

BARROW NEWS



Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan

December 2015

Neighbourhood Plan

Over the past couple of years, Barrow upon Soar Parish Council have taken the first steps towards producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan offers the chance for residents and businesses to have their say on future development within the parish and influence how their neighbourhood evolves. Barrow faces many challenges and opportunities over the coming years. By working together we can ensure the village develops in a way that meets the needs of everyone.

Last year we consulted those living and working in the village, together with key stakeholders, asking how you wish to see the village develop to 2028. This leaflet is a summary of the key issues you have raised and options for the future of the village. The full Issues and Options Report is available to download from www.barrowpc.org.uk. Paper copies are available at:

- The Parish Council Office
- The Library
- The Paper Shop

What is a neighbourhood plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. A Neighbourhood Plan can set out a vision for an area and planning policies for use and development of land. Like other plans, the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory planning framework for the area and it will be used to decide future planning applications.

“The neighbourhood plan gives us a chance to say how development should take place. Without it, developers will make those choices for us”

- Peter Cantle

Chairman of the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan and Localism Committee



The Barrow Kipper

Our vision for 2028:

- Retain village character
- A vibrant village centre
- Key services and facilities are retained and there is a new community centre
- Important open areas have been protected
- New homes provide for local housing needs
- Our heritage is protected and is reflected in the design of new developments
- There are good transport links between different parts of the village.



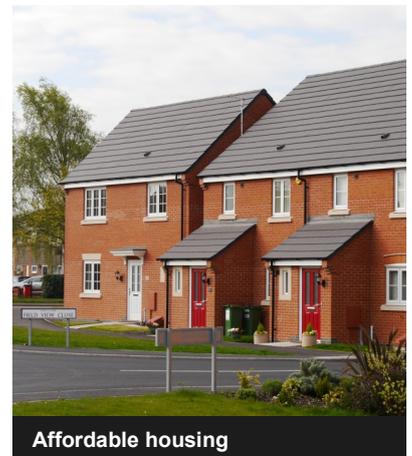
Jelson's proposed development at Melton Road

Melton Road

After a long-running campaign against plans to build almost 300 houses at Melton Road, outline permission was granted by a Government-appointed planning inspector and ratified by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The detailed plans were submitted to Charnwood BC in February 2015 for 292 dwellings.

It is too late for our Neighbourhood Plan to influence this development, but we know that there is pressure from builders for more sites in the village.



Affordable housing

How much housing development and where?

We don't have an entirely free hand over how the plan is prepared. We must have regard to the Government's national planning policies and the development plan for the area- the Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy).

Taking account of Jelson's Melton Road development and other sites that have already been built and permitted, there is no need to find further sites for housing development in the village.

Housing options

The presumption is that our Neighbourhood Plan should not plan for further significant housing development. However, ongoing community consultation will be used to explore whether local people are prepared to support more housing if it helped deliver a new, multi-use community centre and/or homes that met specific needs e.g. older persons housing.

Housing needs

We want to plan for a mix of housing to meet the needs of people living locally. The provision of market housing units which cater for older households is a key supply gap which urgently needs to be addressed.

There is also a need for affordable housing- social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.

Traffic

Traffic entering and leaving Barrow via the A6 concentrates onto the historic Barrow Road Bridge, a listed building. This is single lane and signal controlled. It is already at capacity at peak times and additional traffic will make the problem worse. There is no easy way to improve the bridge.

The alternative route to and from the A6 via Slash Lane is regularly inundated by flooding by the River Soar. This also applies occasionally to Mountsorrel Lane. These closures cause widespread congestion on the remaining available routes and can affect bus service as traffic travelling from Sileby is diverted through Barrow when Slash Lane and Mountsorrel are not passable.

The expansion of Barrow upon Soar is constrained without public investment in the road improvements.



Traffic congestion

Protecting the character of Barrow upon Soar

We want to conserve the unique character and identity of Barrow. We will do this by safeguarding the local landscape, protecting the countryside between the village and nearby settlements, identifying green areas of local importance within Barrow, protecting and enhancing heritage assets and the natural environment, and through the design of new buildings.

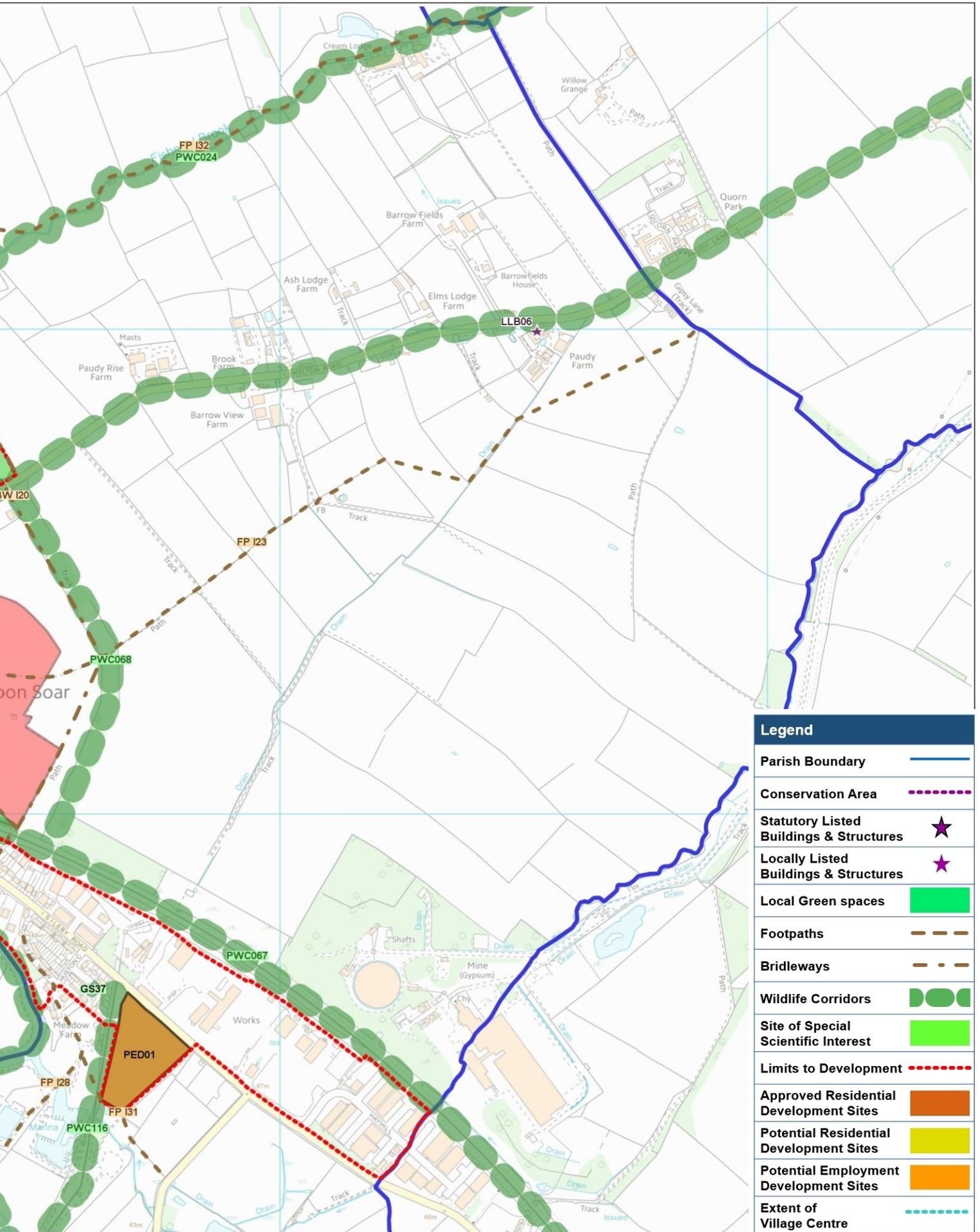
Green Spaces

Important green spaces were also identified by local people during consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan in September 2014. Millennium Park and King George V Park are particularly important to local people. Other valued green spaces include the canal and river corridor, the Glebe Allotments, cricket field, Mill Lane Park, Willow Road Parks, the Melton Road/ Branston Avenue amenity area, Pigs Close to Mill Lane Park and the Culverts. Young people also highlighted all these spaces as being important to them. Proposed Local Green Spaces are identified on the policies map.

Heritage

There are 25 buildings in Barrow upon Soar listed by Historic England for their special architectural or historic interest. They include the II* listed Church of the Holy Trinity.

The neighbourhood plan has given local people their chance to give their views on local heritage. In addition to the nationally designated heritage assets, the Barrow upon Soar Heritage Group has identified other buildings and structures of local importance.



Legend	
Parish Boundary	
Conservation Area	
Statutory Listed Buildings & Structures	
Locally Listed Buildings & Structures	
Local Green spaces	
Footpaths	
Bridleways	
Wildlife Corridors	
Site of Special Scientific Interest	
Limits to Development	
Approved Residential Development Sites	
Potential Residential Development Sites	
Potential Employment Development Sites	
Extent of Village Centre	

Proctors Park

Proctors, now a caravan site, was built in the 1950s and '60s as a thriving pleasure park which attracted visitors who arrived on special trains. In November 2012, following heavy overnight rain the Soar burst its banks, flooding Proctor's Caravan Park notwithstanding previous flood alleviation works designed to cope with a 1:100 flooding event

Proctors Park plays an important part in the history of the village, but our survey showed that many people would like to see its appearance improved.



View looking towards Proctors Park at time of 2012 flood

Community Centre

There is a good range of clubs, societies and social organisations in the village. Some of these use the facilities at Humphrey Perkins School. The school has extensive facilities which are available for private hire on week day evenings and weekends. However, the facilities are used by the school during term-time and are also too large and expensive for many community groups.

In our 2014/15 questionnaire survey, 28% of residents said that a dedicated community building was essential and a further 53% said it was desirable. Since then, BuSCA have had further discussions about the possible location of a new Community Centre.

Nature conservation

Barrow Gravel Pits is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and comprises one of the best remaining complexes of open water, grassland, scrub and woodland in Leicestershire possessing a rich flora and fauna representative of flood plain habitats in the English Midlands.

The whole stretch of the River Soar within Charnwood has been notified as a Local Wildlife Site and functions as a major wildlife corridor across the landscape; it supports key species, such as the otter, and rare aquatic plants such as the grass-wracked pondweed.

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken between May 2010 and March 2012 during which ten potentially important wildlife corridors were identified in the parish.



River Soar

Village Centre

Nearly all of us depend on the village centre for meeting friends and colleagues, for shopping, entertainment, leisure, culture, public services, worship and transport. The village centre provides jobs and the businesses there depend on its vitality for survival, profits and growth.

Barrow's centre helps to address the day-to-day needs of village residents and the immediate area. There are very few vacancies, but the opportunities for expanding the centre are limited. Local people generally feel that the village centre is thriving and meets their day-to-day needs. While some local people would like to see a bank and public conveniences, the main concerns relate to car parking.

Our Neighbourhood Plan needs to consider the consumer trends that are likely to impact on our village centre.



Village Centre

Services and Facilities

Local residents have access to a good range of services and facilities. The Village Centre contains a supermarket, newsagent, post office, pharmacy, takeaways, dentist, optician, a library and health centre. The village also has both a primary and secondary school.

Health Centre

The health centre was purpose built in 1980 around which time the practice list of 5,500 was broadly comparable to the population. The current population of Barrow upon Soar is circa 6,000 but the practice list is around 8,800. The health centre is operating at 70% over-capacity. There is no prospect of NHS funded capital investment at present.

Hall Orchard C of E Primary School

Hall Orchard is a large primary school in Leicestershire with 447 pupils on the school roll. A phased programme of works is already in place to accommodate the current number of planning applications that have been granted but works have not yet started.

Community Library

Barrow upon Soar has a small library in the centre of the village which provides a limited range of services for the local community. Last year, Leicestershire County Council decided that the village library will have to be run by volunteers or face closure. Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BuSCA) therefore took over the management of the local library from 27 July 2015.

Let us know what you think

Along with this newsletter we have prepared a questionnaire which seeks your views on the main issues facing Barrow upon Soar. We encourage every member of your household to complete this questionnaire.

The questionnaire is available online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BuSNPQuestionnaire>

Your completed questionnaire should be returned by 22 January 2016.

Paper copies of the questionnaire are available from and can be returned to the Parish Council Office.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the neighbourhood plan

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