

Urban Vision Enterprise CIC
Stevington Neighbourhood Development Plan
Basic Conditions Statement
April 2020

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1. Introduction

This is a 'Basic Conditions Statement', prepared to accompany the submission of the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is being submitted by Stevington Parish 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 Stevington 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) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the assumption that other plans avoid or have mitigated against the likely significant effects'.

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 Stevington 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.

- Ensure all generations have easy access to community facilities and green open spaces encouraging participation in leisure and recreation activities by protecting and enhancing local amenities
- Protect and enhance our green space, our distinctive rural landscape views
 whilst protecting the biodiversity of our local flora and fauna and enhance
 habitats, links between wildlife habitats, sites of special interest and our
 conservation area
- 3. Maintain the separation between local villages to avoid urban creep
- 4. Preserve and enhance the historic built environment of our Village, our heritage assets and distinctive end settlement pattern by supporting sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape and built setting.
- 5. Provide new housing which is high quality in design, size and materials, is of appropriate type, proportionate scale and is sited in a suitable location.

- 6. Deliver a housing growth strategy that is tailored to the needs and context of Stevington
- 7. To sustain the vitality, health and safety of the community so as to ensure that the disabled, elderly and infirm are able to remain part of it.

| AINAC. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | _ | | 7 |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|----------|----------|--------------|
| AIMS: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Policies: | | | | | | | |
| Policy HO1: | | | | | | | |
| Development Sites | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy HO2: Housing | | | | | | | |
| Need | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy HO3: Change of | , | | | | | | |
| Use to Dwellings | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy HO4: | | | | | | | |
| Subdivision of existing | | | | | | | |
| buildings | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy DH1: Design and | | | | | | | |
| Character | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Policy DH2: Non- | | | | | | | |
| designated Heritage | | | | | | | |
| Assets | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Policy DH3: Windmill | | | | | | | |
| Wind Corridor | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Policy EN1: Natural | | | | | | | |
| Environment | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Policy EN2: Local | | | | | | | |
| Green Space | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Policy CF1: Community | | | | | | | |
| Facilities | \checkmark | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy TI1: Traffic | | | | | | | |
| Impact | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Policy TI2: Cycling and | | | | | | | |
| Walking | \checkmark | | | | ✓ | | \checkmark |
| Policy TI3: Sustainable | | | | | | | |
| Urban Drainage | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Policy BE1: Business, | | | | | | | |
| Employment and | | | | | | | |
| Tourism | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Policy BE2: Broadband | | | | | ✓ | √ | √ |

Figure 1: policy matrix for Stevington Neighbourhood Plan

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 Stevington Neighbourhood Plan against the aims and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

| NPPF Policy Area | Stevington Neighbourhood Plan | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Aims | Policies | | |
| Delivering a sufficient supply of homes 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 that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed | Aim 5 and 6 | Policy HO1 seeks to allow single or small groups of dwellings within the village. Policy HO2 ensures that new housing addresses local needs. Policy HO3 supports reuse of redundant buildings as dwellings Policy DH1 plans positively for future housing growth informed by good | | |
| Building a strong, competitive economy planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth | Aims 4, 5 and 6 | design. Policy BE1 encourages and supports a diverse range of commercial and tourism uses to make a resilient local economy. The Plan seeks to accommodate growth through good internet connectivity in Policy BE2. | | |
| Ensuring the vitality of town centres planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at | Aims 4 and 7 | Policy CF1 ensures that the community value of facilities is not extinguished or diminished. | | |

| the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation. | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Promoting healthy and safe communities planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction are safe and accessible enable and support healthy lifestyles | Aims 1, 6 and 7 | The plan seeks to improve a range of community and green infrastructure as well as creating safe and accessible places. (Policies EN1, EN2, CF1, TI2). |
| Promoting sustainable transport transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that the potential impacts of development on transport can be assessed opportunities from existing and proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised opportunities to promote walking, cycling, and public transport use are identified and pursued the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account | Aim 5 and 7 | The Plan seeks to promote sustainable means of movement through Policy TI2 promoting nonvehicular routes and policy DH1 integrates environments for pedestrians into new developments. Policy TI1 highlights current pressure points to be considered in future development proposals. Policy HO3 and HO4 ensure suitable transport infrastructure is in place to support residential use. |

| patterns of movement, | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| streets, parking and other | | |
| transport considerations are | | |
| integral to the design of | | |
| schemes | | |
| | | |
| Making effective use of | Aims 2, 5 and 6 | Policy TI3 requires |
| land | | sustainable drainage |
| land | | methods that may also |
| Diamaing policies and | | provide other natural |
| Planning policies and | | environment benefits as |
| decisions should promote an | | well as mitigating flood |
| effective use of land in meeting | | risk. |
| the need for homes and other | | |
| uses, while safeguarding and | | Policy HO4 allows sub- |
| improving the environment and | | division of existing |
| ensuring safe and healthy living | | buildings to make more |
| conditions | | efficient use of |
| | | premises. |
| 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; | | |
| rocognice that some | | |
| recognise that some undeveloped land can perform | | |
| many functions, such as for | | |
| wildlife, recreation, flood risk | | |
| mitigation, cooling/shading, | | |
| carbon storage or food | | |
| production; | | |
| production, | | |
| give substantial weight to the | | |
| value of using suitable | | |
| brownfield land within | | |
| Settlements | | |
| | | |
| promote and support the | | |
| development of under-utilised | | |
| land and buildings, | | |
| | | |
| Achieving well-designed | Aims 2, 3, 4 and 5 | The Plan seeks to |
| | • • | ensure high standards |
| places | | of design are achieved |
| | | and that development |
| | | enhances Stevington's |
| | | Ciliances Stevington 5 |

| | T | |
|--|------------------|--|
| 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 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 | | character (Policies DH1, DH2 and HO1) |
| Manting the shallongs | Aims 2, 4 and 5 | Collectively, the policies |
| Meeting the challenge of climate change, | Airis 2, 4 and 3 | cater for growth and |
| flooding and coastal | | encourage a balanced |
| | | mix of uses. At the same |
| change | | time, they address character and |
| the observation and the cold | | |
| the planning system should | | environmental quality. In addition, they |
| support the transition to a low | | address connectivity, |
| carbon future in a changing | | which is essential for |
| climate, taking full account of | | both domestic and |
| flood risk and coastal change | | employment users. |
| it should help to shape places | | employment users. |
| in ways that contribute to | | Flooding is particularly |
| radical reductions in | | addressed in Policy TI3; |
| greenhouse gas emissions, | | Policy TI2 promotes |
| minimise vulnerability and | | sustainable transport |
| improve resilience | | methods. |
| | | |
| encourage the reuse of | | |
| existing resources, including | | |
| the conversion of existing | | |
| buildings, and support | | |
| renewable and low carbon | | |
| energy and associated | | |
| infrastructure | | |
| Conserving and | Aim 2 and 3 | The plan seeks to |
| enhancing the natural | | protect and enhance |
| | | important natural |
| environment | | environment |
| | | infrastructure and |
| planning policies and | | features (Policies EN1 |
| decisions should contribute to | | and TI3) and designates |
| | | |

| and enhance the natural and local environment | | a range of Local Green Spaces (Policy EN2). |
|--|-------|---|
| Conserving and enhancing the historic environment heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of | Aim 4 | The plan seeks to complement, conserve and enhance Stevington's historic character (Policies DH1, DH2 and DH3). |
| the historic environment, including heritage assets at risk through neglect, decay or other threats | | |

4. Achieving Sustainable Development

4.1 NPPF Policy on Sustainable Development

The key theme of the National Planning Policy Framework is 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 quiding 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 Stevington Neighbourhood Plan delivers growth by:

- Encouraging new economic development (Policies BE1 and BE2);
- Addressing identified local housing needs and encouraging sustainable locations for development (Policy HO1, HO2 and HO3);
- Ensuring a high-quality, well designed environment, which is essential to attracting investment and population (Policies DH1, DH2 and HO1); and

4.3 Addressing Sustainability

The Stevington Neighbourhood Plan delivers sustainability by:

- Encouraging housing growth to cater for a growing and ageing population, whilst addressing local housing needs (Policy HO2);
- Delivering high quality green infrastructure and preserving and enhancing key local community and environmental assets (Policies CF1; EN1, EN2, TI2 and TI3);
- Encouraging infrastructure improvements (Policies CF1; HO3; HO4; BE1 and BE2); and
- Protecting and enhancing the local environment (Policies EN1; EN2; TI3; DH1, DH2 and DH3).
- Creating well designed new developments that are sustainable (Policies TI2, TI3; HO1, HO4; DH1 and DH2)

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 Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (adopted January 2020) and Bedford Borough Allocations and Designations Local Plan (adopted 2013).

Strategic Local Plan policies relevant to the Stevington NDP are as follows:

- 3S Spatial strategy
- 5S Development in villages with a Settlement Policy Area
- 59S Housing mix
- 86S Delivering Infrastructure

Those policies of relevance from the Bedford Borough Allocations and Designations Local Plan are as follows:

- AD1 Sustainable Development Policy
- AD28 Provision of Open Space and built facilities in association with new development
- AD36 Pedestrian Routes
- AD39 Cycling

5.2 General Conformity

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

3S Spatial Strategy

S3 safeguards countryside character, environment and biodiversity through growth that meets local needs and supports the rural economy, the majority of which is delivered through neighbourhood plans. Stevington Neighbourhood Plan achieves this by way of Policies HO2, EN1; EN2; TI3; DH1, DH2 and DH3.

5S Development in villages with a Settlement Policy Area

The Neighbourhood Plan supports development within the settlement that is consistent with the policies of the development plan through Policy HO1, HO3 and HO4.

59S Housing mix

Policy HO2 ensures that local needs are met through provision of 1-3 bed dwellings and accommodation suitable for the elderly.

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86S Delivering Infrastructure

Policy 86S ensures that local infrastructure needs are met as a result of and via new development. Neighbourhood Plan policies HO2, HO4 and BE1 reflect local needs in this regard.

AD1 Sustainable Development Policy

The Neighbourhood Plan contributes positively to the social, economic and environmental improvement of the neighbourhood area through a range of policies (HO2, HO3, HO4, BE1, BE2, CF1, EN1, EN2, TI2, TI3, DH1 and DH2).

AD28 – Provision of Open Space and built facilities in association with new development

The Neighbourhood Plan responds to this policy, informing the key open space requirements through policies CF1, EN1, EN2, TI2 and TI3.

AD36 - Pedestrian Routes and AD39 - Cycling

Policy TI2 ensures that the neighbourhood plan area channels Policy AD36 to address local active travel linkages

Compatibility with EU Obligations and Human Rights Law

6.1 Screening Outcomes

The Neighbourhood Plan was screened by Stevington Parish Council for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).

There are no European sites within the Neighbourhood Area. However, the Parish Council found that Habitats Regulation Assessment would be required, as it identified the same likely significant effects on two European sites (some 40 miles downstream of Bedford) as the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030, but at a reduced scale.

A Habitat Regulations Assessment was undertaken by Bodsey Ecology Limited (January 2019). Appropriate assessment (AA Stage 2) showed that the policies of the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan did not offer protection to the European sites. Rewording of the policies does provide the framework to avoid or mitigate against the likely significant effects with the exception of the threat from non-native invasive plants which by its nature cannot be eliminated entirely.

The HRA concluded that Stevington Neighbourhood Plan can proceed as it will not have significant effects on any European sites itself or in combination with other plans on the assumption that other plans avoid or have mitigated against the likely significant effects.

The HRA is being submitted to accompany the neighbourhood plan and this statement.

The draft plan was screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment by Stevington Parish Council in late 2018. The plan has evolved since this time, but with no significant changes. The screening outcome was that there was no significant environmental impact, so SEA is not required.

The screening outcome for SEA is included at Appendix 1.

6.2 Human Rights

An Equalities Impact Assessment included at Appendix 2. This 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 were informed by issues and themes identified by local people. Community engagement has gone considerably beyond the scope of statutory publicity and consultation. Further

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details can be found in the neighbourhood plan itself and the Consultation Statement.

The Neighbourhood Plan complies with Human Rights requirements.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – SEA Screening Outcome

Extract from SEA Screening, dated October 2018:

Bodsey Ecology Ltd undertook a Habitats Assessment of both the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan and the Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2030. In response to the Habitats Assessment, amendments have been made to the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan which strengthen environmental protections.

Based on the above information, the 'Responsible Body' (being Stevington Parish Council) conclude that there is no significant environmental impact and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

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 particular 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. |

Stevington General Population Characteristics

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

| 2011, Stevington Parish | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|--|--|
| Age | Number | % | | |
| All usual residents | 552 | 100.0 | | |
| Age 0 to 4 | 19 | 3.4 | | |
| Age 5 to 7 | 10 | 1.8 | | |
| Age 8 to 9 | 15 | 2.7 | | |
| Age 10 to 14 | 24 | 4.3 | | |
| Age 15 | 4 | 0.7 | | |
| Age 16 to 17 | 11 | 2.0 | | |
| Age 18 to 19 | 9 | 1.6 | | |
| Age 20 to 24 | 21 | 3.8 | | |
| Age 25 to 29 | 12 | 2.2 | | |
| Age 30 to 44 | 70 | 12.7 | | |
| Age 45 to 59 | 151 | 27.4 | | |
| Age 60 to 64 | 57 | 10.3 | | |
| Age 65 to 74 | 72 | 13.0 | | |
| Age 75 to 84 | 55 | 10.0 | | |
| Age 85 to 89 | 14 | 2.5 | | |
| Age 90 and over | 8 | 1.4 | | |
| Mean Age | 49.1 | - | | |
| Median Age | 53.0 | - | | |

(Source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E04011913, accessed 26th March 2020)

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

| date | 2011 | |
|---|------------|---------|
| geography | Stevington | |
| measures | value | percent |
| Ethnic Group | | |
| All usual residents | 552 | 100.0 |
| White | 540 | 97.8 |
| English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | 529 | 95.8 |
| Irish | 8 | 1.4 |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other White | 3 | 0.5 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 8 | 1.4 |
| White and Black Caribbean | 1 | 0.2 |
| White and Black African | 0 | 0.0 |
| White and Asian | 7 | 1.3 |
| Other Mixed | 0 | 0.0 |

| Asian/Asian British | 2 | 0.4 |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|
| Indian | 0 | 0.0 |
| Pakistani | 0 | 0.0 |
| Bangladeshi | 0 | 0.0 |
| Chinese | 2 | 0.4 |
| Other Asian | 0 | 0.0 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 0 | 0.0 |
| African | 0 | 0.0 |
| Caribbean | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other Black | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other ethnic group | 2 | 0.4 |
| Arab | 0 | 0.0 |
| Any other ethnic group | 2 | 0.4 |

(Source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E04009025, accessed 26t March 2020)

There are no statistics available on other protected characteristics.

Aims and Policies of the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan

The aims of the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan are:

- Ensure all generations have easy access to community facilities and green open spaces encouraging participation in leisure and recreation activities by protecting and enhancing local amenities
- Protect and enhance our green space, our distinctive rural landscape views whilst protecting the biodiversity of our local flora and fauna and enhance habitats, links between wildlife habitats, sites of special interest and our conservation area
- 3. Maintain the separation between local villages to avoid urban creep
- 4. Preserve and enhance the historic built environment of our Village, our heritage assets and distinctive end settlement pattern by supporting sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape and built setting
- 5. Provide new housing which is high quality in design, size and materials, is of appropriate type, proportionate scale and is sited in a suitable location
- 6. Deliver a housing growth strategy that is tailored to the needs and context of Stevington to sustain the vitality, health and safety of the community so as to ensure that the disabled, elderly and infirm are able to remain part of it.

The policies are:

- Policy HO1: Development Sites
- Policy HO2: Housing Need
- Policy HO3: Change of Use to Dwellings
- Policy HO4: Subdivision of existing buildings
- Policy DH1: Design and Character
- Policy DH2: Non-designated Heritage Assets
- Policy DH3: Windmill Wind Corridor
- Policy EN1: Natural Environment
- Policy EN2: Local Green Space
- Policy CF1: Community Facilities
- Policy TI1: Traffic Impact
- Policy TI2: Cycling and Walking
- Policy TI3: Sustainable Urban Drainage
- Policy BE1: Business, Employment and Tourism
- Policy BE2: Broadband

Impact on Protected Characteristics

Age

The plan seeks to accommodate housing need and growth and require that housing proposals address identified local needs (Policies HO2). 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 BE1 and CF1 seek to encourage the growth of enterprise and tourism uses and to make a vibrant and sustainable village. 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 employment, goods and services and to facilities.

Policies DH1 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 DH1 and TI2, which seek to create a well-designed and accessible environment.

Policy HO2 requires new housing to meet local needs, Policy BE1 and BE2 will help to enable local employment, and Policies DH1, DH2 and EN1 will enable improvement to the local environment.

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Policy CF1 encourages the provision and improved infrastructure to support improved public transport services or access to.

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 HO1, HO2, DH1, EN1, CF1, TI1, TI2 and BE1 address these issues.

The impact on pregnant women will be positive.

Ethnicity

A very small proportion of the population of Stevington 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 Stevington). Policies DH1 and DH2 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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