

# HAMMERWICH

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2018-2040



Made 23 December 2021

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*Cover image: Part of the Anglo-Saxon ‘Staffordshire Hoard’ discovered in the Parish in 2009*

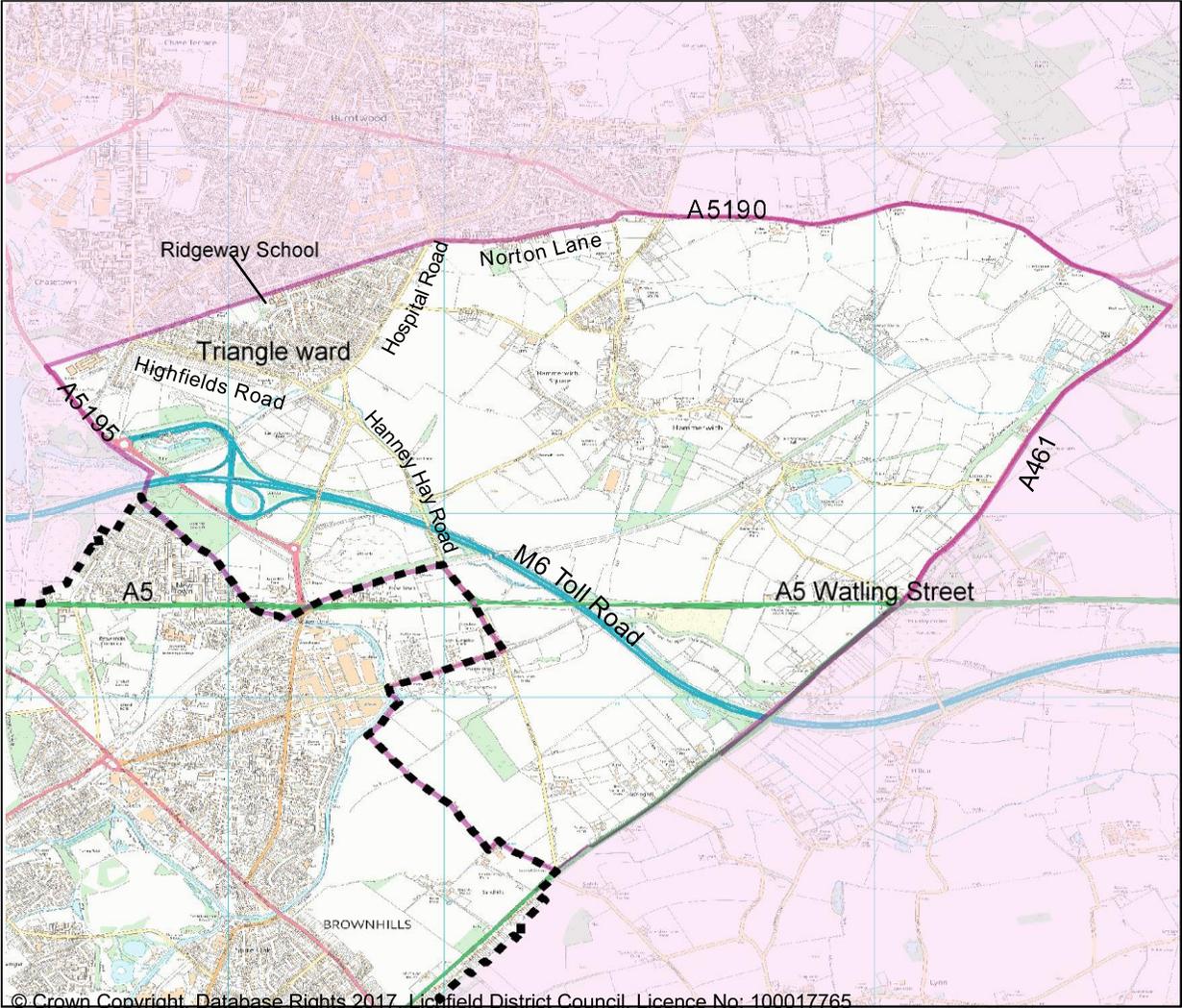
## 1. Background to the Plan

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 promoted neighbourhood engagement in the planning process. It introduced a new kind of Plan, called a Neighbourhood Development Plan (or Neighbourhood Plan, for short), that could be prepared by Parish Councils. One of the key aims of the legislation is to enable people to contribute to the long term development of their own community. A Neighbourhood Plan can make a real difference to how development is carried out in the Parish, because once it has been through all the stages of preparation and been “made” (adopted) by Lichfield District Council (LDC), it becomes part of the District’s Development Plan, alongside the LDC Local Plan. Its planning policies will therefore be used in the decision-making process when planning applications within the Parish are considered by the Local Planning Authority. This Neighbourhood Plan supports the delivery of strategic policies contained in the Lichfield District Local Plan in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 para 13.

1.2 The Hammerwich Neighbourhood Area was designated by LDC on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Area has exactly the same boundaries as the Parish area, so the term ‘Parish’ will be used throughout this Plan, to avoid confusion. This Plan has been prepared by a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which reports to the Parish Council.

1.3 Whilst designation and a Parish Survey took place in 2014, there was then some delay in preparing this Neighbourhood Plan, as studies by LDC underpinning the work leading up to the publication of the Local Plan Allocations document suggested a significant housing development in the Green Belt off Highfields Road in the Parish was being considered. This would not have accorded with the Vision and Objectives of this Plan (see below), themselves drawn from what the people of the Parish said in the Parish Survey. However, the finally adopted Allocations document (July 2019) did not include this site as an allocation (see also para 3.11 below) and progress on the Neighbourhood Plan could then re-start. Further unavoidable delay was introduced by the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown period. The Parish Council was ready to consult on an updated Neighbourhood Plan (Section 14 consultation) when the lockdown started in March 2020.

**MAP 1 – LOCATION MAP**



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## 2. Hammerwich's History and Context



2.1 The discovery of the Anglo-Saxon Staffordshire Hoard in the Parish in 2009 has highlighted the fact that Hammerwich's history as a settlement goes back a very long time. *Wich* is derived from Old English *wic*, a settlement that was already old in Saxon times, i.e. dating back at least to the Roman era (Latin *vicus*). *Hamor* is derived from the Old English for 'hammer', which has led to the interpretation of *Hammerwich* as 'the old settlement with a smithy'. (See, for example, [David Parsons on the Staffordshire Hoard](#).)

2.2 Although no physical evidence has yet been recovered which proves Roman settlement in Hammerwich, the presence of a major Roman military highway, Watling Street, only  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile from the village would tend to support the existence of Hammerwich in Roman times, and excavations near Crane Brook Cottage have revealed some Roman remains. *Domesday* indicates the existence of two hamlets

named Hammerwich.

2.3 A desktop archaeological study by Birmingham University (in 2007), which predates the finding of the Staffordshire Hoard in Hammerwich, and which focused on land off Copsy Nook Lane, revealed that the study area has experienced little historical development, originating as heathland cleared from the Royal Cannock Forest, some of which passed into the ownership of the Bishop of Chester and Lichfield in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and to the Paget family (later the Marquess of Anglesey) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century following the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

2.4 Throughout its history the area appears to have remained common heathland with farmland and pasture.

2.5 Extensive urban development to the west, associated with the rise of coal mining in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, has not encroached upon the Parish, which has retained its rural, agricultural aspect.

2.6 Today, the north-western corner of the Parish, Triangle Ward, has been built-up, providing a contrast to the village of Hammerwich which is surrounded by Green Belt land. The M6 Toll Road and A5 highways traverse the Parish's southernmost parts, from west to east, and the Chasewater Park leisure park lies immediately to the west.

2.7 The 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics, published by the Office for National Statistics, reveals some interesting facts about Hammerwich electoral ward. 3412 'usual' residents live in 1406 households but the percentage of people who are self-employed, work part-time or who are retired are higher in each case than the percentages for Lichfield District as a whole, the West Midlands percentage and the England percentage – see below:

	% of economically active in Hammerwich ward	% of economically active in Lichfield District	% of economically active in West Midlands	% of economically active in England
Self-employed	11.1	10.4	8.5	9.8
Part time employed	15.2	14.6	14.0	13.7
Retired	26.9	18.6	14.4	13.7
Unemployed	2.3	3.4	5.1	4.4
Full time employed	34.0	38.6	37.4	38.6

2.8 The age profile of the Parish mirrors the economic profile above. There are fewer young people, and more people who are older, in Hammerwich than elsewhere. Compared to the three areas above, Hammerwich's percentage of population in the age cohorts between 0 and 44 years is lower in every case. However, from 45 to 65, Hammerwich has more in these age cohorts than in Lichfield, West Midlands or England. Above 74, the percentages for all four areas are about the same. The greatest disparity occurs in the 65-74 range which accounts for 19.6% of Hammerwich's population, but only 11.9% of Lichfield's, 9.0% of the West Midlands' and 8.6% of England's.

2.9 The very high proportion of retired and older people points to the need for planning policy to ensure that there is suitable housing for those who are older, and highlights the importance of good local services accessible by public transport, particularly for those people who may no longer be able to drive a car (or who prefer not to). The poor public transport provision in the Parish is detailed below in para. 8.3.

2.10 As one would expect for a largely rural Parish, the percentage of households with no access to a car or van is very small – 7.8%, compared to 13.6% for Lichfield District, 24.7% for the West Midlands and 25.8% over England as a whole. The percentage of households with more than one car per household is higher than all the above areas, too.

(Source of all information in this section: ONS Neighbourhood Statistics – Economic Activity, Car and Van Availability, Age Structure - Hammerwich Ward – Census 2011)

### 3 Planning Framework

3.1 Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by identifying local community ambitions whilst also paying due regard to national and European legislation. This includes European law on environmentally sensitive sites such as Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and national planning advice, such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

3.2 Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of an adopted Local Plan, and they are examined against this adopted document. For Lichfield District this means the Local Plan Strategy 2008-2029, which was adopted in February 2015. A Local Plan Allocations document was adopted in July 2019. However, LDC is currently working on a Local Plan 2040 for the period 2018-2040. A significant driver for this review is the District's commitment to investigate the options for providing part of the West Midlands conurbation's assessed housing need. The latter is unable to provide sufficient land within its boundaries to meet this need. LDC has reached an advanced stage in the preparation of the review<sup>1</sup>, and so, in order that the Neighbourhood Plan remains up to date, the Parish Council has ensured that the Neighbourhood Plan's policies are in general conformity with the policies in the Review, as well as the 2015 adopted document. Whilst there is a risk that the Review policies could still change, the risk is mitigated by:

- (i) the likelihood of a major change in policy direction at this advanced stage being relatively small;
- (ii) close liaison with LDC at all stages of both the Neighbourhood Plan's and the Review's progress; and
- (iii) the much greater risk that this NP, upon being "made" or adopted, becoming almost immediately obsolete, as the new Local Plan's policies would have more weight. The new Local Plan also benefits from a more up to date Green Belt Review, published in 2019, and other relevant evidence base material, produced after the current Local Plan Strategy had been adopted. This new evidence material has also been cited in this Neighbourhood Plan.

3.3 The period covered by this Neighbourhood Plan is therefore 2018-2040, so that it aligns with the Local Plan Strategy Review. This will ensure that the LDC evidence base used is for the same time period as this Plan. The Basic Conditions Statement which accompanies this Plan sets out how each of this Neighbourhood Plan's policies conform with the relevant parts

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<sup>1</sup> At the date of the publication of the Hammerwich Neighbourhood Plane examination report (31 August 2021) consultation under regulation 19 on the Local Plan 2040 had concluded (30 August 2021) and the document had not yet been submitted for examination.

of both the current Local Plan Strategy and the Local Plan 2040 (as it stood at the time this Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to LDC).

3.4 The process to develop a Parish Neighbourhood Plan began in March 2014 and a significant proportion of the population of Hammerwich has engaged with the process to provide an evidence base, which has been used to identify key issues and form the basis of the Plan policies. A Parish Survey was undertaken in summer 2014 and the results of this form a key part of the evidence base for this Plan. The key findings are set out below under “Consultation”, the full results of this Survey can be found in the Evidence Base Document accompanying the Plan, and details of how the Survey was undertaken are given in the Consultation Statement.

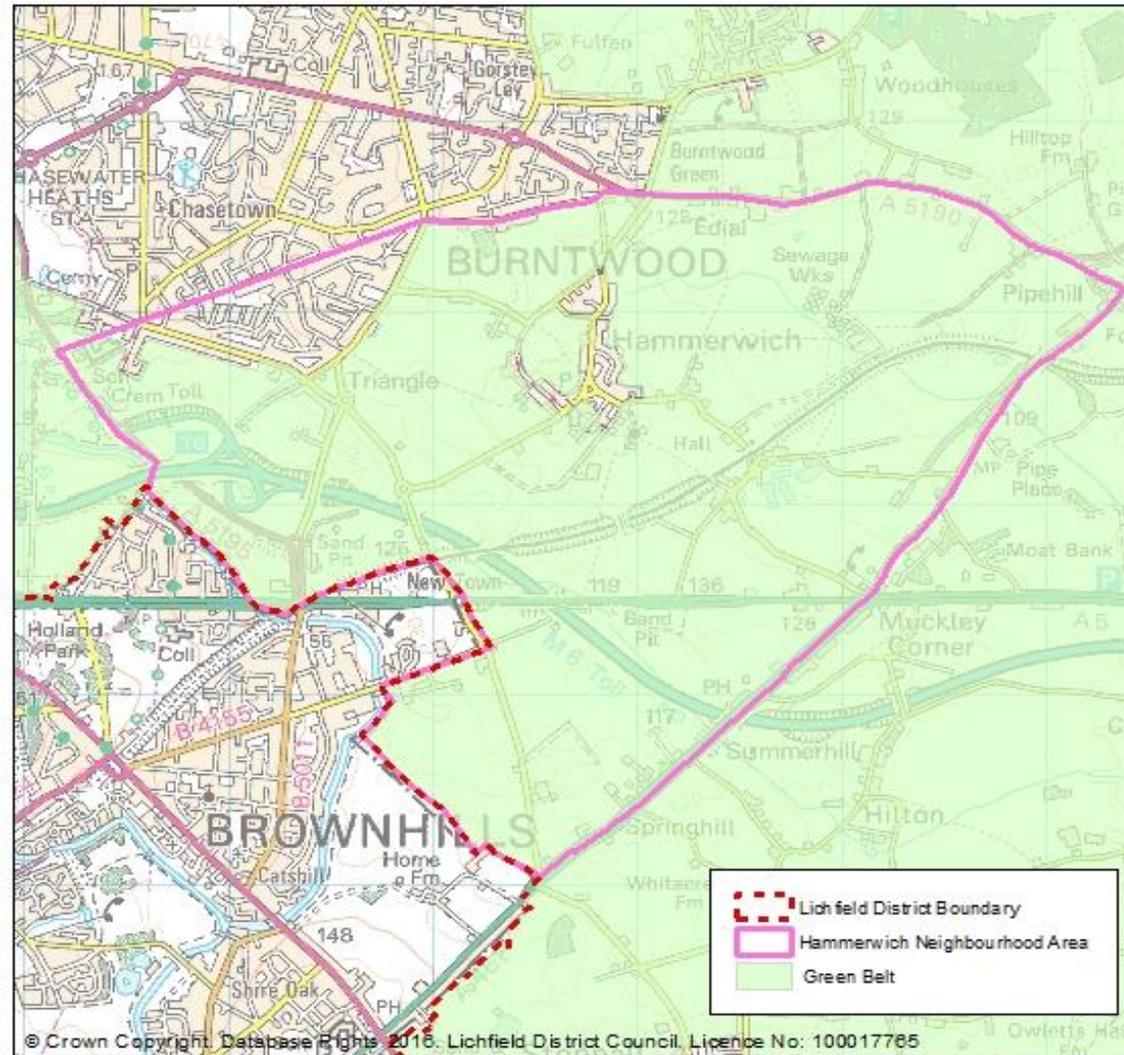
3.5 The Plan identifies local issues within the Parish and proposes policies which will be a material consideration when LDC determines planning applications.

3.6 The area of the Parish is approximately 9 km<sup>2</sup>. As can be seen from the Green Belt map (Map 2 below), much of the Parish lies in designated Green Belt, of which a significant proportion is farmland. Currently, the land use of the Parish is a mixture of farming, residential, retail and commercial.

3.7 Future development in the Parish will need to strike a delicate balance between identified constraints and the need to remain sustainable, in order to ensure that it meets the needs of local people in the future.

3.8 Unit 15 of the Chasewater and Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies in Hammerwich Parish (see Map 3). It is nationally important for its wet and dry lowland heath with dwarf shrubs. It is a priority habitat for nature conservation and needs protection from development to ensure no further loss. The SSSI forms part of an ecological network between Cannock Chase to the west of the Parish and Sutton Park to the south and links between habitats are essential to allow the movement of species. Biodiversity within the Parish needs protecting and enhancing in line with the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan. This is important not only for its intrinsic value but also for its role in promoting sustainable development and a sense of wellbeing.

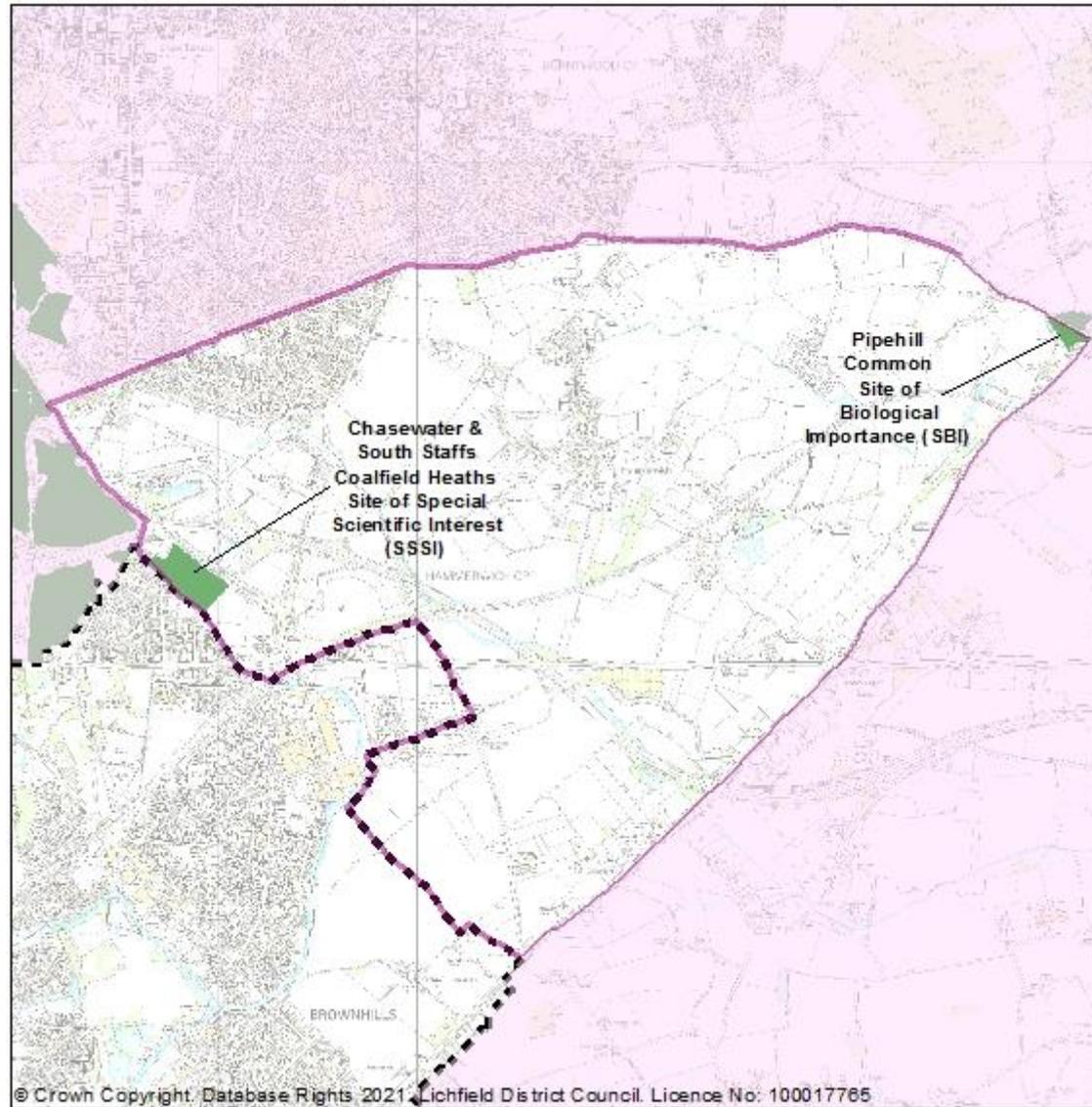
## MAP 2 - THE EXTENT OF GREEN BELT DESIGNATION IN THE PARISH



3.9 Pipe Hill Common Site of Biological Importance (SBI) is a small remnant of lowland heath, which is also classified for its biological importance. Lowland heath is rare across the world and 80% of the UK's habitat has been lost. Some areas were destroyed locally for the construction of the M6 Toll Road.

3.10 The Parish also lies within the Forest of Mercia area, and a substantial length of the Lichfield Canal traverses the Parish too. The re-opened towpath, towpath hedgerow, and restored canal channel of the Lichfield Canal contributes to the biological value of the area. Work progresses to improve this further, through the work of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust, whilst work has already been undertaken at Muckley Corner and the towpath leading westwards from the north side of the Boat Inn, over the Crane Brook, and to the M6 toll aqueduct. Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 13 – Our Natural Resources -states: “The District Council will support the safeguarding of our ecological networks, including... the Forest of Mercia... [and] the project associated with the restoration of the Lichfield Canal...” The Local Plan Allocations document (adopted July 2019) Policy IP2 safeguards the line of the Lichfield Canal. This is reiterated in Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policy 8. The Forest of Mercia and the Lichfield Canal both provide connected corridors for wildlife (see paras 9.7 and 9.8 below) and are identified as areas where there is “connectivity stress” (factors or features that work against the easy movement of wildlife).

**MAP 3 - THE SITE OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND THE SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN THE PARISH**



3.11 Neither the Local Plan Strategy nor the Local Plan 2040 propose any growth areas or large-scale development within the Parish. Hammerwich Village is regarded as one of the non-specified rural villages in the Local Plan Strategy and a 'Smaller Rural Village' in the Local Plan 2040. The Local Plan Strategy - Vision for Rural Areas – states: “In smaller villages flexibility will be given to local communities to allow small scale development to meet local needs through locally prepared plans” and Local Plan 2040 Local Policy SSV1 is similar in its wording.



3.12 In the Parish Survey, maintaining the extent of the Green Belt was identified frequently in responses. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paras 149 and 150 set out the limited range of developments that may be permissible in the Green Belt. The Local Plan 2040 is supported by the Green Belt Review (September 2019). (The current Local Plan Strategy is underpinned by an older Green Belt Review, now superseded.) The Green Belt Review assesses various parcels of Green Belt land in the District against the functions of Green Belt. These functions are set out in para 138 of NPPF, and are:

- a) To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- b) To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- c) To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- d) To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- e) To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict land and other urban land.

3.13 The Local Plan 2040 does not propose that any land is taken out of the Green Belt in the Parish. Now that the Green Belt Review has taken place, as part of the preparation of the Local Plan 2040, the Green Belt boundaries must now remain permanent in the long term. This is in accordance with para 140 of the NPPF:

*“Strategic policies should establish the need for any changes to the Green Belt boundaries, having regard to their intended permanence in the long term, so that they can endure beyond the plan period.”*

On this understanding, the Neighbourhood Plan’s policies have been prepared to be in general conformity with the Local Plan 2040’s strategic policy as it, in turn, conforms to the NPPF.

3.14 The Local Plan Strategy makes no new housing allocations in the unnamed rural villages, but Policy OR1 of the Local Plan 2040 makes it clear that Lichfield District Council is seeking, over the duration of the Local Plan period, provision for 566 new dwellings in the ‘smaller rural villages’ and wider rural areas. This 566 is made up of 366 existing commitments (developments that already have planning permission) with a further 200 to come forward as neighbourhood plan allocations. Given the large number of ‘smaller rural villages’ in the District – over 20 of which have a neighbourhood plan either in preparation, like Hammerwich, or already “made” (adopted by LDC) - each settlement would only need to supply a very small number of new homes over the Plan period for this requirement to be met.

3.15 Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 6 – Housing Delivery – and Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policy 12 both state that in the “Smaller Rural Villages” only the following residential development will be permitted:

- Infill development within defined village settlement boundaries [a defined boundary for Hammerwich is formally established by Policy VB1 below];
- Affordable housing delivered through rural exceptions (these are explained in Local Plan Strategy Policy H2: Affordable Housing);
- Changes of use and conversion schemes;
- Development supported by local communities identified through neighbourhood plans or through the subsequent Allocations document [this is currently the July 2019 document];
- Dwellings for agricultural, forestry and other occupational workers within the rural areas.

3.16 Given this policy context, it is considered that the right approach for this Neighbourhood Plan should be to be positive and recognise the need for appropriate housing development in the Parish, but because of the constraints to development outlined above (Green Belt, SSSI site, SBI site, etc.) these developments should be within the settlement boundaries, subject to meeting criteria that prevent harm to the amenity of the residents and which also take into account other planning considerations such as the impact on local infrastructure.

## 4. Consultation

4.1 The activities the Steering Group undertook to engage the groups and individuals in the Parish are set out in more detail in the Consultation Statement which accompanies this Plan. Of fundamental importance to this work was the sending out of a Parish survey questionnaire in summer 2014, the analysis of which forms a primary evidence base document for this Plan. Key findings are set out in the following sections, linked to the Policies which flow from them. The Evidence Base Document (published alongside this Plan) also includes summaries of comments from the Survey's questions, which capture more precisely the concerns of local residents, albeit that not all refer to planning matters. Other evidence base sources are acknowledged within the text – mainly documents produced by Lichfield District Council as evidence base for their Local Plan Strategy 2015 and the current Local Plan 2040 - and are reproduced in more detail in the Evidence Base Document where necessary.

## 5. Objectives and Vision for Hammerwich Parish

### *KEY POINTS FROM THE PARISH SURVEY*

- Protection of the Green Belt, public open spaces, parks and the openness of the countryside, of the buildings that help to give the Parish its character, and of key views across the landscape.
- Maintaining local facilities – especially as some of these had recently been lost – and, if possible, improving provision;
- Being able to influence the amount of housing development in the Parish, the types of housing within the developments, their location and their design;
- Concerns on even small developments causing traffic difficulties, given the narrowness of some lanes in the Parish;
- Poor public transport;
- Support for local recreational projects

5.1 These can be turned into 6 OBJECTIVES for this Neighbourhood Plan:

### ***THE OBJECTIVES***

- 1) To maintain local facilities, encourage the replacement of lost facilities, and the provision of new ones.**
- 2) To influence the size of new developments, particularly housing, its location in the Parish, and the types of housing built.**
- 3) To ensure that the very narrow lanes of the rural part of the Parish are not subjected to levels of traffic that will cause safety and congestion problems.**
- 4) To improve public transport provision.**
- 5) To protect the openness of the Parish, particularly the Green Belt, public open spaces, parks, the identified Special Views across the Parish, and buildings that help to give the Parish its character.**
- 6) To support local recreational projects.**

5.2 From the main issues that came out of the Parish Survey, the Steering Group has tried to distil a Vision of how the community would want to see Hammerwich Parish at the end of the Plan period:

### ***THE VISION***

**By 2040, Hammerwich Parish will continue to be extensively covered by the Green Belt designation. New developments within the development boundary of Hammerwich Village will have been well-designed and well integrated into the Village, and will not have taken the narrow road network beyond its capacity. In Triangle Ward, new development will have contributed to enhancing the area and the facilities available to local residents. Existing features such as parks, footpaths, and the Lichfield Canal will have been enhanced for recreational use, and the Lichfield-Walsall line reinstated as a transport link. Any development permitted in the Green Belt will have been small-scale, supportive of local rural businesses, and will not have adversely affected the openness of the countryside, or key views across the Parish to Lichfield Cathedral.**

The following matrix shows how these six Objectives have underpinned the Policies of the Plan:

	OBJECTIVE					
	1 Local Facilities	2 Type, Size and Location of Development	3 Traffic	4 Public Transport	5 Openness and Green Belt	6 Local Recreational Projects
POLICY						
CF1	●					
VB1					●	
H1		●				
H2		●				
T1			●	See para 8.6 and Appendix 1		
T2						●
T3						●
LEnv 1					●	
LEnv 2					●	
LEnv 3					●	
LEc1		●				
Ed1	●					

5.3 Having noted the main Issues the people of the Parish have identified, the rest of the Plan puts forward realistic development planning **POLICIES** that work together with the District Council’s policies to help achieve the Vision above.

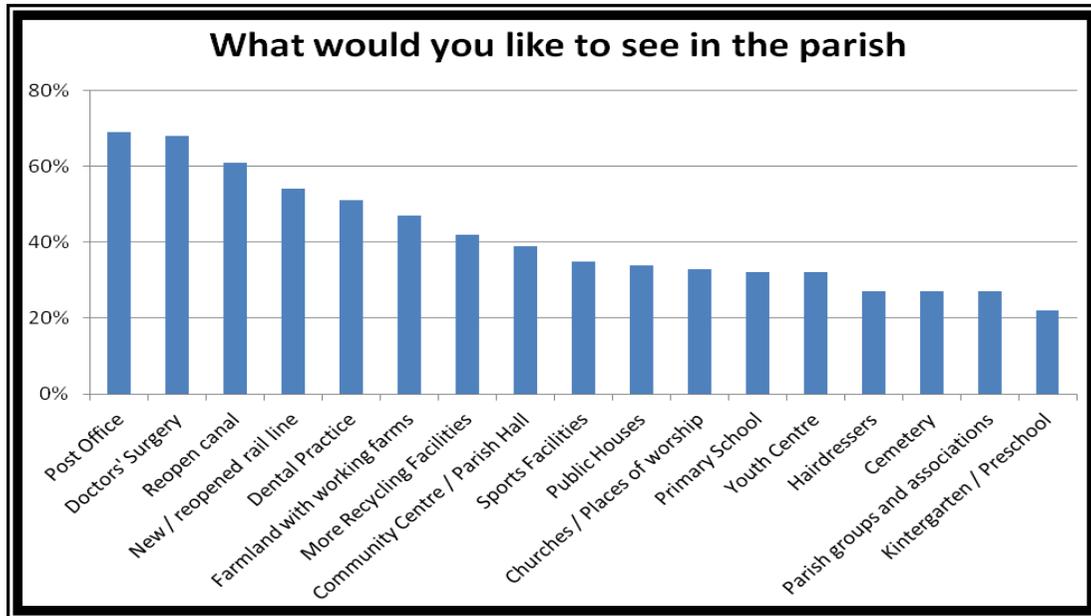
# The Policies

## 6. Parish and Community Facilities

6.1 The Parish Survey responses clearly showed residents' desire to preserve and develop, where possible, local services and facilities to ensure that the Parish is a thriving and sustainable community.

6.2 Hammerwich Parish has a wide range of community facilities and amenities available within easy walking distance of residents throughout the Parish.

**Fig 1: What would you like to see in the Parish**



6.3 Residents support retaining and enhancing existing facilities but have identified some extra facilities they would like to see. The two charts opposite show what facilities people want in the Parish (both those that currently exist and those that do not) and which local facilities are important to most. (Source: Parish Survey.)

6.4 Hammerwich is not well served in terms of accessible dental services but already has most of the other items noted. The community response is that these are valued facilities and should be retained.

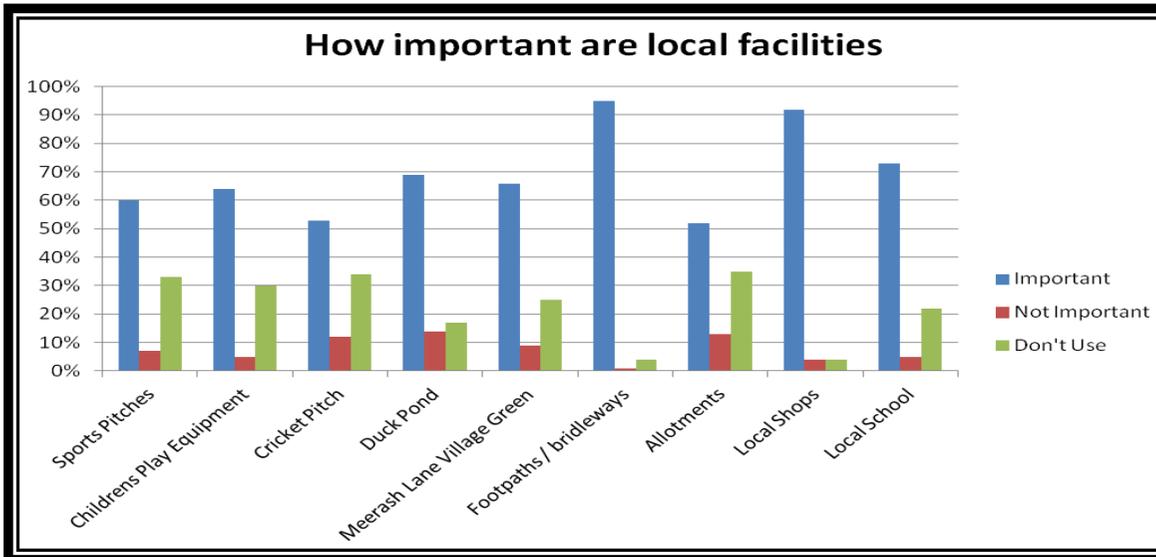
6.5 The range of established facilities was identified as one of the attractions of living in

Hammerwich and retaining/enhancing or providing these services must be embedded in this Plan.

6.6 Village/community halls are owned and operated by the Women's Institute and charitable/voluntary groups including Hammerwich Youth and Community Centre.

6.7 For younger children there are several groups in the village. However, with no youth club, there is limited provision of activities for teenagers. Village groups endeavour to include teenagers as much as possible.

**Fig 2: How important are local facilities**



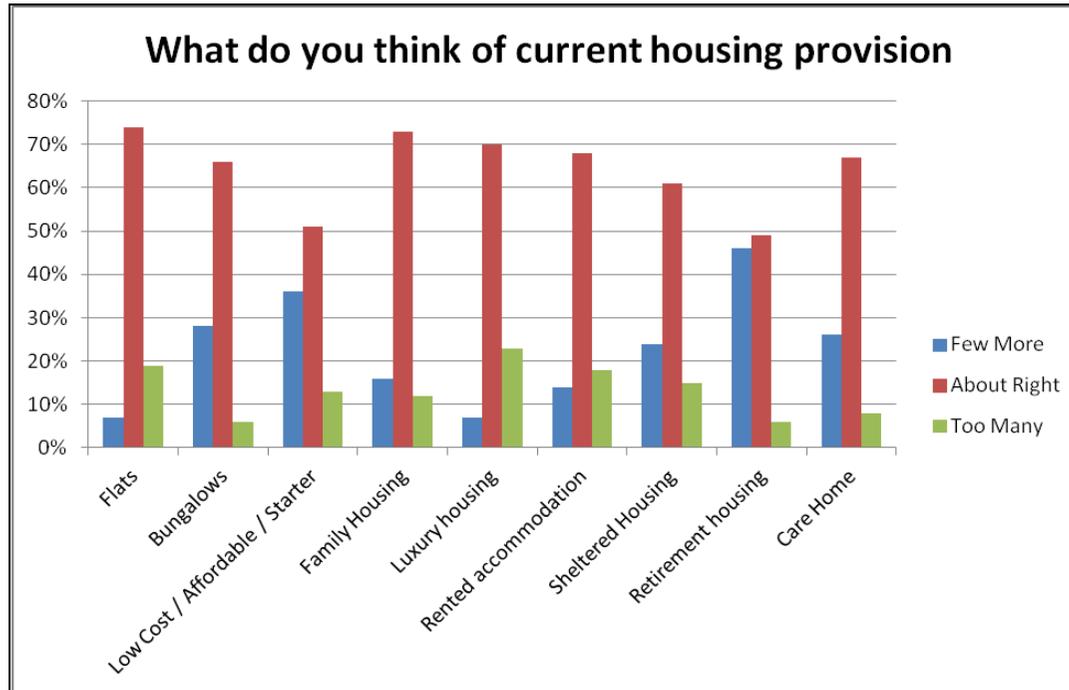
6.8 New facilities will clearly be welcomed as much as the retention of existing ones. It is appreciated that changes of use from some of these valued facilities to other uses can be achieved without the need for planning permission (from one type of shop to another, for example), but where an application is required, the following Policy should be applied.

**POLICY CF1 - PROTECTING AND ENHANCING LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

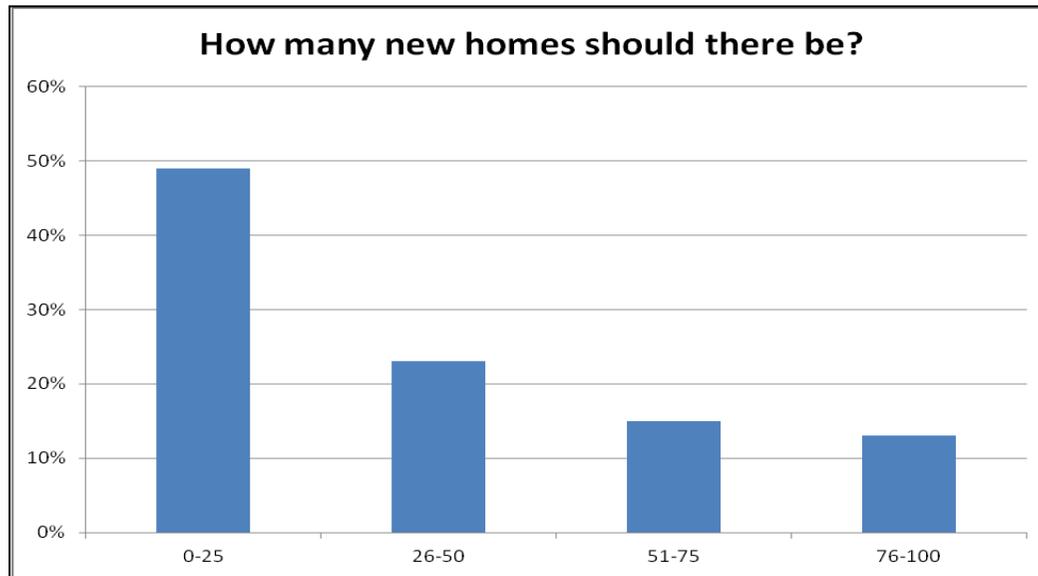
Proposals which enhance or extend the community facilities within the Neighbourhood Plan Area will be supported where they are appropriate to their location, and do not conflict with other policies in this Plan or the Local Plan. Development proposals which would result in the loss of community facilities including those within Use Class F2 will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that an equal or better facility in an appropriate location will be provided in compensation.

## 7. Housing

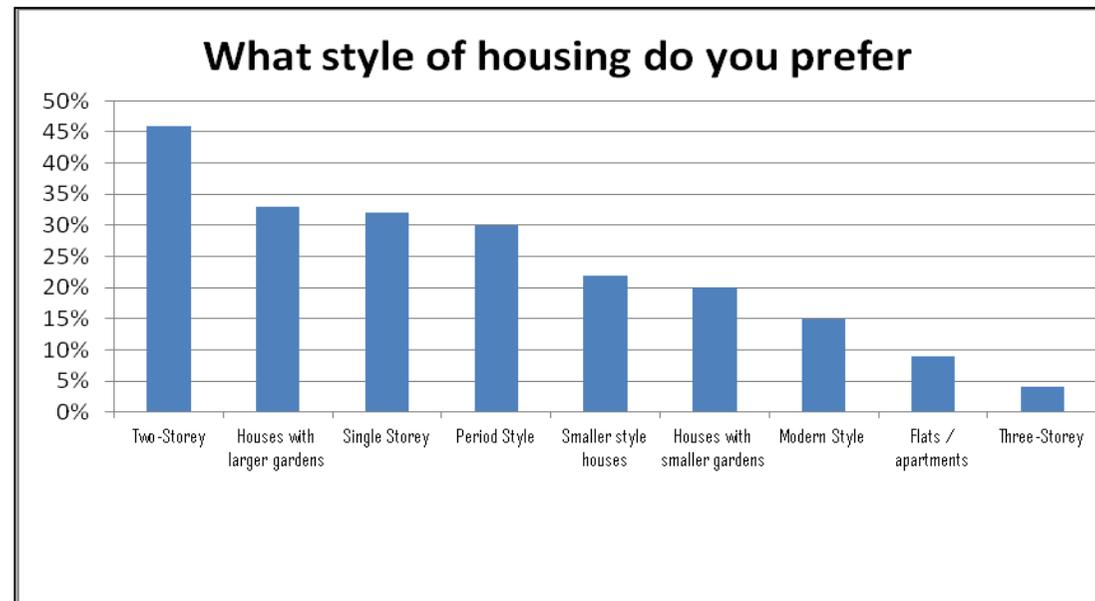
Fig. 3 Views on the numbers needed in the Parish in the future of each type of housing.



**Fig 4 - % of respondents in support of each range of numbers of new homes.**



**Fig.5 - Types of new homes preferred**



7.1 As can be seen from the above charts drawn from the Parish Survey, there was a variety of responses regarding the scale of house building and the style and size of accommodation that Parishioners felt would be appropriate in the future. Clearly, there is little appetite for large-scale housing development. However, this Plan conforms with the strategic housing policies of both the adopted Local Plan Strategy and Local Plan Allocations and is consistent with the draft policies within the Local Plan 2040, (see para 3.12 to 3.14 above) and it is acknowledged that small-scale development within the village boundary defined in Policy VB1 below would be acceptable. The results of the Survey did not give a clear indication that there was a need for one type of housing more than another, although retirement housing and low-cost/affordable/starter housing recorded the highest scorings under the “a few more” category.

7.2 Policy H1 of the Local Plan 2040 is based on evidence from the Housing and Economic Development Need Assessment (HEDNA – prepared by GL Hearn for Lichfield District Council and Tamworth Borough Council September 2019) and since this updates the earlier work that underpinned the Local Plan Strategy, it is this later evidence base document and Local Plan 2040 policy that is referenced here. Local Plan Strategy Policy H1 is similar (see Basic Conditions Statement).

7.3 Policy OHF2 makes it clear that the aim of the Council is to deliver new residential developments with an integrated mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures in order to deliver a balanced housing market. According to LDC’s evidence, there is currently an imbalance of dwelling types within the District and so to redress this, they are actively promoting the delivery of smaller properties, particularly two and three bed dwellings. They are also promoting the delivery of supported housing and care homes to reflect the needs of the changing demographic profile of the District’s population over the Plan period, as well as ensuring new homes are built to the latest environmental standards. Given the higher-than-average percentage of older people in the Parish (see para 2.8) this is especially relevant to Hammerwich. The provision of units which allow for home-working will also be supported, particularly in the rural communities. Given the higher-than-average number in the Parish who are self-employed (see para 2.7 above), this support is welcomed in Hammerwich Parish.

7.4 The Local Plan 2040 sets out the housing mix that will be required to meet the forecast demand to 2040, based on the evidence from HEDNA 2019:

	One Bed	Two Bed	Three Bed	Four Bed+
Market Housing	5-10%	30-35%	45-55%	5-15%
Affordable (Owned)	10-20%	40-45%	30-40%	5-15%
Affordable (Rented)	20-30%	25-35%	35-40%	5-10%

7.5 The Lichfield Rural Housing Needs Survey (2015) identified that size of dwelling was the main reason given in relation to residents finding their property unsuitable for their needs. The Rural Housing Needs Survey results also demonstrated that there was greatest demand for two and three bed properties, particularly by newly forming households. Given the evidence from both the Parish Survey and from LDC's own evidence base, Policy H1 below sets out the Parish's position on housing provision in the Parish.

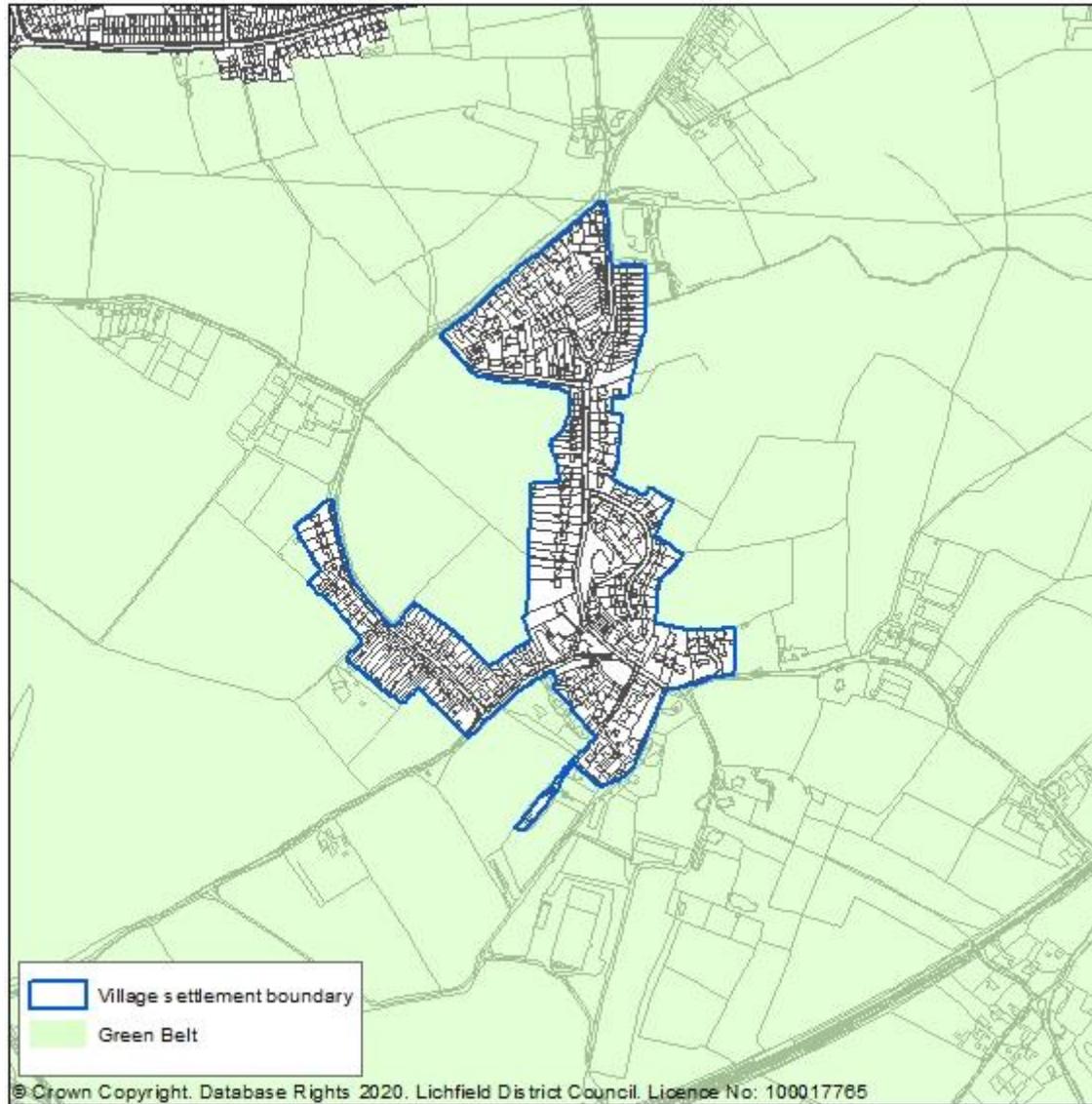
7.6 Unlike some areas where there is a strong unifying style or character to the local buildings, perhaps due to the widespread use of a locally occurring building material, this is less the case in Hammerwich. Therefore, rather than trying to match a settlement-wide style of new development, it is more important that any new housing development respects the style and scale of its neighbours.

7.7 Clearly, the design, location and impact of any development is critical if the Green Belt setting and rural nature of much of the Parish is not to be compromised. The policies in this section and in subsequent sections are designed to achieve this.

7.8 The extent to which sites in Hammerwich Village could be considered for development (as long as they meet the provisions of this Neighbourhood Plan and those of the Local Plan) is currently reliant upon the Green Belt boundary that surrounds it. It allows infill sites within the Village (and outside the Green Belt) to be developed in the future. The Parish feels that this extent is the right area to meet the needs of the future without overwhelming local roads and changing the character of the Village. In order to formalise this, and to separate the Village's definition from that of the Green Belt, the designation of a Village Boundary is formally established by Policy VB1 and Map 4 below. This will help to avoid confusion over where Village-specific policies within this Neighbourhood Plan (such as H1, T1 etc. below), and Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 6/Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policy 12 and Local Plan Strategy Policy Rural 2/Local Plan 2040 Local Policy SSV1 should be applied.

**POLICY VB1 - VILLAGE BOUNDARY OF HAMMERWICH VILLAGE**

**The village boundary of Hammerwich Village shall be as shown on Map 4 below.**



**MAP 4 VILLAGE SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY**

7.9 Whilst the Parish does not lie in an area of major flood risk (see Southern Staffordshire Councils Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report October 2019 - within LDC evidence base) a problem has been identified by the Parish, particularly in Hammerwich Village, of surface run-off from the surrounding land causing localised flooding. Hall Lane was one location mentioned in the Public Consultation events held in 2018 on the First Draft of this Plan. There is concern that new development, even individual new residential properties, can alter local drainage patterns. Dealing with the existing problem locations is an aim of the Parish, through negotiation, and through the use of funds such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Meanwhile, it is important that any new development (housing or other use) incorporates measures – preferably Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) - so as not to exacerbate the problem for other properties, whilst protecting the development itself from flooding. Local knowledge on drainage patterns should be sought in assessing what mitigation measures might be required. The Parish Council can often be a useful “first point of contact” for this.

7.10 New housing development should meet the standards set out on LDC’s “Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document” (SPD). In the light of the sensitivity of sites bordering onto Green Belt land, and the narrow lanes in the rural parts of the Parish (see Transport section below), additional considerations are set out in the second part of the Policy.

**POLICY H1 - NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – SITING AND MIX OF HOUSING TYPES**

**New small-scale infill housing development and conversions will be supported on suitable sites within Triangle Ward and within the Hammerwich Village designated village boundary (see Policy VB1 above).**

**Development on such sites should seek to provide, where appropriate, accommodation suitable for older people – such as bungalows, properties constructed to lifetime homes standard, supported housing or care homes. Where a site is large enough to support a mix of housing types, accommodation suitable for older people should form a part of the development, unless there are overriding viability reasons why this is not feasible.**

**Affordable housing should be provided in accordance with Lichfield Local Plan Strategy Policy H2 (or its replacement in the Local Plan 2040). These should be predominantly 2 or 3 bedroom houses, unless local need evidence suggests other types of home are required.**

## **POLICY H2 - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DESIGN**

**All new development will be expected to:**

- 1. complement adjoining land uses;**
- 2. have good access to sustainable forms of transport;**
- 3. define clearly public and private areas;**
- 4. maintain and/or improve footpaths and access points, and provide for easy access for people with disabilities into and around the site;**
- 5. provide sensitively designed, high quality, street furniture where this is necessary for the development;**
- 6. provide adequate storage for bins, recycling and cycles;**
- 7. incorporate additional roads (if these are needed) that are designed to reduce vehicle speeds;**
- 8. provide for sustainable drainage methods where this is feasible and desirable; and**
- 9. incorporate charging points for electric vehicles convenient to the parking spaces.**
- 10. relate well to surrounding land and buildings in style, scale and mass, and be landscaped and designed to minimise the impact on views from open countryside;**
- 11. not have a detrimental effect on local facilities such as public footpaths, playing fields and public open spaces unless adequate mitigation in the form of compensatory facilities is provided;**
- 12. make positive use of site characteristics e.g. topography, trees, hedges, natural habitats etc.;**
- 13. provide sufficient off-road parking for residents and visitors; and**
- 14. not give rise to an increased risk of localised flooding, and must not increase levels or rates of surface water run-off from the developed site.**

**Buildings with more than two storeys will only be permitted if the impact on surrounding properties is acceptable and there is no detrimental impact on key views across the Parish.**

**Developments of suitable unused farm buildings for barn conversions etc. will be supported where these are modest and unobtrusive.**

## 8. Traffic and Transport

### *Development and Traffic Levels*

8.1 In the Parish Survey, respondents raised concerns about speeding vehicles and the volume of vehicles that travel within the Parish. Further concerns were expressed in respect of parking problems and the size of vehicles using narrow lanes and roads within the area. It is, therefore, reasonable to expect a Transport Statement to be prepared for proposed developments, where appropriate, to assist in the consideration of highway matters whenever there is likely to be a significant impact on the local roads. Bearing in mind some lanes in the Parish are single track or of sub-standard width, even a relatively small development might have a disproportionate impact on highway safety and traffic flow. (See Planning Practice Guidance “Travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking” para 013, reproduced in the Evidence Base Document accompanying this Plan). The Transport Statement will enable the Highways Authority (Staffordshire County Council) to make a decision as to whether the applicant will be required to fund highway improvements or not, and make a recommendation to Lichfield District Council who, as Local Planning Authority, will decide the application. A Transport Statement is a simpler version of a full Transport Assessment, and it is likely to be more appropriate for the smaller-scale developments envisaged in the Parish.

8.2 A County Council traffic survey, undertaken in early 2014, suggested that any speeding problem is perceived as being greater than in reality but, given the response from residents, it is important that the Neighbourhood Plan acknowledges this perception, and provides policies to ensure that future development does not add to the problem. Conversely, any highway measures that would improve the situation would be welcomed (see also Policy H2 point 7 above).

#### **POLICY T1 – INCREASED TRAFFIC FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

**The impact of any increase in traffic that new developments may generate should be assessed to ensure local roads can accommodate this traffic. For developments that result in a significant increase in traffic flow along the Village’s narrow lane network, satisfactory traffic management solutions or other highway improvements will need to be provided to avoid safety and congestion problems.**

### *Public Transport*

8.3 Public transport provision is perceived to be inadequate, with 64% of those responding to the Parish Survey saying they were greatly or slightly concerned by this, at a time when the Village had a bus service, albeit an infrequent one (Route 15). In October

2016, the 15 was withdrawn, replaced by a demand responsive service – the Lichfield and Rugeley Villages Connect. Subsequently, this service was also withdrawn, so the Village is now completely unserved by bus. The 10A bus serves Highfields Road, The Triangle and Ogle Hay Road, linking to Lichfield, Burntwood, Brownhills and Walsall. With the size of development envisaged in the Parish, it is unlikely that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions could be sought for new services. However, the Parish Council will seek to negotiate improvements to any type of public transport, as appropriate to the scale of need expressed by parishioners. This will be achieved by using sources of funding, including accumulated CIL funds available to the Parish Council, and this is recorded in Appendix 1, along with other matters for which the Parish Council will investigate funding.

### ***Walking, Cycling, the Lichfield Canal and Walsall-Lichfield Railway Line***

8.4 Ninety-five percent of those responding to the Parish Survey said that access to footpaths and bridleways was important to them. The N5 National Cycle Route lies close to Triangle Ward and gives access to Chasewater Country Park. The Route passes through the middle of Burntwood before taking a rural lane route to the A51 Lichfield Western Bypass and on into central Lichfield.

8. The Parish supports a cycle link from Route N5 at its junction with the A5, north of Brownhills High School, to Lichfield via the A5 to Muckley Corner and then the A461 Walsall Road via Pipehill / Three Tuns roundabout (and thence outside the Parish to Lichfield). This would require the footpath along these roads to be marked for dual use of pedestrians and cyclists, new junction mouth markings and possibly the widening of the existing path in places. Whilst this is a longer route than if the old railway line route were to be made available for cycle use, the presence of adjacent traffic would make this route more secure (particularly at night) for all users. Improvements along the A5190 Lichfield Road from its junction at Farewell Lane to Pipehill would also be supported, connecting to the existing link to Route N5 along the A5190 Bridge Cross Road/Cannock road (see Map 5 below). The Parish Council is aware that alternatives to these proposals are being debated, and the Parish Council will consider these against the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan if they come forward.

8.6 Whilst the creation of any of these links, or parts of them, (and any other suitable improvements to cycle ways) through the development process is formally supported in Policy T2 below, the Parish Council will also pursue other funding sources for achieving them (see Appendix 1).

8.7 The Inland Waterways Association and the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust are working on proposals to re-open the Lichfield Canal, from Ogle Junction near Brownhills to Huddlesford on the Coventry Canal, with its towpath open for pedestrians and cyclists, subject to safety considerations. It is crucial that the course of the Lichfield Canal is protected, as it can potentially provide leisure and health opportunities as well as being an alternative transport facility. Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 13 - Our Natural Resources, Local Plan Allocations (adopted July 2019) Policy IP2, and Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policy ONR4 set

out the District's support of safeguarding the route of the Lichfield Canal. LDC also supports the reinstatement of the Lichfield-Walsall railway line, and the Parish Council concurs with this position. The latter is likely to be a longer-term goal, and in the meantime, given the local support for countryside walking and cycling, improvements to allow interim use of sections of the line for these activities would be appropriate.

8.8 Developments should ensure disabled access where reasonably possible. (NPPF para. 130(f)) (see Policy H2(a)(4) above).

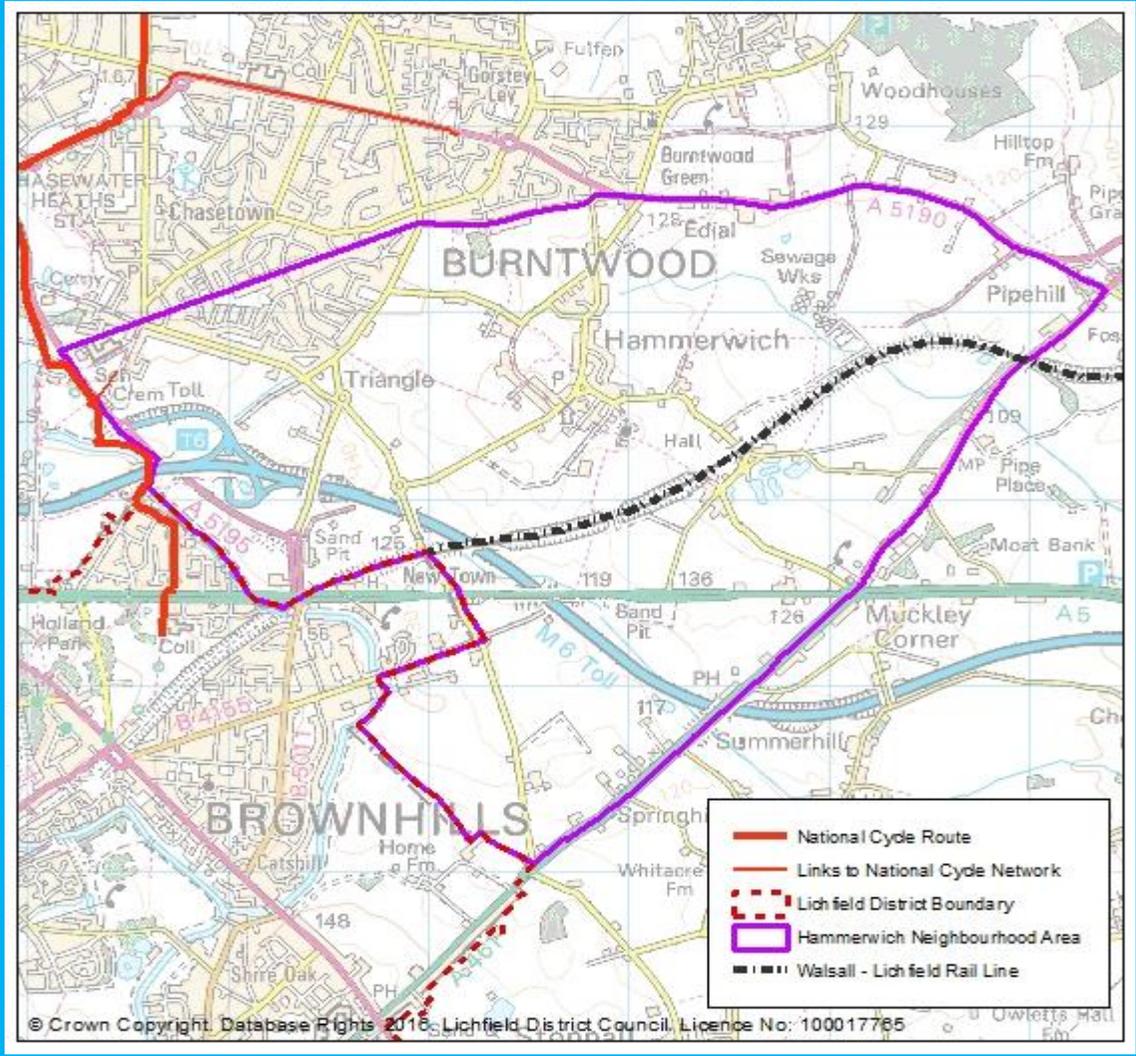
**POLICY T2 – NEW CYCLE ROUTES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO WALKING ROUTES**

**The creation of new cycle and walking routes, and improvements to existing ones within the Parish will be supported, in particular those cycle paths that link to National Cycle Network Route N5. Improvements to the Lichfield Canal towpath will be supported for walkers and cyclists where this can be accommodated without harm to other recreational uses or to wildlife.**

**POLICY T3 – REINSTATEMENT OF THE LICHFIELD TO WALSALL RAILWAY LINE**

**The Parish Council supports the reopening and reinstatement of passenger services on the Lichfield to Walsall railway line, with the provision of a new station in the Parish. In the interim, proposals for the use of appropriate sections of railway land for walking and cycling will be supported, as long as these do not prejudice the longer-term reinstatement of the line.**

**MAP 5 - NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE N5 IN THE HAMMERWICH AREA, AND THE ROUTE OF THE CURRENTLY DISUSED WALSALL-LICHFIELD RAILWAY LINE THROUGH THE PARISH**



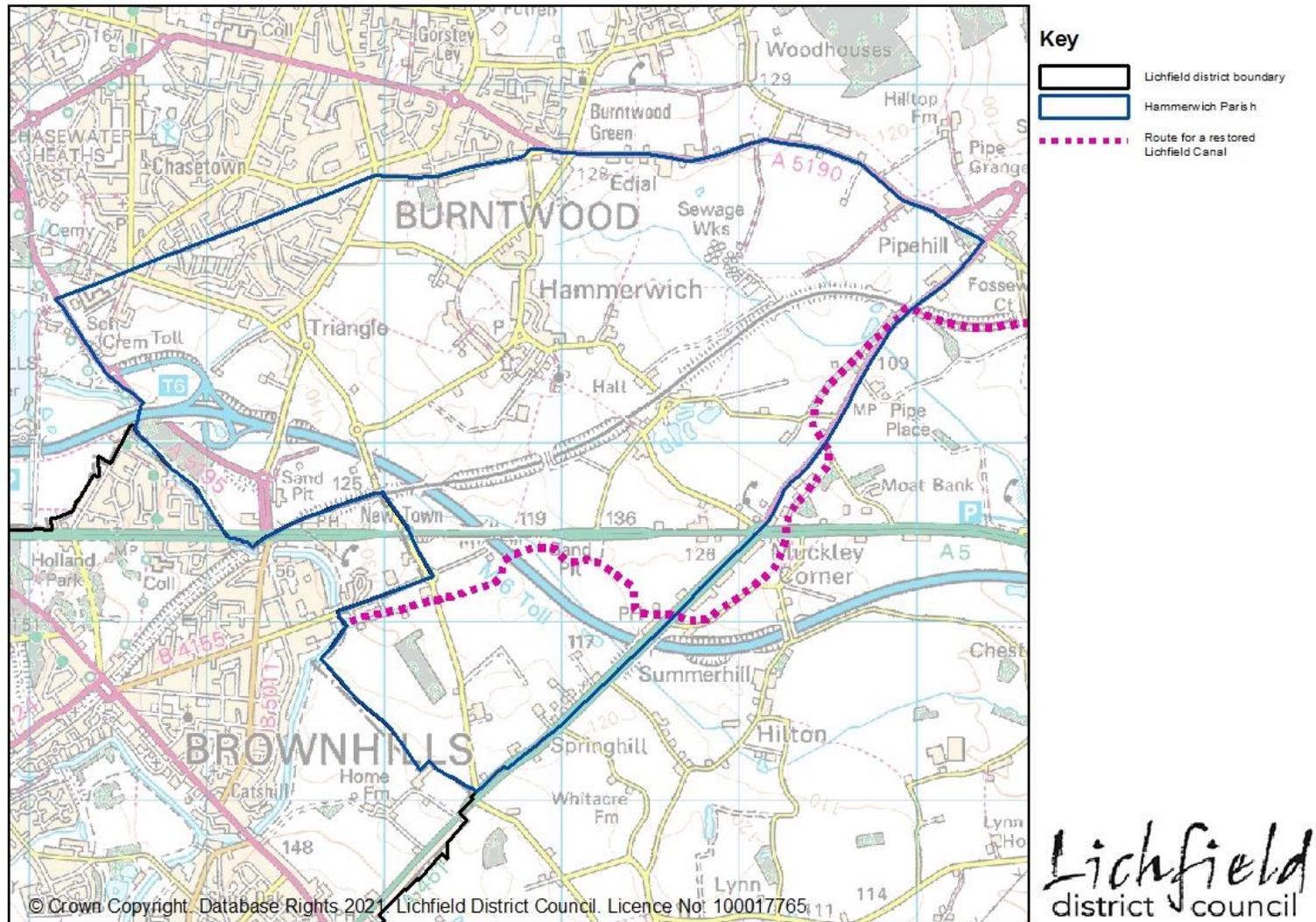
**Photo of Towpath from Wharf Lane Bridge towards the A5**



**Photo taken showing the rail track still in situ and looking towards Hammerwich. The line closed to passengers in 1965 as a result of the Beeching cuts.**



## MAP 6 - THE LICHFIELD CANAL



For more information, see: [Lichfield Canal Restoration Feasibility Study Final Report - July 2009, prepared by Atkins](#)

## 9. The Local Environment

### *Parks and Public Open Spaces*

9.1 Overwhelmingly the community wants to retain its parks and public open space. In the Parish Survey of 2014, children's play areas were important to 64% of those responding, or their families, sports pitches to 60%, and a cricket pitch to 53%.

9.2 Thanks in part to the construction of the M6 Toll and the requirement for any open space lost to be replaced, the Parish Council owns or leases a number of accessible public open space areas. It also has sports pitches managed by other organisations such as the Cricket Club in Hammerwich.

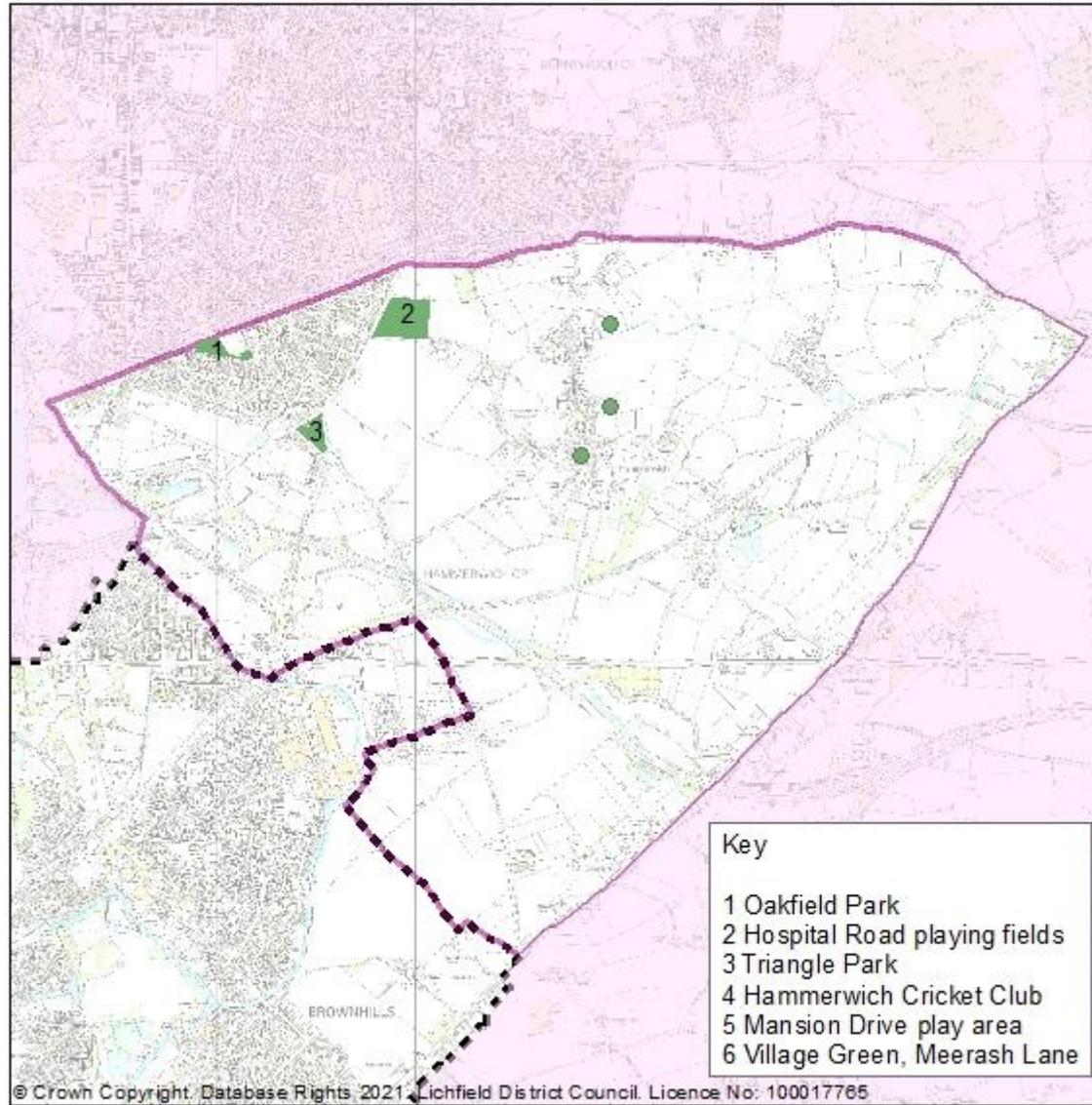
9.3 In addition to the parks identified on Map 6 below, the Parish Council leases open space from LDC at Hospital Road which is now sub-let to Burntwood Dragons & Phoenix Football Club. It owns a children's play area at Mansion Drive in Hammerwich Village and a small village green on Meerash Lane, again, in Hammerwich village. The Parish Council will investigate funding sources for improving facilities (see Appendix 1)

9.4 The Lichfield District Council Open Space Assessment (November 2016) found that the Parish – both the Village and Triangle Ward – were reasonably well served by open spaces and sports/play facilities (see extract in Evidence Base Document). The focus of Policy LEnv1 below, therefore, is their retention and maintenance as such, rather than the creation of new space, and permitting only small-scale developments that improve facilities without harming the overall openness of the space.

#### **POLICY LEnv 1 PARKS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

**In the public open spaces identified on Map 7 below, proposals of an appropriate scale that enhance the facilities for sport and recreation will be supported, provided that the openness of the space is not harmed.**

## MAP 7 - PARKS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN THE PARISH



## ***Open Countryside Spaces***



9.5 In the Parish Survey of 2014, open spaces and countryside scored 94% and 91% respectively in the question “Which of the following do you think should be preserved as they form an intrinsic part of the Parish’s character?” The Green Belt coverage in the Parish is strongly supported, and developments which have in the past threatened the openness of Green Belt have been vigorously opposed by residents and the Parish Council.

9.6 Open spaces are vital to help relax and provide stress-free areas for local residents. Parish residents have planted 3.2 hectares of new woodlands and more are envisaged. The community has also helped to plant approximately 2.5 kilometres of new hedgerow. – (see photo opposite)

9.7 This work supports LDC’s biodiversity targets, which encourage the planting of new woodland and hedgerow, helping to provide wildlife corridors (Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 13 – Our Natural Resources/ Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policy 15).

9.8 Work is continuing on developing and strengthening the green corridor that has been created linking Hammerwich with its neighbouring Parishes. As a result, wildlife can now move between Cannock Chase, Gentleshaw Common, Chasewater Country Park, Lichfield Canal and Anglesey Branch Canal, woodlands in Hammerwich around the top of Coppice Lane, Pipe Hill Heathland, Beacon Park and through to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas and the National Forest at Barton under Needwood. The local community supports the maintenance and improvement of these wildlife “stepping stones”.

9.9 With the protection afforded all these open spaces through national and local designations, it is not considered necessary to insert a Policy in this Plan that would merely duplicate existing policies and guidance. Instead, those seeking to apply for planning permission should refer to the relevant Lichfield Local Plan Strategy/Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policies:

<b>Local Plan Strategy Policy</b>	<b>Equivalent Local Plan 2040 Policy</b>
Core Policy 1 – Spatial Strategy	Strategic policy 1: The spatial strategy
Core Policy 3: Delivering Sustainable Development	Strategic policy 8: Blue infrastructure, watercourses and flood risk & Strategic policy 9: Water quality
Core Policy 10: Healthy & Safe Lifestyles	Strategic policy 6: Infrastructure and services that support healthy communities & Strategic policy 7: Participation in sport and physical activity
Policy HSC1: Open Space Standards Policy HSC2 Playing Pitch & Sport Facility Standards	Local policy INF4: Green infrastructure, open space and playing pitches & Local policy INF5: New open space provision
Policy NR2: Development in the Green Belt	Strategic policy 11: Protecting green belt land
Policy NR3: Biodiversity, Protected Species & their Habitats	Local policy NR2: Habitats and Biodiversity
Policy NR7: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation	Local policy NR5: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation
Policy NR6: Linked Habitat Corridors & Multi-functional Greenspaces	Local policy NR4: Linked Habitats, connectivity and green infrastructure
Policy NR5: Natural & Historic Landscapes	Strategic policy 16: Natural and historic landscapes

9.10 Unlike other communities, the Parish has very little allotment provision but there seems to be no identified pressure to provide such an amenity. This is possibly because the Parish has access to locally produced food and the support for working farms indicates that this is highly important in the evaluation of the Parish as a desirable place to live.

### ***Key Views across the Countryside to and from Hammerwich Village***

9.11 Hammerwich has two iconic vistas: (i) from the Church of St John the Baptist an uninterrupted view to Lichfield Cathedral, and (ii) views toward the Village that incorporate the Church and the Windmill (see Map 7 below). A proposal for a wind turbine was dismissed by a Planning Inspector in February 2012 (APP/K3415/A/11/2162338/NWF) who noted the attractive view of Lichfield Cathedral from the village of Hammerwich and concluded that this proposed development would have harmed visual amenity and heritage assets. Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 14 - Our Built & Historic Environment/Local Plan 2040 Strategic Policy ONR5 protect the views of Lichfield Cathedral and other locally important views, the first Policy stating:

*“The skyline of Lichfield City, characterised by the five spires emerging above the roofs and tree canopy will be protected and should inform the height, scale and layout for new developments. This and other locally important views within settlements and rural locations will be safeguarded and the integration of views and vistas shaping a strong sense of place in new development layouts will also be encouraged”*

Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 14: Our Built & Historic Environment, Local

Plan Allocations (adopted 2019) Policy BE2 and Local Plan 2040 Strategic policy 17 cover the subject of development proposals that would affect heritage assets.

9.12 The Parish Council have identified on site, and plotted on Map 8 below, the corridors which contain the important views across the Parish listed above. Policy LEnv2 sets out the criterion for assessing developments and their potential effect on these views. Policy H2(c) above, on generally keeping residential development to 2 storeys or lower, is linked to the achievement of Policy LEnv2.

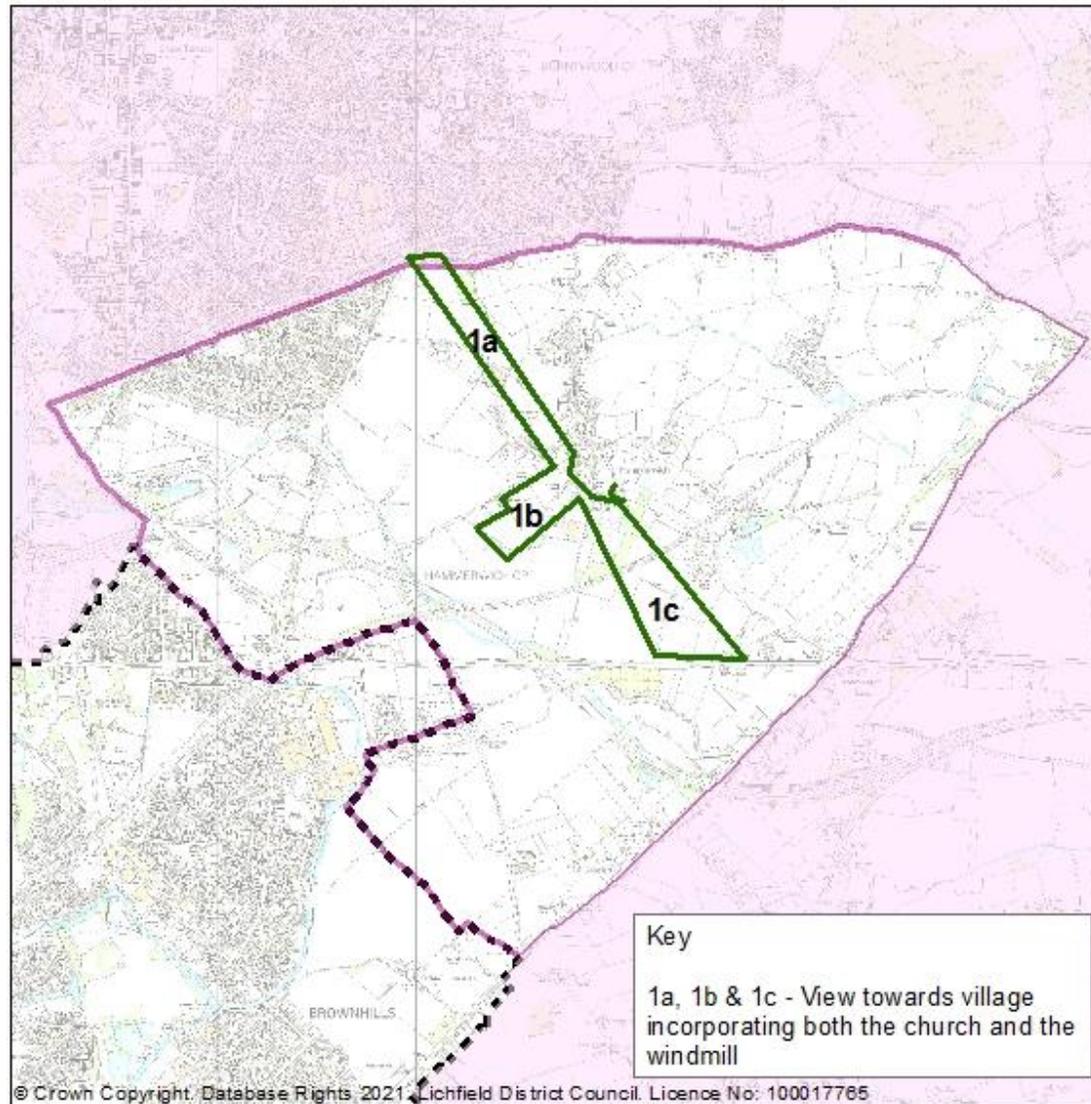
#### **POLICY LEnv 2 – PROTECTING THE KEY VIEWS ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE TO AND FROM HAMMERWICH VILLAGE**

**All development should respect the visual amenity and sense of place afforded by the views identified in and Map 8. These are:**

- (i) Views towards the Village incorporating both St John’s Church and the Windmill.**

**Developments which take account of these important local views will be supported where they do not conflict with other policies in this Plan or in the Local Plan (see also Policy H2).**

## MAP 8 – KEY VIEWS ACROSS THE PARISH



## ***Local Heritage Assets***

9.13 In Hammerwich Parish, the following structures are listed:

- Church of St John the Baptist, Church Lane Grade II
- Hammerwich House Farm, Hall Lane Grade II
- Hammerwich Place Farmhouse, Hall Lane Grade II
- Milepost at SK 086072, A461 Grade II
- Overton Manor, 79 Overton Lane Grade II
- The Old Mill, Mill Lane Grade II
- Edial House, Lichfield Road Grade II

These have strong protection as a result of national and local planning policies.

9.14 However, the following buildings and structures in the Parish have been identified by LDC as having architectural or historic merit and contribute to the character and amenity of different parts of the Parish. They appear on their Burntwood, Hammerwich & Wall Local List Proposals 2019 (full reports set out in the Evidence Base Document).

- Chase Lodge, 1 Highfields Road, Chasetown, Burntwood, WS7 4QR
- The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JS
- The Old Vicarage, Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JT
- Hammerwich Hall Farmhouse, Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JU
- Barns and workshops associated with Hammerwich Hall Farmhouse
- Railway Footbridge adjacent to Old Station House, Hammerwich
- The Boat Inn, Walsall Road, Muckley Corner, Lichfield, WS14 0BU



- Springhill Methodist Church, Walsall Road, Muckley Corner, Lichfield, WS14 0BX
- Pipe Hill Waterworks, Walsall Road, Pipe Hill, Lichfield
- Gartmore Riding School, Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JT
- 107 Burntwood Road, Hammerwich, WS7 0JL
- Elias Ashmole Club and Institute, Meerash Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0LF
- Guidepost at junction of Hammerwich Lane, Station Road, Lions Den and Hall Lane (SK 07470706)

9.15 The following properties have been suggested as further additions to the Local List, and they are formally proposed within this Plan. If LDC agree, then they will be subject to Policy LEnv3 below. The Staffordshire Historic Environment Records for each proposal are reproduced in the Evidence Base Document.

- Hammerwich Hall Farm and its timber framed Barn
- Anglesey Branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal Extension

9.16 Applicants should consider the Historic Environment Record for the Asset if one has been prepared, and consult with the Historic Environment Record Officer at Staffordshire County Council.

9.17 Bearing in mind the discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard and the presence of the Roman road Watling Street in the Parish, together with the location of the Roman settlement of Letocetum in neighbouring Wall Parish where Watling Street and Ryknield Street cross, the likelihood of there being other significant archaeological remains in the Parish is quite high. In proposing development, and in its construction, developers should be mindful of this likelihood and take appropriate actions to allow proper archaeological study, recording, and, if necessary, preservation of any finds.

### **POLICY LEnv 3 –HERITAGE ASSETS**

**All new development that has an impact on identified heritage assets – both designated and non-designated local heritage assets – and their setting, should seek to protect and, where appropriate, enhance their significance.**

**Hammerwich Hall Farm and its timber framed Barn and the Anglesey Branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal Extension are added as non-designated heritage assets to the Burntwood, Hammerwich and Wall Local List.**

**For proposals affecting an identified heritage asset, it should be demonstrated how the development would take account of its conservation, enhancement and its setting. The renovation or alteration of any Asset should be designed sensitively, taking into account its historical and architectural interest. Proposals affecting a non-designated heritage asset will be expected to balance the scale of any loss or harm against the significance of the asset.**

**Proposals that seek to ensure that Local Heritage Assets remain in active and viable use, and are maintained, in a sensitive manner will be supported, as will schemes that bring back an Asset into use in a manner sensitive to their heritage value.**

**All new development must take account of known surface and sub-surface archaeology, and ensure previously unrecorded and potentially significant deposits are identified and appropriately assessed during development. Lack of current evidence of sub-surface archaeology must not be taken as proof of absence.**

## 10 Local Economy

10.1 At least 55 or so businesses have their address in the Parish (Source: Yell.com) and therefore the importance of supporting local businesses is recognised.

10.2 Based on community views, it is important to retain working farms and the Parish believes that food supply sustainability should be considered where any application for diversification or conversion of farm buildings is submitted.

10.3 The Federation of Small Businesses annual report 2013 states that small businesses, nationally, account for 33% of economic turnover and 47% of private sector employment. In Hammerwich, the self-employed residents (of whom Hammerwich has a high proportion compared to other areas – see para. 2.7 above) are largely providing goods/services which are not offered directly to the local population (except, perhaps farm produce) but are indirectly supporting the local economy.

10.4 Any support that the Parish could give to small businesses will be provided to try to attract new enterprises, so ensuring continuing local economic vitality. In particular, the appropriate re-use of redundant farm buildings is supported, subject to the Policies in this Plan and in the Local Plan Strategy/Local Plan 2040 on traffic generation and impact on the countryside and to Key Views.

### **POLICY LEc1 - SUPPORT FOR RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL USES**

**Proposals which result in the loss of uses which fall within Use Class E will only be supported unless it can be shown through appropriate marketing evidence over a 12-month period, that the continuation of the current use is not viable. Proposals to improve existing, or provide new retail and commercial facilities, and appropriate reuse of redundant farm buildings will be supported where they accord with other policies in the development plan.**

## 11. Education

11.1 Most respondents to the Parish Survey were of the view that the presence of the local school (Ridgeway Primary) was important to the Parish, and that the Parish was well-served by local school provision. The school was awarded a “good” Ofsted rating at its latest inspection in 2016 and was particularly commended for its community spirit. Given the age of the pupils, surveys were not sent to the School, but it was invited to be involved in the consultation process. The Parish Council is committed to supporting the School and its activities, particularly where they are of importance to the wider community.

11.2 Over half those responding to the Parish Survey considered there should be more opportunities for adult learning. Erasmus Darwin Academy is a large establishment in the Parish providing education for 11-18 year olds. It received a “good” Ofsted rating at its last Inspection in 2018, and links with the wider community are encouraged, with many of the Academy’s facilities being available for the community to hire. With regard to any future developments that might be proposed on-site in the future, the Parish Council supports any measures intended to increase opportunities for lifelong learning, and will work with Staffordshire County Council Planning and Education Teams to ensure community benefits are maximised, and issues such as additional traffic are fully considered in the final design.

### **POLICY Ed 1 - SUPPORTING LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**

**Development proposals to enhance the facilities at Ridgeway Primary School and Erasmus Darwin Academy will be supported, especially where these proposals include facilities for lifelong learning by all ages.**

## **12. Monitoring and Reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan**

12.1 Lichfield District Council has a duty to produce an Authority Monitoring Report each year, which checks how well the Local Plan's policies are performing. As a result, any need for an early review of policies that are either poorly performing or have become out of date can be flagged up. Since they are part of the District's Development Plan, all "made" Neighbourhood Plans need to be monitored, too, and any policies that need review highlighted. As the Local Plan 2040 moves forward the Parish Council and LDC will work together to review any Neighbourhood Plan policies that may not be in general conformity with draft new Local Plan strategic policies.

12.2 The Parish Council will also review all its policies in the light of their performance in planning decisions made by LDC. The updating of the Plan will be important because the Government have made it clear that all Plans should be kept up-to-date, and up-to-date Plans – and Government guidance - will override older ones. Where a policy has been in force for a period of time, other "material considerations" may be given greater weight in planning decisions as the evidence base for the Plan policy becomes less robust.

12.3 However, the Government have also made it clear (Planning Practice Guidance – Neighbourhood Plans, paras 106, 085) that if a Neighbourhood Plan is to be updated it must go through all the stages of preparation again - updating the evidence base, consulting everyone again on the re-written Plan and submitting it to Lichfield District Council for further consultation, Examination and a Referendum.

12.4 Hammerwich Parish Council will liaise with surrounding Parishes and local authorities to ensure consistency of policy across the Parish boundary.

## APPENDIX 1

### Priority Projects in the Parish to be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Through Other Funding Sources

- 1) **Working to improve public transport services in Parish** – the Parish Council will negotiate with Staffordshire County Council as Highways Authority, local bus operators and voluntary-sector transport providers to improve service in the Parish, especially through Hammerwich Village. The Parish Council will consider whether or not to use CIL or other funding sources to ‘pump-prime’ the introduction of such services. **See Policy H2 point 2 and para 8.6.**
- 2) **Identifying locations where localised flooding occurs** – working with landowners and using CIL and other funds if appropriate to implement solutions to the problem. **See Policy H2 point 14 and para 7.9).**
- 3) **Improving facilities on the Parish’s public open spaces** – the Parish Council owns and leases the following public open spaces and will seek to use CIL and other funds to improve facilities at these locations:
  - Oakfield Park
  - Triangle Park
  - Mansion Drive play area
  - Hospital Road playing fields
  - Hammerwich Cricket Club
  - Village Green, Meerash Lane

**See Policy LEnv1.**

- 4) **Improving the following links for shared pedestrian and cycle use:**
  - i) Junction of National Cycle Route N5 with A5 at Brownhills High School along A5 to Muckley Corner then A461 Walsall Road to Pipehill.
  - ii) Along A5190 from Farewell Lane to Pipehill.
  - iii) Further towpath sections of the Lichfield Canal within the Parish for pedestrian and cyclist use.
  - iv) Other proposals in conformity with the Policies of this Plan.

**See PolicyT2 and para 8.8.**

**5) Pursuing with SCC the assessment of the following properties as Local Heritage Assets, and their suitability for being added to the list of properties protected by Policy LEnv3:**

- Cherry Cottage, Meerash Lane
- Apple Tree Farm, Hammerwich Road
- Old Smithy (Forge Close), Burntwood Road
- Mill House, Mill Lane

The Hammerwich Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Hammerwich Parish Council with the assistance of  
gjplanhelp

*Hammerwich  
Parish Council*



Help with your Neighbourhood Plan