

Briefing Note for Shenstone Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting: 9 September 2025

This briefing note is submitted to assist Parish Councillors in their consideration of the revised Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It highlights three areas of significant concern: procedural fairness, the removal of Green Belt protections, and the deferral of the Claverdon Park Conservation Area extension.

1. Procedural fairness

A large number of households were not notified of the consultation, including in Little Aston Park and Claverdon Park. This omission is contrary to Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 and the fairness principles established in *R (Moseley) v Haringey [2014] UKSC 56*. The consultation process must therefore be re-run to ensure compliance and full community engagement.

2. Green Belt protections

The current draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has removed the explicit Green Belt policy (Policy GB1 in the 2015–2029 Plan). This leaves Little Aston exposed to speculative development, particularly in light of recent national discussions around potential ‘Greybelt’ release. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, para 138) sets out five purposes of the Green Belt, including preventing urban sprawl, protecting the countryside, and preserving historic character. The NP should reinstate a clear, enforceable Green Belt policy aligned with the NPPF.

3. Claverdon Park Conservation Area

The 2015–2029 Neighbourhood Plan recorded a commitment to include Claverdon Park within the Conservation Area by 2029. The current draft defers this to 2040. While statutory designation rests with Lichfield District Council under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the NP is the appropriate vehicle to reflect community support for the 2029 commitment. Retaining the earlier date would help safeguard local character in the interim.

This briefing note is intended to support informed discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 9 September 2025. For full context, I have also submitted a detailed representation pack to Lichfield District Council.