Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Development Plan Review - Decision Statement published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A(9) and Regulations 19 & 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Lichfield District Council decided by Cabinet Member decision on 19th November 2025 to make the Stonnall Neighbourhood Development Plan Review under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Stonnall Neighbourhood Development Plan Review now forms part of the Development Plan for Lichfield District.

1. Reasons for decision

1.1. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4b (8) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and its promotion process is compliant with the legal and procedural requirements.

1.2. The examination of the Neighbourhood Plan has now concluded, and the independent examiner issued their final report on 31st October 2025. The independent examiner determined that the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan involves material modifications that do not change the nature of the made plan. As such, the modifications required examination but not a referendum. The report recommended that subject to the modifications outlined in the report that the neighbourhood plan meets the 'basic conditions' and as such should be made.

2. Background

2.1. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan was originally made in 2016. In 2024, Shenstone Parish Council commenced a review on the made Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan.

2.2. On 14th March 2025, Shenstone Parish Council published the draft Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan for a six-week consultation, in line with Regulation 14 of the

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The closing date of the Regulation 14 consultation was 30th April 2025.

2.3. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Review was submitted to Lichfield District Council on 30th June 2025 for assessment by an independent examiner. Following its submission to the District Council, the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan and its associated documents were publicised for consultation by Lichfield District Council for eight weeks between 11th August 2025 and 1st October 2025. Mr Chris Collison of Planning and Management Ltd was appointed as the Independent Examiner and all comments received at the Local Authority publicity consultation were passed on for his consideration.

2.4. The Examiner's report concluded that the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan involves material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan and therefore require examination but not a referendum. The report recommended that subject to modifications, the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan met the necessary Basic Conditions and that the plan should be made by the District Council.

This decision statement can be viewed online on the Lichfield District Council website at: Stonnall neighbourhood plan It can also be viewed in hard copy at:

Lichfield District Council, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, WS13 6YY - Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5.15pm

Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan recommended modifications and local authority's response

The District Council has considered the examiners report on the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan and the recommendations/modification contained within. Table 1 (below) sets out the examiner's recommendations (in the order they appear in the examiner's report) and Lichfield District Council's consideration of these recommendations.

The reasons set out below are taken directly from the examiners report. This document should be read in conjunction with the examiner's final report.

NB – The modified policies/text is shown below the recommendation. Text to be deleted in the final version of the Plan is struck through (~~text to be deleted~~), whilst text to be added is indicated in green bold type (**text to be added**) Existing text which remains unchanged will be shown in black.

Section in examined document	Examiner's recommendation	Examiner's reasoning	Local authority's decision and reason
Part 14 'Non Land Use Policies' pages 27-30	**Recommended modification 1:** • **retitle and reposition Part 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan as "Appendix C: Non-Land Use Issues" and adjust the Contents page of the Neighbourhood Plan accordingly.** • **insert introductory text to Appendix C to explain the status of the nonland use policies, and modify paragraph 1.4 of the Neighbourhood Plan to include that explanation and to correct the numbering of parts of the Neighbourhood Plan.**	Part 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan identifies issues that have been raised through the plan preparation process that are not directly related to land use matters and which cannot be addressed directly by a planning policy. The identified issues are set out as five non land use policies relating to smarter travel choices; HGV/LGV traffic; local traffic issues; health; and community facilities. The plan preparation process is a convenient mechanism to surface and test local opinion on ways to improve a neighbourhood other than through the application of land use policies. It is important that those non-development and land use matters,	Modifications are agreed with and accepted

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		raised as important by stakeholders, should not be lost sight of. The acknowledgement in the Neighbourhood Plan of issues raised in consultation processes that do not have a direct relevance to land use planning policy represents good practice. The Guidance states, "Wider community aspirations than those relating to the development and use of land, if set out as part of the plan, would need to be clearly identifiable (for example, set out in a companion document or annex), and it should be made clear in the document that they will not form part of the statutory development plan." The non land use policies are presented in a dedicated section of the Neighbourhood Plan although their status is not described. I have recommended text is added as an introduction to Part 14 that explains the status of the non-land use policies. I have also recommended Part 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan should be repositioned and retitled 'Appendix C: Non-Land Use Issues' so that it is	

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		more clearly distinguished from the statutory Neighbourhood Plan that it is intended will form part of the Development Plan. This will necessitate modification of the Contents page of the Neighbourhood including renumbering of Part 15 as Part 14. I have also recommended a correction and modification of paragraph 1.4 of the Neighbourhood Plan. I confirm Part 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan, including the issues identified, have not been subject to Independent Examination.	
Policy H1 (Paragraph 5.1, page 9 **Map A, page 32**	**Recommended modification 2:** **In Policy H1** • **replace "village boundary (as shown on Map A)" with "Stonnall settlement boundary (defined on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan)"** • **replace "permitted" with "supported"** • **replace "Guidance document" with "Document"** **In the legend to Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan insert "Stonnall" before "Settlement Boundary"**	The representation of the District Council suggests an amendment to the policy text to read "The design of development should comply with the principles outlined in the Stonnall Design Guide and the Lichfield District Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (see Policy D1)." I have recommended this correction is made. The term "will be permitted" does not have sufficient regard for paragraph 2 of the Framework which requires material consideration to be	Modifications are agreed with and accepted

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	Increase the scale of Map A so that boundaries and features can more easily be identified. **Policy H1: Infill housing development** **Infill housing development within the ~~village boundary (as shown on Map A)~~ Stonnall settlement boundary (defined on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan) that meets local need and does not harm the character and setting of the Village will be ~~permitted~~ supported. The design of development should comply with the principles outlined in the Stonnall Design Guide and the Lichfield District Design Code Supplementary Planning ~~Guidance document~~ Document (see Policy D1)**	taken into account. Those material considerations may not be known until the time of determination of a development proposal. The policy refers to Map A which defines a settlement boundary. I have recommended the scale of Map A is increased so that boundaries and features can more easily be identified. I have also recommended use of the same terminology in Policy H1 and on Map A to avoid confusion. I have recommended a modification in these respects so that the policy has sufficient regard for national policy and "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	

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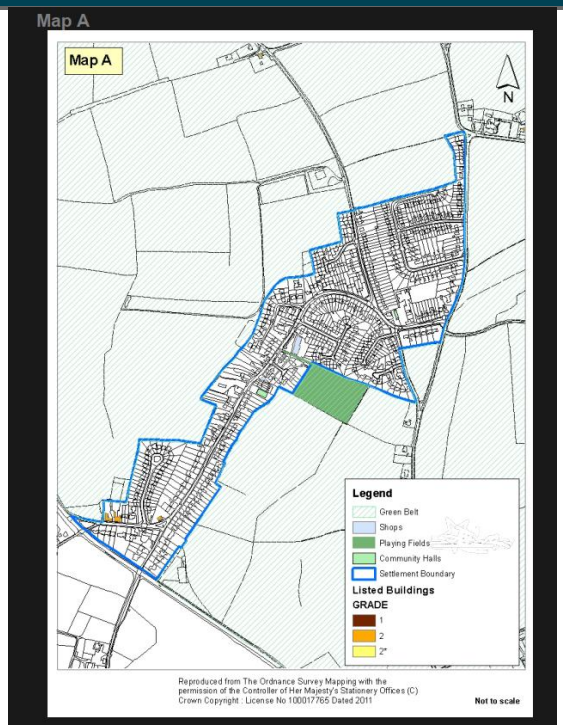
	Map A  ***In legend, add 'Stonnall' before 'Settlement Boundary'***		
Policy H2, page 9	**Recommended modification 3:** **In Policy H2 delete "in the Plan area"** **Policy H2: Rural exception sites**	The term "in the Plan area" is unnecessary and confusing as all the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan apply throughout the plan area unless a lesser area is specified. I have recommended a modification in this respect so that the policy "is clearly	Modifications are agreed with and accepted

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	Proposals for small scale affordable housing development on exception sites ~~in the Plan area~~ will be supported subject to the following criteria: **• the proposed development meets the requirements of Policy H2 of the Lichfield Local Plan; and** **• the proposed development has due regard to the character of the surrounding area and complies with the principles outlined in the Stonnall Design Guide and the Lichfield District Design Code Supplementary Planning Guidance document (see Policy D1).** **All resulting affordable housing units will be required to demonstrate that they comply with a local lettings plan which has been developed in accordance with Lichfield District Council's Allocation Policy.**	written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	
Policy H3, page 10	**Recommended modification 4:** **Replace Policy H3 with "Support will be given to residential development proposals that provide well designed homes which meet the needs of older people or can be easily adapted to meet their needs."** **Policy H3: Housing to support the needs of older people** ~~Support will be given to development that provides well designed homes which are either adapted to meet the needs of older people or are easily capable of adaptation~~ **Support will be given to residential development proposals that provide well designed homes which meet the needs of older people or can be easily adapted to meet their needs**.	The District Council has suggested a modification to improve clarity. I have adopted this suggestion in my recommended modification.	Modifications are made in line with District Council officers recommended amendment submitted in their Regulation 16 consultation representation. Modifications are agreed with and accepted.

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Policy D1, page 12	**Recommended modification 5:** **In Policy D1** • **replace the first sentence with "To be supported development proposals must be sympathetic to, and where appropriate enhance, the character, appearance, and setting of Stonnall village."** • **replace "Guidance document" with "Document"** • **replace "defined village boundary" with "Stonnall settlement boundary (defined on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan)"** • **replace "sensitively designed" with "designed to be appropriate for its location** **Policy D1: Design and character** ~~Development within the parish of Stonnall must preserve and, where appropriate, enhance the character, appearance and setting of the village.~~ **To be supported development proposals must be sympathetic to, and where appropriate enhance, the character, appearance, and setting of Stonnall village** **Proposals must demonstrate how they have been informed by the Stonnall Design Guide and the Lichfield District Design Code Supplementary Planning** ~~Guidance document~~ **Document**. **Particular regard should be given to local distinctiveness, materials, layout, scale, and landscape setting. Development located outside the**	The term "preserve," as applied to the appearance of the village, does not have sufficient regard for national policy which supports sustainable development. The term "parish of Stonnall" is without meaning. The terms "defined village boundary" and "sensitively designed" are imprecise and do not provide a basis for the determination of development proposals. I have adopted the suggestion of the District Council that the title of the Lichfield District Design Code SPD should be corrected. I have recommended a modification in these respects so that the policy "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	Modifications are agreed with and accepted.

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	~~defined village boundary~~ Stonnall settlement boundary (defined on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan) must be ~~sensitively designed~~ designed to be appropriate for its location and must not harm the character or setting of Stonnall.		
Policy T1, page 13	**Recommended modification 6** **In Policy T1** • replace "Planning permission will be granted" with "Development proposals" • after "services" insert "will be supported" • replace "do not" with "would not" **Include in part 7.1.1 of the Neighbourhood Plan reference to DfT's LTN 1/20 and Active Travel England's emerging Rural Guidance.** **Policy T1: Cycling and walking** ~~Planning permission will be granted~~ Development proposals for new or improved cycling or pedestrian access to facilities and services will be supported providing that they take account of the residential amenity of adjacent properties and ~~do not~~ would not otherwise affect the safe flow of traffic on the highway network.	Staffordshire County Council state "It is unlikely that a stand-alone active travel scheme would require planning consent. It is much more likely that the delivery of infrastructure shall form part of the mitigation required of a proposed development. We would suggest to improve interpretation of the Policy reference should also be made to DfT's LTN 1/20 and Active Travel England's emerging Rural Guidance in the supporting text." The Parish Council has stated support for such an amendment. I have recommended a modification in this respect so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework. The term "planning permission will be granted" does not have sufficient regard for paragraph 2 of the Framework which requires material	Modifications are agreed and are accepted.

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		consideration to be taken into account. Those material considerations may not be known until the time of determination of a development proposal. I have recommended a modification in this respect so that the policy has sufficient regard for national policy. I have adopted the suggestion of the District Council that "do not" should be replaced by "would not" to correct an error.	
Policy LSH1, page 14	**Recommended modification 7** **Replace Policy LSH1 with "Development proposals that enhance the range of retail and other local services offered from the Main Street retail centre, identified on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan, will be supported where the proposed uses do not detract from the vitality and viability of the centre.** **Modify the policy title to "Improving local retail provision"** **Policy LSH1: Improving local retail provision** ~~**Delivery of proposals that seek to extend the range of facilities offered from the existing retail units identified on Map A will be supported. Planning permission will be granted for the use of the retail units along Main Street for business, services and other facilities subject to the following criteria:**~~	It is not clear that the references in the first and second paragraphs of the policy are to the same retail units. I have recommended a modification in this respect so that the policy "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework. The term "planning permission will be granted" does not have sufficient regard for paragraph 2 of the Framework which requires material consideration to be taken into account. Those material	Modifications are agreed and are accepted.

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	~~• the proposed uses enhance local provision; and~~ ~~• the proposed uses do not detract from the vitality and viability of the Main Street retail centre.~~ **Development proposals that enhance the range of retail and other local services offered from the Main Street retail centre, identified on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan, will be supported where the proposed uses do not detract from the vitality and viability of the centre.**	considerations may not be known until the time of determination of a development proposal. I have recommended a modification in this respect so that the policy has sufficient regard for national policy. I have adopted the suggestion of the District Council that the policy title should be adjusted to improve clarity.	
Policy LSH2, page 14	**Recommended modification 8** **Replace Policy LSH2 with "Development proposals that enhance the street scene in the vicinity of the Main Street retail centre, identified on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan, will be supported."** **Policy LSH2: Stonnall Village shops – street scene improvements** ~~Enhancements to the street scene to ensure the vitality and viability of shops will be supported.~~ **Development proposals that enhance the street scene in the vicinity of the Main Street retail centre, identified on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan, will be supported.**	The requirement that enhancements to the street scene will ensure the vitality and viability of shops does not provide a basis for the determination of development proposals. The term "Stonnall village shops" is imprecise and it is unclear how this description relates to the location referred to in Policy LSH1. I have recommended a modification in these respects so that the policy "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	Modifications are agreed and are accepted.

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Policy CF1, page 17	**Recommended modification 9** **In Policy CF1 replace "The Plan supports" with "Development" and after "needs" insert "will be supported"** **Policy CF1: Improvement of community facilities** **~~The Plan supports~~ Development proposals for the enhancement or adaptation of indoor community spaces to provide for a wider range of community needs will be supported.**	The term "The plan supports" does not provide a basis for the determination of development proposals. I have recommended a modification in this respect so that the policy "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	Modifications are agreed and are accepted.
Policy CF2, page 17	**Recommended modification 10** **In Policy CF2 after "Map A" insert "of the Neighbourhood Plan"** **Policy CF2: Stonnall Playing Fields** **Stonnall Playing Fields as identified on Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan will be protected from residential and other development for the benefit of the community of Stonnall.**	I am satisfied the provisions of Policy CF2 have been adequately justified including in paragraphs 10.2.1 and 10.2.2 of the Neighbourhood Plan. I have recommended a modification to clarify the reference to Map A of the Neighbourhood Plan	Modifications are agreed and are accepted
Policy HB1, page 20	**Recommended modification 11:** **In Policy HB1 delete the first paragraph** **Modify the Policy title to be Policy HB1: Non-designated heritage assets** **Policy HB1: ~~Listed buildings and structures~~ Non-designated heritage assets**	Part 16 of the Framework relates to conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The first paragraph of Policy HB1 does not have sufficient regard for the balanced approach set out in national policy. I have recommended the first paragraph of the policy is deleted for this reason. I	Modifications are agreed and are accepted

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	~~**Heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Area (especially listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets) and their settings must be protected, conserved and enhanced when development proposals are brought forward.**~~ **In assessing proposals which involve the loss or alteration of non-designated heritage assets, consideration will be given to:** **1. whether the asset is structurally unsound and beyond feasible and viable repair (for reasons other than deliberate damage or neglect); or** **2. the extent to which measures to sustain the existing use, or find or find an alternative use/user, have been investigated.** **Where a development proposal would result in the loss of, or harm to a non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be made as to the acceptability of the proposal having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.**	am satisfied the second and third paragraphs of Policy HB1 have sufficient regard for national policy relating to non-designated heritage assets. I have recommended the policy title should be modified to relate to non-designated heritage assets.	
Policy HB2, page 21	**Recommended modification 12:** **In Policy HB2 replace "sensitive" with "sympathetic" and delete "within the Neighbourhood Area"** **Policy HB2: Historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings** **Redevelopment, alteration or extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings ~~within the Neighbourhood Area~~ should be ~~sensitive~~ sympathetic to their distinctive character, materials and form. Due reference and consideration should be made to the Staffordshire Farmstead Assessment Framework.**	The term "sensitive to" does not provide a basis for the determination of development proposals. It is confusing and unnecessary for the policy to state "within the Neighbourhood Area" as all the policies relate to the Neighbourhood /area unless a lesser area is specified. I have recommended a modification in these respects so that the policy has sufficient regard for national	Modifications are agreed and are accepted

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		policy and "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	
Policy LE1, page 22	**Recommended modification 13:** **In Policy LE1** • **replace "aim to protect existing habitats and species, including hedgerows and mature trees" with "minimise impacts on existing habitats and species"** • **delete "(a minimum of 10%)"** • **delete ". This should be provided on site"** • **delete "(such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows etc)"** • **delete the final paragraph** **Policy LE1: Wildlife-friendly development** **All development proposals should ~~aim to protect existing habitats and species, including hedgerows and mature trees~~ minimise impacts on existing habitats and species. In particular, developments required to deliver measurable biodiversity net gain ~~(a minimum of 10%)~~ and that require the removal or reduction of existing habitats will be expected to deliver biodiversity net gain on site~~. This should be provided on site~~ or, if that is not possible, then elsewhere within the parish.**	It is confusing and unnecessary for Policy LE1 to refer to trees and hedgerows when Policy LE2 is specifically dedicated to that topic. I have recommended a modification in this respect. Paragraph 187d of the Framework states "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs." I have recommended the first sentence of Policy LE1 is modified in this respect. The second sentence of Policy LE1 does not have sufficient regard for national policy and is inconsistent	Modifications are agreed and are accepted

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	The incorporation of design features into new development that encourages local wildlife and biodiversity to thrive (such as integrated bat and bird boxes, green roofs, insect hotels, etc) will be supported. **Development should aim to retain natural habitats ~~(such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows, etc)~~ unless it has been clearly demonstrated that no reasonable viable alternatives exist. Development will be resisted where it will negatively impact Priority Habitats.** **~~Where mature trees need to be removed to facilitate development, these should be replaced with suitable tree species at a ratio of 2:1. When selecting floral species for new planting schemes, these should consist primarily of native species or those considered to be climate resilient. Planting schemes should be designed to provide landscape-scale connectivity and contribute to wider habitat enhancement.~~**	with the third sentence of the policy. It is inappropriate to refer to a specific minimum percentage biodiversity net gain as this may vary throughout the plan period. I have recommended a modification in these respects so that the policy has sufficient regard for national policy and "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	
Policy LE2, page 23	**Recommended modification 14:** **In Policy LE2** • **after "required" insert ", wherever possible,"** • **insert a second paragraph "Where mature trees exceptionally need to be removed to facilitate development, these should be replaced with suitable tree species at a ratio of 2:1, or as indicated onsite by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, whichever is the greater number. When selecting floral species for new planting schemes, these should consist primarily of native species or those considered to be climate resilient.** **Delete "Visually" from the policy title.**	Consistent with my recommendation relating to Policy LE1 that matters specific to trees and hedgerows should be dealt with in Policy LE2 I have recommended text is transferred from Policy LE1 to Policy LE2. I have also considered the representation of Staffordshire County Council where it relates to trees and hedgerows here. The County Council state the tree replacement ratio "could cause confusion because the biodiversity net gain statutory metrics contain a	Modifications are agreed and are accepted

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	Policy LE2: ~~Visually~~ important trees and hedges **Development proposals will be required, wherever possible, to retain existing trees and hedgerows of good quality and/or visual significance or that have been identified as being of historic importance. During the course of any development such trees and hedgerows should be protected to ensure their future survival and retention.** • **Planting schemes should be designed to provide landscape scale connectivity and contribute to wider habitat enhancement."** **Where mature trees exceptionally need to be removed to facilitate development, these should be replaced with suitable tree species at a ratio of 2:1, or as indicated onsite by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, whichever is the greater number. When selecting floral species for new planting schemes, these should consist primarily of native species or those considered to be climate resilient.**	tree calculator, which must be used to assess whether tree loss has been mitigated in biodiversity terms. This will usually require a higher ratio of trees to be planted, but these could be offsite or even outside the area. It is suggested therefore the wording is amended to 'Where mature trees need to be removed to facilitate development, these should be replaced with suitable tree species at a ratio of 2:1, or as indicated onsite by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, whichever is the greater number'". I have recommended a modification in this respect so that the policy has sufficient regard for national policy and "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework. Paragraph 136 of the Framework states existing trees should be retained wherever possible. Paragraph 193 c) of the Framework states development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland	

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		and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons (for example infrastructure projects including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills, where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat) and a suitable compensation strategy exists. I have recommended a modification in these respects so that the policy has sufficient regard for national policy and is "clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework. I am satisfied the inclusion of the term "wherever possible" in the first sentence of the policy provides necessary flexibility to accommodate unavoidable loss of trees and hedgerows, for example to accommodate the construction of a safe site access. The policy title does not adequately reflect the policy content which refers to trees and hedgerows of good	

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		quality, or of historic importance, as well as those that are visually significant. I have recommended the policy title is modified so that the policy "is clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" as required by paragraph 16d) of the Framework.	
Plan wide (see recommended modification)	**Minor corrections to Plan** • **in paragraph 2.4 correct culverts to coverts** • **resolve the inconsistency between Map A and the description of that Map in paragraph 3.2** • **update paragraph 14.3.1 to state public consultation on the Local Transport Plan 2025 is scheduled for late 2025** • **amend the first sentence of paragraph 4.1 to "Neighbourhood Planning is supported in the National Planning Policy Framework through paragraphs 30 and 31."** **Incorporate in the Neighbourhood Plan the above minor modifications, and modify general text and illustrations to: achieve consistency with the modified policies, achieve updates and clarifications, correct identified errors, and ensure sufficient regard for national policy.** **2.4. The Aims of the Neighbourhood Plan** **Environment and green spaces** **• Protect and enhance the Neighbourhood Area's trees,**	I also recommend a series of minor modifications that are made to correct errors or achieve updates.	The District Council and the Parish Council does not accept the first suggested correction (to paragraph 2.4), as it fundamentally alters an objective of the Plan – by instead protecting 'coverts' instead of 'culverts' which the Parish desires. This modification is therefore rejected. All other modifications are

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	woodlands, hedgerows and countryside and ~~culverts.~~ coverts. **• Maximise the potential for wildlife and biodiversity to thrive alongside built development.** **4.1. National Planning Policy Framework** **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in December 2024 sets out the Government's approach to sustainable development. At the heart of the NPPF is the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Essentially, it is about positive growth with economic, social and environmental gains being sought simultaneously through the planning system. The NPPF is supported by the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) an accessible web based resource which is actively managed and updated as necessary.** **~~Neighbourhood Planning forms part of the NPPF legislation , to allow local communities to shape sustainable development within their area and to enable local communities to address their strategic needs and priorities.~~ Neighbourhood Planning is supported in the National Planning Policy Framework through paragraphs 30 and 31. A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and plan positively to support these policies.**		agreed with and accepted.