



Sustainability Appraisal

in respect of

Stapenhill Neighbourhood Plan

On behalf of

Stapenhill Parish Council

01 February 2016



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1. Introduction

1.1. This sustainability appraisal has been prepared to support the emerging Stapenhill Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP). The neighbourhood plan sets out 15 policies which outline how the parish should develop over the plan period (2015-2031). The document has been produced following East Staffordshire Borough Councils screening opinion on Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment (Appendix 1). The screening opinion assesses the neighbourhood plans likely significant effects on the environment. This was undertaken by assessing Stapenhill Neighbourhood plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Technical Baseline

1.2. The Sustainability Appraisal is based the Technical Baseline Document produced by BPUD, dated February 2016. The Technical Baseline collates all position papers relating to Stapenhill Neighbourhood Development Plan. The sustainability appraisal should be read in conjunction with the Technical Baseline. For ease of use the Technical Baseline includes short summaries of each position paper at the start of the document.

1.3. For clarity and the avoidance of doubt the Technical Baseline Document includes the following position papers;

- A summary of relevant planning policies including the East Staffordshire Borough Council Local Plan (2012 -2031) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- A summary of Stapenhill's social economic profile including; demographics, ethnic composition, health, travel, industry, education, economic status and housing. The study has been based on census data from 2011.
- A review of local services in the Neighbourhood plan area.
- A townscape and landscape analysis of the 12 main characters areas in Stapenhill.
- A summary of Stapenhill's heritage and conservation which has references to both statutory and non-statutory designations.
- Finally, a review of planning activity in the parish and other pertinent planning activity external to Stapenhill. Note: this was a snapshot in time and the position paper is dated May 2014.

2. Methodology

- 2.1. The sustainability appraisal includes three main sections as follows;
- Policy sustainability appraisal which assesses each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan against Stapenhill sustainability objectives.
 - A detailed review of policy SH4 (Mixed Uses and Other Uses) as a result of potential significant effects highlighted by the borough council in the screening report.
 - Finally, a conclusion which draws together the sustainability appraisal and outlines next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan as a result of the sustainability appraisal.

Assessing the Sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan and Policies

- 2.2. The assessment of the objectives and policies within Stapenhill Neighbourhood Plan will be carried out by assessing them individually against Stapenhill sustainability objectives. These are necessarily different to the objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan, as they focus on the social, economic and environmental sustainability, rather than aspirational targets. They are derived from the sustainability objectives set out by East Staffordshire Borough Council in their Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014). This approach has been taken because it will ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies outlined in the Local Plan, as required in the basic conditions.
- 2.3. There are 14 sustainability objectives which directly relate to the Local Plan sustainability objectives. Two sustainability objectives identified by East Staffordshire Borough Council will not be included in this assessment because they are not considered relevant to the parish of Stapenhill. These sustainability objectives relate to town centres and rural communities. The other sustainability objectives will be based on ESBCs objectives, however they will be adapted to specifically relate to Stapenhill. Section 3 of this document includes a table showing how Stapenhill's sustainability objectives have been adapted from East Staffordshire's objectives, and outline decision making criteria to assist the assessment of sustainability.
- 2.4. In order to undertake this assessment a simple matrix style assessment is proposed whereby Stapenhill's sustainability objectives are appraised against the individual objectives and policies outlined in Stapenhill Neighbourhood Plan. Policies will be colour coded as shown below.

Complies	✓
Not applicable	~
A conflict may occur	X

2.5. If conflict occurs in this assessment the parish council will consider if the objective/policy can be effectively changed to ensure it meets Stapenhill’s sustainability objectives. As outlined below this assessment will not be carried out for Policy SH4 (Mixed Uses and Other Uses).

Detailed Assessment of Policy SH4 – Mixed Uses and Other Uses

2.6. A more detailed assessment of policy SH4 will be undertaken. This is a direct result of East Staffordshire highlighting in their screening report that it may have significant environmental effects.

2.7. The policy identifies two sites within the parish which are suitable for development within the plan period. In order to assess these sites a series of options have been assessed against Stapenhill’s sustainability objectives. In turn each option is considered against the sustainability objectives and is scored using the table below. The scores are totalled up and result in a score for each option. In simple terms those options with the highest score are considered preferable and would typically be used in the policy. However, it should be noted that in some cases other issues will impact on the choice. A commentary on each site is provided which explains the thought process behind choosing a preferred option.

<i>Impact on delivering the objective</i>	<i>Table notation or symbol</i>	<i>Score attributed</i>
Strong positive impact	✓ ✓	2
Positive impact	✓	1
Neutral or limit impact	~	0
Negative impact	x	-1
Strong negative impact	xx	-2

3. Setting of Sustainability Objectives

3.1. East Staffordshire Revised Sustainability Report (2014) outlines 16 sustainability objectives, covering key sustainability themes. The table below outlines how these have been adopted for Stapenhill and provides a decision making criteria to assist the policy assessment. For the purpose of this document, East Staffordshire’s sustainability objectives have been labelled ESO1 to ESO16 and Stapenhill’s have been labelled SO1 to SO16.

East Staffordshire’s Sustainability Objectives	Stapenhill’s Sustainability Objectives	Decision making criteria
<p>ESO1 – Housing To provide a suitable mix of decent housing available and affordable to Everyone.</p>	<p>SO1 – Housing To deliver an appropriate mix of housing in Stapenhill, including affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it deliver a range of house types? • Will the house types meet the needs of the local community? • Will it increase the number of affordable units in Stapenhill? • Will it reduce homelessness?
<p>ESO2 – Economy To achieve a prosperous and diverse economy, encourage high and stable levels of employment and sustain economic competitiveness.</p>	<p>SO2 – Economy To achieve a sustainable and diverse economy in the parish and to increase levels of employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it enable Stapenhill to be economically prosperous? • Will it provide a sustainable approach to the economy? • Will it deliver stable levels of employment? • Does it protect Stapenhill’s existing employment?
<p>ESO3 – Transportation To reduce the need to travel, encourage more sustainable modes of transport and make best use of existing transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>SO3 - Transportation To reduce the need to travel, promote more sustainable modes of transport in and around Stapenhill and to make best use of existing transport infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the need to travel? • Will it promote sustainable modes of transport? • Will it make best use of existing transport infrastructure? • Will it improve people’s accessibility to jobs and services within and outside the parish?
<p>ESO4 – Climate change, energy and air quality To reduce the causes and impacts of climate change, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy.</p>	<p>SO4 – Climate change, energy and air quality To reduce Stapenhill’s causes and impacts of climate change, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce impacts on climate change? • Will it improve the parish’s air quality? • Will it encourage energy efficiency? • Will it improve the design of buildings to ensure their more energy efficient?

<p>ESO5 - High quality design and sustainability To encourage sustainable design and practice and create a high quality built environment.</p>	<p>SO5 – High quality design and sustainability To encourage high quality, sustainable design and create a high quality built environment as Stapenhill changes over the plan period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it deliver high quality design? • Will it encourage a high quality built environment? • Will the design of developments be sustainable?
<p>ESO6 – Green infrastructure and open space To protect, enhance and provide new Green Infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>SO6 – Green infrastructure and open space To ensure that Stapenhill’s green infrastructure is protected, enhanced and where appropriate new assets are provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the parish’s existing green infrastructure and open spaces be protected? • Will it improve the quality of existing green infrastructure? • Does it support the delivery of new assets which are designed to a high quality?
<p>ESO7 – Town Centre To sustain the vitality and viability of Burton and Uttoxeter town centres</p>	<p>The policy is not relevant to Stapenhill Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
<p>ESO8 – Rural communities To sustain vibrant rural communities.</p>	<p>The policy is not relevant to Stapenhill Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
<p>ESO9 – Flood risk To reduce and manage the risk of flooding which would be detrimental to the public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p>	<p>SO7 – Flood Risk To ensure the safety and wellbeing of new and existing parish residents by reducing and managing flood risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the risk of flooding? • Will it effectively reduce the risk of flooding in and outside the parish?
<p>ESO10 – Use of land To deliver more sustainable use of land in more sustainable locations.</p>	<p>SO8 – Use of land To deliver appropriate use of land in the most sustainable locations in the parish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will future development be sustainable? • Will development be delivered in the most sustainable location?
<p>ESO11 – Natural resources To ensure the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable management of existing resources.</p>	<p>SO9 – Natural resources To manage existing natural resources and to ensure the most sustainable resources are used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect existing natural resources? • Will it ensure the most sustainable resources are used in the future?
<p>ESO12 – Quality of life To improve the quality of life, including the health, safety and well being of those living and working in the borough.</p>	<p>SO10 – Quality of life To improve the quality of life, including the health, safety and well-being of those living and working in the parish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the quality of life of people living and working in Stapenhill? • Will health and safety within the parish improve?

<p>ESO13 – Landscape Quality To protect, maintain and enhance the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape quality, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p>	<p>SO11 – Landscape Quality To protect and enhance Stapenhill’s distinct character and maintain a strong sense of place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it protect the landscape quality? • Will it improve visual amenity? • Will it maintain and enhance local distinctiveness and provide a sense of place?
<p>ESO14 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection, enhancement and management of species and habitats.</p>	<p>SO12 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity To promote biodiversity and geodiversity by protecting and enhancing Stapenhill’s species and habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect existing species in the parish? • Will it enhance existing habitats? • Will it encourage new species and habitats?
<p>ESO15 – Water Quality To protect and enhance water quality of the Borough’s rivers whilst maximising their carrying capacity through achieving sustainable water resource management</p>	<p>SO13 – Water Quality To protect and enhance the River Trent and ensure a sustainable water resource management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance the River Trent? • Will it improve the rivers carrying capacity? • Will it achieve a sustainable water resource management?
<p>ESO16 – Countryside and historic environment To protect and enhance landscape character, historic buildings, archaeological sites and cultural features of importance to the community. And to protect and maintain all vulnerable assets (including built and historic).</p>	<p>SO14 – Countryside and historic environment To protect and enhance the parish’s historic environment, including the maintenance of vulnerable assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect the historic environment? • Will it improve Stapenhill’s historic environment? • Will it ensure the protection and maintenance of vulnerable assets?

4. Assessing the Sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan and Policies

- 4.1. Stapenhill's sustainability objectives, as detailed in the previous section, are now used to assess the objectives and draft policies. As outlined in the methodology the following table identifies whether the objective or policy 'complies', 'a conflict may occur' or it is 'not applicable' to the sustainability objectives.

- 4.2. As previously noted this sustainability assessment is being carried out following the completion of East Staffordshire's screening opinion. As a result of the Local Planning Authority highlighting sustainability concerns for policy SH4, it has been excluded from this general assessment and it is fully assessed below in section 5.

5. Detailed Assessment of Policy SH4 – Mixes Use and Other Uses

5.1. As previously stated East Staffordshire Borough Councils screening opinion highlighted that the implementation of policy SH4 may result in significant sustainability impacts. The policy identifies two sites in the parish where development would be supported for a mixed use scheme comprising of more than 11 residential dwellings. As a result of the borough councils screening opinion this policy will be assessed in greater detail. To assess this policy a number of options have been devised for each site. These options have then been tested against Stapenhill’s sustainability objectives, outlined in chapter 3.

Scoring table

<i>Impact on Delivering the Objective</i>	<i>Table Notation or Symbol</i>	<i>Score Attributed</i>
Strong positive impact	✓ ✓	2
Positive impact	✓	1
Neutral or limit impact	~	0
Negative impact	x	-1
Strong negative impact	xx	-2

Development options

5.2. The four options which have been used to test the policy are;

- a) A ‘no policy’ option which considered the ability of the site to meet the sustainability objectives if there was no further guidance within the plan. In those cases, it is assumed that the status quo remains and that similar, if no identical uses would occur. Where sites are bad neighbours or are considered to undermine quality of life this option results in a lower score.
- b) Mixed use residential scheme with community uses.
- c) A solely residential led scheme which seeks to meet the housing demand of Stapenhill.
- d) Commercial development which is appropriate due to the nature of Stapenhill and its close proximity to the principle town of Burton-on-Trent.

Land formerly occupied by the Short Street School

Stapenhill Sustainability Objectives	Option A: No policy	Option B: Mixed use residential scheme	Option C: Residential scheme	Option D: Commercial development	Commentary
Housing	× ×	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	× ×	The option to have no policy would have a negative impact of Stapenhill Neighbourhood Plan meeting its sustainability targets.
Economy	×	✓	×	✓ ✓	
Transportation	~	✓	✓	✓	Option B scored the highest in the assessment and it will significantly positively contribute towards the housing, use of land and quality of life sustainability targets.
Climate change, energy and air quality	~	✓	✓	✓	
High quality design and sustainability	×	✓	✓	✓	
Green infrastructure and open space	~	✓	✓	~	
Flood Risk	~	✓	✓	✓	The residential scheme option scored high but in comparison to option b it failed to support the economy or improve resident's quality of life to the same level as option B.
Use of Land	× ×	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	
Natural Resources	~	~	~	~	The final option did not seek to support the housing objective, however it was the most successful option for meeting the economy objective.
Quality of life	×	✓ ✓	✓	~	
Landscape quality	~	✓	✓	~	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	~	~	~	~	
Water Quality	~	~	~	~	As a result of this assessment option b will be the most sustainable approach to the site.
Countryside and historic management	×	✓	✓	~	
Total	-8	+14	+11	+5	



Land off Rosliston Road (adjacent to the health centre)

Stapenhill Sustainability Objectives	Option A: No policy	Option B: Mixed use residential scheme	Option C: Residential scheme	Option D: Commercial development	Commentary
Housing	× ×	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	× ×	<p>The option to have no policy will marginally have a positive impact because of it meeting green infrastructure and open space and flood risk objectives. However, the option does not support housing, economy and high quality design objectives.</p> <p>The mixed use residential option scored the highest, however mitigation would be required to ensure it continues to meet green infrastructure, flood risk and biodiversity and geodiversity objectives.</p> <p>Option C scored marginally below option B because it fails to support the economy objective.</p> <p>Finally, option d will not impact the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Due to the total scores and positive contribution to sustainability, option B will be incorporated into policy SH4.</p>
Economy	× ×	✓	×	✓ ✓	
Transportation	~	✓	✓	✓	
Climate change, energy and air quality	~	✓	✓	✓	
High quality design and sustainability	×	✓	✓	✓	
Green infrastructure and open space	✓ ✓	×	×	×	
Flood Risk	✓ ✓	×	×	× ×	
Use of Land	~	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Resources	~	~	~	~	
Quality of life	✓	✓	✓	~	
Landscape quality	~	✓	✓	~	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	✓	×	×	×	
Water Quality	~	~	~	~	
Countryside and historic management	~	~	~	~	
Total	+1	+6	+4	0	



Conclusion of Assessment

- 5.3. The detailed assessment of policy SH4 found that a mixed use residential scheme would be the most sustainable option for both sites. However it did highlight that this option for Land off Rosliston Road may have negative impacts on the following sustainability objectives;
- Green infrastructure and open space
 - Flood Risk
 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- 5.4. As a result of the second site (Land off Rosliston Road) highlighting potential negative impacts, mitigation will need to be in place to ensure that the implementation of the policy would not have a negative effect on sustainability. The section below outlines how both the Neighbourhood Plan and East Staffordshire Borough Council Local Plan provides effective mitigation.

Mitigation for Policy SH4 - Land off Rosliston Road (adjacent to the health centre)

- 5.5. The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan should be used in conjunction with other policies in the plan and the borough councils adopted Local Plan. The impact policy SH4 will have on the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity and Geodiversity objectives will be mitigated by policy SC4 in the Neighbourhood Plan. This policy requires development to protect and enhance biodiversity and to deliver new green infrastructure. Development on land off Rosliston Road must be compliant with policy SC4 and therefore mitigating some sustainability concerns with policy SH4.
- 5.6. In addition, East Staffordshire Borough Council Local Plan ensures that policy SH4 will not lead to any adverse sustainability impacts. Firstly, SP23 (Green Infrastructure) ensures development contributes to green infrastructure. Secondly, SP27 (Climate Change, Water Body Management and Flooding) ensures all new development will not cause unacceptable harm. Finally, SP9 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) seeks to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.



- 5.7. As a result of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and East Staffordshire's Local Plan, potential negative impacts on sustainability highlighted in the assessment of Policy SH4 will be mitigated. The policy will result in an overall positive contribution to Stapenhill's sustainability objectives.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Overall, the Stapenhill neighbourhood plan complies with both East Staffordshire Borough Council's sustainability objectives and the newly created Stapenhill sustainability objectives. The neighbourhood plan seeks to support sustainable development and the sustainability objectives.

- 6.2. As outlined in chapter 5 there is a potential conflict between the site Land off Rosliston Road in policy SH4 and the Stapenhill sustainability objectives. However as discussed in the previous chapter such conflicts are mitigated through additional policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Appendix 1 – Screening Opinion on Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment



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SCREENING OPINION ON:

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

STAPENHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

June 2015

Revised Version December 2015

Final version March 2016

Introduction

1. Each Neighbourhood Development Plan (NP) must meet the Basic Conditions in accordance with para. 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act, which was inserted by the Localism Act 2011. The local planning authority needs to be satisfied that the Basic Conditions are met. Amongst these Basic Conditions are the following:

- a) The NP contributes to sustainable development;
- b) The NP does not breach or is otherwise compatible with EU obligations – this includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive of 2001/42/EC; and
- c) The making of the NP is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 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) (inserted by Regulation 32 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012).

2. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) contains specific assistance on sustainability appraisal/SEA requirements for NPs. Whilst a Local Plan-style sustainability appraisal is not required, the PPG advises that, by producing a specific statement of how the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, the requirement under criterion (a) above would be demonstrated. A sustainability appraisal may be a useful way of producing this statement, the PPG advises. (Ref ID: 11-026-20140306)

3. An NP meets the criteria for an SEA as set out in The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 if any of its proposals or policies could have 'significant environmental effects'. Defining what are 'significant environmental effects' is not straightforward, but PPG offers the following examples:

"An SEA may be required, for example, where:

- (a) a NP allocates sites for development;
- (b) the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan; or
- (c) the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan."

(Ref ID: 11-027-20140306)

4. Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations sets out criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. The criteria are:

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:

(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,

(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,

(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,

(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,

(b) the cumulative nature of the effects,

(c) the transboundary nature of the effects,

(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),

(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),

(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,

(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,

(iii) intensive land-use, and

(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

4. It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to decide whether or not any of the proposals of the NP are significant enough for the Plan to require an SEA. The Parish Council submits their NP (and any subsequent version where there have been significant additions or deletions) to the local authority and the latter produces this screening report, with a statement as to whether or not it considers that an SEA needs to be prepared.

5. The Council will also state whether it considers that there will be a significant effect on a nature conservation site of European significance, as in paragraph 1(c) above, and whether or not a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be required.

6. The Council has analysed the NP's policies and proposals against the criteria above, and the results are set out in the chart below.

2. ASSESSMENT OF STAPENHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, SECTION 14 CONSULTATION VERSION, FOR SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

PPG Criterion or Environmental Regulation Criterion	Significant Effect Identified	Comment
<p>PPG Criteria (1) NP allocates sites for development</p>	No	<p>Policy SH4 allocates 2 sites for mixed use development including 11 or more homes. This constitutes major development (>10 homes) within ESBC's definition of 'major'. Historic England are concerned that development proposed could affect heritage assets (see below). This might only be case for the Short Street School site where some of the buildings might have a local heritage value. It is advised that any policy for this site include details of which elements should be retained, and why, having consulted with the Borough Council's Planning Policy section and with HE. Policy SH4 also allocates the Fivelands Allotments site off Saxon Street. This was a late addition, being added to the Reg.14 consultation edition of the Plan, whilst SEA screening had already been carried out for an earlier draft of the Plan. The views of the statutory consultees on this addition have been sought and as a result of these it is considered that a significant effect has been identified. March 2016: However, the Parish Council has modified the Plan by deleting Fivelands as an allocation.</p>
<p>(2) The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan</p>	No	<p>Policy SC4 places a high priority on nature conservation and Policy SL2 supports the delivery of a network of open spaces. Policy SL4 aims to protect the Trent waterfront, probably the most sensitive natural asset in the Parish. Similarly, Policy SC1 covers protection of heritage assets, with an emphasis on the Conservation Area. (It has been suggested that the NP could identify the important non-designated heritage assets in the parish, which would then be assessed by ESBC for inclusion on a Local List, work on which is programmed). The policies are unlikely to negatively affect any sensitive natural or heritage assets.</p>

		With the removal of Fivelands from Policy SH4 – a potential sensitive natural asset – the requirement for a SEA has been removed.
(3) the NP may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan	No	No detrimental environmental effects are likely from the application of the Plan's policies. Effects of the allocation of Fivelands Allotments not considered in Local Plan SA, but allocation has now been removed.
Environmental Regulation Criteria <i>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</i> (4) the degree to which the NP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	No detrimental effects	The following policies provide a positive framework for projects within the Parish area: SC1 and SC2 Heritage Assets; SC3 Shopfront Design; SL3 Local Green Space; SC4 Nature Conservation; SL1 Streets and Spaces; SL2 A Network of Open Spaces; SL4 Trent Waterfront.
(5) the degree to which the NP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	No detrimental effects	The Local Plan makes provision for Neighbourhood Plan to influence decision making in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The NP accords with National Planning Policy Framework and the policies of the East Staffordshire Local Plan 2012-31.
(6) the relevance of the NP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	No detrimental effects	Most policies in the Stapenhill NP contribute positively to the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development.
(7) environmental problems relevant to the NP;	No	The Plan does not set out any issues that indicate a particular environmental problem.
(8) the relevance of the NP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	No	The NP is in general conformity with the Waste Management and Minerals Local Plans produced by Staffordshire County Council and with the Water Framework Directive, having incorporated the views of the Environment Agency on this as expressed in response to the emerging Local Plan.
<i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</i>	No	It is unlikely that, as a result of the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, that there will be significant irreversible environmental impacts; they are generally small-scale.

(9) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;		
(10) the cumulative nature of the effects;	No	Proposals will not result in a significant increase in vehicular traffic, nor will the traffic calming policy (ST3) or improvements for cyclists and pedestrians (ST1) necessarily result in changed emission patterns due to vehicular traffic having to divert onto other roads. It should be noted that St Peter's Bridge/Orchard St on the Parish boundary are part of an Air Quality Management Area, and there is an automatic air quality monitoring station located on St Peter's Bridge.
(11) the transboundary nature of the effect;	No	No significant transboundary effects of the proposals have been identified. Traffic flows onto surrounding roads will only be altered marginally. It is more likely that traffic increases from developments outside the Parish will impinge on the environment within the Parish. (see Policy ST3).
(12) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	No	None of the policies will create hazards to human health. Health and safety standards on developments arising within the plan areas will be governed by relevant statutory codes such as the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.
(13) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	No	The spatial area covered by these policies is relatively small. Most of the population of the parish and those immediately outside could be affected, but this will be in a beneficial way.
(14) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, (iii) intensive land-use	No	Local built heritage assets are protected by Policy SC1. The built and natural heritage is recognised in Policies SC3, SL2 and SL3. There is no evidence that air quality levels are at a significant and critical level locally (but see (10) above).
(15) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national,	No	There are no sites of this status within or close to the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The SSSI sites identified in para 2.20 are

Community or international protection status;		sufficiently far away, and upstream, not to be affected by the level of development proposed by the Plan.
Additional specific environmental criterion from Basic Conditions: (16) The NP would have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	No	There are no European sites within or close to the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

7. The Government's PPG advises that the local planning authority should consult the statutory consultation bodies. The three statutory consultation bodies whose responsibilities cover the environmental considerations of the Regulations (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) have been consulted. They commented as follows:

Environment Agency:

"Stapenhill considers [the] Water Framework Directive and has recognised this in the assessment. Stapenhill is outside the floodplain.

"Taking the above into consideration, with regards to the screening opinion for both these Neighbourhood Plans, [Stapenhill and Anglesey] we consider the plans would not have significant environmental effects and, as a result, a SEA of either plan would not be required."

On the late addition of Fivelands allotments, Saxon Street as a mixed use site, EA replied:

"Further to your email which was received on 25 November 2015, referring to site 103 [the Allotments site] we have no concerns as low environmental risk."

Natural England:

"We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report. Natural England notes the content of the report though the conclusions section doesn't indicate the Borough Council's opinion regarding the outcome. From the content of the table we advise that that SEA is not required."

"Natural England notes the [Habitats Regulations Assessment] screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon European designated sites."

On the late addition of Fivelands allotments, Saxon Street as a mixed use site, NE replied:

“The inclusion of the allotments site behind Saxon Street as a candidate ‘mixed use’ development site appears to represent a departure from the adopted local plan. The proposals map shows the allotments, together with a number of others in the Stapenhill ward, as part of the National Forest. The significance of environmental effects as a result of this site being developed in the manner described is unclear. We note that other allotments exist in the locality and that the adopted plan refers to the importance of allotments under the separate but related themes of ‘green infrastructure’ (Strategic Policy 23) and ‘health and well-being’ (Strategic policy 34). Figure 1.6 on page 40 (Deprivation by ward) suggests that allotments comprise an important and valuable resource for the ward.

The Neighbourhood Plan policy SH4 emphasises the provision of ‘proportionate’ community facilities and the need for proposals to conform to the other policies in the local plan. As a result a key set of questions to inform the Council’s view on the significance of any environmental effects would appear to be ‘what information exists to demonstrate the level of use of the Saxon Street allotments and other allotments in the ward? Are they over-subscribed/ ‘just right’ or does an appreciable number of vacant lots exist?’. The answers to these questions should allow a judgement to be made on the ‘capacity’ of the Saxon Street site to accommodate development while maintaining the ward’s allotment resource – and thus whether or not the allocation is likely to have significant environmental impacts.”

Historic England:

“On the basis of the information supplied, including that set out in the draft plan, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of ‘SEA’ Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is likely to be required as land allocations are made and any development proposed could affect heritage assets.”

“As regards the HRA Screening Report Historic England does not wish to comment in detail and would defer to Natural England and other statutory consultees, however, we have no adverse comments to make on the report’s conclusions.”

On the late addition of Fivelands allotments, Saxon Street as a mixed use site, there was no response from HE or SCC.

8. The two sites which are allocated in the Plan (Short Street School and land off Rosliston Road adjacent to Health Centre) for housing do not contain any statutorily listed buildings. The Council’s Conservation Officer’s view is that: