



Produced by Barlaston Parish Council



Barlaston

Neighbourhood Development
Plan 2019 -2031



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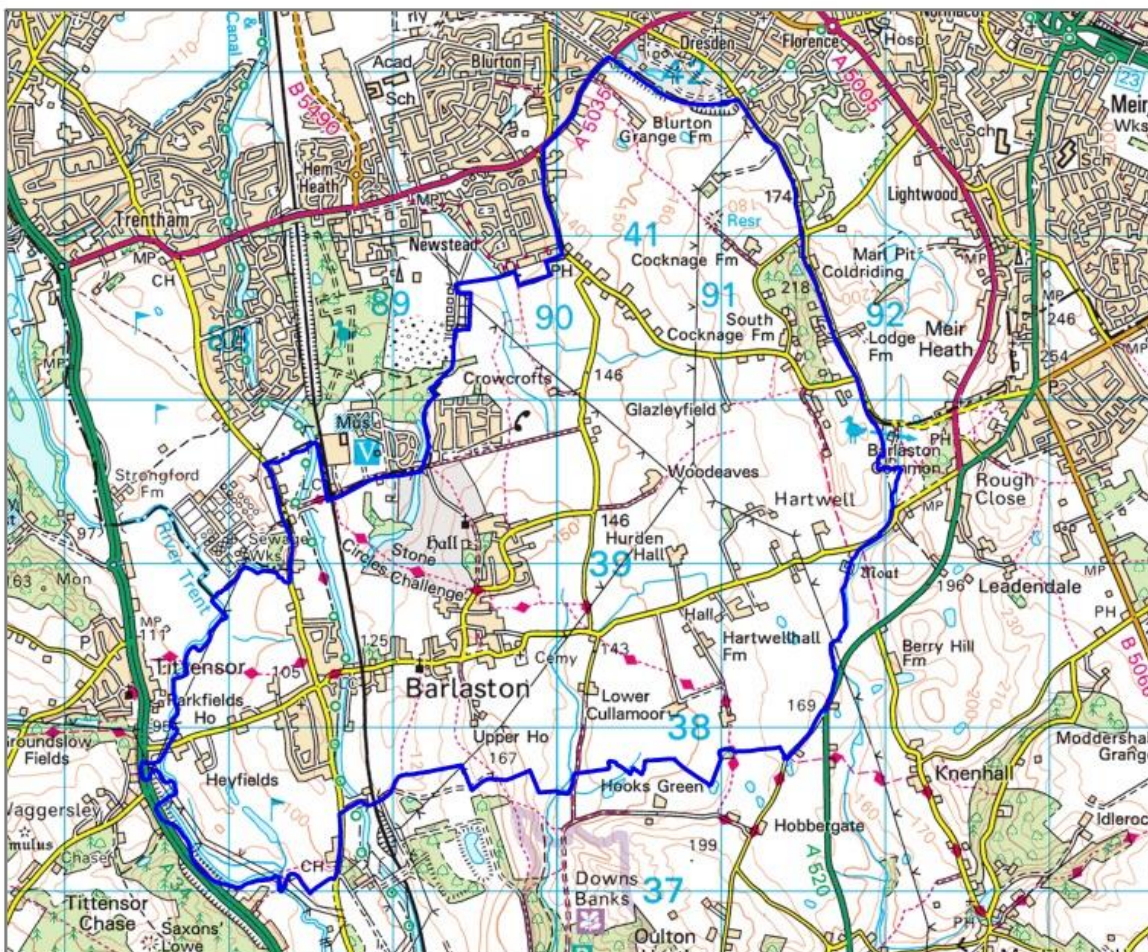


Neighbourhood Area

In 2011 the Localism Act came into force, enabling local communities in England to take the lead in planning how their own neighbourhoods will develop. Many communities around the country have seized this opportunity to influence the future of their areas. Barlaston Parish Council has produced a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish in order to shape the future development of the area.

The Neighbourhood Area is the area that will be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Barlaston Neighbourhood Area, which is the same as the area defined by the Barlaston Parish boundary, was designated by Stafford Borough Council on the 4th July 2013. The Council's decision empowers Barlaston Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. The Neighbourhood Area is shown in the following map.

Map 1: The Neighbourhood Area



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Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Barlaston Parish Council developed a programme of community and stakeholder engagement and this has been used to guide the process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan. As with all the other services it demonstrates the Parish Council recognises that the Neighbourhood Plan must reflect the needs of the community and the locality. Accordingly, the Parish Council has sought to communicate with residents in a timely and effective manner, and to inform and actively engage with them throughout the process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan. The community engagement carried out on behalf of the Parish Council in producing the draft Neighbourhood Plan is detailed within the Consultation Statement that accompanies this Plan.

To achieve the varied community engagement the Parish Council has used a wide range of communication methods including special open meetings, workshops, the village notice boards, social media such as the Facebook page, the parish newsletter (The Heron), and the parish website. In addition, specially printed leaflets and questionnaires were circulated to all households in the parish at key stages.



About Barlaston

The Character of Barlaston

The Parish of Barlaston is situated 12 miles to the north of Stafford and covers 1200 hectares of largely rural land.

It lies about a mile to the east of the A34 trunk road. The West Coast Mainline railway to Stoke on Trent and Manchester and the Trent and Mersey Canal run through the middle of the village. Traffic through the village is frequently disrupted by the level crossing sited on Station Road, the closure of which allows frequent trains to pass. This railway crossing represents a major negative feature to village life. The Parish lies within the North Staffordshire Green Belt, is close to the very popular Trentham Gardens and the National Trust owned Downs Banks can be accessed through the village.

There is major traffic flow through the village and a well-used link between the A34 and the A50 via Tittensor, Rough Close and Blythe Bridge. Together with a steady flow of traffic between Trentham in the north and Meaford and Stone to the south.

At the current time around 2860 (2011 Census) people live in Barlaston. It is one of the eleven key service villages within Stafford Borough. The main commercial centre of the village is adjacent to the main cross roads. This centre draws a significant number of people from neighbouring villages. There is a post office/general store close to the level crossing and a general store located on Barlaston Park, which is a large housing estate situated alongside the Wedgwood Pottery factory and museum.

The village is served by buses, however lots of people use their own transport to move in and out the village. On street parking remains a major problem in the village particularly in the older established areas due to the increase in car ownership. There is also a lack of children's play facilities in the village.

View from Queen Mary's Drive, Barlaston





History and Heritage

Barlaston lies south of the Potteries on a shelf of land overlooking the upper Trent Valley. It is a large, desirable dormitory village. The Anglo-Saxon name means Beornwulf's Tun. A C7 Chieftain's grave was found at The Lea in 1851; the finds are in the British Museum.

Domesday Book records one plough land worked by a serf. For 500 years until C17 the Manor didn't change hands; but the Lord was too important to live here. In 1756 the Lord, an attorney, replaced a manor house in the upper village with a fine Palladian villa. Its fabulous commanding position made the Dukes of Sutherland, 3 miles away at Trentham Hall jealous. In 1981 it was saved from demolition.

The lower village only had the main Chester road (re-routed in C17 - Old Road preserves the name) until 1777. Then the Trent & Mersey Canal opened bringing canal side cottages for boat building, tanning, slating and The Plume of Feathers Inn. There wasn't a second pub until The Slaters Arms beer house in the C19 (since superseded by the Duke of York).

Barlaston Hall, Queen Mary's Drive, Barlaston

Some pottery manufacturers (including Josiah Wedgwood's descendants) started to reside in Barlaston becoming commuters on the North Staffordshire Railway which opened 1848. They created such a demand for domestic servants a training school, the Girls' Home, opened (1870s).



After WW1 the population expanded greatly. The old estates broke up, piecemeal. The farmhouses of the ten farms (1901), began to lose their farmlands, save one. Ribbon-development appeared off/along Meaford and Old Roads (1920s-30s); a new 'Wedgwood (Pottery) Ltd' factory was built in Barlaston Hall park land (1937) (although the factory itself lies adjacent to Barlaston Parish Boundary), with its own railway station and workers' garden suburb (1950-); Orchard Place shopping precinct, housing estates, and a rebuilt Plume of Feathers Inn (all c1954) for Meaford Power Station workers (just outside the parish) began to make the lower village pre-eminent as the commercial hub; it got the upper village's final shop, the post office, in 2014.

After WW2 the Pottery manufacturers' villas became homes for the blind/elderly, adult education, and a hotel. The old church, with a C15 tower, affected by mining subsidence, was replaced on a site between the two in 1984.



Natural Environment

The village of Barlaston is surrounded by open countryside with many natural green areas to be found within the village. The Trent & Mersey canal runs through the village and many local footpaths provide easy access to areas for cycling and walking as well as other recreational pursuits such as jogging or angling. Barlaston Parish Council, through their policy of maintaining the village's green areas and improving the local environment, have planted trees and brightened the street-scene with flower beds and planters in key points of the village.

The local landscape is characterised by sparsely wooded outcrops sitting on the ridge to the east of the Trent Valley. This steeper landform and minimal hedgerow tree cover allows for extensive views across the landscape, with small to medium sized hedged fields on an undulating plateau close to the large population centres of Stoke-on-Trent and Stone. The Lowland pastoral landscape is characterised by neatly trimmed hedges & numerous mature oaks on flat or gently undulating land. Views here are limited across parallel lines of hedges where field pattern is not easy to see and hedgerow trees quickly visually coalesce to foreshorten views.

The soil is made up of shales, sandstones and clays of the Triassic era and Carboniferous coal measures give rise to no calcareous stagnogley soils, which would originally have supported acid grassland and wet heath. The predominant land use is now mainly stock rearing and farm crops. Where gaps in hedges are appearing, ranch style fencing is being introduced into the landscape.

Village services and infrastructure is limited, and further development needs to reflect this.

The village of Barlaston has developed over centuries and residents are keen to ensure that the existing pleasant rural landscape is preserved.

Wedgwood Lake, viewed from Queen Mary's Drive, Barlaston





Education

Barlaston C of E VC First School is a Staffordshire County Council school for children aged 4+ to 9 years. There are around 120 pupils at present divided into 5 classes. There is very poor access to the school and limited provision for staff parking. Intake is from Barlaston, Trentham, Stone, Blurton and Meir Heath. If faced with an increase in demand for places, the school may struggle to meet future needs.

It is anticipated that further places will be required when the development at Wedgwood Park is completed.

The school has close links with St John's church with many traditional Christian celebrations taking place there led by the children. The school enjoys village traditions to encourage the children to feel part of the community and the village.



Barlaston C.E. (VC) First School, Broughton Crescent, Barlaston

When aged 9 years plus the majority of the pupils attend Christ Church Academy (aged 9 - 13) and then on to Alleyne's Academy (aged 13 - 19) in Stone town, 2 miles away, travelling by car or coach.

There is no educational provision for children under the age 4 or over the age of 9 in the village.

There is no parking available for parents, although the Village Hall allows parents to use their car park during school drop off and collection times.

Business and Employment

Barlaston village is home to approximately 2860 people who make up the local community. This community is served by several businesses in the village. A list of these business can be found in appendix A

Barlaston has around 20 businesses and they employ approximately 200 people within the village.

Most residents are either retired or commute out of the village to go to their place of work.



Community Assets & Facilities

The range of facilities in Barlaston is varied and a full list can be found in Appendix A. These facilities are complemented by two public houses, a licensed hotel and two independent car service and repair garages, both offering an MOT facility and two sets of Community Allotments.

The Health Centre provides access to doctors and a nurse and with its ageing population is well used by residents. A private dental clinic operates nearby. The Barlaston First Responder group are tasked to emergency medical calls by West Midlands Ambulance Service. Ten Public Access Defibrillators are sited throughout the village.



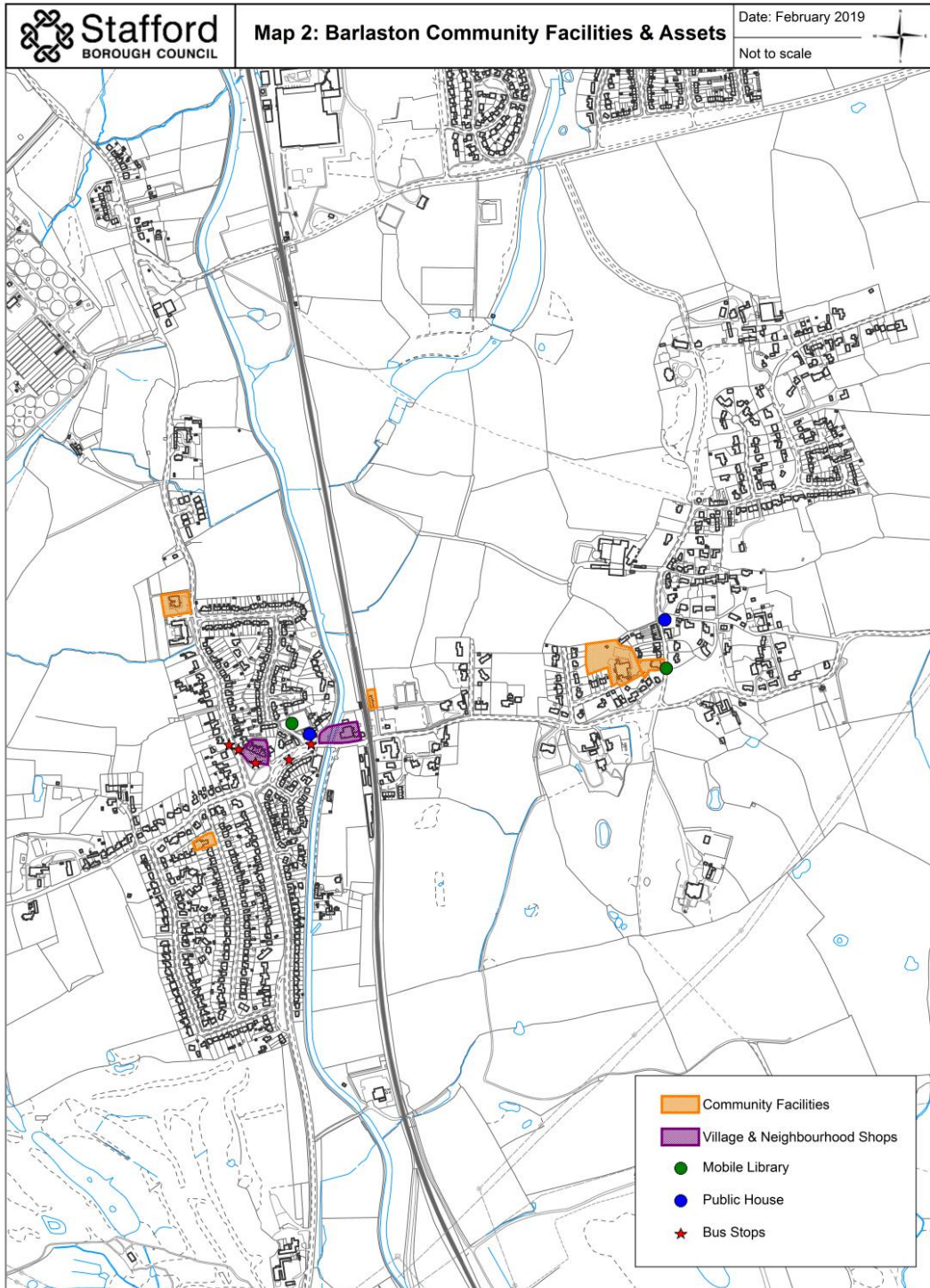
The Parish Church of St John the Baptist,
Station Road, Barlaston

Meadow Court, run by Stafford & Rural Homes, offers older residents independent living with communal facilities; there are 2 private nursing homes situated in the parish. A voluntary transport scheme is in operation to assist the elderly with shopping trips and hospital/doctors' appointments. Barlaston also has an active voluntary community group.

Barlaston has two churches; Barlaston Methodist Church and the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist which has a burial ground at the churchyard extension nearby. The village has a war memorial on the sizeable village green where a well-attended service is held on Remembrance Day.

The village has several venues which are used to facilitate sport, recreation and a variety of clubs and organisations in the village. The Village Hall is the hub of many activities with others catered for by the Methodist Church Hall, the Scout and Guide hut, the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist and both Wedgwood and Barlaston cricket clubs.

As part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan the core local services within Barlaston have been identified and mapped. In addition there is a mobile library service that visits fortnightly at the Plume of Feathers and the Village Hall.



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Traffic and Transport

Public transport facilities in the village have been reduced in the last 15 years with the closure of the railway stations in Barlaston & Wedgwood. There is a limited bus service to Stone and Hanley but run at frequencies and routes which do not meet the needs of many people. Private transport (cars, motorcycle or bicycle) are thus the main form of transport in and out of the village.

Fortunately, the road network through Barlaston is very good. However, this does have its drawbacks as Barlaston suffers from vehicles using the village as a through route (rat run) to Stone and to the main A34 dual carriageway situated a ¼ mile west of the village. This can generate quite a large traffic flow at peak times and leads to increasing speeds. Barlaston has a 7.5 tonne weight restriction but does get a few HGV's sneaking through. The questionnaires have identified concerns about speeding and a desire by residents for some subtle traffic calming and much tighter control over HGV access.

A spur of the West Coast main line runs through the village which leads to a number of level crossing road closures throughout the day; some of which can last for over 10 minutes. Residents have raised concerns over the aggregate time the crossing is closed and have requested a footbridge. Network Rail when consulted indicated that a footbridge for pedestrians over the railway line at Barlaston was not in their future plans and traffic delays at both level crossings were inevitable as it was a busy mainline route north and south. HS2 is planned to pass well to the west of the village.

The Trent and Mersey Canal passes through the village, the canal itself is used by boaters travelling through and stopping overnight. The Wedgwood museum attracts many visitors to Barlaston and many boats use the moorings close to the Museum. A marina complex is planned for this area to the North of Barlaston.

Roads

As Barlaston can be recognised as having 3 sections, Bottom of Village, Top of Village and Barlaston Park, so the road networks also have slightly different characteristics.

In road terms, the Bottom of the Village is fundamentally a crossroads of two routes. Running north to south, Old Road enters the Village from Trentham and continues as Meaford Road after the crossroads as it leaves the village in the direction of Stone. Old Road and Meaford Road run parallel to the A34 Dual Carriageway which connects Newcastle under Lyme to Stafford in the south. Running West to East, Tittensor Road runs from the A34 about ¼ mile from the crossroads and continues through the village as Station Road until it reaches the Green at the top of the village. At this point, Station Road has a junction with Longton Road and continues out of the village as Hartwell Lane towards Rough Close. Barlaston Park, which is managed and owned by the Wedgwood Factory and Museum, is connected to and accessed from the top of the village from Queen Mary's Drive off Longton Road.



The road network through the older parts of the village is fairly narrow in places with a mixture of separate footpaths and roads and combined footways and roads. Of particular concern to residents is the narrowness of Tittensor Road which does not have adequate pavement widths where the pavement exists and much of this road within the village does not have a pavement at all. The stretch from Diamond Ridge to Tittensor on the A34 is narrow and has no pavement or footpath and is quite hazardous for pedestrians. Excessive speed from motorists exacerbates the problem. Similarly, Station Road and Longton Road suffer similar issues to Tittensor Road, further complicated by a lack of parking space which has also been identified by villagers in the questionnaires.

Meaford Road and Old Road suffers from speeding motorists according to local residents and would benefit from some minor traffic management or calming.

Narrow Pavements and Pedestrian Hazards

Many of the pavements in the village are extremely narrow and non-existent in some places. Station Road has a very narrow footpath in places which is of concern to those who walk their children to school from the “bottom” of the village. Any new development taking place in the village must incorporate a method of improving the safety of pedestrians by providing suitable pavements.



Village entrance from Longton Road, Barlaston

Buses

There is now only a limited bus service to Stone, Hanley and Longton that is not ideal for many users; a faster service does not run through the village.

Railways

There are currently no trains that stop at the Stations in Barlaston or Wedgwood, both are now closed. A number of residents have expressed a desire to see the station re-open. The rail network can be accessed from either Stoke-on-Trent Station approximately 5 miles away to the north or the neighbouring town Stone approximately 3 miles away to the south.



During the stakeholder consultation Sarah McArdle, Community Relations Manager London North West, Network Rail confirmed that the re-opening of the stations was unlikely and that proposed HS2 revised route was unlikely to run on this section of line from Stone to Stoke and the preferred route ran to the west of the existing lines.

Delays at the Level Crossings

The line is a busy one and the signalling systems have to ensure absolute safety on the line as it is a section of track that has been upgraded for the Pendolino trains. Sarah McArdle has conceded that there would be times when several trains would pass through the stations without the gates re-opening in between trains because of the safety regulations.

Whilst on the one hand delays at the level crossing can be disruptive for traffic and pedestrians (including Parents and Children walking to Barlaston First School from the bottom of the village) it does in its own way act as a deterrent for those motorists using Barlaston as a short cut. There is a desire to see a footbridge over the crossing.

Pedestrian/Cycle routes, Public Footpaths and Rights of Way

National Cycle Route (NCR) 5 runs along the towpath of the Trent and Mersey Canal which runs north to south through the village parallel to the main railway line. The towpath is used by dog walkers, walkers, narrow boat users, joggers and cyclists. All of whom appear to do so harmoniously. Dog fouling has been a problem in the past, but Barlaston Parish Council manage the section of the towpath which runs through Barlaston along with the Canal and Rivers Trust. Many residents have identified this amenity in questionnaires as being a valuable and important feature of Barlaston village life.

There are a small number of public footpaths around Barlaston, mainly over privately owned agricultural land, which are enjoyed by walkers, hikers and ramblers. The upkeep of these varies but they are generally poorly maintained by the landowners. Barlaston Downs is an area of land highly valued by residents and attracts visitors to the village. It is very well maintained by the National Trust but access via Longton Road is poor in wet weather.

Sport and Recreation

Barlaston has varied and well used sports and leisure facilities. There are also some luxuries to Barlaston such as the Downs Banks, which is a National Trust nature reserve, an Alpaca Farm that holds open days and the Trent and Mersey Canal, bringing substantial tourism into the area during the summer.

Barlaston has well-attended uniformed organisations and an ever growing First School. It is clear that Barlaston would benefit from a children's play area in the heart of the village to compliment a small one on Barlaston Park. This park is mainly accessed by the residents of Barlaston Park as it is an approximate 2 miles walk to the park from the village. There is a proposal to build a play area on Meadow Road, Barlaston at the site of a former children's park.



Infrastructure

Gas Infrastructure

Developments in Barlaston are deliverable without requiring further Gas infrastructure upgrades.

Electricity infrastructure

Central Networks indicate that small developments of not more than 50 dwellings would generally be supported by the existing infrastructure provided they are within 300 metres of existing substations. A new gas powered power station is to be built at nearby Meaford.

Water Infrastructure

Barlaston will not require major infrastructure improvements to increase both waste water collection and treatment capacity to accommodate future development.

Medical Infrastructure

The Health Authorities are still considering the possible implications for primary care provision and will be in a position to undertake a more detailed analysis when more information becomes available regarding the quantum of development in Barlaston.

Broadband

Standard broadband speeds vary within the village depending on who the supplier is. Most of the village now has fibre optic broadband available, which is quicker, but speeds can still vary, and not all areas can access this at present. This still remains an issue for the area. Residents of Barlaston find this lack of speed to be very restrictive and likely to inhibit working from home where fibre is not available.

Surface Water / Flooding

There are problems with flooding, during heavy rain, in several areas including Broughton Crescent and Station Road. The upper part of the village is built on the side of the Trent Valley and this causes rain water to run down to the lower half of the village and cause flooding on occasion. Works have been undertaken but the problem still exists. The Trent plain is also an active flood plain within the area.



Vision and Aims of the Neighbourhood Plan

Vision

A Village environment and community that enables sustainable growth and development, preserves and enhances the quality of life for the community, and safeguards and protects environmental quality, including special historical and natural characteristics of the neighbourhood.

Aims

- To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous parish that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors;
- To ensure the area is adaptable to climate change and has the lowest carbon dependence possible;
- To preserve the high quality natural environment and protect nature and wildlife interests and green space; and
- To promote the Parish of Barlaston as a long-term living and working settlement that meets the needs of all ages of residents and encourages businesses and employment opportunities.

The policies are the means to achieving the aims.



Barlaston Crest, Cenataph and Green, at the junction of Station Road and Longton Road, Barlaston



Land Use Policies

POLICY CONTEXT

Context

The Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans are that

- They must have appropriate regard to national policy
- They must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- They must be in general conformity with strategic local policy
- They must be compatible with EU obligations including human rights requirements.

This Plan is accompanied by a Basic Conditions Statement which shows how the Basic Conditions have been addressed.

National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) strongly supports the principle of neighbourhood planning. It states that Neighbourhood Plans should set out a positive vision for the future of the local area, they should set planning policies to inform the determination of planning applications, including policies which set out the quality of development that should be expected for the area, based on stated objectives for the area's future and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics.

Neighbourhood Plans should support the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses and enterprise appropriate to rural areas, they should promote the development and diversification of rural businesses, they should support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that respect the character of the countryside, and they should promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages.

Sustainable Development

The NPPF Ministerial Statement states that: *'sustainable development is about positive growth – making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations'* with the planning system as a key enabler for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan will actively promote the achievement of sustainable development through applying the core principles set out in the NPPF.

The aims, objectives, policies and proposals of the Neighbourhood Plan should be assessed against their ability to achieve sustainable development. Wherever possible the Neighbourhood Plan should actively promote the achievement of sustainable development.



Local Strategic Policy

The adopted Local Plan is the Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 Part 1, adopted June 2014 and the Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2 adopted in January 2017.

The adopted Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 acknowledges the role of Neighbourhood Plans and states *“neighbourhood planning gives communities’ direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood to deliver sustainable development.”*

In the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan the following local strategic documents have been used:

- The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1, adopted June 2014
- The Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2, adopted January 2017

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has worked in close liaison with Stafford Borough Council throughout the preparation of the plan to reduce the risk of disparities between the adopted Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan.



Policies for Barlaston

The policies in the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan are based on community engagement in the form of local surveys and on the views, comments and ideas of the local community expressed in response to the various consultations carried out as the Neighbourhood Plan was being prepared.

The evidence underpinning the Neighbourhood Plan is listed in the Schedule of Evidence included as an Appendix to the Plan and includes official statistics and existing publications.

The policies in this Neighbourhood Plan seek to deliver the aspirations and needs of the local community within the framework set by the overarching legal requirements for neighbourhood plans, including meeting the Basic Conditions (page 31).

The Neighbourhood Plan's policies are structured as follows:

- Purpose/Objectives
- Rationale/Evidence
- Policy
- Explanatory Text

Following consultation with the community and an analysis of the evidence gathered, issues were identified which the Neighbourhood Plan would address. Vision, Aims and objectives were generated to guide the future development of Barlaston. These were then translated into policies.

The key policy areas concerned the location and scale of new housing in Barlaston, the Settlement Boundary, the design of new development, and the traffic impact of new development in critical locations.

Developer Contributions

The adopted Plan for Stafford Borough includes Policy I1 which sets out the requirements for infrastructure provision and contributions to that from new development. Parish Councils which have a Neighbourhood Plan in place are entitled to 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions when that mechanism is in place; currently the Borough Council is progressing the introduction of CIL. Contributions via planning consents subject to Section 106 planning obligations have to meet the relevant tests defined in national policy.



Rural Settlement

Purpose

- To accommodate new housing development, which satisfies strategic growth requirements, fulfils local housing needs, and ensures that locally needed infrastructure is delivered.
- Improving the viability of the settlement.

Context and rationale

The Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 adopted June 2014 states that, within the settlement boundaries, there would be a presumption in favour of supporting housing and employment development, subject to any other relevant planning considerations. It also goes on to state that it is intended that development allocations for specific sites will be identified within the Settlement Boundaries through the Neighbourhood Planning process.

The adopted Local Plan identifies Barlaston as one of 11 'key service villages' within the Borough, with a minimum housing requirement of 1,200 for the plan period across the villages. As of the 31st March 2017, the minimum requirement had been met for the key service villages in terms of housing completions and commitments, with further information available annually through the Stafford Borough Authority Monitoring Report: www.staffordbc.gov.uk/monitoring

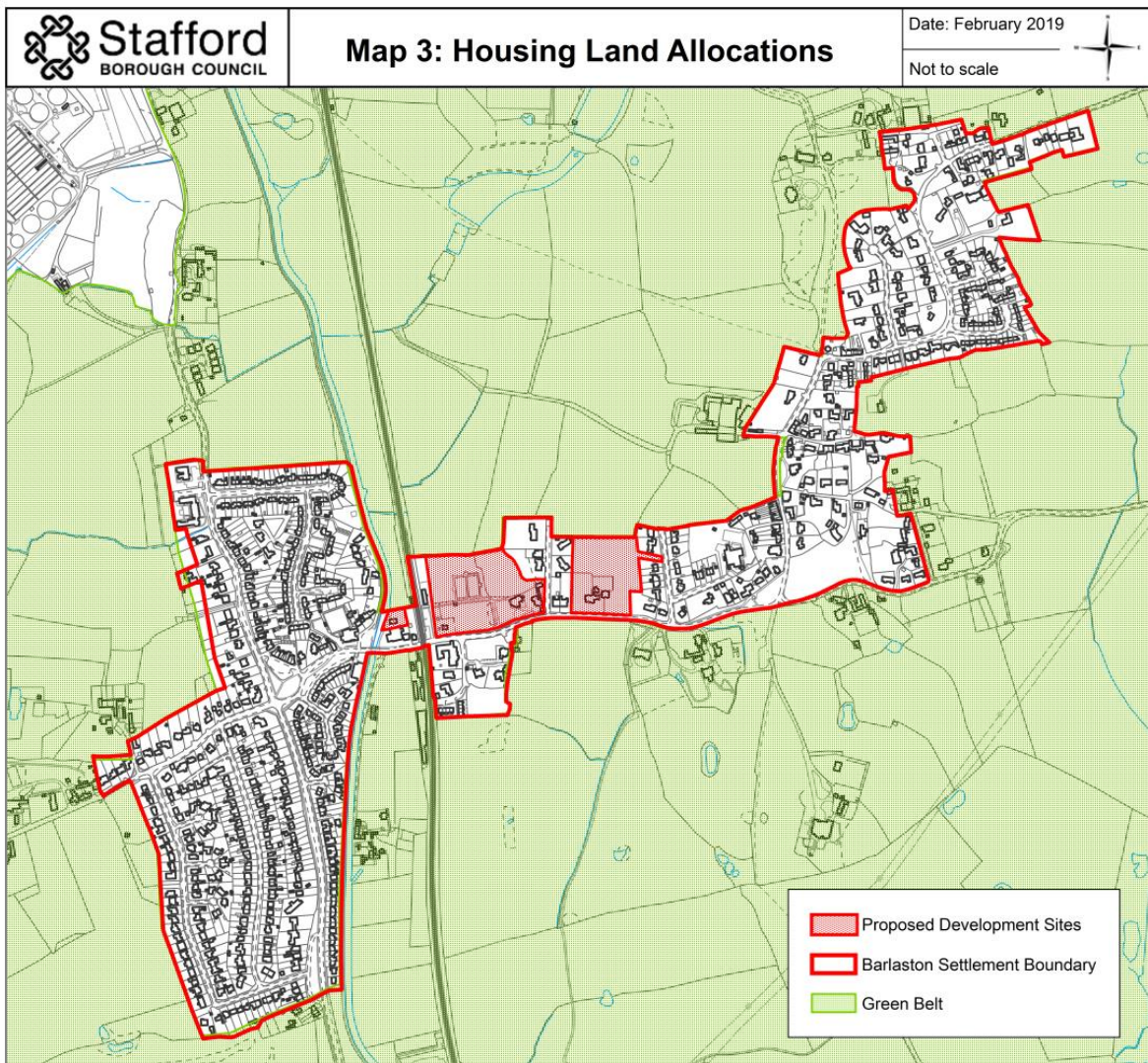
The PfsN-P2 adopted 31st January 2017 defined a Settlement Boundary for Barlaston, with development being considered acceptable in principle within the boundary. To contribute towards the Borough's housing need, the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan has identified sites within the Settlement Boundary which are suitable for housing development.

Within the Settlement Boundary for Barlaston three key sites have been identified which would provide for housing growth. These sites are shown on the adjacent Map 3:

- Wedgwood Memorial College Estoril House
- Wedgwood Memorial College The Limes
- Leese's Garage, Station Road

A range of development options for delivery of housing by the Neighbourhood Plan were considered, primarily through a site assessment process, which included community workshops. The robust site selection process and the criteria used for selection are set out in Appendix C to this plan.

In identifying three priority sites for new housing and recognising that Barlaston may also have some infill development, it is anticipated that the Settlement Boundary may accommodate some 70 new dwellings over the Plan period.



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Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan seeks to plan positively for growth and through the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that new development recognizes the character of the village, reflects the settling of each respective location and delivers sustainable design informed through the design policy.

The Wedgwood Memorial College and Estoril House sites are important community assets within the area, with landscape, open space, wildlife and ecological values. This needs to be taken into account in planning the development of the sites. The existing buildings on these sites provide opportunity for community facilities such as creative hubs, hot-desk workspace and space for creative industries.



To accommodate growth, whilst maintaining the community value of the sites, policy H1 allocates three sites for housing, and sets parameters for development to ensure that there is a balance between development and retention of green space and landscape features. The site known as Land at Rock House Drive was granted planning permission for five units, application ref 14/20374/FUL and development commenced on site during the preparation of the neighbourhood plan therefore it has not been included in policy H1.

Policy H1: Site Allocations

The following sites as identified on the adjacent Map 3 are allocated for housing:

1. The site of The Limes, part of the former Wedgwood Memorial College, 2.47ha with an approximate Developable Area of 1ha;
2. The site of Estoril House, part of the former Wedgwood Memorial College, 1.49ha with an approximate Development area of 0.9ha;
3. The site of Leese's Garage, Station Road, 0.28ha

Development proposals must address the following:

- All applicable Policies in this Neighbourhood Plan;*
- For The Limes and Estoril House , the 'Development and Design Guide for the Former Wedgwood Memorial College' published by Stafford Borough Council in August 2013 (revised July 2014) (see here: www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Regeneration/Former-Wedgwood-Memorial-College,-Barlston.pdf);*
- For the site of Leese's Garage the following Key Development Principles:*
 - **Landscape-led Design Solution:** the environmental assets across the site are distinctive features to retain and incorporate into the design and layout of development, as set out in Policies D1 and LNE1. These include the mature trees, hedgerows and water features. Any trees that are unavoidably lost should be countered by replacement trees, in an agreed location on the site.
 - **Site Specific Design:** a well-designed, sustainable and site-specific solution is required. This must take account of the requirements of Policy D1. The aim is to create a locally distinctive development;
 - **Access and Permeability:** redevelopment of the site should incorporate good pedestrian permeability and links to surrounding footways, to meet the requirements of Policies TM1 and D1.



- **Transport Infrastructure:** car-parking and highways infrastructure should be integrated into the design, as required by Policy D1 and TM1, recognising that they are not just about transport, but form part of the public realm. Pedestrian convenience should take priority, and the use of home zones should be considered;
- **Addressing Local Housing Needs:** Policy H1 encourages a mix of housing, to address identified local housing needs, and this will be an important consideration in terms the layout of the site.

Other infill development may be supported subject to compliance with Policy SP7 of the Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031.

Application of Policy

Any proposal must clearly indicate in the design and access statement which parts of the site are proposed for housing development and the key landscape features that are to be retained or enhanced. This includes existing hedgerows, clusters of trees, arboretum and water features.

POLICY H2: Housing Type.

Development proposals within the Settlement Boundary should demonstrate regard for current evidence on local housing needs, including the needs of an ageing population, with an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures.

Application of Policy

Policy H2 will operate in conjunction with Plan for Stafford Borough Policies C1, C2 and C3.



Design

Purpose

- To ensure that all new development in Barlaston is well designed, is sustainable, responds and contributes to the distinctive built character of its setting.

Context and rationale

Barlaston is a village with a distinctive rural character and a historic core. To be sustainable, it is important that new development be well designed, to complement the existing character and quality of the village. In consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, 30 % of respondents cited the quality of the environment as excellent and 57% as good.

Good design is essential in order to enhance local distinctiveness, to achieve sustainable development, and to ensure that new buildings are integrated with their setting both functionally and aesthetically.

Responses to consultation indicated that local people are concerned that the character of the village may be lost and that some recent developments are of poor quality, do not make significant efforts towards sustainable design and the impact upon the local infrastructure has not been fully considered.

Strategic basis

The National Planning Policy Framework confirms that good design is indivisible from good planning. It recognises that well-designed buildings and places improve the quality of people's lives and that it is a core planning principle always to secure good design, particularly where developments are in an isolated location. Neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics.

The adopted Local Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 provides a framework for securing high quality design in new development. It recognises the need to conserve and enhance the historic environment in the light of pressure for growth and change, and it promotes high quality and locally distinctive design, which responds to the character of local areas. This is important not only in Barlaston village, but also in rural settings where the design of new buildings is vital in preserving the rural character of the area. Policy N1 in the adopted plan for Stafford Borough already makes provision for good design and seeks to ensure that new development should be well connected to public transport and community facilities, provide buildings and landscaping and planting to create well defined streets and make use of views of landmarks visible from within and outside of the site. Policy D1 of the neighbourhood plan seeks to build upon the principles drawing on nationally recognised design principles established in the form of Building for Life 12:

www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/Building%20for%20Life%2012_0.pdf



The Plan for Stafford Borough seeks to ensure high quality and locally distinctive design, and this is one of the strategic objectives of the Local Plan. The Local Plan identifies in the Spatial Vision that high quality design will be achieved through a range of policies and through community supported Neighbourhood Plans.

Policy D1: Design of New Development

New development in Barlaston must deliver good quality, sustainable design. In order to achieve this all new development must

1. Respond to the existing built form in terms of enclosure and definition of streets and spaces, including degree of set-back;
2. Be of an appropriate height, scale and density to complement its setting;
3. Provide convenient access to community services and facilities;
4. Take advantage of the local landscape and landscape features, including water, trees, plants, wildlife habitats, site orientation and microclimate;
5. Create a place with a locally inspired and distinctive character, based on analysis of the site and context;
6. Provide buildings, landscaping and planting to create well defined streets and attractive green spaces;
7. Provide convenient, well-screened storage space for bins, recycling and bicycles;
8. Include high quality boundary treatments to reflect the rural character;
9. Where applicable, provide attractive and active frontages facing the waterway.

Application of Policy

Good design is not just a matter of appearance, but also about the functionality of the development and its relationship to its surroundings. Good design is not about copying past styles, or preventing innovative modern design. The aim is to create site-specific creative design, which responds to the form and materials of its surroundings but does not merely imitate neighbouring buildings or their details.



This policy seeks to ensure that new development is sustainable, focusing on urban design, movement, character, green space and landscape, wildlife and ecology, surveillance and safety.

Separation of private and public space may be achieved through the layout of development, which should seek to avoid placing rear gardens (and high fences) adjacent to the highway and boundaries with the open countryside and Green Belt.

The Design and Access Statement submitted with planning applications for new development must show how the design of the proposed development responds to each of the principles set out in Policy D1.

Clearly the way this policy is applied will depend on the nature of the development such as the size and scale, whether new roads are proposed etc and should be applied with Policy N1 of the adopted Local Plan.



Business and Employment Policies

Purpose

- To promote and enable employment and homeworking as part of a sustainable community,
- To promote a mix of new tourism and leisure development, including the re-use of agricultural buildings.
- To enable high-speed fibre optic broadband capability as part of the sustainable development of the settlement.

Context and rationale

Barlaston is a rural community. Many local businesses are micro, small or medium enterprises, many run from residents' own homes. There are a number of larger industrial employment sites such as Meaford Business Park (outside of the parish boundary), and Wedgwood which provide a contained mixed employment facility for the Parish.

Consultation held with local businesses, a resident's survey and other consultation support the growth of tourism and leisure businesses, home based businesses, and other businesses that can operate in the rural environment.

The NPPF states that in rural areas, sustainable growth and expansion should be supported by planning policies that enable this both through the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. Proposals for the diversification of farm businesses, including the re-use of farm and other buildings, will generally be supported, provided they do not have an adverse impact upon the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

The adopted Plan for Stafford Borough promotes actively encourages change of use and new build developments to support business enterprise, leisure and tourism uses through policies E1, E2, E6 and E7. The Neighbourhood Plan builds upon these policies, which it supports and encourages as part of a sustainable community addressing other aspects of a strong local economy that are not covered by the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough.

Policy E1 Local Economy in the adopted PFSB states, *"the local economy will be sustained by supporting the location, diversity and intensity of new economic development through improving access in rural employment areas through the provision of broadband."*

The poor availability of fast fibre optic broadband is a major issue in the plan area, particularly the rural areas. Where broadband is available, the level of service provided and speed of connection is often significantly slower when compared to the urban areas.



The lack of fibre optic broadband is a significant deterrent to business growth and new businesses establishing in these areas, and in encouraging further home working.

Enhancements to broadband provision and ICT infrastructure will be pursued with partners.

According to the government's Broad Band UK office (BDUK) the Government's national target is for 95% of people in each local authority area to be put within reach of a fixed line "*superfast broadband*" service by 2017, which has for the most part been described as a service that offers "*speeds of greater than 24 Megabits per second*" (i.e. 24Mbps+, or 25Mbps).

Considering further infrastructure requirements, the need to improve 3G and 4G coverage throughout the parish was raised during community engagement. The lack of a consistent service across the area is a concern particularly for those who work from home. The provision of good mobile coverage and high speed broad-band connection are critical to ensuring the sustainability of rural communities not only in terms of promoting home working and reducing car journeys but also inclusivity within the community.

Policy BE1 High-Speed Connectivity

New residential and commercial development should incorporate open access ducting to industry standards to enable all homes and premises to be served directly by fibre optic broadband technology.

Application of Policy

Developers should work with providers of telecommunication infrastructure to deliver the necessary physical infrastructure to accommodate information and digital communications networks as an integral part of all appropriate new developments and to ensure that these do not impact negatively on the existing network.



Community Facilities and Assets Policies

Purpose

- To utilise funds secured through planning agreements made in association with new developments, to make appropriate improvements to community and recreational amenities, services and facilities.
- To protect existing community facilities and assets and ensure that new development does not adversely affect them and, where possible, enhances them.

Context and rationale

Barlaston has a number of assets and facilities, which are valued by the community and which are considered fundamental to maintaining a good quality of life within the village and ensuring it remains a sustainable community into the future.

Barlaston has a range of vital community facilities and assets that are listed within Policy CFA1 and their locations are indicated on Map 2 within the “About Barlaston” section. Local green spaces and community facilities further the social well-being and interests of the local community. The intention of Policy CFA1 is to ensure that such assets are retained, enhanced or increased, in the future development of Barlaston.

The NPPF says that an important dimension of sustainable development is to create ‘accessible local services that meet the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being’.

The presence of a good range of community facilities is essential for a sustainable settlement. The NPPF states that it is a strategic planning priority to ensure the provision of health, security, community, cultural and other local facilities (paragraph 156). Paragraph 70 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that *‘to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should Plan positively, guard against unnecessary loss, ensure that established facilities can develop and modernize and ensure an integrated approach to location’*.

The community facilities and assets identified on Map 2 will be reviewed by Barlaston Parish Council and those that satisfy the statutory definition of an Asset of Community Value may be nominated by the Parish Council for inclusion in the Register of Assets of Community Value held by Stafford Borough Council, a statutory designation under the Localism Act 2011.



Community consultation for this Neighbourhood Plan, and survey evidence gathered, identified the following community facilities which local people think are needed in Barlaston to complement the existing and address the need are:

- Improved Scout Hut
- Improved Village Hall
- New Medical Facilities
- Play facilities

Other community needs relating to transportation and movement around the parish were also identified: these are dealt with under policy TM1.

The National Planning Policy Framework says that planning policies should ‘promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship’ (NPPF paragraph 28). It states that ‘To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments’ (NPPF Paragraph 70).

In the adopted PfSB strategic policy C7 Open Space, Sport and Recreation, seeks to ensure that there is a presumption against the loss of any community facility where the need is proven and that *‘new development that generates a local need provides commensurate level and quality of facilities.’*



Policy CFA1: Community Facilities and Assets

Development proposals for new or improved community facilities of value to the community will be supported; in particular the community has identified the need for:

- An improved Scout Hut;
- An improved Village Hall;
- New medical facilities;
- Children's play facilities.

Development proposals that will affect the community facilities and assets identified below must not result in their loss or reduce their community value unless an equivalent replacement is provided or it has been adequately demonstrated that the facility is no longer required or viable; the relevant facilities and assets are:

- The Village Hall;
- The Methodist Church Hall;
- The Scout & Guide hut;
- The Parish Church of St John the Baptist;
- Wedgwood Cricket Club;
- Barlaston Cricket Club.

Application of Policy

In order to ensure that Barlaston continues to be a sustainable and thriving settlement, opportunities will be taken to enhance the range and quality of local services by providing new facilities, which meet local needs.

When planning permission is granted for development proposals, appropriate use will be made of the developer contributions which may arise from Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 and other planning agreements or planning conditions, in order to deliver new or improved facilities or amenities of community value within Barlaston. So as to maintain the viability and deliverability of the development concerned, contributions made by new developments towards new community facilities will be determined in accordance with Policy I1 Infrastructure Delivery Policy in the Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1.

The loss or diminishment of local community facilities and assets would adversely affect the sustainable development of the Barlaston Parish. Development proposals which result in the loss of, or which adversely affect, these assets will not be acceptable, unless satisfactory alternative facilities are provided.



Landscape and Natural Environment

Purpose

- To preserve and enhance natural assets to protect the distinctive local character of the area and wildlife habitats.

Context and rationale

The existing rural landscape is a highly-valued aspect for those living in the parish, as well as those visiting. Rural tourism and rural recreation are important to local people and the local economy.

Community engagement indicates the community value of trees, hedgerows and views of the open countryside. The Barlaston Downs is considered a significant natural asset for the Parish. Hedgerows form a key characteristic along the central routes of the Parish, highlighting the rural character of the area despite its close proximity to the neighbouring city of Stoke-on-Trent and market town of Stone.

Barlaston has a high landscape value and a diverse range of natural habitats including the hedgerows, Wedgwood Arboretum, Barlaston Downs, canal and Green Belt. Policy E7 in the adopted Local Plan identifies the special landscape character of the canal and seeks to inform sensitive and appropriate development to enhance the natural environment and wildlife.

Through the consultation with the community, the issue of flooding has been raised. During periods of excessive rainfall, key road junctions and residential routes become flooded and can make key arterial routes impassable for a period. As part of the evidence base the community have identified, photographed and plotted precisely the critical locations where this re-occurs on a regular basis. This is a significant consideration for the parish, particularly due to the topography of the parish. This has been brought to the attention of the Highway Authority.

The adopted Local Plan acknowledges that *“Climate change is a significant challenge facing everyone and is likely to have a direct impact on local businesses and local communities in Stafford Borough through a greater risk of droughts, a greater risk of flooding and increased pressure on drainage systems, particularly in winter, and more challenging circumstances for agricultural production due to increased temperatures combined with increased flooding. Action must be taken locally to adapt to climate change and to reduce the district’s contribution to the problem. Steering new development away from areas prone to flooding, as well as implementing appropriate measures into new development, will reduce the impact of climate change.”*



Policy LNE1: Natural Environment

Development will be supported, subject to other planning policies and material considerations, where its impact on the natural environment is assessed and addressed; particular attention should be afforded to providing additional hedgerows and trees wherever possible and those already established should be retained but where necessarily removed they must be replaced within the site; all new planting should be of an equivalent to the species and type in the locality unless otherwise agreed .

Application of Policy

Meeting this policy aims to ensure environmental and landscape design within and around new developments should reflect the existing rural character of the Parish and enhance or maintain the quality and quantity of green space.

Where possible, new developments should incorporate new hedgerows as part of their landscaping scheme, reflecting the local characteristics of Barlaston.



Appendices

Appendix A

Business and employment within Barlaston

A small colonnade at the centre of the village which houses the following:

- **Kitsons** – A chemists who handle all of the prescriptions for the village as well as over the counter medicines. They have a collection service with the local GP practices in Barlaston and the local town of Stone. 1 owner 4 employees.
- **Barlaston Clinic** – A private practice that provides cosmetic laser treatments and chiropody treatment. 2 employees, 1 owner, 2 self-employed
- **The Riley Dental Studio** – A private practice that offers all dental and orthodontic treatments to the local and wider community. 1 owner, 8 employees
- **KC K9S** – A pet shop and dog grooming parlour that also caters to the local and wider community. 1 owner, 3 employees
- **Extremes** – A card and gift shop supplying the village with items for special occasions. 1 owner
- **Marks Quality Meats** – The local butcher who supplies the villagers with a selection of fresh meats and other delicacies on a daily basis. 1 owner 3 employees
- **The Premier** – A convenience shop that supplies the village with newspapers, sweets and a small selection of essentials. 1 owner, 7 employees
- **Adam Josef** – A hairdressers that caters for all of the village and will also cut men's hair meaning there is no need to travel out of Barlaston for the male villagers. 1 owner

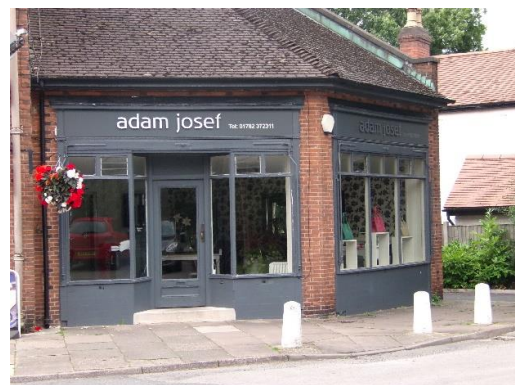
Mayfair dry cleaners who have another shop in stone. 4 employees at the Barlaston Site.

The Plume of Feathers

A pub styled in a London Bistro style. 3 owners, 32 employees

The Duke of York A traditional country pub with restaurant. 1 owner, 10 employees

One Stop which is a small family owned supermarket that gives the villagers a larger choice of goods and food than the other stores provide. They are in partnership with the garage next door, **Leese's Garage** who service/repair cars and sell second hand cars. **Big Boyz Toyz** RC shop is part of the same outfit. 4 partners/owners and 13 employees.



Adam Josef hair dressing salon, Orchard Place, Barlaston



Barlaston Old Road Garage situated just on the outskirts of the village. 1 owner, 3 employees.

The Upper House Hotel and Restaurant houses guests and tourists who are visiting. It has 24 bedrooms available. They provide a service for wedding receptions and parties, afternoon tea, banqueting and a small bar area. 2 owners and 45 employees.

Barlaston Village Hall is a registered charity but allows locals to run some of their businesses through its rental. 8 volunteers, booking secretary and caretaker.

Barlaston Health Centre – run in conjunction with Cumberland House Surgery of Stone. NHS owned.

Barlaston Cricket Club – with a clubhouse containing a bar.

Orsett House – 49 bedrooms available - 1 owner, 40ish employees

At Barlaston Park (which is about a mile from the village centre) there is:

- **Wedgwood Cricket Club** with a clubhouse containing a bar.
- **Best Convenience Store** a small newsagents.



As a rural village, there are a number of micro businesses such as **Livery** and **Alpaca Farm** plus a multitude of self-employed businesses run from homes. Although there appears to be a lot of businesses within the village, each of them only employs a handful of people (approximately 200 - 250 in total). The village is mainly made up of people who commute to work in the larger towns and cities such as Stone, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and possibly further afield or they are retired.

Wedgwood Cricket Club, Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Barlaston



Appendix B

Sport and Recreation

The Village Hall is available for hire whilst it is also well used for sports and leisure holding many regular events and classes such as:

- Gail Nicholls Fitness (5 days a week)
- Stokies Dancing Club (Monthly)
- Community Group Social events, such as Film nights and pop up restaurants etc.
- Village Show (Yearly)
- Barlaston Market (Monthly)
- Barlaston Proscenium Players Drama Group (Twice Yearly)
- W.I. Ladies (Afternoons monthly)

The Village Green is available for use all year round.

- Football (Anytime)
- Village Show (Yearly)
- Picnics (All year)
- Walks (All Year)
- General Play (All Year)
- Horse Riding is Prohibited

St. John's Church has a reasonable congregation and hosts:

- Tea and Talk (Monthly)
- Mums and Tots group (weekly)
- All age Café Church (monthly)

Barlaston Methodist Church have a small congregation and regularly join with Stone for combined services, they have a large hall at the back of the church which is available to hire and regularly used by:

- W.I. Herons (Evenings monthly)
- Tai Chi (weekly)
- Coffee Morning and mini market supporting a local charity(monthly)
- 2nd North Staffs Boys Brigade (twice weekly)

Plume of Feathers Public House

- Bowling Green hosting "Plume of Feathers bowling club" (meeting at least twice weekly during the bowling season)
- Restaurant with food available from 12pm – 9pm Mon-Sat
- 'Coffee and Cake' (available daily from 10 am)
- Real Ales
- Acoustic Sunday (monthly)
- Quiz hosted by Signal 2 presenter Paul Fairclough (weekly)



Duke of York Public House

- Darts team
- Crib team
- Restaurant

The Upper House Hotel and Restaurant

- Restaurant
- Wedding Venue
- 24 Bedrooms
- Afternoon Teas
- Private Dinner Parties
- Conferences

Wedgwood Museum and World of Wedgwood Factory

- Tours
- Restaurant
- Tea Rooms
- Shopping
- Creative Experiences
- Family Event days

Barlaston Park and Barlaston Cricket Clubs

- **Matches twice weekly** during the season
- Bar
- Memberships available

Downs Banks (adjacent to Barlaston Village)

“A little wilderness of woodlands and heath in the heart of the Midlands”

- Huge area suitable for walking, running, climbing trees, splashing in the stream, having picnics etc.
- Downs Banks Brook is a beautiful babbling stream that runs the length of Downs Banks.
- There are far-reaching views from the highest point on the Downs. A rock pillar stands here and shows you what landmarks can be seen in the distance on a clear day. The Long Mynd (National Trust), Mow Cop Castle (National Trust,) the Wrekin (a prominent hill formed from an extinct volcano) and the Clee Hills are just some of the landmarks to look out for.
- From spring to autumn much of Downs Banks is grazed by a small herd of friendly cattle. They're helping to restore the heath and recreate the traditional ways of farming that have shaped this landscape over hundreds of years.”

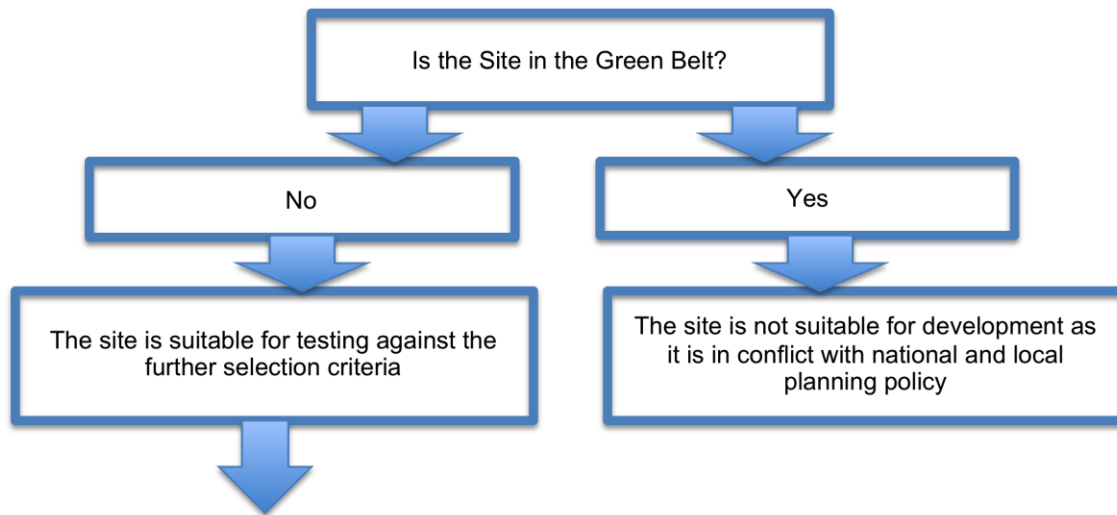
Fishing - is available through a number of different clubs at locations such as:

- Canal
- Tittensor Road Pools
- Wedgwood Pools



Appendix C

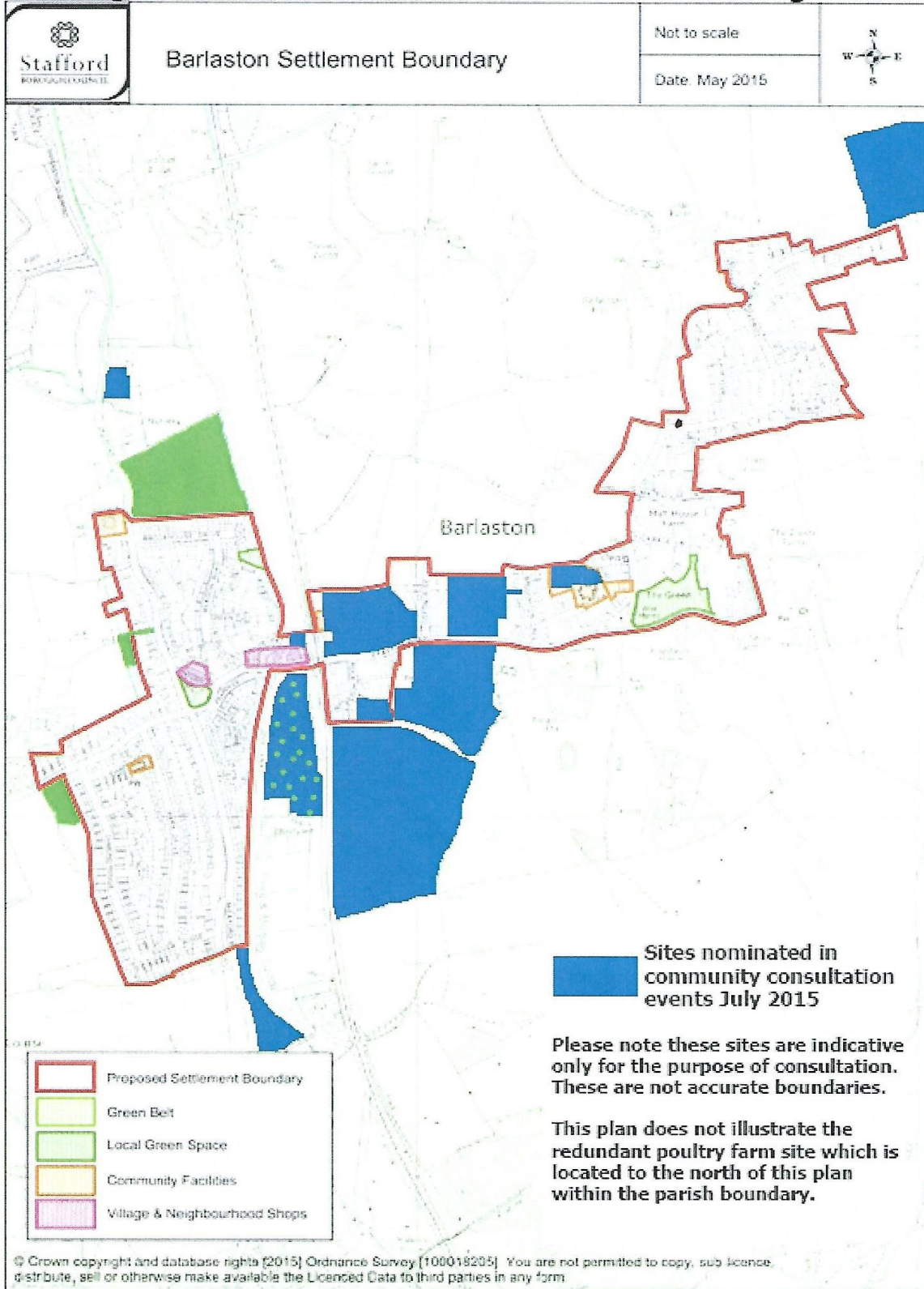
Housing Site Selection



Site Name:			
Criteria	Appropriateness for Development		
	Red	Amber	Green
Site is likely to impact negatively on the character of the village in terms of location, scale and setting in proximity to existing development.			
Freedom to develop without having a detrimental impact on neighbor amenity of existing properties			
Is the land currently available for development within the lifetime of the plan?			
Vehicular access onto existing road network. (select <i>Green</i> if it has an existing access, <i>Amber</i> if it is easy to create one and <i>Red</i> if it has no access or suitable point for access)			
Proximity to main amenities of the village. (select <i>Green</i> if it is in close proximity or a 5 minute walking distance to main facilities, <i>Amber</i> if it is easy to access by foot or close to a bus route that visits the facilities and <i>Red</i> if the access is only with a short vehicular journey)			
Ability to deliver or enhance community facilities			
Does not have a detrimental impact or loss of current village facilities (e.g: School, Open space, local services)			
The site should be suitable in size to enable a mixed tenure development (for example larger and smaller houses)			
TOTAL SCORE:			



Neighbourhood Plan Draft Consultation Housing Sites





Barlaston Community Housing Site Selection Workshops:

13:30 - 15:00 Thursday 22nd October 2015 at the Village Hall

18:30 - 20:00 Thursday 29th October 2015 at the Village Hall

We are aiming to produce selection criteria and test all proposed sites recently nominated through the neighbourhood plan consultation process over the summer. This process will enable us to test each site against an agreed criterion that will inform our final sites for allocation in the neighbourhood plan.

As a volunteer, you will help to shape and formulate the criteria and then use the formulae to test each proposed site. This is an open and inclusive event all ages welcome!!

In October 2015 two housing site selection workshops were held to produce planning criteria that each nominated site could be tested against. To ensure the process was open and transparent the neighbourhood plan steering group also conducted a 2-week consultation period on the selection criteria.

Following feedback including advice from planning consultants Urban Vision Enterprises CIC the final criteria was produced and in late November 2015 volunteers led by planning consultants Urban Vision Enterprise CIC and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook a walking tour of all the shortlisted sites. As the evidence demonstrates all nominated sites in the Green Belt were knocked out at the first stage and therefore only 5 were to be viewed. The following table illustrates the results of the scoring and original score sheets recorded at the event.

Site Name	Red	Amber	Green	Rank Order (based on the highest number of Green and Amber Scores)
1: Land Behind School	4	4	0	3 rd
2: Estoril	0	1	7	1 st
3: Wedgwood College	0	1	7	1 st
4: Rock House Site	0	2	6	2 nd
5: One Stop Shop	0	2	6	2 nd



Appendix D

Glossary of Terms

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Housing that is socially rented, affordable rented or intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. It can be a new-build property or a private sector property that has been purchased for use as an affordable home.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – Allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their areas. Money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure such as transport schemes, schools and leisure centres.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT – A short report which must accompany certain classes of planning applications describing the design principles of a development such as layout, townscape characteristics, scale, landscape design and appearance.

DEVELOPMENT – Defined in law as “the carrying out of building, mining, engineering or other operations in, on, under or over land, and the making of any material change in the use of buildings or other land.”

DEVELOPMENT PLAN – The adopted Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan in force for an area.

EUROPEAN UNION – A political union, often called the EU, to which the member states of the EEC are evolving. Based on the Maastricht Treaty, it envisions the eventual establishment of common economic, foreign, security, and justice policies.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (formally the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms) is an international treaty to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe.

EVIDENCE BASE – The evidence upon which a development plan is based, principally the background facts and statistics about an area, and the views of stakeholders.

GOVERNMENT’S LOCALISM ACT 2011 - The Localism Act 2011 (c. 20) is an Act of Parliament that changes the powers of local government in England. The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision-making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.

GREEN SPACE – Those parts of an area which are occupied by natural, designed or agricultural landscape as opposed to built development; open space, parkland, woodland, sports fields, gardens, allotments, and the like.



GREEN BELT - an area of open land around Barlaston, on which building is restricted.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION – An examination of a proposed Neighbourhood Plan, carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced independent person, to consider whether a Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions required.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Basic services necessary for development to take place e.g. roads, electricity, water, education, health facilities, etc.

LOCAL PLAN - The collection of documents prepared by the local planning authority containing policies and proposals for the use and development of land within the local authority's area.

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY – Local government body responsible for formulating planning policies and controlling development within a local authority area: a district council, metropolitan council, a county council, a unitary authority or national park authority.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK – The government policy document adopted in March 2012 intended to make national planning policy and guidance less complex and more accessible. The National Planning Policy Framework introduces a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA – The local area in which a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order can be introduced.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – A statutory planning document created by a parish or town council or a neighbourhood forum, which sets out vision for the neighbourhood area, and contains policies for the development and use of land in the area. Neighbourhood Plans must be subjected to an independent examination to confirm their soundness, and then to a local referendum. If approved by a majority vote of the local community, the Neighbourhood Plan must then be adopted by the local planning authority and will then form part of the statutory development plan.

PLANNING PERMISSION – Formal approval granted by a council allowing a proposed development to proceed.

REFERENDUM – A vote by the eligible population of an electoral area may decide on a matter of public policy. Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders are made by a referendum of the eligible voters within a neighbourhood area.

RURAL – Areas of land which are generally not urbanised; usually with low population densities and a high proportion of land devoted to agriculture.



SECTION 106 AGREEMENT - Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as s106 agreements, are a mechanism which make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable.

STAKEHOLDER - a person with an interest or concern in something.

STEERING GROUP - a committee that decides on the priorities or order of business of an organization and manages the general course of its operations. This included members of the Barlaston community.

STRATEGIC POLICY – A policy that is essential for the delivery of a strategy, for example, the overall scale and distribution of housing and employment in a local authority area.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – An approach to development that aims to allow economic growth without damaging the environment or natural resources. Development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The National Planning Policy Framework gives five guiding principles of sustainable development: living within the planet’s means; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

TENURE – The terms and conditions under which land or property is held or occupied, e.g. five-year leasehold, freehold owner occupation, etc.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER – An order made by a local planning authority to protect a specific tree, a group of trees or woodland. TPOs prevent the felling, lopping, topping, uprooting or other deliberate damage of trees without the permission of the local planning authority.

URBAN – Having the characteristics of a town or a city; an area dominated by built development.



Appendix E

List of Evidence and Sources

Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan process submitted documents can be found at:
www.staffordbc.gov.uk/barlaston-neighbourhood-plan1

Including:

- **Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version)**
<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/July2018%20Barlaston%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20Submission%20version%20FINAL.pdf>
- **Barlaston Basic Conditions Statement**
<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/July2018%20Barlaston%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20Basic%20Conditions%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf>
- **Barlaston Consultation Statement with Appendices**
<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/July2018%20Barlaston%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20Basic%20Conditions%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf>
- **Barlaston Screening Assessment**
https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/July2018%20Barlaston%20Draft%20NP%20Screening%20Assessment%20FINAL_0.pdf
- **Representations received to the Submission Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan at Regulation 16 Stage**
<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/Oct2018%20Submission%20representations%20to%20Barlaston%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20REDAC....pdf>
- **Examiner's initial queries on the Submission Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan**
<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/Nov2018%20Examiner%20initial%20enquiries%20Barlaston%20Neighbourhood%20Plan.pdf>
- **Barlaston Parish Council response**
<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Barlaston/10Dec2018%20Parish%20Council%20Response%20to%20Independent%20Examiner%20Dec-2018.pdf>



- **Stafford Borough Council response**

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Appendix F

Non-Planning Issues

This section does not form part of the statutory neighbourhood plan and is not subject to independent examination and referendum, therefore. It includes proposed actions that fall outside of the scope of planning policy. But it is intended to inform people how Barlaston Parish Council intends on addressing other issues raised, which are not matters for planning policy to address and these include:

- Speed of Traffic
- The need for improved 3G and 4G connection
- Renewal of community facilities
- High Speed Broadband
- Parking
- Health Centre

Transport and Movement

Purpose

- To maintain and improve linkages and movement within the Village of Barlaston and the wider Parish.
- To encourage choice, including sustainable means of transport, in the interests of sustainability.
- To improve existing footpaths and cycle ways and to provide new footpaths and cycle ways to improve connectivity within Barlaston Parish and to the surrounding areas.

Context and rationale

The community questionnaire identified a wish for improvements to be made to existing pavements for pedestrian safety and movement around the village, linking village services and joining the network of footpaths for recreational use. Issues over safety of pedestrian routes includes narrow width, lack of pavement and poor or lack of street lighting. These issues are most prevalent towards the A34 and discourage pedestrian movement.

The current bus services to the village do not meet the needs of the community and an improved service and timetable is needed.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan recognises that the NPPF seeks to reduce car dependency through sustainable development, in a rural location it still remains a significant factor in the mobility of the local community.

Barlaston Parish Council

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