

3. Vision and Objectives

3.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group have carefully considered the responses to the earlier community consultations, including those from the Community Led Plan (Parish Plan) produced in 2010, and set out the overall vision for the Plan thus:

- The villages should evolve, but ensure that their integrity is kept and not developed into a suburb or a small town of urban sprawl. The parishioners have chosen to live in a rural village.
- To take into consideration the existing needs of the community. To ensure the community facilities (transport, employment etc.) are developed and maintained in line with this.
- Monitor and control traffic flows and infrastructure through the villages.

3.2 To achieve our vision for the Withington Group of Parishes up to 2031, the Steering Group has identified the following objectives for the Withington Group Neighbourhood Development Plan, based on the outcomes of questionnaires undertaken by residents.

1. To ensure that the growth of housing in Withington is proportionate to the size and scale of the settlements and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.
2. To deliver housing development in the surrounding areas that are in line with Objective 1.
3. To ensure that all new development takes into consideration the style and substance of local housing, being designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish.
4. To ensure that new housing is developed in a suitable range of tenures, types, size, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can live in the parish in a suitable home while attracting families to the area and local housing needs are met.
5. To ensure that there are appropriate local and community facilities, which incorporate the latest technological advances in such areas as mobile phone reception and broadband as is suitable, which can support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Such developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities throughout the parish.
6. To continue to develop local employment opportunities, including small businesses and tourism, which continue to be sympathetic to the largely agricultural nature of the parish.
7. To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (including listed buildings, conservations areas, green spaces and landscapes)
8. To ensure any new development does not increase flood risk, and to restrict any new development in flood risk areas.
9. To ensure development of a safe and well-maintained network of roads and pavements and footpaths within the parish.
10. To continue to seek the opinions of parishioners at regular intervals in connection with all the above objectives, in order to make the Neighbourhood Plan a fully inclusive on-going document.