

# BALSALL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## Annex 1

### Community Aspirations

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**2018 - 2033**

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HOUSING



REFERENDUM



P = PLAN

STRUCTURE

USES



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. Balsall Parish Council produced a Balsall Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2018 - 2033<sup>1</sup> using a range of evidence from the community:
  - Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017<sup>2</sup>;
  - Business Survey January – February 2018<sup>3</sup>;
  - Questionnaire Results Exhibition Feedback and Consultation April 2018<sup>4</sup>;
  - Focus Group Interviews with groups and organisations in Balsall March – May 2018<sup>5</sup>;
  - Housing Needs Survey Final Report June 2018<sup>6</sup>.

In addition to evidence used to support the policies now in the Plan, a large amount of data was collected that informed a series of Community Aspirations.

2. Community Aspirations 1 – 10 are contained in this Annex to the Plan and cover matters wider than those relating to development and use of land. They express the key concerns of the Balsall parish community that it considers would improve life in Balsall parish.
3. Implementation of these Community Aspirations has not, in most cases, been attributed to a single agent to bring about. They can therefore be used to influence the many agents, public, private and community, working in the area to carry these ambitions forward.

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<sup>2</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0>

<sup>3</sup>Balsall Parish Council Business Survey January – February 2018  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/emxfomthf9r52e1/B.%20Business%20Survey%20Results%20Report%202018%20.pdf?dl=0>

<sup>4</sup>Balsall Parish Council Questionnaire Results Exhibition Feedback and Consultation April 2018  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8i9wyycz9h9q8kz/C.%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Exhibition%20Feedback%20and%20Consultation%20April%202018.pdf?dl=0>

<sup>5</sup>Balsall Parish Council Focus Group Interviews 2018  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cipko04f4vmj2s6/E.%20Focus%20Group%20Interviews%20May%202018.pdf?dl=0>

<sup>6</sup>Balsall Parish Council Housing Needs Survey Final Report June 2018  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8tdray9wve3e4ko/D.%20Housing%20Needs%20Survey%20Report%20June%202018.pdf?dl=0>



## 2. COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

### COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.1: New Homes

Development on allocated Solihull Local Plan housing sites that will utilise the same construction routes as HS2 contractors should be avoided at the same time as HS2 construction because of the potential disruption to existing residents caused by avoidable increased congestion.

The Parish Council will liaise with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council regarding the potential phasing of the strategic housing allocations in Balsall parish to minimise disruption to existing residents. Any allocation should include a Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme and Routing agreements for construction traffic.

### Explanation

4. Balsall Common will be one of the least accessible locations in the whole of the Borough during the construction of HS2 because of the impact on the transport infrastructure. Proposed sites for housing to the south and north of Balsall Common have been identified as low accessibility in the Draft Solihull Local Plan Review accessibility study<sup>7</sup>. Balsall Common residents have a high proportion of entrepreneurial, educated and professional individuals who use the village as a base and need to be very mobile. Additional construction traffic caused by developing proposed housing sites at the same time as the construction of HS2 would seriously reduce accessibility affecting a high proportion of residents' lives over an extended unreasonable period of years.
5. "73% of respondents agree/support the case for no new housing to be constructed in or around Balsall Common until after completion of the HS2 construction in 2026."<sup>8</sup>

### COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.2: Affordable Housing

There is support for the provision of appropriate affordable housing.

If possible, tenures should be secured in perpetuity or alternatively a S106 legal agreement with registered providers is secured so that funding from full shared ownership sales receipts is reinvested in affordable housing.

<sup>7</sup>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Solihull Accessibility Mapping Methodology Report 2016  
[https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LPR/Accessibility\\_Mapping\\_Methodology\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LPR/Accessibility_Mapping_Methodology_Report_2016.pdf)

<sup>8</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 2



## Explanation

6. There is an emerging miss-alignment between the types and sizes of homes available in the neighbourhood area and the needs of the community. Demand is shifting towards relatively smaller housing for older households to downsize; for young families and for people living on their own. Balsall parish is in an area where the price of open market housing is high, some households will be unable to buy open market homes if they wish to stay local to the parish, family or community links. There is a Borough wide need reflected in Balsall parish by a lack of suitable affordable accommodation to meet this increasing demand. This plan endorses the latest policy within the Solihull Local Plan to provide a minimum of 40% affordable housing on strategic housing sites allocated in the Solihull Local Plan review.
7. In the Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Final report: "...60% wanted to see low cost starter homes, 45% bungalows and 40% homes that are dedicated for local people only.... It is recognised that low-cost starter homes is a generic term for shared ownership and fixed equity. Fixed equity might not be appropriate due to high local prices and low incomes."<sup>9</sup>
8. Asked whether the household was currently looking for alternative housing in the Parish, 13% of respondents said they were – 147 in total:
  - 91% would like a home they could own, 11% required rented and 7% shared ownership.
  - For those looking for additional accommodation in the Parish, 82% wish to own a property, 29% rent and 22% have a shared ownership arrangement.
  - Asked why the individual, couple or group needs additional accommodation, 46 need to own their own home, 22 need a less expensive home and 17 need to be closer to relatives...
  - From the questionnaire sample, 173 people have left the Parish in the last five years because there was no affordable and/or suitable housing available.<sup>10</sup>
9. This aspiration is to support decisions that are responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) should support opportunities to bring forward rural exception sites that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs and consider whether allowing some market housing on these sites would help to facilitate this.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 5

<sup>10</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 5

<sup>11</sup>Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government National Planning Policy Framework February 2019  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NP\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NP_Feb_2019_revised.pdf) para, 77

10. The overwhelming conclusion from the focus groups with community organisations is that Balsall Common needs more housing to provide affordable homes for younger age residents – single people, young couples and young families with children.<sup>12</sup>

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.3: Design Review Panels

Developments of more than 20 dwellings or of a sensitive nature potentially affecting existing dwellings and/or local character will be expected to go through a local design review process. The Design Review Panel should be established by Solihull MBC. The comments of the Design Review Panel or similar panel of experts should be taken into account in the determination of all applications. The use of a Design Review Panel may be necessary for smaller scale developments where there is a particular sensitivity affecting the site.

The decision as to whether or not a development will be referred to the Design Review Panel should be established at pre- application stage to avoid unnecessary delays.

## Explanation

11. This aspiration envisages that Solihull MBC will establish design panels for developing proposals identified within the local plan. The local planning authority has already established a process of developer consultation on masterplans for strategic housing sites with the community and the design review panels would be an extension of this. The use of Design Review Panels on that proportion of a site that forms part of the masterplan and which is outside the Neighbourhood Area is encouraged.
12. Solihull MBC should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development. These include workshops to engage the local community, design advice and review arrangements, and assessment frameworks such as Building for Life. These are of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes and are particularly important for significant projects such as large-scale housing and mixed-use developments. In assessing applications, local planning authorities should have regard to the outcome from these processes, including any recommendations made by design review panels.<sup>13</sup>
13. “Asked what future development should look like 93% were in favour of well-designed small clusters of houses, 83% wanted a mixed development with different types and sizes of housing”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Balsall Parish Council Focus Group Interviews 2018

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cipko04f4vmj2s6/E.%20Focus%20Group%20Interviews%20May%202018.pdf?dl=0>

<sup>13</sup>Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government National Planning Policy Framework February 2019 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NP\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NP_Feb_2019_revised.pdf) para, 129

<sup>14</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017 [https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%](https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20)

14. Plans for developments should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable. Design policies should be developed with local communities, so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics.<sup>15</sup> The Character Assessment, Appendix to the Balsall Parish Neighbourhood Plan, identifies the special qualities of each area of character within the Neighbourhood Area and acts as a guide to how this should be reflected in development.

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.4: Village Centre Road Safety and Parking Improvements

This aspiration proposes a new design concept for the village centre aimed at achieving:

- a) a reduction in traffic congestion in the village centre on the approach to the central roundabout;
- b) increasing both driver and pedestrian safety in the shopping area;
- c) providing extra off-road parking behind the centre shops;
- d) providing a more desirable central location giving better community focus for the village as a whole; and
- e) reduction in speeding.

A new design\* could consist of providing a "shared space" environment on the stretch of Station Road from the Meeting House Lane junction to the central roundabout. This would incorporate central parking and raised pedestrian crossings. Through traffic would be slowed, parking would be easier with less obstruction to through traffic. Pedestrians would find it much easier to cross from one side to another. The community as a whole would benefit from a central location providing a versatile open space with a relaxing "coffee culture" and café atmosphere. An improved design for the car park behind Tesco would be integrated with the redesign of the shopping parade.

Balsall Common (Balsall parish) as a whole requires a comprehensive plan to inhibit speeding through the village.

\*The review of this concept and viable alternatives should be led by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council through consultation with Balsall and Berkswell Parish Councils.

[20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0](#) page 3

<sup>15</sup>Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government National Planning Policy Framework February 2019 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NP\\_PF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NP_PF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf) para, 125



Figure 1 Shared Space Parking Concept

## Explanation

15. There is an opportunity for an improved focus of retail activity and commercial services for the local community developed around a much-needed improved village centre. Depending on the level of additional housing it is anticipated that Solihull MBC will play a leading role in the development of the emerging small-town centre.
16. In the Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire residents were given options as to what they would like to see provided in the village centre. Nine in ten wished to see improved parking, 57% improved traffic flow at the roundabout and 55% a pedestrian crossing.... 17% felt the need for a multi-story car park/better parking/new car parking.<sup>16</sup>
17. At the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Results Exhibition and Consultation<sup>17</sup>, the example of a shared space concept received the following feedback:

“It is clear that the vast majority of respondents think a shared space layout will benefit both drivers and pedestrians.” 88% of respondents completing feedback after viewing shared space proposals at the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Results Exhibition and Consultation supported the proposals.

...73% felt speeding was a problem. 64% of respondents were of the opinion that traffic/speed restrictions be introduced and 61% felt the road surfaces needed

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<sup>16</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 2

<sup>17</sup>Balsall Parish Council Questionnaire Results Exhibition Feedback and Consultation April 2018  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8i9wycz9h9q8kz/C.%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Exhibition%20Feedback%20and%20Consultation%20April%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 2





improving. Asked their opinion on traffic and parking in the parish, 156 respondents (19%) mentioned speeding in Station Road, 107 or 13% said speeding in Kenilworth Road.

Three-quarters of business respondents would support a shared space (traffic/pedestrian improvement scheme) to improve parking traffic flow and appearance in the village centre.

“By far the most popular comment was that *shared space* was a great idea and an improvement. It was thought to be well laid out and of an attractive design. Respondents considered it was much needed, as current parking is an issue. Other positive mentions included improved safety and of benefit for the whole village/area.”

18. Solihull Highways Department produced automated traffic data for the volume of traffic passing through the village centre of Balsall Common in 2013.

<b>BALSALL COMMON TRAFFIC SURVEY BY SOLIHULL HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT</b>				
<b>INBOUND AND OUTBOUND - COMBINED AGGREGATE WEEKLY FIGURES</b>				
DATES OF SURVEY: Week commencing 18th September 2013				
SITE OF SURVEY: Balsall Common village centre***				
<b>Weekday total</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Weekday Total</b>	<b>Weekday Total</b>	<b>Weekend total</b>
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	<b>daytime</b>	<b>AM peak</b>	<b>PM peak</b>	<b>(Saturday and Sunday)</b>
	<b>(0.700-19.00)</b>	<b>07.30-09.30)</b>	<b>16.30-18.30)</b>	
33820	27395	4755	5325	10194
***Central roundabout on A452 Kenilworth Road through to the Station Road junction with Meeting House Lane				

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.5: Village Bypass Road

A bypass for the A452 to redirect through traffic around the village of Balsall Common and to reduce congestion along the Kenilworth Road is needed. This new bypass would mean the current trunk route along the Kenilworth Road becoming a local road for access. This would replace the existing trunk through road with a more environmentally friendly core for the local community with the potential for walkways and cycle routes.

During the construction of HS2 haul routes should be implemented to minimise the need for construction traffic to use the main trunk road A452 through Balsall Common (Balsall parish).

## Explanation

19. Residents overwhelmingly support a long overdue bypass for Balsall Common. The village is a notorious borough congestion hot spot and a bypass will relieve existing congestion and provide better access for new housing developments. A bypass to reduce traffic on the main A452 artery and connecting roads through the village and create the opportunity to incorporate walkways and cycle paths within the village to reduce car use for short journeys is required.
20. A continuous haul route for HS2 construction traffic and a bypass would facilitate the transformation of Balsall Common settlement with cycle paths connecting housing with facilities and the station. This will reduce the effects of pollution on residents, enhance road safety and improve health by encouraging walking and cycling within the village boundary. There will be a significantly increasing elderly population in the village and their mobility will be improved by reducing traffic within the village.<sup>18</sup>
21. In the Household Questionnaire 2017 there was strong support for a bypass to be built around the village for through traffic (85%).”<sup>19</sup>
22. Support for a bypass increases to 90% of households in responses from Balsall Parish only.<sup>20</sup>
23. During the Balsall Parish Council local plan consultation process, 87% of residents attending the Solihull Local Plan Consultation Event held at St Peter’s Hall on 11 February 2017 supported a bypass to relieve the congestion on the roads within Balsall Common village.<sup>21</sup>
24. “72% of business respondents would support a bypass to be built around Balsall Common to reduce congestion in the village and improve transport links.”<sup>22</sup>
25. A third of businesses felt traffic in the area affected their business. A fifth thought their business suffered from transport issues as a result of being located in the Plan area.

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<sup>18</sup>Balsall Parish Council Draft Local Plan Response 2017

<http://www.balsallparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/160217-Draft-Local-Plan-Response-PUBLIC160217-1.pdf>

<sup>19</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 2

<sup>20</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 1

<sup>21</sup>Balsall Parish Council Draft Local Plan Response 2017

<http://www.balsallparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/160217-Draft-Local-Plan-Response-PUBLIC160217-1.pdf>

<sup>22</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 2



26. "97% of residents agreed that Balsall Common needs a continuous haul route for HS2 construction traffic to avoid using roads in and immediately around the village."<sup>23</sup>
27. Businesses are reliant on car and vehicle journeys and would like to see less congestion.<sup>24</sup>
28. Solihull Highways Department produced automated traffic data for the volume of traffic passing along Kenilworth Road in September 2013. Whilst this is somewhat out of date there is no reason to think that the volume of traffic has reduced since then. Indeed, comparable data for 2012 showed a significant increase in that one year alone:

<b>BALSALL COMMON TRAFFIC SURVEY BY SOLIHULL HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT</b>				
<b>INBOUND AND OUTBOUND - COMBINED AGGREGATE WEEKLY FIGURES</b>				
DATES OF SURVEY: Week commencing 18th September 2013				
SITE OF SURVEY: Kenilworth Road south of the Lavender Hall Lane junction				
<b>Weekday total</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Weekday Total</b>	<b>Weekday Total</b>	<b>Weekend total</b>
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	<b>daytime</b>	<b>AM peak</b>	<b>PM peak</b>	<b>(Saturday and Sunday)</b>
	<b>(0.700-19.00)</b>	<b>07.30-09.30)</b>	<b>16.30-18.30)</b>	
109865	90531	17185	20300	21836
<i>78442</i>				<i>23128</i>

The italicised figures are readings taken by Axiom Traffic Ltd in March 2012 in support of the Sainsbury planning application when it took over the old Total petrol station

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.6: Improved Mobile Reception and Faster Broadband

Improvement in the speed of broadband and mobile connectivity is needed for business effectiveness and to support home working.

### Explanation

29. "42% of those responding to the question about what improvements were

<sup>23</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 2

<sup>24</sup>Balsall Parish Council Business Survey January – February 2018  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/emxfomthf9r52e1/B.%20Business%20Survey%20Results%20Report%202018%20.pdf?dl=0> page 6



needed on infrastructure said they felt “the mobile reception required improvement...24% wanted faster broadband...”<sup>25</sup>

30. 34% of households responding have one or more people working permanently at home;<sup>26</sup> and for those running a business in the area 88% experience poor broadband or mobile reception.<sup>27</sup> 31. “The number of radio and electronic communications masts, and the sites for such installations, should be kept to a minimum consistent with the needs of consumers, the efficient operation of the network and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion. Use of existing masts, buildings and other structures for new electronic communications capability (including wireless) should be encouraged. Where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.”<sup>28</sup>

## POLICY CA.7: Leisure Facilities

Existing formal and informal sport and recreational facilities in the Neighbourhood Area should be protected, enhanced and expanded where appropriate.

Where appropriate, CIL funds will be used to provide new and/or enhance existing sports and recreation facilities in order to ensure a suitable quantum and quality is available for the Neighbourhood Area.

## Explanation

32. In the Household Questionnaire 2017 use of a facility outside of the Neighbourhood Area: “43% went to Lavender Hall Park on a daily or weekly basis. 11% went to the Holly Lane Playing Fields on a daily or weekly basis and exactly one in ten used the Village Hall weekly.”<sup>29</sup>

33. “19% of the sample went to Willow Park at least monthly, 2% use the park daily

<sup>25</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 3

<sup>26</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 40

<sup>27</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 46

<sup>28</sup>Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government National Planning Policy Framework February 2019  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NP\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NP_Feb_2019_revised.pdf) para, 113

<sup>29</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 4

and 6% weekly.”<sup>30</sup>

34. Support for new community facilities for indoor activities and increasing provision of facilities for outdoor sports activities was a common view in Focus Group interviews with community organisations.<sup>31</sup>
35. There is support for the opportunity for access to a network of high-quality open spaces and the provision of opportunities for sport and physical activity.
36. 29% of those responding said there was a need for a leisure centre of gym and 12% younger children’s play area/improve parks for children, 11% improved community centre village hall, sports facilities /all-weather sports pitch.<sup>32</sup>

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.8: Public Leisure Amenities

- a) Retain and develop the Holly Lane playing fields
- b) Support for leisure or gym facilities
- c) Support for younger children’s play areas
- d) Improve parks for children

## Explanation

37. In the Household Questionnaire 2017 “92% supported the retention of the Holly Lane playing fields as a public amenity for leisure.”<sup>33</sup>
38. “29% of those responding to the question on a Community Infrastructure Levy said there was a “need for a leisure centre or gym, and 12% wished to see a younger children’s play area/improve parks for children.”<sup>34</sup>
39. “19% of the sample went to Willow Park at least monthly, 2% use the park daily and

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<sup>30</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 29

<sup>31</sup>Balsall Parish Council Focus Group Interviews  
2018 <https://www.dropbox.com/s/cipko04f4vmj2s6/E.%20Focus%20Group%20Interviews%20May%202018.pdf?dl=0> pages 4, 6, 13, 16, 21

<sup>32</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 8

<sup>33</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 7

<sup>34</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 8

6% weekly.”<sup>35</sup>

40. “Regular green space visits are associated with increased physical activity, a lower probability of being overweight or obese and an improvement in mental wellbeing when compared to exercising indoors. Greater enjoyment and satisfaction with outdoor activity has been reported than activity taking place indoors. Outdoor gyms can include much of the same equipment found in an indoor gym but are specifically designed for outdoor use and are often situated in play areas or parks. They are suitable for all ages and abilities and provide the opportunity for everyone to use the equipment for free whilst taking advantage of the benefits of being active outdoors.”<sup>36</sup>

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.9: Improved Public Transport

It is an ambition of this Plan for more people to walk and cycle to the station, and for train and bus services to be improved. This can be achieved through a number of ways including:

- a) Introduce a regular bus service to Kenilworth and improve services to Balsall Common centre, Coventry and Solihull between homes in Balsall Common (Balsall parish), Fen End, Oakley and Meer End;
- b) More reliable and frequent regularly spaced services, using smaller vehicles if appropriate;
- c) Services operating in the evenings and Sundays in addition to Monday to Saturday;
- d) Electronic indicator information boards should be provided at bus stops; and
- e) Enclosed shelters should be provided where appropriate.

## Explanation

41. The current service does not provide an adequate service for existing residents. There needs to be a significant improvement in the frequency of bus service on these routes and additional routes to Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington Spa to provide better accessibility.<sup>37</sup>

42. Post 2026 the SPRINT style bus rapid Transit scheme running from central Warwick through Kenilworth and Balsall Common to the Birmingham interchange will provide excellent connectivity to the UK Central and the Warwickshire towns. The planned introduction of this service post 2026 supports the rationale that the planned urban

<sup>35</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 29

<sup>36</sup>Warwickshire County Council Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health  
<https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/contentplatform/open/WCCC-630-656>

<sup>37</sup>Balsall Parish Council Draft Local Plan Response 2017  
<http://www.balsallparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/160217-Draft-Local-Plan-Response-PUBLIC160217-1.pdf>



extensions of the village with new housing sites allocated by Solihull MBC should not be completed until post 2026.<sup>38</sup>

43. “Residents were asked to rate the existing bus services in terms of three aspects.” Of those who responded to the survey, “47% felt both timing and the routing were adequate with 43% feeling this way about frequency. 36% of those responding to the question wanted an improved frequency of busses and 32% wanted more bus routes to Kenilworth. 18% wished to see an early or late service and 15% said they did not use the bus service. 12% wished to see bus routes to Solihull...”<sup>39</sup>

## COMMUNITY ASPIRATION CA.10: Enhancement of Green Infrastructure

- a) Planting of more trees; and
- b) Creation of wildlife area and meadows which would include bird and bat boxes.

### Explanation

44. Of those who responded to the survey, “45% were in favour of wildlife areas, hedgerows, wildflower meadows, bird and bat boxes....71% would like to see more trees planted in the Parish. 24% said they should be planted amongst new housing or new housing developments...”<sup>40</sup>

45. New tree planting could be native or non-native depending on circumstances and location
- native is preferable for local character and biodiversity but some non-natives and native cultivars still have value and may be more appropriate in terms of size, ease of maintenance and resistance to disease. Arden character trees include Field maple, Common alder, Silver birch, Downy birch, Ash, Holly, Crab apple, Aspen, Wild cherry, Sessile oak, Pedunculated oak, White willow, Crack willow, Rowan and Small leaved lime.

<sup>38</sup>Balsall Parish Council Draft Local Plan Response 2017

<http://www.balsallparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/160217-Draft-Local-Plan-Response-PUBLIC160217-1.pdf>

<sup>39</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 4

<sup>40</sup>Balsall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Household Questionnaire Results Report 2017

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2u0aayei0wa938x/A.%20%20Household%20Questionnaire%20Results%20Report%20February%202018.pdf?dl=0> page 3