



YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan – Position Statement

Introduction

It is best practice for Parish and Town Councils to have a neighbourhood plan and as a new organisation, Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council (YCM-PC) intends to develop its plan over the next 2 years. The neighbourhood plan will set out a vision for the parish and provide our community with an opportunity to influence development.

The Statutory Framework

Neighbourhood Plans sit within the statutory planning framework, under the umbrella of the Local Plan, issued by the local planning authority; in our case this is Stafford Borough Council. Between 3rd February and 31st March 2020 Stafford Borough Council is consulting on the Issues and Options Document which considers the range of issues facing the borough and sets out how these might be addressed through a strategic policy framework.

The new Stafford Borough Local Plan will identify housing and employment land development over the next 20 years, i.e. from 2020 until 2040.

The Neighbourhood Planning Process

This is a formal process involving:

- Initial community engagement to identify issues and aims
- Gathering of evidence and ongoing engagement to develop policies, proposals and site allocations
- Statutory consultation
- Submission to the Local Authority for independent examination, at which point modifications may be required
- Once a final document is agreed this is put to a referendum before it is finally adopted.

Although neighbourhood planning is optional, once a plan is adopted by the local authority it forms part of the statutory development plan.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council Position

YCM-PC is at the earliest stage of the neighbourhood planning process. This means that we are currently engaging with all sections of our community to identify the issues and

ambitions which are important to people who live, work, visit and attend school in our parish. This work is important to inform the Parish Council's action plan but will also put us in a strong position to embark on our neighbourhood plan.

We will apply for a monetary grant to enable us to employ specialist support to ensure that we develop a high quality, robust and meaningful neighbourhood plan.

As Stafford Borough Council is currently in consultation regarding the Issues and Options Document, we will not progress to the next stage of our neighbourhood planning process until the new Local Plan is finalised. Neighbourhood Plans that have already been adopted and those under development will need to be reviewed and possibly revised to ensure that they are in line with the 2020-2040 Local Plan.

Sally Parkin 6.2.20