

Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Review 2024-2040

Regulation 17(e)(ii) Modification Statement

June 2025

Statement from Shenstone Parish Council

The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan was first made (adopted) by Lichfield District Council in April 2016. It contains twenty-three policies and covers the plan period 2014 – 2029. It is now undergoing modification by Shenstone Parish Council.

Whilst the made Plan has generally been considered by Shenstone Parish Council to be working well, it is now nine years old. Accordingly national and local planning policy has changed in many respects and that the Parish Council felt it necessary to update their Plan to ensure it remains relevant to the Neighbourhood Area. In addition, it felt it important to address issues of importance to the community that may have arisen during this time. The two plans are broadly similar. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Review extends the plan period to 2043 to coincide with the end date of the emerging Lichfield Local Plan. It also retains 16 of the original 23 policies but takes the opportunity to update some of these so that their wording is more consistent with national and local plan policy and reflects good practice in other neighbourhood plans. It also introduces two new policies which address particular matters raised by the community. These relate to matters concerning climate and the environment. Collectively, the changes mean that the SNP Review now sets out 18 policies covering the same broad themes. None of the policies allocate sites for new housing or other forms of built development.

Table 1 at the end of the statement summarises which policies have been added, deleted or amended.

Taken as a whole, Shenstone Parish Council is of the opinion that while modifications have been made to the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan, these do not significantly or substantially alter its overall nature. Consequently, we consider that the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Review document will require examination but, subject to the decision of the independent examiner, would not require a referendum.

In reaching this decision, due consideration has been given to the advice set out in National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

Background

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) paragraph 106 (Reference ID: 41-106-20190509)¹ explains that 'there are three types of modification which can be made to a neighbourhood plan' and that 'the process will depend on the degree of change which the modification involves'. One example given of a material modification which does not change the nature of the Plan, would require examination, but not a referendum, is the addition of a design code that builds on a pre-existing policy. NPPG paragraph 085 (reference ID: 41-085-20180222)² also sets out what is required of the local planning authority when sending a modified plan to an independent examiner.

In the case of a modification proposal, Regulation 17(e)(ii) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)³ requires the relevant local planning authority to submit to the examiner 'a statement setting out whether or not the authority consider that the modifications contained in the modification proposal are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the neighbourhood development plan which the modification proposal would modify, giving reasons for why the authority is of this opinion.' On behalf of Shenstone Parish Council, this statement informs that purpose.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#updating-neighbourhood-plan>

² *ibid*

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/regulation/17>

Table 1: Comparison of policies in the made Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan and the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Review

Made Neighbourhood Plan	Neighbourhood Plan Review
Policy H1	Policy H1: Infill Housing Development <i>Policy updated to reflect defined village boundary and updated design documents (replacing the previous Village Design Statement)</i>
Policy H2	Policy H2: Rural exception sites <i>Policy updated to remove reference to density and reflect updated design documents</i>
Policy H3	Policy H3: Housing to support the needs of older people <i>Policy essentially the same but removes reference to Village Design Statement</i>
Policy H4	<i>Deleted as policy addressed effectively in Design Policy (D1)</i>
	Policy D1: Design and Character <i>New policy reflecting matters raised by the community through engagement and explicitly addresses landscape setting and updated design documents</i>
Policy T1: Cycling and walking	
Policy LSH1: Improving local retail	
Policy LSH2	Policy LSH2: Stonnall village shops – street scene improvements <i>Policy essentially the same however wording now clarifies enhancements are specific to the street scene</i>
Policy COM1	<i>Policy deleted as matter now addressed through national planning policy and regulations</i>
Policy HC1: Healthcare Provision	
Policy CF1	Policy CF1: Improvement of community facilities <i>Policy essentially remains the same but removes reference to flexible community spaces and particular support for improvements in existing buildings owing to existing capacity</i>
Policy CF2	<i>Deleted as policy no longer considered necessary or appropriate</i>
Policy CF3 (now Policy CF2): Stonnall Playing Fields	
Policy CF4	<i>Deleted as policy no longer considered necessary or appropriate.</i>
Policy CF5 (now Policy CF3)	Policy CF3: Community gardens and allotments

Made Neighbourhood Plan	Neighbourhood Plan Review
	<i>Policy essentially remains the same however, now clarifies that these uses are appropriate in the countryside (outside of village boundary).</i>
Policy HB1	<i>Deleted as policy no longer considered necessary or appropriate</i>
Policy HB2 (now HB1: Listed buildings and structures)	Policy HB1: Listed buildings and structures <i>Policy has been modified to reflect updated national policy tests and guidance and make particular reference to non-designated heritage assets</i>
Policy HB3 (now Policy HB2: Historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings)	
Policy HB4 (now Policy HB3: Archaeology)	
Policy LE1	<i>Deleted as policy no longer considered necessary or appropriate</i>
Policy LE2	<i>Deleted as policy no longer considered necessary or appropriate</i>
	Policy LE1: Wildlife-friendly development <i>New policy reflecting matters raised by the community through engagement</i>
Policy LE3 (now Policy LE2: Visually important trees and hedges)	
Policy LE4 (now Policy LE3: Green infrastructure and flood mitigation)	Policy LE3: Green infrastructure and flood mitigation <i>Policy modified to address matters raised by the community through engagement</i>
Policy LE5 (now Policy LE4: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation)	