

Transport

- 4.20 In common with most rural communities there is a desire to improve transport links and reduce extraneous traffic on unsuitable rural roads. A particular issue in Withington is the pedestrian access to the Primary School due to road widths that are too narrow for pedestrian pavements. The Parish Council can lobby for better transport links but ultimately decisions on these aspects are made by Herefordshire Council and the companies that currently provide public transport. Improved transport links could be seen as a way of bringing working professionals to the village and giving them better transport options. The introduction of cycle paths and traffic calming would also be advantageous to the local community. A safe cycle route to Hereford City would be particularly welcome. Whilst none of these measures are matters that can be directly the subject of NDP proposals they can be specified as priorities for use of developer contributions through either Section 106 agreements or, in due course, Community Infrastructure Levy.

Policy P6 Transport and Traffic

Where developer contributions can be directed towards highway and public transport programmes the priority areas are:

- a. Measures to improve safe pedestrian access to the Primary School**
- b. Improvements to public transport links to Hereford**
- c. Introduction of cycle lanes and signposted cycle routes**
- d. Traffic calming measures to improve public safety**
- e. Improvement and provision of footpaths within the parish, including the provision of a footpath cycle route alongside the route of the restored canal**

The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

- 4.21 The route of the former canal passes through the NDP area and the Parish Council would be happy to support its restoration. Whilst there are no specific plans for the development of canal related facilities at Withington Marsh any plans which could impact on such developments will be carefully scrutinised. The original alignment of the canal is protected through Core Strategy Policy E4 Tourism, paragraph 5 and as such is shown on the Proposals Map.

Policy P7 Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

The line of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal will be protected from development that would compromise the route of the canal in accordance with Core Strategy Policy E4 – Tourism, paragraph 5.

Telecommunications

- 4.22 The quality of Broadband and Mobile Phone coverage is an issue for parishioners and local businesses alike. This becomes an increasingly important issue for rural areas and the Withington Group area is no exception. Developments to improve Broadband and Mobile Phone reception are to be welcomed provided any infrastructure can be successfully incorporated into the landscape in an acceptable manner. Broadband infrastructure in particular may be a suitable matter for developer contributions. Poor mobile phone coverage is a concern for various parts of the NDP area.

Policy P8 Telecommunications - Broadband

Improvements to broadband and are welcomed and, if appropriate, may be supported through developer contributions provided that any relevant development can be incorporated into the landscape without conflict with Core

Strategy Policy LD1 - Landscape and Townscape. All new developments should include proposals to connect to high speed broadband as a minimum by means of providing suitable ducting for fibre connectivity within development sites, linked to the local and national networks as appropriate.

Policy P9 Telecommunications – Mobile Phone Coverage

Improvements to the quality of mobile phone coverage and are to be welcomed provided that any relevant development can be incorporated into the landscape without conflict with Core Strategy Policy LD1 - Landscape and Townscape.