



February 2015

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1 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Introduction

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan (LANP).
- 1.2 The legal basis of this Consultation Statement is provided by Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires that a consultation statement should:
 - contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
 - explain how they were consulted;
 - summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- 1.3 The policies contained in the LANP are as a result of considerable interaction and consultation with the community and businesses within the ward of Little Aston. Work has involved community groups over approximately two years, as well as surveys, public meetings and events. This has been overseen and coordinated by the LANP Group which was formed to lead the LANP. Views and interactions from this process led to the Vision and Objectives in Section 3 of the LANP, and subsequently therefore form the basis for the key policies set out in Sections 4 to 11 of the LANP.

Organisational structure of the LANP

- 1.4 The LANP has been prepared after extensive community involvement and engagement. The LANP Group has reflected the views of the community of the need for well-designed development principally to address local needs, along with the provision of community infrastructure.
- 1.5 The structure put in place was a small Steering Group leading on work across the range of themes that formed the basis of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This Steering Group met jointly with members of the Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan because there was a strong synergy between the two plans which were being prepared at the same time.
- 1.6 This was supported by two working groups, one to address housing matters and the other to address wider community issues. In total there were 12 volunteers from the community on the two working groups. Of this number, three were Shenstone Parish councillors. The Steering Group met regularly throughout the process.
- 1.7 The Working Groups met regularly, as did the Joint Steering Group and the minutes of meetings were made available on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk.

Public events and consultation activities

1.8 The following surveys and consultation activities were undertaken as shown in Table 1.1. Examples of the various publicity material is shown in Appendix A.

Table 1.1: List of events and engagement activities

Date	Event	Venue	Attendees	Flyers to all households & businesses	Posters	Banners	Parish Council Magazine	Article in Sutton Coldfield Observer	Details posted online
23/04/2013	Launch Event	Little Aston Village Hall	61	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes 12/4/13 edition	Yes - after
30/09/2013	Community Engagement Event (Feedback on key issues from Working Groups)	Little Aston School	55	Households only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes 27/9/13 edition	Yes - after
January 2014	Survey			Yes – with stamped address envelope to allow free return	Yes		Yes		Yes - after
17/03/2014	Feedback Meeting to present Survey Results	Little Aston School	94	Households only	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - after
18/09/2014	Presentation of Draft Plan	Little Aston School	60	Households only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes 12/9/14 edition	Yes - after

Notes

Posters	Displayed in Official Notice Boards and local shops as well as distributed to local Groups
Flyers	Distributed to all households
Banners	2 banners displayed at strategic locations from 2 weeks prior to the event
Parish Council Magazine	Distributed quarterly in 2014 to all households with Neighbourhood Plan updates in every edition. Also included in the 3 editions in 2015

Stakeholder consultations

- 1.9 Throughout the process, The LANP Group worked closely with Lichfield District Council (LDC). Meetings were held with officers from LDC to address matters pertaining to, in particular housing and green belt matters. There was also an ongoing dialogue to discuss early drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.10 The LANP Group submitted a formal screening request regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft LANP in September 2014. LDC provided its formal response in October 2014, stating that an SEA was not required. A copy of the full Screening Report is included as part of the supporting evidence base.
- 1.11 Other consultees that the Steering Group engaged with included:
 - Staffordshire County Council
 - Local landowners
 - Little Aston Residents Association

Engaging with hard-to-reach groups

1.12 There were no specific groups that were felt to be under-represented throughout the process. Attendance at the engagement events was from a wide cross section of the community that broadly represented the demographic mix of Little Aston. The only area that was felt to have less involvement that expected was from residents of Little Aston Park. In order to rectify this, engagement was undertaken through the Little Aston Residents Association.

2 KEY RESPONSES FROM CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Launch Event identified some of the key issues that the Working Groups then sought to address. This included matters such as the need for policies on residential infill development and for Little Aston Park.
- 2.2 At the September 2013 engagement event, the findings on the key issues and the development of the vision was very firmly endorsed by the community.
- 2.3 By January 2014, the Working Groups had clear evidence on a number of issues. In order to gather further evidence, a survey was sent to every household in the ward. There were nearly 450 responses, representing 18% of those on the electoral role but a much higher proportion of responses when compared to the number of households. The main findings were as follows:
 - Speeding was identified as a major issue by nearly 90% of respondees, with a multitude of possible solutions favoured.
 - Pedestrian safety at the junction of Blake Street and Little Aston Lane was an issue for nearly 80% of respondees, with pedestrian-controlled lights the clearly favoured solution.
 - Nearly 85% of respondees were against development in back gardens and that development densities should be the same as existing.
 - 60% of respondees considered that Little Aston needed more community facilities. A similar
 percentage considered that the area to the north of Little Aston Lane between the Village
 Hall/Tennis Club/Bowls Club and the Recreation Ground should be designated as a public
 recreation facility.
 - 55% of respondees said there should be more recreational facilities for young people.
 - 76% of respondees said that better broadband access was needed.
 - Light pollution was an issue for nearly 85% of respondees.
- 2.4 The survey is shown in Appendix B.

3 REGULATION 14 PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group finalised the Draft LANP in October 2014. The Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation ran for a six-week period from 3rd November 2014 to 14th December 2014. A coordinated publicity campaign was undertaken which comprised:
 - A notice and link to the plan was added to the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan website
 (http://www.essexinfo.net/Little
 Aston-parish-council/Little
 Aston-neighbourhood-developme-2/)
 - Notifications were sent to statutory and non-statutory consultees via email (where possible) or hard copy letter if no email address was available (see below).
 - A public notice was put up on the noticeboards around the ward. This is shown in Appendix C.

Distribution to Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

- 3.2 In accordance with requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, relevant statutory consultees were notified by letter. In addition, a range of parties that the Steering Group considered were likely to have an interest in the plan were also written to. All parties were advised to download a copy of the plan, but were advised that hard copies could be issued on request.
- 3.3 The full list of statutory consultees that were written to is as follows:

Consultee
Lichfield District Council
Environment Agency
English Heritage
Natural England
Marine Management Organisation
Western Power Transmission
National Grid
South Staffordshire Water
Severn Trent Water
NHS Property Services
Network Rail
Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group
South Staffordshire & Seisdon Clinical Commissioning Group
North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Staffordshire County Council
Homes and Communities Agency
East Staffordshire Borough Council
South Derbyshire District Council
NW Leicestershire District Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Tamworth District Council
Birmingham City Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Highways Agency
Streetly ward councillors
Aldridge ward councillors
Four Oaks ward councillors
Brownhills ward councillors
Little Aston Golf Club

Consultee
Aston Wood Golf Club
Spire Healthcare Little Aston
Little Aston Community Association
Little Aston Village Hall
Little Aston Residents Association
Pegasus Group
PM Dodd - landowner

3.4 A copy of the email sent to the statutory bodies is shown in Appendix C.

Responses

- 3.5 In total there were 6 respondents to the Pre-Submission Consultation. This reflected a mixture of landowners and other stakeholders.
- 3.6 The schedule of comments and the respective responses made are shown in Appendix D. As a result, the Submission LANP has been appropriately amended.

Appendix A Examples of publicity material used to promote engagement events



Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan

An introductory meeting is planned for Tuesday 23rd April 2013 at 7.00pm

Venue: Little Aston Village Hall, Little Aston Lane, B74 3UF

Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan - the Community's chance to shape its future

Localism is here, giving power to communities to shape the future of the places where they live, work and play. The Government's Localism Act has devolved power to local communities to make local decisions of importance to them. This is therefore an opportunity for us as a community to play a part and put together our own land use plan for the next 15 years.

These Neighbourhood Plans have specific objectives, and represent a genuine opportunity to shape the future of Little Aston, creating something we can all be proud of. It is therefore paramount that we put in place a robust strategy based upon the needs of our community, informed by consultation with the people that count most, **YOU!**

Ultimately this plan will be used to determine all future planning applications in Little Aston over the next 15 years, so WE have to get it right to ensure that these applications are determined in the way WE want!

What happens if we don't put a Neighbourhood Plan in place?

The simple answer is nothing. The existing system is maintained whereby decisions on our future are made by Lichfield District Council as opposed to the members of our community. This is an unparalleled opportunity to bring power back to local people.

So what policies might our plan contain? Housing is always a hot topic. Lichfield District Council has its own strategy whereby they have identified a need for more housing in the village of Shenstone. In Little Aston they have also assessed the potential for more housing identifying a number of possible sites that could yield up to 638 houses within the next 15 years. WE can make sure that any housing is the correct type for our needs and say where it should be located. This of course will have a real knock-on effect on our local shops, doctors, dentists, highways, Little Aston School, local public houses, transport, parking, and last but not least, crime. By this, we mean a POSITIVE effect - but the plan will need to carefully balance consideration of impacts on all of these vital services.

It is therefore imperative that we formulate our own Neighbourhood Plan that considers how we want to develop Little Aston and how we can make it a better place to live.

To make it happen we need to form a steering group, which takes ownership of the process and puts a plan together that delivers the community's wishes. There may also be working groups that will focus on particular issues, be it housing, employment, environment, transport, etc. These working groups will be made up of members of the community – in short, **YOU!**

Without the full involvement of the community any Plan would not carry the necessary credibility for it to be a proper reflection of the community needs so we do need <u>YOUR</u> support. To that end you are invited to a presentation where we will explain more about the Neighbourhood Plan and what it can achieve. It will help you understand what we are looking to do, how we plan to approach engagement with the community, and importantly the formation of a steering group and working groups to drive this initiative and ultimately deliver a plan that reflects what <u>WE</u>, as a community, want to see. It will also be your opportunity to ask questions and to hopefully get involved to ensure that the plan addresses the issues that are important to <u>YOU</u>.

The presentation and questions should last for no more than 1 hour

Please try to attend if you can - this is YOUR opportunity to shape OUR future!

LITTLE ASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

WHAT MAKES LITTLE ASTON A COMMUNITY?

The Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan is underway. It will shape the future of Little Aston and **how** it does this is in **your** hands. Our Working Groups have been considering a range of issues and want to present these to you.

These include housing, planning, traffic, speeding, etc We need **your** feedback – have we got it **right** or **wrong**? Have we **missed** anything?

Also, we want to **hear from you** about what makes Little Aston a Community and what it needs to make it stronger. In order to hear from you, we are holding an event that you are all invited to:

Date: 30th September 2013 Time: 7pm – 9pm

('What Makes Little Aston a Community?'
Discussion Forum from 8pm)

Venue: Little Aston School, Forge Lane, Little Aston

So please pop along to give your views and join in with the Discussion Forum.

For further information contact

Dave Morris 0121 3533257 Dominic Crowley 0121 3537445 Roy Boffy 0121 3520333

REMEMBER - IT IS <u>YOUR</u> LITTLE ASTON
SO WE NEED <u>YOUR</u> VIEWS ABOUT ITS FUTURE!

40 SUTTON COLDFIELD OBSERVER, Friday, September 27, 2013

Chance to have your say on village future

RESIDENTS of Little Aston are being invited to have their say in the future of their village.

A Community Engagement Event will be held on Monday, September 30 so people can have their say on a range of issues, including housing, planning, traffic and speeding.

The Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan community group also wants to hear about What Makes Little Aston a Community.

The event will be held between 7pm and 9pm at the little Aston School on Forge Lane.

For more details contact Dave Morris on 0121 3533251.



2 SUTTON COLDFIELD OBSERVER, Friday, September 12, 2014

SSX+01-S2 [SSX]

Charity campaigner challenges cooking

ouble Glazing epairs

PVC, Wood & Juminium

Having problems with Condensation between your units?

WE WILL BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTATION

- . Door locks . Door handles . Window hinges . Letter boxes . Double glazed units • Patio rollers • Cat flaps • Velux windows • Window keys etc

FREE QUOTATION TEL: 0121 3571199 / 07864 838534

them personally, rather than being pushed into what may not be the best

Community

the potential for more local bodies to take control of some services;

Options for devolved governance including urban parishes and other models;

The impact on current devol-

Observer, CIN, Ventura Park Road Bitterscote, Tamworth, B78 3LZ. Email: suttonobserver® cintamworth.co.uk

LETTERS: PAGE 12 & 13

Blueprint for future of Little Aston unveiled

DEVELOPMENT plans for an

DEVELOPMENT plans for an exclusive suburb of Sutton Coldfield are set to be unveiled at a special meeting organised by councillors next week.

The Little Aston Nighbourhood Plan is set to be revealed at a meeting arranged by Shenstone Parish Council on Thursday (September 18) at 7pm at Little Aston Primary School in Forge Lane.

School in Forge Lane.
It will outline the guicelines for development in the ward for the next 15 years and

provide guidance to any parties that are seeking to submit planning applications for development.

After the launch back in April 2013, public meetings and looking at survey results from January this year, working groups have taken all views into account in preparing the Draft Plan that they would like to share with the community.

community.
David Morris of Shenstone
Parish Council said: "Partic-

ular emphasis has been given that emphasis has been given to the concerns raised on the issue of infill and backland development. There are also policies set out for the use of green belt land.

"We would very much wel-come your views before we

"We would very much wel-come your views before we finalise the plan so please come along."

A preview of the plan will be posted online at: www.parish-neighbourhoodplan.co.uk on the 'Little Aston' tab from this weekend.

GOT A STORY TO TELL? CALL THE NEWSDESK ON 0121 355 6061 OR



members of the public.

He said: "Lichfield District Council have identified they assessed the potential for more housing identifying a number of possible sites that could yield up to 638 houses within the next 15 years.

"Our neighbourhood plan will mean that residents can make sure that any housing is the correct type for their needs and can comment on where it should be located.

"This of course will have a knock-on effect on our local shops, doctors, dentists, highways, Little Aston School, local public houses, transport, parking and last but not least, crime.

"By this we mean a positive effect, but the plan will need to carefully balance consideration of impacts on all of these vital services."

The first meeting will have time available for questions. Contact Dave on 0121 353 3257.



LITTLE ASTON SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

FEEDBACK MEETING AT LITTLE ASTON SCHOOL

MONDAY 17TH MARCH FROM 7.00 – 9.00pm

Thank you all for your responses to the recent survey. The results are viewable online, visit: www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

We received 447 responses that show that we all really care about our community and want to see the unique character of Little Aston maintained going forward.

We now need to use these results to shape the options for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

There has been a further joint meeting of the Working Groups led by Roy Boffy & Dominic Crowley and we will be presenting options for further discussion and approval in principle at Little Aston School, Forge Lane, on 17th March 2014 from 7.00pm.

The format of the meeting will be a rolling drop in meeting with all the results available for perusal along with the emerging options clearly displayed.

Working Group members will be available from 7.00pm onwards to discuss any issues and listen to your views.

You will not be surprised that traffic issues were among the major concerns and these are being addressed by Lichfield District Council. Traffic surveys (sponsored by the Parish Council) were conducted at various locations across the whole of Shenstone Civil Parish Wards in the first week of February and these should enable the Highways Department to look at solutions.

Please do try and attend (and also remind your neighbours) as we will have 1 chance to pull together a consensual Neighbourhood Plan and it is important that it represents the views of the whole community.

Following on from this meeting we will be in a position, along with help and advice from our consultants (Navigus Planning), to finalise an initial draft of the Neighbourhood Plan with the aim of having a working draft document to present to you all by the end of July

If you have any queries or comment please Email them to me at dave.morris271@gmail.com

Thank you all again for your time and contributions

Dave Morris

Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Leader





Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Draft Plan Presentation

Our Neighbourhood Plan has now entered a very important phase of its development. We are now bringing together all of the work carried out through the working groups, engagement sessions, consultation, and guidance via Navigus Planning into a draft plan.

You are invited to a presentation to go through the First Draft of our plan

at

7.00 pm Thursday 18th September Little Aston School, Forge Lane, B74 3BE

The main purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan is to guide development within the ward and provide guidance to any interested parties wishing to submit planning applications for development within the ward. The process of producing the plan has sought to involve the community as widely as possible and the different topic areas covered in the plan are reflective of this and in line with the issues you felt important via the Community Survey.

Without a plan, the ward could be subject to a considerable amount of unwanted and potentially inappropriate and unsustainable development.

If you would like to see a preview of the Draft Plan before the meeting we will be posting it online from the 12th September on our website www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk - then go to the Little Aston tab and scroll down to Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

IT IS <u>YOUR</u> LITTLE ASTON SO WE NEED <u>YOUR</u> VIEWS TO SECURE ITS FUTURE.

Appendix B Neighbourhood Plan survey





LITTLE ASTON UPDATE and SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan can address the needs of the community and tell a coherent 'story' for Little Aston over the next 15 years. Here is the emerging story that has informed this survey and the activities of the Working Group:

Little Aston is an attractive, affluent and desirable area. Historically, it was a small settlement to the North of Sutton Coldfield around Forge Lane until the arrival of Little Aston Hall in the mid-19th Century. With the development of the Little Aston Estate in the 1920s and 1930s the area began its modern course. The suburban expansion of Sutton Coldfield during the post-war period gradually extended Little Aston to its present boundaries. It was saved from incorporation into Birmingham in the 1970s partly by a vigorous local campaign and partly by being within Staffordshire rather than Warwickshire - a happy accident of history.

Respondents have made it clear that they see little, if any, need for significant change in Little Aston. Perhaps some very limited housing development for older residents wishing to downsize might be appropriate as are measures to deal with the increasing traffic through the area but, for the most part, residents are happy with Little Aston as it is. Most residents have moved to Little Aston precisely because they appreciate its properties as a generally lovely place in which to live, to bring up children and to retire to, and they wish to keep it that way.

Traffic flows are a major issue throughout the area. Commuter and local traffic at peak times, coupled with an increasing burden of Heavy Goods Vehicles, create hazards for other road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, dog walkers and others. Better crossings are needed, particularly at the Blake Street/Little Aston Lane junction and over Blake Street to the Railway Station.

The lack of a central 'community hub' may be an issue. The opportunity to provide such a hub – incorporating new community facilities and spaces – on the north side of Little Aston Lane could be seen as a way of bringing the community together whilst protecting the rural edge of Little Aston from unwanted development.

This is what we believe the Little Aston 'story' to be. But we need your views. Please fill in the survey overleaf. Circle your answer(s) to each question appropriately.

At this stage, please do not consider issues such as cost but focus on whether you think that these ideas are worthwhile or not.

Surveys can be completed by all residents aged 16 or over. Please print off extra copies as required or download from our website. They can be completed by hand and returned using the **FREEPOST** envelope provided. They can also be returned to the following locations:

- Pat the Butchers at the Little Aston shops
- The Co-op in Streetly Village

Alternatively, the survey can be completed online at www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/voiceit

Completed surveys must be returned by 31st January at latest.

Your responses to this survey will help to shape the options for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. We intend to present options for the Neighbourhood Plan to you at an event at Little Aston School, Forge Lane, on 17th March 2014 at 7pm. Following this, we will be in a position to start to put the draft Neighbourhood Plan together, with the aim to complete it during Summer 2014. Please also visit our website at www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk for further information.

LITTLE ASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY QUESTIONS

 Speeding traffic has b Do you agree that this If so, can you indicate, would help to reduce to 	is the case in ranking	? order, which of	the following mea	sures, if an	y, you think	Yes/No
A common speed limit of 30mph throughout the area	Speed ma	onitoring signs in roads	Closing lanes to traffic	through	"Engineered" solutions (e.g. speed bumps or chicanes)	
 Pedestrian safety at the Do you agree that this is If so, can you indicate, in County Council to imple 	the case? n ranking o	rder, which of th	ne following measu	ires would		Yes/No
Providing pedestrian contri traffic lights	25555000	Increasing the ir light changes	nterval between	An 'all r	ed" sequence	
3. Heavy Goods Vehicles Do you agree that this is					an increasing problem.	Yes/No
4. It has been suggested Living in Little Aston a vo land adjacent to Little As	that in ordery limited ton Hospi	der to provide h housing devel tal/ Little Aston	nousing for resid opment should b	ents to "do		
 Do you agree with 						Yes/No
	the releas	e of any further			is change your mind? nent provided that this	Yes/No Yes/No
		And the same of			- 0 5 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	
5. Do you agree with the should generally be re		n that applicati	ons for developr	nent that i	nclude "garden grabbing"	Yes/No
6. Do you agree with the Densities appropriate				hould be i	n line with existing	Yes/No
7. In general do you agre community facilities.	e with the	suggestion tha	at Little Aston wo	uld benefi	t from more	Yes/No
8. More specifically, the t For each, please indic					g improved community faci	lities.
designating the are Bowls Club and th designating the rol	ea to the no	orth of Little Asto on Ground as a	on Lane between to public recreation f	he Village l acility		Yes/No
Mill Lane/ Aldridge					ooto, rioda,	Yes/No
 replacing the Village access 	ge Hall and	redesigning the	site to provide a	more mode	rn facility and improve	Yes/No
9. Do you agree with the	suggestio	n that more rec	reational facilitie	s for teen	agers are needed?	
						Yes/No
 Do you agree with the Broadband technolog 		ion that Little A	ston generally n	eds much	improved access to	Yes/No
11. Do you agree that me application?	asures to	minimise light	pollution should	be consid	ered within any planning	Yes/No
12. Please indicate your	age group	16 –18	19 –35	36 -64	65+	
 If you could change, a Please continue on a separate s 			ect of Little Astor	n, what wo	uld this be?	
14. If you have any comn		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO	ons, please enter	these in t	he space below.	

Thank You

Appendix C

Public notice and text of letter/email sent to statutory bodies and other interested parties regarding Pre-Submission Consultation

PUBLIC NOTICE

LITTLE ASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

As part of the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Shenstone Parish Council is undertaking Pre-Submission Consultation on the Little Aston Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

We are hereby seeking your views on the Draft NDP. The plan can be viewed here: www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk under the Little Aston tab. A hard copy is available at The Parish Council office.

The pre-submission consultation commenced on the 3rd November and the closing date for representations is the 14thDecember at 23.59.

Representations can either be emailed to Sue Nelson at

admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

or sent by post to:

Shenstone Parish Council, 25C Main Street, SHENSTONE, WS14 0LZ

Yours sincerely

S. Nelson Parish Clerk

ConsultationMailOct14

LITTLE ASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

Dear Consultee

As part of the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Shenstone Parish Council is undertaking Pre-Submission Consultation on the Little Aston Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). As a body that we are required to consult, we are hereby seeking your views on the Draft NDP. The plan can be viewed here: www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk under the Little Aston tab. A hard copy can be provided on request.

The pre-submission consultation runs for a period of six weeks. The closing date for representations is 14th December 2014 at 23.59. Representations can either be emailed to Sue Nelson at

admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

or sent by post to:

Shenstone Parish Council, 25C Main Street, SHENSTONE, WS14 OLZ

Yours sincerely

S. Nelson Parish Clerk

Appendix D Schedule of comments and responses to Pre-Submission Consultation

LITTLE ASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION COMMENTS

Ref. No.	Contact Name and Organisation	Part(s) of the Plan to which comments apply	Comments or Concerns	Response	Changes to Neighbourhood Plan
1	Staffordshire County Council	Transport/ Movement	The County Council Community Highway Liaison team have been in discussions with the Parish Council over a number of transport issues most recently a traffic strategy for the area. In relation to MOV1 the general principle of the Policy is supported however with regards to the circular jogging/cycling/walking route we believe further discussions are required regarding evidence on safety.	The safety of such provision would best be dealt with as part of any detailed planning application.	No change
2	Staffordshire County Council	Transport/ Movement	It is also noted that part of the proposed route falls within Stonnall outside of the plan area. Stonnall are also preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and their latest draft doesn't include any consideration of this proposed route, which therefore brings into question its deliverability.	Further discussions were made with the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan team and they confirmed that they were supportive of the proposals. However, because their Neighbourhood plan had already been submitted to LDC, they were unable to include it in the Neighbourhood Plan.	Reflect this position in the supporting text to Policy MOV1.
3	Staffordshire County Council	Transport/ Movement	Policy MOV2 refers to the support for the provision of new bus stops and shelters with specific mention to the north side of Aldridge Road. We have no objection to the principle of support for new bus stops but the plan should acknowledge that the site constraints on the north side of Aldridge Road may preclude the provision of a new bus stop in that location	This is noted and agreed.	Reference in Policy MOV2 to "nearer to Little Aston Hospital" will be deleted.
4	Staffordshire County Council	Ecology	There is a lack within the plan of consideration of protection or enhancement of biodiversity, contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). NPPF s. 109 states: "The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;" s.117 states: "To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should: identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect	Whilst this is noted in respect of considering matters relating to the screening of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), these were not matters raised by the community so it would be inappropriate to include policies without evidence that they have come from the community engagement.	No change

Ref. No.	Contact Name and Organisation	Part(s) of the Plan to which comments apply	Comments or Concerns	Response	Changes to Neighbourhood Plan
			them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation; • promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan; • aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests;		
			Little Aston is located adjacent to Sutton Park and is an area where there is high potential to enhance ecological networks in accordance with Natural England priorities, by creation or restoration of heathland habitats. Measures could be secured through the development management system, given policy support. These would increase environmental value and provide increased opportunities for local people to experience contact with wildlife close to home.		
5	Staffordshire County Council	Historic Environment	The historic environment is not currently well represented within the Neighbourhood Plan for Little Aston, although section 1 provides a clear overview of its history. It is also noted that actions have been identified to ensure the protection and enhancement of the character of the Conservation Area throughout the Plan. However, the plan does not take account of the other national and locally designated heritage assets which lie within the Ward. Above and below ground archaeological remains are also not considered within the Neighbourhood Plan. The contribution of Little Aston's historic environment to the Ward's sense of place and local character could be highlighted through the inclusion of one or more specific historic environment policies. A number of resources exist which could be consulted in order to strengthen the historic environment aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan and which could support the inclusion of specific policies. These comprise: • Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) an overview of what is included in this database can be found at	Whilst this is noted in respect of considering matters relating to the screening of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), these were not matters raised by the community so it would be inappropriate to include policies without evidence that they have come from the community engagement.	No change
			www.staffordshire.gov.uk/historic-environment-record The Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment for Lichfield District which includes an over view of the archaeology, built heritage and historic landscape character of much of the Ward. This can be downloaded from http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/info/856/local_plan/1014/evidence_base/10 (under Assessment for Little Aston)		

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		Totty, R (ed.). 2009. 'A landscape survey of the parish of Shenstone'. The Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society		
Staffordshire County Council	Heritage assets	The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the existence of the Little Aston Conservation Area, but does not depict its area nor the areas identified for amendment under the Neighbourhood Plan. No reference or map is provided to any other designated heritage assets of which there are a number within the Ward. These designated heritage assets comprise 12 Nationally Listed (Grade II) Buildings and 21 Locally Listed Buildings (administered by Lichfield District Council) as well as the Conservation Area. It is advised that a policy be devised which aims to protect and enhance the national and local designated heritage assets within the Ward and their contribution to the local character of the settlement. A further historic environment policy is advised for inclusion within the Neighbourhood Plan to take account of the significant potential for the survival of above and below ground archaeology across the Ward. This would take particular account of the line of the Roman road whose presence is noted in section 1. The archaeological character of the Ward is referenced within the Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment for Lichfield District	Whilst this is noted in respect of considering matters relating to the screening of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), these were not matters raised by the community so it would be inappropriate to include policies without evidence that they have come from the community engagement.	No change
Staffordshire County Council	Historic landscape character	The historic landscape character of the Ward, whilst impacted by more recent farming practices, the creation of the golf courses and residential development does contain areas where historic landscape features contribute to the local rural character. An overview of the historic landscape character of the Ward is provided within the Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment for Lichfield District mentioned above. What survives is characterised by 18th-19th century changes which occurred under the influence of the Little Aston estate. As well as the remnant parkland there are a number of 18th-19th century planned field systems and also a number of historic rectilinear woodlands/copses which are also closely associated with the alterations o the landscape carried out during these two centuries. The survival of these woodlands also reflect the historic planned nature of the earlier enclosure even where its legibility has been impacted by late 20th century farming practices. Should a policy which seeks to address the protection and enhancement of the local landscape character (cf. Landscape comment below) then an understanding and identification of the surviving historic elements could incorporated into this policy. Examples of Neighbourhood Plans which contain strong historic environment policies include the adopted Chaddesley Corbett Neighbourhood Plan	Whilst this is noted in respect of considering matters relating to the screening of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), these were not matters raised by the community so it would be inappropriate to include policies without evidence that they have come from the community engagement.	No change
	Organisation Staffordshire County Council Staffordshire	Organisation Plan to which comments apply Staffordshire County Council Heritage assets Staffordshire Historic landscape	Plan to which comments apply Totty, R (ed.). 2009. 'A landscape survey of the parish of Shenstone'. The Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society. Staffordshire County Council Heritage assets The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the existence of the Little Aston Conservation Area, but does not depict its area nor the areas identified for amendment under the Neighbourhood Plan. No reference or map is provided to any other designated heritage assets of which there are a number within the Ward. These designated heritage assets comprise 12 Nationally Listed (Grade II) Buildings and 21 Locally Listed Buildings (administered by Lichfield District Council) as well as the Conservation Area. It is advised that a policy be devised which aims to protect and enhance the antional and local designated heritage assets within the Ward and their contribution to the local character of the settlement. A further historic environment policy is advised for inclusion within the Neighbourhood Plan to take account of the significant potential for the survival of above and below ground archaeology across the Ward. This would take particular account of the line of the Roman road whose presence is noted in section 1. The archaeological character of the Ward is referenced within the Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment for Lichfield District mentioned above. Staffordshire County Council Historic landscape character of the Ward, whilst impacted by more recent farming practices, the creation of the golf courses and residential development does contain areas where historic landscape character of the Ward is provided within the Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment for Lichfield District mentioned above. What survives is characterised by 18th-19th century planned field systems and also a number of historic rectilinear woodlands/copses which are also closely associated with the alterations o the landscape carried out during these two centuries. The survival of these woodlands also reflect the historic	Plan to which comments apply

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			http://www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk/ and the Stonnall Ward Neighbourhood Plan (currently out for consultation) http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/6151/neighbourhood_plan_document		
8	Staffordshire County Council	Landscape	The Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan fails to adequately address protection and enhancement of rural areas within the Plan boundaries, relying on the Green Belt Policy GB1, which is specific in its requirements. The policy should require permitted developments to be sustainably designed to a high quality with a requirement for environmental and biodiversity enhancement in order to maintain and improve the quality of the landscape. According to the Staffordshire Landscape Assessment (2001) the northern half of the ward falls within the landscape character type 'Sandstone Estatelands in Cannock Chase and Cankwood'; the resulting landscape policy objective is landscape enhancement. This area has already suffered some erosion of strength of character and loss of condition of landscape elements, resulting in a landscape of medium quality. Sensitive habitat creation and tree planting which enhances the landscape character would be considered appropriate. Retaining and maintaining ancient and diverse hedgerows and hedgerow trees are important to protect the landscape character of this area. Hedgerow restoration schemes, new hedgerow and native broadleaf hedgerow tree planting all positively contribute towards enhancing and maintaining the rural context of the future landscape.	Whilst this is noted in respect of considering matters relating to the screening of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), these were not matters raised by the community so it would be inappropriate to include policies without evidence that they have come from the community engagement.	No change
9	Staffordshire County Council	Broadband infrastructure	We support the general intentions in Policy BBD1 to improve Broadband Infrastructure. However, the policy and paragraph 10.5 need to be changed as BT is not the only provider of broadband infrastructure and the Plan may therefore be breaching other legislation. We also feel that in instances where developers cannot provide immediate access as set out in the Policy then the Policy should require that developers ensure that the underground ducting etc. is in place to facilitate future provision without the need to excavate footways or private drives. The following changes are suggested: 1. In paragraph 10.13 where it states 'developers have not contacted BT' this should be changed todevelopers have not contacted Next Generation Access (NGA) Network providers. 2. Policy CO4 should be changed as follows with text to be deleted struck through and new text in red – 'On sites allocated for residential development in the Plan all new properties should be served by a superfast broadband (fibre optic) connection installed on an open access basis. Elsewhere in the Plan area all other new buildings should be served with this	Agree with this recommendation	The changes suggested will be made to Policy BBD1.

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			standard of connection when available unless it can be demonstrated through consultation with British Telecom NGA Network providers that this would not be either possible, practical or economically viable. In such circumstances sufficient and suitable ducting should be provided within the site and to the property to facilitate ease of installation at a future date.		
10	Staffordshire County Council	Non land use actions	Reference to the conservation area have been covered above. With regards signage there are statutory guidelines that have to be adhered to for signage placed in the public highway therefore further consultation with the Highway Authority is necessary.	Agreed	Extra text added into Section 12
11	Staffordshire County Council	Non land use actions	It is also worth noting that Lichfield District Council are preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule and once adopted, with a Neighbourhood Plan in Place the Parish Council will begin to receive a proportion of the CIL receipts from development within the Parish. The Plan should recognise that this new source of funding could be channelled towards infrastructure projects within the Parish as well as considering historically traditional sources of funding.	Agreed	Extra text added into Section 12
12	Highways Agency	General	Thank you for consulting the Highways Agency on the Pre-Submission version of the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan. The Highways Agency (HA) is responsible for operating and improving the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England and is keen to engage in all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process to identify and support sustainable development patterns and to help preserve the safety and efficiency of the network. There are no parts of the Strategic Road Network that run through or around Little Aston and it is noted that there are no development sites identified within the document, such as would give rise to any material impact on the SRN. Bearing this in mind it is still important that the Highways Agency monitors future development within the ward, to ensure the acceptability of any highways impacts arising and to secure sustainable transport outcomes. It is noted that key roads that surround and run through the ward are under pressure, and that a number of key transport issues have been identified. The measures included in Chapter 7 which include the provision of dedicated footpaths and cycle paths and improvements to public transport accord with the	Noted	No change

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		Highways Agency commitment to reducing vehicular journeys and increasing sustainable transport habits and with the National Planning Policy Framework para. 35.		
		Having reviewed the vision, proposals and policies of draft Little Aston's Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that the implementation of the Plan is unlikely to affect any of the Highways Agency's assets and as such, no objections are raised. Should Shenstone Parish Council need assistance from the Highways Agency with regard to any transport elements of the Neighbourhood Plan the Highways Agency will endeavour to work collaboratively.		
Natural England	General	Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made. Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft	Noted	No change
Little Aston Golf Club	General	Little Aston Golf Club is one of the oldest, best known and highly rated golf clubs in the UK. It was ranked 28th in a recent survey of golf courses in England. It is one of the most significant features of the parish of Little Aston, is an attraction to golfers throughout the UK and reflects the high quality and special character of Little Aston. It contributes to the local economy by being one of the largest employers in the area and additionally by attracting a significant number of visitors. The course was laid out in 1908 and over the years has hosted many	These comments are considered to be outwith the Neighbourhood Plan. It was recommended to the representors that they approach Lichfield District council to discuss specific matters of this nature.	No change.
	Natural England Little Aston Golf	Natural England General Little Aston Golf General	Plan'to which comments apply	Plan to which comments apply

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			Those interested in golf may know that it was at Little Aston that Peter Alliss won his first professional tournament. Most recently it hosted the English Open for Amateurs in 2011 and next year will host the Carris Trophy (the English Open for Boys) as well as the Staffordshire Ladies competition.		
			The Club is owned by its members who are both ladies and men, and the Club has complete equality between the sexes. Its main source of income is fees from members and visitors.		
			The Club has invested heavily over past decades to enable the course to be maintained to the highest standards and retain its position as a leading club. This investment continues and in the last six months £350,000 has been spent in extending the greenkeeper's buildings and replacing the irrigation system. The clubhouse and its facilities are now very dated and need to be modernised and improved to enable the club to retain its prestigious status. The Club has no obvious entrance and no sense of welcome. Men and women must enter the Club through their own changing rooms. Disabled access is poor; changing, visitor and catering facilities are all now below standard. The requirements of visitors are changing, with more mixed golf being played and society adopting a more casual style of dress. It is many years since the clubhouse was last refurbished. In order to maintain the Club's status as a leading venue, the clubhouse needs a fitting entrance with greatly improved men's, ladies' and visitors' locker rooms, reception rooms and catering facilities.		
			The Club owns a small area of land adjoining Little Aston Hall Drive. This land is surplus to requirements and could be released for residential development of an appropriate scale and type, in order to generate capital for the improvement of the Club House and Golf Course facilities. The area of land concerned is relatively small (one hectare) and the proposed development would represent limited infilling in the green belt, as the following aerial photograph shows:		
			The site is secluded and well screened, and would be visible to only a few residents of Little Aston, as the following photograph shows:		
			The site could be developed in a sympathetic manner for appropriate small scale high quality development to meet the needs of the community,		

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			particularly in relation to the provision of smaller dwellings for younger couples, or those families wishing to downsize. This is a recognised need in the Preliminary Neighbourhood Plan Consultations. Core Policy 1 of the Emerging Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy accepts that minor changes to the Green Belt boundaries may be appropriate for all settlements within the green belt, with the precise boundaries being determined through the Local Plan Allocations Document or through a Neighbourhood Plan. Core Policy 1 also sets out that limited infill development will be allowed in green belt villages with appropriate "infill" boundaries being determined through community consultation in preparing the Local Plan Allocations document. It is acknowledged that the existing draft Neighbourhood Plan purports to impose an embargo on all new development within the Green Belt based upon the views of local residents. The site in question is small in area and less conspicuous than those previously identified opportunity sites within the Green Belt. It could be developed without bringing about the problems of excessive expansion, sprawl and danger of coalescence associated with the development of the sites previously identified by the council and which would undermine the purposes of the green belt. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposals further with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.		
15	Coal Authority	General	The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body which works to protect the public and the environment in coal mining areas. Our statutory role in the planning system is to provide advice about new development in the coalfield areas to ensure that it is built safely and also protect coal resources from unnecessary sterilisation by encouraging their extraction, where practical, prior to the permanent surface development commencing. As you will be aware the Little Aston plan area is outside of the defined coalfield and therefore The Coal Authority has no specific comments to make on the Neighbourhood Plan.	Noted	No change
16	Lichfield District Council	General	LDC generally welcomes the policies within the pre-submission version of the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is a well presented and structured document and provides clear reasoning for the planning policies included within it. The District Council notes that comments it made to previous drafts of the neighbourhood plan have been considered and amendments have been made in respect of these comments. These changes have addressed a number of points raised previously. As such the District Council has little comment to make at this stage. The District Council thanks the Parish Council for the opportunity to provide comments on the plan prior to this formal presubmission stage.	Noted	No change

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17	Lichfield District Council	General	Local Government Boundary Commission for England Final Recommendations:	Noted	Changes made
			The District Council is aware of the final recommendations of the Boundary		
			Commission in relation to the electoral wards within Lichfield District. This		
			recommends that Little Aston and Stonnall Wards are merged to form one ward.		
			Whilst this change has yet to take place it is worth noting the likely change in		
			Ward arrangements. As the designated Neighbourhood Areas are based on the		
			current wards and do not overlap it is considered that the designated areas		
			remain appropriate. However any reference to the 'Wards' in the Neighbourhood		
			Plan should be changed to the Neighbourhood Area to ensure this is clear.		
			Details can be found via the Boundary Commission website;		
			http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/west-midlands/staffs/lichfield-fer.		
18	Lichfield District	Introduction	Paragraph 1.1 First Sentence - Change sentence to say "This document	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as
	Council		represents the Neighbourhood Plan for Little Aston. It represents one part of the		requested
			development plan for the neighbourhood area over the period 2014 to 2029".		
			This will ensure conformity with the Boundary Commission recommendations.		
			Paragraph 1.3 Penultimate sentence – change 'future of the ward' – to 'future of		
			the neighbourhood area'.		
			Paragraph 1.4 – delete "which is contiguous with the boundary of Little Aston		
			ward". Replace Map with a map showing the designated neighbourhood area		
			rather than the ward. (Example map appended for your use).		
			Paragraph 1.5 first sentence - delete "within the ward".		
19	Lichfield District Council	Local Context	Paragraphs 2.12, 2.13 – Capital D for Lichfield District.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested
			Paragraph 2.33 – Capital P for Shenstone Parish.		
			Para 2.41 – Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.		
20	Lichfield District Council	Vision	Paragraph 3.1 – Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested

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			Vision Third Paragraph - Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.		
21	Lichfield District Council	Green Belt	Paragraph 4.1 - Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'. Paragraph 4.7 – Delete 'ward' from the final sentence. Policy BB1 - Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested
22	Lichfield District Council	Cannock Chase SAC	The inclusion of Policy SAC1: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation is welcomed. This ensures that development will have regard to the Cannock Chase SAC.	Noted	No change
23	Lichfield District Council	Housing	Paragraph 6.3 – Replace both uses of 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested
24	Lichfield District Council	Little Aston Park	Paragraph 7.3 – The Local Plan Strategy continues to save policy SA.6 of the 1998 Lichfield District Local Plan to be considered at the Allocations stage of the Local Plan. As such the statement that policy SA.6 will no longer apply is not accurate. Sentence could be rewritten to say; "Save Policy SA.6 is to be considered through the Local Plan Allocations process, However, the community of Little Aston has made it clear that it considers the policy should continue to apply and as such be included within their Neighbourhood Plan".	Accept the principle of what is being said, but the suggested wording needs to be slightly modified to make clear that the Local Plan Allocations process cannot subsequently remove the policy.	Remove the second sentence of para 7.3. Include the wording suggested in the rest of the paragraph, with some minor changes.
25	Lichfield District Council	Movement	Paragraph 8.3 - Replace 'ward boundary' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested
26	Lichfield District Council	Community hub	Paragraph 9.1 - Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested
27	Lichfield District Council	Community hub	Make clear that any built development relating to the Community Hub would have to provide 'very special' circumstances if located within the Green Belt. This could be linked to the NPPF which sets out what is and what is not appropriate development.	Noted and agreed.	Additional para added to the policy justification and additional text added to Policy CMH1.
28	Lichfield District Council	Light pollution	Paragraph 11.1 - Replace 'ward' with 'Neighbourhood Area'.	Noted and agreed.	Changes made as requested