

Alvechurch Parish



ALVECHURCH PARISH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2017 - 2030



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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This Statement has been prepared by the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) Steering Group (SG) under the authority given by the Alvechurch Parish Council by the application letter dated and headed [Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan Application – 24.09.2012](#)

During the Plan preparation, ongoing consultation has been undertaken with (BDC) to ensure that the APNP conformed to the emerging BDC Core Strategy, and it was agreed that the submission of the Draft APNP would follow a similar time line to the BDC's Local Plan 2011-2030.

The Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan consists of three parish wards; Alvechurch, Hopwood ward, and Bordesley & Rowney Green. Alvechurch ward comprises the village of Alvechurch and Withybed Green. Hopwood ward includes the north half of Weatheroak, whilst the southern half is contained within the Rowney Green ward. The Rowney Green ward also encompasses the Holloway and Grange Lane and is now combined with the Bordesley Ward, which borders Alvechurch Village ward along Station road.

The proposed neighbourhood plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood development plans in place within the neighbourhood area. The time period for the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be from 2011-2030. The time period up to 2030 has been chosen to keep the Neighbourhood Plan in line with the Bromsgrove District Council Core Strategy time period.

This Statement of Basic Conditions is submitted together with its appendices to Bromsgrove District Council under s15 (1) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

1.1 Basic Conditions

This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (APNP).

Only a draft neighbourhood Plan or Order that meets each of a set of basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. The basic conditions are set out in [paragraph 8\(2\) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

A statement (a basic conditions statement) setting out how a draft neighbourhood plan or Order meets the basic conditions must accompany the draft neighbourhood plan or Order when it is submitted to the local planning authority (see [regulation 15\(1\)\(d\)](#) and [regulation 22\(1\)\(e\)](#) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)).

PPG: Revision date: 06 03 2014

The basic conditions are:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan). [Click here for more details in this guidance.](#)
- Having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order. This applies only to Orders. [Click here for more details in this guidance.](#)

- c. Having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order. This applies only to Orders. [Click here for more details in this guidance.](#)
- d. The making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. [Click here for more details in this guidance.](#)
- e. The making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area). [Click here for more details in this guidance.](#)
- f. The making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations. [Click here for more details in this guidance.](#)
- g. Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan).

Planning Practice Guidance-Revision date: 06 03 2014

[Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#) set out two basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:

- The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See [Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.)
- Having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see [Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#), where the development described in an order proposal is [EIA development](#)

PPG-Revision date: 06 03 2014

This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in four sections:

- Section 1: Demonstrates the conformity of the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Section 2; Shows how the APNP will contribute to sustainable development;
- Section 3: Demonstrates the conformity of the APNP with the BDC Core Strategy; and
- Section 4: Demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations.

1.2 SUBMITTING BODY

The Alvechurch APNP is submitted by Alvechurch Parish Council (APC), which is a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

1.3 NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

The Plan applies to the Parish of Alvechurch in the north-east of Worcestershire.

In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations Bromsgrove District Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Alvechurch Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan and advertised a consultation period in August 2012. The application was approved by the Cabinet of BDC on 24th September 2012 and Alvechurch Parish designated as the Neighbourhood Area on 23rd January 2013.

Alvechurch Parish Council confirms that this the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- I. relates only to the Parish of Alvechurch and to no other Neighbourhood Areas; and
- II. Is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is in development for part or all of the designated area.

This Statement is required to fulfil the legal obligations under Regulations 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning

(General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

The APNP consists of three parish ward areas; Alvechurch Village, Hopwood, Rowney Green & Bordesley and two Electoral Wards; Alvechurch South and Alvechurch Village.

A large map showing the Neighbourhood Area can be seen on the opening cover page.

SECTION 2: NPPF OBLIGATIONS

NATIONAL POLICY

The APNP must have appropriate regard to national policy. The following section describes how the APNP proposal relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).

2.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The central theme of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. In this context, sustainable development is broadly defined internationally as;

“Resolution 24/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future set out five ‘guiding principles’ of sustainable development: living within the planet’s environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.”

The NPPF uses three ‘dimensions’ to describe sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, and requires the planning system, and thus the APNP, where appropriate:

Contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and by improving the local supporting infrastructure.

to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; helping to improve biodiversity, making better use of natural resources, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

The NPPF specifies that delivery of sustainable development by the planning system is to be through the application of 12 core planning principles and the pursuit of 13 sustainability objectives supporting the three economic, social and environmental dimensions described above.

2.2 APNP Fit with the NPPF Core Planning Principles

There are 12 core planning principles put forward in the NPPF (Paragraph 17). Table I, below, lists these core planning principles and maps them to the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan’s Aims and Policies

These 12 principles are that planning should:

- Be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency
- not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives

- Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities
- always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings
- take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it
- support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy)
- Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework
- encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value
- promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production)
- conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations
- actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable
- take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs

2.3 APNP LIST OF POLICIES

TOPIC 1- APNP GENERAL POLICY AND POLICIES FOR HOUSING

POLICY GENERAL POLICY 1: ACTIVELY INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

POLICY H1: LOCATIONS FOR NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

POLICY H2: HOUSING FOR HOPWOOD AND ROWNEY GREEN

POLICY H3: AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON RURAL EXCEPTION SITES IN THE GREEN BELT

POLICY H4: HOUSING DESIGN PRINCIPLES

POLICY H5: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DESIGN

POLICY H6: PROVIDING A MIX OF HOUSING TYPES AND SIZES

POLICY H7: NEW HOUSING, IMPROVED SERVICES, FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

TOPIC 2- POLICES FOR HERITAGE, DESIGN AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

POLICY HDNE1: BUILT HERITAGE AND LOCAL CHARACTER

POLICY HDNE2: LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS

POLICY HDNE3: THE ALVECHURCH PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT

POLICY HDNE4: PROTECTING LANDSCAPE AND OPEN VIEWS

POLICY HDNE5: ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

POLICY HDNE 6: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC 3 - POLICIES FOR LEISURE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

POLICY LHW1: HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

POLICY LHW2: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES

POLICY LHW3: IMPROVEMENT TO AND PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACES

POLICY LHW4: SPORT, LEISURE AND RECREATION FACILITIES

TOPIC 4- POLICIES FOR BUSINESS, SHOPS AND SERVICES

POLICY BSS1: LOCAL SHOPS

POLICY BSS2: ALVECHURCH VILLAGE CENTRE

POLICY BSS3: SAFEGUARDING EXISTING BUSINESSES

POLICY BSS4: NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PARISH

POLICY BSS5: COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

POLICY BSS6: ASSESSING DESIGN IN ALVECHURCH VILLAGE CENTRE

POLICY BSS7: BORDESLEY HALL EMPLOYMENT AREA

TOPIC 5: POLICIES FOR GETTING AROUND-TRANSPORT

POLICY GAT1: GETTING AROUND

POLICY GAT2: PROVISION OF ADEQUATE PARKING

POLICY GAT3: IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

2.4 TABLE I: MAP OF NPPF CORE PLANNING PRINCIPLES AGAINST THE APNP Vision and Key Aims

NPPF Core Principle	APNP Vision and Objectives / Key Aims	Policies (in brackets) / Decision Criteria
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<p>Plan-led based on a positive local vision</p>	<p>“Alvechurch 2030- where managed change and celebration of its rural character combine in a community made better by design”</p> <p>All APNP Key Aims apply and support the vision</p>	<p>The Plan has developed a vision and objectives for the village based on local appraisals, local surveys and local consultations, and has developed objectives leading to Key Aims which will help deliver the community's aspirations.</p>
<p>Find ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live</p>	<p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing high quality design.</p> <p>KEY AIM 2: Through providing opportunities of community participation, development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities</p> <p>KEY AIM 3: Developing 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.</p>	<p>The Plan has policies for new housing (H2-H7), which is to include affordable housing and with a broad mix of housing types.</p> <p>Policies specify design of high quality development (H 1, H3, H4& BSS 6,) within walkable distance of Village Centre amenities and facilities (H7).</p> <p>(H 7) promotes standards and improved facilities and amenities.</p> <p>(HDNE 4 and HDNE 6) protects and enhances the Natural environment and biodiversity in the Parish area.</p> <p>(LHW 1 through to LHW 4) ensures a good provision of healthcare for parish residents by encouraging development schemes that actively contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>(BSS policies 1 and 2)</p>
<p>Support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places</p>	<p>KEY AIM 4: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch Parish whilst serving the needs of local people and with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.</p>	<p>Allocating sites for new housing (H 1, H2 and H3) will increase the population of the parish, within the catchment area of local businesses; (BSS2) supports a variety of residential, office / commercial, cafes/bars/restaurants, leisure and cultural uses outside of the defined shopping area.</p> <p>(BSS 3 & BSS4) supports sustainability and economic development, respecting the character of the surroundings whilst encouraging mixed use development farm diversification, tourism and leisure enterprises.</p>
<p>Secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity</p>	<p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing high quality design.</p> <p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 3: Developing 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</p>	<p>To achieve excellence in housing design the plan has policy (H 4 &H 7) and policy (HDNE 3) The Alvechurch Parish Design Statement</p> <p>(BSS 6) assessing design in Alvechurch village centre</p> <p>(H5) Sustainable Development through Design</p>

	Parish as a whole.	
promoting the vitality and character of communities whilst supporting thriving rural communities within it	<p>KEY AIM 3: Developing 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.</p> <p>KEY AIM 4: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish, to serve the needs of local people and with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.</p> <p>KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.</p>	<p>This is supported by (H 7) New housing, improved services, facilities and amenities.</p> <p>(GENERAL POLICY 1) actively involving local people in the planning process.</p> <p>(LHW 1) Healthy Environments and Health Care Facilities; encourages adequate medical and educational provision for parishioners. (LHW 2 & LHW 3) aim to protect Green Spaces.</p> <p>(LHW 4) Sport, Leisure and Recreation Facilities: for additional sports, leisure and recreational facilities over and above those that already exist.</p> <p>(BSS 1) The local shopping facilities (A1 Use Class) in the Parish will be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>(H 6) PROVIDING A MIX OF HOUSING TYPES AND SIZES</p> <p>(HDNE 6) encourages protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>
Support the transition to a low carbon future	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport, (with associated pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community whilst increasing access to the local countryside.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	<p>(H 1) Locating housing close to Alvechurch Village centre, which services the community.</p> <p>(GAT 1) promotes more sustainable and easily accessed methods of travel that reduces the need for vehicle use.</p> <p>(H 4) Design Principles bullet points</p> <p>vi) Secure by design</p> <p>a) use local materials</p> <p>c) maximise the use of renewable energy opportunities</p> <p>g) access to local facilities and public transport links via convenient, direct paths</p> <p>h) Design streets in a way that encourages low vehicle speeds</p>
Conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new</p>	<p>Preserves and protects the natural environment by limiting development to within the urban Rural boundary of Alvechurch Village and within village envelopes (H 1 and H2).</p> <p>The Plan includes policies (APNP H 7,</p>

	development that enhances local character.	HDNE1 through to HDNE 6) protect the landscape and rural nature of the village. In addition (LHW 2 and LHW3) a presumption against development on local Green Spaces, unless there are special circumstances that mitigate it.
Reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary.</p> <p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community.</p> <p>KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.</p>	<p>The Plan gives high priority to the use and regeneration of brown field land and prioritises identified development to within the urban rural area within Alvechurch Village boundary (H 1) and to limited infill within village envelopes in the Green Belt (H 2).</p> <p>To encourage development that maintains the openness and existing character of the parish (HDNE 4) Advocates new development should preferably be located on land of lesser environmental value and respect and seek to protect high value agricultural land, important views, landmarks and local points of interest.</p>
Promoting Mixed use development	<p>KEY AIM 4: Maintaining a mix of local businesses with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.</p> <p>KEY AIMS 5: Encouraging varieties of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities and activities to enable opportunities for all, particularly youngsters and older people</p>	<p>The Plan includes a policy (BSS 4) which identifies investment in small and medium enterprises and start-up businesses on: b) brownfield sites and for e) farm diversification and f) new or expanded sustainable rural tourism or leisure facilities.</p> <p>New development, (LHW 4) which provides for additional sports, leisure and recreational facilities over and above those that already exists will be encouraged in the neighbourhood area.</p>
Conserve heritage assets	KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.	<p>(HDNE 1) All development proposals (including alterations, extensions as well as a change of use) should continue to maintain, conserve and enhance the built heritage assets of the Parish and their settings.</p> <p>(HDNE 2) local distinctiveness a) – d) includes protection of the Conservation Area, valued heritage assets, historic boundaries, hedges, archaeologic sites and the relationship between built and natural environment.</p>
To make the fullest possible use of sustainable transport;	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport (with associated</p>	<p>Policy (H 1) Locating development to within the Alvechurch Village boundary negates the use of motor cars by encouraging, walking, cycling and the use of railway services.</p> <p>(LHW 1) encourages better access and for those with disabilities to health, educational and retail facilities through improved footpaths, crossings and some introduction of</p>

	<p>pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local country-side.</p>	<p>cycle ways and cycle parking.</p> <p>(BSS 2) Proposals to improve and enhance the vitality, historic character, appearance of the public realm and accessibility of the Village Centre will be supported through points; d), e), i)</p> <p>(BSS 4) points; b) h)</p> <p>(GAT 1) Getting Around Point 2 encouraging the attractiveness of walking cycling and the use of public transport.</p>
<p>Support health, social and cultural wellbeing</p>	<p>KEY AIM 3: Developing 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.</p> <p>KEY AIMS 5: Encouraging varieties of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities and activities to enable opportunities for all, particularly youngsters and older people.</p>	<p>(LHW 1) Maintaining health and education facilities. By encouraging development that resolve shortfalls in services.</p> <p>(LHW 3) d); & 3. Development that adds to or enhances local wild life links and walks especially alongside Public Rights of Way and the River Arrow will be considered favourably.</p> <p>(LHW 4) New development, which provides for additional sports, leisure and recreational facilities.</p> <p>(H 7) Makes provision for new or improved services and facilities.</p> <p>(GENERAL ;POLICY 1) Actively involving local people in the planning process.</p>

2.5 APNP FIT WITH THE NPPF SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES

The following section seeks to compare the sustainability policies of the NPPF with those of the APNP (policies in brackets).

2.6 Table ii: Comparing the sustainability policies of the NPPF with those of the APNP (policies in brackets).

Table II-i	NPPF Sustainability Policy 1 Building a strong, competitive economy
	<p>The NPPF (paragraph 21) requires that planning policies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including a poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing. ii. Facilitate flexible working practices.
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this policy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. providing affordable social and open-market housing for lower-paid and essential workers. <p>APNP Topic 1; (Housing policies H 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7,) APNP Topic 2; Heritage, Design and the Natural Environment policies; (HDNE 3 (Alvechurch Parish Design Statement) POLICY H 5 Sustainable development) and HDNE 4 & 5).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Seeking to improve the infrastructure (APNP 8, APNP 14) Encouraging new and improved footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways; (APNP 15) development having positive impacts on healthcare and facilities by integration within development: facilitate home working and improved communication, through improved broadband and fibre optic services (APNP23) <p>(APNP 26, 27 28), Improvements to the highways network</p>
Table II-ii	NPPF Sustainability Policy 2 Ensuring the vitality of town centres
	<p>This NPPF policy has particular relevance to towns or large villages with a recognised centre.</p> <p>Several provisions of the policy do apply: e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The requirement that development is well connected to service centres. (ii) To recognise town centres as the heart of their communities and pursue policies to support their viability and vitality.
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this principle by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Allocating residential sites within the Alvechurch settlement boundary and within comfortable walking distance of the Alvechurch Village centre (H 1). <p>Supporting the provision of sustainable links from new residential developments to the village shops, and the retention of key services and facilities. Seeking to protect and enhance the Conservation Area Local shops (A1use) and public realm (H7 and BSS1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Encouraging the provision of safe crossing points and parking in the Village (GAT 2 AND GAT 3) facilities for the schools (H 7) and wider community (LHW 4) and encouraging the provision of additional community facilities (H 7 & LHW 1).

Table II-iii	NPPF Sustainability Policy 3 Supporting a prosperous rural economy
	<p>The NPPF states that neighbourhood plans should support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sustainable growth and enterprise in rural areas as well as diversification of agricultural and other land based businesses such as tourism and leisure for the benefit of communities and visitors. ii. Promotion of the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship, (Paragraph 21).
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this policy:</p> <p>With policies for new housing and mixed-use development (H1, 2 and 3). This will increase the population of the parish, within the catchment area of local businesses (BSS 3) support safeguarding and enhancing local shops in the village centre.</p> <p>(BSS 2) supports a variety of residential, office/commercial, cafes/bars/restaurants, leisure and cultural uses outside of the defined shopping area.</p> <p>(BSS 4) supports sustainability and respecting the character of the surroundings whilst encouraging farm diversification, tourism and leisure enterprises.</p> <p>(BSS5) seeks to improve the communication network, including high speed broadband to support both home working in the village and local businesses.</p> <p>(BSS 3 & 4) aims to promote, protect and encourage sustainable use of parish based business assets whilst safeguarding existing business and retail uses.</p> <p>(H 7) by encouraging proposals that make provision for new or improved services and facilities.</p>
Table 11-iv	NPPF Sustainability Policy 4 Promoting sustainable transport
	<p>Supporting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable modes of transport, by working with Local Authorities to support sustainable development that minimise journey lengths.</p> <p>Development should be located where the need to travel is minimised. Priority is therefore given to pedestrian and cycle movements with encouragement for better access to public transport.</p> <p>Promotion of green fuels and ultra-low emissions.</p>
Table 11-iv APNP Response	<p>(POLICY GAT 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Proposals must assess the potential impact on the local community. 2 Contribute to the attractiveness of walking, cycling and use of public transport. 3 Work with the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) as the Local Highway Authority to produce a long term sustainable traffic management strategy for improvements to the highway network in the Parish to reduce community impact from development by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Using opportunities to connect to settlements, shared space with pedestrians and cyclists and encouraging enhanced public transport. <p>(H 1) b) sustaining development with Alvechurch Village boundary.</p>

	<p>(GAT 2):</p> <p>This should include secure and safe cycle storage at key parish facilities, e.g. schools, medical practices, the village retail area and at the railway station. It should take into account changes in travel patterns and help to make cycling a more convenient travel option than single-occupancy car use for short trips.</p> <p>(GAT 3):</p> <p>c) Appropriate crossing points;</p> <p>Across the A441 at Hopwood and Bordesley (pelican crossing, puffin crossing, zebra crossing, or refuges etc.) where there are bus stops.</p> <p>From the Medical Centre to The Square in Alvechurch village.</p> <p>Traffic impact includes effects of adverse road and footways safety, congestion and pollution on both main and side roads and rural lanes.</p>
Table ii-v	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 5</p> <p>Supporting high quality communications infrastructure</p>
	<p>The NPPF: local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband.</p> <p>Advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.</p>
APNP Response	<p>Key Aim 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources.</p> <p>Policy Aim: New developments that will deliver high performance and improved connectivity for all.</p> <p>(BSS 5 :) COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>1 Proposals, which incorporate the expansion and enhancement of electronic communication networks and high speed broadband along with improvements to connectivity for example by inclusion of “hotspots”, will be supported, particularly where the applicant intends to erect apparatus on existing buildings in keeping with the character and locality of the Alvechurch Parish area.</p> <p>2 Proposals for radio and telecommunication masts are suitably camouflaged, kept to a minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network.</p> <p>3 Development must contain a ‘Connectivity Statement’ and will provide suitable ducting for use by more than one service provider to make future connections to individual properties from connection points located on the public highway, or through some alternative connection point available to different service providers.</p> <p>4 A connectivity statement should demonstrate how the proposal takes communications connectivity into account.</p>
Table II-vi	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 6</p> <p>Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes</p>
	<p>I. Deliver a wide choice of high quality homes that widen opportunities for home ownership, create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities,</p> <p>II. Provide a mix of housing including affordable housing, based on current and future demographic trends identify the size, type, tenure and range of</p>

	<p>housing that is required, in particular locations, reflecting local demand;</p> <p>III. To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this policy by:</p> <p>i. Locating housing on the edge of Alvechurch Village, first on brownfield land and then through land released by the Local Authority in a proposed Green Belt review (POLICY :H1) (H2) and (H3), Affordable housing) and small infilling opportunities at Hopwood and Rowney Green.</p> <p>ii. Requiring a mix of property types ranging from 1 bedroom and above. A mix of tenure and percentages of new homes to be affordable in line with National and Local policies: (APNP POLICY H6 and H4).</p> <p>iii. (H 2): Housing for Hopwood and Rowney Green: also, Community Action 1: The Parish Council will work with the District Council to identify suitable rural exception sites for small scale affordable housing development when there is a proven local need.</p>
Table II-vii	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 7</p> <p>Requiring good design.</p>
	<p>The NPPF states ‘Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people’, (Paragraph 56) and requires:</p> <p>1 That neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area;</p> <p>2 That developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a strong sense of place, respond to local character and history and promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. • Create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder. • Are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping. • Respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials. • Support local facilities and transport networks.
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this policy by:</p> <p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst encouraging high quality design.</p> <p>POLICY H4; AIM: to achieve excellence in housing design, especially those, which will help, establish a strong “sense of place” and create attractive and comfortable places to live, with buildings that have a natural resonance with their environment and that can be easily repaired.</p> <p>1 Including policies to encourage good design (H 4) and use of the Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (HDNE 3). Development, which includes a proportion of well-designed dwellings that meet the needs of elderly people and those with disabilities, will be considered favourably.</p> <p>2 Requiring developers to:</p> <p>Adopt, to the fullest extent practicable, the guidance as indicated in</p>

	<p>the Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (APDS) and the Alvechurch Historic Environment Resource Assessment (AHERA).</p> <p>Proposals are encouraged to use locally sourced indigenous materials (including Alvechurch red brick, where appropriate) and incorporate suitable local detailing regarding the local building style to enhance the sense of place.</p> <p>f) New housing development is designed to meet the requirements of 'Secured by Design' * to minimise the likelihood of and fear of crime.</p> <p>i) Use local building materials that are, wherever possible, indigenous, have a natural harmony with the landscape, and which are selected with care to ensure they improve with age and weathering.</p> <p>l) Integrate new homes into the existing built environment and design a pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhood.</p> <p>n) Provide access to local facilities and public transport links via convenient, direct paths suitable for children's pushchairs, wheelchair users, walking with a stick or walking frame or using a mobility scooter.</p> <p>(HDNE 3) Interpretation of local character and design details; e.g. for doors, windows, roof embellishments and other local detailing including their regard for, and use of, local and traditional building materials and methods.</p> <p>(HDNE 3) Development should respond to the distinctive local build character of the parish, its particular surroundings, and sensitively contribute to creating development of quality design appropriate to a rural setting.</p> <p>■ (HDNE 2 a) sensitively designed to conserve and enhance the setting, form, character and sense of place of the associated area.</p> <p>(HDNE 3 :) ensures that any new development proposal complements and enhances the existing Alvechurch Village and all of the outlying parish settlements and adheres to its design guidelines and principles.</p> <p>(HDNE 6 :) New development proposals should contribute to protecting and enhancing the appearance of the natural environment. The quality of soft landscaping will be of significant consideration when assessing the merits of any scheme.</p> <p>POLICY AIM: To maintain and conserve the historic and distinctive rural character of Alvechurch Village centre through sympathetic rural design</p> <p>BSS 6: ASSESSING DESIGN IN ALVECHURCH VILLAGE CENTRE</p> <p>b) Existing original features traditional to shopfronts such as pilasters, fasciae, old ironmongery and original signs should, where possible, be encouraged and retained.</p> <p>c) New shopfronts must both relate to the building of which it is to be an integral part and respect the proportions and architectural detailing of the building.</p> <p>d) In the Conservation Area plate glass should not be used in buildings that originally had small windows and fasciae should have minimal projecting signage and suitable lighting appropriate to the age and proportions of the building.</p> <p>l) Advertising is consistent in number, size, design and appearance with the rural and historic setting of Alvechurch village.</p> <p>k) Street furniture and signage should be practical, of modest scale and in keeping with local surroundings.</p> <p>n) Internally illuminated shop signs will not be permitted in the</p>
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	Conservation Area.
Table II-viii	NPPF Sustainability Policy 8 Promoting healthy communities
	<p>NPPF policies to promote healthy communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. creating safe, accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, to not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. ii. Creating safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. iii. Guarding against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs. iv. Providing a sufficient choice of school places to meet the needs of existing and new communities and working with schools' promoters. v. Delivering social, recreational and cultural facilities. vi. Working with communities to identify and resolve key issues before applications are submitted. (Paragraph 71).
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this policy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. (Policy H 4; f) requiring developers to incorporate Secure by Design principles. ii. requiring consideration of access to community facilities and transport: (H 4: m) Integrate new homes into the existing built environment and design a pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhood; n): Provide access to local facilities and public transport links via convenient, direct paths suitable for children's pushchairs, wheelchair users, walking with a stick or walking frame or using a mobility scooter. <p>APNP13: Design new and improved footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways to connect new development to the countryside, including accessibility provision for people with disabilities. Where possible, provide connections to key places such as; the Meadows, Worcester & Birmingham Canal, River Arrow and parish woodlands that are open to the public.</p> <p>(H 7) Proposals for housing developments that make provision for new or improved services and facilities will be supported in principal.... if,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) They provide appropriate new services and facilities on site and provision of, or contributions to, off-site services and facilities; c) Applications for development which will have a significant impact on the demand for education, health facilities and/or services will not be supported unless applicants can demonstrate that there is existing capacity or show how they will work with education, health and/or other service providers to ensure provision of the extra capacity required. d) Proposals should minimise any adverse impact they may have on other public and community services and facilities and be in accordance with Policy LHW1, and BDP Policy 12. <p>LHW4: e) Contribute towards the improvement of existing or the provision of new public open space, sport and recreation facilities provided any new development does not constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt. f) Make available accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities to all members of the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Proposals that cause significant harm or loss of an Asset of Community Value will be strongly resisted. E.g. the Sports and Social Club car park

	<p>(GAT 2/ 2).</p> <p>Maintaining health facilities (Policy LHW 1 :) c) Providing better access and for those with disabilities to health, and retail facilities through improved footpaths, crossings and some introduction of cycle ways and cycle parking.</p> <p>iv. (H 4, c) <i>Applications for development which will have a significant impact on the demand for education, health facilities, and / or services will not be supported, unless applicants can demonstrate that there is existing capacity.</i></p> <p>(GAT 1 c) <i>Provision of designated safer routes to Alvechurch schools^{1*}, to improve the safe delivery of pupils to the Alvechurch First and Middle Schools site on foot, by bicycle, and public transport.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>(LHW 1): Development should contribute to improving health and wellbeing and supporting the adequate provision of educational facilities within the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>v. (LHW 4): Development should make a contribution to the improvement of sports and recreational facilities or create new facilities that meet the requirements of the local community,</p> <p>vi. (General Policy 1): Actively involving local people in the planning process.</p> <p>(H 7); d) <i>Supporting proposals for additional community facilities by minimising any adverse impact they may have on existing local services, facilities and amenities and be in accordance with (LHW 1) and BDP Policy 12; especially for Alvechurch first and middle school, the Alvechurch medical centre and the Dental practice.</i></p> <p>viii. Seeking developer contributions to improve community facilities (Policy H 7). c)</p> <p>ix. (LHW 4): New development, which provides for additional sports, leisure and recreational facilities over and above those that already exist, and that meet the requirements of the local community.</p> <p>(LHW 4) cont. Opportunities for young people: Where appropriate new development should;</p> <p>a) <i>Ensure that all children and young people in Alvechurch have safe access to quality, well designed, secure and stimulating play and informal recreation space that incorporate trees and greenery wherever possible.</i></p>
Table II-i x	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 9</p> <p>Protecting Green Belt land</p>
	<p>The NPPF requires that Green Belts are protected from inappropriate or otherwise harmful development.</p>
APNP Response	<p>Alvechurch parish is washed over by the Green Belt apart from Alvechurch Village designated by its village boundary. No development sites are left in the Alvechurch Village area. A Green Belt review will be needed to release further land from the Green Belt to allow future housing for Alvechurch Parish.</p> <p>(APNP Policy H 1) confines development to within the Alvechurch Village Boundary.</p>

	<p>(H 2) Limits development in Hopwood and Rowney Green to within the village envelopes and to limited infilling, as both are washed over by the Green Belt.</p> <p>(H 3): Affordable Housing on Rural Exception sites in the Green Belt.</p>
Table II-x	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 10</p> <p>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p>
	<p>NPPF paragraph 93, states: <i>“Helping shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. This is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development”.</i></p>
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this policy through:</p> <p>i. (H 4) which aims to reduce vehicle emissions by:</p> <p>Requiring developers to use locally sourced building materials, thus reducing transportation emissions.</p> <p>(H 1) locating sites close to essential village facilities to encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>(GAT 1) creating a more pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhood and providing access to local facilities and public transport links via convenient, direct paths.</p> <p>Seeking to reduce the need for travel by improving electronic communications Infrastructure (BSS 5).</p> <p>(H 4: j). Promoting waste water management both in respect of sustainable drainage and water capture (for use in activities such as gardening, car washing).</p> <p>() to mitigate the effects of future water shortages.</p> <p>(H 5): Developers required maximising the use of renewable energy opportunities offered by a particular site (D1).</p>
Table II-xi	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 11</p> <p>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>
	<p>The NPPF requires the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <p>i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, soils and the best agricultural land.</p> <p>ii. Minimising impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>iii. Re-using and remediating previously developed (brownfield land).</p> <p>iv. Minimising pollution of all kinds.</p> <p>v. conserving landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p>
APNP Response	<p>The APNP supports this principle by:</p> <p>(HDNE 6) PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT; New development proposals should contribute to protecting and enhancing the appearance of the natural environment. The quality of soft landscaping will be of significant consideration when assessing the merits of any scheme.</p>

	<p>New development should preferably be located on land of lesser environmental value and respect and seek to protect high value agricultural land, important views, landmarks and local points of interest in the neighbourhood area (HDNE 4).</p> <p>The character and setting of the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Area will be protected and enhanced through the positive use of the “Alvechurch Parish Design Statement” (APDS) (HDNE 3).</p> <p>Development proposals that enable the protection and enhancement of the key features of the parish landscape, including traditional orchards, farmland, veteran trees, woodlands, hedges, wetlands, wildlife corridors and other natural heritage sites, will be supported; (HDNE 1 d)</p> <p>Properly controlled, obtrusive light (sometimes referred to as light pollution) can present serious physiological and ecological problems (Policy H 4)</p> <p>Moving away from the use of motor cars in favour of more sustainable modes of travel (Policy GAT 1).</p> <p>New development should preferably be located on land of lesser environmental value and respect and seek to protect high value agricultural land, important views, landmarks and local points of interest in the neighbourhood area, whilst having regard to the other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. New development, where possible, should maximise opportunities to create new views.</p> <p>(HDNE 4) protecting landscape and open views</p>
Table II-xii	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 12</p> <p>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.</p>
	<p>The NPPF requires a positive approach to ‘the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and <p>Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.</p>
APNP Response	<p>(H 1 e) It would not have an adverse impact on the local landscape, environment or heritage assets.</p> <p>(HDNE 1) All development proposals (including alterations, extensions as well as a change of use) should continue to maintain, conserve and enhance the built heritage assets of the Parish and their settings.</p> <p>(HDNE 1) BUILT HERITAGE AND LOCAL CHARACTER: All Proposals for development that affect non-designated heritage assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage assets.</p> <p>This Neighbourhood Plan requires developers to take full account the Alvechurch Historic Environment Resource Assessment (AHERA), the Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (APDS) and the Alvechurch Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) documents when preparing proposals for development. Evidence of this awareness will need to be demonstrated at the planning application stage.</p> <p>(HDNE 2): LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS:</p> <p>Applicants will be encouraged to demonstrate how proposed development takes full account of the Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (APDS), the Alvechurch Historic Environment Resource Assessment (AHERA), and the</p>

	<p>Alvechurch Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP).</p> <p>Proposals will be assessed against the following:</p> <p>a) Any new development within or adjacent to or directly affecting the Conservation Area, a listed building, building of historic interest, local asset or open space should be sensitively designed to conserve and enhance the setting, form, character and sense of place of the associated area.</p> <p>b) The demolition of buildings and structures that are identified as community valued Heritage Assets will be resisted. (See Appendix A, for list of community valued Heritage Assets).</p> <p>c) Conservation and preservation of historic boundaries and historic hedges especially around the Bishop Palace and Deer Park areas.</p> <p>D. Development proposals should seek to maintain local distinctiveness through the built environment, in terms of buildings and public spaces and enhance the relationships and linkages between the built and natural environment.</p>
Table II-xiii	<p>NPPF Sustainability Policy 13</p> <p>Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals</p>
APNP Response	<p>Mineral extraction is excluded development in terms of neighbourhood plans and is therefore not dealt with. Furthermore, there are no minerals safeguarding areas in the parish.</p>

SECTION 3: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Requirement

The APNP must contribute to sustainable development (as defined in the NPPF and summarised in section 1.1 of this Basic Conditions Statement) and presented (paragraph 7 of the NPPF) as consisting of three dimensions:

- **An economic role** - To contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.
- **A social role** - To contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.
- **An environmental role** - This section shows how the APNP proposal delivers sustainable development.

Table III shows, for each dimension of sustainability, the alignment of the APNP with the aims of the NPPF.

3.2 Table 3 Fit of APNP Goals and Key Aims with Sustainable Development

TABLE III-I	Delivering Economic Sustainability
NPPF DEFINITION	Contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
APNP AIMS	KEY AIM 3: Developing 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.

	<p>KEY AIM 4: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish to serve the needs of local people and with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.</p> <p>KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local country-side.</p>	
APNP POLICIES	H 7	New housing, improved services, facilities and amenities
	LHW 1	Provision and improvement to health care and educational facilities
	LHW 2 & 3:	Protection of local green & open spaces
	LHW 4:	Sport, leisure and recreation facilities
	BSS 1	Local Shops
	BSS 2	Alvechurch village centre
	BSS 3	Safeguarding existing businesses
	BSS 4	New business development in the parish
	BSS 5	Communications Infrastructure
	BSS 7	Bordesley Hall Employment Centre
	APNP 26	Getting Around
	GAT 2	Provision of adequate parking
COMMENTARY	<p>These APNP policies contribute to economic sustainability by: improving the opportunities for home-working, rural diversification and for local businesses to promote themselves more widely; and ensuring that potential customers are not deterred by poor access for pedestrians and cyclists and from traffic difficulties.</p> <p>In addition, further housing will generate more customers for our local businesses.</p>	
TABLE III-II	Delivering Social Sustainability	
NPPF DEFINITION	Supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required meeting the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.	
APNP AIM	KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing 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: Developing 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: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish to serve the needs of local people and with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.	
	KEY AIMS 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 both integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways,	

	cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local countryside.	
	KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character	
	KEY AIM 8 Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	
APNP POLICIES	ALL APNP POLICIES DELIVER SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	
COMMENTARY	<p>These APNP policies contribute to social sustainability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providing sites for new housing within the Alvechurch Village boundary. ■ Specifying housing that recognises the need for affordable housing, housing for young families, and housing for a parish population that is aging. ■ Ensuring that all new developments have safe pedestrian access to shops, schools, medical services and other community facilities. ■ Protecting valued community assets, such as the Car parks, medical centre /dentist, and youth club. ■ Seeking to improve community assets, including requiring developers to contribute. ■ Seeking to improve road safety and the security of people's homes. ■ Safeguarding local green space. ■ Encouraging addition to and improved of facilities including for sport and leisure. ■ Encouraging improvement to footways and provision of some designated cycle ways and storage racks. ■ Protecting heritage assets and the built and natural parish environment. 	
Table III-iii	Delivering Environmental Sustainability	
NPPF Definition	Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; by helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.	
APNP AIM	KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local countryside.	
APNP POLICIES	H 5:	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DESIGN
	H 1: b),e),	LOCATIONS FOR HOUSING Brownfield first
	H 2: a), c), e).	HOUSING AT HOPWOOD AND ROWNEY GREEN: On brownfield & Located within settlement boundaries
		DESIGN PRINCIPLES: Development proposals within the Neighbourhood Area that demonstrates high quality and innovative design will be considered favourably. This means responding to and integrating with local surroundings and landscape context as well as the existing built environment. 2 Proposals are encouraged to use locally sourced indigenous materials The WCC ALVECHURCH HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE ASSESSMENT and The ALVECHURCH PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT should be used in conjunction with policy APNP H4
	H 4:	

	HDNE 1:	BUILT HERITAGE AND LOCAL CHARACTER
	HDNE 2:	LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS
	HDNE 3:	THE ALVECHURCH PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT
	HDNE 4:	PROTECTING LANDSCAPE AND OPEN VIEWS
	HDNE 5:	ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE
	HDNE 6:	PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
	LHW 2:	PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES
	GAT 1:	GETTING AROUND: 2; Proposals must be designed to integrate well into the existing community and those that also contribute to the attractiveness of walking, cycling and use of public transport, will be considered favourably.
Commentary	<p>The APNP NP contributes to environmental sustainability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explicitly protecting the historic, the built and natural environment. ■ Reducing the impact on Local Wild Life and Sites of Special Scientific interest by use of brownfield sites where possible, or sites with little biodiversity or agricultural value, promoting sites with relatively low landscape value biologically not diverse, and minimising light pollution. ■ Protecting the hedges, trees and landscape. Reducing CO2 emissions by requiring the use of locally sourced building materials, encouraging walking and cycling around the parish, encouraging uses of public transport, encouraging the incorporation of renewable energy technologies and waste water management systems into new builds. 	

The APNP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by:

- Planning positively for housing growth to meet the needs of present and future generations to meet the housing need up to 2030 by liaising with BDC with their future Green belt review.
- Encouraging flexible working in the parish by improving the electronic infrastructure, protecting existing businesses and, by encouraging a mix of new housing, and helping local businesses and organisations.
- Protecting the local SSSIs, Wild Life sites and local habitats by focusing development on the use, recovery and restoration of previously developed sites and sites of less heritage and landscape value.
- Protecting community assets that both enhance the quality of life in the village and reduce the need to travel to obtain these services elsewhere.
- Locating new development close to bus stops and within easy walking or cycling distance of existing Alvechurch village facilities (including schools, shops and healthcare). The aim is to minimise traffic congestion and related emissions and to encourage improved pedestrian safety.
- Protecting and enhancing the built and historic environment of the parish by encouraging high quality development that responds to the distinctive rural character of Alvechurch and by protecting the open spaces within the built-up area.

SECTION 4: GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH LOCAL STRATEGIC POLICY

4.1 Requirement

The APNP must demonstrate that it is in general conformity with the development plan for the area of the local authority (or any part of that area). This section shows how the APNP is in general conformity with the strategic policies in Bromsgrove District Council's core strategy (adopted January 2017). The following are considered to be relevant to the draft Alvechurch Parish NP:

4.2 District Strategy

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL (BDC) LOCAL PLAN – Adopted January 2017

1.5 The Plan's strategy promotes economic and job growth in the District and provides for new housing to meet the District's needs, as well as land for other activities including retail, sport and leisure. The strategy aims to conserve and improve the character and quality of the environment, which is an important component of the District's attractiveness to investment and success.

8.1 The policies contained within this section provide a framework to which all other policies in the Plan must adhere. The planning emphasis for the District will remain one of restraint to development in the Green Belt, whilst accommodating necessary new development to meet economic and social needs. The Strategy does not preclude new development that contributes positively to the environment and respects these and other policies in the Plan.

4.3 - Table IV: The following table sets out where policies in the Bromsgrove District Local Plan (BDLP) 2017 are relevant to the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan

BDP Policy No	Policy Name
BDP 1	Sustainable Development Principles
BDP 2	Settlement Hierarchy
BDP 3	Future Housing and Employment Development
BDP4	Green Belt
BDP5 B)	Other Development Sites
BDP 6	Infrastructure Contributions
BDP7	Housing Mix and Density
BDP8	Affordable Housing
BDP9	Rural Exception Sites
BDP10	Homes for the Elderly
BDP12	Sustainable Communities
BDP13	New Employment Development
BDP14	Designated Employment
BDP15	Rural Renaissance
BDP16	Sustainable Transport
BDP18	Local Centres
BDP19	High Quality Design
BDP20	Managing the Historic Environment
BDP21	Natural Environment
BDP22	Climate Change
BDP24	Green Infrastructure
BDP25	Health and Well being

BDP 4 GREEN BELT DESIGNATION

Approximately ninety per cent of Bromsgrove District is currently designated as Green Belt, and Alvechurch Parish apart from Alvechurch Village itself is washed over by the Green Belt. The Council's plan identifies sufficient land to deliver 4,600 of the 7,000 requirement by approximately 2023 without altering Green Belt boundaries. The Council acknowledges the remaining 2,300 homes cannot be delivered without altering Green Belt boundaries. A Green Belt Review will therefore be undertaken and then through a Local Plan Review sufficient land will be removed from the Green Belt to deliver the remaining 2,300 homes in the period up to 2030 and address the longer-term development needs of Bromsgrove District and adjacent authorities based on the latest evidence at the time.

At this stage, the District Council in agreement with the Planning Inspector says it is not considered appropriate to apportion a particular number or percentage of dwellings to tiers within the settlement hierarchy or individual settlements. This is considered to be inflexible and it is more important to focus on identifying the most suitable and sustainable sites for growth. The Council will work with neighbourhoods and consider Green Belt land around all identified settlements in the settlement hierarchy and potential sites identified in Neighbourhood Plans. This may lead to alterations to some settlement boundaries and some village envelopes where suitable sites for development are identified.

Alvechurch is one of 6 larger settlements in the district, housing fewer than 6% of the residents of the district. As such these policies apply in different degrees to the APNP; those for rural communities have immediate relevance.

This section demonstrates general conformity of the APNP with the Core Strategy by showing:

- a. Conformity with the six strategic objectives of the Core Strategy.
- b. Conformity with the relevant policies within the Core Strategy.

4.4 CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE CORE STRATEGY

Schemes will be judged against this overall strategy and every proposal will be assessed against all relevant Policies of the Local Plan, whether or not there are specific cross-references between these Policies.

4.5 Table V: Maps the relevant strategic objectives/ components of the Bromsgrove District Council Strategy with the Goals and Aims of the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP), demonstrating clear correspondence and conformity with the overarching strategic components for the District.

Table v

BDC	Strategic Objective	SO2
Table v-i	SO2 Focus new development in sustainable locations in the District such as on the edge of Bromsgrove Town in the first instance	
APNP Key Aims	KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing high quality design. KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO3
v-ii	SO3 Support the vitality and viability of local centres and villages across the District	
APNP Key Aims	KEY AIM 3: Developing 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: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish whilst serving the needs of local people and with the	

	inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO4
v-iii	SO4 Provide a range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of the local population for example the special needs of the elderly and the provision of affordable housing	
APNP Key Aims	<p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing high quality design.</p> <p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic, and the natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO5
iv	SO5 Provide support and encouragement for economic growth of existing and new businesses for example, in knowledge based industries and high-tech manufacturing, whilst also supporting farming and rural diversification and investing in lifelong education and learning skills	
APNP Key Aims	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 3: Developing 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.</p> <p>KEY AIM 4: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish to serve the needs of local people and with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.</p> <p>KEY AIMS 5: Encouraging varieties of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities and activities to enable opportunities for all, particularly youngsters and older people.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO6
v	SO6 Encourage more sustainable modes of travel and a modal shift in transport, for example encouraging walking and cycling and promoting a more integrated, sustainable and reliable public transport network across the District	
APNP Key Aims	KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local countryside.	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO7
vi	SO7 Improve quality of life, sense of well-being, reduce fear of crime, promote community safety and enable active, healthy lifestyles for example, by providing safe and accessible services and facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove's residents	

APNP Key Aims	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed house building within walkable locations of key facilities.</p> <p>KEY AIM 3: Developing 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</p> <p>KEY AIM 5: Encouraging varieties of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities and activities to enable opportunities for all, particularly youngsters and older people</p> <p>KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local country-side.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO8
vii	SO8 Protect and enhance the unique character, quality and appearance of the historic and natural environment, biodiversity and Green Infrastructure throughout the District	
APNP Key Aims	<p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing high quality design.</p> <p>KEY AIM 4: Maintaining a mix of local businesses appropriate to the character of Alvechurch parish to serve the needs of local people and with the inclusion of sympathetic rural diversification contributing to the wider economy.</p> <p>KEY AIM 6: Promoting both integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways, cycle routes and adequate parking) and safer roads (through effective traffic management) in order to serve the growing and changing Alvechurch community and increase access to the local countryside.</p> <p>KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic environment and natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8 Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>There are 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Parish, local wild life sites and the river Arrow wild life corridor. The APNP supports development that integrates well with these special sites through innovative design.</p>	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO9
viii	SO9 To safeguard and enhance the District's natural resources such as soil, water and air quality; minimise waste and increase recycling including re-use of land, buildings and building materials	
APNP Key Aim	KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO10
ix	SO10 To ensure the District is equipped to mitigate the causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change, for example, by managing and reducing flood risk, by ensuring water and energy efficiency and by encouraging new	

	developments to be low or zero carbon	
APNP Key Aim	<p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed housing.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO11
x	SO11 Promote high quality design of new developments and use of sustainable building materials and techniques	
APNP Key Aim	<p>KEY AIM 1: Development that meets current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst embracing high quality design.</p> <p>KEY AIM 2: Development within the Alvechurch Village boundary focused on well-designed housing.</p> <p>KEY AIM 7: To maintain and enhance the built historic and the natural environment for present and future generations whilst promoting new development that enhances local character.</p> <p>KEY AIM 8: Promotion of safe, sustainable developments that are designed to meet the latest energy efficiency standards and make the best use of existing resources whilst promoting the use of renewable energy for new developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	
BDC	Strategic Objective	SO12
xi	SO12 Foster local community pride, cohesion and involvement in plan making process	
APNP Key Aim	<p>KEY AIM 1: The right level of new house building that meets the current and future needs of all age groups in a changing and growing Alvechurch Parish community, whilst encompassing high quality design.</p> <p>APNP GENERAL POLICY 1: Actively involving local people in the planning process 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.</p>	

Fit and conformity of APNP Policies to the Core Strategy Policies

This section compares the policies in the Bromsgrove District Council Local Plan 2004-2011 with the policies in the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP). The policies considered relevant to APNP are those listed in Table vi.

4.6 Table VI; BDC Development Strategy 2011 -2030

BDC Policy	Table vi: BDC Core Strategy, Core Strategy policy areas relevant to Alvechurch Parish are:	APNP policies in general conformity
BDP 1	Sustainable Development Principles	All APNP policies support sustainable development H 1 (Alvechurch Village), H 2 (Hopwood and Rowney Green) and Policy H 4, Affordable housing on rural exception sites in the green belt; <i>identify sustainable locations for development.</i>
BDP 2	Settlement Hierarchy	
BDP 3	Future Housing and Employment Development in the District	As Alvechurch parish is one of 6 larger settlements in the District settlement hierarchy, it is not expected to accommodate significant growth until 2023 when all its development sites will have been built on. It is

BDP 4	Green Belt	then expected to support some of the Districts future development from 2023-2030 which will need a release of land through a District Council led Green Belt review. APNP H1 supports BDP 3: BDP4 is supported by APNP Policies' 1 H2, and H 3 as housing locations: Local business, shops and services are supported by APNP Policies H 6 (housing types), H 7 (improved services) & BSS 4 (New business development in the parish).
5 B)	Other Development Sites	APNP Policy H1 ,H2 and H3
BDP 6	Infrastructure Contributions	APNP Policy GAT 1, GAT 2 and GAT 3 <i>Transport policy promoting integrated transport and road safety measures and APNP LHW 1 maintaining provision of health facilities, support BDP6.</i>
No Place like Home		
BDP 7	Housing Mix and Density	APNP H 6 <i>Providing a mix of housing types and sizes and Policy H 3 Affordable housing on rural exception sites in the green belt.</i>
BDP 8	Affordable Housing	APNP H3: <i>Affordable housing on rural exception sites in the green belt and part APNP H6 a and b)</i>
BDP 9	Rural Exception Sites	APNP H 3: as mentioned above.
BDP 10	Homes for the Elderly	APNP H6: and Policy 3: as mentioned above.
BDP 12	Sustainable Communities	All APNP policies agree with this as mentioned in the Section 2: Table iii-ii: Delivering Sustainable Development Table.
Let's do Business		
	New Employment Development	APNP BSS 4: New business developments in the parish; supports BDP13 e).
BDP 14	Designated Employment	APNP BSS 1, Local shops aims to protect existing business, together with APNP BSS 3 Safeguarding existing businesses and APNP BSS7 Bordesley Hall employment area; supports BDP 14.3, and BDP14.4.
BDP 15	Rural Renaissance	APNP H 3: supports (BDP 15. d, e, And f): By improvement included with APNP Policy BSS 2: Alvechurch Village centre. d), e), f), g), h) and i). APNP BSS 4: New Business development in the parish through strengthening the local economy by APNP BSS 4. a) b) (brown field primarily used), e) (farm diversification), f) (tourism/leisure) and h) (including sustainable modes of transport). Policy APNP BSS 5: Communications Infrastructure; encourages home working in the rural community.
BDP 16	Sustainable Transport	APNP GAT 1: promotes sustainable modes of local transport to widen access including to the smaller parish settlements; APNP GAT 2: Provides alternatives to vehicle use by ensuring safe and adequate parking facilities at key parish facilities for all categories of vehicles and for unloading by delivery vehicles. APNP GAT 3; Aims to promote development that secures sustainability through both reductions in traffic speed. E.g. Through the designation of 20mph residential areas and the installation of safer crossing points for pedestrians. Whilst supporting WCC in mitigating traffic impacts throughout the parish.
BDP 18	Local Centres	APNP supports BDC 18 as a whole through policies: APNP BSS 1, BSS2, BSS 3, BSS 4, BSS 5 AND BSS 6
BDP 19	High Quality Design	BDP 19: Is supported by APNP H1; Proposals for new housing development will need to show consideration to the Alvechurch Parish Design Statement and the Worcestershire County Council Alvechurch Historic

		<p>Environment Resource Assessment and will be viewed favourably. APNP Policy H 3, (Affordable homes should not be visibly distinguishable in build or character from any on-site market value homes that may be required for the viability of the development). All points within APNP H4 are in general conformity as well as being locally specific.</p> <p>APNP BSS 6: Assessing designs in Alvechurch village centre; ensures design conforms to the Conservation Area policies and looks to improve and conserve the general retail appearance of Alvechurch Village Centre.</p>
BDP 20	Managing the Historic Environment	<p>Section 2 of the APNP, page 14 Important parish assets: Evidence Base Summary(EBS) page14 Conservation Area: Key Aim7, maintain and enhance the historic & natural environment: Policies for heritage, design and the natural environment, aim to support, conserve and improve all aspects of the local environment within the parish, supporting BDP20 through policies;</p> <p>APNP H1.f), APNP H 2 c), APNP H3 f) APNP H 4 para 1, bullet 1, a),j) and the final paragraph:</p> <p>APNP HDNE 1, Built heritage and local character (<i>To encourage development of quality appropriate to a rural setting</i>):</p> <p>APNP HDNE 2, Local Distinctiveness, (<i>Proposals for new development, (including; alterations, change of use, and extensions) will be supported that are in keeping with their surroundings and preserve, promote, and enhance the locally distinctive characteristics of the Parish to maintain its historic identity and rural character</i>). Second para that encourages taking full account of the APDS and AHERA documents plus all bullet points.</p> <p>POLICY HDNE 3: The Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (APDS) as a whole.</p>
BDP 21	Natural Environment	<p>APNP HDNE 2, Local Distinctiveness, par 2 use of the APDS and AHERA documents and bullet point 4.</p> <p>APNP HDNE 3: The Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (as a whole) ; POLICY HDNE 4: Protecting landscape and open views ; <i>New development should preferably be located on land of lesser environmental value and respect and seek to protect high value agricultural land, important views, landmarks and local points of interest in the neighbourhood area:</i></p> <p>APNP HDNE 6, Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment as a whole supports BDP 21</p>
Clean, Green and Healthy		
BDP 22	Climate Change	<p>By employing all APNP policies that encourage sustainable proposals. Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, HDNE 4,HDNE 5,HDNE 6, LHW 1, LHW 2, LHW 3, LHW 4, BSS 2, BSS 3, BSS 4, GAT 1, GAT 2 and GAT 3 support BDP 22.</p>
BDP23	Water Management	<p>APNP supports BDP 23 by: Policy APNP H4.</p> <p>b) Where feasible, waste water management, both in respect of sustainable drainage and water capture (for use in activities such as gardening, vehicle washing, etc.</p> <p>In addition c.) Maximise the use of renewable energy opportunities offered by a particular site, the Policy in general</p> <p>Bullet 3 - <i>New developments must incorporate Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) to reduce the run off of surface water where appropriate.</i></p>

		<p>(APNP H 5, E.)To limit negative visual impact, the following items should also be considered early in the design process and integrated into the overall scheme sympathetically: <i>Rainwater storage butts and compost bins to encourage Green Lifestyles.</i></p> <p>APNP H5, Sustainable Development through Design, Proposals Point B, should Identify the risk of surface water flooding specifically, and if necessary developing a surface water management plan.</p> <p>Point C, New developments should minimise water use, incorporate waste water management, and Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS).</p>
BDP 24	Green Infrastructure	<p>Key Aim 2 and 7: APNP H1 and H2; safeguard green space within and beyond the parish boundaries by locating main areas for development firstly, within the Alvechurch Village and smaller settlement envelopes. APNP HDNE 2. bullet c) Conservation and preservation of historic boundaries and historic hedges especially around the Bishop Palace and Deer Park areas, and bullet d) Development proposals that enhance and protect the key features, wild life corridors and linkages between the built and natural environment. APNP HDNE 4: <i>seeks to encourage development that maintains the openness and existing character of the parish.</i></p> <p>POLICY HDNE 5: ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE: <i>Development proposals will be considered favourably;</i> <i>That takes every opportunity to contribute to a connected green network and improve linkages between green spaces.</i> <i>That sustains and contributes to improvements that aid public access to the countryside through improved footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways to connect new development to the countryside, including accessibility provision for people with disabilities.</i> APNP HDNE 6, new developments should: <i>Safeguard, create and connect wildlife corridors,</i></p> <p><i>Use planting schemes that encourages wildlife;</i></p> <p>Encourage where possible: <i>The protection, reconnection and extension of existing hedgerows and the establishment of new native hedges.</i></p> <p><i>Mature and established trees should be protected and retained where possible.</i> <i>Where appropriate, proposed developments should include a tree planting scheme, incorporating native species to soften, and screen the development, and connect to areas of existing tree cover.</i></p> <p>Development that adversely affects the natural environment, biodiversity assets and ecological networks of the Parish will be strongly resisted.</p>
BDP 25	Health and Well Being	<p>KEY AIMS; 3, 5 and 6; APNP H 4, m) <i>design a pedestrian and cycle friendly</i></p>

	<p><i>neighbourhood; q) Provide appropriate areas of children's play space and green landscaping.</i></p> <p>APNP H7, Proposals for housing developments that make provision for new or improved services and facilities will be supported in principal if they are in accordance with the following:</p> <p><i>a) They provide sufficient infrastructure as required for making the development sustainable.</i></p> <p><i>b) Applications for development which will have a significant impact on the demand for education, health facilities and/or services will not be supported unless applicants can demonstrate that there is existing capacity or show how they will work with education, health and/or other service providers to ensure provision of the extra capacity required.</i></p> <p>POLICY HDNE 5: ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE; <i>to contribute to a connected green network and improve linkages between green spaces and sustain and contribute to improvements that aid public access to the countryside, Including bullet points 1 and 2</i></p> <p>APNP POLICY LHW 1: Healthy environments and Health Care Facilities (the policy as a whole)</p> <p>APNP POLICY LHW 2: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES (the policy as a whole).</p> <p>APNP POLICY LHW3: IMPROVEMENT TO AND PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACES (the policy as a whole).</p> <p>APNP POLICY LHW 4: SPORT, LEISURE AND RECREATION FACILITIES (the policy as a whole).</p>
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SECTION 5: EUROPEAN UNION OBLIGATIONS

5.1 Environmental Impact and Habitat Regulations

With respect to EU relevant directives the following applies:

The Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and comply with the Human Rights Act (HRA).

i. With regard to Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). The conclusion of the SEA screening statement and consultation is: “It is demonstrated, through assessment against the significance criteria in the SEA Directive and Regulations . . . that the impact of The Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) will not result in significant environmental effects.” The consultation responses supported the conclusion and with comments that will be taken into account.

ii. With regard to Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (often referred to as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive). This is to confirm that no neighbourhood development orders are proposed by the qualifying body, so the directive does not apply.

iii. With regard to Directive 92/43/EEC on; the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). The conclusion of the HRA screening statement and consultation is “there is likely to be no significant effect of the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan on the European sites, and therefore an appropriate assessment is not required.

iv. With regard to the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). This is to confirm that there are no policies contained in the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Area that are within the scope of the directives.

5.2 Human Rights

An equalities impact assessment has not been undertaken, as no longer required under the Equalities Act 2010, and it is not considered the Plan discriminates unfairly or in a manner, which is contrary to the Human Rights Act 1998.

SECTION 6: CONCLUSIONS

It is considered that the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan:

- meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act;
- has appropriate regard for the 12 core principles of the NPPF;
- contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- is in general conformity with strategic local planning policies; and
- is compliant with all relevant EU regulations, including Human Rights requirements

It is therefore requested that the Examiner recommends to the Local Authority that the LNP be presented for a referendum of the local community and on the assumption that the referendum is successful that the Neighbourhood Plan is subsequently made.