

# Kinver Neighbourhood Plan First Consultation

## Issues and Options

### Appendices.

#### Appendix 1. What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

1.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) were introduced through the Localism Act 2011 to give local people a greater say in planning decisions that affect their area. NDPs are neighbourhood level planning policy documents with policies designed to reflect the needs and priorities of local communities.

1.2 NDPs can identify where development should take place, set out local design principles so that buildings respond positively to local character, and protect important facilities, historic buildings, the natural environment and open spaces. Made (adopted) NDPs are part of the local statutory development plan for their area. Planning applications are determined in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan unless 'material considerations' indicate otherwise. ('Material Considerations' are factors provided for in planning law, such as Highway safety and access, capacity of local infrastructure, effects on listed buildings, loss of light or privacy etc.; and higher-level planning policies including emerging policies).

1.3 A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) can cover a range of planning related issues. This document has been prepared as a first step in setting out the possible scope and range of planning issues the Kinver NDP could cover and potential policy options for addressing these issues.

1.4 It is important to remember that our Plan has to be 'in general conformity' with higher-level strategic planning policies. This means it has to sit within the strategic policies in the South Staffordshire Core Strategy, adopted in 2012 and accompanying policies maps<sup>1</sup>, and cannot provide for less new housing than allocated in the South Staffordshire Local Plan. The Local Plan's Site Allocations Document, adopted in 2018 includes two housing site allocations (one already built, and one seeking planning permission) and an area of safeguarded land on White Hill for future development after the plan period.

NDPs also should take into account the reasoning and evidence informing new emerging Local Plans. In our case, this is the ongoing **South Staffordshire Local Plan Review**. (Due for Consultation in late summer 2021).

1.5 NDP Policies also have to 'have regard to' national planning policy, as set out in the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**<sup>2</sup> which was revised in July 2018, and updated on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019; and to other National Planning Practice Guidance, Ministerial Statements and Government advice.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/planning/local-plans.cfm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

1.6 All the Neighbourhood Development Plan planning policies have to be underpinned by a clear and robust evidence base of local opinion and technical resources and, overall, the Plan has to meet a set of 'basic conditions' set out in national guidance.

1.7 Preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan is a complex and lengthy process. Following this consultation on Issues and Options a First Draft will be prepared, for further informal consultation, and then a Final Draft for the required 6 weeks formal consultation shortly after. The Plan will be further revised in the light of this formal consultation. It must then be submitted to South Staffordshire Council who will check it and publish it for another 6 weeks consultation.

1.8 The Plan then will be examined by an Independent Examiner, who will need to be satisfied that the Plan meets the requirements of a set of 'basic conditions'. If the examiner is satisfied that, subject to any further changes he or she requires, the Plan meets these basic conditions, he or she is likely to recommend that the NDP can go forward to a local referendum within the Parish.

1.9 At the Parish Referendum, a majority Yes vote (50% of turnout + 1), means that the Plan will be 'made' (adopted) by South Staffordshire Council. It will be used to help determine planning applications alongside the South Staffordshire Council's planning policies, and taking account of 'other material considerations' including national policies.

Figure 1 Neighbourhood Development Plan Process



1.10 There are therefore several stages of public consultation and engagement throughout the process and the Neighbourhood Plan can only be made if, at the very end, local people support it.

1.11 We hope to achieve all this and have a plan in place in 2022/3. We need your help and ideas to achieve this.

## Appendix 2. Local Plan Core Strategy: relevant policies

The Policies included in the Kinver Neighbourhood Plan must be in 'general conformity' with national policies, and also with the South Staffordshire Local Plan policies.

National Policies are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF):

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

The Local Plan Core Policies are set out in the Core Strategy (2012):

<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/179760/name/Core%20Strategy%202012%20Corporate%20Version%20.pdf/> and are then developed in detail by the Local Plan, which is currently under review. The Core Policies are linked to National Policies, and each has a number of detailed Policies within it indicated by a code (such as EQ13).

The Policies from the Core Strategy which are relevant to each of the Themes discussed within the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and the Issues and Options document, are listed below:

### Community and Amenities

- Core Policy 5: Infrastructure Delivery
  - Policy EQ13: Development Contributions
- Core Policy 10: Sustainable Community Facilities and Services
  - Policy EV9: Provision and Retention of Local Community Facilities and Services
  - Policy EV10: Telecommunications
- Core Policy 11: Sustainable Transport
  - Policy EV11: Sustainable Travel

### Nature

- Policy EQ1: Protecting, Expanding and Enhancing Natural Assets
- Policy EQ4: Protecting and Enhancing the Character and Appearance of the Landscape

Also:

- South Staffordshire's Conservation Area Appraisal (includes green spaces)
- National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 100): re Local Green Space designations

### Heritage

- Core Policy 2: Protecting and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment
  - Policy EQ3: Conservation, Preservation and Protection of Heritage Assets
  - Policy EQ4: Protecting and Enhancing the Character and Appearance of the Landscape

Also, these current South Staffordshire Council documents:

- South Staffordshire’s Conservation Area Appraisal
- South Staffordshire Design Guide Village Summaries. The special character of Kinver village is described in the Appendix 1.
- The Kinver Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)

## **Economy**

- Core Policy 5: Infrastructure Delivery
  - Policy EQ13: Development Contributions
- Core Policy 10: Sustainable Community Facilities and Services
  - Policy EV9: Provision and Retention of Local Community Facilities and Services
  - Policy EV10: Telecommunications
- Core Policy 11: Sustainable Transport
  - Policy EV11: Sustainable Travel

## **Climate Change**

- National Policy 1: The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- Core Policy 3: Sustainable Development and Climate Change
  - Policy EQ5: Sustainable Resources and Energy Efficiency
  - Policy EQ6: Renewable Energy
  - Policy EQ7: Water Quality
  - Policy EQ8: Waste

## **Homes**

- Core Policy 6: Housing Delivery
  - Policy H1: Achieving a Balanced Housing Market
  - Policy H2: Provision of Affordable Housing
  - Policy H3: Affordable Housing Rural Exception Sites
  - Policy H4: Delivering Affordable Housing
  - Policy H5: Specialist Housing Accommodation

Also: The Local Plan Review **Issues & Options Consultation**, dated October 2018 ,  
<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/179878/name/LPR%20Issues%20and%20Options%20FINAL%20October%202018.pdf/>

The Local Plan Review’s **Spatial Housing Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery**, 2019  
[\(https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/181104/name/LPR%20SHSID%20Final%20October%202019.pdf/\)](https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/181104/name/LPR%20SHSID%20Final%20October%202019.pdf/)

Documents on South Staffordshire’s Local Plan review are being continually updated.

## Appendix 3. Community facilities for public use in Kinver Parish

**The Edward Marsh Centre (“KSCA”, Kinver Sports and Community Association):** The Centre itself is a large multi room venue with a very large hall and additional meeting rooms, each having access to kitchen and bar facilities. It has a large stage and sports changing facilities. The Centre’s Large Community Hall is the largest venue in the area. The main hall has a capacity for 300 and it has two meeting rooms plus a bar lounge. Plans for refurbishment are being developed.

**St Peter’s Church Hall** is situated in a pleasant setting overlooked by the church, and close to the centre of the village. There is a large car park and safe grassy area for play. The hall has a stage and sound amplification system, a separate committee room and a newly refitted kitchen, plus shower and cloakroom facilities. Capacity approx 100 seated, 150 standing.

**The Methodist Church Hall** is next to the church at Potter’s Cross, near to the High School. It consists of a main hall, two committee rooms and a stage. The Methodist Hall provides weekly classes for Martial Arts and Tai Chi and a play school.

**The Fire Station** has a Community meeting room for 20 people

**Kinver High School theatre** is well laid out and can be hired for meetings or performances

**The Constitutional Club** is a private members club offering a range of activities including snooker, boules and dominoes, along with a bar, food and some entertainment nights. They have an upstairs room for private hire, capacity 55.

**Stourton Village Hall** has two rooms for hire, a main hall which holds 100 people seated theatre style or fewer if seated at tables and a committee room which holds 30.

**Stourbridge Rugby Club** has a medium size room for hire

**Kinver Library:** In addition to library services, the space can be hired for meetings.

**Kinver Scout Camp:** Owned by the Scouts Association, and used for local Scout activities. It sits within 23 acres of woodland. It has 14 individual camping sites in open areas of the site and offers various indoor accommodation.

## Appendix 4. Sports and Physical Recreation Facilities in Kinver Parish

**The Marsh Recreation Ground** : Surrounding the Edward Marsh Centre the land provides a focus for outdoor activities such as a skate park, bike track, basketball practice area, outdoor gym, children's play area, junior and senior football pitches, cricket pitch and bowling club. There are changing facilities in the hall itself for cricket and football.

The field is a haven for families for picnics and open space activities. It is also the home for the Kinver and West Midlands Society of Model Engineers Ltd with over 2000 feet of model railway track which is open to the public at weekends and special occasions for train rides

**Kinver High School:** A new development is in the process of being completed (June 2021) to provide space for additional sports facilities both for the School and the community.

The current plans for sport at the School include:

4 badminton courts (Top specification)

1 indoor football pitch

1 indoor and 4 outdoor netball courts

1 indoor basketball court- Including electronic scoring system.

Indoor cricket nets

4 outdoor tennis courts

Yoga/dance studio

Outdoor rugby pitch.

Gym/fitness suite - (funding not yet in place)

These will be available for community use from summer 2021.

**Stag Meadow** in Kinver village is owned by the Marsh Trust and is home to Kinver Colts youth football teams. It has hosted the Kinver Country Fayre in recent years.

**Stourbridge Rugby Club** in Stourton is home to two senior league teams, two social and Colts XV's, thriving Mini, Junior and Girls' sections and O2 Touch Rugby. Stourton Park is also the home of British Police Rugby.

**Stourbridge Tennis and Squash Club (Iverley)** has floodlit tennis courts, squash/racketball courts, well equipped gym, sports TV and a visitors' welcome function room. It has a fully equipped modern gym with personal training sessions and group programmes, 12 floodlit courts, 4 surfaces, 6 squash courts including stadium court, and a bar.

**Wollaston Tennis Club** in Stourton boasts 8 artificial grass and clay courts fully floodlit. It also incorporates a social club.

**Eagle Park Playing Fields**, home of Kewford Eagles football club, off Swindon Road, south of Wall Heath.

**Kingswinford Golf Centre**, off Mile Flat/ Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

**Kingswinford Rugby Club**, off Mile Flat/ Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

## Appendix 5. Open Green Spaces in Kinver Parish

This is a partial list of open green spaces enjoyed by the residents of Kinver Parish.

**Walks:** The parish has over 40 miles of public footpaths, plus many more footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes open to the public on Kinver Edge; the Canal towpath; and the southernmost section of the Staffordshire Way. A number have been incorporated into circular walks published by the Kinver Civic Society, and walks published by the National Trust.

**Playing fields** (listed under Sports Facilities)

**Kinver Edge** is a large area of open space purchased in 1917 by the Lee Family who gave it to the National Trust, one of the very first such gifts. It consists of 200 acres of woodland and lowland heath, along a high sandstone ridge topped by an Iron Age hill fort. The ridge offers dramatic views across surrounding counties. Near its foot are The Rock Houses cut into the red sandstone. Renovated in the 1990's, and with a café and guides on site, they also attract increasing numbers of visitors. Lowland heath is an endangered habitat, and is being encouraged on Kinver Edge. The heath buzzes with insects and is heady with the scent of gorse and purple heather. Kinver Edge is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

**Kingsford Forest Park**, the southern extension of Kinver Edge, is partly in Kinver Parish, extending into Worcestershire.

**Brockleys Riverside Walk Open Space** is a beautiful open space adjacent to the River Stour in Kinver. Five minutes' walk from the village High Street, this area is ideal for a gentle stroll to discover a rich source of wildlife and nature. It is open 24 hours a day and there is ample car parking off Oak Close. There are several picnic areas across the site to enjoy a bite to eat, and two interpretation boards for those wishing to find out more about the history of the site. The site is carefully managed to allow views across the River Stour and there are also areas for children to play ball games. Planning permission has been secured to erect a pedestrian bridge over the river to link the adjacent towpath. Funding is being sourced.

**The Marsh Recreation Ground (KSCA) and Sterrymere:** The land provides a focus for outdoor activities such as a skate park, bike track, basketball practice area, outdoor gym, children's play area, junior and senior football pitches, cricket pitch and bowling club. It also has a public footpath which leads to many walks around the village. The Sterrymere is a dried up watercourse adjacent to the playing fields, which is in process of being landscaped to create a wetland habitat and restful space.

**Stag Meadow** owned by the Marsh Trust is home to Kinver Colts youth football teams, and has hosted the Kinver Country Farre in recent years.

**Jubilee Gardens** is a small wooded area along the High Street and is the site of the village War Memorial.

**Danesford Gardens** is a small area on the High Street with seating overlooking the River Stour and open views beyond.

**Community Allotments:** Greensforge Lane, Stourton.

**Canal Conservation Area:** The canals provide a Green Corridor, for walking, boating, tourism and wild-life habitat. The towpath is a pleasant walking and cycling route to Stourbridge, Kidderminster, Wombourne/Wolverhampton and beyond.

**River Stour:** Much of the land along the Stour is under grass, due to the frequent flooding. This openness provides pleasant vistas to the canal, woods, village and Kinver Edge.

**Enville Golf Course** grounds (open to members) extend into the northern edge of Kinver Parish.

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):** Kinver Edge; The Wilderness (Woodland Trust) and Vermin Valley, between Heron Gate Road and Beacon Lane; Checkhill Bogs between the Million woods and Ashford; and a tiny site on the edge of Wollaston, Wollaston Ridge Quarry.

**Cemeteries,** at Comber Ridge, and St Peter's Church