



**Urban Vision Enterprise CIC
Biddulph Neighbourhood Development Plan
Basic Conditions Statement
December 2020**

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1. Introduction

This is a 'Basic Conditions Statement', prepared to accompany the submission of the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is being submitted by Biddulph Town Council, the qualifying body.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal contains policies relating to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and other legislation) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal states the period for which it is to have effect. This is a period until the end of 2035.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal does not deal with excluded development (mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal relates to the Biddulph Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. There are no other Neighbourhood Plans relating to that Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal meets the basic conditions set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is covered in more detail in the next part of this statement.

2. Meeting the Basic Conditions

2.1 The Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions that Neighbourhood Plans must meet are as follows:

- have appropriate regard to national policy;
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and
- be compatible with EU obligations.

The Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 set out additional basic conditions, one of which relates to neighbourhood plans, as follows:

The making of the neighbourhood development plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010⁽²⁾) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007⁽³⁾) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

It should be noted that there are no European sites in the neighbourhood area.

In addition, Neighbourhood Plans must be compatible with human rights law.

The outcome of the referendum on membership of the EU makes no immediate difference to the requirement on EU obligations, until such a time as Parliament passes relevant legislation.

3. Regard to National Policy

3.1 National Policy and Guidance

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared against the context of national policy and guidance, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

3.2 Overarching Objectives of the NPPF

The central theme of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Three overarching objectives are stated for achieving sustainable development in Paragraph 8:

- a) *an economic objective ...*
- b) *a social objective ...*
- c) *an environmental objective ...*

Paragraph 9 states:

“these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework...”

The Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan includes a range of aims and policies to achieve growth to meet local need, ensuring that such growth takes account of the local community and environment. This includes the following aims, which are delivered by the policies shown in figure 1, and which address the economic, social and environmental objectives of the NPPF.

1. Protect the rural setting and character, promoting the ‘Garden Town of Staffordshire’.
2. Identifying all local heritage structures and monuments, understanding their history, our culture and encouraging responsible tourism.
3. Promoting the local economy, aiming for prosperity for all.
4. Holding the wellbeing of our community at our core.
5. Understanding our housing needs and encouraging creative and thoughtful sustainable design.
6. Improving our infrastructure where required.
7. Caring for and enhancing the natural environment, countryside, Green Belt and open spaces, ensuring that habitats and wildlife thrive.

Figure 1: Extract policy matrix, Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan

Policy Matrix

AIMS:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Policies:							
HCT1: Enterprise and Tourism Development	√	√	√				√
LE1: Biddulph Town Centre		√	√	√	√		
LE2: Albion Mill Conversion		√	√		√		
CF1: New Community Facilities			√	√		√	
CF2: Existing Community Facilities			√	√		√	
NE1: Natural Environment Features	√	√		√			√
NE2: Urban Edge	√						√
NE3: Local Green Space	√			√			√
NE4: Biddulph Valley Way	√	√		√		√	√
NE5: Protection of Views of Local Importance	√						
HOU1: Housing			√	√	√		
HOU2: Infill Housing				√	√		
INF1: Critical Road Junctions			√	√		√	
INF2: Sustainable Drainage				√	√	√	√
INF3: Community Infrastructure	√		√	√		√	
DES1: Design	√	√	√	√	√		
DES2: Public Realm, Car Parking and Movement			√	√	√	√	

3.3 NPPF Policy Areas

The NPPF was revised in February 2019 and contains a number of policy areas. The following table details the policy areas that are most relevant to the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan against the aims and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

NPPF Policy Area	Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan	
	Aims	Policies
<p>Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</p> <p>...to support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed...</p> <p>...that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed...</p>	Aim 5	<p>Policy HOU1 seeks to ensure that identified local housing needs are addressed.</p> <p>Policy HOU2 plans positively informing future housing growth informed by good design on infill development sites.</p> <p>Policies DES1 and DES2 ensure that new homes are built to high standards of design.</p>
<p>Building a strong, competitive economy</p> <p>...planning policies should...</p> <p>...set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth...</p>	Aims 1, 2, 3 and 6	<p>Policies HCT1, LE1, and LE2 encourage and support a diverse range of commercial and tourism uses to make a resilient local economy.</p> <p>Policies CF1; CF2 and INF3 address local community infrastructure.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to accommodate growth through good connectivity in Policy DES2 and INF3.</p>
<p>Ensuring the vitality of town centres</p>	Aims 1 and 3	<p>Policies HCT1, LE1, and LE2 specifically support the vitality of Biddulph Town Centre.</p>

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<p>...planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation.</p>		
<p>Promoting healthy and safe communities</p> <p>...planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which...</p> <p>...promote social interaction...</p> <p>...are safe and accessible...</p> <p>...enable and support healthy lifestyles...</p>	<p>Aims 1, 4, 5 6 and 7</p>	<p>The plan seeks to improve a range of community and green infrastructure as well as creating safe and accessible places. (Policies CF1; CF2; NE3; NE4; INF1; INF3; DES1 and DES2).</p>
<p>Promoting sustainable transport</p> <p>...transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that...</p> <p>...the potential impacts of development on transport can be assessed...</p> <p>...opportunities from existing and proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised...</p> <p>...opportunities to promote walking, cycling, and public transport use are identified and pursued...</p> <p>...the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be</p>	<p>Aim 6</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to promote sustainable means of movement through Policy NE4 promoting non-vehicular routes and policy DES2 integrates sustainable transport methods into new developments.</p> <p>Policy INF1 highlights current critical road junctions that could be improved or addressed as part of larger scale future development proposals.</p>

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<p>identified, assessed and taken into account...</p> <p>...patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes...</p>		
<p>Making effective use of land</p> <p>... Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions...</p> <p>... encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;...</p> <p>... recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production;...</p> <p>... give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within Settlements...</p> <p>... promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings,...</p>	<p>Aims 1, 5, 6 and 7</p>	<p>The re-use of existing vacant buildings is strongly encouraged through policy LE2.</p> <p>Policy INF2 encourages sustainable drainage methods that may also provide other natural environment benefits as well as mitigating flood risk.</p> <p>Well-designed infill development is also supported through policy HOU2.</p>
<p>Achieving well-designed places</p>	<p>Aims 2, 5 and 7</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to ensure high standards of urban design are</p>

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<p>...plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable...</p> <p>...design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics...</p>		<p>achieved and that development enhances Biddulph's character (Policies LE1; NE1; NE2; NE4; NE5; HOU1; HOU2; DES1 and DES2)</p>
<p>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p> <p>...the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change...</p> <p>...it should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience...</p> <p>...encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings, and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure...</p>	<p>Aims 1, 5, 6 and 7</p>	<p>Collectively, the policies cater for growth and encourage a balanced mix of uses. At the same time, they address character and environmental quality. In addition, they address connectivity, which is essential for both domestic and employment users.</p> <p>Flooding is particularly addressed in Policy INF2; INF3 and Policy DES2 promotes sustainable transport methods.</p>
<p>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>	<p>Aim 7</p>	<p>The plan seeks protect and enhance important natural environment infrastructure and features (Policies NE1</p>

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<p>...planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment...</p>		<p>and NE4) and designates a range of Local Green Spaces (Policy NE3).</p>
<p>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</p> <p>...heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites...</p> <p>...plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets at risk through neglect, decay or other threats...</p>	<p>Aims 1 and 2</p>	<p>The plan seeks to conserve and enhance Biddulph's historic character (Policies LE2 and DES1).</p>

4. Achieving Sustainable Development

4.1 NPPF Policy on Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework incorporates a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Para. 7 states that

“the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”, and “at a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Para. 8 states:

“achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways”. These three objectives are:

- *An economic objective;*
- *A social objective; and*
- *An environmental objective.*

Para. 9 states:

“these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework”, and that “planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions”.

Para. 10 states that

“so that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development” which is described in paragraph. 11.

Para. 13 states:

“the application of the presumption has implications for the way communities engage in neighbourhood planning”, and that “neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies”.

4.2 Achieving Growth

The Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan delivers growth by:

- Encouraging new economic development (Policies HTC1; LE1 and LE2);
- Addressing identified local housing needs and encouraging sustainable locations for development (Policy HOU1 and HOU2);
- Ensuring a high-quality, well designed environment, which is essential to attracting investment and population (Policies DES1, DES2, NE1 and INF3); and
- Protecting and enhancing the local environment (Policies NE1; NE2; NE3; NE4; NE5; INF1; INF2 and INF3).

4.3 Addressing Sustainability

The Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan delivers sustainability by:

- Encouraging housing growth to cater for a growing and ageing population, whilst addressing local housing needs (Policy HOU1);
- Delivering high quality green infrastructure and preserving and enhancing key local community and environmental assets (Policies CF1; CF2; INF3; NE1; NE3; and NE4);
- Encouraging infrastructure improvements (Policies CF1; NE1; INF1; INF2; INF3 and DES2); and
- Creating well designed new developments that are sustainable (Policies LE2; CF2; NE5; HOU1; HOU2; DES1 and DES2).

5. General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

5.1 Strategic Policies

The Neighbourhood Plan will be tested against adopted strategic local policies. These policies are contained within the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan (adopted September 2020).

Strategic local policies relevant to the Biddulph NDP are as follows:

- SS1 - Development Principles
- SS2 - Settlement Hierarchy
- SS3 - Future Provision and Distribution of Development
- SS4 - Strategic Housing and Employment Land Supply
- SS6 - Biddulph Area Strategy
- SS8 - Larger Villages Area Strategy
- SS10 - Other Rural Areas Strategy
- SS12 - Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy

5.2 General Conformity

The relationship of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan to the strategic policies are considered in detail below.

SS1 Development Principles

The Neighbourhood Plan contributes positively to the social, economic and environmental improvement of the neighbourhood area through a range of policies (HTC1; LE1; LE2; CF1; NE1; NE3; NE4; HOU1; HOU2; INF2; INF3; DES1 and DES2).

SS2 Settlement Hierarchy

Policy SS2 sets the settlement hierarchy for the district through 4 tiers (towns, rural area larger villages, rural area smaller villages, other rural areas). The neighbourhood area includes Biddulph, one of the three towns, Biddulph Moor identified as a rural area larger village and the larger neighbourhood area considered under the other rural area hierarchy.

SS3 Future Provision and Distribution of Development

Policy SS3 sets out the total number of additional dwellings for the Local Plan period. Policy HOU1 in the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan, respond by identifying the types of new homes that could be delivered based on identified local need. Policy HOU2 sets clear design criteria for additional new development on infill development proposals.

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SS4 Strategic Housing and Employment Land Supply

The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to amend the level of provision but encourages a variety of types of housing through policy HOU1 and additional housing through policy HOU2 on infill sites. Policies HCT1; LE1 and LE2 aim to encourage a vibrant and diverse economy. Policy LE2 of the Neighbourhood Plan encourages the re-use of existing vacant buildings for mixed use purposes. Policy HOU2 sets clear criteria for the development of any small-scale infill residential development.

SS6 Biddulph Area Strategy

The Neighbourhood Plan responds through a range of policies. Policy HOU1 supports the development of a balanced mix of house types to meet identified housing needs. Policies CF1 and CF2 seek to protect and enhance a range of community services and facilities. Policies HCT1; LE1 and LE2 support the retention and growth of businesses in the town and policy INF1 and INF3 aim to address highway infrastructure capacity and public transport provision.

SS8 - Larger Villages Area Strategy

Biddulph Moor is one of the identified larger villages. The Neighbourhood Plan responds by safeguarding and enhancing community services and facilities in policies CF1 and CF2. Policy HOU2 seeks to integrate well-designed new development into the rural location and policy DES1 seeks to inform the design. Policies NE1 and NE3 protect natural features and assets within the area.

SS10 Other Rural Areas Strategy

Policy SS10 sets out the housing requirements for the rural areas. The Neighbourhood Plan responds through policy HOU2 which sets clear design criteria for infill development. Policy SS10 also seeks to protect and enhance other rural areas. A range of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan achieve this by protecting the natural environment, encouraging infrastructure improvements and protecting the rural character of the area. These include policies CF2; NE2; NE3; NE5; HOU1; HOU2; INF3 and DES1.

SS12 Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy

Policy SS12 sets priorities for planning obligations including the provision of on or off site infrastructure facilities. The Neighbourhood Plan responds to this through policies CF1, CF2 and INF3 identifying local infrastructure priorities.

6. Compatible with EU Obligations and Human Rights Law

6.1 Screening Outcomes

The Neighbourhood Plan was screened by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. The council found that Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required, nor would a Habitat Regulations Assessment. An extract from the Screening Assessments are included at Appendix 1.

There are no European sites within the Neighbourhood Area.

6.2 Human Rights

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is included at Appendix 2. It has indicated that the impact of the plan on protected characteristics is either neutral or positive.

The Neighbourhood Plan process has included a wide range of community engagement activities, ensuring the scope of the plan and its policies are informed by issues and themes identified by local people. Methods used included community drop-in events and open days, questionnaire, newsletters, social media and other activities. Community engagement has gone considerably beyond the scope of statutory publicity and consultation. Further details can be found in the Consultation Statement.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – SEA and HRA Screening Outcome

Screening Assessment Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment

5 Conclusions

5.1 Having taken into account the:

- Findings of the integrated SEA / SA of the emerging SMDC Local Plan.
- Findings of the assessment set out in section 4.

5.2 It is considered that the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to lead to any significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed through the environmental assessments (SEA/SA and HRA) of the emerging SMDC Local Plan. In line with regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, it is therefore considered that no further environmental assessment is required.

5.3 If the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan subsequently changes, the LPA reserves the right to reassess this screening opinion.

Screening Assessment of draft Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan - Habitats Regulations Assessment

5 Conclusions

5.1 Emerging Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan Policy NE 1 Biodiversity and Geological Resources provides protection for European sites. The Policy includes the following provision:

The biodiversity and geological resources of the District and neighbouring areas will be conserved and enhanced by positive management and strict control of development (and having regard to relevant ecological evidence) by:

1. Resisting any proposed development that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site (or successor designation) alone or in combination with other plans or projects unless it can be demonstrated that the legislative provisions to protect such sites can be fully met. Any development with a potential to adversely affect a European site/s through construction activities should ensure that Ciria construction guidelines are followed including environmental good practice on control of dust and water pollution.

5.2 The HRA undertaken of the emerging Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan concluded that the Submission Local Plan will not result in adverse effects on European sites, both alone and in combination with growth in neighbouring areas.

5.3 As a result of the assessment set out in section 4 of this report, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur as a result of the implementation of policies and proposals set out in the draft Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan.

HRA Stage 1 Screening Outcome

5.4 The draft Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan does not require further HRA work to be undertaken.

Appendix 2 - Equalities Assessment

Legal Requirements

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

An Equalities Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or policies in order to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic.

An assessment has been made on whether the Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. If the impact is negative, this is given a high, medium or low assessment. The following table describes these:

Impact	Description
High	A significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.
Medium	Some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.
Low	Almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Biddulph General Population Characteristics

Sourced from the 2011 Census key statistics the following table illustrates the age structure of the Parish residents.

Age structure

	Persons	
	Biddulph Parish	
	count	%
All usual residents	19,892	100.0
Age 0 to 4	1,082	5.4
Age 5 to 7	565	2.8
Age 8 to 9	433	2.2
Age 10 to 14	1,099	5.5
Age 15	236	1.2
Age 16 to 17	456	2.3
Age 18 to 19	424	2.1
Age 20 to 24	1,020	5.1
Age 25 to 29	943	4.7
Age 30 to 44	3,770	19.0
Age 45 to 59	4,169	21.0
Age 60 to 64	1,605	8.1
Age 65 to 74	2,292	11.5
Age 75 to 84	1,324	6.7
Age 85 to 89	298	1.5
Age 90 and over	176	0.9
Mean Age	42.8	-
Median Age	44	-

(Source: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E04009025>, accessed 2nd January 2020)

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Sourced from the 2011 Census key statistics the following table illustrates the Ethnic Groups who live in the Parish.

Ethnic group

	Persons	
	Biddulph Parish	
	count	%
All usual residents	19,892	100.0
White	19,671	98.9
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	19,493	98.0
Irish	46	0.2
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	4	0.0
Other White	128	0.6
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	115	0.6
White and Black Caribbean	51	0.3
White and Black African	8	0.0
White and Asian	37	0.2
Other Mixed	19	0.1
Asian/Asian British	77	0.4
Indian	11	0.1
Pakistani	18	0.1
Bangladeshi	0	0.0
Chinese	24	0.1
Other Asian	24	0.1
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	20	0.1
African	6	0.0
Caribbean	10	0.1
Other Black	4	0.0
Other ethnic group	9	0.0
Arab	4	0.0
Any other ethnic group	5	0.0

There are no statistics available on other protected characteristics.

(Source: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E04009025>, accessed 2nd January 2020)

Aims and Policies of the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan

The aims of the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan are:

1. Protect the rural setting and character, promoting the 'Garden Town of Staffordshire'.
2. Identifying all local heritage structures and monuments, understanding their history, our culture and encouraging responsible tourism.
3. Promoting the local economy, aiming for prosperity for all.
4. Holding the wellbeing of our community at our core.
5. Understanding our housing needs and encouraging creative and thoughtful sustainable design.
6. Improving our infrastructure where required.
7. Caring for and enhancing the natural environment, countryside, Green Belt and open spaces, ensuring that habitats and wildlife thrive.

The policies are:

- HCT1 Enterprise and Tourism Development
- LE1 Biddulph Town Centre
- LE2 Albion Mill Conversion
- CF1 New Community Facilities
- CF2 Existing Community Facilities
- NE1 Natural Environment Features
- NE2 Urban Edge
- NE3 Local Green Space
- NE4 Biddulph Valley Way
- NE5 Protection of views of local importance
- HOU1 Housing
- HOU2 Infill Housing
- INF1 Critical Road Junctions
- INF2 Sustainable Drainage
- INF3 Community Infrastructure
- DES1 Design
- DES2 Public Realm, Car Parking and Movement

Impact on Protected Characteristics

Age

The plan seeks to accommodate housing need and growth and require that housing proposals address identified local needs (Policies HOU1 and HOU2). This will help to ensure that housing provision caters for all ages, including younger people seeking housing for the first time and older people looking to downsize.

Policies HTC1 and LE1 seek to encourage the growth of enterprise and tourism uses and to make a vibrant and sustainable town centre. This will help to create new jobs for people of all ages and will help to create choice and opportunity for people who have restrictions on their mobility (including the young and the old) by improving access to town centre-based employment, goods and services and to facilities in the town centre.

Policies DES1 and DES2 require good design, including for people of a range of mobilities.

The impact on all ages will be positive.

Disability

The needs of persons who are disabled or who have limited mobility are addressed in Policies DES1 and DES2, which seek to create a well-designed and accessible environment.

Policy HOU1 requires new housing to meet local needs, Policy HTC1, LE1 and LE2 will help to enable local employment, and Policies DES1, DES2 and NE4 will enable improvement to the local environment.

Policy DES2 and INF3 encourages the provision and improved infrastructure to support improved public transport services or access too.

The impact on people with disabilities will be positive.

Maternity and Pregnancy

Key issues for women who are pregnant or who have young children are access to appropriate housing, flexible employment, and community facilities. Policies HOU1, HCT1, LE1, LE2, INF3, DES1 and DES2 address these issues.

The impact on pregnant women will be positive.

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Race

A very small proportion of the population of Biddulph are from non-white ethnic groups.

For the most part, the plan will have an equal impact on the local population regardless of race. A public realm designed with safety in mind will minimise opportunities for hate crime (there is no evidence that this is a problem in Biddulph). Policies DES1 and DES2 seek to create well designed development, which includes safety considerations.

The impact will be positive on people of all races.

Sex (Gender)

The Neighbourhood Plan contains no specific policies or proposals for any particular gender. The policies have been written to provide equal opportunity to any gender in respect of the provision of development and access to facilities.

No gender is disadvantaged by any of the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan. People will benefit equally from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This includes people with prams or pushchairs.

The impact will be positive for all genders.

Religion, Gender Re-assignment, Sexual orientation

Key issues for religious groups are discrimination relating to employment, housing and the provision of services.

Key issues for gender re-assigned people, gays and lesbians are personal relationships, transphobia and/or discrimination, and hate crime.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not and cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin hate crimes. However, it does seek to provide a built environment with a safe public realm for all.

The impact will be positive on all people, regardless of religion or LGBT+ status.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan provides a strategy for the development of the neighbourhood area, and a range of policies and proposals, which will result in positive benefits for many parts of the local community with protected characteristics.

The Neighbourhood Plan makes equal provision for housing and seeks to provide community facilities which will benefit the diverse population.

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