

Withington Group Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017-2031

Draft For Submission to Group Parish Council 28th February 2018

Foreword

The Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Withington Group of Parishes will be part of the planning framework of policies that guide and direct development in the three parishes. It is a formal document that has to pass certain “tests” before it can be adopted, including compliance with national and County policies, being based on sound evidence, and approval through a referendum for the local community. As a formal document it may seem a bit daunting at first glance – but to do its job it has to fall squarely within the remit of planning law. Thus, it deals with “Development” in the planning sense – i.e. projects that need planning permission.

It is important that the theme of “Sustainable Development” runs through the whole document – and one aspect of sustainability is the meaningful engagement of the public with the process. Thus, whilst consultants have been involved in the preparation – the plan is definitely “Ours” – i.e. one that the communities of the Withington Group can “own” as their own work.

Once adopted the Neighbourhood Development Plan will be a formal document used to assess relevant planning applications for development in the area.

Neighbourhood Development Plans were brought into existence by the Localism Act 2011 (and related regulations). The intention was to allow local communities to come together, typically through Parish Councils, to say where they think new development should go and what such development should look like.

The basic process is:

The Parish Council applied for permission to be a Neighbourhood Planning body and, once approved, set about the following:

- *Consult with local communities and interest groups and take their views into account*
- *Prepare any new evidence required and make use of existing evidence such as the documents drawn up by Herefordshire Council as local planning authority*
- *Draw up and publish the draft plan with an initial re-consultation at this stage to look at any options before formal publication*
- *Undertake formal consultation with statutory consultees*
- *Draw up a revised plan and submit it to the local planning authority (Herefordshire Council) who then organise:*
 - *Examination by a government appointed Examiner*
 - *A referendum on the plan for the local communities*
 - *Final adoption of the plan.*

More details of this process and the key dates are included in Appendix I to this document.

Table of contents

Foreword

Brief outline of what a Neighbourhood Development Plan is and a summary of the process

1. Context

A summary of how this document fits into the overall planning policy framework.

2. The parishes and the villages

Description of the Withington Group of Parishes highlighting important features especially the heritage of the locality

3. Vision and Objectives

These will guide the whole plan process and have been drawn up in direct response to the initial consultation with local communities.

4. Policies for new housing and development

The new planning policies and the justification for them.

5. Implementation, Monitoring and Review

The planning process doesn't stop once the plan has been adopted – the Group Parish Council will need to keep it under review and where circumstances change take steps accordingly.

Maps

Neighbourhood Plan Area

Withington Village

Withington Marsh

Westhide

Preston Marsh

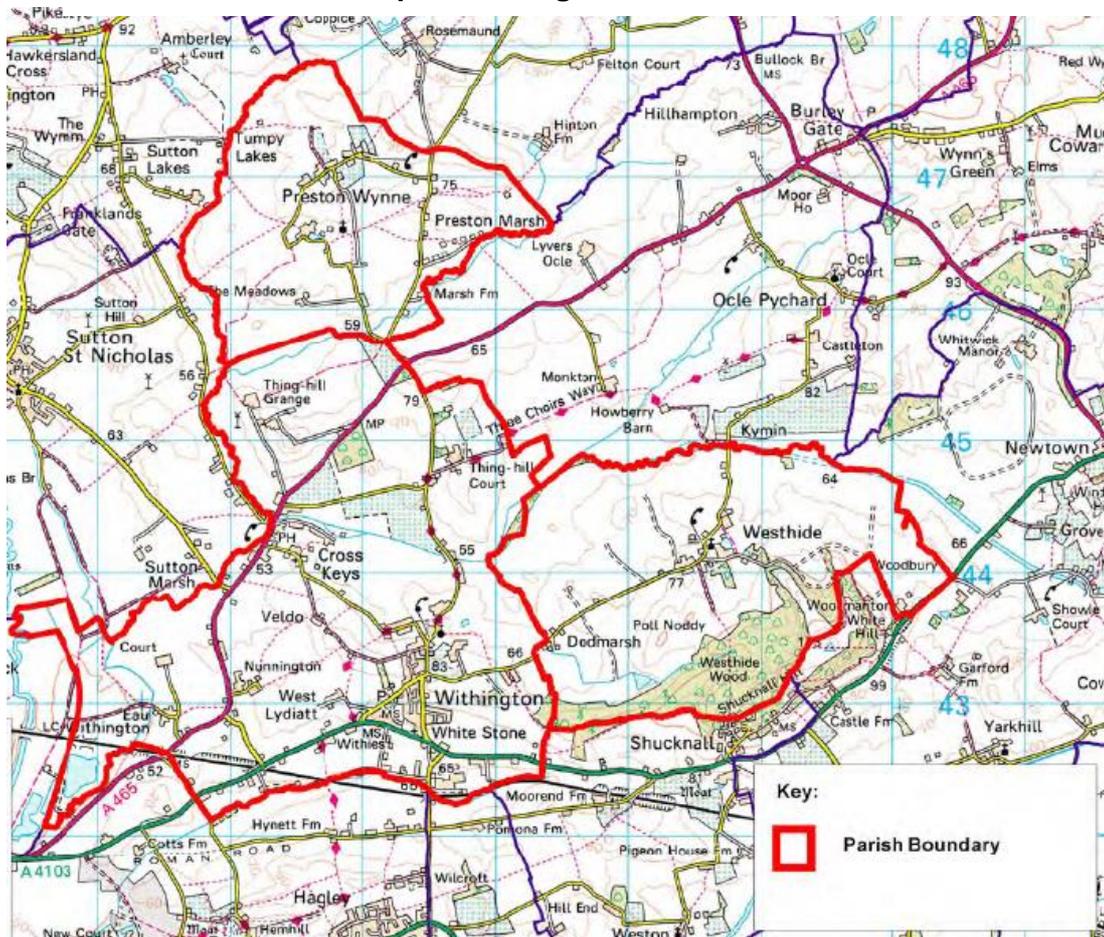
Appendices

- 1 The NDP Preparation process – with key dates
- 2 Schedule of Heritage Assets

1. Context

- 1.1 The policies and proposals contained within the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Withington relate to the whole administrative area of the Group Parish as illustrated in the Map 1. The Plan sets out a number of neighbourhood planning policies to govern land use and development within the parish for the period 2011 to 2031 (i.e. consistent with the Herefordshire Core Strategy which has the same plan period). These policies need to be read alongside existing national and County planning policies which apply within the parish. They have been written to complement the policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Local Plan and the actions resulting from the Community Led Plan produced in 2010. Where appropriate, reference is made to these three documents in the text of the NDP and links to them, and to the key sources providing the evidence on which the NDP is based.

Map 1 The Neighbourhood Plan Area



- 1.2 National planning policy is set out within the National Planning Policy Framework, which was published in March 2012 and is due to be updated during 2018. The companion Planning Practice Guidance provides more practical advice as to how national policy is to be implemented and is also updated from time to time.
- 1.3 Herefordshire Council is responsible for the production of the Local Plan which currently sets out strategic planning policies governing development in the County up to 2031. The first document to be produced as part of the Local Plan was the Core Strategy. This sets out the overall context for the preparation of NDPs, notably housing requirements, as well as many other policies on relevant issues such as employment, open space and infrastructure.

