

Keele Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

Mission

To consult residents and employers within Keele Parish and develop a neighbourhood plan for the future development of Keele Parish that reflects current and future needs.

Vision

Keele's unique character and heritage is retained and planned development maintains the rural character and economy of the parish

Values

- Involving the Community
- Making it happen
- Creating a delightful place to live, work and learn
- Supporting the rural economy

Commentary

Keele is a unique community in which the village, countryside and university combine to create a delightful place to live, work, learn, research or just relax. The last hundred years have seen great change in the parish and undoubtedly the coming decades will bring further change.

The purpose of the Keele Neighbourhood Plan is to work with stakeholders to develop a vision to guide development in such a way that the rural character of the parish is maintained, its rural economy is supported and its heritage conserved for future generations. Equally, the rural environment depends upon agriculture whose needs the plan will need to address and we would hope to see **small business thrive, bringing** much needed employment alongside that provided by the university.

As the national population grows so may the local population and we recognise the need to provide additional housing within the parish. This is perhaps the most sensitive aspect of the plan. Our Green Belt is not a given and may be subject to change **in the development of the** Joint Local Plan of Newcastle and Stoke Councils. Nevertheless, the Parish Council remains absolutely committed to preserving it and resisting high density development which would see Keele becoming a suburb of Newcastle. Areas do exist, both within and outside the village, where small scale building projects of appropriately designed houses could provide for a growing population and offer a range of dwellings including much needed starter homes and affordable accommodation.

Keele is a welcoming and closely knit community, maintaining this cohesiveness will be important in preserving its character. The village pub and Hawthorns' shop are very important assets and we would seek to protect them from the fate which has already befallen the village post-office. Other facilities could be developed in the village to complement those on the university campus. As the population grows and changes, we may need to consider a redevelopment of the village hall, we lack a children's playground and we are a village without a village green!

Irrespective of these **thoughts**, the Neighbourhood Plan will be developed using the information we gather in consultation with you and by volunteers from within the community. Once drafted and approved by the Local Planning Authority and independently examined, it will be subject to a referendum of all those registered to vote within the Parish. Only if the majority approve will the plan become a statutory part of the Borough's planning process.