

A Neighbourhood Plan For Our Parish

An Introduction

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? (1)

- A community-led plan for guiding future development, growth and protection within the Parish
- Can cover the use and development of land taking into account social, economic and environmental issues
- Can be as simple or as complex as needed/wanted but must pass an independent examination

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? (2)

- Developed in consultation, be compliant with local and national policies and supported by the community
- Once in place its legally binding and forms part of the SMBC development local plans
- A Neighbourhood Plan can influence the development of land in our Parish.
- It can suggest sites for development.
- However, it will not be able to stop development that Solihull MBC has identified.

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Background Information

- Development is essential to ensure communities remain sustainable and enjoyable places to live
- Until now community involvement in planning has been reactive rather than proactive
- The Localism Act 2011 introduced new rights and powers for communities - Neighbourhood Planning
- Gives the community direct power to help develop a shared vision for development, growth and protecting what we already have.

What Can A Neighbourhood Plan Do?

- Identify areas for protection
- Identify improvements or additions to facilities and services
- Promote more development to meet local needs than is in the Solihull Local Plan
- Include policies on design standards

What Can A Neighbourhood Plan Not Do?

- Prevent any development taking place/block a specific proposal
- Conflict with existing current statutory policies (e.g. Local Plan)
- Be prepared by a body other than an elected Council or Neighbourhood Forum or without community support

Why is it important?

- Sets out what the community wants and gives a chance to influence things like :Environment, Housing, Local Economy, Society, Community and Culture, Transport
- Helps to control ad hoc development
- A Neighbourhood Plan is the community's vision and strategy for the future
- Once adopted it must be taken into account by the Local Authority.

Our Vision

**A Neighbourhood Plan is our
vision for the future,
supported by our community.**

How Will A Neighbourhood Plan Help Us?

- Influence the integration of new developments.
- Identify improvements to facilities and services that are needed to support an increase in our population.
- Identify changes to facilities and services that are needed to support a changes to the demographics of our population.

Developments in The Parish

- Mount Dairy Farm
- Blythe Valley Park
- Mar City
- SMBC is under pressure to deliver an increasing number of new homes every year

Producing a Neighbourhood Plan

Step 1-Apply to SMBC for NP area

Step 2- Consult with Community

Step 3- Produce Draft Plan

Step 4- Seek approval from SMBC

Step 5 - Referendum

Step 6-Acceptance of Plan

Cheswick Green Parish



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The Issues to Consider (1)

- Protecting the rural environment
- Connectivity between the different settlements
- Public transport services, safe cycling and walking routes
- A tired village centre
- Flooding in Cheswick Green village

The Issues to Consider (2)

- Ø School places and parking problems around schools
- Ø Convenient access to medical care
- Ø Access to leisure and sporting facilities
- Ø Access to and choice of high speed broadband

Connectivity Across The Parish and The Wider Area

- Road links between Blythe Valley Park and Cheswick Green village is a circuitous journey
- Cheswick Green Village and Illshaw Heath narrow lane with no footway or lighting.
- St. Patrick's Church and School reached via a narrow road with a narrow footway.
- Public transport between parts of the Parish is an issue

Sustainable Transport

Ø Public transport routes and services within the parish and connecting it with other hubs are severely limited

Ø Alternative safe cycling and walking routes are also limited

Ø This promotes a car dependent lifestyle, increasing health and safety concerns

A Tired Village Centre

- This area forms the hub of the village together with the surgery, the village hall and the pub.
- It is used by people living across the whole of the parish and others
- The shops and areas around them need modernisation in order to meet the needs of the 21st century.

School Places and Parking Problems Around Local Schools

- New housing developments increase demand for school places.
- Parking close to primary schools is already an issue especially at drop-off and pick-up periods.
- Across the catchment area there is no network of alternative safe access routes (cycling or walking) or transport (buses) to the schools

Access to Medical Care

- The Village Surgery can no longer easily cope with the growing number of patients seeking treatment there.
- With the planned new developments pressure on medical services is bound to grow.

Leisure and Sporting Facilities

SMBC noted, in their *Green Spaces Strategy*
Aug 2006:

- Shortage of open space/parkland close to Cheswick Green.
- Cheswick Green included as a priority for a new or improved Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP).

Access to and Choice of High Speed Broadband

- The lack of suitable high speed internet hinders home-working as a sustainable alternative to commuting and serves to increase car dependency.
- Parishioners have expressed concerns over a lack of choice at competitive rates.

Summary

We have described at least some of the issues to consider for our Neighbourhood Plan; there may be others not mentioned here.

We desire to preserve the essentially rural nature of the parish and not be subsumed into an expanding urban area.

The Parish Council is not in a position to be able to address all of the issues outlined, but needs to bring them to the attention of those that can via a Neighbourhood Plan.

Conclusion

There are possible benefits to us if we have a Neighbourhood Plan adopted by SMBC

The process to deliver this started last year, with the formal recognition of our parish as a designated “Neighbourhood Area”

To develop and deliver the Plan needs the input and support from as wide a group as possible

We are asking you to become involved, for your advice, help, support and time to be a part of this development to help secure a better future for our parish and its residents.

Your Help Is Needed

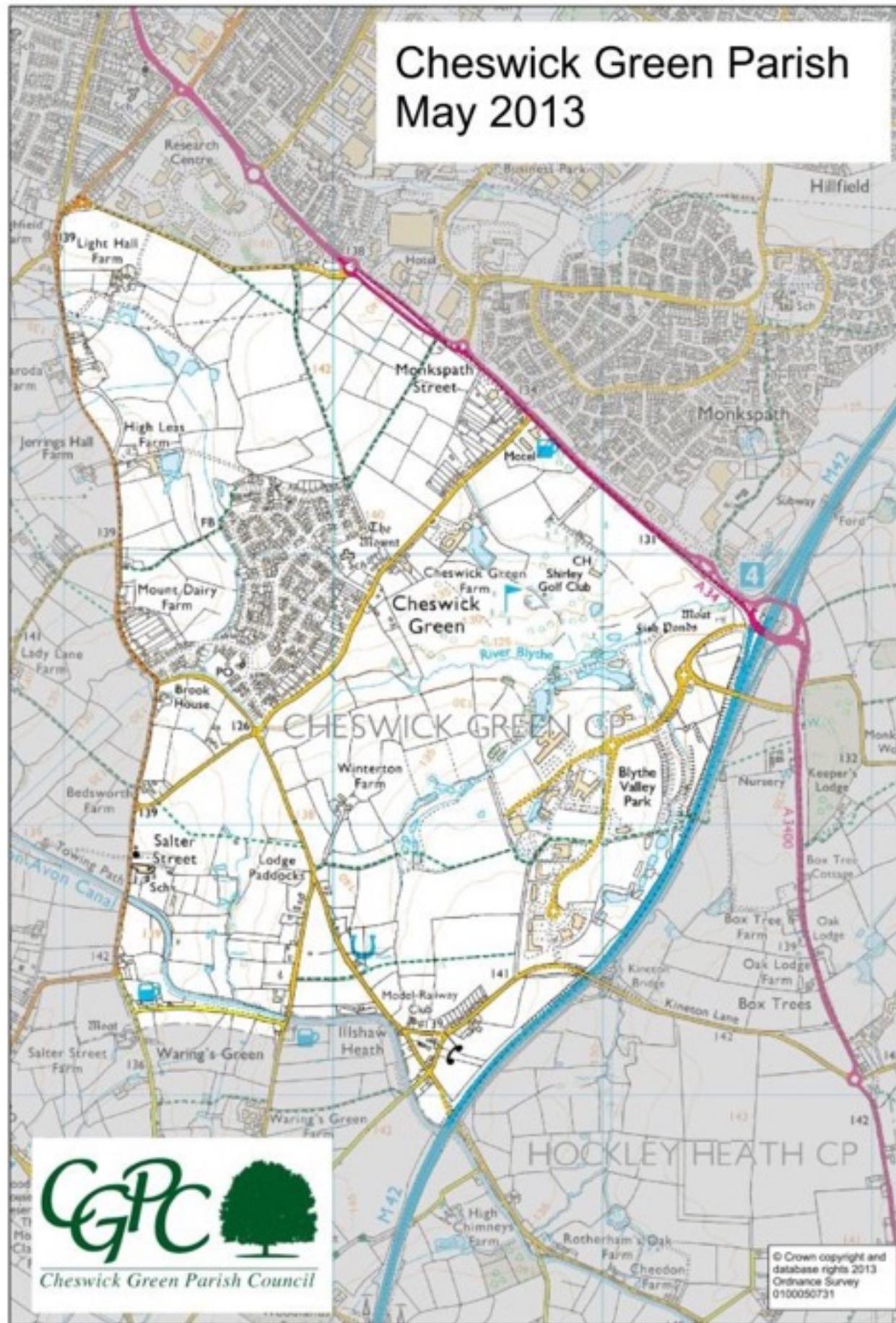
We are asking you to become involved, for your advice, to contribute your knowledge, to give your support and your time to be a part of this development and help us to secure a better future for our parish and its residents.

Any questions?

Possible sources of finance

- The Precept: this is the money that we all pay in our Council Tax for the Parish.
- Section 106 agreements: this is money paid to the Borough Council by the developer for certain projects.
- CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy): this is paid by the developer to SMBC at agreed rates.
- Lottery funding
- Grants

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