

Whittington & Fisherwick Planning for the Future

Parish Plan Summary Document 2013

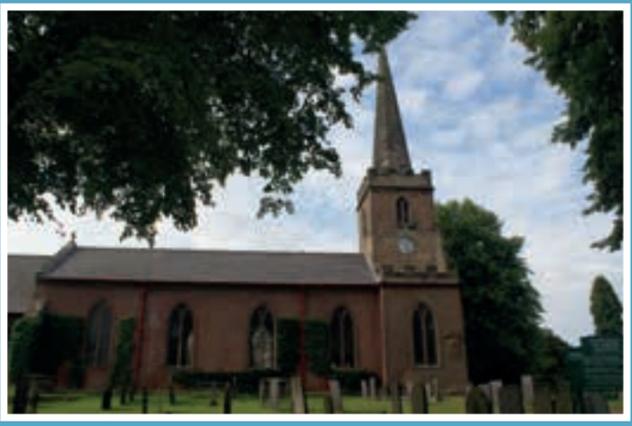


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PARISH PLAN SUMMARY

The following summary outlines the content of the current Parish Plan which has been developed from an intermediate consultation document which was published during in March 2013. It takes account of views expressed by the community in responding to a questionnaire delivered to every household in the Parish as part of that consultation process.

The full document can be viewed on the Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council website (www.whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk) or printed copies can be obtained from the Parish Clerk (janine_arm@hotmail.com) on request.

The document itself is split into:

- + A Preface which briefly describes the village and its environs and explains why we need a Parish Plan
- + Seven sections covering specific areas the plan seeks to address
- + Four annexes listing leisure facilities and notable buildings within the Parish plus a map of the village and a summary of CABA (Consultants employed by Lichfield District Council) findings

A brief résumé of the contents of each of the 7 sections is set out below:

1. HOUSING

This section sets out how the village's character has been moulded over time by successive waves of housing development, the influence of geographical features such as the canal, farming activity and latterly the green belt.

It envisages limited future housing development – mainly through carefully designed infill projects – but (reflecting residents' views obtained during public consultation exercises held in 2011) accepts there may be a case for limited low density development on the village perimeter adjacent to existing settlement boundaries. This view is reflected in the recently published Local Plan for the District produced by Lichfield planners. This document suggests that Whittington could be expected to absorb between 35 and 110 new homes by 2026, the lower figure being met by infill within existing settlement boundaries. Reflecting community views, this is the Parish Plan's preferred option.

The higher figure would of necessity mean developing beyond existing boundaries into green belt land. Whilst accepting limited low density development may be feasible, with each case being subject to rigorous evaluation, the Parish Plan will not endorse large scale development or the use of the projected line of the HS2 rail link to define expanded settlement boundaries.

2. MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY ASSETS

This section, whilst acknowledging that we enjoy a strong sense of communal responsibility, recognises the continuing need to positively support and encourage the development of the excellent assets we have, both by effective infrastructure planning and continuing dialogue with the providers.

This would include surgery facilities, links to NHS hospitals, the expanding rôle of St. Giles Hospice, and welfare services provided at County level. The substantial contribution made by volunteer groups is also recognised, as is the need to make effective use of our community buildings such as the Village and Church Halls and the Parish pavilion in accommodating these activities.

The need to promote and encourage the increasing use of commercial organisations (such as the Pharmacy and Post Office) to support community/welfare activities is also acknowledged.

3. JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

This section summarises local employment policy as defined by Lichfield District Council; poses a number of questions about the type of local employment we should be fostering in the interests of sustainability; and by association, the type of accommodation needed to house them.

The need for an enterprising and flexible approach to planning issues on the part of District Council planners, recognising local aspirations and priorities, is also emphasised.

4. DEVELOPING A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

This section focuses on how as a community we can actively promote the development of a more sustainable way of life in the coming years. Issues covered include:

- + local food production and marketing
- + better public transport
- + enhanced waste and recycling facilities
- + options for sustainable energy generation
- + local campaigns to improve insulation standards and introduce more
- + energy efficient heating controls in our housing stock

This section also covers issues arising from the increasing volume of traffic in and around the village. Topics covered include restricting inconsiderate parking in the centre of the village; introducing 20 mph speed limits in specified locations; the landscape oriented changes these would generate; and the need for active participation on the part of County and District authorities in realising these changes.

5. CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

This section, whilst acknowledging that Whittington as a community has relatively few problems in this area, as detailed in national statistics, points out that residents do have the following concerns:

- + Lack of organised and regular police presence
- + Anti social behaviour
- + Growing problems caused by crime and vandalism

These are developed into an action plan setting out priorities and identifying the parties involved in putting them into effect.

6. LEISURE FACILITIES

This section lists current assets within the Parish, ranging from allotments, through sports facilities (cricket, football bowls, golf etc) to accommodation such as the Village and Church Halls and the Parish Council Pavilion. Guiding principles for future development are then set out in general terms. Annex A covers these in more detail and sets out current activities in maintaining and enhancing them and future aspirations for their further development.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

This final section sets out various avenues of communication currently available to the community including public meetings, community notice boards, the Parish Council website, newsletters, and the local press.

It concludes by setting out plans to introduce enhanced internet use by providing training and (already partly realised) community based internet and Wi-Fi facilities.

ANNEXES

Annex A lists leisure facilities in the village, Annex B schedules prominent (not just listed) buildings in the parish and Annex C includes a map of the village and a summary of Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) findings flowing from the 2011 community consultation exercise. Annex D is a collated summary of responses to the consultation.

WHITTINGTON AND FISHERWICK PARISH PLAN

PREFACE

1. Introduction and Snapshot of Whittington and Fisherwick
2. Objective of this Plan

THE PARISH PLAN

THEMES AND ISSUES COVERED:

The steering group has identified the following 7 themes that could be explored and developed during the creation of the Parish Plan:

1. Housing
2. Maintaining and Enhancing our Community Assets
3. Jobs and the Local Economy
4. Developing a more sustainable community and Protecting the Environment
5. Crime and Personal Safety
6. Leisure Facilities
7. Communication

ANNEXES

- A: Leisure Facilities within the Parish
- B: Listed and Scheduled buildings within the Parish
- C: Village and Parish boundary plans
- D: Consultation stage questionnaire and summary of responses

1. INTRODUCTION AND SNAPSHOT OF WHITTINGTON AND FISHERWICK



Whittington is a village and civil parish which lies approximately 3 miles south east of Lichfield in the Lichfield district of Staffordshire. According to the 2011 census it had a population of 3,464. The Parish Council is a joint one with Fisherwick. The Coventry Canal borders the village to the north and east. The name Whittington is believed to come from Old English, and to mean farm.

The southern Parish Boundary runs along the A51 as far as the A38 then follows the line of the road embankment to a point a little to the north of Darnford Lane before breaking back across fields in a north easterly direction following existing water courses before joining the line of the Wyrley and Essington canal and then the Coventry canal from Huddlesford junction, before finally following the line of Mare Brook which forms the northern boundary. In summary it would appear that all the Rugby Club is within the Parish but it would appear only part of Darnford Moors golf club, the balance spreading into Streethay.

To the west and south of the village lies Whittington Heath. The heath was originally the site of the Lichfield races which had moved from Fradley in 1702. During the 18th century they were one of the largest and well attended meetings in the Midlands – in 1773 a grandstand was erected near the Lichfield-Tamworth Road. However during the course of the 19th century the popularity of the races dwindled and military use of the heath grew. In 1875, the Marquis of Anglesey was approached by the War Department and asked if he would sell Whittington Heath for the building of a barracks, to which he agreed. October 29, 1880 was the date recorded as the formal handing over of the newly built barrack to the military. In 1895 the last race meeting was held when the war office declared it was “undesirable to hold a race meeting at the gate of the barracks.” The Lichfield races are still remembered the name of a local pub in Freeford called the Horse & Jockey. In Lichfield, there is another pub called “The Scales” where the race jockeys were “weighed in”.

The old grandstand originally became a soldiers’ home, although it is now the base of the Whittington Heath Golf Course. Golf had been played in the area as the Whittington Barracks Golf Course since 1910 but the land was not brought out from the area until 1994.



Fisherwick has no church, school, shop, or public house. It was formed in 1934 from most of the existing parish of Fisherwick, the parish of Tamhorn, and a small portion of the parishes of Elford and Wigginton. Fisherwick and Tamhorn were formerly townships in the ancient parish of St. Michael, Lichfield, though detached from the main part of the parish; Tamhorn had become extra-parochial by the 1830s. Fisherwick township occupied the northern part of the present civil parish and Tamhorn the southern part. In addition there were once two other settlements, Timmor on the east and Horton in the Hademore area on the west.

The Coventry Canal was built from the Trent and Mersey Canal at Fradley in Alrewas under an Act of 1785 and completed in 1788, enters the parish at Hademore and runs through Tamhorn. Its line is closely followed by the Trent Valley Railway, opened in 1847 to link London and the north-west via Rugby and Stafford. The railway crosses the Elford—Whittington road at Hademore where the level crossing has recently been replaced by a (re-aligned) overbridge.

2. WHY WE NEED A PARISH PLAN

The Government wants to encourage more planning at the local level because it believes that local people know best what the local needs are. This Parish Plan is designed to be a response to this Government initiative.

In areas where there is a Parish Council, the Plan has to be coordinated by that Council. However it mustn't impose its views – it has to reflect the views of the community.

OUR PARISH PLAN SEEKS TO:

- + Establish a shared vision for the community
- + Recommend where new homes, shops, and offices will be developed.
- + Identify and protect green space
- + Influence what new buildings will look like

The intention is for the Plan to reflect our community's priorities and preferences on how the village and its environs should develop in the coming years. This follows directly from the public consultation exercise carried out with the help of Lichfield District planners in 2011. It enhances the existing character of the natural and community environment, whilst striving to conserve those aspects that are highly valued by all in our community. It favours development that incorporates wherever possible 'green' and renewable technologies and that provide for appropriate supporting and or additional infrastructure needs. It recognises the importance and benefits of appropriate economic activity to our community especially that which is locally based and will encourage and support the latter wherever possible.

Most of us would agree that a measure of development and change is inevitable and indeed desirable, but that it should be managed in the community's interest, ensuring that existing qualities that contribute to the village's unique character and clear identity are preserved and enhanced.

Community endorsement of this Plan has been crucial. Residents' and wider community views (such as those of the Whittington and Fisherwick Environmental Group (WFEG) were sought in order to achieve this.

New community rights will ensure that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over land and buildings that are important to them. Every town, village or Parish has buildings that play a vital role in local life. Using new community rights, local community and voluntary bodies, and parish councils, will be able to identify land and buildings that are important to them, such as a village shop, local pub, community centre, library. They can then nominate them for inclusion on a list of assets maintained by the local authority. If an asset on the list comes up for sale, communities will be able to trigger a pause for up to six months, in order to raise capital and bid to purchase the asset before it goes on the open market. This will help local communities keep much-loved sites in public use and part of local life.

Annex B records the Listed and Scheduled buildings that are considered important to the community.



THE PARISH PLAN

1. HOUSING

The Plan accepts that the housing needs and requirements of our community will change over time and that those needs may need to be accommodated by maximising the use of infill and brown field sites whilst at the same time considering and reviewing the possibility of development on other land.

Although the Village is enlivened by various strategically located green spaces and possesses a number of “public” buildings, such as the Church, the pubs, the school, the Community halls and the Hospice and the Co-op convenience store – which form points of orientation and reference, its character is in many ways defined by its housing stock.

This character is of course influenced by the variety of these properties, which ranges from substantial historically significant mansions to modestly scaled cottages, but also includes a large number of more modern estate built homes of differing type and size. However the scale of development, its density, its varying character and age all contribute to the sense of place and community identity.

Its relationship to the surrounding landscape is also a critical determinant. “Natural” boundaries such as the canal have played a major role in defining the character of the village, as have topography (a mix of relatively level and rising ground) and land use (predominantly farming, but including MOD activity). In recent years this character has been strengthened by a combination of statutory protection (green belt legislation and designating Conservation areas) and a determination on the part of the community to enhance and expand recreational and green spaces within the village.

Consequently the village possesses a compact easily readable plan form with clearly defined boundaries and a demonstrably separate identity from surrounding settlements. This has underpinned the development of a strong community focus which it is to be hoped will encourage locally based businesses (both established and newly set up) to survive and prosper.

These qualities are clearly worth preserving, but positive pro-active policies are required to ensure they are: Adopting a “Conserve the best – Enhance the rest” approach is fine, but of itself will not be sufficient.

A degree of growth and change is to be expected, and if properly directed, welcomed. Housing has been a major driver of change in the relatively recent past in the village, as can be evidenced by the differing character of the waves of estate development erected in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s and the relatively limited amount of publicly sponsored housing (some of course now privately owned). Latterly activity has been concentrated on small scale infill and alteration projects, but evolving demographic and employment patterns and increased mobility will prompt continuing development and change. To be valid any Parish Plan must be flexible enough to recognise this and set out policies and strategies -in which Housing Strategy will form a key strand - that clearly reflect community interests, but can evolve over time.

That said, a clear statement of housing related principles, which can be endorsed by the whole community, needs to be put in place at the outset, even though this could and should be subject to regular refinement and review.

HOUSING STRATEGY – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In responding to the consultation stage questionnaire you told us:

- + Expansion beyond existing boundaries into green belt land is not generally acceptable. Infill within existing boundaries coupled with redevelopment of brown field sites and re-use of existing redundant buildings is preferable.
- + A balanced portfolio of development meeting the varying needs of first time buyers, growing and established families and down sizers is needed. Views over the need to give priority to smaller 2 – 3 bedroom houses were evenly divided for and against.

Hence the Plan seeks to put forward a broadly based strategy covering number of units, their location and type for meeting the needs of the Parish. In all cases the Plan will encourage the incorporation of green and renewable technologies into any future housing development.

Developments should be sympathetic in design and density with surrounding areas. In general, the Parish Council will oppose the need to encroach on green belt land within the parish boundary and should where possible exploit existing brownfield sites within Whittington and Fisherwick. Infill developments are preferred to developments on the fringes of the Parish, and should have the support of residents living nearby.

The Plan’s strategy for new housing developments within the village will include an assessment of the need for and provision of additional supporting infrastructure and argue for this infrastructure to be provided in parallel with the development and NOT subsequent to it. Support at District and County level will of course be essential to give effect to such policies which will need to be clearly set out, possibly in future separate documents linked to the Parish Plan.

Within the framework of overall development policy, the Plan will seek to sustain and promote locally based Community (e.g. Doctors’ Surgery, Church, School Community Halls Recreational/Club spaces) and Commercial (e.g. Shops, Pubs, Professional and Social services) assets. Any potential housing development will be viewed in the light of this broader objective.

Car parking provision on new developments will be encouraged. Whilst appropriate car parking provision should be an integral part of any new developments, the longer term transport infrastructure needs of the community should also be a consideration.

PRIORITIES AND PREFERENCES

The Lichfield Local Plan has suggested that Whittington could be expected to absorb between 35 and 110 new homes as part of the overall District total as part of current Regional planning policy over the next 10 – 15 years. The range is not based on specific statistical evidence but represents a pragmatic evaluation by Lichfield planners of what the village could reasonably absorb, the lower figure being met purely by infill within existing boundaries. The upper figure (seen as a maximum beyond which the village's existing character would be unacceptably compromised) would entail expanding beyond existing settlement boundaries in one or more locations.

To be valid the Parish Plan has to be in accord with the broad objectives of the District Planning Authority's Local Plan. That said, the community's clearly expressed preference is for infill development within village boundaries, which at best will achieve the lower figure, although this could be supplemented by appropriate brown field development and/or sympathetic conversion of redundant buildings elsewhere in the Parish. It is also acknowledged that both Local and Parish plan objectives are certain to evolve over time and that any resultant changes must be carefully managed. To that end potential development options are prioritised below:

Priority 1

Exploitation of key sites within the village where development is already planned (e.g. Swan site) or in prospect (e.g. Staffordshire County Council land on Main Street).

Priority 2a

Carefully considered garden infill developments, for which precedents already exist and for which there should be a presumption in favour. This assumes the release in the medium term of (currently unavailable) land identified in the CABE analysis forming part of the 2011 Community Consultation exercise conducted by Lichfield District Planners (see back cover).

Priority 2b

Appropriately scaled brown field development and/or carefully considered conversion of existing redundant buildings outside village boundaries but within the Parish.

Priority 3

Subject to clear evidence of demand for greater housing numbers than can be accommodated by infill development, limited low density/high quality development adjacent to existing settlement boundaries. Preference would be shown to environmentally aware proposals adopting fully integrated renewable energy and related passive energy reduction measures.

PARAMETERS

The foregoing needs to be seen in the context that the Parish is a much wider and more varied entity than the village core alone, important though that is. For example the Barracks is a significant component – where priorities, needs and values may differ significantly. Nevertheless planned expansion here will impact directly on the community, fostering demand for goods, services, and in all likelihood, accommodation locally. Any such expansion would also directly affect the local primary school.

Whilst not facing any insurmountable problems now, school accommodation and staffing levels would undoubtedly come under pressure should housing stock be significantly increased, either to serve the Barracks or the community as a whole, or indeed both. Similarly outlying rural areas merit a differing emphasis, acknowledging the validity of environmentally sensitive small scale infill and imaginative conversion projects in sustaining economic activity and making optimum use of the existing building stock, and where appropriate, supporting redevelopment of existing brownfield sites.

The Plan will not endorse:

- + Major expansion extending significantly beyond existing settlement boundaries.
- + Large scale unsustainable green field development remote from the village (for example on existing MOD ranges should they be sold off.)
- + Use of the projected HS2 alignment to define, influence or justify extended development boundaries to the west of the village.

The Plan will favour:

- + Low to moderate density development comfortably in scale with adjoining established buildings.
- + Good quality design both in terms of buildings and associated landscape elements respecting and where possible enhancing the village's stock of green spaces.
- + Use of predominantly (though not necessarily exclusively) traditional materials and detailing taking cues from established vernacular styles.
- + Optimum re-use of retained buildings on brownfield/infill sites, particularly where of demonstrable quality and visual significance.
- + Open rather than closed layouts for new development, planned where circumstances permit to extend the village footpath network.

2: MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY ASSETS

INTRODUCTORY

Health and wellbeing in the broadest sense is underpinned in any community by a variety of organisations and activities. In Whittington's case these include the Church providing spiritual and pastoral care, a GP surgery supported by a local pharmacy attending to medical needs, the Hospice providing palliative care, District Nurses and Carers undertaking home visits and a variety of volunteer groups focused on companionship and community support.

The village is blessed with a strong sense of communal responsibility, but we should not take the already admirable level of support we enjoy for granted, nor indeed expect it to remain unchanged. Opportunities undoubtedly exist for closer co-ordination between the various agencies involved. Some may be prompted by organisational change driven by current and future legislation. Others may stem from local initiatives and yet more may result from changing demographics.

The Parish Plan, whilst recognising these variables, will focus on measures that will not only actively sustain existing levels of support, but also plan for their enhancement. Planning policies for the locality will need to be viewed in this light, neither being unduly prescriptive nor permitting existing village assets to be compromised by aggressive over development. On a broader level continuing dialogue between providers and users will be critical in shaping and refining health care delivery methods to best meet community aspirations and needs in the coming years.

NHS BASED MEDICAL SERVICES

Our community is in the fortunate position of having a well regarded prominent local GP practice holding daily surgeries in the heart of the village, including nursing support services. Although run in conjunction with a major surgery complex in Lichfield, its ready accessibility (for many residents it is within walking distance) is valued by all and indeed for some is seen as essential.

Besides taking an active rôle in preventative medicine (immunisation programmes, screening programmes, health monitoring etc) the practice also provides a crucial link to maternity services and specialist diagnostics and treatment at community hospitals (Samuel Johnson in Lichfield and Robert Peel in Tamworth), and if required major centres in Sutton Coldfield and Burton or further afield.

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

St Giles Hospice has played a key and expanding rôle within the community over the last 25 years or more. In that time it has established a substantial reputation for high quality palliative care on a residential and day therapy basis for cancer sufferers and is planning to develop more general home care services in the foreseeable future. Although independent of the NHS (it has charitable status and crucially relies on high profile fund raising campaigns and donations to meet its running costs) it provides complementary and much valued services focused particularly on end of life care.

Within Staffordshire other changes are being implemented which will see both social and community health care services brought together under a single umbrella organisation. This is intended to remove an historical (and somewhat artificial) division in the delivery of these services between the NHS and Local Authority based organisations.

Co-ordinating the delivery of a comprehensive range of care services through a variety of agencies will not be without its challenges in the coming years, particularly as new organisations bed in and funding patterns change. As a community we will need to be alive to these changes and the challenges that may emerge from currently ongoing restructuring within the NHS on a national level.

Sustaining and developing well placed services we already have at our disposal must be regarded as a cornerstone of any Parish Plan, which should actively support any initiatives directed to that end. Change may be unavoidable but it needs to reflect the varying needs of a changing population. Younger members of our community are in many ways its lifeblood. Testament to this is the number of thriving youth groups - such as Scout and Guide organisations (and their younger siblings); junior football and cricket teams; and the Youth Council (the Whittington Changers) - where in every case leaders give tirelessly of their time and support. Nevertheless the needs of older residents (forming an increasing proportion of the population with increasing longevity) must also be recognised. Comprehensive health support forms a vital part of these needs.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND ASSETS

Built assets crucially underpin the activities of both health professionals and community organisations run by volunteers. Besides housing the Doctors' surgery the Village Hall is a social hub used by a variety of organisations devoted to the broader aspects of health and wellbeing. Currently these include (amongst others) the Wednesday Club, the Step Forward Stroke Club and Mother and Toddler Groups. Similarly the Church Hall houses the activities of a variety of support groups such as the Pram Service and Crafty Kids etc. Both also provide venues for professionally administered community services such as mass immunisation programmes. To a lesser extent the pavilion on Bit End Field does provide similar facilities, a rôle that could in future be extended. It may also be feasible to accommodate similar activities (in addition to the social functions already catered for) in the recently completed Cricket Club pavilion.

The need to maintain and possibly expand the use of these buildings as an integral part of achieving increasingly community oriented health services in the coming years must be given due weight in any Parish Plan. It is however important to appreciate that in each case these assets are largely sustained and maintained by volunteers who give substantial time and expertise to that end. Commercial lettings help to defray running costs, but even modest maintenance and improvement works crucially rely on fund raising activities by these volunteers and in many cases grant aid which often requires extended effort on their part to secure. The vital contribution these resources already make must be recognised and robust policies put in place within the plan, both to positively promote continuing support from within the community and to identify and actively seek out potential support (both in revenue and logistical terms) available from external agencies on an ongoing basis.

Other community based support groups such as Health Visitors and Meals on Wheels operate on a mobile basis so are consequently less reliant on local community buildings. Prominent amongst these are Community First Responders who for a number of years have provided valued support to the Ambulance Service. Although the group sadly closed down late in 2012 the roll out of the planned network of Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) sites (where Whittington will be a front runner) means their focus will change into running community training sessions which will require the use of community buildings. Currently it is envisaged that the Bit End Field pavilion will provide the space required. Nevertheless the need to assure the continuing support referred to above will equally apply here. In addition there is now the recently added community use of facilities at DMS and the Staffordshire County Council initiated Good Neighbour scheme.

COMMERCIAL LINKAGES

Recognising the contribution commercial organisations make to the delivery of Health and Community care is important and likely to become increasingly so. In Whittington's case the pharmacy represents the clearest example providing prescriptions, diagnostics and advice alongside retail medical sales. There are however others. The Post Office for instance offers a range of services which are of particular benefit to the less mobile, but is also a centre for information exchange and news dissemination. Similarly the Co-op store, with its strong community focus, offers a range of food and non food services on the doorstep.

The benefit these services provide should not be underestimated, as other rural settlements which no longer possess such resources will testify. On sustainability grounds alone their continuing presence is important, but they also play a key rôle in forging a sense of community identity which most would agree it is highly desirable to maintain.

CONCLUSIONS

All the above contribute to the strong sense of community and the relative level of prosperity and well being we currently enjoy. We should not however be complacent and should seize every opportunity to build on this robust foundation for the future.

Crucially this approach will need to be underpinned by a thriving local economy and jobs market. This linkage is further developed in the section 3 below.

The Community were asked whether the Parish Council should take the lead in promoting investment in our community owned built assets, and if not to indicate who in their view should. The general response was that the Community should be active participant in the decision process in conjunction with the Parish Council and local businesses.

The Community were also asked whether exploiting "planning gain" levies to help pay for improved infrastructure and community assets would be appropriate for Whittington and if not to indicate how such improvements could be funded. The general view was that smaller developments that complement and support the village should be supported especially if they make use of brown field sites and redundant buildings. Comments were made relating to best value for money being of paramount importance rather than the ease of tapping into available funding. It was also suggested that local enterprises, whether agriculture or commercial businesses, should be encouraged to enhance the local environment.

3: JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

RESULTS FROM APRIL 2013 CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Responses received from residents revealed a great deal of support for local job creation. The following lists the questions raised in the consultation document followed by details summarising typical replies:

Q5. The District Council's policy on employment approves the setting up of small scale new enterprises within village boundaries but places severe restrictions on such development in the green belt. What is your view on this policy? Please give reasons.

Promote local job creation by encouraging development of workshops and small enterprises utilising existing or redundant infrastructure or by encouragement of businesses run from home. Such could be implemented alongside and as part of new housing developments. Expansion into the green belt is to be discouraged.

Q6. Should more businesses be encouraged to locate in the Parish? If yes what type?

Small scale businesses only that complement the rural character but that don't overload the infrastructure.

Q7. Should greater use be made of redundant farm buildings in developing commercial enterprises providing local employment opportunities even if located in the green belt?

Yes. Consideration should be given on a case by case basis whilst protecting the green belt. Utilise buildings at the Community Farm development.

It is therefore recognised by the Parish that a more fully developed Plan (perhaps constituted as a Neighbourhood Plan) would over time provide an opportunity to re-balance the area's local economy and move towards a more sustainable community. Currently many residents commute to work outside the area. The relative absence of suitable premises, sites and facilities, restricts opportunities for smaller businesses and enterprises to start up and expand in the parish.

LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S POLICY ON EMPLOYMENT STATES:

Policy Emp.4 Rural Employment Sites:

Provided that the environment is not adversely affected and excessive traffic is not generated, and subject to satisfactory access, service and design standards, the District Council will:

- 1. Allow proposals to provide new small scale enterprises within village boundaries.
- 2. Outside the green belt, allow proposals for the redevelopment and/or limited expansion of existing businesses onto adjacent land where consistent with other policies of the plan.

Explanation

The District Council wishes to ensure that there is sufficient scope for existing industries to expand within reasonable limits and also to provide a range of opportunities for smaller scale industry, particularly in rural areas where it can assist in the diversification of the rural economy and the re-use of redundant buildings. Beyond the Green Belt there is less need for a severe restriction on expansion and the policy therefore allows more scope for existing businesses to expand.

Policy Emp.5

Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt Within the boundaries of the major developed sites identified on the Proposals Map and insets, infilling and redevelopment will be acceptable provided the following criteria are met:-

1. Infilling of small gaps between development - the proposals shall
 - (a) Have no greater impact on the purposes of including land in the Green Belt than the existing development
 - (b) Not exceed the height of the existing buildings
 - (c) Not lead to a major increase in the developed proportion of the site
2. Redevelopment - the proposals shall
 - (a) Have no greater impact than existing development on the openness of the Green Belt and the purposes of including land within the Green Belt, and where possible have less
 - (b) Contribute to the achievement of the objectives for the use of land in the Green Belt
 - (c) Not exceed the height of the existing buildings
 - (d) Not occupy a larger area of the site than the existing buildings (unless this would achieve a reduction in height that would benefit visual amenity).

REQUIRED ACTION

Acting on the community's behalf the Parish Council will therefore seek to:

- + **Promote and encourage employment and enterprise**
To be done by encouraging existing businesses and service providers to expand and develop and by fostering new types of enterprise reflecting the needs of an age increasingly dominated by electronic communication.
- + **Identify premises and facilities**
We will actively encourage – through a supportive planning regime at District and County level – the development of farm site based workplaces providing a spring board for the development of rural based enterprises, or the development of live/work units for other fledgling businesses.
- + **Establish Preferred Locations**
Carefully managed infill development within existing settlement boundaries may provide for some of the activities outlined above, but not all. Serious consideration will need to be given to the redevelopment of the stock of farm buildings within the locality, particularly in the interests of developing rurally based pursuits and farm diversification, even when located in green belt land.

Pursuing these aspirations will require further study and evaluation, possibly in the course of developing a more comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan, should that approach be endorsed by the community in the coming months. Some (but by no means all) of the issues that would need considering as part of that exercise are set out below:

- + **Current and future availability of premises and land**
The potential for redeveloping the limited number of brownfield sites within the area, including former quarry sites remains to be more fully addressed.
- + **Retail Needs**
(Expansion of existing levels of provision?)
- + **Financial and professional office facilities**
(Home working to be encouraged together with small scale, possibly developer led, development?)

- + **Catering/Leisure/Accommodation**
(Can existing levels of provision – three pubs, a take-away and a café – be sustained, or could they be expanded?)
- + **Community and Social enterprises**
(Currently these are provided for by St Giles Hospice, the primary school, Elswick House day nursery and the Village and Church halls. Almost certainly their needs will change over time. The expansion at Whittington Barracks will certainly foster greater demand for these services.

Satisfying the accommodation needs for all these activities may well be met in a variety of ways. These may include simply maintaining and renewing the existing building stock, enterprising conversion projects, purpose built workshops and even limited industrial development where appropriate (for example within established farm complexes or on under utilised brownfield sites). In every case however there should be demonstrable long term benefit to the community and the development envisaged appropriately scaled and suited to its locality and environment. Inevitably there will be clashes between wishing to maintain the status quo and planning for the future. Striking the right balance may not always be easy, but remains a goal to which all of us as stakeholders in our community should aspire.

4. DEVELOPING A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

One of the positive and important factors attracting people to come and live in Whittington and Fisherwick is its semi rural location. Many have expressed concern that we must encourage and maintain this by avoiding inappropriate development and inefficient use of resources and other activities that have the potential to reduce or destroy this aspect of our Parish.

The Parish Plan seeks to identify the challenges to the environment created by the current and potential demographic, economic and social needs of our community suggesting how we can move to a more sustainably developed community. In this respect the Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group (WFEG) has done much in recent years to raise local awareness of sustainability and green issues, but arguably more remains to be done by the community (in its widest sense) to promote this agenda.

The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The focus of sustainable development is far broader than just the environment. It is also about meeting the diverse needs of all in our current and future communities.

As part of the rural economy strand of the Growth Review the Government has launched a Rural Growth Network initiative supported by around £15m of new government funding. Under this initiative, Government will work with local enterprise partnerships to identify, test and share learning about mechanisms to stimulate faster and more widespread sustainable growth, employment and economic activity in rural areas. Rural Growth Networks will address barriers to growth in rural areas such as a lack of suitable premises and insufficient critical mass to justify the provision of physical infrastructure (especially superfast broadband and mobile) and other business services. Up to six pilot Rural Growth Networks will be selected through competition to exemplify sustainable development in a rural context.

We can all play our part as even small actions, taken collectively can add up to real change. There are many possibilities in our Parish to start and even continue working towards a sustainably developed and vibrant local community that meets our needs and protects our local environment. The Parish Plan seeks to identify these so that they can be considered alongside and as an integral part of our community's future development and possibly even stimulate thoughts about community planning for 'greener living'. Fostering a strong sense of community and pride in the environment should be one of the main outcomes.

In response to the sustainability related questions accompanying the 2013 Parish Plan Consultation document the Community by a majority of 6:1 said that the adoption of renewable energy technology should be encouraged and that larger scale proposals should be developed with and not thrust upon the community. The effects upon wildlife and residents should also be considered.

Whilst the idea of a 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village found favour there was concern as to how this would be enforced. Traffic calming measures were not welcomed but stricter parking controls and consideration of a one way system were.

The full Question and Answer Summary can be found in Annex D to this document.

MOVING TOWARDS GREATER EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

The Parish Council will develop a Sustainable Development checklist when considering the development needs of our current and future community. The broad basis of this Checklist is as follows:

Energy use in buildings accounts for almost half of all CO2 emissions. The Council will encourage measures that maximize energy efficiency including the use of renewable energy (systems) and improvements to insulation in both new buildings or when existing buildings are being extended or refurbished. The inclusion of such measures should be clearly evidenced within and be a consideration of all Planning Applications.

Standards of energy efficiency demonstrably higher than statutory minima should be a pre-requisite to obtaining planning permission for all new build development within the Parish.

Explore local options for energy use reduction and generation from renewable sources that are most suited to and appropriate for our community. These could include:

- + Wind power
- + Solar voltaic arrays (static and tracking)
- + Biomass fuel installations (e.g. wood pellet)
- + Locally based small scale waste incineration plant
- + Air source/ground source heat pump installations

Influence and encourage developments that minimize their visual impact in relation to the rural and cultural aspect of the Parish through the location and design of site layouts, buildings and landscaping.

Support and promote the case for better public/community transport, car sharing schemes and new residential development where the design provides equal emphasis on all modes of transport including walking and cycling. Look at ways to minimize the impact of traffic volume, speeds and parking provisions within the village.

(Mitigating the problems of parking provision and speeding vehicles will require imaginative and flexible responses. Simply introducing more yellow line parking restrictions would not be realistic (or enforceable), particularly as local businesses crucially rely on roadside deliveries and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but introducing attractive landscape detailing aimed at preventing undesirable pavement parking would be.

A 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the village – and in the vicinity of the school – would help combat excessive speed but would require some changes in road layout and detailing. This could entail changes in surface finishes and/or localised build outs, which if sensitively designed could make an attractive contribution to the village's character. Of necessity these would be longer term aspirations as significant capital expenditure would be needed. County and District Council active participation would also be needed to bring such schemes to fruition.)

Support and encourage opportunities for local employment, purchasing and trading by for example improving the availability of local food products in shops and restaurants, thereby reducing food miles (Woodhouse Community Farm and the monthly village Craft & Food Market are two existing exemplars of good practice).

Encourage the protection of areas designated for their nature conservation, heritage or landscape value and the maintenance or enhancement of local biodiversity. Support the creation of new green spaces and the protection and long-term viability of public open space.

Encourage landowners, local organizations and residents to manage their land and gardens in a 'wildlife friendly' manner. (The Community Orchard and hedge planting in Jubilee Park and the management of Whittington wood are two exemplars of this)

Press for enhanced waste and recycling facilities in our locality and encourage reuse, recycling and composting.

5: CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

In general, the Whittington and Fisherwick parish is considered a desirable place to live. Sometimes there are concerns about security and safety in small villages and we need to confirm how people perceive these aspects in our village.

The Consultation questionnaire resulted in the general response that a more visible (perhaps dedicated) police presence should be sought that would promote a greater sense of security. It was also stated that the reinvigoration of the Neighbourhood Watch would raise community engagement. The increased vandalism in recreational areas was highlighted also.

Although the question of road safety is addressed in the transport section it is worth noting that this is an area of great concern in the village.

CRIME

In September 2012, a typical month, the Mease, Tame and Whittington neighbourhood was the lowest in the league table in the immediate vicinity for crime. For example the crime rate was 2.72 per 1000 residents compared to 7.16 for Fazeley (UK Crimestats.com). It is also below the national average for anti-social behaviour and violent crimes and no more than average for other crimes.

Nevertheless we need to establish if an increased police presence in the village is required and also how many would favour the introduction of CCTV in the village, as there has been a consistent demand (stemming from various different questionnaires) for more visible police presence. The mobile van is not seen as effective as foot patrols.

ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

The key issues to take forward in this area of the plan were established through the survey of priorities held in 2011 as part of the joint Lichfield District Council/CABE community consultation exercise in which all residents were encouraged to participate. They include:

- + More visible Police presence in the village;
- + Anti-social behaviour;
- + Concern about crime levels;
- + Road safety and traffic speed;

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Objective	Action	Lead	Partners	Priority
Levels of crime	Reduce fear of crime	Promote police activities and increase awareness of community policing contact. Inform residents about nature of crime and incidence of crime.	Parish Council	Parish Council, Staffordshire CC (SCC). Neighbourhood Watch Groups, Staffordshire Police	4
	Promote a safe environment	Produce safety information and advice for households.	Parish Council	SCC and Police, Whittington School	5
Higher Police presence in the village	Introduce more effective police presence	Investigate possibility of introducing community police officer dedicated to the Village.	Parish Council	Staffordshire Police	1
Anti-social behaviour.	Reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour	Promote better reporting mechanisms. Provide better facilities for young people.	Parish Council	Staffordshire Youth Services	2
Road safety	Improving safety on the roads	Investigate current accident trends to locate problem areas. Determine any locations for safety treatments.	Parish Council	SCC and Police	3
Speeding Traffic	Enforce Speed limits on main distributor roads	Plan for regular police and camera safety team patrols.	Parish Council	SCC and Police	3
	Reduce Speeds in areas of high pedestrian activity.	Investigate 20 mph zones.			
	Introduce education, training and publicity to promote awareness	Encourage levels of speed awareness amongst residents and businesses in the village.		SCC, Police and Village Organisations	

6: LEISURE FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Whittington element of the Lichfield District Rural Planning project (September 2011) recorded that 'many people expressed a view that Whittington had a good sense of community' and 'that the village was of sufficient size to support a range of community facilities and activities'. A view prevailed that there was a need for improvements to the number and range of facilities for the community as a whole. However the report recognised that the developments which at the time were being implemented by the Parish Council and the cricket club would in the longer term considerably improve the facilities available to all residents.

In response to the Leisure related questions accompanying the 2013 Parish Plan Consultation document the Community agreed that the Parish is well served by recreational facilities; put forward suggestions for extra facilities; encouraged the promotion of walking as a leisure activity and the setting up of a BMX club. Some suggested that leisure facilities upkeep could be part funded via proceeds from the Country Fair held in the Parish. The Community felt that the Parish Council was best placed to seek and decide main sources of funding but felt that users should perhaps make a direct contribution as well.

The full Question and Answer Summary can be found in Annex D to this document.

THE BROAD RANGE OF LEISURE FACILITIES

There are a broad range of Leisure (related) facilities within Whittington & Fisherwick, amongst them are:

- Allotments
- Swan Park
- Noddington Lane
- Bit End field including Bowling Green
- Jubilee Park
- Cricket Club facilities
- Fisherwick Green
- Village Hall
- Thomas Spencer Hall
- Whittington Wood
- Fishing rights (canal)
- Public footpaths (i.e. rights of way)
- Football pitch (Barracks)
- Whittington Heath Golf course
- Fisherwick fishing lakes
- Elford Quarry at Fisherwick (known locally as Fisherwick Lakes)
- Darnford Moors Golf Club
- Lichfield Rugby Club
- The Croft
- Youth Club

This list includes facilities and open spaces that are not necessarily owned or managed by the PC.

PARISH COUNCIL LEISURE STRATEGY

The Parish Council (PC) will seek to ensure the retention and maintenance of existing facilities within its ownership or responsibility commensurate with the identified needs of the Community and the funding streams available. Facilities will be provided so that maximum benefit may be made of them by the broadest cross section of the community whilst recognising that the Parish is a much wider and more varied entity than the village core alone.

The PC will periodically review the mix of and continued need for the range of leisure facilities and will consider any revised or new requirements to meet the current/changed or future needs of the community. The realisation of these will be entirely dependent upon the availability of appropriate resources.

The Parish Council will endeavour to locate the majority of the leisure facilities at or within the centre of the community where they will be easily accessible to the majority of users. But increases in the size, nature and make-up of the community and to the footprint of the village could materially impact upon this aspect and the future location of such facilities.

The Parish Council will seek to ensure that future planning proposals for housing development(s) take due account of and make provision for any impact upon the use and demand for local leisure facilities.

The Parish Council will always give due consideration to and wherever possible provision for the environmental impact of its leisure facilities and in particular will:

Encourage the recycling of resources and when it is practical and cost effective to do so incorporate green and renewable technology.

Oppose the encroachment into the green belt or the extinguishment of public rights of way.

Encourage the re use of brown field sites.

Make provision for cyclists wherever possible.

Encourage development that is sympathetic in design and scale to the local environment

The Parish Council will maintain and develop our mutually supportive relationship with the 'Barracks' as regards the viability and use of leisure facilities and be part of a Community Covenant* should one be agreed between the Armed Forces and the local authority.

*[A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a Civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. Such a Covenant aims to encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life and to encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement.]

The Parish Council will ensure appropriate and timely Community engagement more especially during all major changes to existing facilities or when there are proposals for new leisure developments.

7. COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is the lifeblood of any community. Even more so in the Parish of Whittington and Fisherwick where we have isolated pockets of habitation such as the Barracks, Tamhorn, the two separated hamlets of Fisherwick and numerous properties in the rural areas of our region.

Much of our communication is on an informal level either by grapevine or gossip:

In our local pubs and clubs, the many societies and organisations meeting regularly in the village, the Church, the Coffee Stop, the Hairdressers, Post Office, Pharmacy, Chinese Take Away, the village pubs and social club, Doughnuts and Dollars, the Co-op and the Surgery and at major annual gatherings such as the Big Green Fair (now apparently re-located to Lichfield), the Church and Countryside Fairs, Junior and Senior Cricket and Football matches, the Bowling Cub and even dog walking around the village and in our recreational 'parks'.

At a more formal level we have many modes of communication in our Parish:

- + Formal meetings such as AGMS, Barrack Updates, Parish Council, Stop HS2, LDC Rural Master Planning Workshops etc.
- + Community, Church and Parish Council notice boards.
- + W.F.E.G. Newsletters and Website.
- + Stroke Club Newsletter.
- + St. Giles Church Parish News and weekly pew sheets.
- + Parish Council Newsletter, Welcome Pack, Website and Facebook page.
- + Flower Club Website.
- + Staffordshire Regimental Museum Website.
- + Parish Council meeting Open Forum public sessions.
- + Village Market Micro newspaper.
- + Village Voice (Whittington section in the Mercury).
- + Fair Trade website

If communication is to be effective it should be:

- + Transparent, clear, concise and easy to interpret
- + Available to those who:
- + Could benefit from the information
- + Need the information.
- + Are required to act upon the information.

Communication is a two way process. It is so important, for example, for the Parish Council to communicate and engage with their community. An effective information service is fine; but providing the relevant information, to the right people, in the appropriate format is only half the battle. Implementing an effective response mechanism is just as important, and without feedback it lessens the effectiveness. In our community a massive amount of information is available and we have many ways of communicating it, but does it reach the right people, at the right time in the appropriate format? In this day and age of modern technology, could we improve our processes and save time by using this technology, primarily the internet?

Over recent years communication within our Parish has improved dramatically. Key examples of this level of improvement include the launching of the Parish Council Newsletter, Website and (latterly) its Facebook page, the introduction of local society Newsletters and Websites and Parish Council meetings to which the public is encouraged to attend, to either listen to debate on community issues or to address the Council on personal or public matters. But we still have a long way to go and over the next few years we should be addressing ways of further developing the communication processes in our community. Some of these processes might include:

- + Greater use of the internet. Setting up a data base for use throughout the community.
- + Encouraging and providing training for non-internet users.
- + WI-FI facilities in the Village Hall (already planned).
- + A central internet facility in the village.
- + Utilising and encouraging the use of social media

The Questionnaire included the question “Do you think the Parish Council could make more effective use of its website and Facebook page as communications tools? If so, in what way” - to which the general response was that greater publicity about the existence of these media is needed. The content needs to be of more relevance and interest to the younger audience. Local organisations and clubs should be allowed to use these media including the possibility of advertisements by local businesses. It was also stated that the website should be updated more frequently and if possible the Minutes of Council meetings published sooner.

A second question was “The Parish Council aims to make the regular Newsletter it delivers to very household relevant and informative. How do you think it could be improved upon?” A general response was that the newsletter needed to be more attention grabbing and that currently it had a “freebie” look to it. Its profile needed to be raised and the fact that it covers Fisherwick as well as Whittington emphasised. There were also suggestions that the frequency of the newsletter be increased with more contributions from community organisations.

ANNEX A: SCHEDULE OF LEISURE FACILITIES (AS AT SEPTEMBER 2013)

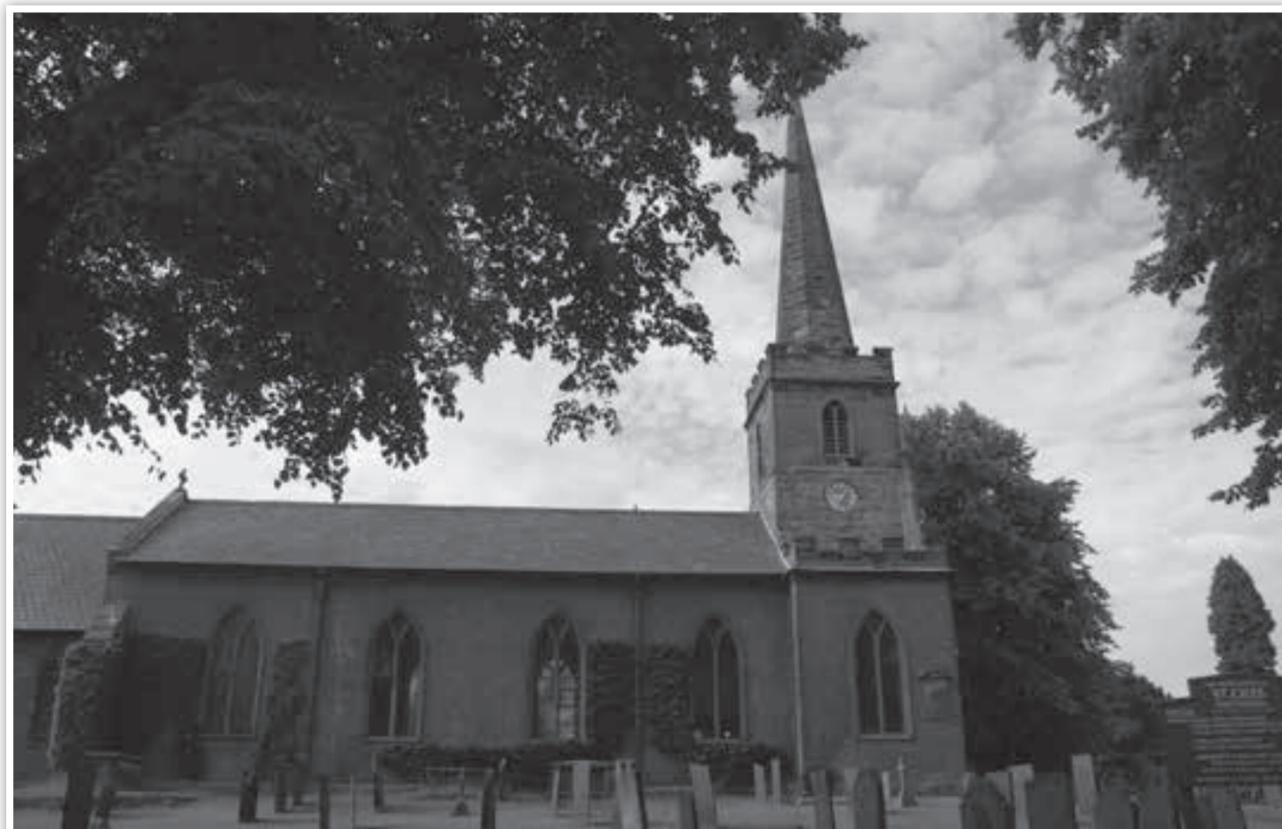
Leisure Facility	Description	Future activity (other than mtce.)
Allotments		
Swan Park	Community open space with a series of wooden log apparatus plus a ‘zip wire’ slide. Tennis court, doubling up with basketball and netball. Football pitch. Park is closed at dusk but this is reliant upon volunteer(s) being available to lock and open the gates.	Final soft landscaping (an element of the LDC Planning approval) still to be undertaken. Whittington Scouts are developing a small section within Swan Park into a garden and nature area (wild flower garden with bird feeding bushes, insect environments); communal BBQ area with bench and picnic table and tree trunk seating. The Scout symbol on a raised bank in purple heather and willow fencing will also be features.
Noddington Park	Community open space with swings and children’s climbing apparatus. Mini ‘tarmac’ surfaced basketball/ football court.	
Bit End (inc Pavilion & Bowling Green) holds QEII Fields in Trust status	Recreation Ground (utilised by football and cricket and other community Groups). Car Park (by bowling green) Pavilion (open floor space; Office; Kitchen; Toilets; changing rooms and storage). Cricket and football pitches, cricket nets Playground 2 x sets of swings, roundabout, slide, mini climbing apparatus with slide Bowling Green Land Owned by the PC and leased to Whittington Bowling Club.	Possible extension to provide extra facility to accommodate use by Youth Club. Incorporation of ‘time capsule’ into new structure.

Jubilee Park holds QEII Fields in Trust status	2 acres of land acquired 2009 between the new Whittington Cricket Club ground and St Giles Hospice includes BMX Track; Trim Trail and Community Orchard	Community Orchard is an ongoing and developing project run through WFEG. Other facilities e.g. paths, Pergola and seating may be installed as and when funding permits.
Cricket Club – Vicarage Lane	New ground and Pavilion. Playing Senior cricket in Staffordshire Clubs League and Lichfield District Sunday League, together with thriving Junior Section from Under 7's through to Under 17.	Continuing development of Ground, allied elements and Pavilion to maintain facilities commensurate with playing at the highest possible (feasible and realistic) club level
Whittington Wood	Area of community (owned) woodland that is managed by the Whittington Wood Committee which is independent of the Parish Council for the benefit of the fauna and flora and as an amenity for the community.	Regularly advertised work parties utilise volunteers in addition to Committee members to maintain the woodland. Funded via a PC earmarked fund
Fishing rights (Canal)	Coventry canal- Whittington Bridge to Bridge 80. Acquired March 2003 on 5 yearly xterm. Renewed 2013 (currently £210 per annum)	Periodically publicise these rights that are there for the benefit of Whittington & Fisherwick residents
Public rights of way Public Rights of way (cont)	Fully revised edition of Whittington & Fisherwick Walks booklet published in 2011. Reprints issued since.	Maintain watching brief on condition/maintenance. Ensure topicality/availability of 'Walks Booklet'. Research Community Paths Initiative funding.
Youth Club	2 x buildings owned by Staffs County Council. Well equipped.	County plan to sell the land for house building. Options sought for alternative accommodation for Y.C. County Council Estates group has sought planning approval to extend Bit End Pavilion based on proposals jointly developed with Parish.

Lichfield (& Hatherton) Canals Restoration Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration formed as a registered charity in 1988	The route of the canal dissects the western boundary of the Parish running from its junction at Huddlesford with the Coventry canal, cutting under Cappers Lane and thence towards Darnford Lane and out to the A51 (Tamworth Road).	The Trust is restoring the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals to re-open waterway links between Staffordshire and the West Midlands for the benefit of the environment, amenity and prosperity of the Region and to enhance the nation's inland waterway system. The Trust's restoration programme hopes to achieve the re-creation of a living waterway for leisure and wildlife; open a northern canal gateway to the West Midlands that promotes tourism and economic regeneration; reclaim derelict land and restore historic structures. HS2 may impact upon the canal in the Whittington/Huddlesford area.
The Croft	Open space owned and maintained by the PC for the enjoyment of the community.	
Lichfield RUFC Tamworth Road	Inclusive Rugby Club – Men, Ladies, Mini Juniors, Bowls and also supporting other local sports and business organisations.	
Whittington Heath Golf Course	Situated on A51 between Lichfield and Tamworth. Playable all year and open to members, casual visitors and societies.	HS2 may cut through the course taking out a number of holes, the green keeper's compound, the club house, Pro shop buildings and both car parks.

ANNEX B: LISTED AND SCHEDULED BUILDINGS WITHIN THE PARISH

WHITTINGTON					
Listed Building Ref	Grade	Date of Listing	Address		Parish
04/102	2	20/11/1986	Barn and granary approximately 5 yards north east of Blue Gate Farmhouse	Brookhay Lane	Whittington
04/101	2	20/11/1986	Blue Gates Farmhouse	Brookhay Lane	Whittington
07/105	2	20/11/1986	Astley and Norton family memorial immediately north of nave of Church of St Giles	Church Street	Whittington
07/103	2	14/03/1983	Church Farmhouse	Church Street	Whittington
07/104	2	20/11/1986	Church of St Giles	Church Street	Whittington
11/106	2	20/11/1986	Swan Bridge	Coventry Canal	Whittington
11/110	2	20/11/1986	Former stables immediately north west of Elswick House	Fisherwick Road	Whittington
11/108	2	20/11/1986	Gate piers and attached wall to the west approximately 100 yards south-west of Whittington Old Hall	Fisherwick Road	Whittington
11/109	2	20/11/1986	Whittington House and Elswick House	Fisherwick Road	Whittington
11/107	2*	09/03/1953	Whittington Old Hall	Fisherwick Road	Whittington
07/113	2	20/11/1986	Huddlesford Grange Farmhouse	Huddlesford Lane	Whittington
1405559	2	23/02/2012	The Old School (Whittington Youth Centre)	Main Street	Whittington
11/111	2	20/11/1986	Tudor Cottage	The Green	Whittington
11/112	2	20/11/1986	Whittington Lodge	The Green	Whittington
505776	2	16/01/2009	South Staffordshire War Memorial	Tamworth Road Whittington Barracks	Whittington
505775	2	16/01/2009	North Staffordshire War Memorial	Tamworth Road Whittington Barracks	Whittington
505773	2	16/07/2009	Keep and Perimeter Wall	Tamworth Road Whittington Barracks	Whittington
505774	2	16/07/2009	Garrison Church of St George	Tamworth Road Whittington Barracks	Whittington



Preserving Historic Whittington

An Information sheet for the residents of the Whittington Conservation Area affected by the new article 4(2) Direction

1 Main Street

Introducing a new Article 4 (2) Direction

There are many fine historic buildings in Whittington that are not protected as listed buildings but are nevertheless important to local people because they form part of the familiar and cherished local scene. The District Council believes they deserve greater protection from insensitive small scale alterations which over time erode the special character of the village. It has therefore decided to tighten planning controls over external alterations to selected older houses in the conservation area by means of an Article 4 Direction.

What is an Article 4 Direction?

This is a legal device available to all Local Authorities enabling them to exert tighter controls on changes to the outside of houses facing a road or open space that could damage the character and appearance of the conservation area. It does this by requiring owners to obtain planning permission for certain types of development that would otherwise be automatically permitted.

What work to my house will now require planning permission as a result of the Article 4 (2) Direction?

In addition to the normal requirements for planning permission, the following alterations or demolition will now require planning permission as a result of the Article 4(2) Direction:

- The installation or alteration of windows and doors
- The erection of an extension of any size to the side or front of a house
- Alteration to the roof, including changing materials, the insertion of dormer windows or roof lights
- The addition of a porch to an entrance facing a road or open space
- The provision of a hard surface within the grounds of a house for the parking of vehicles
- The alteration, removal or erection of any gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure within the grounds of a house
- The painting of the exterior of any part of a house or of a building within the grounds of a house not previously painted
- The installation or replacement of a satellite antennae
- Rendering walls not previously rendered
- The alteration or removal of a chimney to the house or any other building within the grounds of the house

Which Properties are affected?

The map and list on the back page identifies the buildings covered by the new Article 4 Direction. These buildings are all unlisted but add significantly to the character and appearance of the conservation area.

How do I get permission for the works covered by the Article 4(2) Direction?

A formal planning application needs to be made for those works described above. If after reading this leaflet you are unsure whether your proposals require planning permission, please contact:

The Development Control Team
Lichfield District Council
District Council House
Frog Lane
Lichfield WS14 6YZ
Tel: (01543) 308179

Any application for planning permission made as a result of the Article 4 Direction will not require the payment of a fee.

Lichfield District Council



24 & 26 Main Street: A semi-detached Victorian house with modern alterations to 26



Detail of window at 1 Main Street

Keeping the Character of Whittington Special

The preservation of architectural details and the correct use of materials are important factors in maintaining the character and appearance of conservation areas.

Keeping historic details also makes individual houses more attractive to future house buyers whereas insensitive alterations will often seriously devalue them.

The following guidance explains some of the ways in which older houses in the conservation area can be looked after sympathetically.

Windows

Original sash and casement windows are important period features and should be retained and repaired wherever possible. Total replacement of old windows on account of their condition is very rarely necessary. If they are to be replaced they should be constructed of timber and their design and detailing should match the originals. If the originals have been lost to modern replacements, reinstatement to the original pattern or to a historically authentic design in timber is strongly encouraged. Grant aid may be available for this (see back page).

Primary double glazing is normally incompatible with traditional detailing because the thickness of timber sections required to hold the glass in double glazed units is greater. On older properties, unless traditional thicknesses of window elements such as glazing bars and frames can be achieved, then primary double glazed units are unlikely to be acceptable.

Doors



Detail of doorcase of 6 The Green

Period doors (normally panelled or planked) should be retained and repaired. Any replacements should match originals as closely as possible, be made of timber and have a painted finish. Modern panelled doors which incorporate glazed fanlights should be avoided.

Walls

Painting or rendering of hitherto unpainted or untreated brickwork should be strenuously avoided and will not normally be permitted.

Roofs

New or replacement tiles should match the existing in size, colour, and texture unless the latter are inappropriate modern tiles such as concrete or asbestos slates. Staffordshire Blue tiles are common in this vicinity and their use is encouraged. Replacement of poor quality modern tiles with plain clay tiles or real slate of British origin (where this was the original material) is also to be welcomed.

The addition of dormer windows and rooflights on roof slopes visible from public areas will normally be resisted.

Chimneys

Chimneys are important skyline features that contribute greatly to the character of buildings and the conservation area. Proposals to remove or lower them will normally be resisted.

Porches

A porch will only be permitted if it is of a scale and design which is in keeping with the building. In many cases small scale older cottage type buildings will not be able to accommodate a fully enclosed porch because of the adverse affect on appearance.

Boundary walls and fences

The removal of boundary walls to make car bays to the front of houses will normally be strongly resisted. Existing walls should normally be retained and repaired using original materials and details. Rendered walls should generally be avoided and concrete walls are never acceptable in conservation areas. Hedgerows where they exist should be retained.



28 Main Street

Please do not hesitate to contact the Conservation Team for further advice on any of the above matters.

If you would like to discuss the Article 4 Direction further, or want advice on the repair or restoration of a building covered by the Direction, contact either:

**Richard Preston on 01543 308188
or Debbie Boffin on 01543 308203**



Grants to help repair and restore original architectural features

We recognise that grant assistance may be required to help meet additional costs associated with traditional repairs and the sympathetic reinstatement of lost features needed to maintain the historic street frontages of Whittington. The District Council will accordingly consider making discretionary grants to residents whose unlisted properties are included in the Article 4 Direction.

If you wish to be considered for grant aid (which could be up to 50% of eligible costs) please contact the conservation team to discuss eligibility.



6 Main Street

Your Comment

The Article 4(2) Direction will be in place initially for a six month period. During this time we would like to hear your views on whether or not the Direction should be made permanent. Any comments you wish to make must be made to the Council within 28 days of the formal notification you will receive with this leaflet. These will be given full consideration by the Council before a decision is taken on whether to confirm the Direction.

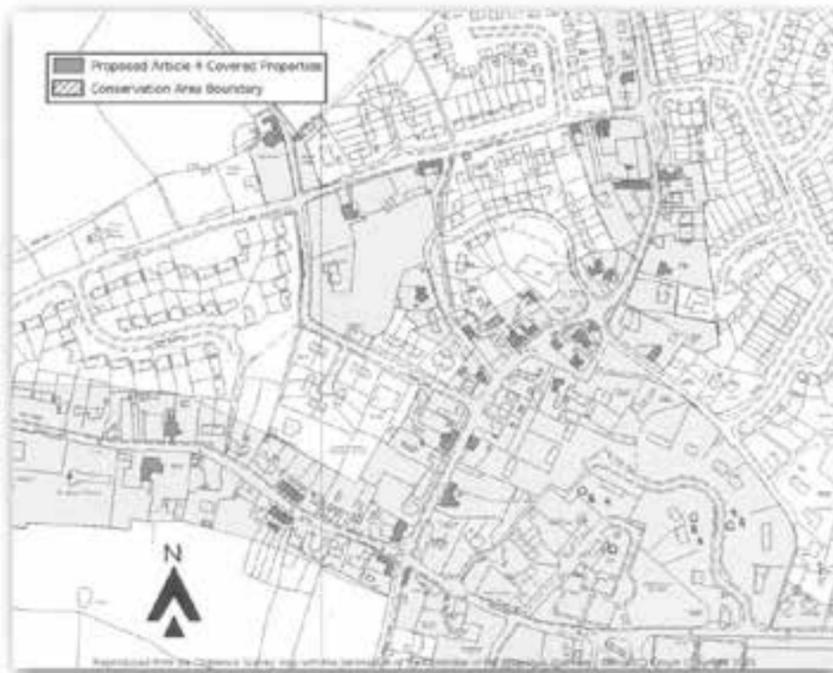
We look forward to hearing from you.



7 The Green

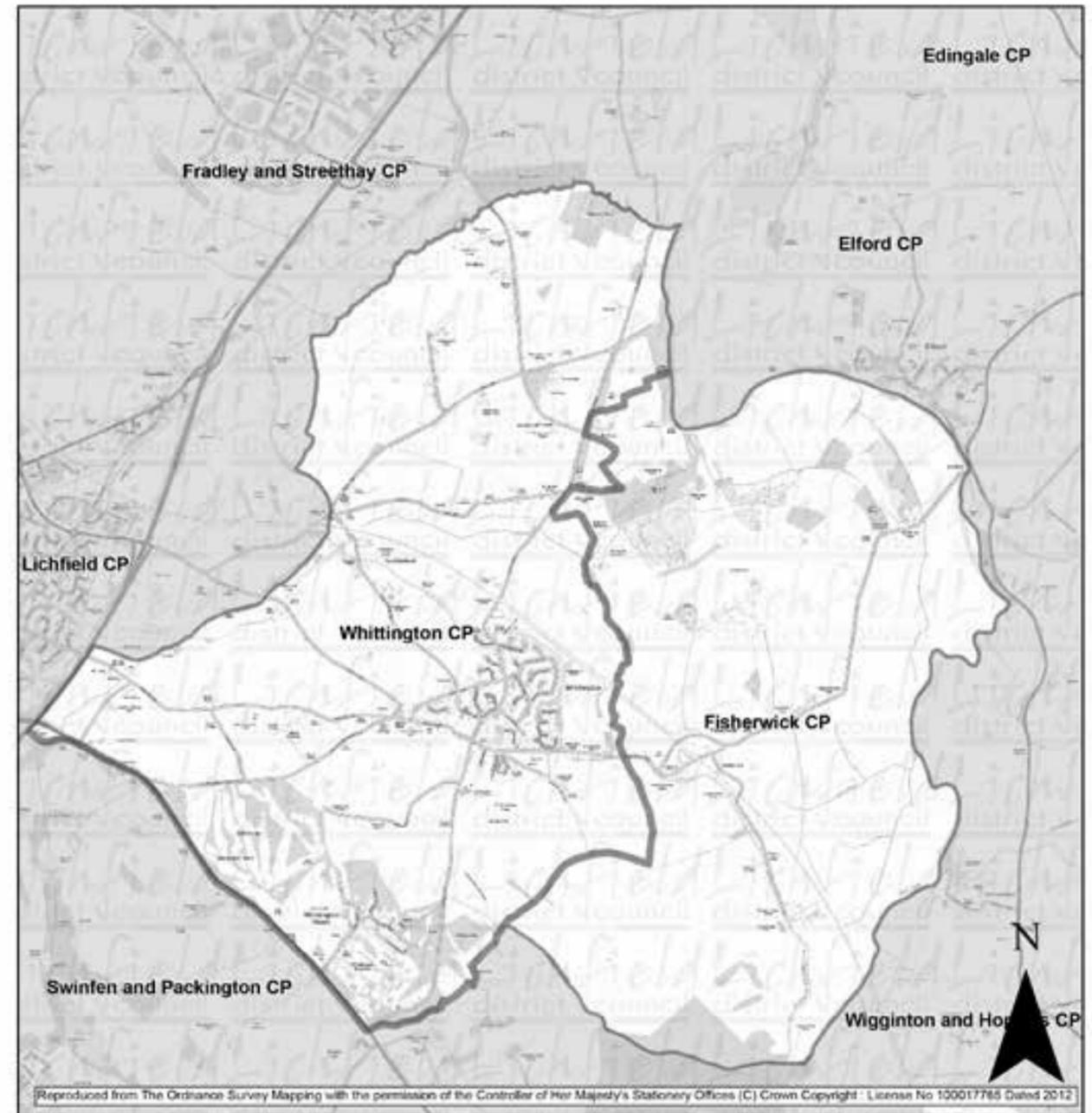
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES INCLUDED IN THE ARTICLE 4(2):-

- Numbers: 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 (Holy Cottage), 22, 24, 39 and 44 Church Street
 - Numbers: 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, (29 Chimneys only), 35, 37, 38, 39, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49 and 51 Main Street
 - Numbers: 3, 5, 7, 13a, 41, 43 and 57 Bock Lane
 - Numbers: 1, 5, 6, 7 and North Cottage The Green
 - 2, The Old Police Station and Coachman's Cottage Common Lane
 - Rock Farm, Burton Road
 - Numbers: 2, 4, 9 and 11 Blacksmith Lane
 - Crossroads and Highfield Cottage, Huddlesford Lane
- Buildings included in the Article 4 Direction



ANNEX C: VILLAGE AND PARISH BOUNDARY PLANS

Whittington & Fisherwick



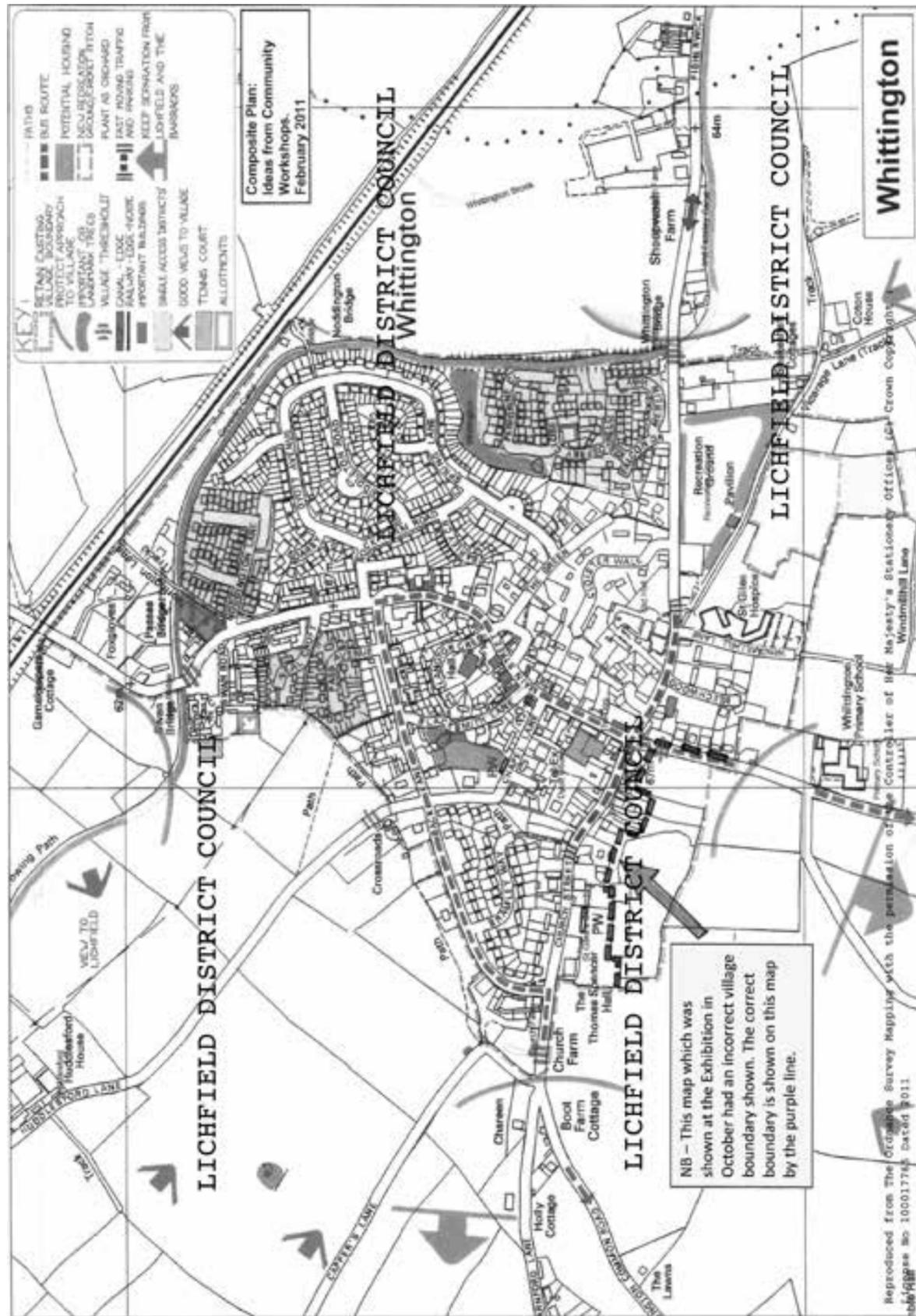
Key

□ Whittington & Fisherwick Parishes

Map supplied by Lichfield District Council



Maps provided by Lichfield District Council.



A colour copy of this map can be found on the back cover of this publication.

ANNEX D: CONSULTATION STAGE QUESTIONNAIRE AND SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

INTRODUCTORY

The Parish Plan needs to incorporate the views of the Whittington and Fisherwick community to be valid. Please therefore take this opportunity to express your opinion by completing this questionnaire. This can be done on line or, if you prefer printed off and placed in the collection box in the village Post Office after it has been completed. In either case please return it by the end of March

If you would like to receive a printed version (which will of course include the questionnaire) please contact the Parish Clerk by e-mail (janine_arm@hotmail.com) or phone (01543 450181).

1. HOUSING

Question 1:

The 2012 Lichfield Local Plan anticipates a need for between 35 and 110 new houses in Whittington in the next 15 years, met in the main by infill development. Would limited expansion beyond existing boundaries to help meet this need be acceptable? If not, how could it best be met?

Question 2:

Should priority be given to 2 – 3 bedroom dwellings for first time buyers and “down sizers” in any future housing development in the village? Or should developer led market forces define the range of housing types? Alternatively, what mix would you prefer to see?

2: MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY ASSETS

Question 3:

Should the Parish Council take the lead in promoting investment in our community owned built assets? If not please indicate who in your view who should.

Question 4:

*(a) Should new commercial development within our local area be actively encouraged in the coming years?
(b) Such developments often attract “planning gain” levies which can help pay for improved infrastructure and community facilities. Would this strategy be appropriate for Whittington in your view? If not please indicate how in you think such improvements could be funded.*

3: JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Question 5:

The District Council’s policy on employment approves the setting up of small scale new enterprises within village boundaries but places severe restrictions on such development in the green belt. What is your view on this policy? Please give reasons

Question 6:

Should more businesses be encouraged to locate in the Parish? If yes what type?

Question 7:

Should greater use be made of redundant farm buildings in developing commercial enterprises providing local employment opportunities even if located in the green belt?

4 DEVELOPING A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY**Question 8:**

Should there be a 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village? Should this be extended to other parts of our community?

Question 9:

Do you agree with the strategy of encouraging the widespread adoption of “renewable” energy technology and should the Parish Council actively promote it?

Question 10:

The 2012 Lichfield Local plan has identified potential locations for wind power installations within the District and has already approved a limited number of small scale installations within our immediate locality.

Although the Parish Council has no statutory powers it is consulted by the Local Planning Authority on every planning application that falls within parish boundaries. What particular criteria do you think should be used to evaluate proposals of this type?

5: CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY**Question 11:**

Previous surveys have identified the lack of effective police presence, anti social behaviour, a perceived growth in crime and vandalism and speeding traffic as key areas requiring positive action. Are there other issues you would like to see included? If so, what are they and what action do you think is needed address them?

6: LEISURE FACILITIES**Question 12:**

Whittington is already well served with a wide range of recreational and sporting facilities serving a variety of age groups. In your view could they be usefully improved and extended? If yes in what way and to whose benefit?

Question 13:

If additional facilities are to be provided how in your view should they be funded?

7. COMMUNICATION**Question 14:**

Do you think the Parish Council could make more effective use of its website and facebook page as communications tools? If so, in what way?

Question 15:

The Parish Council aims to make the regular Newsletter it delivers to every household relevant and informative. How do you think it could be improved upon?

THANK YOU FOR EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS.**Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Plan Consultation Stage Survey analysis May 2013**

Parish Plan Consultation Stage survey proposition	Very strongly agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Very strongly disagree	Agree/Disagree Totals	Ratio (rounded)
There is a need for more 2-3 bedroom houses in the village	17	9	8	21	5	9	34/35	1:1
The development of small scale enterprises within the village should be encouraged	16	12	22	7	3	3	50/13 (1 nil response)	4:1
New development should be within the existing village boundary and not encroach onto the green belt	31	6	8	5	1	14	45/20	2:1
Greater use should be made of redundant farm buildings	20	9	33	0	2	2	62/4	15:1
The adoption of renewable energy technology should be supported	16	14	25	3	2	4	55/9 (1 nil response)	6:1
Lack of an organised and regular police presence; anti social behaviour; speeding traffic are the main crime and personal safety issues	13	14	25	7	1	1	53/9	6:1
The whole community is well served by recreational facilities within the Parish	16	15	26	5	1	3	57/9	6:1
I am kept sufficiently informed about the activities of the Parish Council	21	17	24	3	1	0	62/3	15:1

Notes:

Combined analysis of paper returns to tick box summary questionnaire included in February 2013 Parish newsletter and on line equivalent shown.

Returns related to extended questionnaire included in Consultation document subject to separate analysis.