

High Lane Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

July 2019

(Updated with Statutory Responses Mar'20)

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Section 1 - Introduction

Purpose of this Report

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report addresses the requirement for a screening assessment to determine if the High Lane Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This addresses the requirement as set out in Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

This section summarises the key information in the High Lane Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) including its vision, objectives, the neighbourhood area covered and draft policies.

High Lane NDP and this SEA Screening Report have been prepared by the High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum of local residents with support and advice from Stockport Council and other stakeholders. The NDP sets out draft local planning policies which will be used to help Stockport Council determine planning applications in the area up to 2035. These policies have been prepared taking into account the concerns and ideas of local residents, which have been put forward during numerous informal public consultation processes since 2017.

High Lane Neighbourhood Development Plan

Below is a map of the Neighbourhood Development Plan area followed by details of the draft vision and objectives:

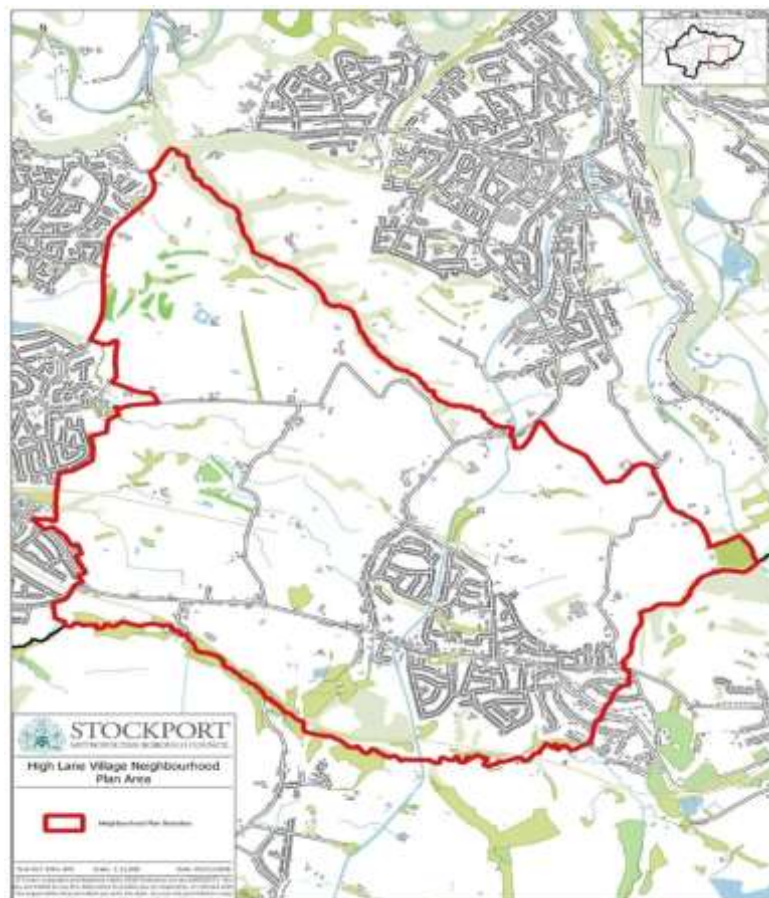


Figure 1 – High Lane Neighbourhood Development Plan Area

Draft Vision

The High Lane NDP contains the following draft vision: 'In 2035 High Lane's rural identity and heritage will be retained and enhanced. The strong sense of community in the village remains a key benefit of living here and supports a high quality of life for all.'

New development, transport facilities and other infrastructure should be proportionate to the area, taking into account the village's location within greenbelt.

A good mix of small scale housing is provided to meet local needs and support long term benefits for the whole community, prioritising brownfield sites enabling protection of greenbelt and ensuring positive impact on the air quality for the village and wider Stockport area.

Open spaces and recreational facilities are fully accessible to all and provide a network of green infrastructure to protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife.'

NDP Draft Objectives

The following lays out the objectives of the High Lane NDP for a variety of policy areas:

Transport and Air Quality Objectives

1. To improve traffic issues within and to/from High Lane;
2. To support measures that improve air quality and resist proposals which lead to unacceptable levels of pollutants and further deterioration of local air quality;
3. To recognise the need for integration between different means of transport;
4. To improve roads and footpaths in the village centre and elsewhere;
5. To support improvements to Middlewood Station;
6. To recognise the importance of public transport services to and from High Lane Village in meeting the needs of both residents and visitors and improve bus services and access to other forms of public transport;
7. To improve access points to the Middlewood Way;
8. To improve cycle routes and access to cycle routes and address any local issues of conflict with walkers;
9. To improve access to schools, shops and other community facilities;
10. To improve the provision for people with limited mobility;
11. To continue to improve canal towpaths working with the Canal and Rivers Trust and to promote and ensure continued good and safe access to all Public Rights of Way.

(Delivered through NDP Policies T1, T2, T3, R2 and HD2)

Housing Objectives

1. To preserve the rural character and identity of the area through sensitive, high quality design in new small scale development;
2. To enhance the mix of house types in the Village, housing priorities are provided to allow for starter, new family and retirement homes;
3. To provide environmentally sustainable properties with ample provision for the needs of local residents;
4. To provide housing for those who wish to rent rather than buy homes;
5. To ensure local people have first options / preference in new housing development schemes.

(Delivered through NDP Policies H1, HD1 and HD2)

Recreational Activities and Green Open Spaces Objectives

1. To protect existing recreational facilities and support investment in new and improved facilities for all ages and abilities; and
2. To work with existing clubs/societies/landowners who have land for recreational purpose to determine if there is a need for them to expand their facilities; and
3. To protect and enhance biodiversity and other natural heritage assets.

(Delivered through NDP Policies R1, R2, R3, NH1, NH2 and NH3)

Heritage Objectives

1. To identify and assess any local heritage sites in High Lane Village Neighbourhood Area for protection;
2. To identify possible archaeological sites e.g. those related to industrial heritage such as mining, and agricultural heritage;
3. To encourage any new development to value and enhance the distinct character of High Lane Village
4. To protect the local landscape character and important views.

(Delivered through NDP Policies NH1, NH2, DH1 and DH2)

Section 2 - Legislative Background

The following legislative drivers exist for addressing screening of Neighbourhood Plans for likely significant impacts on the environment.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment is required by the SEA European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment". SEA has been transposed into UK legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It must be determined for each document whether an SEA is required, in consultation with specified statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England). This Screening Report has been shared with the statutory consultees as part of the consultation on the draft plan and this report.

Stockport's adopted Core Strategy and any other adopted local plan documents have undergone SEA Screening and wider assessment. The overarching assessments have been drawn on to inform the screening assessment of the High Lane NDP. The reports for these plans are available here:

www.stockport.gov.uk/supporting-documents

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Habitats Regulations European Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a designated habitats site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. Part IV of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 implements the HRA requirement for specified planning and other similar consents. In October 2005 the European Court of Justice ruled that this requirement extended to land use plans. This was set out in the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 which inserts a new Part IVA into the 1994 Regulations and came into force on 21 August 2007.

A Habitats Regulations assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information.

Stockport Council have advised that there are no European designated sites for Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation or Ramsar within Stockport's boundary, including the High Lane area. The overarching adopted Stockport Core Strategy and emerging new Local Plan have been and are being assessed for HRA using a 15km boundary around the Borough. The Core Strategy HRA report undertaken in 2010 determined that no European Sites were likely to be significantly impacted upon by Borough level planning policies: www.stockport.gov.uk/supporting-documents

Section 3 – SEA Screening Process

This section reports on the process the Neighbourhood Forum undertook to tackle the task of undertaking a Screening Assessment of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan:

Stockport Council Sustainability Wheel

Stockport Council provided advice to the Neighbourhood Forum on undertaking Strategic Environmental Assessment on Neighbourhood Plans. Stockport's Sustainability Wheel (the Council's tool that is the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Local Plan) was provided for use in completing a screening assessment of the early stages of the High Lane NDP to address the SEA requirements. The Wheel contains detailed instructions on how to undertake an assessment using the tool and input from as many stakeholders as possible.

The aim of the Wheel is to offer a simple tool which produces a graphic output clearly showing a rating for the sustainability of an emerging policy or strategy. The larger the footprint the less sustainable the plan is likely to be. There is no expectation that the score will be good for all users. In fact the tool is designed to show where policy writers could look to improve policy as much as is feasible, but it is accepted that in the real world compromises are often required. The Wheel is designed to consider the three cornerstones of sustainability - Economy, Social and Environmental issues - in light of objectives which were determined and agreed by a stakeholder steering group in September 2008. There are a range of Decision Making Criteria which prompt a potential response from the list below which results in the production of a score on the Wheel output (see Figure 2 in Section 4). The Wheel can be adapted to smaller scale spatial plans through the use of a 'not applicable' response where relevant.

Scoring has been devised to offer a choice of symbol for the following potential responses:

- Very positive impact (++) - means the policy will deliver against this criteria
- Slightly positive impact (+) - means the policy will mainly deliver against this criteria
- Neutral impact (\) - policy implementation could have either a negative or positive impact
- Slightly negative impact (-) - means there are potential slight impacts if the policy is implemented
- Very negative impact (--) means the policy implementation could have a direct negative effect
- Unknown (?) - it is unknown what the impact might be (e.g. lack of evidence etc)
- Not applicable (NA) - in certain specific policies not all questions will be applicable.

The scoring is achieved through a numeric calculation from the symbol entered which allows for zero responses for not applicable outputs, however unknown will return a negative response - if evidence is lacking for example this should highlight a need to better inform policy development.

Stockport Council advised that a Screening Report based on the work the High Lane Neighbourhood Forum has done using Stockport Council's Sustainability Wheel would be sufficient to address an assessment of likely significant environmental impacts, whilst informing development of the NDP. Where no likely significant effects have been identified that report would be sufficient to address the regulatory requirement and ensure that environmental impacts are considered for screening purposes. If likely significant impacts were identified it would also help to establish the next stages for further SEA work.

The Screening Process

Stockport Council's Sustainability Wheel was used by the High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum as advised. This assessment tool was completed by the Forum Chair Richard Jones, a Chartered Environmentalist with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). He was supported by reviews from Claire Porterfield (Forum Secretary) and Janet Burks (Forum Vice-Chair) on the Social and Economy sections respectively.

Once the initial draft Version 1 was completed, it was sent to the Council's appraisal lead, Angie Jukes, who reviewed it and provided detailed feedback on changes to the scores and justifications that were needed. Angie leads on appraisal of the Council's local plan documents and has done so since 2008.

The comments were reviewed by Richard Jones (Chair), and the updates checked by Claire (secretary) and Janet (Vice Chair). It was then circulated to the Forum committee on 5/08/19 following a review at the monthly meeting on 30/07/19.

Version 2 of the Sustainability Wheel was re-submitted to the Council in April 2019 for the Appraisal lead's further review. It was agreed by the Council that no likely significant effects were identified through this process as evidenced in the Wheel outputs based on all the information provided by the Neighbourhood Forum. Figure 2 in Section 4 shows the Wheel output showing a reasonably small footprint indicating good sustainability. See the appendix for the more detailed assessment work backing up that Wheel output.

High Lane Neighbourhood Development Forum have not identified any specific sites for development as part of the Plan making process. The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Stockport's Local Plan may result in sites in the High Lane area being allocated. However these plans are undergoing their own SEA and HRA processes which will address the legislative requirements as well as inform environmentally robust plans.

Section 4 – Findings

This Section reports on the findings of the use of Stockport’s Sustainability Wheel in assessment of emerging and draft policies.

The Wheel ensures that assessment includes consideration of the likely significant effects on the criteria from Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations for each of the issues: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape. It is designed to deliver wider sustainability appraisal and therefore takes account of social and economic impacts and benefits as well.

The Wheel is designed to primarily deliver appraisal of Borough level planning documents. Some of the elements have not been felt to be relevant at a neighbourhood plan level but the scoring allows for any ‘not relevant’ scores. Broadly the output shows a reasonable footprint in sustainability terms. Early appraisal highlighted the need for specifically addressing native planting through the Neighbourhood Plan with this change being addressed in later versions of the High Lane NDP.

Figure 2 below shows the footprint output of the revised assessment:

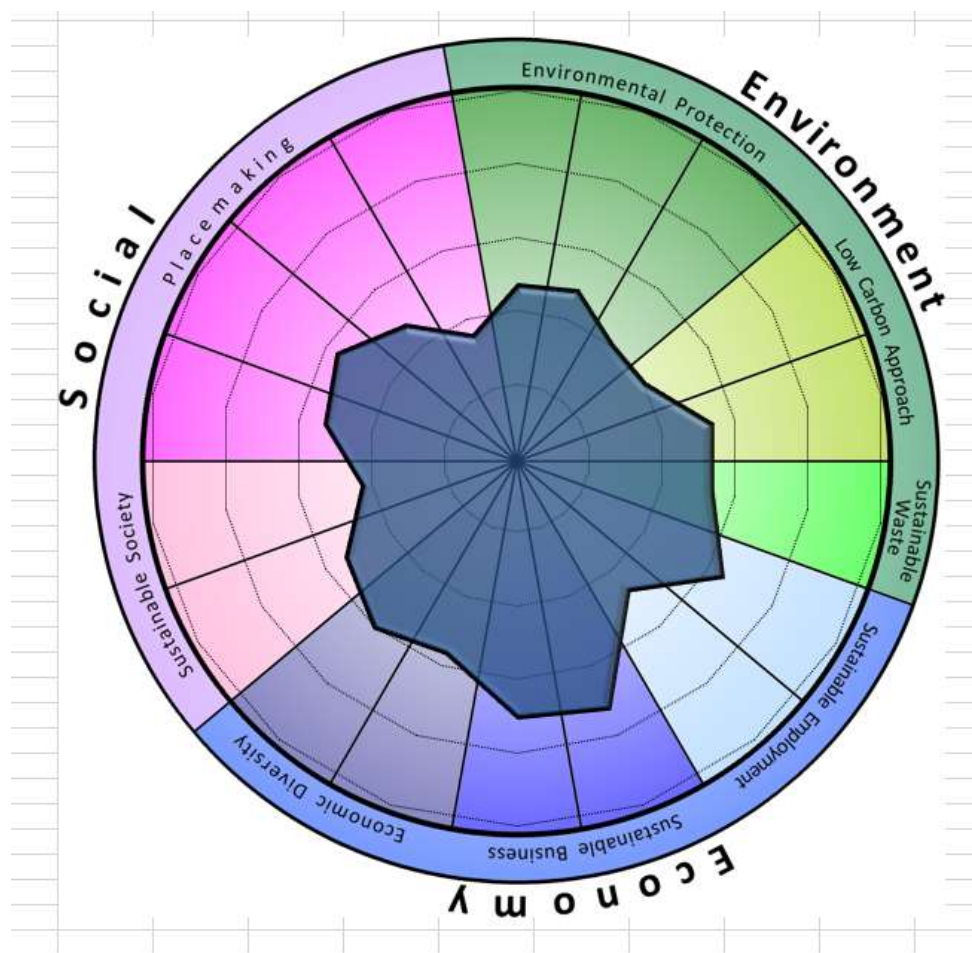


Figure 2 High Lane NDP Sustainability Wheel Assessment Output

There were no minus scoring elements resulting from the assessment of the High Lane NDP. This reflects the intent of the NDP to deliver good environmental outcomes. Only the Urban Heat Island impact was considered not applicable reflecting the more rural location of the village.

The outputs show that in environmental terms the NDP should perform well, aiming to protect and enhance environmental assets. There were no sites to be appraised as part of the NDP screening process. The appendix shows the detailed findings including justifications for the scores assigned to each criteria.

Section 5 - Conclusions

A statement setting out why the plan does / does not require SEA.

Based on the information within this SEA report and the appendix and draft Neighbourhood plan, this is our proposed statement:

The High Lane NDP Screening Assessment has clarified that no further SEA is required. This conclusion takes account of there being no likely significant environmental impacts identified regarding the emerging policies. The Sustainability Wheel findings support this statement. Furthermore no sites are proposed for allocation through the NDP which therefore means no likelihood of significant impact.

Section 6 Statutory consultee responses

The completed SEA report was sent on 16t August 2019 to the 3 statutory consultees, NE, HE and EA. Both NE and HE replied that they were satisfied and not further action was required.

The EA forwarded it to a local area team. No response was received which is not unusual where no issues are seen to respond to.

Response copied in Appendix 2

Appendix 1 – SEA Screening Detailed Breakdown

This table is taken from the completed Excel based Sustainability Wheel for High Lane Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening work. The CATEGORY sections reflect social, environmental and economic categories. Pink are social issues, green are environmental and blue are economic.

The Sustainability Wheel output (see Figure 2 on page 9 of this report) is derived from the scoring in this table. The justification text explains the scoring of the Decision Making Criteria and includes recommendations for amendments and enhancements of the Neighbourhood Plan.

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++;+;\n;-;-;?;\nNA	Justification
Sustainable Society	Protect and enhance human health	Will it improve human health?	+	Support for increased sustainable transport (including active travel) can improve health; affordable housing can support better health in the area through reduced stress of housing costs; expand on 'better amenities' to say improving access to and availability of recreational assets and Green Infrastructure could improve health.
		Will it reduce death rates?	+	policies to reduce air pollution, including transport emission, tree planting and access to green spaces.
		Will it reduce and/or manage limiting long term illnesses?	\	
		Will it reduce smoking, alcohol use and obesity?	\	
		Will it reduce accidents?	+	Traffic calming measures
		Will it foster a healthy environment for residents at work and at rest?	+	

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; -- ; ? ; NA	Justification
	redress inequalities related to age, gender, race, disability, faith, deprivation, locality	Will it reduce health inequalities?	+	Support for affordable homes to reduce causes of poverty, plus access to local social services
		Will it reduce poverty?	+	Support for affordable homes to reduce causes of poverty
		Will it help to create a cohesive community?	+	Better housing availability, and improved access to community facilities and green infrastructure aids cohesion
		Will it protect and improve existing community services and facilities?	+	
		Will it offer opportunities for residents to interact?	+	Better leisure for young and walking trails
		Will it ensure access to an affordable & decent home?	++	Propose more affordable housing
		Will it improve access to employment, particularly for low income families?	\	
		Will it encourage independent living?	+	Better retirement housing
Place making	improve equitable access to a healthier, happier and more sustainable lifestyle	Will it improve access to health & welfare services and information?	\	
		Will it ensure access as determined by Disability Discrimination Legislation?	\	
		Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including sustainable transport options?	+	
		Will it improve and increase access to leisure, physical activity & sport, cultural and arts facilities?	++	Better sports and walking/riding/cycling facilities
		Will it maintain and where possible increase the area and quality of green belt and green chain in Stockport?	+	Policies to increase GB quality Local Green Spaces
		Will it improve access to wildlife, wildlife sites and	+	Better footpath and parking

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; -- ; ? ; NA	Justification
		local green space?		
		Will it ensure access to local shops with supplies of locally and/or organically sourced healthy food?	+	Improve cycle, walkways and parking will promote local shopping
		Will it maintain or improve access to and provision of allotments?	\	
	Achieve a safe and just community	Will it help to create communities where people feel safe?	+	Improved road safety measures including crossing points and better segregation of people walking, cyclists and horse riders.
		Will it promote design that discourages crime / anti-social behaviour?	\	
		Will it promote a safe public transport system?	+	Re-instate buses and upgrade buses on existing routes, plus better bus shelters.
		Will it promote safe cycling and pedestrian routes?	+	Improve the accessibility and quality of existing off road routes and promote new ones for access that does not require the A6.
		Will it promote opportunities for reducing re-offending rates?	\	
	Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well	Will it promote use of standards such as C4SH & BREEAM?	+	The NP will positively support sustainable building including BREEAM and additional measures for materials, energy efficiency and the site development including cycling provision, public transport access and SUDS etc.
		Will it promote provision of appropriate housing dwelling mix and tenure?	+	Better housing mix affordable and bungalows
		Will it respect, protect and enhance existing sites, areas and settings of historical, archaeological, architectural or cultural interest?	+	Promotion and protection of heritage
		Will it encourage the use of sustainable transport options and reduce congestion?	+	Yes public transport Cycle parking

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; - - ; ? ; NA	Justification
		Will it encourage the use of innovative design including ideas such as passive solar, green roofs or creative use of space?	+	Yes policies on sustainable housing
		Will infrastructure be designed to promote development of such places, spaces and buildings?	\	
	enhance rural and urban local character and protect local distinctiveness	Will it promote the sensitive re-use of historic or culturally important buildings where appropriate?	++	Promote sensitive re-use of historic and culturally important buildings as part of village heritage enhancement including listed structures.
		Will it conserve and enhance local landscape character?	+	Promote tree planting with landowners
		Will it protect and enhance the uniqueness of places and spaces?	+	Create heritage based trails for the appreciation of the villages unique assets and the listing of distinctive views that give the village its own character
		Will it ensure local environmental quality is maintained and/or improved?	+	Enhance existing green spaces, and improve green infrastructure including walking, cycling and riding
Environmental Protection	Protect Biodiversity, Habitats and Species	Will it avoid damage to nationally and locally designated sites of nature conservation or geological interest?	+	Protect any registered sites and habitats and enhance nature especially on greenbelt and promote biodiversity for native species for wildlife.
		Will it create any new wildlife sites?	+	Include native planting promotion and options eg schools and landowner hedge rows
		Will it help protect any species at risk?	\	

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; -- ; ? ; NA	Justification
		Will it minimise fragmentation of habitats?	+	Protect any registered sites and habitats including green belt division. Policy to improve general biodiversity through improving wildlife/ecological corridors within designated area.
		Will it ensure protection against climate change impacts?	+	Transport policies to reduce emissions & promote cycling, walking and riding. Plus the sustainability of homes and any development plans
		Will it enhance biodiversity?	+	Need to address listed sites within the planning area to provide context (SBI's) etc. Appendix map and table (Angie)
	Conserve & protect natural resources	Will it maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface waters?	+	Need to reference rivers and ponds, plus links to SBI's where relevant.
		Will it ensure sustainable management of water courses?	+	Need to reference rivers protection of water quality as monitored by the EA
		Will it protect soil resources?	\	
		Will it protect agricultural land?	+	Protect Greenfield farming land
		Will it protect and enhance the natural environment resource of Stockport Borough?	+	Improve green space access for community
		Will it ensure sustainable management of our mineral resource?	NA	
	Reduce emissions	Will it reduce contamination and pollution of land?	+	Promote sustainable housing and Brownfield site re-development
		Will it reduce pollution of water systems?	+	The NP will seek to preserve and enhance natural assets within its area such as SBI's ecological corridors and water courses
		Will it help maintain and improve local air quality?	+	Promote sustainable transport especially Middle wood station access improvement as a car

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; -- ; ? ; NA	Justification
				alternative
		Will it minimise the environmental impact of travel (e.g. noise, air pollution, congestion)	+	Policies to reduce air pollution including public transport (Bus and train provision), reduces vehicle air, noise and water pollution
		Will it minimise or promote alternatives to the use of fossil fuels?	+	Sustainable energy for new homes
		Will it help to minimise carbon emissions?	+	Policies to favour public transport and sustainable housing
		Will it minimise excessive noise?	+	Traffic reduction
Low Carbon Approach	Mitigate and adapt to climate change	Will it encourage water efficiency, including recycling and re-use, through efficient building design and construction (including promotion of SUDS)?	+	Promotion of SUDS and natural planting in all new developments, including soft planting targets for all homes built.
		Will it minimise risk to people, property and ecosystems from flooding?	+	Protect Greenfield natural flood areas
		Will it encourage energy efficient buildings and the efficient use of energy?	+	Housing developments to be energy efficient housing
		Will it encourage low carbon technologies?	+	Promote housing sustainability including low carbon (embedded) materials and building methods
		Will it reduce Urban Heat Island effects?	NA	
		Will it encourage use of non-hard surfaces and reduce loss of permeable surfaces?	+	Promote natural planting to new builds, plus permeable surfaces for drives walkways etc. Including drainable concrete and permeable gravel for street tress etc.
		Will it encourage the use of innovative design (e.g. passive solar or green roofs)?	+	Promote a full range of sustainable innovations including Solar roof panels and water capture, self cleaning materials etc.

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; - - ; ? ; NA	Justification
		Will it reduce the need to travel?	+	Local affordable homes for you people working in village. Also better internet provision to support travel reduction through gon-line goods delivery rather than driving to shops etc.
	Minimise car use & encourage walking & cycling	Will it facilitate reduction of the distances needed to travel?	\	
		Will it help to reduce the reliance on the private car?	+	Promote busses and access to train stations, plus walking and cycling routes on and off road.
		Will it promote sustainable transport options using safety conscious design?	+	Safe parking and access to cycle ways/footpaths
		Will it help reduce traffic congestion?	\	
		Will it ensure adequate provision of facilities for cyclists and pedestrians?	+	Promote cycle parking, cycle routes and connections to Middlewood way
		Will it improve public transport provision?	+	Promote bus routes
Sustainable Waste	Minimise waste, re-use or recover through increased recycling and/or composting	Will it facilitate prevention, re-use and recycling of waste?	+	Promote recycling provision in all new homes, and use of recycle materials in their development
		Will it facilitate community waste management schemes?	\	
		Will it encourage appropriate design to facilitate Sustainable Waste Management by local agencies?	\	
		Will it encourage Site Waste Management Plans?	+	Promote the use of Site Waste Management Plans on new construction
		Will it promote sustainable consumption and production?	+	Promote sustainable contracting to any development including waste minimisation and recycling
		Will it encourage the disposal of waste as close to point of origin as possible?	+	Promote sustainable contracting to any development including waste minimisation and recycling & local re-use

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; - - ; ? ; NA	Justification
Sustainable Employment	Improve the options to achieve satisfying and rewarding work and reduce unemployment	Will it facilitate an increase in sustainable employment?	\	
		Will it reduce unemployment, underemployment & worklessness?	\	
		Will it improve access to employment opportunities?	+	Improving cycling and walking amenities may attract more passing trade for business
		Will it improve access to sustainable transport, particularly for commuting?	+	Encouraging more sustainable travel via bus and trains plus cycling
		Will it promote creation of a healthier working environment and workforce?	\	
	Invest in people, equipment, infrastructure and other assets	Will it improve sustainable access to education and training?	\	
		Will it improve the level of investment in community services and infrastructure?	+	
		Will it facilitate a low carbon economy?	+	The policies will help mitigate climate change through more sustainable transport and supporting proportionate development of housing and enhancing the green belt
		Will it facilitate businesses to take up ICT options before travel options?	+	Promoting better ICT for all new homes in area
		Will it support home working?	+	
		Will it assist organisations to implement green travel plans?	+	Promote sustainable developments through materials, technology and % soft planting etc.
	Sustainable Business	Assist and encourage sustainable business practices	Will it encourage businesses to invest in sustainable practices including improving efficiencies?	\
Will it encourage development which ensures businesses can operate more sustainably?			\	

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; - - ; ? ; NA	Justification
	including creating future sustainable citizens	Will it offer opportunities for employees to engage in sustainable commuting and travel for work?	+	Promote improve public transport access by bus and rail (e.g. Middlewood station access)
		Will it encourage the provision of education & training facilities which promote the ideals of sustainable development?	\	
		Will it offer the opportunity to improve the skills of employers and employees in sustainable business practices?	\	
	Support sustainable local business start up and retention	Will it support sustainable business development?	+	Promote high lane recreational stopping place for Middlewood and other recreational facilities
		Will it assist with business retention where appropriate?	\	
		Will it encourage the development of social enterprise?	\	
		Will it support small & medium business development?	\	
Economic Diversity	Encourage innovation and new business development particularly in the sustainability sector	Will it encourage innovation in existing business and new business development?	+	Promoting sustainable design policies for all new development in the areas including materials, access and drainage etc.
		Will it encourage development of businesses serving a sustainable lifestyle?	\	
		Will it increase access to facilities and services which offer opportunities for a more sustainable lifestyle?	+	Promotion of cycling, walking and horse riding in area would support local supplier businesses in High Lane and adjacent retail areas (Disley/Marple)
		Will it facilitate an increase in the number of businesses working in the sustainability field?	\	
		Will it promote local sustainable tourism (e.g. EcoHotels, Farm B&B)?	+	Local agri business will benefit from promotion of horse riding and livery in area through

CATEGORY	Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Score: ++ ; + ; \ ; - ; -- ; ? ; NA	Justification
				improved bridal way access
	Deliver a spread of business types by sector & geography	Will it contribute to the vitality and viability of an existing centre, including sub-urban economic sectors?	+	Potential to improve livery employment
		Will it encourage the diversification of employment in the Borough?	+	More affordable housing will enable more young people to live in High Lane and be employed by local businesses especially elderly care/livery etc.
		Will it foster the establishment of local businesses with skills to further enhance a sustainable Stockport?	\	
		Will it increase businesses set up by Female / Younger and Older / BME / Disabled Business People	\	

Appendix 2 Statutory consultee responses

A Natural England

Date: 16 August 2019

Our ref: 292155

Your ref: High Lane Village Neighbourhood Plan

XXX, Chair, High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House, Crewe Business Park, Electra Way, Crewe, Cheshire. CW1 6GJ

Tel. ZZZZZ

Dear Mr XXX

High Lane Village Neighbourhood Plan – SEA screening opinion request

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16 August 2019 which was received by Natural England on 16 August 2019

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- 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.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

YYY

Consultations Team

B Historic England

Mr XXX, High Lane Neighbourhood Forum

Our ref: PL00612522

27 August 2019

Dear Mr XXX

High Lane Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above document. At this stage we have no comments to make on its content.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

YYY, Business Officer

C Environment Agency

Note: The documentation was forwarded to the are office at EA Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire. No response was received. This is not unusual where they see no issue with the SEA.

Good afternoon XXX,

I have passed your e-mail to the local customer team who will deal with your request.

The Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations state that a public authority must respond to requests for information within 20 working days, but we aim to respond to all enquiries as quickly as we can.

You can find more information about our service commitment by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-customer-service-commitment>

You can contact our customer team directly on the contact details below, or call the National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506506 who will transfer you to the area team.

Please quote your enquiry reference 190820/CMC06 in any correspondence with us regarding this matter.

Customers and Engagement
Environment Agency
Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Area
Richard Fairclough House
Knutsford Road
Latchford
Warrington
WA4 1HT

Kind regards

YYY

Customer Service Advisor, Email Management Unit, NCCC
Contact Centre Services - Part of Operations, Regulation & Customer

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 Tel: ZZZZZ

 Web Site: www.gov.uk/environment-agency