



Neighbourhood Development Plan

Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan

A brief comparison of the vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan with the stated aims of the future Stoke and Newcastle Joint Local Plan makes some interesting reading.

To begin, take the overarching aim of the Neighbourhood Plan: To protect rural character while allowing for appropriate development.

Among the aims of the Joint Local Plan we read "To promote appropriate growth and investment in a distinct network of larger towns, sustainable villages and local urban and rural centres" and "To protect and enhance the historic heritage and the unique character of both rural and urban areas by ensuring new developments are appropriate in terms of scale, location and their context." In the area of natural environment the aim is "To protect and improve the countryside and the diversity of wildlife and habitats across the plan area." Of course, the Joint Local Plan has many other aims. Here we are focusing on those ones that relate to the rural areas.

The planners have identified a number of "key issues and challenges" that need to be met if the aims of the Joint Local Plan are to be achieved. Here are some of the issues and challenges for the rural areas.

"Ensuring that development in existing rural settlements responds to the unique character and setting of each settlement."

"The service and infrastructure needs of both new and existing rural communities need to be considered."

"Making better use of vacant and underused heritage assets."

"To give the right protection to historic farmsteads."

"Recognising and preserving the rural settlement pattern."

"Integrating new development which meets the needs of rural areas."

"Recognising landscape setting and character."

"Balancing the need to plan for new development with the protection and improvement of local natural assets [the natural environment]."

All of the above, and more, will be provided for in the Neighbourhood Plan. Its aims are related to allowing development that preserves the rural character of our villages, providing for necessary services and infrastructure, reusing disused buildings that make a contribution to our local heritage, and protecting the local landscape, natural environment and wildlife – and more besides.

It's your neighbourhood – please support the Neighbourhood Plan!
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