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## **Sustainability Appraisal**

Elford Neighbourhood Plan

Elford Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

April 2018

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### 1. Purpose of this document

- 1.1. This sustainability appraisal has been prepared in support of the Elford Neighbourhood Plan (ENP).
- 1.2. Elford is a village and civil parish approximately 4 miles east of Lichfield and 5 miles north of Tamworth within the Lichfield District of Staffordshire.
- 1.3. At the beginning of the NP process, the Vision and Objectives were subjected to detailed screening and scoping study. This document now concludes the process by considering the eventual pan and its complete policies prior to submission to the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.4. This document looks to use the sustainability objectives set out by the adopted Lichfield Local Plan Strategy (2015) to produce sustainability objectives specific for Elford, which will go towards assessing the Vision, Objectives and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5. This document therefore seeks to link the neighbourhood plan in sustainability terms with the adopted Local Plan to steer the sustainability appraisal.
- 1.6. It is important that the methodology chosen is robust, but also proportionate taking account of the fact that the ENP does not seek to allocate sites, and is for a discrete area.
- 1.7. The sustainability appraisal will be carried out using the following broad method:
- 1.8. Stage 1 Analysis of Sustainability Objectives of the adopted Local Plan.
- 1.9. Stage 2 Formulation of sustainability objectives for the Elford Neighbourhood Plan

- which take their lead from those set out in the Local Plan but are tailored to the local scale and characteristics of town. Key sustainability issues are also identified in this stage.
- 1.10. Stage 3 Assessment of the Elford Neighbourhood Plan Vision, Objectives and Policies against the newly created Sustainability Objectives.
- 1.11. Stage 4 Appraisal of the assessment of Elford's Vision, Objectives and Policies
- 1.12. Stage 5 Identification of areas where potential conflicts have been identified (as required)
- 1.13. Stage 6 Conclusion as to the overall compatibility of the Neighbourhood Plan with its Sustainability Objectives and the delivery of sustainable development.

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.14. Lichfield District Council have undertaken a SEA screening exercise and concluded that no SEA would not be required for this Neighbourhood Plan
- 1.15. For further details on this and for the SEA Screening Report please see the Environmental Assessment Statement submitted in support of the Neighbourhood Plan.

# 2. Stage 1: Identified Key Sustainability Issues

#### Demographics:

2.1. Demographically, Elford is characterised by a population that has a slightly faster growing population, is far less ethnically diverse, and is increasingly older, than the national average.

#### Economy:

2.2. Elford has a slightly less economically active proportion of its population then that of Lichfield and England, region and nation. There is a very low level of unemployment in the area and a higher number of self-employed residents than the national average.

#### Education:

2.3. Broadly, Elford has a low level of people with no qualifications and a high level of people with qualifications of level 4 or over compared to the local and national average.

#### Housing:

2.4. The majority of housing in Elford is owneroccupied and the largest proportion dwelling type is detached housing by far.

#### Transport:

2.5. The majority of residents in Elford travel to work by private motor vehicle. There is an extremely high level of car ownership compared to the local and national average which might be explained by the limited public transport infrastructure.

#### Health:

2.6. Health indicators suggest that public health is generally better in Elford than the national average.

#### Deprivation.

2.7. Elford is amongst the least deprived quartile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

#### Crime:

2.8. Occurrence of crime in Elford is very low, the most common form being ASB.

#### Air Quality:

2.9. There are no recognised air quality issues relating to road traffic in Elford

#### Flood risk-

2.10. Almost half of the built area of the neighbourhood and much farmland at the northwest of the village are within Flood Zone 2 and 3. Flood Zone 2 is defined as land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding and Flood Zone 3 is defined as land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.

#### Pollution:

2.11. There have been no pollution incidences within Elford.

#### Wildlife:

2.12. The Elford Garden Hall Project which began in 2009 aims at saving the walled garden from developments as housing. Several species have been identified within the garden including badgers, frogs, and butterflies

#### Landscape and Townscape:

2.13. Landscape character around Elford is roughly divided into floodplain and alluvial plan. The landscape benefits from long views while the village itself is more enclosed. Hedgerow removal is a key threat to the wider landscape. To the west of the village, the walled garden, church and avenues of trees make for strong landscape features.

#### Heritage Assets:

2.14. The parish includes a wealth of heritage assets including those that are designated as listed buildings whose setting will be required to be preserved and enhanced by new development. The landscape is an important historical asset, offering links to the cultural heritage and showing a number of features that demonstrate the working of the landscape since mediaeval times. The scattered farmsteads, mainly from the Georgian and Victorian period, are an important heritage feature.

# 3. Stage 2: Formulation of sustainability objectives

- 3.1. Lichfield's Sustainability Appraisal (2015) specifies 12 sustainability objectives, covering key sustainability themes. These are:
- A. To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality
- B. To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection
- C. To protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings
- D. To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change
- E. To encourage prudent use of natural resources
- F. To reduce flood risk
- G. To improve availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services
- H. To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems
- I. To create mixed and balanced communities
- J. To promote safe communities, reduce crime and fear of crime
- K. To improve the health of the population
- L. To enable improved community participation
- 3.2. In the table on the following page, these 12 sustainability objectives and set out against the identified key issues in the parish.

3.3. The third column shows the 12 sustainability objectives for Elford that have been created by using those in the Lichfield's Sustainability Appraisal and adjusting them based on the key issues identified in the parish.

- 4. Stage 3 and 4: Formulation of Elford's Sustainability Objectives and assessment against the Plan.
- 4.1. Stage 3 details how the sustainability objectives for Elford have been developed (see table below). These sustainability objectives were then used in an assessment matrix against the Vision, Objectives and Policies of the ENP during stage 4, which can be viewed under Appendix 1.

Table 1: Lichfield Local Plan Sustainability Objectives and the adapted sustainable objectives for the Elford Neighbourhood Plan:

Sustainability Objectives of the Charnwood Local Plan	Identified Key Issues in the Parish	Elford's Sustainability Objectives (ESO) based on the realised key issues and the Lichfield Sustainability Objectives
A. To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality	<ul> <li>Landscape character around Elford is roughly divided into floodplain and alluvial plan.</li> <li>The landscape benefits from long views while the village itself is more enclosed.</li> <li>Hedgerow removal is a key threat to the wider landscape.</li> <li>To the west of the village, the walled garden, church and avenues of trees make for strong landscape features.</li> <li>Settlement pattern heavily influenced by flood risk.</li> </ul>	ESO1: Maintain and enhance the landscape and villagescape quality of the parish

B. To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection	<ul> <li>Numerous species have been identified within the parish including badgers, frogs, bats and butterflies.</li> <li>There is limited tree cover in the parish. Riparian trees, especially willows, provide an important component.</li> </ul>	ESO2: Protect, maintain and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of the parish, as well as field boundaries, small ponds, and stands of trees within the landscape
C. To protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings	<ul> <li>The parish includes a wealth of heritage assets including those that are designated as listed buildings whose setting will be required to be preserved and enhanced by new development.</li> <li>The landscape is an important historical asset, offering links to the cultural heritage and showing a number of features that demonstrate the working of the landscape since mediaeval times.</li> <li>The scattered farmsteads, mainly from the Georgian and Victorian period, are an important heritage feature.</li> </ul>	ESO3: Protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings in Elford
D. To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change	Much of the village lies within flood risk areas	ESO4: Ensure that new development in Elford adapts to and helps mitigate the impacts of climate change
E. To encourage prudent use of natural resources	<ul> <li>Green infrastructure within the village of Elford is an important part of its rural character</li> <li>Numerous field boundaries exist in the parish</li> </ul>	ES05: Preserve the natural resources of the parish, including its field boundaries, water bodies, and stands of trees, and protect and enhance the green infrastructure by optimising the reuse of previously developed land.

F. To reduce flood risk	<ul> <li>Almost half of the built area of the neighbourhood and much farmland at the north-west of the village are within Flood Zone 2 and 3.</li> </ul>	
G. To improve availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services	<ul> <li>The majority of residents in Elford travel to work by private motor vehicle.</li> <li>There is an extremely high level of car ownership compared to the local and national average which might be explained by the limited public transport infrastructure.</li> </ul>	EOS7: Create a sustainable community in Elford that has good access to jobs, services, facilities and sustainable forms of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.
H. To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	No identified issues	EOS8: To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems
I. To create mixed and balanced communities	<ul> <li>Demographically, Elford is characterised by a population that has: a slightly faster growing population</li> <li>is far less ethnically diverse</li> <li>and is increasingly older, than the national average.</li> </ul>	EOS9: Ensure that all needs and abilities of the residents of Elford are considered
J. To promote safe communities, reduce crime and fear of crime	Occurrence of crime in Elford is very low, the most common form being ASB.	EOS10: Create a safe environment to live in and reduce fear of crime.

K. To improve the health of the population	<ul> <li>Health indicators suggest that public health is generally better in Elford than the national average.</li> </ul>	
L. To enable improved community participation	The village in its present form is quite enclosed	EOS12: Maintain the function of Elford as a vibrant rural community

# 5. Stage 5: Sustainability Assessment Appraisal

#### **Detailed Assessment Methodology**

- 5.1. As previously mentioned, Appendix 1 shows the full details of the sustainability appraisal undertaken for the vision, objectives and policies in the Elford Neighbourhood Plan. These are set out in a matrix to ensure that, where possible, all the sustainability objectives are addressed in some part.
- 5.2. Within the sustainability matrix each of the elements described above, were considered against the 12 sustainability objectives to check that there are no serious conflicts and that the policies and objectives set would have a positive influence or effect the wider sustainability issues of the parish and Lichfield District.
- 5.3. Each vision, objective and policy is assessed on a five-point scale as shown below:

Strong Positive Influence or Effect	2
Positive Influence or Effect	1
Neutral Influence or Effect	0
Negative Influence or Effect	-1
Strong Negative Influence or Effect	-2

5.4. For a score of 2 to be given, the policy or objective must directly address a particular sustainability objective. For example, a policy dealing with sustainable transport would likely get a 2 against the sustainable transport sustainability objective.

- 5.5. In many cases, the impact will be neutral, as the sustainability objective and the policy topic may be completely unrelated. However, care must be taken to ensure that residual effects (for example effects of surface runoff from new developments) are not ignored.
- 5.6. Not all of the objectives will be relevant to all of the policies, however, it is important that the vision, objectives and policies each meet at least one objective.

#### **Findings**

- 5.7. All of the objectives and policies tested arrived at a positive score.
- 5.8. Of the objectives and policies assessed, perhaps three had notably low scores when assessed against the sustainability objectives for Elford. These are; H1 Housing Types Mix, MD1 Parking Standards, and MD5 Traffic.
- 5.9. Each of these policies deal with matters in the parish which are very specific to the sustainability objectives and therefore only satisfy a small number of these.
- 5.10. In the main, many of the policies developed are predicted to have a strong positive benefit to achieve the sustainability objectives.

### 6. Stage 6: Conclusion

- 6.1. Overall, the assessment identifies no potential conflicts with the sustainability objectives.
- 6.2. The policies, objectives and the vision are considered to comply with the ENP sustainability objectives and subsequently those set in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy (2015).
- 6.3. In areas where a specific conflict occurs, it is considered that policies and programmes at the local level are able to satisfactorily address these concerns. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the guidance in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy (2015) and decisions made considering both documents, as such the Neighbourhood Plan should not repeat guidance or controls elsewhere.
- 6.4. As a result, it is considered that the vision, objectives and policies within the ENP positively contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in line with the requirements set by the Basic Conditions of the Town and County Planning Act 1990.

#### Appendix 1: Assessment Matrix Table

Stage 4: Elford Sustainability Appraisal Table - Vision, Objectives and Policies

Strong positive influence / effect	2
Positive influence / effect	1
Neutral influence / effect	0
Negative influence / effect	-1
Strong negative influence / effect	-2

Elford NP Sustainability Objective -

To ensure that the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Elford, and the character of the village and surrounding countryside, are protected from new development, including in terms of residential

amenity and traffic impact.

ES01: Maintain and enhance the landscape and and enhance the villagescape quality of the biodiversity and

geodiversity of the parish, as well as field and stands of trees

ES02: Protect, maintain ES03: Protect and enhance buildings. features and areas of cultural and historic value and their

settings in Elford

ESO4: Ensure that new development in Elford adapts to and helps mitigate the impacts of

ES06: Manage the ES05: Preserve the natural resources of the potential risk of parish, including its field flooding in the na flooding in the parish. bodies, and stands of trees, and protect and enhance the green infrastructure by

EOS7: Create a in Elford that has good access to jobs, services, facilities and sustainable forms of transport, including walking, cycling and

FOS8: To encourage needs and abilities of sustainable distribution and the residents of Elford

EOS9: Ensure that all EOS10: Create a safe EOS11: Create an and reduce fear of

environment to live in environment in Elford that promotes healthy

FOS12- Maintain the function of Elford as a

Total score: Commrnents The residents of Elford Parish want their village to become a place that supports a stronger, safer and more sustainable community. In achieving this, Elford will become better connected, offer a wider range of services for residents and  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ visitors, and provide the right housing to support the viability of the community. This will be achieved while protecting Elford's unique character and distinct qualities. This will include preserving and enhancing the character of the village's buildings and streets, and protecting the natural features and landscape." OBJECTIVES MAIN OBJECTIVE - A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ELFORD To achieve a sustainable future for the village of Elford, with a strong, stable and safe community supported by the right services and facilities, living in suitable homes, and enjoying a pleasant and attractive local environment. OBJECTIVE 2 - LOCAL SERVICES To preserve the village's existing services and to provide new ones, in order to improve the quality of life enjoyed by existing and future residents. **OBJECTIVE 3 - HOUSING PROVISION** To ensure that the village's population is sustainable, by providing the right housing in terms of type and tenure to accommodate all ages, needs and lifestyles. OBJECTIVE 4 - BUILDING DESIGN, LOCAL CHARACTER **AND HERITAGE**To ensure that any new development achieves a high standard of design, respecting Elford's established character, rural location and heritage assets. OBJECTIVE 5 - THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL ECONOMY To protect the local natural landscape, to manage flood risk, and to support agriculture in the surrounding countryside which does not conflict with the quality of life enjoyed by existing and future **OBJECTIVE 6 - MANAGING DEVELOPMENT** 

#### POLICIES

olicy	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2 5	
CES AND THE RURAL ECONOMY													
ng Appropriate Local Enterprise	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	<b>0 4</b>	
ty Facilities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 3	
mprovements to Leisure Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 2	
	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		ies can take   communty and pe detrimental Reduce resti
ral Activities												3 on the local econ	nomy within this
VELOPMENT													
/pes Mix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0 2	
of Housing Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1 4	
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 3	
ent Dwellings	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 4	
L ENVIRONMENT													
New Development	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1 5	
Assets	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 3	
	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 4	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 2	
Streets and Footpaths													
EVELOPMENT													
EVELOPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1 2	
EVELOPMENT andards	0	0	0	0	0 1	0	0 2		0	1 0	0 2	1 2 1 8	
EVELOPMENT andards ble Transport				0 1 2	0 1 1		0 2 2	0 0 1	1 0		0 2 1	1 2 8 1 9	
	0	0	0	0 1 2 2	0 1 1 1	0	2	0	1	0	0 2 1	1 2 8 8 1 9 0 6	



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