

# **Motion to Shenstone Parish Council meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## **Lichfield Local Plan 2043**

### **District Council Request for Parish Council Participation.**

#### **Introduction.**

Cllrs Thompson, Jones, Salter and Whitehouse attended a Lichfield Parish Councils Network meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. At that meeting it was disclosed that Lichfield District Council (LDC) wants to hear the “local knowledge” of Parish Councillors on the expressions of interest submitted to the LDC in the autumn of 2024. Following the meeting I was concerned about this request I secured the guidance provided by LDC officers and the example given was of Parish Councillor knowledge on the “capacity of sewers” or the traffic concerns in respect of “already busy roundabouts”. The deadline for any Shenstone Parish Council views is 31<sup>st</sup> October.

#### **Implications of the request by LDC.**

1. The LDC call for sites from developers and landowners last autumn resulted in many expressions of interest in housing and non housing developments being submitted in and around the villages of Stonnall, Shenstone and Little Aston.
2. The formal review or evaluation of each of the expressions of interest is for the Local Planning Authority to undertake linked to greenbelt, flooding, infrastructure, transport and other environmental assessments in advance of the next stage of formal Local Plan consultation in the spring of 2026.
3. Any informal consultation during the period before the formal next stage next spring seeking the opinions from Parish Councillors the many of whom do not have the technical skills or experience risks devaluing what should be a formal, objective, statutory process.
4. Any informal consultation during the period before the formal next stage next spring seeking the opinions from Parish Councillors on issues about which there will be very significant local interest will undermine the credibility of the formal Local Plan preparation process.

5. Any informal consultation as proposed will inevitably increase the exposure of Parish Council and the Local Plan process to challenges of development site decision making subjectivity or even development site predetermination.
6. Informal comments made by local Parish Councillors into a formal Local Plan process ahead of formal comments from local residents risk trust in Parish Councils being eroded
7. The request for informal views in the way requested by LDC could lead to challenges of non compliance with the spirit of Nolan in respect of objectivity, accountability and openness.

### **Recommendation.**

The Parish Council approves the following response...

Shenstone Parish Council thanks Lichfield District Council for the their invitation for informal view on the 2024 expressions of interest in developing land by owners and developers (known as the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment sites) and will reserve its position until the next open, formal stage of the 2043 Local Plan process.