

Longdon Neighbourhood Plan

Initial Consultation – 14/ 19/ 22 .10.13

Themed comments

Character

- Happy with village as it is
- Concerned that Armitage developments are getting ever closer to Longdon
- Do not spoil the brand image of an aspirational village
- It's a nice and quiet place to live
- New building must be in keeping with rural feel.
- Like small village feel – no reason to change
- New development must respect / maintain rural feel
- What I love about Longdon – quaintness / quiet; away from busy Lichfield and towns; countryside and views - cute Village. Do not build in Longdon Green -if I want to live in a busy area I'll move to Chasetown or Lichfield
- Need to strike the right balance between rural character of village(s) and the need for local housing
- Concern about the changing face of the countryside and loss of farming to the area; once a farm is lost it never comes back. Noted that farms have had to change especially after foot and mouth.
- Concern that there has been a loss of farming infrastructure to housing. Barns to housing. This has an impact on the rural character of the area.

Community

- People all know each other
- Community spirit will be galvanized if a challenge is perceived
- Ages in villages on a 'conveyor belt'
- They consider themselves commuters
- Unaware of OWL for Neighborhood watch
- Increasing housing causes concern – wrong elements coming into the village
- Lack of a community feel. A51 separates Longdon and Upper longdon
- Ageing community

Transport and Movement

- HS2 – some concerns; how will it affect us?
- Rat runs.... Traffic calming required, flashing signs are apparently statistically better
- A51 getting more busy, faster, dangerous, noisy. Crossing it is precarious.
- Feel that the number of lorries on A51 has increased significantly
- Verges need to be kept cut back to maintain visibility – clear snow from lanes during winter
- Bridlepath / green lane opposite Brook Farm being deliberately blocked.
- Bridle paths overgrown, difficult to use on horse back.
- Transport – not enough buses to Lichfield or Rugeley. Need mini bus to medical facilities
- Lack of transport means young and old are 'prisoners' in the village – not

everyone has a car.

- Consider community bus or car sharing
- Lack of footpaths in the village
- A51 crossing, but without footpath in High Street, dangerous to cross into village
- Lack of pavement in last section of Upper Way onto A51
- State of pavement on A51 deplorable and dangerous – it's a wonder no ankle / leg injuries. Weeds need to be kept down and surface maintained.
- Create footpath / cycle lane, or allow cycling on pavements (once surface repaired) – unlikely to be many cycle / ped conflicts given usage.
- No safe route from the Almshouses in Borough Lane across the A51 – lack of footpath in Borough Lane
- Ban vehicles rat running esp HGV's between Armitage and Burntwood (Borough Lane / Bardy Lane)
- Development at Burntwood will increase traffic pressures on lanes / road conditions (rat running).
- Speed / volume of traffic will increase in Gentleshaw once School Lane is repaired and Burntwood housing numbers increase
- Traffic calming, not just white paint; humps; cushions; chicanes
- Weight limits on lanes would help deter HGV's / sat nav problems
- More field footpaths / bridle paths
- Need bus service – not everyone has a car or can drive (age, disability, desire)
- No bus service in Gentleshaw
- Dial a bus service / ring and ride – for elderly
- Need bus service that is good for commuters ie week days - 7.30am, 8.30am, 6.00pm, 7.00pm.
- Bus services should be promoted more
- There was support for a bus services that looped the village and then went to Rugeley.
- (Longdon Green) Bus service to be improved
- (Upper Longdon) Better bus service - currently useless - with extra bus stop and timetable
- Speed and volume of traffic and no footpaths in lanes restricts walking
- Lack of footpaths deters other road users from enjoying the area – walking, cycling, horse riders
- Volume of traffic increases at school opening / closing times
- High levels / speeding traffic restricts leisure opportunities (cycling; horse riding; walking) – dissuades holiday makers
- Need bike awareness signs for car drivers, because of increased numbers using lanes (*Think bicycle*)
- Safer cycling routes needed (esp around Castle Ring)
- Commuter traffic between A51 and School Lane (via Grand Lodge) dissuades walkers.
- Footpath needed along High Street (not inside hedge line - safety of users) – move hedge back and plant a new one. £ contributions from all new uses that generate traffic (new paddocks mean horse boxes)
- Speeding traffic near school. Need zig-zags, speed measures
- Lorries laying up on A51 – lack of appropriate facilities. However, truckers prevent anti social behaviour of *others!*
- Ineffective speed cameras – need on for use by community
- Change local speed limits from national ones- 40mph along A51
- Problems with sat navs – Huntsman's Hill
- Motor bikes racing around lanes at night (1 night) A51 – Shavers Lane – High St
- (Longdon) Traffic calming: speed and volume
- Traffic speed & HGV restriction. Pedestrian crossing
- 40 mph limit; particularly thro' the Chase
- Traffic calming in Upper Way
- Speed limit in Cannock Chase needs reducing (from a 'worker' not resident)

- Traffic calming – speed and volume
- Pavement for total length of Upper Way
- Road maintenance throughout Upper Longdon
- Create an access onto Cannock Chase via Lower Way

Community facilities

- Focus provided by pubs and venues, school,
- Pubs succeed in village if have investment and good customer facing staff – village will take custom elsewhere
- Concerns about school roll?... is it falling?
- Lack of local shops (Rag development welcomed).
- What I don't like about Longdon - no play area
- Although we *choose* to live in Upper Longdon, we need a car to get a pint of milk. However, another shop in UL could affect viability of one in village
- Shops – the residents at the table were not so concerned (for themselves) about shops as they all drive and can use internet for home deliveries
- No shop in Upper Longdon
- Services.... there are a few from the local shop plus a mobile library. There used to be vans... with milk, eggs, a butcher van, a fish monger van
- Where can retired and elderly meet?... no central locations?
- Notice boards are ok-ish but not always in the right location, why not use e-mails to send out messages
- Extend Gentleshaw church yard
- No community facility in Upper Longdon
- Need a play area
- Positives – Over 60's club; British Legion. But without bus service, isolated.
- Telephone boxes should be kept.
- Village shop future uncertain – catch 22 – not enough range of goods because not enough custom; not enough custom to warrant an expanded range of goods.
- Sustainability of shop, pubs, school – catchment too small
- Young families come to village because of school. If it continues to get poor OFSTED results, or closes, it will be a disincentive to young families.
- Upgrade post boxes for larger letters
- Football pitch and youth club required

Housing

- More housing needed
- All types of housing (and tenures) will mean that village has a community feel.
- Affordable housing for young people & associated road structure
- Rented accommodation would allow people who cannot afford to buy, to live here, such as children of current residents
- Reluctant to have large numbers of affordable houses
- Require understanding and visibility of LDC plan and implications for Longdon Parish
- What is the allocation of housing into Longdon from LDC plan?
- Barn conversions should be allowed – farm diversification / subsidises agricultural activity
- Security of isolated business properties (nursery on Commons side). Theft of equipment and plants because no-one lives on site
- New build housing on isolated sites could have agricultural occupancy conditions attached to prevent ‘in comers’ getting around new homes in the green belt.
- Commons side – no new development - 2 cottages = 1 house (spk Maxine)

- Strong family connections (generations) – need housing close by to allow family to care for older relatives
- Important to have housing that allows families to stay together, or close by for family support
- Homes for children necessary, to keep families together (esp for farming families / agri workers on small holdings).
- Starter homes needed.
- A range of accommodation will allow families to stay together
- Sheltered housing needed 3 or 4 bungalows – top end of Borough Lane
- Warden controlled housing / assistance required for those existing residents that wish to remain in the village(s).
- Sheltered housing needed, but not a granny park.
- Need accommodation for elderly – good examples in Rugeley and Lichfield.
- Carer unable to move into village because of high cost of housing. Forced to live in Brereton / Rugeley
- Barn conversions should be allowed to supplement farming income.
- Concern at loss of agricultural buildings (inc farm houses etc) to housing – need protection for the agricultural infrastructure
- Keep level of housing as it is
- New housing will allow people to downsize
- In terms of down sizing, large properties in the village could be sub divided and let. They could then provide homes for elderly residents wishing to stay in the village.
- A 24 year old local resident said that Longdon is an 'aspirational village' and he would expect to move away for affordable housing, and move back one day in the future when he can afford to.
- The price of even affordable housing is likely to be beyond the means of young people. Need too accept that they will move away (Rugeley / Burntwood) before moving back when they can afford to (if they can afford it!).
- Suggested that even if you built starter homes for young people to stay in the village then the market would place those homes at a high price and therefore they wouldn't/couldn't be purchased by first time buyers.
- Living in the area you have to get in a car for all essentials. However they chose to live in the area and therefore were aware of the lack of services.
- There needs to be a balance between housing need and rural character.
- Concern about infilling of back gardens with development.
- Area has good connections, which means the village is ideal for commuters to London and other places in the country.
- Any housing imposed, not to be 'social housing'

Green belt / open space

- Question about green belt – can it be built upon? protected?.....answer provided by LDC was if exceptional circumstances but this was not developed further with examples
- Respect and preserve green areas
- Height of stiles makes walking difficult for those not fully fit.
- Protect Cannock Chase
- Maintain views

Infrastructure

- Mobile coverage in UL= ok...O2
- Internet coverage in UL= ok; BT coming in next 2 years; ok to wait
- No need for commercial properties – plenty in Rug / Lichfield
- Street light needed on Church Hill

- Broadband speed poor. Need fibre optic cabling in Longdon village (new housing needs cabling infrastructure)
- Improve Broadband speed
- Support alternative energy, inc solar power units in fields / rear gardens
- Hood Lane is an example of how lanes should be maintained
- New 'cattle' barn could cause massive disruption / traffic / activity if it changed to become a horse arena – impact on highway infrastructure – resist change of use
- Any development in Upper Longdon could have serious implications for drainage / sewage infrastructure.
- General support for alternative energy sources, in particular solar panels. Investigate the use of agricultural land to locate 'fields' of Solar panels.

Design

- Any new development should make use of topographic features, as opposed to intrusive ground mounding (Stockings Lane; Hay Lane)
- Presumption against back land development, esp in rear gardens

Other

- Why not use Facebook
- Dog fouling a problem – have a dog awareness week / free dog bags
- Flooding on Dolly Makers Hill due to poor maintenance following increase in HGV traffic. Ditches not kept clear – applies to other areas as well.
- Concern that the Police are too far away to respond quickly enough – perception of danger to personal safety - little confidence of satisfaction
- Barn conversions should be allowed – farm diversification / subsidises agricultural activity
- Waste disposal – slow burn horse manure piles; acrid smell; composting smell; burning household waste rather than re-cycling.
- Bridle paths being used by vehicles to access 'new' paddocks after field division.
- Inadequate parking in Longdon Village leads to irresponsible parking on verges / half on pavements (safety of walkers, wheel chairs, buggies, damaged cars)
- (Gentleshaw) Noise pollution on Sundays from domestic machines
- Countryside has tourism potential (closeness to B'ham / Wolves/ Cannock Chase) - need to be able to enjoy the countryside. Diversification – food offer; cycling routes; Starva app'n (? spk Alison / Max)
- Need to control 'creeping' horsiculture – field subdivision; clutter associated with activity; sheeted hay bales; jumps; shacks.
- Flooding in Beech Way caused by run off from fields – need to keep field ditches clear of growth / debris
- More flower tubs etc