



Neighbourhood Development Plan Summer 2017 progress report

Work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan has continued throughout the summer. The Steering Group meets once a month, and a working group meets every week.

We have been continuing to gather evidence to support the Plan, including maps and data from Staffordshire County Council on the built heritage of the three parishes, and maps on landscape quality and character. AECOM consultants paid a visit to the area in July and we have been continuing to work with them on village design statements. We have also been working with our planning consultant, Hannah Barter of Urban Vision Enterprise CIC, to develop the policies of the Plan.

A major milestone was completion of the Local Green Space audit, followed by the landowner and public consultation. Two pop-up consultation events were held on 5 August, in Whitmore Village Hall and Maer Village Hall. The consultation was also available online for three weeks, from 31 July to 21 August.

In addition to working on the Neighbourhood Development Plan we attended a workshop at the Civic Offices on the Options for the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Local Plan and submitted a response to the public consultation on the options. We will also submit a response to the HS2 consultation.

We submit an article for publication in each issue of One Way magazine. Because One Way is not distributed to all households, and is not available in all parts of the Neighbourhood Area, we also post copies of the article on the parish noticeboards and in the bus shelters in Baldwins Gate.

There are now five Neighbourhood Plan groups working in Newcastle-under-Lyme, all in the rural area. In addition to our own area, covering the three parishes of Whitmore, Chapel & Hill Chorlton and Maer & Aston, the other areas are Loggerheads (which started its plan at about the same time as us), Keele, Madeley and Betley. Together, seven parishes covered by the groups comprise more than 50% of the total area of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough. The five groups held a joint workshop in July and will be meeting again in September.