Autumn 2015



Our Parish, Your Voice, Our Future



Parish
Planning
Leaflet
Will be delivered
to you in the next
couple of weeks

Top Award for Village Mace Store

Fernhill Heath's Mace store has won a much coveted award. Out of all the Mace stores in the country, the one in our village has been voted

"Best Community Store of the year"

Alan Kasch, whose family have run the shop for 35yrs, travelled up to Liverpool to collect the glass award, which was presented to him by Mr Chris Hoy. Afterwards, Alan said that

'I was very honoured, delighted and surprised. This is not just an award for me but for the wonderful team of staff who work in the shop.'

The Mace store now has the village Post Office counter which is open 7 days a week. The shop and Post Office counter are open from 5am to 9pm 6 days a week and from 6am to 9pm on a Sunday.



Fernhill Heath also welcomes a new store. The former Halfway House has been transformed and is now a Spar shop. Welcome to everyone who works there!



Make a note in your diaries for 2016
FUN ON THE BRUM
Saturday July 23rd
so put it into your 2016 diaries

Neighbourhood Plan

Over the summer there has been a great deal of work going on in the background with our Neighbourhood Plan. This year's Fun on the Brum day was another great opportunity to present the Plan's proposals to members of the public. Although the formal consultation process is still to begin many residents came to visit the Council's stand and feedback was very positive. Thank you to everyone who stopped by. We will all have the opportunity to comment and give the Council feedback when formal consultation begins in mid-October (see below).

Also this summer, following advice from a number of public bodies and charities such as English Heritage, the Parish Council agreed to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. In lay persons language the SEA is designed to assess what impact the proposed plan will have on the environment of the Parish. It can identify whether there is likely to be a negative impact e.g. whether proposals may endanger flora, fauna and wildlife, but it can also identify where there maybe advantages to the environment by adopting policies within the Plan. The SEA is being conducted by independent specialists who are supported in their work by both Wychavon District Council and the Parish Council and we hope to see the final report in early October 2015. Ultimately, it will help those statutory bodies the Council have to consult with (along with anyone who would like to read it) understand what the outcomes of adopting the Plan maybe.

The Council has also been mapping out how we will conduct the next stage of delivering the Neighbourhood Plan, our consultation with landowners, interested parties and especially the thousands of eligible voters living in the Parish. Our plans include a mailshot, a specific area on the Council's website providing advice, information and where a copy of the Plan can be downloaded. We will also be holding a number of events where anyone can come along and talk with Councillors regarding what the Neighbourhood Plan is proposing. Further details will be published next month.

As always, if you have any questions or queries relating to the Neighbourhood Plan please do not hesitate to contact the Council Office, by letter or e-mail or via the website.



ENGLISH HERITAGE



Remembrance Day Service

Remembrance day service is to be held on Friday 6th November 2015 in the War Memorial Club Hall in Fernhill Heath at 8pm.



Everyone is welcome to attend and refreshments are available after the service.

Knit for Peace

Knit for Peace is an initiative of the Charities Advisory Trust that harnesses the previously untapped power of over 11,000 volunteer knitters to provide donations of clothing, blankets and other knitted items to those in need both in the UK and overseas.

Knitters send in items they have made and Knit for Peace sort them into type and send them out to where they are needed through their network of contacts amongst NGOs, charities and community groups. In the UK, recipient groups might be women's refuges, refugee reception and drop-in centres, homeless shelters and charities, hospitals and hospices and those working with the elderly. The only thing they ask of recipient groups is that they pass the items directly onto those in need and do not sell them for funds. You can find out more about Knit for Peace at their website www.knitforpeace.org.uk.

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Summer 2015



SPONSORED BY NORTH CLAINES PARISH COUNCIL

Fun ^{On} the Brum

**Saturday
25th July**

on The Brum 12 - 4pm

**Something
for ALL
the Family!**

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Heath the Horse, Peeler the Dog,
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Bungee Run, Inflatables,
Magic Show, Street Food,
Tea & Cakes, Ice Cream,
Preserves, Tombola,
Raffle & much more!**



Proceeds including raffle will go to Claines United Charities, Registered charity No. 239505

Neighbourhood Planning

Since the last edition of the Parish Focus, two members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, Jason Smith and Stephen Jackson, have both been unsuccessful in being re-elected as Councillors of North Claines Parish Council. Both Jason and Stephen were members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee since its inception and have been instrumental in navigating our work through uncharted waters in order to deliver the Plan at the earliest opportunity.

Nevertheless, so we can continue to use their knowledge and commitment to make the Plan a reality, the Parish Council have approached both Jason and Stephen and asked for their continued support with the work that lies ahead. Consequently, we are delighted they both have agreed to remain on the Committee. We also welcome new Councillors to the Parish, Margaret Drinkwater and Meg Farmer, who we know with the other re-elected Councillors will support and advise the committee to deliver the final Plan in 2016.

Since the last update a revision of the draft Plan has taken place and this has delayed the start of the 6-week period of consultation. This revision came about following feedback from voluntary Inspectors who examined draft Neighbourhood Plans from other Councils and Neighbourhood Plan Areas. Using this feedback, Cass Associates have undertaken a full review of our existing Plan and re-drafted elements of its content in order for us to be confident we have the best opportunity to pass inspection.

Over the Summer, following an assessment of the environmental impact the Plan may have, we will be able to fully publish our proposals and invite everyone living or working in the Parish to consult the Plan and provide feedback. We continue to work towards a date in February/March 2016 when we hope to take the Plan to a public referendum.

If you would like any further information regarding the progress of the Plan or how you can comment on proposals please contact the Council or look out for details in the next edition of the Parish Focus.



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PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Spring 2015



FIRST TIME EVER

Fernhill Heath IN BLOOM

Do you enjoy living in the village?
Are you proud of the area
which you live in?
Could it look better?
Do you know all your neighbours?
**Here is an opportunity to
answer YES to all those questions!**

Neighbourhood Planning, the story so far.



It was in 2012 that we first agreed to form a Committee to steer the Council through the uncharted waters of designing a Neighbourhood Plan. Committing to a project of this size, probably the largest the Parish Council have ever undertaken was not done lightly. We were adamant that we wanted to produce a quality plan worthy of the area and the people who live and work in the Parish. Since then a great deal has been completed.

We've held scoping meetings, conducted surveys and analysed hundreds of questionnaires. We have presented at exhibitions to deliver the findings and conducted workshops to turn your ideas and thoughts into tangible proposals. Much of this work was completed based on advice from Wychavon Council and other government bodies and national organisations, but we knew we could not do it alone. Early in the process the Parish Council appointed a firm of planning consultants, Cass Associates to work with us in designing the plan. This was agreed by the Council with the full knowledge of the costs for the Parish. Yet, through winning funding from a variety of sources we have spent a fraction of our original budget.

We are now in a position where we will be putting the draft plan out to consultation over this spring and summer of 2015 with a view to the final plan going to referendum in early 2016. The time taken to get to this stage has allowed the Council to design an ambitious plan that will carry our Parish through until 2030, ensuring where development takes place, it is undertaken with the interests and ambitions of the local community firmly at the centre of any proposal.

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	29TH MARCH	1ST APRIL	3RD APRIL
DATES FOR THE DIARY	BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS 	APRIL FOOLS DAY (BANK HOLIDAY) 	GOOD FRIDAY (BANK HOLIDAY)

Elections for the Parish Council will shortly be underway. Please find below a few words from some of the current Parish Councillors on what they have helped to achieve through being part of the Parish Council.



Cllr Jason Smith

4 years seems to have flown by, however we have achieved many good things on behalf of residents living in the Parish. Every month we decide upon matters that mainly benefit residents and I am pleased that my involvement in the Neighbourhood Plan should hopefully see it completed in 2016. Being a Parish Councillor has given me a unique insight into the nitty gritty of Parish matters and I now realise that much we all take for granted in terms of the upkeep of the Parish is down to the Parish Council.



Cllr Kevin Savage

I have found the last 4 years fascinating and I am pleased to have setup the Parish Focus which has now gained a healthy momentum. I also helped with the website and Facebook page and hope to expand on these further with increased use and engagement in the future.



Cllr Sam Routledge

I've really enjoyed the past four years on the Parish Council, I've met some lovely people and learnt a lot about the Parish. I enjoyed organising the fun for all day and I'm looking forward to the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and the playground on the Brum.



Cllr Peter Philips

My family have farmed in Claines since 1860, my great grandfather was a founder member of the first Parish Council some 125 years ago.

I have lived and farmed in Claines all my life and have been a member of North Claines Parish Council since 1991. We are interested in and affected by many local issues. I am very keen on sport and would like to see better sporting facilities particularly for the youngsters in the area.



Cllr Andy McManus

It's difficult to imagine that it's four years since I was co-opted onto the Parish Council. So much has happened since 2011. Apart from the day-to-day work such as maintenance and lighting, the Council has had some great success with all the Fun on the Brum days that get bigger year by year. Unsurprisingly though what stands out have been issues regarding new housing and the SWDP. The Council will continue to campaign to ensure developments meet the needs of the community as a whole and delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan in 2016 will be the key to securing this.



Cllr Paul Maybury

I have enjoyed the past 4 years serving on the Parish council. I have seen and been part of the significant progress needed to further engage the local community. You may see Parish Councils as "the government's lowest rung". To me, we are an immediate point of contact and influence, and a way of looking after local interests.

Look at the things we have accomplished in 4 short years. The great website and Parish magazine to equal any in the Country. Our Neighborhood Plan, currently in consultation. Not forgetting the great work of others working for the community that we have encouraged and supported.



Cllr Stephen Jackson

It's been a very eventful four years on the Parish Council. When I joined the Council in 2011, I had a particular interest in the proposed housing developments in Bevere and Fernhill Heath and the impact that they would have on the community and environment of the Parish. These developments are the principal matter of concern for local residents and there remains a worry about the effect they will have on the services and transport in the community. However, now the Parish Council is in the final stages of completing a draft Neighbourhood Plan which should allow us to have more of a say about future developments within the Parish.

I've enjoyed my time as a Councillor and I'm keen to continue to see through the developments we've put in place. I feel now I have a better understanding of the issues that concern local residents and a clearer view of how we can make a difference over the next few years.

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Winter 2014/15



WYCHAVON
YOUTH BUS

Youth Bus coming to Fernhill Heath in January 2014

The Wychavon Youth Bus provides a mobile facility for young people aged between 11-17. It can be booked to go out to villages across the district to provide a range of activities, information and support for young people.

What's on the bus?

The Youth Bus is a converted 57 seater coach offering a seated area, tables, fridge, microwave, built in generator alongside a full respray and window tints, awning and side lights.

The youth bus offers a range of drop in style activities along with a variety of information on a range of topics and issues promoting healthy lifestyles for young people. The bus offers a Wii, Xbox kinect, TV/ DVD, laptops and broadband alongside various art equipment, board games and much more.

Aims of the Youth Bus

- Provide a multi-use space for children and young people
- Offer a variety of activities, information and support services
- Provide a safe place for young people predominantly in rural areas and get young people off the streets
- Reduce anti-social behaviour and respond to reports of anti-social behaviour
- Provide a rolling program of support to villages and target areas with the most need



For all the latest info like our Facebook page
The Youth Bus

SAFE & SOUND
IN WYCHAVON

WYCHAVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value

Halfway House

Many of you will have read in local press that at the 4th December Planning Committee meeting held at Wychavon Civic Centre, approval was given for the extension of the Halfway House in Fernhill Heath, allowing it to become a SPAR Convenience store.

Concerns regarding the application, the impact on the levels of traffic and the detrimental effect the development will have on other community facilities were raised by the spokesperson for 1,600 residents who opposed the application, Charles Cameron and Parish Councillor, Andy McManus.

Everyone who came along to the meeting to give their support were bitterly disappointed when only 6 of the 13 members of the Committee voted for the application, 2 voted against (including our District Councillor Tony Miller) and 5 abstained – giving the application the green light even though the majority of Councillors did not vote for the development.

Councillor McManus stood to berate the Councillors who abstained, calling them “a disgrace”. Later he said “You have to stand up for what you believe is right. They will undoubtedly be constrained by planning policy, but the reason for my outburst is because to have five abstentions on such a critical issue is unacceptable.” Alan Kasch, owner of the Mace convenience store in Fernhill Heath said “They are there to represent the people. How are the people of Fernhill Heath going to feel?”

Cllr Miller spoke against the application commenting that residents would boycott the shop if the plan was approved. Most Councillors decided while they would like to refuse the application they could not find a valid planning reason to do so.

Cllr Judy Pearce echoed the feeling in the room saying: “We are going to get a shop anyway. I understand local people don't like it. The question is will it have an extension or not, that's what we have to decide. I can't see any material planning reason for refusing the application.”

The immediate plans of the present owners of the Halfway House are unknown, but sadly we can expect to see such iconic part of the village call last orders for the final time early in the New Year.



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Neighbourhood Planning

Our Neighbourhood Plan continues to move forward and a first draft was made available to members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee early in November. Following a detailed review the Committee were unanimous in its approval of the Plan's content, policies and layout that truly reflects what the community of the Parish are seeking to achieve through Neighbourhood Planning.

The Committee did feel some alteration to the detail of a variety of sections was required and this work will be completed in December allowing for the first stage review to be undertaken by Wychavon Council early in the New Year.

Consultation over the Plan will begin with landowners and residents of the Parish in Spring 2015.



PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council Late Summer 2014



'Click and collect' to revive towns - Workshop

THE government has unveiled plans it says will help revive Britain's high streets and market towns.

It hopes more retailers will offer "click and collect" services – ensuring the rise of internet shopping supports local shops, rather than competing with town centres.

The UK is a big user of click and collect services, where shoppers order online and then collect their goods from a local retail outlet. Some 35% of online shoppers have used a click and collect service – and with that figure set to double within the next three years.

High Streets minister Penny Mordaunt said shops would be able to build click and collect facilities, such as covered collection points or lockers, without making a planning application.

The proposals would also enable retailers to install new loading bay doors and ramps without first seeking planning permission. Ms Mordaunt said this would leave them well placed to accept more deliveries for local online shoppers to collect – although key safeguards would remain in place.

The new permitted development right would exclude listed buildings and would not allow the size of an existing loading

bay to increase by more than 20%, and any new "click and collect" facilities could only be within the boundaries of existing premises, such as the car park, said Ms Mordaunt. With leading retailers like Argos already offering this service across their stores, the move would enable smaller and independent shops to follow suit, she added. "Click and collect is set to be the next big thing on the high street, as discerning online shoppers look to the convenience of the high street as much as their computer screens.

"Today's proposals would help not just larger retailers but also independent and smaller shops to benefit, ensuring their premises were fit for the needs of the 21st century shopper." The announcement was one of a range of measures taken by the government to support the revival of high streets across the country. The £1 billion package of support includes a £1,000 business rate discounts for retail premises, including shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants. Ministers have also announced an extension to the doubling of small business rate relief and allow businesses to pay annual business rate bills over a year, rather than 10 months

Written by Ruralcity Media

FUN ON THE BRUM

After a nervous night we all woke up to a beautiful warm sunny day. At 7am there was a huge flurry of activity and 2 hrs later the Brum was transformed and ready for action. This year there were more stall holders and events going on. The villagers and visitors came in their droves to enjoy an afternoon out.

There was the sound of chattering and laughter and children running round with smiles on their faces. Ice cream, candy floss, pork rolls and cakes washed down with cups of tea and squash all proved popular. Just under £700 was raised for the 2 charities - Footsteps and St Richards hospice. We now have a fantastic committee who already have plans and bookings well in hand for next years extravaganza which will see new additions to the day.

The date for your diary is Saturday July 25th 2015. If you have any feedback or ideas please contact Meg - 01905 454601



Neighbourhood Plan – Draft Proposals

With all the rides, stalls and events to entertain everyone at this year's 'Fun on the Brum' it was particularly pleasing that so many residents took the time to visit the Parish Council's stall, where we were able to tell people about the progress with your Neighbourhood Plan and hear views regarding future developments across the Parish.

Since the Workshop that was held in March the Council has been spending time turning your vision and thoughts for the future of the Parish into draft proposals that could become reality. It's clear that from all the feedback we have had your ideas can be grouped under six headings.

Housing

Although the majority of those who completed the questionnaire were opposed to large scale new housing, it was generally accepted that some development would have to take place. The proposed developments at Gwillam's Farm, Bevere for approximately 250 dwellings and Dilmore Lane/Station Road, Fernhill Heath for approximately 120 dwellings represents the majority of housing the Parish can tolerate. However, as the Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to promote sustainable development it's recognised land at Sling Lane/Old Drive, Fernhill Heath is identified in the Wychavon District Local Plan as 'safeguarded land' that could be released for development if required. This would be for around 50 houses with direct access onto the A38.

Taking all the developments together, the Neighbourhood Plan will provide for around 420 new dwellings on allocated sites. The Plan will therefore not support any new residential development beyond the existing boundaries (ie within the green belt or in the open countryside). Equally, the Plan will set out a number of criteria developers will have to meet in the design of any future housing to ensure building work takes account of environmental issues and enhances the provision of new homes in the Parish.

Local Heritage Core

The Parish includes two Conservation Areas; Bevere and the Droitwich Canal. Also, Fernhill Heath retains elements of its historical past particularly along the A38 to the east of the village. Although there has been much development and redevelopment in the intervening 170 years there are still vestiges of the historic past that are worth identifying within the Neighbourhood Plan. We would seek to protect and enhance the historic value of this area to prevent any inappropriate development in the future.

Local Retail Area

The Parish has few shops and services located within it to cater for local people. Without a local centre, Fernhill Heath (as the main settlement in the Parish) is effectively acting as a suburb to Worcester and Droitwich. Therefore, there is a need to create a more sustainable village with the appropriate level of services and facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan will identify a Local Retail Area, potentially along the A38 Corridor, from The Bull Inn and The White Hart to the south, to the Hindlip First School in the north that would include a number of shops, businesses and community buildings. Equally, the Plan will seek to protect and enhance local retail and service provision within this area to ensure the facilities meet the needs of residents.

Public Open Spaces

The Parish includes a variety of public open spaces that need to be protected from inappropriate development. Open spaces are classified as land that is in either public or private ownership where the public are able to benefit from access and/or use of the land. For example a park, recreation ground or school playing fields. The Neighbourhood Plan will identify these public open spaces and seek to protect and enhance them for the benefit of the public. It will also seek to ensure that new development provides new open space or contributes to improving existing open space within the Parish.

Schools

There are two primary schools within the Parish; Hindlip First School and Claines CE Primary School. Both sites are considered to be constrained in terms of capacity and room for expansion. It is felt that there would be benefit in combining the schools onto a more central site within Fernhill Heath with good access onto the A38 for both public and private transport connections. Although this land is in the Green Belt we believe there are exceptional circumstances that justify this proposal.

The aspiration would be to locate the new school on land to the south of the A38.

This site could also include community and health facilities such as playing fields and a GPs surgery helping to create a community hub around the school. The two existing school sites could potentially be redeveloped, Claines CE School for housing and Hindlip School for retail/community uses. As with all the proposals within the plan discussion would need to take place with the schools directly and the Local Education Authority to ascertain the level of support for this aspiration.

Rail Based Park & Ride

Over 80% of people within the Parish travel to work by car, taxi or motorcycle. This is significantly higher than the national average of 63.5%. Only 5% travel by public transport as against 17% nationally. This is not surprising given the Parish's semi-rural/urban edge location. Although Fernhill Heath had a railway station located on Station Road (until it closed in 1965) the Parish does benefit from having some of the key infrastructure to provide more effective public transport. Additionally, the Parish is well located to the key motorway and road network that is used by road-based commuters. Therefore, evidence shows that the Parish could support a viable and sustainable rail-based park and ride facility that would potentially reduce road-based, commuter journeys to key cities and towns in the area. It would provide Fernhill Heath with a rail station that would improve travel to and from the area and make the Parish a more sustainable place to live and work.

The Neighbourhood Plan could identify an aspiration for a rail-based Park and Ride facility on land between the railway line and Hurst Lane. Although this land is in the Green Belt, national planning policy does allow for such development provided it can be demonstrated that it should be in a Green Belt location.

Next Steps

You can see from all these proposals that there are many ideas as to how the Parish should develop over the next decades, but it's important to emphasise that these are at present proposals. We want to hear what you have to say about them, what your own ideas are regarding future development and whether you think we can do better! A more detailed draft of the Plan will be published in October 2014 when everyone will have the opportunity to discuss the proposals at a series of events to be held across the Parish. Further details of where and when they will take place will be made available next month. Look out for details.

In the meantime if you have any feedback or other comments on our Neighbourhood Plan please contact us by e-mail or via our Facebook page. As always we would love to hear from you.

Planning Application to Close Fernhill Heath Pub

You may be aware that the Halfway House in Fernhill Heath has been bought by a property company and this month a planning application was submitted to turn it into a SPAR Express convenience store. Not only will this see the loss of a much loved village pub, it will threaten the livelihoods of everyone working at the Mace Store opposite.

My name is Alan Kasch and my family own the Mace Store. Along with our staff we have run what we regard as the village shop for many years and hoped to for many more to come. Recently, the family invested a great deal of time and money in the future of our business, working with our suppliers Mace to provide the Parish with a well stocked village store.

Now, the services our staff provide, particularly to the elderly and those who can't travel to the supermarkets could disappear and the livelihoods of all who work here is under threat. Competing with the big brand names is tough enough, but with a national store literally on our doorstep it will become impossible.

If you can support your local shops and oppose the application please pop into the Mace Store and pick-up a letter template to send to Wychavon Planners. Alternatively, feel free to call us on 01905 457559



Advertisement

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Autumn 2013



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING



Our Parish, Your Voice, Our Future.

This Summer has seen a great deal of activity for the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan. A stall at July's Fun on the Brum was a great opportunity for Councillors to meet a good number of residents who stopped by to say hello, talk about Neighbourhood Planning, gather comments and feedback. This is a good example of the way we want to ask as many of you as possible what you would like to see written in the Plan. Sadly, we can't meet with everyone face-to-face and so the Neighbourhood Plan Survey was a notable development in gathering your views. You may remember in the last edition of Parish Focus we asked as many of you as possible to complete and return the survey titled 'Your Voice, Our Parish, Your Future'.

249 questionnaires were completed and returned along with a number of comments sent via e-mail. A big thank you to everyone who has helped collate this information, but an even bigger thank you to all of you who responded to our request.

Without your feedback we would not be able to progress with the next stage of the Plan.

We're currently analysing the results of the completed questionnaires and collating all the other feedback ready to report on the results in November 2013. Please look out for key headlines from this analysis that will be presented at the next Parish Council Meeting (Monday 4th November 2013), a summary of which will be included in the next edition of Parish Focus and will be available via our Facebook page following the meeting.

In the meantime, if you would like to add anything to the existing comments, or simply want to get in touch with the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, please e-mail us at clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk

We would love to hear from you.

Also in this issue:

New Play Areas • Would you like an Allotment? • Cllr Tony Miller's Update

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Summer 2013



FUN ON THE BRUM

SATURDAY JULY 27th 12noon - 5pm

Lots of **FREE** activities for children

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Football

Games

Pig Roast

Climbing
Wall

Magic Show

Crazy Bikes

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Neighbourhood Planning

Regular readers of this Parish magazine will be aware that the Council has embarked on developing a Neighbourhood Plan that will enable our community to shape the future development of North Claines.

The Parish's application to be designated a Neighbourhood area has been accepted by Wychavon Council on the 28th May and is a great step forward in the process. Also, due to some other Parish and Town councils dropping out of doing a Neighbourhood Plan, it means we are now eligible for their grants towards the costs of our plan preparation. This is a great bit of news for us all.

Our Parish, Your Voice, Our Future

The Neighbourhood Planning Event on Saturday 18th May was a real success with a good turn out. Parishioners arrived throughout the drop-in event and took a real interest in the information we had on display and enjoyed meeting with and chatting to the Parish Councillors.



Our District Councillor Tony Miller was also on hand along with Peter Hamilton from Cass Associates - the Planning Consultancy assisting us with developing our Neighbourhood Plan

We had many Questionnaires filled in and returned to us giving us a real insight

into your thoughts on the Parish. If you still have yours to fill in and return to us, please do so and post to us at the address on the back of this newsletter ASAP. If you would like a questionnaire, please email clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk for a copy.

South Worcestershire Development Plan Update

During January and February this year, a total of 598 people and organisations respond to the consultation on the first draft of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), raising 1,854 specific comments relating to the content. We have been processing these comments since the end of February, identifying the issues and preparing responses. The draft SWDP has been submitted to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, with the examination scheduled for later in the summer. Led by an independent inspector, the examination will run for several weeks and will be open to the public. The inspector will decide the issues they wish to consider further, and then listen to the views of those parties asked to attend the examination. The SWDP will be adopted later in 2013.

In the meantime, we continue to receive planning applications for housing from developers on the sites across the district. This is in response to us not yet being able to demonstrate the Government's requirement to achieve a five year rolling supply of housing, despite the granting of significant numbers of permissions for housing over the last 18 months. At the moment, the five year supply is calculated against a draft housing figure for the district, which was set out in the 2007

review of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Whilst the government has confirmed that the Regional Spatial Strategy will be revoked shortly, the situation across the country is that planning appeal inspectors still defer to evidence that supports the relevant Regional Spatial Strategy when assessing a local authority's five year housing land supply position. This is very disappointing news and is an issue we have asked to be raised with the Planning Minister, Nick Boles.

To this end, the Minister has accepted an invitation from Peter Luff MP to visit Wychavon so that he can get a better idea as to the planning issues in the district. Further information on the SWDP can be found at www.swdevelopmentplan.org or by telephoning the Council's Policy Plans Team on: 01386 565 365.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE
DevelopmentPlan

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Winter 2012/13



Flooded view towards The Malverns and Hallow Church from the River Severn at Bevere.

Even though Christmas & the New Year are only a few weeks behind us, it's worth reflecting on what 2012 brought for us in the Parish. Good weather in the Spring suddenly turned to rain, rain and more rain. Sadly, we had to postpone our Diamond Jubilee celebration at the Brum, but the weather thankfully held off for all of us to welcome the Olympic Torch to the Parish. Nationally, the summer was full of events never to be forgotten and locally we were able to (finally) hold the annual Fun For All day on the Brum in early September.

2013 promises to be a busy year as we look ahead to proposed residential developments across North Claines. The Council's Neighbourhood Plan will inform the future design and look of the Parish and throughout 2013 we hope to hear from as many of you as possible as to what your thoughts are as to how the Parish should look in the years to come.



Our Parish Contractor spreading Grit in the recent snow and ice.

Neighbourhood Planning

Since the last Newsletter, the Neighbourhood Plan Committee has held its first consultation with Parishioners on the Council's Plans to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan detailing how our community wish future development to be shaped in the Parish.

The Autumn Newsletter summarised how Neighbourhood Planning forms part of the coalition government's localism agenda, providing communities with a greater say in the type of property developments being proposed in towns and villages across the Country. This is particularly relevant to us

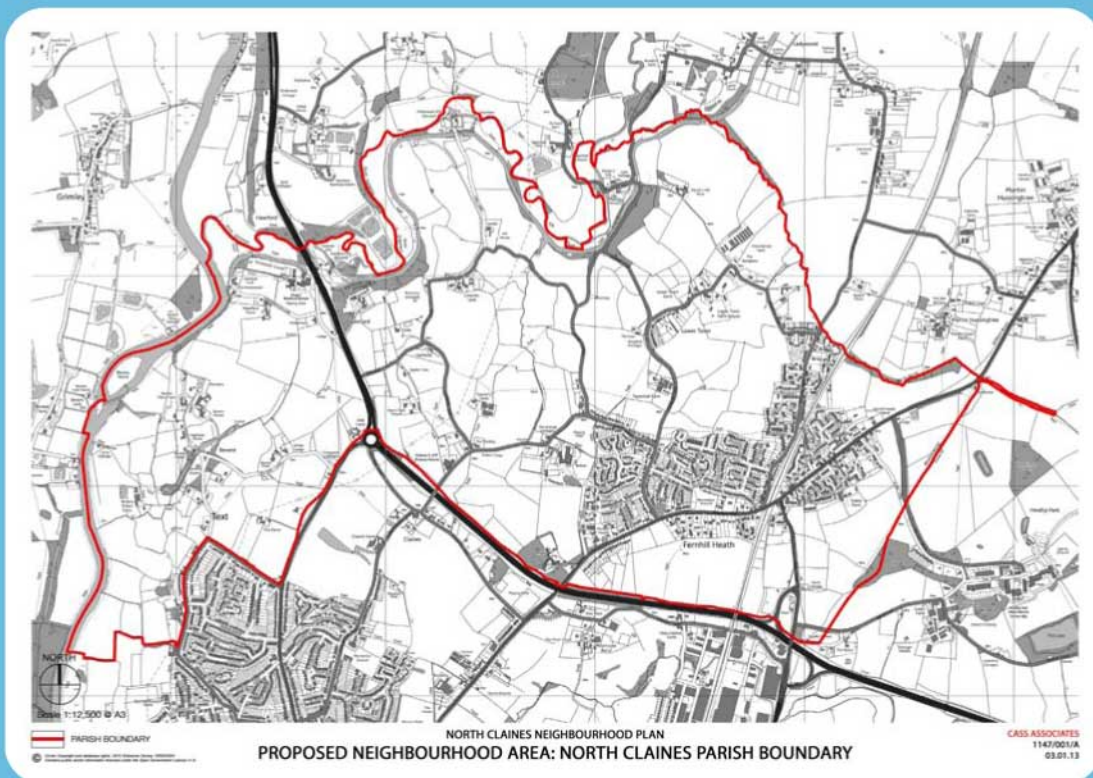
at this time, as feeling continues to run high across the Parish regarding the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

A key element in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan is consulting with local residents, businesses, schools and voluntary groups as well as prospective developers. To instigate this, a presentation was held at Fernhill Heath Memorial Hall on 7th November 2012 to outline the plan's objectives & the stages for completion.

Objectives of the Plan

Since the presentation, the Committee has completed it's application to Wychavon Council to formally begin the process of being designated a Neighbourhood Area. This application includes our key objectives for the Plan which are (in summary):

- Offer guidance on the most suitable housing for the Parish
- Provide the best opportunities for the continued economic growth within the area



- Ensure that future developments within the Parish protect and where possible enhance the natural environment
- Provide appropriate services that meet the needs of local community e.g. public transport
- Work in conjunction with the Police & community partners to ensure future developments reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour

This list of objectives is by no means exhaustive and as we continue with the consultation process, further ones may be added.

What happens next?

The process for designating North Claines as a Neighbourhood area will take a number of weeks to complete and so, from the date of submitting the application we hope the next stage will begin in late March / early April 2013. In the meantime, we are keen to hear from

anyone who is willing to volunteer a little of their time to support us in producing what will be a critical document setting out a vision for future development across the whole of the Parish.

Please look out on notice boards, in future newsletters and on our website for further details, but if you are interested in knowing more or taking part in any way, big or small, please e-mail clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk and we will contact you with further information.

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value

FREE LOFT & CAVITY WALL INSULATION

To all Wychavon residents who are owner occupiers or privately renting

No catches, make your home warmer and reduce your fuel bills

Did you know that if you have less than 150mm (6 inches) of loft insulation you could get it topped up to 270mm (10.5 inches)

To apply contact:
Act on Energy 0800 988 2881
Limited offer, first come, first serve

Wychavon District Council Insulation Scheme.
Terms and Conditions may apply

Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive,
Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1PT

warmer
worcestershire

PARISH FOCUS

brought to you by North Claines Parish Council

Autumn 2012



NCPC is now on



facebook®

www.facebook.com/NorthClainesParishCouncil

North Claines Parish Council is catching up with technology and Social Media and is now on Facebook. We intend to keep our Facebook page regularly updated with news and info so please 'Like' us to stay up to date.

Our new web site is live too!

The new North Claines Parish Council web site is now live with useful information, maps, meeting agendas and minutes. You can also subscribe to our email newsletter on the web site to stay informed. This is particularly important to do as we progress with the North Claines Parish Neighbourhood Plan, (see inside for more details).



Neighbourhood Planning

Many of you maybe aware that the Coalition Government has introduced new legislation through the Localism Act 2011 that provides local communities with a greater say in shaping their community. For example in the type of property developments being proposed in towns and villages across the Country. This is particularly relevant to us at this time as feeling is running high across the Parish regarding the South Worcester Development Plan (SWDP), particularly proposals for housing developments in Fernhill Heath and at Gwillams Farm.

A key element of this legislation (often referred to as the Localism Act) is the right communities have to produce what is called a Neighbourhood Plan.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Put simply a Neighbourhood Plan is a report that outlines how a community (individuals, businesses, community groups, etc.) wish to shape development in their local community. The report can include information for developers, residents and planning officials relating to the development and growth of new homes, shops and offices and what those new development should look like. With a Neighbourhood Plan communities will be able to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. For example, they will be able to influence where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like - setting a vision for the Future. The Plan can be detailed or general, depending on what local people want. The more detailed a Plan is the more influence it will have on the scope and type of local developments.



It is proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan boundary will be the boundary of North Claines Parish.

Why is a Neighbourhood Plan important?

In theory, planning rules and regulations have existed partly to give local communities a say in planning decisions that affect them. In practice however

communities have often found it hard to have a meaningful say. So, the Coalition government wants to put power back in the hands of local residents, business, councils and civic leaders

How will it work?

There are a number of key stages a Neighbourhood Plan must complete as the method of consultation, drafting and final submission are all open to close scrutiny and must pass a whole range of strict criteria. Not only does the Plan have to fall in line with local and national planning policies (such as the SWDP) & any relevant legislation, it has to be agreed by a majority of voters in the Parish in the form of a local referendum. Timescales from start to finish (depending on the depth of the Plan) are approximately 18-24 months.

What is the Parish Council's Role?

In July 2012 the Parish Council voted to appoint a Committee to review details relating to producing a Neighbourhood Plan and submit recommendations to the full Parish Council as to how to progress. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee also scrutinised proposals from a variety of Planning Consultants who could support the Council through each stage of producing a Plan.

At September's Parish Council Meeting the Council unanimously voted to accept the Committee's proposals to appoint Cass Associates, a planning consultancy specialising in working with local groups and communities, to support the Council in preparing North Claines' Neighbourhood Plan. Cass were appointed on the criteria of their bid representing good value for money, what they could deliver for the community, awareness of what the Parish requires, professional experience and ability to deliver, both in terms of resources and establishing an effective working relationship with the Council



Localism Act 2011

What's happens next?

Shortly the Council will publicise when and how the first stages of the Plan will commence. The first step is to define the boundary of the Neighbourhood plan and it is planned to use the North Claines Parish Boundary. You can see a map of this boundary on our web site. **The key throughout it's preparation is consultation with local residents, businesses, schools and voluntary groups as well as prospective developers.** Equally, the Council will be



Public Meeting Notice

North Claines Parish Neighbourhood Plan Open meeting, all welcome.

**Wednesday 7th November 7-8pm
Fernhill Heath Memorial Hall**

Please come along and see how you can get involved and influence our Neighbourhood Plan. It's a plan for you and our community so it's vital we have your input. We look forward to seeing you there on the 7th.

keen to hear from anyone who is willing to volunteer a little of their time to support us in producing what will be a critical document setting out a vision for future development across the whole of the Parish. Please look out on notice boards, in the Parish newsletter, our Facebook page and on our website for further details, but if you are interested in knowing more or taking part in any way, no-matter how big or small, please e-mail clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk and we will reply with further information.

The North Claines Parish Council
Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

APPENDIX 4.1

PARISH PLANNING

Transport

- Ensure new development creates appropriate access for all road users and investigates and mitigates for any impacts from increased vehicle traffic.
- Support proposals to enhance bus services and associated transport infrastructure.
- Support proposals for a rail based park and ride facility to the south of Fernhill Heath.
- Support landscape and public realm improvements along the A38 Droitwich Road corridor.
- Support the provision, improvement and extension of cycle routes within the Parish.

Landscape and Environment

- Proposals on the edge of existing settlements must:
 - Maintain existing footpaths and bridleways and ensure that there are connections from the development to them.
 - Provide a strong and defensible landscape buffer to enhance the interface with the countryside.
- All development should seek to protect, and where possible enhance, both designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings as well as the historic landscape character.
- A Local Heritage Area reflecting the original settlement of Fernhill Heath is identified for its special local architectural and historic interest.
- Green spaces will be protected and opportunities taken to expand and improve the network of greenspace within the Parish.
- Sites of a local nature conservation interest will be identified and protected from harmful development.
- Trees, hedges and woodland will be protected from development and new trees will be required for new development.

Design

- Proposals must demonstrate that they achieve high quality and inclusive design.
- The detailed design elements must be considered early in the design process and integrated into the overall scheme.
- New development and change of use will incorporate measures that improve energy efficiency and provide renewable energy generation.

Community

- Support proposals for an education, health and community hub within Fernhill Heath.
- The Parish Council will seek to designate important community facilities as Assets of Community Value. These will be protected from development.
- Support proposals for the provision of a publicly accessible playing field within the Parish.
- Proposals for new residential development must demonstrate that there is sufficient primary healthcare capacity to meet the needs of the additional population.

NEXT STEPS

The Draft Plan is available to view and download from the Parish Council's website www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk. Click on the 'Neighbourhood Plan' link on the front page and follow the link to the 'Public Consultation' section.

We would welcome your feedback on the Draft Plan. The consultation period runs for 6 weeks from Friday 6th November ending at 5pm on Friday 18th December. A digital copy and online comments form can be found on the Parish Council's website. Alternatively, please email your comments to clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or send them to The Neighbourhood Plan Committee, C/O North Claines Parish Council, The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 8QS.

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Published by North Claines Parish Council.



PARISH PLANNING

Neighbourhood Planning Booklet

November 2015

OUR PARISH, YOUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

Public Consultation events:

We very much welcome you to come along and see the draft plan, and give us any feedback you like at the following events:

- 7th November at Kings Hawford school, Hawford - 10am - 1pm
- 12th November at the Baptist church, Fernhill Heath 6-9pm
- 14th November again at the Baptist church, Fernhill Heath 12am - 5pm



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What have we done so far?

Neighbourhood planning is a Government initiative within the planning system to give greater influence to local communities over the type and location of development within their area. The Parish Council, on behalf of the local community, are leading the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. We have carried out previous consultation with the community including:

- Public meeting at the Memorial Hall – November 2012
- Neighbourhood Planning Open Day at the Memorial Hall – May 2013
- Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire in the Parish Focus – Spring 2013
- Various events to report back on the Questionnaire responses – December 2013
- Community Survey Workshop – March 2014
- Draft proposals exhibition at the 'Fun on the Brum' – July 2014 and July 2015
- Updates in the quarterly editions of the Parish Focus.

This special edition of the Parish Focus provides you with a summary of the policies and proposals that are included within the Draft Neighbourhood Plan that is out for public consultation.



KEY DIAGRAM

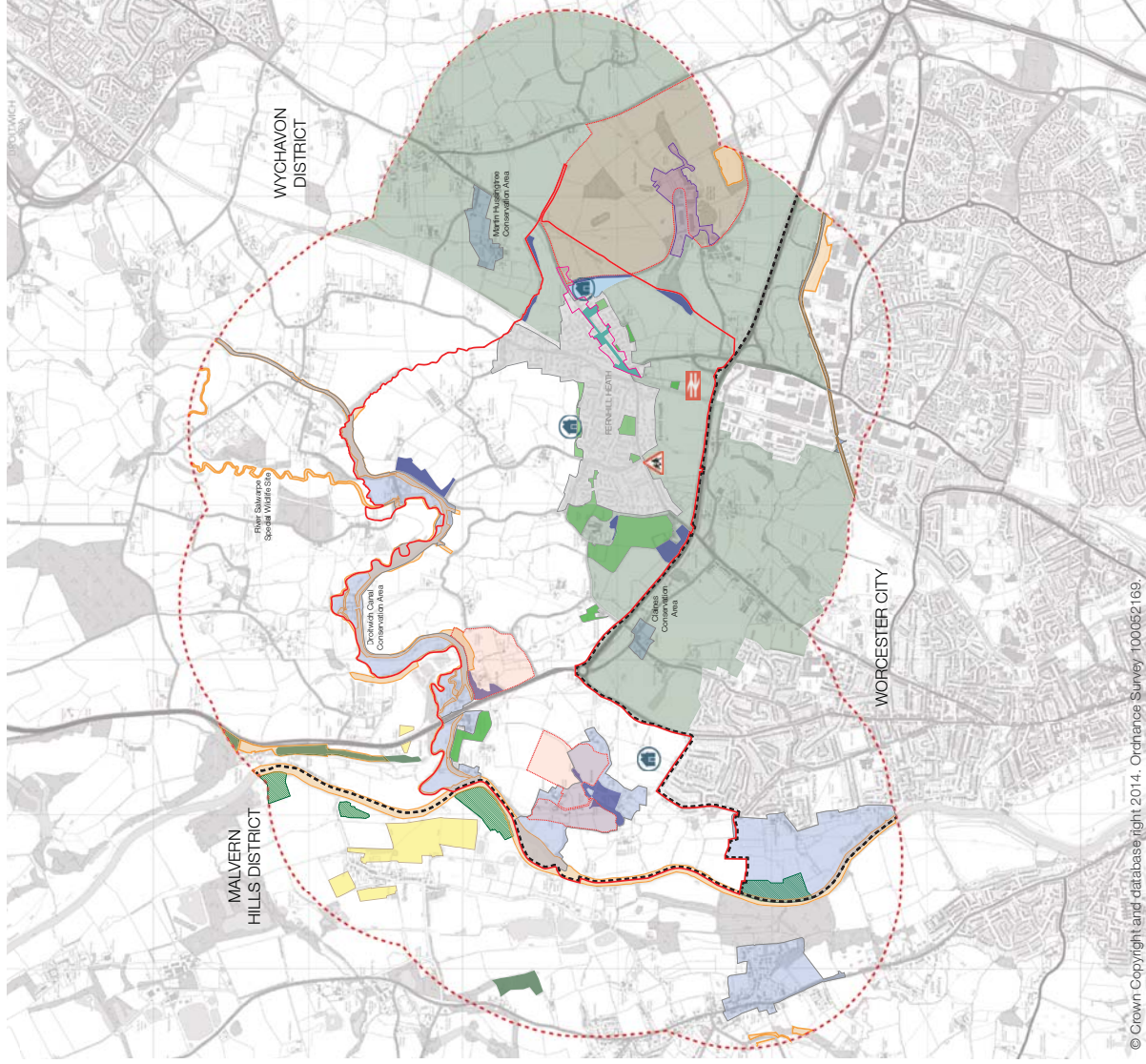
Key

- Neighbourhood Plan Area
- - - Local Authority Boundaries
- · · 1km Buffer Zone
- Existing Land Use Designations
- Green Belt
- Fernhill Heath
- Conservation Areas
- SSSIs
- Special Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodland
- Areas of Development Restraint
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Locally Important Historic Parks and Gardens
- Proposed designations and allocations
- Fernhill Heath Village Centre
- Local Heritage Area
- Local Green Space
- Local Nature Conservation Sites
- Hindlip Hall Major Development Site in the Green Belt
- Proposed Housing Sites
- Other Potential Proposals
- Area for potential education, health and community hub
- Area for potential rail based park & ride site

Development Strategy

The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period up to 2030. It must conform with the strategic policies of the Local Plan – the Wychavon District Local Plan and the emerging South Worcestershire Development Plan. This would include allocations for housing, employment and other development along with the extent of the Green Belt and its boundaries.

The strategy is based on sustainable and beneficial change to the environment and communities within the Parish. It seeks to ensure the proper integration of new residential development to its context and that there is appropriate infrastructure to support the growth in demand from the new population. Fernhill Heath will provide the focus for facilities, services and social infrastructure. The overall aim is to make Fernhill Heath and the Parish a more sustainable place to live, work and visit without disturbing its rural character and appearance.



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Vision

The Neighbourhood Plan sets the following vision for the Parish:
A diverse and thriving Parish with Fernhill Heath providing many of the key services, facilities and infrastructure for the local community; new development incorporated into its setting retaining and reflecting the Area's unique and distinctive character, and opportunities provided to allow residents to enjoy the countryside which will be protected from inappropriate development.

Policy Themes and Proposals

The following policy themes and proposals have been identified following the results of earlier consultation and research.



Housing

- The plan includes the two proposed housing allocations within the SWDP at Gwilliam's Farm and Dilmore Lane. In addition the Plan also supports new residential development at Sling Lane/Old Drive in Fernhill Heath and in other locations within the village provided that it meets the requirements of other relevant policies.
- Proposals for new housing must demonstrate that they are well designed and integrate into their context.
- New residential development must take account of local housing needs.



Retail and Employment

- Designation of a Village Centre within Fernhill Heath to protect existing retail and community facilities and allow for new appropriately sized facilities to meet local need.
- Support for new build and conversion and/or extension of existing buildings for employment use providing it meets certain criteria.



APPENDIX 4.2

PRESS RELEASE

North Claines Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs C Shinner
Telephone (01905) 770226
clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Old Library Centre
65 Ombersley St East
DROITWICH SPA
Worcestershire
WR9 8QS

Consultation on the Draft Parish of North Claines Neighbourhood Plan

North Claines Parish Council has recently approved for consultation the Draft North Claines Neighbourhood Plan.

The draft Plan has been prepared by the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Committee, working alongside local volunteers and contains an important set of policies and proposals that will influence planning policy relating to the environment, housing, local businesses, schools and other areas of the Parish.

Proposals include identifying services the community needs including a new school, better transport links whilst providing the type of housing local people need access to, to assist young people and the elderly to stay in the area. There is also a focus on protecting the environment and ensuring any development or commercial growth is in keeping with the landscape and heritage of the area.

Councillor Mark Sainsbury, Chair of the Parish Council said “This is a hugely significant piece of work. Local residents have often felt disenfranchised from the planning process. The Neighbourhood Plan gives residents a real say in shaping the future of the Parish and in my opinion is the most important document the Parish Council has ever approved.”

Councillor Sam Routledge, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee said “I am very proud of the work both Councillors and volunteers have put into designing this plan. It’s the result of over three years of work and contains valuable ideas as to how we can, not just protect the future of the Parish, but provide the key services we currently lack. It gives local people the ability to influence the future planning of the Parish and I would encourage everyone to read and comment on the draft plan”

A copy of the draft plan can be viewed at www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or at The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 8QS. The public can provide feedback on the Plan in writing to the above address or via the website, no later than 5pm on 18th December 2015.

The Parish Council are also holding public exhibitions where the public can view and comment on the draft Plan. They are at the Baptist Church, O’Keys Lane, Fernhill Heath on Thursday 12th November between 18:00 and 21:00 and Saturday 14th November between 12:00 and 17:00

APPENDIX 4.3

WORCESTER NEWS ONLINE ARTICLE

QSEARCH

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Worcester 3.5°C

Worcester News

NEWS SPORT YOUR SAY FREE APP WHAT'S ON JOBS PROPERTY ANNOUNCEMENTS CARS

News Worcester Community Regional National Letters Health County Bulletin Columnists

North Claines Parish Council calls for draft neighbourhood plan



Members of North Claines Parish Council at an exhibition of the draft neighbourhood plan. From left to right: Sam Routledge, chair of the North Claines Parish Neighbourhood Plan Committee, Margaret Drinkwater, North Claines Parish Councillor, Jason Smith,

Hannah Worrall // News

Share    

 2 comments

A PARISH council has published a draft plan setting out proposals for how the area could be improved.

North Claines Parish Council recently approved the plan which details a series of ideas including a new school, better transport links and measures to protect the environment.

Prepared by the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Committee in conjunction with volunteers, the document is now available for members of the public to view and comment on.

Councillor Mark Sainsbury, chair of the Parish Council, said: "This is a hugely significant piece of work. Local residents have often felt disenfranchised from the planning process.

"The Neighbourhood Plan gives residents a real say in shaping the future of the Parish and in my opinion is the most important document the Parish Council has ever approved."

The draft contains a set of policies and proposals that are hoped will influence planning policy relating to the environment, housing, local businesses, schools and other areas of the Parish.

Cllr Sam Routledge, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, said: "I am very proud of the work both councillors and volunteers have put into designing this plan.

"It's the result of over three years of work and contains valuable ideas as to how we can, not just protect the future of the Parish, but provide the key services we currently lack.

"It gives local people the ability to influence the future planning of the Parish and I would encourage everyone to read and comment on the draft plan."

Share article



Residents can view the draft plan at northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or by visiting The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa. Feedback can be submitted on the plan until Friday, December 18 at 5pm.

Promoted Stories



Which city suits you best? Take the quiz to discover your perfect match.
(Shell UK)



Retired homeowners release equity in record numbers
(Reader's Digest)

APPENDIX 4.4

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

NORTH CLAINES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT – COMMENT FORM



North Claines Parish Council has produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. It is important that we understand the community's thoughts and views on the contents, policies and proposals within the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This is your opportunity to provide us with these and help influence and shape the Final Plan before being submitted for independent examination. The consultation period lasts for six weeks from Friday 06 November 2015. Any comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan must be provided to the Parish Council by **5pm on Friday 18 December 2015**.

Name:..... Address:..... E-mail:.....

Page No/ Paragraph No/ Policy Ref	Comment	Suggested Change

Name:..... Address:..... E-mail:.....

Comment Form Continued ...		
Page No/ Paragraph No/ Policy Ref	Comment	Suggested Change

Please continue on separate sheets if necessary.

Comments to be sent to: clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or to The Neighbourhood Plan Committee, C/O North Claines Parish Council, The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 8QS by **5pm on Friday 18 December 2015**.

APPENDIX 4.5

DRAFT NCNP CONSULTATION EXHIBITION BOARDS

NORTH CLAINES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation Draft - Public Exhibition

November 2015



OUR PARISH, YOUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

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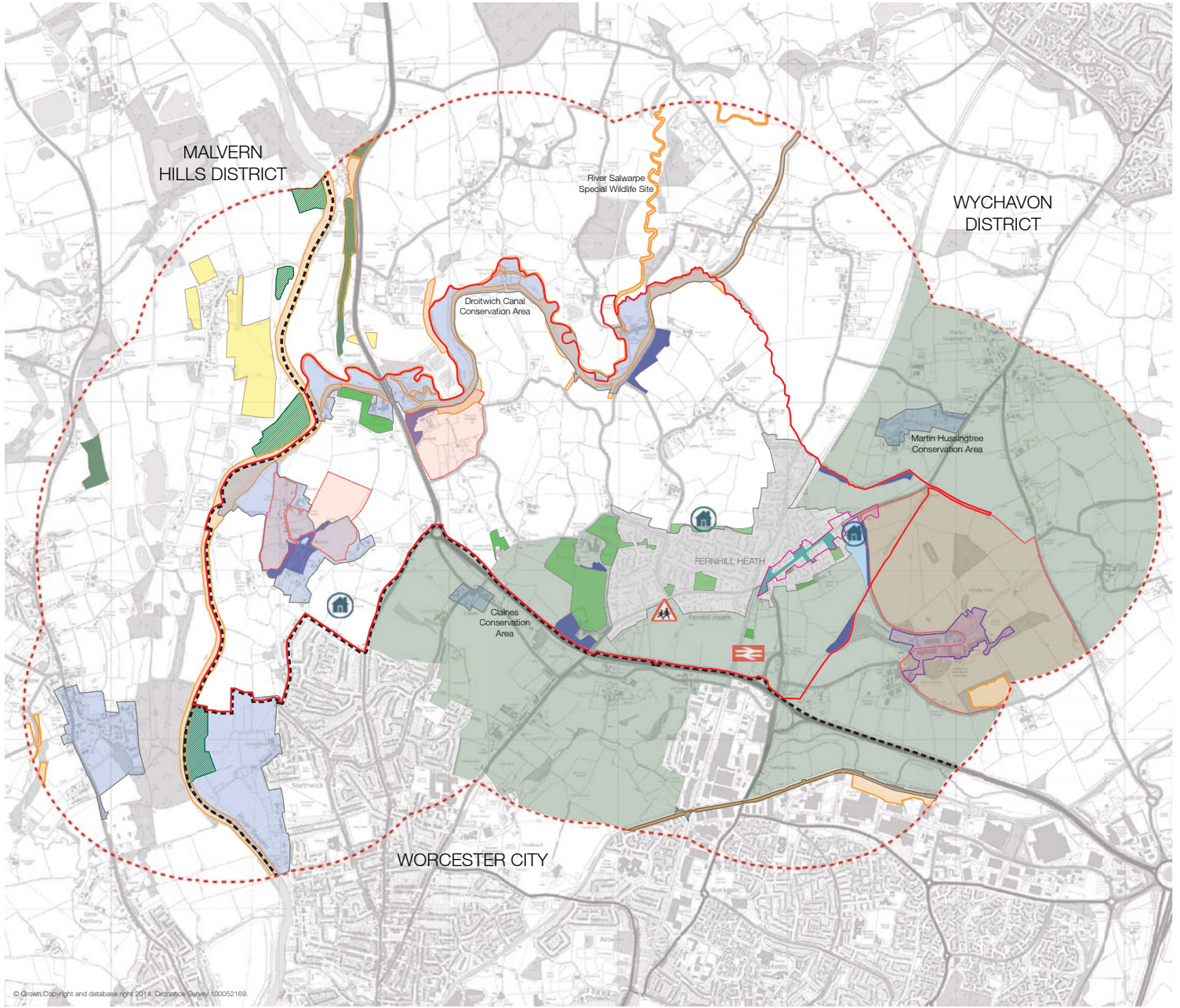
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KEY DIAGRAM



Housing on Droitwich Road, Fernhill Heath



Corner of Droitwich Road and Agatha Gardens, Fernhill Heath



Public footpath off Vicarage Lane



Bevere Green

KEY

— Neighbourhood Plan Area

----- Local Authority Boundaries

..... 1km Buffer Zone

Existing Land Use Designations

Green Belt

Fernhill Heath

Conservation Areas

SSSIs

Special Wildlife Sites

Ancient Woodland

Areas of Development Restraint

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Locally Important Historic Parks and Gardens

Proposed designations and allocations

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YOUR FEEDBACK

The Draft Plan is available to view and download from the Parish Council's website www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk. Click on the 'Neighbourhood Plan' link on the front page and follow the link to the 'Public Consultation' section.

Members of the Parish Council and their consultants are available to answer questions about the Draft Plan.

We would welcome your feedback on the Draft Plan. The consultation period runs for 6 weeks from Friday 6th November ending at 5pm on Friday 18th December. A digital copy and online comments form can be found on the Parish Council's website. A copy of the form is also available for you to complete and return at this exhibition. Alternatively, please email your comments to clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or send them to The Neighbourhood Plan Committee, C/O North Claines Parish Council, The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, WR9 8QS.

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APPENDIX 4.6

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CONSULTATION EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2015

APPENDIX 4.6 PHOTOGRAPHS OF CONSULTATION EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2015



APPENDIX 4.7

LIST OF CONSULTEE BODIES

APPENDIX 4.7

LIST OF CONSULTEE BODIES

Wychavon District Council	National Farmers Union
Worcester City Council	Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Malvern Hills District Council	Worcestershire Youth Support Services
Worcestershire County Council	Worcester Diocese
Highways Agency	Worcestershire County Youth Support
Severn Trent Water	Home Builders Federation
PSSC Canal & River Trust	Worcestershire Partnership
Forestry Commission	Heart of England
Natural England	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
English Heritage	Hereford & Worcester Chamber of Commerce
Sport England	DIAL South Worcestershire
Network Rail (Western Region)	Skills Funding Agency
Environment Agency (West) Sustainable Places	Worcestershire Federation of WIs
West Mercia Police Estate Services	Federation of Small Businesses
Homes and Communities Agency	Equality and Human Rights Commission
The Coal Authority	Fields in Trust
NHS South Worcestershire CCG	The Crown Estate
Marine Management Organisation	The Sports Partnership Hereford & Worcestershire
Planning Inspectorate	Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Western Power Distribution (Midlands)	Superfast Worcestershire
National Grid UK Gas Distribution	Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe Parish Council
E-ON Customer Services	Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council
British Telecom	Grimley Parish Council
Hereford & Worcester Gardens Trust	Hallow Parish Council
CPRE (Wychavon)	
Community First	
Ancient Monuments Society	

APPENDIX 4.8

LIST OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

APPENDIX 4.8 LIST OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Local businesses

Bevere Art Gallery
Bull Pub, Droitwich Rd
Chatterbox, Memorial Hall
Cuts Hairdressers, Fernhill Heath
Dilmore stores, Dilmore Avenue
Foilz hairdressers, Fernhill Heath
James Grove, 104 Droitwich Rd, Worcester, Fernhill Heath, Worcester WR3 8RA
Kings Hawford School
Lavender Beauty Parlour, Droitwich Road
Mace Stores
River School, Droitwich Road
Rose Bank Vineyard, Droitwich Road
Royal Grammar School
Spar Stores
Voluntary Groups at Baptist Church, Fernhill Heath Baptist Church, Fernhill Heath White
Heart Pub, Droitwich Rd
War Memorial Club, Fernhill Heath

Local landowners

Mark Harris, Green Lane, Bevere
The Gwilliams, Bevere Green Farm, Bevere Green Worcester WR3 7RG
Bellway Homes, Bellway House, Relay Point, Relay Drive, Tamworth, Staffordshire
B77 5PA
Firgrove Homes, The Front Barn, 124 Manor Road North, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7
0BH
Mr Roger Northam, Taylor Wimpey, Unit 2 – Tournament Court, Edgehill Drive
Warwick, Warwickshire, CV34 6LG
Church of England Diocese of Worcester, Education & Schools, The Old Palace
Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE
Cala Homes (Midlands), Cala House, Arleston Way, Solihull, Midlands B90 4LH
Mr Richard Worthington, 203a Droitwich Road, Fernhill Heath, Worcester WR3 7TZ
Sir Bert Millichip, c/o Wiggin LLP, 95 The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
GL50 1WG
Mr John Jeffrey, Pool House, Hurst Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcester, WR3
Mrs Carolyn Tew, Hindlip C of E School, Droitwich Road, Fernhill Heath, Worcester
WR3 8RJ
Mr S Gent, Claines C of E School, School Bank, Claines, Worcester, WR3 7RW
David Wilson Homes, Barratt House, Cartwright Way, Forest Business Park, Bardon
Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 1UF
Marsten Developments, c/o Wiggin LLP, 95 The Promenade, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL50 1WG
Marsten Developments, 75 The Porthouse, Lowesmoor, Worcester, WR1 2RS
Walton Homes, Walton House, Park Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, WS1 1DD

NORTH CLAINES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT:

COMMENTS SUMMARY AND PROPOSED NCPC RESPONSE

NORTH CLAINES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT – COMMENTS SUMMARY AND PROPOSED NCPC RESPONSE

RESIDENT RESPONSES

ID	COMMENT	SUGGESTED CHANGE	NCPC/NCPC RESPONSE	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
R001	<p>Key Diagram: Currently the 'proposed housing site' annotation at Dilmore Lane/Station Road looks like it includes all the land up to Lower Town.</p>	<p>Show the boundary of the proposed development on the Key Diagram.</p>	<p>The Key Diagram can be made clearer in relation to the 'proposed housing sites' by including the boundaries for either the SWDP allocation or the planning application (whichever is relevant).</p>	<p>Amend Key Diagram to include boundaries of 'proposed housing sites'.</p>
R002	<p>The plan could identify land that could assist in providing community facilities brought forward by a modest level of enabling development. Puts forward three sites in their ownership:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Land south of Fernhill Heath (16ha) 2 Land adjoining Claines CE Primary School (1.72ha) 3 Land at Jacob's Ladder off Danes Green. 	<p>Consider the sites for development within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>1 This site is located within the Green Belt on land that is viewed as important to retaining the essential gap between Worcester and Fernhill Heath. The emerging SWDP does not include Green Belt release for development. Residential development would be considered inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The delivery of community facilities would not be considered a 'very special circumstance' to outweigh the harm to the Green belt.</p>	<p>1 No change.</p>
			<p>2 This site is located outside the Fernhill Heath settlement boundary. Policy GD1 of the Wychavon District Local Plan would not support residential development on the site. Additionally, it is located on land designated as open countryside within the emerging SWDP. Residential development in the open countryside would not be supported. Bearing in mind the need for education provision outlined in the neighbourhood plan and the site's location adjacent to Claines CE Primary School it may be worth discussing opportunities for the school to expand onto part of this land.</p>	<p>2 No change.</p>
			<p>3 This site is also located within the open countryside and residential development would not be supported within the WDLP or the emerging SWDP. It is difficult to see how a site of this size could make any meaningful contribution towards community facilities in the Parish.</p>	<p>3 No change.</p>

R003	I agree with all the proposals being made in the Neighbourhood Plan and applaud its authors for the vision they have shown and, in particular, saving the Green Belt to the south and east of the boundary.	No suggested changed but might add that we protect our last 2 pubs with an asset of community value (ACV).	Noted. Policy NCC1: Community Infrastructure seeks to protect community facilities such as those registered as an ACV. The Parish Council will consider the request of the two pubs to be registered at ACV.	Change the text in Para. 7.88 to refer to the pubs, war memorial hall, the Methodist church hall, post office, etc. as the community facilities in the village.
R004	Our big concern is developments ripping up good farmland and countryside when its gone its gone! Sling Lane path is beautiful and needs preserving with a lot of wildlife and mature trees. An asset to the village.	Could the development marked on your map be restricted to the building line that exists at the moment? Traffic lights may help at White Hart but it will back and it will be difficult to get out of Station Road. It's very bad now at busy times.	Noted. The Parish Council consider that this is an interesting suggestion for the Sling Lane/Old Drive site that would have multiple benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would keep new development within the southern limits of the settlement boundaries. It would provide an area of greenspace that would be of benefit to the residents in the area. The existing vegetation on the southern part of the site could be retained as part of the greenspace therefore maintaining its wildlife and landscape character. The Parish Council are aware that there are traffic signals proposed at the junction of Droitwich Road and Hurst Road as mitigation for the Dilmore Lane/Station Road development. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the County Council, District Council and the developers in relation to these proposals.	Amend the Sling Lane/Old Drive proposed allocation to show southern boundary adjoining the existing southern boundary of the village. The southern part of the site will be designated as Green Space to include recreation facilities.
R005	There will be a great increase in traffic especially with the developments to the south of Droitwich by Copcut and pressure on services, if more facilities are put in place they will also take up land. Can I please ask you to reconsider the proposed building of a school next to my property on the A38 in Fernhill Heath for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is designated green belt land. Historically, planning applications to build on these fields has failed owing to the desire not to have ribbon development and to preserve the village's open spaces. I do not believe this has changed. There are already two other schools in this immediate area. Traffic from these schools increases significantly at morning drop off and afternoon collection. The additional traffic associated with another school will bring chaos, pollution and significant delays to other A38 users. The A38 at this point is at its most dangerous. The 30mph speed limit is not enforced resulting in non-compliance by the vast majority of vehicles. It is a straight stretch of road with traffic gaining access from Morton Ave and Dilmore Lane already having difficulties. This will be made worse by the Dilmore Lane proposed new building. 	It would be far better to include a new school within a new housing development. This would enable the infrastructure to be put in place to minimise traffic chaos. Also by doing this, people buying the surrounding properties do so by choice. Surely the better site would have been the fields on the left as you leave Fernhill Heath towards Droitwich. Here access is readily available to the A38. The current school would not move far and although the boundary of Fernhill Heath would be extended, the impact on the countryside would be less. I also understand that the owner of the field would support this.	The Parish Council note the comments and other comments made in respect of the location of the proposed education, health and community hub. The Parish Council are aware of the sensitivities of this location within the Green Belt, at the edge of the village and adjacent to existing houses. The Parish Council will remove this location on the Key Diagram but will retain the aspiration for a new school or schools in the NPA within the neighbourhood plan as the evidence points to there being a demonstrable need for additional education provision.	Amend the Key Diagram to remove the location of the education, health and community hub.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely the vast majority of children attending the school on foot will live on the opposite side of the A38 to the school. They will therefore need to cross this very busy road. It will make more sense to locate the school where there is minimal risk to the children. Surely the proposed site for the new school is too small to accommodate buildings and playing fields. Couldn't the existing CofE school be expanded as it is surrounded by farmland. This would disrupt the minimum number of people. All properties in the neighbourhood of the proposed new school will be adversely affected by it – increase in noise, increase in traffic, increase in litter, property devaluation, increase in vandalism and antisocial behaviour. The quality of life of all the property owners bordering this new school will be significantly reduced. 		<p>The Dillmore Lane/Station Road is not located in the Green Belt. It is in open countryside. The neighbourhood plan policy NCH1 'New Residential Development' does not support any further housing development beyond the existing settlement limits.</p>	<p>Amend the plan to include the need to prevent the coalescence of Lower Town with Fernhill Heath.</p>
R006	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R007	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R008	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R009	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R010	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation. Or the Parish Council should purchase the land and clear it and landscape it with grass, flower beds and ornamental trees.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R011	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R012	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R013	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.

R014	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R015	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation and re-designate it as proposed development land.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R016	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation and re-designate it as proposed development land.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R017	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation and re-designate it as proposed development land.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R018	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.
R019	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed greenspace designation.	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.

STATUTORY CONSULTTEE RESPONSES

ID	COMMENT	SUGGESTED CHANGE	NCFONPC RESPONSE	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
SC001	<p>Policy NCL2 – Local Heritage Assets: A Neighbourhood Plan Examiner stated that Parish Councils could not themselves identify heritage assets as the NPPF makes it clear that this is the province of LPAs.</p> <p>Consider the North Claines NP to be a well-considered, concise and fit for purpose document that effectively embraces the ethos of ‘constructive conservation’.</p>	<p>Amend policy to make it clearer that the NP identifies buildings and structures for special protection in recognition of their significance and important contribution they make to the locally distinctive character of the Parish and also commands them to Wychavon Council for inclusion in the local list. The full schedule of buildings and structures with the reasons for selection will be produced in due course.</p>	<p>Comments noted and propose to make change to the reasoned justification to ensure conformity with NPPF.</p> <p>Need to discuss the process of nominating buildings and structures onto a local list with WDC.</p>	<p>Amend reasoned justification.</p>
SC002	<p>Page 19 Para 4.8:</p> <p>The Council should be aware that WP, WMP and HWFRS have jointly applied for planning permission (W/15/02662/PN) for a new Operations and Communications Centre (OCC) at Hindlip Park.</p> <p>The planning application for the OCC has been facilitated by confirmation that the Planning Inspector overseeing the public examination of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) approved the expansion of Hindlip Park’s Major Developed Site (MDS) boundary.</p> <p>We propose the following new paragraphs for the Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the above.</p>	<p>‘Hindlip Parish includes the Warwickshire Police (WP) and West Mercia Police (WMP) site of Hindlip Park. The main vehicular entrance is off the A4538, which is not within the NPA. There is also a secondary access off the A38, known as Old Drive, which is partly within the NPA. Although the site is located within the West Midlands Green Belt, the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) has allocated it as a Major Developed Site (MDS), in recognition of its importance for the emergency and civil resilience services. This allocation does not include land within the NPA, but a small part of the northern portion of the wider site owned by the police is within the NPA area.</p> <p>Hindlip Park provides employment for circa 1,000 personnel from both forces.</p> <p>There are a number of key development proposals due to come forward at the site. The most important of these is the delivery of a new Operations and Communications Centre (OCC). This will serve both forces and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS). The three emergency services have jointly applied for planning permission for the OCC from Wychavon District Council. The other proposals for the site include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of HWFRS’s HQ from its current location to existing buildings within Hindlip Park; • Extensions to the existing firearms school and outdoor firearms range; and • Possible extension to the forensics building at the site. 	<p>The Inspector has yet to produce his report on the Examination of the SWDP. It is therefore premature to state that he has approved the expansion of Hindlip Park’s MDS Boundary. However, subject to the above comment, the suggested change could be included within the Submission version of the NP.</p>	<p>Amend relevant paragraph with suggested change subject to comment regarding the position on the emerging SWDP.</p>

Pages 22 – 23 Figure 4.1:

Figure 4.1 incorrectly identifies the application site (W/15/02662/PN) for the new OCC at Hindlip Park as a 'Recreational Open Space'. This should be replaced with the 'Commercial' identification. In addition, the Jacky Smith Training Centre and Outdoor Firearms Range, which the SWDP recognises as integral to Hindlip Park, have not been included in the 'Commercial' identification. Please could this be rectified?

Please delete the 'Recreational Open Space' identification for Hindlip Park and expand the 'Commercial' identification in its place. Please also expand the 'Commercial' allocation to include the Jacky Smith Training Centre and the Outdoor Firearms Range. Incorporating the above amendments will mean that Figure 4.1 will align with the MDS boundary for Hindlip Park shown in the SWDP (see SWDP Main Modifications consultation (October 2015)).

This figure provides an overview of key services and facilities in the NPA and surrounding area. The present or former use of the site is a recreational field and it was formerly used as a playing field. This is recognised in the Planning Statement submitted with the application W/15/02662/PN. Should planning permission be granted for the OCC and the facility built then the category would change. Comment on the Jacky Smith Training Centre and the Outdoor Firearms Range is noted.

No change regarding the recreational open space designation. Will include the Jacky Smith Training Centre and the Outdoor Firearms Range within the Commercial designation on Figure 4.1.

Pages 35 – 36 Para 5.6 – Objectives:

We are surprised and concerned that the list of objectives for the NPA makes no reference at all to creating safe, secure and low crime communities.

Paragraph 58 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Therefore, according to paragraph 58, policies in Neighbourhood Plans are expected to ensure the creation of safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.

The absence is also puzzling given that Policy NCD1: *Development and Design* specifically requires Design and Access Statements to address crime and security.

We recommend that the list includes the following additional point:

11. *Create safe, secure and low crime communities*

Including the above in the list will ensure that the Plan is more closely tied with the NPPF and provide improved continuity and consistency with Policy NCD1: *Development and Design*.

Add this to Objective 10 so that safety and security is included with health and wellbeing.

Comments are noted and the issues of safe, secure and low crime will be included as an objective.

Pages 38 – 39 Key Diagram:

- (1) The key on page 38 refers to the 'Hindlip Hall Major Developed Site in the Green Belt'. Hindlip Hall is the name of one building, not the site. The site as a whole is called Hindlip Park.
- (2) The Major Developed Site boundary shown on the Key Diagram for Hindlip Park is incorrect.
- (3) The Key Diagram allocates the lake at Hindlip Park as a 'Special Wildlife Site'. However, the lake is outside the North Claines

- (1) Please amend the key to refer to 'Hindlip Park Major Developed Site in the Green Belt'
- (2) Please amend the Hindlip Park Major Developed Site boundary shown on the Key Diagram to the one shown on the map enclosed as **Appendix 1**.
- (3) Please delete the 'Special Wildlife Site' allocation given to the lake at Hindlip Park.
- (4) Please delete the 'Locally Important Historic Parks and Gardens' allocation in the Key Diagram given to Hindlip Park.

- (1) Agreed
- (2) Agreed
- (3) This is an existing designation (Hindlip Lake, site ref. S085/27) and therefore cannot be deleted.
- (4) The boundary of the Hindlip Park has been provided by WDC. This shows that the boundary includes land within the NPA.

- (1) Amend
- (2) Amend
- (3) Retain
- (4) Retain

<p>Neighbourhood Plan area designated by Wychavon District Council on 28 May 2013. Therefore, the allocation is <i>ultra vires</i> and should be deleted. It is worth noting in any case that the lake was man-made for fishing and has never been recognised as having any special significance for wildlife.</p> <p>(4) Hindlip Park as a whole is allocated as a 'Locally Important Historic Parks and Gardens'. We are obliged to object to this for two reasons. Firstly, although the 'Wychavon District Historic Parks and Gardens Supplementary Planning Document' (adopted January 2005) (WDHPGSPD) names Hindlip Hall as a locally important park, it does not set out a boundary for this and confirms that no site surveys have been done to establish one. We are currently looking at the matter with the Council, but we can state with certainty that it does not cover the whole site (see further detail on this below).</p> <p>Secondly, the majority of Hindlip Park lies outside the Neighbourhood Plan area. This means it would be <i>ultra vires</i> for the Plan to designate that part of the site outside of its designated area as a 'Locally Important Historic Parks and Gardens'.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that Hindlip Park will probably form part of the area designated for a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe. It is in this future plan that the allocations proposed by the Key Diagram for Hindlip Park can be considered.</p> <p>Paras 4.8, 4.34, 7.3 and 7.10:</p> <p>Each of these paragraphs refer in different ways to Hindlip Park being a 'Locally Important Historic Park and Garden'.</p> <p>In this respect, we accept that the 'Wychavon District Historic Parks and Gardens Supplementary Planning Document' (adopted January 2005) (WDHPGSPD) names Hindlip Hall as a locally important park. However, the boundary for the 'historic parkland' has never been confirmed.</p>			
	<p>Please delete all references to Hindlip Park/Hindlip Hall being a locally important historic park, as this will not be applicable to the designated North Claines Neighbourhood Plan geographical area.</p>	<p>The boundary to Hindlip Park needs to be clarified by WDC. The Neighbourhood Plan was providing, for context, the Parish Council's understanding of the existing position with regards to the extent of the Hindlip Park LIHPG. This is confirmed on the Key Diagram with the LIHPG designation under 'Existing Land Use Designations'. It is not the intention of the NP to designate land outside of the NPA.</p>	<p>Retain the Hindlip Park LIHPG on the Key Diagram.</p>

<p>Our understanding is the historic parkland refers only to those gardens and landscaped areas immediately adjacent to Hindlip Hall itself. Although the wider site is much larger, this has been created through WMP's incremental land purchases over the years. The most recent example of this was WMP's purchase in 1997 of the former Worcestershire Agricultural College buildings and land, which is now the Jacky Smith Training Centre. The fields which came with it were added to the Hindlip Park estate.</p> <p>We are now seeking to resolve the question of the historic park boundary through the preparation of a Masterplan for Hindlip Park in conjunction with Wychavon District Council. Given that this will take a significant amount of time to resolve and the fact the North Claines Neighbourhood boundary cuts through only a small portion of our site, which is unlikely to form part of the boundary in any case, we request that all references to the historic park are deleted from the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Page 48 Paras 7.36 – 7.39:</p>		
<p>WP, WMP and HWFRS confirm they support the principle of a Fernhill Heath rail-based park and ride facility.</p> <p>This is because there is significant pressure on car parking at Hindlip Park, which without a solution, will continue to the detriment of the site environment. This is a key consideration of the Masterplan we are in the process of drawing up for Hindlip Park. The work we have done so far confirms that park & ride facilities, of the type proposed in paragraphs 7.36 – 7.39, offers the opportunity to relocate staff parking away from Hindlip Park and provide a more sustainable travel choice for personnel.</p> <p>We would therefore welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further with the Parish Council and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
		<p>No change.</p>

Policy NCT1 Page 48

We are supportive of the content of Policy NCT1, but would like an additional requirement inserted into the policy to ensure that developments enable rapid access by emergency services vehicles to incidents and individuals. This will help prevent crime and in some cases, save lives.

Policy NCD1 Page 56:

We welcome and support the requirement in Policy NCD1 that Design and Access Statements should address crime and security. We suggest though that the effectiveness of Policy NCD1 would be significantly enhanced through a direct requirement for new development to adopt 'Secured by Design' standards.

The problem with the current reference to 'address crime and security' is that it will be interpreted differently by different developers, leading to an inconsistent and ineffective approach to this across the Parish. Secured by Design on the other hand is a single, consistent and measurable nationwide standard.

In case the Parish Council is unaware, Secured by Design is a long-running flagship initiative of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) (formerly Association of Chief Police Officers). Its objective is to design out crime during the planning process. It is a highly respected standard in the sector, supported by numerous local authorities (including the South Worcestershire Councils) and professional bodies and is therefore, a vital guidance resource for planners. It is regularly updated and therefore there is no danger of it ceasing to exist during the lifetime of the Plan.

Independent research has shown that homes with low level security suffer far more burglaries than those with Secured by Design level security, whilst criminal damage is reduced by 25%. In one year alone for example, some 700,000 burglaries nationwide could have been thwarted if appropriate Secured by Design measures had been installed, according to Professor Ken Pease OBE and Professor Martin Gill of Perpetuity Research – an independent organisation which specialises in looking at crime reduction, community safety and security.

5. *It prioritises the safe and efficient movement of the mobility impaired, pedestrians and cyclists.*
6. *Design and layout enables emergency services vehicles to access all areas of the development swiftly*

We recommend that Policy NCD1 be amended as follows:

- 5 *Creates a safe and accessible environment that integrates into the existing environment through the application of Secured by Design;*
- 6 *Ensure adequate water supplies are available in all areas for effective firefighting; through the provision of dedicated fire hydrants; and*
- 7 *Provides a visually attractive architecture, landscaping and public realm that reinforces and promotes the Parish's aesthetic....*

...The Design and Access Statement must address the following themes as part of explaining the design approach:

- *Context and character*
- *Historic character*
- *Connection with the countryside*
- *Crime and security through the application of Secured by Design*
- *Development quality....'*

The Parish Council notes and supports the comments in relation to this policy. On reflection this additional criteria should refer to the design of a safe and efficient highway layout for all users including emergency services vehicles.

The Parish Council notes and supports the comments in relation to this policy.

- Add additional criteria to policy.
6. *The design of proposed roads, pavements and cycle routes create a safe and efficient layout for all users including emergency service and refuse vehicles.*

Amend to include additional text as suggested.

<p>We also recommend that NCD1 requires development to ensure that they provide sufficient water supplies for effective firefighting. It has been proven beyond reasonable doubt that deaths, injuries and property damage as a consequence of fire are significantly reduced with proper firefighting infrastructure installed in developments.</p> <p>Page 59 Para 7.90:</p> <p>Paragraph 7.90 references the presence of a football pitch within Hindlip Park. This is now the application site (W/15/02662/PN) for a new Operations and Communications Centre (OCC) and is therefore no longer there.</p>	<p>Please delete the reference to a football pitch at West Mercia Police's HQ, which is currently within paragraph 7.90.</p>	<p>The Canal should be recognised as a Sustainable Transport Route and Green Infrastructure asset for the neighbourhood. The plan should recognise and support the use of the towpath for walking and cycling and ensure that where additional usage of the towpath will occur as a result of a new development mitigation measures are put in place to ensure that the towpath is not degraded as a result.</p>	<p>The Droitwich Canal is considered to be a non-statutory wildlife site and we consider that it should be included within part 4.32 as a nature conservation site. The Canal & River Trust would welcome proposals to enhance the biodiversity of the canal within the Parish.</p>	<p>The former playing field, although not used for pitch sports, remains at Hindlip Park. However, the Parish Council recognise the proposals for the OCC on this site. This will be reflected within the text at this paragraph.</p> <p>The Parish Council note and welcome the comments. The PC believes that the NP should recognise the Canal as a sustainable transport route and provide a policy seeking to promote its use.</p> <p>The Key Diagram identifies the Canal as a Special Wildlife Site. It has in error, been omitted from this paragraph but should be included. It was also omitted from Paragraph 7.66 which needs to be amended.</p> <p>The proposed residential site allocations at Gwilliam's Farm and Dilmore Lane have been through the emerging SWDP process and have been subject to an SEA.</p> <p>The NP has also been subject to an SEA and therefore it is considered that the NP provides sustainable development in line with the 'Basic Conditions'.</p> <p>In addition, we believe that the NP is in conformity with the emerging SWDP and as such meets this Basic Condition.</p> <p>Additional comments are noted.</p>
<p>Amend text to refer to former playing field at Hindlip Park that is subject to the proposed OCC.</p>	<p>Amend policy NCT4 from 'Cycle Connections' to 'Sustainable Transport Routes' and reflect walking as well as cycling.</p>	<p>Refer to the Droitwich Canal as a Special Wildlife Site at Paragraphs 4.32 and 7.66.</p>	<p>No change required.</p>	
<p>SC003</p>	<p>We note the content the NCP and in particular the references to the Droitwich Canal. Given the rural character of the canal, any potential development of canal-side land would need to be very carefully considered. It should be noted that the Canal & River Trust do not wish to see a blanket protection policy for the waterway as this would perhaps prevent the potential for suitable and sensitive development which could provide or fund improvements to the waterside. This may include habitat creation, improved transport links and public realm improvements.</p>	<p>The Droitwich Canal is considered to be a non-statutory wildlife site and we consider that it should be included within part 4.32 as a nature conservation site. The Canal & River Trust would welcome proposals to enhance the biodiversity of the canal within the Parish.</p>	<p>The Droitwich Canal is considered to be a non-statutory wildlife site and we consider that it should be included within part 4.32 as a nature conservation site. The Canal & River Trust would welcome proposals to enhance the biodiversity of the canal within the Parish.</p>	<p>For each proposed site allocation, we recommend completing the pro-forma to check the environmental constraints. This will help collect evidence, identify challenges, inform policy and assist delivery of sustainable solutions.</p> <p>We would only make substantive further comments on the plan if you were seeking to allocate sites in Flood Zones 2 or 3 (the latter being used as the 100 year climate change extent). Furthermore, we do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise you ensure conformity with the Local Plan and refer to our guidance. This might assist with your consideration of a local environmental enhancements or improvement policies that may be necessary.</p>
<p>SC004</p>				

SC005	<p>In relation to the North Claines Draft NDP, it is noted that on page 39 the Proposal Map shows a proposed site for a park and ride station at Fernhill Heath. Paragraphs 7.36 to 7.39 explain that there used to be railway station at this location and the Parish Council consider that there is potential to re-open this station and provide a sustainable park and ride facility. If it is the Parish Council's intention to pursue this proposal then Network Rail will need to be consulted at an early stage.</p> <p>On a more general note Network Rail are anxious to ensure that policies and proposals in NDPs do not compromise the safety of level/pedestrian crossings or result in a material increase in their use.</p>	N/A	<p>The Parish Council notes the comments. For clarification the Parish Council is not seeking to re-open the former railway station in Fernhill Heath. It is, within the NP, suggesting a new rail halt as part of a Park and Ride site in a different location.</p> <p>The Parish Council would welcome discussions with all relevant stakeholders in relation to this aspiration.</p> <p>In response to other comments on this matter the Parish Council intend to include a policy relating to the Park and Ride site.</p>	No change.
SC006	<p>Contents: List suggests List of Policies; Acronyms etc. are at the end of the document however they are before the introduction.</p> <p>In Acronyms: NPC is listed twice.</p> <p>Para 1.17: Shouldn't this state vision for NPA from 2015-2030?</p> <p>Para 1.19: Statement could mislead – NCNP is a framework for Wychavon DC Development Management officers to make decision on proposal in the parish, so to say it will give local people the power to make certain decisions on development is a slight exaggeration.</p> <p>Paras 2.6 and 2.8: Saved WDLP policies are not out of date until they are replaced by the SWDP. Strategic policies such as GD1 still hold significant planning weight.</p> <p>Para 2.10: May be worth mentioning that the SWDP is likely to be adopted in Spring 2016.</p> <p>Para 2.12: Although it is accepted that GD1 states that it will be used to accommodate new development up to 2011, the policy has been saved and continues to hold significant planning weight, so it may be best to remove up to 2011 wording to avoid confusion.</p> <p>Para 3.4: Replace 'is' with 'was'.</p>	Included in Comment column.	<p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Noted and delete.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Policy GD1 has been saved as it is written in the Local Plan which states the period up to 2011. It is therefore considered appropriate to retain this wording.</p> <p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Contents page amended.</p> <p>Second NPC deleted.</p> <p>Amend 2010 to 2015.</p> <p>Amend to state that a locally prepared statutory development plan gives local people power in planning that they have not had before.</p> <p>Amend to state that the WDLP is dated in relation to the NPPF which may affect the degree of consistency of some of its policies to the Framework.</p> <p>Amend to add likely adoption of SWDP in Spring 2016.</p> <p>Retain 'up to 2011'.</p> <p>Replaced 'is' with 'was'.</p>

<p>Para 3.27: Final sentence is contradictory, should it state that a relatively low proportion of the residents are economically inactive due to being long term sick?</p>		<p>This is a typo and should read 'inactive' rather than 'active'.</p>	<p>Replace 'active' with 'inactive'.</p>
<p>Para 4.10: Use of 'young people' suggests children are older than first school age?</p>		<p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Amend 'young people' to 'children'.</p>
<p>Para 4.11: Stonebridge Cross.</p>		<p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Amend 'Stone' to 'Stonebridge'.</p>
<p>Para 4.16: Full stop at end of sentence required.</p>		<p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Add full stop.</p>
<p>Para 4.34: There are 3 Historic Parks and Gardens – Bevere House, Bevere Manor and Hawford House (see Historic Parks and Gardens SPD no. 58-60).</p>		<p>Noted and amend. Need to establish whether Hindlip Park's boundary extends into the NPA.</p>	<p>Amend to add the three LHFGs as referred to in WDC's SPD.</p>
<p>Para 4.38: Spelling of Fernhill Heath.</p>		<p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Amend 'Hath' to 'Heath'.</p>
<p>Para 4.39: Aim to extend Green Belt more relevant to Significant Gap which seeks to ensure that individual settlements and smaller hamlets do not merge?</p>		<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Amend the plan to include the need to prevent the coalescence of Lower Town with Fernhill Heath.</p>
<p>Key Diagram: What purpose does the 1km buffer zone serve? – the NP can only make policies for use with the Neighbourhood Area.</p>		<p>The buffer zone provides the context to the NPA as it does not exist in isolation. The Key Diagram provides existing land use designations on land outwith the NPA and does not propose any allocations or new designations within the buffer zone.</p>	<p>Retain buffer zone for context but re-label as 'NPA Context Area'.</p>
<p>Key Diagram: Is there a need to map the ADR land now it is being allocated in the NP?</p>		<p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Remove ADR designation.</p>
<p>Key Diagram: Perhaps show housing allocations in different colours to show which are SWDP and which are NP allocations.</p>		<p>Noted and amend.</p>	<p>Amend to: Blue House – SWDP allocations Red House – Commitments Green House – NP allocations.</p>
<p>General Point: Best practice is to show policy followed by reasoned justification. For the NCNP, this could be Chapter (housing, employment etc.), Objectives, Policy then RJ.</p>		<p>Noted.</p>	
<p>Para 7.4: This suggests that windfall sites may come forward within Fernhill Heath but doesn't mention the potential for the odd dwelling or two outside the development boundary of FH or within close proximity to Bevere or Hawford for example.</p>		<p>These would be outside the settlement area and therefore either in the Open Countryside or in the Green Belt. Policy SWDP2C limits the type of development in the open countryside.</p>	<p>Amend Paragraph 7.4 and Policy NCH1 to refer to windfall sites being acceptable in principle on appropriate sites in the NPA.</p>

			However it is accepted that windfall sites may come forward on appropriate sites outside of Fernhill Heath settlement area and that NPPF would in principle consider these to be acceptable.	
Para 7.7: Policy SWDP60 no longer exists – policies SWDP60 and 61 have been added onto SWDP59 which has been renamed ‘New Housing for Villages’. Allocation SWDP60/16 still exists for an indicative 120 dwellings.			Policy change noted and will amend relevant paragraph.	Amended Paragraph 7.7 to refer to Policy SWDP59.
Policy NCH1: Policy gives impression that development outside of the boundary of Fernhill Heath will be refused? Also relevant for policy NCH2.			See response to comment on Para. 7.4.	See response to comment on Para. 7.4.
Policy NCH1: Old Sling Lane allocation should be given indicative dwelling number, otherwise DM officers will not know how to determine an application on the site.			Noted. The 5 th Edition of the SHLAA (April 2015) identifies the site (ref. 61 - 13) with a potential capacity of 53 dwellings (30 dph less 25% for landscaping, etc.)	See response to R004: The northern portion of the site measuring 1.6ha will be allocated and the southern portion measuring 0.6ha will be designated as green space. Include a maximum capacity of 48 dwellings within the policy which is 30 dph for 1.6ha site.
Policies NCH3 and NCH4 could be amalgamated into a Housing Mix and Affordable Housing policy as they are along the same lines.			Noted and agreed.	Delete Policy NCH4 but retain reasoned justification in Policy NCH3.
Policies NCT2 and NCT4: Are these relevant to NP?			The Parish Council believes that Policy NCT4 relates to infrastructure and development associated with public transport provision.	Amend as a result of other comments from SC003. Delete Policy NCT2.
Policy NCLE1: Final Para should read ‘new development within the countryside...’			Noted and amend.	Amend ‘with’ to ‘within’.
Do NCLE3 and NCRE1 contradict one another; LE3 seeks to preserve the local heritage whereas RE1 promotes retail and community use development/conversions? Could be some conflict at planning application stage.			Policy NCRE1 states that proposals must accord with other policies within the NP. The Parish Council do not consider this as a contradiction as there are plenty of examples of town centres with conservation area status. The policy could be strengthened to cross reference to NCNP Policy NCLE3.	Amend policy wording to refer specifically to NCNP Policy NCLE3 ‘Local Heritage Area’.
Para 7.63: What is the difference between Local Green Space and Amenity Green Space?			The LGS would specifically meet the criteria within the NPPF. An AGS is an open space that doesn’t meet the LGS criteria but has recreational, environmental and visual benefit to the NPA.	Amend paragraph to clarify what each designation is. Amend Key Diagram to split LGS and AGS so they can be more easily identified and located. Include a plan with site references to cross-reference to relevant Appendices.

<p>Policy NCLE4 B1: How can you demonstrate a surplus of green space?</p>		<p>This is a well-used criteria used for the protection of greenspace and is in fact included in Policy SWDP5: Infrastructure and SWDP38: Green Space. It will be up to the developer to use existing information on greenspace provision or undertake their own assessment to show there is a surplus of provision.</p>	<p>Amend policy to state 'through an assessment of need'.</p>
<p>Policy NCLE6: Provision of trees planted outside of the site may not be possible in cases where the landowner doesn't own any further land?</p>		<p>The trees could be planted on publicly owned land such as a LGS or AGS and therefore it doesn't need to be in the applicant's/landowner's control.</p>	<p>Amend policy to state where it is not possible or appropriate ... outside the site such as a LGS and AGS or other publicly owned land.</p>
<p>Para 7.74: Can applicants be made to present their proposal to a Neighbourhood Design Review Panel at application stage? How much weight would the recommendation from the panel hold in terms of determining the application?</p>		<p>Noted. Amend paragraph to state 'be requested' instead of 'need'. The views of the Panel will form part of the Parish Council's response to its consultation on the application.</p>	<p>Amend paragraph as left.</p>
<p>Para 9.1: Reviewing NCNP annually is likely to be a time-consuming task and is considered unnecessary as there will be little change to warrant a review year on year. Yearly monitoring of objectives is supported but annual review is discouraged.</p>		<p>Noted and amend section to remove annual reviews and any review up to the end of the Plan period or unless the SWDP is reviewed before 2030.</p>	<p>Amend as left.</p>
<p>No comment to make from the Parks/Open Space view point. The Parish manages its own green spaces; in fact Fernhill Heath also adopted the POS areas on the recent development by the high school and Agatha Gardens.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>No amendments required.</p>
<p>Most of my comments on the pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan have been addressed; however I have a few points to make on the current document:</p>			
<p>1. Para 4.19: Typo, should be Pastoral Land Use and not Pastural.</p>		<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Amend typo in paragraph.</p>
<p>2. Figure 4.4: There is still a discrepancy between the green colour on the map and on the key for Principal Timbered Farmlands.</p>		<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Amend figure so that colour on plan reflects colour in Key.</p>
<p>3. Policy NCLE6 now requires a minimum of three trees to be planted for each dwelling for residential development. The policy advises 'where it is not possible to secure this new or replacement tree planting on site, trees should be planted at a suitable location outside the site'. For many new dwellings, to plant three trees on each and every plot would be rather ambitious in my view (and may result in trees being planted far too close together to allow for their proper development). Front gardens are often too small</p>		<p>Noted. Amend the policy as above to include where it is not 'appropriate' and identify that suitable locations could include LGS and AGS. The Parish Council consider it appropriate to retain the requirements as set out in the policy. The mechanism for requesting, implementing and enforcing the provision of trees outside the site would be through a S106 Agreement. The policy would apply to applications within the NPA and should be given considerable weight as</p>	<p>Amend policy to state where it is not possible or 'appropriate' Outside the site such as a LGS and AGS or other publicly owned land.</p>

<p>for tree planting and we tend not to be too prescriptive regarding planting in rear gardens unless it is to safeguard the amenities of neighbouring properties (trees planted where they are not desirable have a tendency of being removed and we are hard pressed to enforce their replacement). I think it is unrealistic and possibly undesirable to insist on three trees for every plot of new development. And if this planting is to be provided off site, as per the policy, I wonder in what 'suitable locations' outside the site these trees should be planted? And what the mechanism for implementing and enforcing this would be? This leads me to question where these Neighbourhood Plan policies sit alongside the SWDP policies, and how much weight I need to give to a policy such as this in assessing landscape schemes submitted as part of planning applications or for condition discharge?</p> <p>The principle of new tree planning in new developments is clearly something that we would seek in any event. I wonder whether the bullet points in this policy are just too prescriptive altogether?</p>		<p>it is a policy within a part of the statutory development plan.</p> <p>The policy is not considered to lack conformity with the relevant SWDP policies such as SWDP21, SWDP22 and SWDP25.</p>	
<p>4. I remain concerned with the proposed location of a new school. I am most concerned from a landscape perspective regarding the proposed location. The proposed site is the only point within the village where countryside comes right up to the main road (A38) through the village – and this contributes to the distinct local character of this part of the village. Furthermore, it is the only point along the A38 through the village from which views out to the wider landscape beyond are afforded for the enjoyment of the general public – with views towards the elevated, vegetated areas around Worcester and distant views towards the Malvern Hills. This gives an appreciation of where the village sits in the wider landscape. Para 4.50 says 'Some people also raised the issue of needing more school places or a new school.' It is not clear how many people raised the idea of a new school as a need but, significantly, this was not identified as a 'principal' need in the same way that health care facilities were (according to the document). I question, therefore, whether the need raised by only some people (and there appears to be an alternative between more school places OR a new school – the former having the potential to be achieved</p>		<p>There is a demonstrable need for additional education provision which has been confirmed in the responses from relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The Parish Council notes the concerns raised. It believes that the development of a school on the site could be designed in a way that would retain the views and the countryside setting to the village. Nevertheless, due to the sensitivities of this Green Belt site and the possibility of other options the Parish Council will remove this proposed site from the plan but reiterate the need for improvements to education provision within the NPA and that it will work with Key Stakeholders to bring this forward.</p>	<p>Remove the education, health and community hub symbol from the Key Diagram. However, the plan will retain the aspiration for the Parish Council to work with all Key Stakeholders in improving education provision in the NPA.</p>

without the latter) is a strong enough need to merit the loss of views enjoyed by the general public and the sense of place that these views impart.

This area contributes to the local landscape character (landscape character being referred to in para 7.63). I would suggest that this open area is designated as an '*important green space*' as per Strategy para 6.5, or '*Local Green Space*' as per para 7.64, to be retained as an open space for the benefit of the village - in order that views may be maintained for the benefit of its residents and protected future generations (para 7.64). This need not be a usable open/green space (although it could be - this would not necessarily result in the loss of views) - it could continue to be grazed, bringing the countryside closer to the heart of the village: Strategy para 6.5 outlines that connections with the countryside, both visual and physical, should be maintained. To provide a school in this location would not meet the Vision for the NPA as outlined in para 5.5; as it would not retain or reflect the unique and distinctive character of this part of the village and would no longer allow residents to enjoy the countryside here. Neither would it meet objectives 7-9 as outlined in paras 5.6 and 7.47 - any development here would not protect or enhance the natural environment (and, as 7.47 advises, the environment was considered the most important issue for the Parish and the countryside the third most important). Para 7.54, Connections with the Countryside, says '*the countryside within the NPA is of significant importance to the local community*' and that it '*provides an important visual function not only in itself but also in providing views of the landscape further afield.*'

The site of the proposed school does exactly that - it is one of the few points within the village from which the landscape further afield can be seen. In my view, any development on this site would be inappropriate. I acknowledge the 'aspiration' outlined in para 6.6 to '*provide a new primary school in place of the existing schools that are over-capacity and constrained in terms of expansion*' but suggest that alternatives are explored. I would, therefore, not support Policy NCC1 in consideration of the location proposed for the new school (and potentially health and community facilities also, as outlined) and its

<p>impact on local landscape character and the public enjoyment of views of the wider landscape.</p> <p>The following comments may appear negative but I simply did not have time to praise all of the good ideas in the plan and how professional it looks. There has clearly been a lot of hard work done on this for which the local community should be applauded.</p> <p>Acronyms: NPC is listed twice.</p> <p>Concerned with references at Para 2.7 and Appendix A: The NP will not replace WDC policies.</p> <p>Para 2.8: Suggestion that some of the saved Wychavon District Local Plan (2006) are out of date is false</p> <p>Para 2.22: SWDP section will need updating.</p> <p>Policy NCH3: It is not clear if this requirement relates to all residential development applications? This could be onerous and unnecessary for small scale infill development. Without an up to date local housing needs survey, it will not be possible to know if a development accords with local need. The onus should not be on the applicant to identify local housing need. Developers will build according to market demands.</p> <p>Policy NCH4: Similarly the need for a Local Housing Provision Statement on all new housing developments is excessive and unnecessary, particularly given the SWDP policy for off-site contributions.</p> <p>Policy NCRE1: How is 'appropriately sized' defined? Without a definition this policy cannot be applied or delivered.</p>	<p>Included in Comment column.</p>	<p>Noted and amend.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.7 reflects Paragraph 185 of the NPPF.</p> <p>Amend Paragraph 2.17 to state 'take precedence over rather than replace and delete 'in whole or in part'.</p> <p>Noted. Delete second sentence and merge Paras. 2.8 and 2.9.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. The policy can be clarified so that it refers to major residential development applications of 10 or more dwellings.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.13 could include the aspiration of the Parish Council to instruct the preparation of a Local Housing Needs Survey and subsequent reviews to keep it up to date.</p> <p>Noted. SWDP Policy 15B states that affordable housing provision should depend on recognised housing need.</p> <p>Policy NCH4 is simply requesting that applicants demonstrate how their proposal recognises that need within the Local Housing Provision Statement.</p> <p>It will be up to the decision taker to consider what appropriately sized is within the context of the village centre and the other retail and related units. The Parish Council did not feel it had sufficient evidence to prescribe a size.</p>	<p>Amended.</p> <p>No change to Para. 2.7.</p> <p>Amend Para. 2.17</p> <p>Delete second sentence of Para. 2.8 and merge Paras. 2.8 and 2.9.</p> <p>Amend.</p> <p>Amend policy to relate to housing developments over 10 or more dwellings.</p> <p>Amend Paragraph 7.13 to include Local Housing Needs Survey.</p> <p>Delete policy and include reasoned justification for affordable housing within reasoned justification for Policy NCH3.</p> <p>No change.</p>
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<p>Policy NCT1: Should this policy say 'will only be permitted providing that...'. Regarding point 4, how is appropriately accessed by public transport defined?</p>		<p>Noted. Amend to include 'only'. The Institution of Highways and Transportation Guidelines for Providing Journeys on Foot 2000 suggests that acceptable walking distances for common facilities as 800m. This distance could be included in the supporting text for the policy wording.</p>	<p>Amend supporting text at paragraph 7.41.</p>
<p>Policy NCT2: This is aspirational rather than a land use policy so should be removed from the policy section of the plan accordingly.</p>		<p>The Parish Council believes that the policy relates to infrastructure and development associated with public transport.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Policy NCT3: Whilst I am not opposed to this policy, there are questions over its deliverability, funding and stewardship.</p>		<p>The Parish Council notes the comments. It is our intention to develop a scheme(s) in consultation with the public and stakeholders for the Droitwich Road to enable this policy to be implemented and delivered.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Policy NCLE1: Should final paragraph read 'new development within the countryside...'</p>		<p>Noted and amended.</p>	<p>Amend</p>
<p>Policy NCLE3: I am not aware of a national policy hook that supports local heritage designations.</p>		<p>The policy is supported by Historic England. Para. 184/185 of the NPPF states that neighbourhood plans, outside of the strategic needs and priorities, will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Policy NCLE4: Suggested the policy is renamed to Local Green Space and reference to Para 76 of the NPPF be made.</p>		<p>This policy has been amended to reflect other comments raised on it. Reference to Para. 76 of NPPF will be made in the supporting text.</p>	<p>Amend supporting text at Para. 7.64.</p>
<p>Policy NCLE5: I don't think legal agreements will be necessary.</p>		<p>If the enhancement is to take place off site then it is considered a legal agreement would be required.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Policy NCLE6: Seems rather onerous and in some instance may not be practicable if there is no room on the site. This policy does not take into account the fact that trees outside of conservations areas and not subject to TPOs can be removed without permission.</p>		<p>Noted. Other comments were received on this point and the policy requirement for minimum quantities of trees will be removed. The policy deals with trees and development. It is acknowledged that non-TPO trees and trees outside of Conservation Areas can be removed without consent.</p>	<p>Amend policy to state 'Additional new trees should be planted on the site as part of a wider planting scheme to help reflect and enhance the landscape character of the site'.</p>
<p>Policy NCC1: what constitutes another suitable community use? Saved policy RES8 requires a marketing exercise, however following an appeal decision we no longer seek compliance with this criterion.</p>		<p>Noted. We will add wording to the supporting text to provide the type of uses that could be covered.</p>	<p>New Para. 7.90 added to supporting text to policy.</p>

<p>Policy NCC3: This policy is vague and unreasonable. What is sufficient capacity? What constitutes local community health care provision – does this relate to dentists, GP surgeries, hospitals, optometry etc.? It is unreasonable for all new housing applications to demonstrate compliance with this. This requirement crosses into market drives forces and NHS obligations to provide health care provision. These are the very reasons why health contributions are not a standard request on S106 agreements.</p>		<p>The feedback from the local community and other evidence has demonstrated to the Parish Council that there is a need for local health care provision in NPA. The Parish Council wish to ensure that this is forthcoming and believe that the planning system can play a part in helping the delivery of local health care facilities. This is considered to be entirely in conformity with the NPPF in relation to 'promoting healthy communities' and in particular Para. 70 'plan positively for the provision and use of ... local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments'. The proposed policy seeks to ensure that with the potential for new residents in the NPA there is sufficient health care provision to meet their requirements. The supporting text states that applicants should contact the relevant authorities to understand the current provision and how proposals affect it.</p>	<p>Amend policy to reflect threshold of development that it will apply to and replace local community health care provision with General Practice and Dental services.</p>
<p>I note the policies for employment growth and the proposal to create opportunities to promote local employment through appropriate small scale development and conversion. We would support these policies in Economic Development terms, and from Spring 2016 will have new funding for a range of business support initiatives and grants.</p>		<p>Noted.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Policy NCD1 – Development and Design</p>	<p>We would advise adding in to this policy an additional criteria that development takes into account biodiversity when considering design, in line with the recommendation in the SEA (para 4.42, p33)</p>	<p>Noted and amend policy to include additional criteria on landscape character and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Amend policy to include additional criteria relating to landscape character and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Policy NCLE6 – Trees and Woodland and Development: (P55)</p>	<p>We note that the SEA (para 4.42, p33) recommends that the Draft NCNP is strengthened by including reference to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) to ensure that there is sufficient protection. Natural England supports this recommendation.</p> <p>Multi-functional green infrastructure is important to underpin the overall sustainability of a development by performing a range of functions including flood risk management, the provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and supporting biodiversity. An example of a green infrastructure provision is sustainable drainage systems. These can deliver benefits for people and for wildlife and make a valuable contribution to the local green infrastructure network. Actions such as re-</p>	<p>There are no SSSIs in the NPA. However, there are two located adjacent to the boundary. The SSSIs are afforded sufficient protection within NPPF and the emerging SDP. It is therefore considered that it is not required within the NCNP.</p> <p>The Parish Council notes the comments and acknowledges the importance that green infrastructure can play in helping to combat climate change and support biodiversity within the NPA.</p> <p>There are a number of references to Green Infrastructure within the NP as acknowledged in the consultee comments.</p> <p>The Parish Council consider that the emerging SWDP which includes Policy SWDP5: Green</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure: We note that there are several policies which cover aspects of green infrastructure, for example in in Policy NCD1: Development and Design (p56). We would advise including a separate policy solely on green infrastructure which includes principles to protect existing green infrastructure within the boundary of the plan area and to promote creation of new green infrastructure if new development proposals come forward. Such green infrastructure could include protection and</p>			<p>Amend Policy NCLE4 to refer to Green Infrastructure.</p>

<p>creation of traditional orchards, woodland and wildlife corridors and other environmental assets in the area to preserve and expand the existing ecosystem network. You may find it helpful to refer to the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2018.</p>	<p>naturalising watercourses can also bring multifunctional benefits, including benefiting flood attenuation. Woodland planting can also help mitigate flooding, see Woodland for Water: Woodland measures for meeting Water Framework Directive objectives for further information. Research indicates that green roofs/living roofs can reduce run-off and thereby the risk of surface water flooding; reducing the requirement for heating and air-conditioning; and providing habitat for wildlife. Further information can be found here: http://livingroofs.org/.</p> <p>Proposals may present opportunities to incorporate features such as roosting opportunities for bats, the installation of bird nest boxes or the use of native species in the landscape planting and we advise including within a green infrastructure policy the requirement for ecological enhancements.</p> <p>We advise including policy to protect specifically priority habitat (for example the traditional orchards, wood pasture and parkland and deciduous woodland) and other environmental assets in the area to preserve the existing ecosystem network.</p>	<p>Infrastructure provides a sufficient policy basis and justification for the provision of Green Infrastructure associated with new residential developments.</p> <p>The Parish Council has no additional evidence that they consider adds to or provides a more local context to Policy SWDP5.</p> <p>However, the Parish Council could amend Policy NCLE4 to include Green Infrastructure as well as Green Space. This would follow the emerging SWDP with the link between policies SWDP5: Green Infrastructure and SWDP38: Green Space.</p>	
<p>SC008</p> <p>Green Infrastructure: Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership: The Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Team at Worcester County Council is a lead member of the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure (GI Partnership) and provides its secretariat. The GI Partnership includes the statutory agencies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations such as Worcester Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>We are happy to note that the neighbourhood plan picks up on the Green Infrastructure principles such as landscape character, biodiversity, historic environment and access and recreation in relation to new developments.</p> <p>Policy NCLE6 – Trees and Woodland Development: We would like to add that mature and biodiversity rich hedgerows should also be protected and where not possible replaced as part of the site design. Hedgerows can be inhabited by various species and are an important part of green infrastructure networks.</p>		<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. The policy already refers to hedges but the Parish Council agree that it could be strengthened as suggested.</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>Amend Policy NCLE6 to refer to mature and biodiversity rich hedgerows.</p>

<p>Hedgerows can also define the historic landscape character of an area and the policy could be amended to take this into account.</p> <p>Highways: Worcestershire County Council Highways welcomes the opportunity to comment on the emerging North Claines Neighbourhood Plan and is pleased to lend its broad support to the aims, objectives and policies set out in this document.</p>		Noted.	No change.
<p>Policy NCRE1 – Fernhill Heath Village Centre: Worcestershire County Council Highways recognises the neighbourhood plan's aspiration to provide traffic calming measures in this area. However, given that Droitwich Road (A38) is a contingent part of the Worcestershire's Principal Road Network, many traditional traffic calming measures (road narrowing, chicanes, speed cushions, raised tables, etc.) are unlikely to be deemed suitable for this location, so options to provide traffic calming may be limited.</p> <p>Para. 7.36 – Fernhill Heath Rail Based Park and Ride Facility: Worcestershire County Council Highways notes the aspiration for a rail based Park and Ride facility within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The County Council will consider this potential scheme for inclusion in the next refresh of the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan, subject to a suitable business case being identified to support investment.</p>		Noted. It is the Parish Council's intention to develop a scheme(s) in consultation with the public and stakeholders for the Droitwich Road to enable this policy to be implemented and delivered.	No change.
<p>Worcestershire County Council Highways supports the approach of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan not to identify a potential scheme within statutory policy at present, until a robust business case has been identified which sets out the potential deliverability of any scheme. Worcestershire County Council Highways will be in touch should this be the case, as this may present an opportunity to update the plan in future.</p>		Noted.	No change.
<p>Para. 7.39: It should be noted that Centro has no jurisdiction in Worcestershire. It is also recommended that passenger transport operator names (London Midland) are not referenced in the plan, as these are subject to change during the intended plan period.</p>	<p>Worcestershire County Council Transport Strategy recommends the following re-wording of this paragraph, to ensure longevity:</p> <p>7.39: <i>'The Parish Council will work with key stakeholders including the rail industry, the County Council and local landowners in support of this aspiration.'</i></p>	Noted and accepted.	Amend as suggested.

<p>Prospects for a railway station in the North Claines Parish area: Worcestershire County Council Highways welcomes the support put forward in the consultation document for a new railway station in the North Claines area.</p>	<p>However, the Worcestershire County Council Highways considers it may be worthwhile for the final parish plan to recognise within the text that it may take some years to develop this railway station and that there are many design processes, financial processes and railway safety and planning related processes to go through before the station could be built. If the consultation period demonstrates further support from the community for this proposal then it would be worthwhile for the Parish Council to include a further policy – NCT5 that sets out this aspiration as currently none of Policies NCT1 to NCT4 name the railway station as an aspiration of the Parish community.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Amend text to Para. 7.39 as suggested. Add policy for the provision of the Fernhill Health rail based Park and Ride facility.</p>
<p>Flood Risk Management: We are happy that the plan will cover flood risk and SUDs to a satisfactory standard. We have no other comments to make on this matter.</p> <p>Education: Children’s Services (of Worcestershire Local Authority) wish to provide the following response to the proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note for clarity there are 2 local authority maintained schools within North Claines, namely, Hindlip CE First School and Claines CE Primary School. • There are 3 further schools of which Kings Hawford and RGS The Grange are independent prep schools and, The River School which is an independent Christian school for children ages 3 – 16. • The catchment area of Claines CE Primary School is contained primarily within the Parish of North Claines extending in part to the city boundary of Worcester (Item 7.82). • The catchment area of Hindlip CE First School covers 3 parishes in part, but not in their entirety, of North Claines, Martin Hussington and Salwarpe (Item 7.82). • The Local Authority recognises that any additional or increased housing growth will place additional pressure on school places (Item 7.83). • The Local Authority recognises the need to provide sufficient school places for in area pupils seeking places at local primary/first schools (Item 7.83). • The Local Authority recognises the aspirations contained in the plan (Item 7.81 – 7.85). 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Add Paras. 4.14 – 4.15 to highlight school provision and catchment areas. Add to Para. 4.52 the views of the LEA and the schools in relation to provision and capacity.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposals contained within Items 7.84 – 7.86 would be subject to further extensive consultation with all stakeholders. The Local Authority recognises that a suggested site has been put forward for a replacement school site. Any proposals or suggested sites would be subject to a full consultation with the local community and education providers prior to any site(s) being confirmed. Any proposals would be subject to securing appropriate funding. 			
<p>Public Rights of Way: We are pleased to see that the plan recognises the value of the local public rights of way network.</p>	Noted.	N/A	No change.
<p>Minerals and Waste Planning Policy: We are pleased to note that the Waste Core Strategy and Minerals Local Plan are recognised in Paragraph 1.2 as part of the Development Plan for the area. However, we are concerned by the statement in Paragraph 1.3 that they are 'not relevant'. Whilst it is true that as County Matters, minerals and waste developments are 'excluded development' under Section 61 of the Localism Act, meaning that the neighbourhood plan and any development orders are not able to make provision for minerals or waste development in that area, it is important that the whole neighbourhood plan is in conformity with the development plan as a whole, and does not conflict with the provisions of the Waste Core Strategy or Minerals Local Plan.</p>	Noted and accepted.	We would suggest that to remedy this Paragraph 1.3 should be amended to read 'The latter two have less direct relevance, as minerals and waste matters are outside the remit of neighbourhood planning, but their provisions have been considered in the development of this plan to ensure no conflict occurs'. We also recommend that a footnote be added to the bullet point in Paragraph 1.2 for the Minerals Local Plan stating that 'A new Minerals Local Plan is being prepared for Worcestershire and is expected to be adopted in 2018'.	Amend as suggested.
<p>Safeguarding a mineral resource does not create a presumption that resources defined will be worked, and is not an absolute bar on other forms of development, but consideration will need to be given to ensure minerals are not needlessly sterilised. This has been considered for the site allocations proposed in the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).</p> <p>We do not think the policies proposed in the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan need to be amended, as the minerals safeguarding policies are contained elsewhere in the Development Plan, but it would be useful for them to be recognised perhaps under Land Use Designations in Section 4 as they have potential implications for other forms of development.</p>	Noted and accepted.	Recognised Minerals Safeguarding Areas in Section 4.	Add text on Minerals Safeguarding Areas to Section 4.
			Add Policy section to Appendix in the NP.

<p>Waste Core Strategy: Geographic Hierarchy: Settlements within Worcestershire perform different waste management functions. The geographic hierarchy takes into account current waste arisings, resource demand and existing waste management capacity of each settlement. The settlements which have a major role to play are in the top levels (level 1 is the highest level) and those which have only a minor role in the bottom levels (level 5 is the lowest level).</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Add waste management facilities to Section 4.</p>
<p>North Claines Parish is almost entirely in Level 1 which is the highest level of the geographic hierarchy in which waste management facilities are most likely to be developed. There is also a small area of the Parish in Level 5 which is the lowest level of the geographic hierarchy, meaning any proposals for waste management development in that part of the Parish would need to be strongly justified.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	
<p>There are no specific site allocations for waste management facilities in the Waste Core Strategy as a whole or in the North Claines Parish in particular. However, the Parish Council should be aware that proposals for waste management facilities could be acceptable within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	
<p>Policy WCS5 – Landfill and Disposal: The explanatory text supporting Policy WCS5 states that 'excavation activities, a normal part of the construction process, can result in considerable arisings of subsoils. In some cases, this type of waste can usefully be re-used for purposes such as ... landscaping, levelling of sites, the construction of bunds, embankments or features for noise attenuation. However, to prevent inappropriate development, these kinds of proposals will be considered against Policy WCS5: Landfill and Disposal. The decision on whether proposals are a form of disposal will be guided by the Environment Agency's advice (currently set out in 'Defining Waste Recovery: Permanent Deposit of Waste on Land' Regulatory Guidance Series No. RGN13'). (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rq-n-13-defining-waste-recovery-permanent-deposit-of-waste-on-land).</p>	<p>We consider that this is addressed to some degree by Policy NCD1 'Development and Design Principles' but could be strengthened by the addition of a bullet point to the policy requiring Design and Access Statements to address 'disposal of excavated materials'.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Add to bullet point on landscape quality and biodiversity under Policy NCD1.</p>
<p>A web tool has been developed to support this policy (available through the Waste Core Strategy webpage www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs) which</p>	<p>It would be worth acknowledging the need to consult with businesses based at the adjacent Blackpole Trading Estate in Paragraph 7.39.</p>	<p>Noted and accepted.</p>	<p>Add the need to consult with local businesses.</p>

<p>will help the Parish Council and any developers to establish whether there are any waste management facilities within 250m and if so, the provisions of this policy should be applied.</p> <p>At present, there are no waste management facilities within North Claines Parish. However, there is a waste management site at Blackpole Trading Estate. The web tool shows that the 250m buffer around this site just reaches the Parish boundary, adjacent to the site highlighted on the NCNP Key Diagram as an area for a potential rail based park and ride site.</p>			
<p>WCD17 – Making Provision for Waste in all New Development: We are very pleased to note that the need for integration of bin stores and recycling facilities is recognised in Policy NCD2. This conforms to the requirements of Waste Core Strategy Policy WCS17.</p>	<p>For clarity, perhaps the first bullet point of Paragraph 7.75 could be amended to refer to bin stores and recycling facilities being easily accessible for 'occupants' rather than 'residents', such that the policy would apply equally to non-residential development.</p>	<p>Noted and accepted.</p>	<p>Amend 'residents' to 'occupants'</p>

NON-STATUTORY CONSULTTEE RESPONSES

ID	COMMENT	SUGGESTED CHANGE	NCPNPC RESPONSE	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
NSC001	<p>6.6/7.82/7.84/7.85: We agree that there is a need for a new school with higher capacity, as the existing schools are at overcapacity and unable to expand. We agree that locating the school within an education, health and community hub would be of huge benefit to the community. However consideration needs to be made of the fact that Claines and Hindlip Schools are part of two different education systems. Hindlip is a First School serving children aged 4-9 which feeds the 3 tier system in Droitwich. Claines is a Primary School serving children aged 4-11 which feeds the 2 tier Worcester system. The knock on effect for the Middle Schools in Droitwich would need to be considered if Hindlip were to become a Primary School. There may be a detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of the wider community of schools in Droitwich.</p>	<p>A new and higher capacity school to expand Hindlip CE First School on a new site alongside a community hub, after rigorous consultation with heads, governors, the local authority, the Diocese and the local community.</p>	<p>The Parish Council notes and welcomes the comments in relation to education provision. The Parish Council would welcome a discussion with all relevant stakeholders on the future of education provision for the Parish and adjacent catchment areas.</p>	<p>The location for the education, health and community hub on the Key Diagram is to be deleted. However, the plan will reiterate the need for improvements to education provision.</p>
NSC002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement that there is a need for additional school places/footprint due to overcapacity and physical restriction on space at Hindlip • Creation of a village community hub which includes a school and recreational space (shared recreation pitches) is a positive idea for the community • Creation of a new Hindlip CE First school with increased capacity and space would be welcomed. If this were to be on the proposed site, consideration would be needed on the catchment areas as the proposed site is not in our current catchment area • Hindlip and Claines schools belong to 2 different education systems. Hindlip caters for children aged 4-9 and feeds into the 3 tier Droitwich system. Claines caters for children aged 4-11 and feeds into the 2 tier Worcester system. The plan does not detail whether the new school would be a First school or Primary school as this will have an impact on the education system being followed by children upon leaving • Hindlip is a small school with Outstanding judgements from both OFSTED and the Diocese and is significantly oversubscribed. The creation of one school will result in a 	<p>Specific detailed consultation with Hindlip, Tibberton and Claines schools, and the Diocese of Worcester, to understand all the implications and options available with regards to any proposed new school within the Parish prior to issuance of further plans or decisions are made.</p>	<p>The Parish Council notes and welcomes the comments in relation to education provision. The Parish Council would welcome a discussion with all relevant stakeholders on the future of education provision for the Parish and adjacent catchment areas.</p>	<p>The location for the education, health and community hub on the Key Diagram is to be deleted. However, the plan will reiterate the need for improvements to education provision.</p>

NSCO 03	<p>large school with 3 form entry which may have an issue on parental choice as there will no longer be any small schools in Fernhill Heath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindlip is currently federated with Tibberton CE First School which is also an Outstanding school. If the proposed new school significantly alters to type and nature of Hindlip this will have a significant impact on Tibberton. If the new school is a Primary this will have a negative impact on the Middle schools in Droitwich as children will feed into the 2 tier Worcester system instead. 	<p>Therefore we would urge you to consider including policies within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State categorically that further development of the Dilmore Lane site will not be supported. That a future Green Belt Review by the South Worcestershire councils will be supported. That should a housing need arise again in the area that the land fronting Droitwich Road site would be supported over and above alternatives such as Dilmore Lane. 	<p>The Parish Council notes the comments from the landowner and would make the following response to the suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy NCH1: New Residential Development states that proposals for further new residential development beyond the existing settlement boundaries than the SWDP allocations and the approved scheme at Kennels Lane will not be supported. Paragraph 4.38 – 4.40 refers to the Green Belt and some of the community's views on the need for additional Green Belt to the north of the village. It also refers at Para. 4.40 to the wish for the Parish Council to be engaged in the process of a Green Belt Review should the combined authorities consider there is a need to release Green Belt land to meet objectively assessed housing needs for the combined area. We are unable to support this as no exercise has been undertaken with the community to ascertain their views on this site as against other potential alternatives. There has been no objections to proposing the allocation of land at Sling Lane/Old Drive within the Neighbourhood Plan. Furthermore, undeveloped land within the NPA that fronts Droitwich Road is all within the Green Belt and there would need to be a strategic review of the Green Belt across the three authorities. 	No change.
	<p>We have long promoted the land fronting Droitwich Road as a more suitable and viable alternative to the South Worcestershire Development Plan allocation at Dilmore Lane. The Droitwich Road site has many advantages over the Dilmore Lane site- not least the superior access arrangements. It is apparent that this site is a more suitable site for development in Fernhill Heath and appeared to have more support from the local community than the Dilmore Lane site and only an arbitrary green belt designation has prevented the site coming forward instead of the Dilmore Lane site.</p> <p>It is understood that the community has always opposed the Dilmore Lane allocation on the basis of its inadequate access arrangements and the consequences that these access arrangements will have on the road network in the village. The community have also expressed a desire that the village of Fernhill Heath does not take any more housing than is necessary. However with the recent Appeal allowed for the Kennels Lane development it is evident that a) there is a continued demand for increased housing numbers within Wychavon as a whole and b) Fernhill Heath is seen by both the Local Authority and the Planning Inspectorate as an acceptable location for it.</p> <p>Given only a portion of the original Dilmore Lane proposal has been allocated and we believe that there is a genuine danger that, should a need for housing in Wychavon emerge later on in the plan period, more of the site will be approved for further housing. This would of course again be contrary to the community's wishes and would</p>			

NSC0 04	<p>result in hundreds of new homes being built in an inappropriate location.</p> <p>We believe that the Neighbourhood Plan can however begin to engineer a situation whereby any future development in the area, <u>if required</u>, would not take place at Dilmore Lane but rather at Land fronting Droitwich Road. This would have the dual benefits of the housing being located somewhere with suitable access whilst being able to help support the provision of a new school in Fernhill Heath. In order to do so however there would have to be a review of the green belt by the local councils otherwise the Land fronting Droitwich Road site will continue to be disregarded and future development in the area will be directed to Dilmore Lane, with the associated problems that brings.</p>	Remove the proposed green space designation.	<p>The Parish Council note the comments and the Club's position in relation to needing funding to ensure the future of the building and the Club.</p> <p>The Parish Council are concerned about the future sustainability of this important community facility. The War Memorial Hall is used by a number of groups and has a relatively large membership from within the NPA. It is considered that the development of the former allotments provides an opportunity to modernise the facility and ensure that it has facilities that provide greater community benefit in the future.</p> <p>It is understood that there are available allotments within close proximity of the NPA. According to Worcester City Council's website the three nearest allotments; Perdiswell/Droitwich Road; Old Northwick Lane and Northwick Road have a total of 3 no. full plots and 11 no. half plots vacant (as at February 2015).</p> <p>The Parish Council sought, through an article in the Summer 2015 Parish Focus, to see if there was demand for allotments in the area. This generated three interested enquiries, there was a total of 9 no. enquiries.</p> <p>This demand could be accommodated on the vacant plots within Worcester City. In addition, the proposed amenity green space at Sling Lane could potentially provide allotment space should there be sufficient demand in the future. There is also to be provision of allotments at the Gwilliam's Farm housing allocation which could also go towards satisfying both existing and future demand.</p>	Remove greenspace designation on the Key Diagram.
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<p>NSCO 05</p>	<p>Park to continue and the facility of the Chatterbox Play Garden would be accommodated. The proceeds of the sale would be reinvested into much needed repair and modernisation to the Memorial Hall and the Club. Any remaining finance would be retained and invested to enable the financial security of the Hall and Club for the benefit of future generations. The Club does not have the funds to do this modernisation. The amount of needed finance can only be achieved from funds raised from land sale.</p> <p>If the Green Space status of this plot of land is upheld, we therefore ask the North Claines Parish Council to reconsider this status, whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is in consultation and ask them to consider the following points when reaching a decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land will not be returned to allotment plots. • This land is privately owned without any public access or footpaths. • The land is of no use for grazing animals, other chickens or pigs. Would this be acceptable so close to houses and a school? • The land has no scientific, historic or natural beauty features. • There will be a very high risk of fly-tipping and possibly travellers. Very close monitoring would have to be observed. • The site will become an overgrown disused eyesore and of no benefit to anyone. • The land could be tastefully developed as infill without infringing further on the outskirts of the village. • The Memorial Hall and Club would be much improved and financially secure for the future to be enjoyed by the whole of the community. <p>To meet the requirements of the Framework and the Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions, Neighbourhood Plans should be prepared to conform to up-to-date strategic policy requirements set out in Local Plans. Where an up-to-date Local Plan has been adopted and is in place for the wider authority area, it is the strategic policy requirements set out in this document that a Neighbourhood Plan should seek to support and meet. When a Local Plan is emerging or is yet to be found sound at</p>	<p>The NCNP will therefore need to allow for a sufficient degree of flexibility and adaptability in order to allow the plan to respond rapidly to changes in the market.</p>	<p>The Parish Council note the comments and respond as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of examples of neighbourhood plans being adopted and successfully used in advance of the adoption of a new Local Plan. • We believe that the neighbourhood plan is in conformity with the strategic policies of both the WDLP and the emerging SWDP whilst complying with the NPPF. It therefore meets 	<p>No change.</p>
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	<p>Examination, there will be lack of certainty over what scale of development a community must accommodate or the direction the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan should take. The current Local Plan for Wychavon District consists of the Saved Wychavon Local Plan policies. The adopted Local Plan policies predate the approach to plan making required by the Framework which requires assessments on the relevant housing market and land availability. We note that Wychavon District Council are preparing a joint Local Plan with Worcester City and Malvern Hills, together this forms the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). This document is still in the process of Examination. Therefore, there is no strategic policies confirmed in an up-to-date and adopted Local Plan to which the NCNP can be based or tested against. Although the Neighbourhood Plan PPG indicates that Neighbourhood Plans can be advanced before an up-to-date Local Plan is in place, we would strongly question the ability to progress a Neighbourhood Plan on this basis. If a Neighbourhood Plan is progressed prior to an up-to-date Local Plan being prepared, or the strategic policies and development requirements set out in an emerging Local Plan change, then the work on the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be abortive. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot be consistent with the requirements of the Framework or meet the Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions if it is progressed on a development plan that is out-of-date.</p>		<p>these Basic Conditions. This will be set out in the Basic Conditions Statement which will be submitted with the Submission Version of the NP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The emerging SWDP and has been through Examination and has been subject to proposed main modifications consultation. The Inspector's report is due shortly. It has therefore progressed through to the final stages of plan-making and should be adopted shortly. Should the strategic policies or development requirements set out in the SWDP change then the NP states at Para. 9.7 that it would be subject to review. 	
	<p>Whilst the vision and objectives portrays a seemingly positive vision, it is clear that the approach taken through a number of the NCNP's policies will actively restrict the delivery of future sustainable growth being delivered outside those sites which have been allocated for development. The NCNP does not allow for the flexible use of land and therefore cannot be considered to be positively prepared.</p>	<p>We submit that the NCNP will need to be reviewed and redrafted in light of the issues presented throughout these representations prior to the plan being submitted under Regulation 15.</p>	<p>The Parish Council disagree that the NP is not flexible and has not been positively prepared. It promotes, within acknowledged land use constraints such as the Green Belt, sustainable development. It put forward additional development opportunities beyond the SWDP with the objective of making the NPA a more sustainable place to live, work and visit. The NPA provides for at least 505 dwellings through allocations and commitments. Thus the NPA will provide an average 25 dpa over the plan period. This is a significant contribution to housing supply and delivery and does not include for windfall sites during the plan period.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

<p>Policy NCH1 – New Residential Development: The above policy allocates land for housing provision. Proposals for further new residential development beyond the existing settlement boundaries, within the green belt or in the open countryside, will not be supported.</p> <p>We object to the use of this policy as it would effectively preclude the delivery of sustainable growth opportunities from coming forward, counter to the national growth objective which seeks to significantly boost the supply of housing and the presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>Furthermore, distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of national and locally designated sites. The use of open countryside in this regard effectively seeks to apply blanket designation of Green Belt, this is not in accordance with national policy and does not meet the stringent tests expected by the Framework (exceptional circumstances).</p> <p>This policy does not reflect the positive approach required by the Framework to allow the flexible use of land. In this regard, it is considered appropriate to delete Policy NCH1 in its current form as it is inconsistent with basic conditions (a), (d) and (e) and replace it with a criteria based policy consistent with the requirements of national policy.</p> <p>Policy NCH3 – Housing Mix: This policy requires applicants to demonstrate how their proposals meet local housing needs in the form of a Local Housing Provision Statement.</p> <p>This policy essentially requires an applicant to demonstrate what the housing need for the neighbourhood plan area is together with how their proposals meet this need.</p> <p>Policy NCH4 – Affordable Housing: This policy will be dealt with at the strategic level, as this policy merely repeats the standards set out in Policy SWDP15 its adds nothing further to planning policy and should therefore be deleted.</p> <p>Policy NCH4 – Green Space: This policy relates to the proposed Local Green Space and Amenity Green Spaces. It is our view that both of these are entirely different forms of open space. We take this opportunity to inform the Parish Council that the allocation of Local Green Space should be consistent with the requirements of paragraph</p>	<p>We submit that the following wording better reflects the requirements of the Framework:</p> <p><i>‘When considering development proposals, the Parish Council will take a positive approach to new development that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. Development adjacent to the existing settlement boundaries will be permitted provided that the adverse impacts do not significant and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of development.’</i></p>	<p>The Parish Council disagree with this comment and the suggested change. The NP includes the proposed allocations within the emerging SWDP and, in conformity with both the NPPF and SWDP, additional allocations for new residential in sustainable locations and of an appropriate scale and size to the NPA. This cannot be considered restrictive or not positive in terms of delivering sustainable growth and housing supply. The emerging SWDP process looked at additional sites within the NPA as part of the work on the OAHN and concluded that no additional sites in the NPA were needed.</p> <p>We will amend the allocations/designations on the Key Diagram to distinguish those in which are national and locally designated.</p>	<p>Change Key Diagram to distinguish national and local designations.</p>
<p>Policy NCH3 – Housing Mix: This policy requires applicants to demonstrate how their proposals meet local housing needs in the form of a Local Housing Provision Statement.</p> <p>This policy essentially requires an applicant to demonstrate what the housing need for the neighbourhood plan area is together with how their proposals meet this need.</p>	<p>Instead, the NCNP should be consistent with the evidence provided by the Council’s most up-to-date SHMA assessment.</p>	<p>The Parish Council notes the comment. In response to other comments on this policy the NP will be amended to include reference to the PC’s intention to instruct the production of Local Housing Needs Survey to provide a more locally derived picture of need for the NPA. Applicants will need to demonstrate their proposals against the results of this Survey.</p>	<p>Supporting text amended and policy amended to reflect LHNS and SHMA as the evidence base.</p>
<p>Policy NCH4 – Affordable Housing: This policy will be dealt with at the strategic level, as this policy merely repeats the standards set out in Policy SWDP15 its adds nothing further to planning policy and should therefore be deleted.</p>	<p>Delete the policy.</p>	<p>The Parish Council note the comment and other similar comments on this policy.</p>	<p>Delete policy.</p>
<p>Policy NCH4 – Green Space: This policy relates to the proposed Local Green Space and Amenity Green Spaces. It is our view that both of these are entirely different forms of open space. We take this opportunity to inform the Parish Council that the allocation of Local Green Space should be consistent with the requirements of paragraph</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Parish Council note the comments and respond as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Key Diagram shows the location of the greenspaces in the NPA. This will be amended to show a distinction between LGS and AGS sites. 	<p>Amend Key Diagram to distinguish LGS and AGS sites. Amend Appendix E and F to provide site references and map showing locations. Evidence provided to demonstrate the designation of The Brum as an LGS.</p>

<p>76 of the Framework, which states 'Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Space should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.' Further guidance is provided at paragraph 77 of the Framework, which states 'The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the green space is in reasonable close proximity to the community it serves; • Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and • Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land. <p>The Parish Council have not provided any substantial evidence for those areas which have been identified so far or a policy map to identify where these proposed areas are located in order to meet the tests set out above. We draw the Parish Councils attention to the Examiner's Report to the Stretton Neighbourhood Plan published in March 2015. The Examiner states that the policy for Local Green Space required robust justification which had not been provided and therefore recommended that the policy be deleted from the plan.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix E and F provide a list of the sites proposed for LGS and AGS designation. A map and reference numbers will be added to clarify the location of these sites. • In response to other comments the supporting text will clarify the distinction between the two designations. • Information will be provided to justify the proposed designation of The Brum as an LGS in line with NPPF requirements. 	
<p>Policy NCLF5 – Local Nature Conservation Assets: Sufficient weight is already afforded to Local Nature Conservation Sites by the protection provided by national planning policy. We therefore recommend the deletion of this policy.</p>	<p>Delete the policy.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect non-designated sites. These are listed at Appendix G of the NP.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Policy NCLF6 – Trees and Woodland and Development: Whilst new development will often provide appropriate compensatory measures for the loss of any natural assets, the standards applied to this policy are not borne from any robust evidence or justification. We take this opportunity to inform the Parish Council that any contributions must be in conformity with</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Parish Council notes the comments.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

<p>paragraph 204 of the Framework which requires developers to mitigate the impacts of development not to provide for unrelated items.</p>	<p>Policy NCD3 – Sustainable Design: Policy 6 implements a series of design measures which we consider to be too prescriptive in detail and requires measures to meet energy efficiency standards.</p> <p>The written statement to parliament (dated 27th March 2015) makes clear that qualifying bodies preparing neighbourhood plans should not set in their emerging Neighbourhood Plans, any additional local technical standards or requirements relating to the construction, internal layout or performance of new developments. Furthermore, the written statement also makes clear that the optional new national technical standards should only be undertaken through an emerging Local Plan based on a clear up-to-date assessment of need. Neighbourhood Plans should not be used to apply the new national technical standards. If this policy is progressed to Examination it will likely be found inconsistent with basic conditions (a), (d) and (e) and the Plan will be unable to proceed to Referendum.</p>	<p>Plan Monitoring and Review: It is apparent from the text contained at paragraphs 9.1 – 9.8 that the Parish Council intend to review the NCNP on a 5 year review cycle. We take this opportunity to inform the Parish Council that this approach is inconsistent with the requirements of national planning policy as there is no legislative framework in place to which a review of a neighbourhood plan can occur, this can only be achieved through its whole scale replacement.</p> <p>The NCNP therefore needs to be examined with the plan period as it is presented ending in 2030. A review of the NCNP can only be achieved through its whole scale re-adoption and will require the Parish Council to undertake all relevant regulation stages contained in Schedule 4b and will attract all pre-submission, submission, post submission consultation, examination and referendum requirements.</p> <p>The way the Parish Council have approached its intention to review the Plan fundamentally misleads members of the public who are to comment upon it through this consultation and vote upon its content at referendum if it is progressed further.</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>We recommend that the Parish Council take this opportunity to withdraw the plan and undertake a fundamental overhaul to the development strategy in order to ensure a flexible and positive approach going forward is achieved in order for the plan to meet the basic conditions.</p>
<p>The policy does not specify specific measures to meet energy efficiency standards or additional local technical standards or requirements relating to the construction, internal layout or performance of new developments. It is therefore considered to comply with the NPPF.</p>	<p>No change.</p>	<p>The Parish Council disagree with the suggested change.</p> <p>Amendments have been made to this section in light of other consultee responses.</p> <p>Adopted neighbourhood plans include a section for monitoring and review. It is considered entirely appropriate within the context of the plan-making process to include some detail on how the NP is to be monitored and when a review of the plan would take place.</p> <p>It is accepted that when the plan is reviewed it would need to go through the regulation stages contained in Schedule 4b unless there has been legislative changes in the meantime.</p>
<p>No change.</p>	<p>No change.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

			<p>The Parish Councils predisposition to review the Neighbourhood Plan is not a sound approach to plan preparation and as such cannot be considered to be positively prepared.</p>
NSC006	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.	<p>I act for the Trustees of the Fernhill Heath War Memorial Club ('the Club'). The Trustees understand that North Claines Parish Council may have included in their neighbourhood plan the land previously used as an allotment, at the rear of my client's property as public open space. I would be grateful if you would kindly confirm whether this is indeed the case. The land was included with other land in a Conveyance dated 17 January 1972 when the Club first purchased it.</p> <p>The reason for my enquiry is that the Trustees are in negotiations with a party interested in acquiring part of the land to provide new homes for the village. The land is question is no longer used as allotments and is otherwise likely to become waste ground. My clients are already having to take steps to avoid travellers using the land by erecting, at their own cost, gates to the car park. It may also be of concern to my clients and indeed the community that if they do not obtain funds from selling the land then the upkeep of the Club will be at risk including the car park currently used by parents of the adjoining school to drop off their children.</p> <p>My clients would therefore be grateful if careful consideration can be given to these important factors before any amendment is considered to the neighbourhood plan.</p>
	See response to NSC004.	See response to NSC004.	
		N/A.	

NON RESIDENT AND UNKNOWN RESPONSES

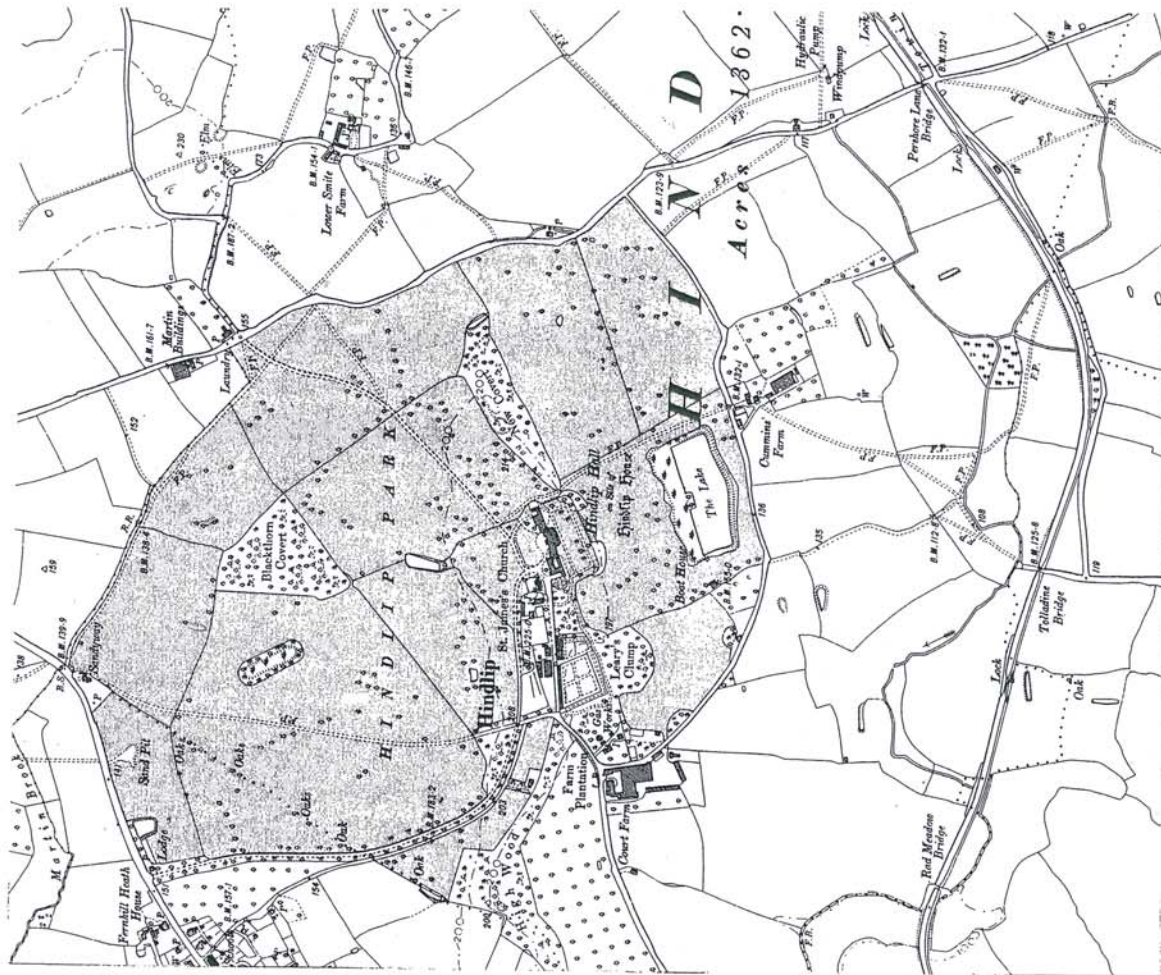
ID	COMMENT	SUGGESTED CHANGE	NCPNPC RESPONSE	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
NR001	Object to the proposed status of local green space to the FHDWMC land.	Remove the proposed green space designation.	See response to NSC004	See response to NSC004
UK001	I cannot open the plan – it doesn't appear to be working.	N/A	The website was operational in advance of the plan being uploaded. However, the plan was available from the start of the consultation period.	N/A
UK002	This looks like a lot of work has gone into the plan. Well done to all those involved.	N/A	Noted.	N/A
UK003	Housing: Although I can see the rationale for additional housing in Fernhill Heath I'm very concerned to see a corresponding increase in community facilities. I'm not seeing any plans for non-convenience store outlets such as hairdressers or coffee shops. Additionally, this is likely to be compounded should Tesco choose to redevelop the Bull Inn into another convenience store. This will have the effect of reducing the community social facilities at a time when the local population is increasing. I would really recommend that this proposal is reviewed to see what can be done here.	N/A	The NP provides a number of policies in relation to this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy NCRE1: Fernhill Heath Village Centre seeks to support retail, social and community services uses within the village. • Policy NCE1: Community Infrastructure seeks to protect existing important local community assets. 	No change.
UK004	Para. 7.66 – 7.77, etc.: Regarding nature conservation there are general statements about mitigation and enhancing; and very positive suggestions on tree planting. It strikes me that if detail is required separate headings should consider 1 Hedgerows: generally protecting, enhancing and CREATING new hedges as wildlife corridors when opportunities arise eg. for protected species such as bats, noteworthy species in the area such as hedgehogs and increasing rare mammals such as stoats and weasels. Regarding nature conservation there are general statements about mitigation and enhancing and very positive suggestion on tree planting. It strikes me that if detail is required separate heading should consider 2 water courses: Protecting the wildlife corridor value of these habitats for protected species such as bats and otter.		The Parish Council note and support the comments.	Add paragraphs after 7.67 to include detail on hedgerows, watercourses and grasslands.

	<p>Regarding nature conservation there are general statements about mitigation and enhancing and very positive suggestions on tree planting. It strikes me that if detail is required separate headings should consider 3 Grasslands: Although improved grasslands are of less value than ancient grasslands, efforts should be made to maintain, connect and improve and even create grasslands. This directly benefits species present in the area including small mammals, birds of prey, owls and bats.</p>			
	<p>My comments all link to enhancing nature conservation interest in the plan. I have many years of experience in this field and am happy to elaborate my ideas and concerns, or contribute in any way I can to the Parish. The overall plan is excellent.</p>			

APPENDIX 6.1

HINDLIP PARK LOCALLY IMPORTANT HISTORIC PARK AND GARDEN

OS 1905, 29 SW : Hindlip Hall



Site Name : HINDLIP HALL

SMR Ref. :
Other Ref. :

Civil Parish : North Claines ; Hindlip

Site Type : Park;Garden

Site No. : 132

Eccles. Parish : Claines

Grid Ref. : SO 882 583

Cross Ref. :

Earliest Date : C 17

Date Range : C 17 - C 19

Nothing remains of the 16th and 17th c. house and gardens of the Habingtons whose fortunes were devastated by involvement in Roman Catholic opposition to Elizabeth I. Hindlip suffered badly after the Battle of Worcester but Lady Habington was reinstated in her house and garden in 1655 (VCH, 3, 1913, p.348). The old house as illus. in Nash (1, 1781, p. 558) still retained simple terraces on the s. and e. sides with gravel paths and borders of box and a few clipped yews (Pl. 1.). A 1751 map by John Dougharty junior (CRO 5403/10) shows part of an avenue towards Fernhill Heath returning down the Worcester road and an avenue is shown on Taylor's map of 1772. The property was still being listed as a principal county seat c.1800. By 1814, when the house was "in a rather ruinous state" with some of the windows blocked up and was in use as a boarding school for young ladies, the gardens are described as "all in disorder but with the home grounds affording a good idea of ancient manners" (Beauties, p. 184). A few years later, in 1822, Greenwood reports that "the house has been lately pulled down and a handsome mansion erected upon its site". This house was added to in 1867. The 1828 1st edition of the OS one inch shows a strong avenue to Fernhill Heath and ? some regular planting to the e. of the house. The principal plantations as on the 2nd edition of the OS 6 inch (1905) were also established by then.

The Hindlip gardens were considerably developed by the Allsops from 1867 (?) including the kitchen gardens and the lake.

The principal shape of the 19th-century landscape survive in the woods, e.g. Leary's Clump, New Covert, Blackthorn Covert; there are some fine trees in the centre and the park-like character of the n. part of the former landscape park remains. The old drive to the n.w. is lined with oaks and Scots Pines. The Slings has effectively absorbed the 20th c. buildings.

OS 1905, 29 SW : Hindlip Hall

LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION LETTERS OF SUPPORT

North Claines Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs C Shinner
Telephone (01905) 770226
clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Old Library Centre
65 Ombersley St East
DROITWICH SPA
Worcestershire
WR9 8QS

The Brum, Droitwich Road, Fernhill Heath

Proposed designation as a Local Green Space
in the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan

The open space on the A38 in Fernhill Heath, between Dilmore Lane and Station Road is commonly known as the Brum and is the largest and most accessible open space in the village. The site is owned by Worcestershire County Council. The Parish Council lease and manage the site to ensure that it's fit for purpose.

It consists of a playground area and field with a shelter and wooden goals for children to play football.

The playground has recently undergone a c.£70,000 refit that has seen new equipment installed suitable for both disabled and able young children as well as early years teenagers.

The field is used for a variety of purposes. Dog walkers regularly exercise their pets on the ground and dog bins are provided to ensure the site is kept safe for other users. Regular informal football games take place between residents and there is a focus on encouraging younger children to use the site to exercise and play games. Organised events are not permitted, but local sports teams sometimes use the site for training purposes.

Community wide events are also held on the Brum, particularly to mark national events such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Annually (in July) the village fete, known as 'Fun on the Brum' is held, which consists of stalls, games, children's rides, displays, events and a whole range of entertainment for the community. The majority of what is available is free for residents. The event is funded by the Parish Council.

Yours faithfully

Attached to this note is a letter of support from:
Secretary of the Fernhill Heath Women's Institute

FERNHILL HEATH WI

To: North Claines Parish Council

10th March 2016

Dear Sirs

Neighbourhood Plan Designation of the Brum - Evidence of Use

We write to demonstrate our support for The Brum playing field being retained as a public open space in the new Neighbourhood Plan.

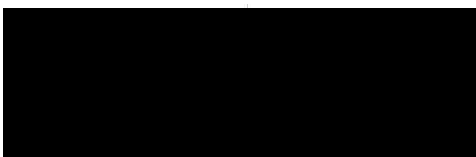
The Brum is the only public open space in Fernhill Heath and as such provides a focal point for the village. It is well used by local residents throughout the year, for games, walks and dog exercising, and the recently refurbished children's play area is extremely popular.

In addition, a number of events are held on the field each year, the most notable being 'Fun on the Brum', the hugely popular annual family event. As a WI we have supported this event for several years, often running the tea stall and an activity for children. For us this is a very important event, not only because we are able to showcase our WI and enjoy the community spirit that is always evident, but because it is one of our most important fund-raising events.

As you may be aware, the WI is a charity, and while some of our income is provided by member subscriptions, we rely on events such as this to raise the additional funds which enable us to thrive as a community organisation through an enhanced programme of events and activities.

We believe that it is of vital importance that the well used and well loved Brum playing field be retained as a focal point in our community, for the benefit of all our residents.

Yours faithfully



Karen Worboys, Secretary
Fernhill Heath WI



North Claines Parish Council

North Claines Parish Council
65 Ombersley Street East
Droitwich
WR9 8QS
clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk
01905 770226