

Update for residents on the
**Alvechurch Parish
Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**



What do we want to achieve for our Parish and how?

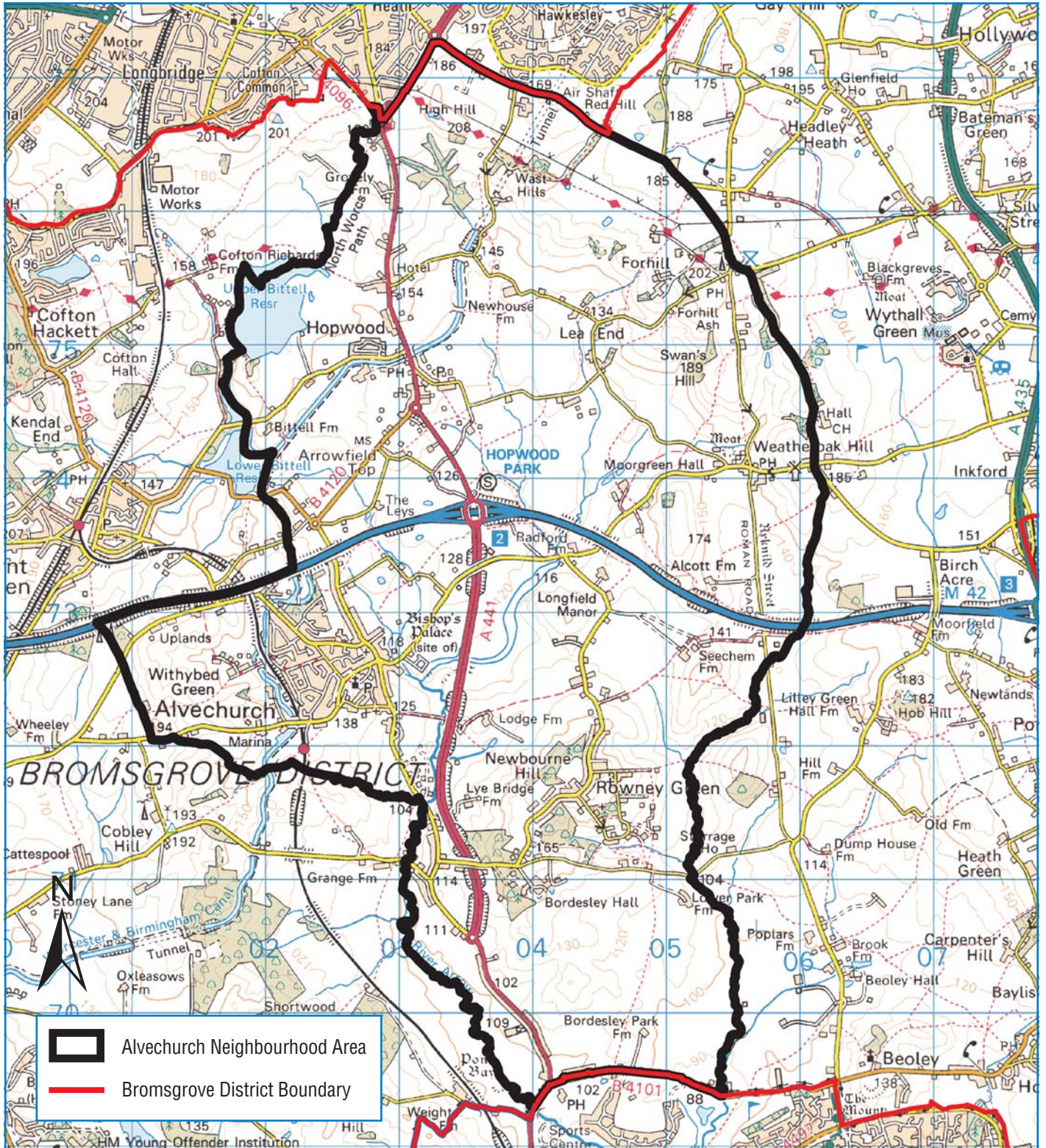


Our **Vision** and **Policy Intentions**

Published September 2016

This document gives you an update on the progress of the **Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

The Neighbourhood Plan **designated area**



Introduction

The first step to making our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) began in November 2011 when Parish residents responded to the Government's proposed Localism Act and decided at our first NP meeting that they wanted our community to have a say in all aspects of the future of our parish. Further meetings and presentations were held, a website created: www.alvechurchparishplan.org and the logo you see here was designed and consulted on.



Bromsgrove District Council

approved the designation of the parish of Alvechurch as a neighbourhood area in January 2013 following Steering Group preparation work.

This was in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The qualifying body was Alvechurch Parish Council.

Following the designation of the neighbourhood area, consultation events were organised to promote local awareness about the Neighbourhood Plan and to find out what the community thinks about the local area, more particularly:

- ➡ **what is good,** ➡ **what should be changed,**
- ➡ **And what could be improved etc.**

This community engagement sought to ensure that a Neighbourhood Plan is developed in tune with local needs and aspirations and the feedback has helped shape the content of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

This booklet sets out the key issues identified so far and our policy intentions for addressing them. Please take the time to read through this booklet and let us know if you think we are on the right track.

See page 13 for details on how to comment

Together we can help to make a better Alvechurch Parish.



To set the scene

Some Alvechurch Parish facts and figures

- ➡ 12,000 vehicles passing through Hopwood in just 24 hours, with peaks of more than 3,500 vehicles between 6am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm. (Bromsgrove Standard newspaper)
- ➡ Only **10.4%** of households in Alvechurch do not own a car or van
- ➡ **44.1%** of households are owned outright
- ➡ **48.1%** of people in Alvechurch drive a car or van to work
- ➡ All usual Residents (Persons) 5,611
- ➡ **334 crimes recorded during 2012/13**
- ➡ **23%** of population are aged over 65 years
- ➡ Population aged between 16-64 in Alvechurch make up **60.6%** of the total population
- ➡ **143** Anti Social Behaviour incidents recorded during 2012/13
- ➡ Average House Price (2012-2013) £248,778
- ➡ All Dwellings (2011) Count 2,364
- ➡ Work Mainly at or From Home (Persons) 212
- ➡ All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74 amount to 4,057
- ➡ All Cars or Vans in Area (Vehicles) 3,742
- ➡ Census 2011, in Alvechurch **70.9%** of people aged 16-74 were economically active
- ➡ Wellbeing Acorn classified **61.6%** of the population as 'Healthy'
- ➡ 220 claimants of Out of Work benefits representing **5.5%** of the population

Source: Census 2011 and Bromsgrove Standard newspaper

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Through Government legislation communities can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, which can be used to shape planning and the development of an area.

It can:

- Develop a shared vision
- Identify how and where to build new developments
- Protect local green spaces, and
- Influence what new buildings look like



Where are we in the process?

The Parish Council established a Steering Group to develop the **Neighbourhood Plan**

Over the last 3 years a number of public consultations have taken place, and as a result we have developed some **Key Aims** that have evolved from the first objectives. **These are helping develop policies that will be used if the NP is adopted by you in a referendum with a “yes” vote.** The NP will then be a legal document to guide planning decisions on any planning applications within the Parish.

These are some of the Key Issues and Aspirations you mentioned at our consultations and that have led to the **future Vision for Alvechurch**

Housing

- ▶ Extensive new development could result in needing to increase school capacity.
- ▶ Appropriate infrastructure is needed (Rowney Green consultation).
- ▶ Housing should be appropriate to need (The Lounge consultation).
- ▶ Extra social and community infrastructure will be needed if there is a significant increase to housing up to 2030.

Heritage, Design and the Natural Environment:

- ▶ More use of green and environmental technologies / energy conservation...one saying - "yes but not wind or solar power!" (The Lounge consultation).
- ▶ Keep our environment as rural as possible (The Lounge consultation).
- ▶ We should ensure that any new housing developments are made to preserve existing hedgerows and mature trees and plant new trees.
- ▶ Keep concrete and harsh boundaries to a minimum - refer to Alvechurch Parish Design Statement.

Leisure, Well-Being and Health

- ▶ Long waiting times for health care appointments.
- ▶ Current medical facilities in the Parish are restrictive, including a lack of meeting rooms or any space for expansion.
- ▶ The need for better walking and cycling networks to encourage increased levels of physical exercise.
- ▶ Improve sports areas.
- ▶ Clamp down on dog poo in area.

Local Business, Shops & Services

- ▶ A suitable mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of the parish.
- ▶ Good mix of shops is needed: limit to uses such as 'craft centres' and small offices.
- ▶ We don't want new sites destroying the local character and increasing traffic flow.
- ▶ We are close enough to Redditch / Bromsgrove and Kings Norton where more amenities are available.

Transport - Getting Around

- ▶ Pedestrian crossings needed in Hopwood!
- ▶ More parking needed, cycle paths needed (Hopwood consultation).
- ▶ People at the Rowney Green consultation emphasised the need to link bus with rail services.
- ▶ All bus routes should have a stop at Alvechurch Station.
- ▶ No parking / pedestrian zone in village shopping centre area.

Want to read more information about the NP?

Visit our website where you will find more:
www.alvechurchparishplan.org

You can deliver or post us your comments using the back pages of this booklet or by emailing us (see page 13 for details)

The responses to our initial community consultations have been used to help shape the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan

Vision for Alvechurch Parish

Alvechurch 2030 - where managed change and celebration of its rural character combine in a community made better by design

Includes

- ➡ Creating a sustainable well-designed community
- ➡ An appropriate mix of housing types on suitably sized and appropriately located developments around the parish
- ➡ Local employment opportunities
- ➡ Encouraging more play and sport facilities
- ➡ Protection and enhancement of important community facilities; like the school and medical services; infrastructure; environmental and historical assets
- ➡ Working with other agencies to help provide sustainable transport with safer roads, joined up public services and to encourage the provision of some cycleways
- ➡ The parish will become an area that is attractive for people to live in, work in and visit for current and future generations



We are addressing the main issues and aspirations identified by the community at earlier consultations by using Key Aims, which will help to achieve and deliver our Vision for Alvechurch Parish.

Our Key Aims are:

KEY AIM 1

Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst encompassing high quality design.

KEY AIM 2

Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.

KEY AIM 3

Improved services, facilities and amenities especially around Alvechurch Village centre that will help to improve quality of life, create a sense of well-being, promote community safety and enable active and healthy lifestyles for the Parish as a whole.

KEY AIM 4

To maintain a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish, whilst serving the needs of local people and contributing to the wider economy and supporting rural diversification.

KEY AIM 5

Encouraging varieties of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities and activities to enable opportunities for all, particularly youngsters and older people.

KEY AIM 6

Promoting integrated public transport, safer roads, pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and effective traffic management to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community whilst improving access to the countryside.

KEY AIM 7

To maintain and enhance the built historic and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.

KEY AIM 8

The promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources.

The key aims will be grouped under five topic headings and developed further into policies by the Steering Group.

The five topic headings are as follows:

- ▶ **Housing: this includes key aims 1, 2 & 3**
- ▶ **Heritage, Design and the Natural Environment: this includes key aims 7 & 8.**
- ▶ **Leisure, Well-Being and Health: this includes key aim 5**
- ▶ **Local Business: Shops and Services: this includes key aim 4**
- ▶ **Getting Around: this includes key aim 6**

***Are we on the right track here?
You can make comments on
the back page***

Our policy intentions for the Neighbourhood Plan

A summary of our current work

Policies will be grouped under the five topic headings and key aims. As well as policies (24 so far), there will also be Community Actions to address those issues that do not come under planning regulations.

HOUSING

Key Aim:

Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.

Policy intentions include:

The scale, height and form of proposed development will fit unobtrusively with existing buildings and spacing between buildings would respect the character of the street scene and Conservation Area.

Developers will be required to demonstrate at the community consultation stage how their proposal will achieve a high level of environmental sustainability in terms of its design, construction and environmental performance.

So far there are 6 proposed draft policies for the Housing topic.

BUSINESS, SHOPS AND SERVICES

Key Aim:

Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish, serving the needs of local people and contributing to the wider economy and supporting rural diversification.

Policy intentions include:

To retain existing and support new employment opportunities in the village, particularly Bordesley Business Park and to encourage tourism related business and small business activity within the village.

So far there are 5 proposed draft policies in the Business, Shops and Services topic.

***Are we on the right track? What do you think?
Comment on the back page***





POLICIES ON HERITAGE, DESIGN AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A Key Aim is:

To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.

Policy intentions include:

To encourage development that maintains the openness and existing character of the parish.

To ensure that the local wildlife and environmental assets are protected and enhanced whilst ensuring settlements maintain their rural character and setting and do not lose valued landscape and views.

To protect and conserve where possible, enhance our important historic buildings, monuments and community valued assets and promote the heritage of Alvechurch parish.

To preserve and enhance our local wildlife and environmental assets such as the River Arrow, the Birmingham to Worcester Canal and local Wildlife Sites.

So far we have 4 proposed draft policies for this topic.

***Are we on the right track? What do you think?
Comment on the back page***

POLICIES ON GETTING AROUND

So far we have 3 draft policies proposed for this topic.

A Key Aim is:

To promote joined up public transport, safer roads, pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and effective traffic management to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community whilst improving access to the countryside.

Policy intentions include:

To encourage development proposals that seek to include, where appropriate, measures to improve highway safety and the attractiveness of; walking, cycling and use of an integrated public transport system;

To provide measures that will improve safety in Alvechurch parish through improved highway and footway maintenance, and encourage the provision of 20mph zones in more populated areas;

Providing safer routes to schools? **You tell us, how!**



POLICIES ON LEISURE, WELL-BEING AND HEALTH

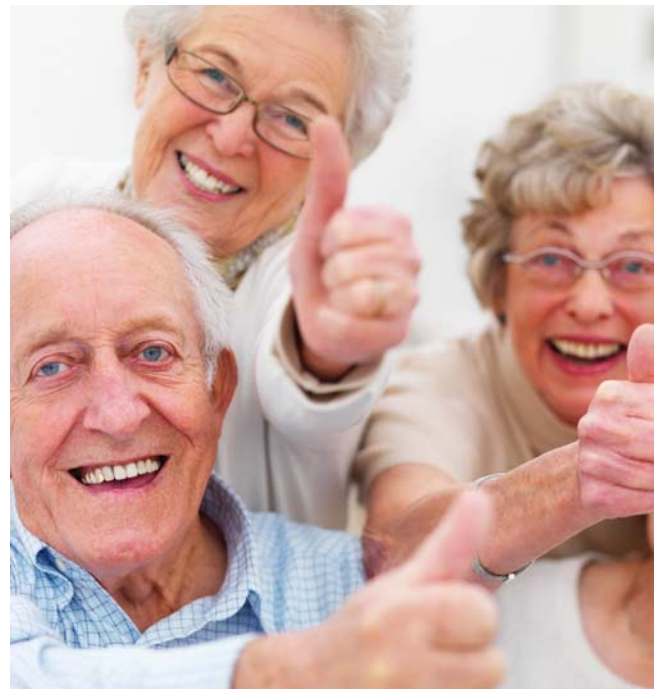
A Key Aim is:

To improve services, facilities and amenities especially around Alvechurch Village centre that will help to improve quality of life, create a sense of well-being, promote community safety and enable active and healthy lifestyles for the Parish as a whole.

Policy intentions include:

Is to work with local authorities and other agencies to make sure any substantial future development takes into account the effect it will have on key parish facilities and amenities and that new infrastructure will be provided through developer contributions if there is any shortfall.

So far we have 4 draft policies on this topic.



***Are we on the right track? What do you think?
Comment on the back page***

What's next?

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is drafting planning policies from what you have told us at previous consultations.

These policies will be shared with you when they have all been completed at a Pre-Submission Consultation. We will then review all your comments and update the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) where needed.

Alvechurch Parish Council will then submit a finished version of the NP to Bromsgrove District Council, who will hold a Statutory Consultation on the NP and will then appoint an independent examiner to test if the NP meets the basic conditions.

If the NP passes the examination, you will be asked to vote in a community referendum on whether you think the NP should be used in deciding future planning applications in our parish.





Chairman of the Parish Council and Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Setting up the Picnic in the park May 2016

The vision for our neighbourhood is...

“Alvechurch 2030 - where managed change and celebration of its rural character combine in a community made better by design”

- ▶ **Schools and medical services accessible to local people**
- ▶ **Good facilities for teenagers**
- ▶ **Less traffic congestion and fumes**
- ▶ **Caring for our Heritage and Environment**
- ▶ **The right type and design of housing...
*for people who need them!***
- ▶ **Some cycleways**
- ▶ **Joined up public transport**
- ▶ **Better footpaths**
- ▶ **Improved village centre**
- ▶ **Supporting local businesses**

Is this your Vision too?

***Tell us more!
On the back page***

What will the Neighbourhood Plan achieve?

Any applicant would have to take account of our **Neighbourhood Plan** when seeking planning permission for new development. In addition, local people can identify issues and problems in the area and come together in groups to address these.

How Do I Find Out More?

You can find more information about the **Neighbourhood Plan** from our website: www.alvechurchparishplan.org or by **visiting the Parish Council Office.**

Will what I think make a difference?

Yes!... You tell us...

Give us **YOUR** comments on pages 14 and 15 at the end of this booklet then once completed return to the **Parish Council office by 31st October 2016** to be entered into a draw for the **chance to win one of the 5 cash prizes.**

DON'T FORGET TO ADD YOUR NAME, POST CODE AND CONTACT NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 15 TO BE ENTERED INTO THE CASH PRIZE DRAW.

You can send us electronic email replies to: clerk@alvechurch.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can send by post or deliver to: **Alvechurch Parish Council**
16 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA



The Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Your Comments



Turn over if you need more space

More comments can be added here

Thank you

Include your details here:

Name

Address

Post Code

E-mail

Tick the box here if you would like to be kept informed of NP progress

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