

Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan (ARNP) Frequently Asked Questions: Update (Autumn 2023)

Q: What is the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan?

A: A document prepared by the local community containing planning policies which will be used to inform local planning decisions. It focuses on promoting the rural economy, the type and mix of housing we need for the local population, climate change and protecting the rural and natural landscape to preserve the rural character of the Parish. You can read more about neighbourhood planning here: www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/make-a-neighbourhood-plan

You can also find out more about Newcastle-under-Lyme (NUL) Borough Council's Local Plan on the next page.



Q: Where does the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan cover and over what timescale?

A: The Parish of Audley Rural including the villages of Audley, Bignall End, Wood Lane, Miles Green, Scot Hay, Alsagers Bank and Halmer End. A formal vote (referendum) is expected to be held in the summer of 2024, at which point the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan will be 'Made' (adopted). Once Made, the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan will be in place until 2042.

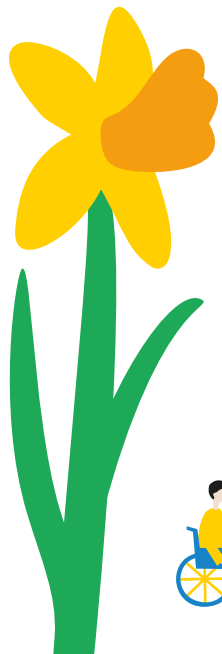


Q: How has the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan been developed?

A: It has been developed using the results of a survey and other consultation carried out with the local community, as well independent reports such as the Housing Needs Assessment by AECOM. There is also a Design Code which provides helpful design guidance for any new-build properties and shopfronts in the Parish.

Q: What happens now?

A: The Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to move forward to the next stage in the process which is called pre-submission 'Regulation 14' consultation. Following this the Draft Plan is submitted to Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council for the next stage of consultation before it is passed to an Independent Examiner. It is expected that the plan will be adopted ('Made') in the summer of 2024. We are seeking your views on the Draft Plan through the 'Regulation 14' consultation which runs from **Monday 16th October 2023 at 17:00 to Monday 27th November 2023 at 17:00**.



Q: Where can I see the Draft Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan?

A: You can view the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan at www.audleyplan.org and view a paper copy* at the following locations from Monday 16th October 2023 onwards:

- Audley Library, Hall Street, Audley
- Parish Council meeting 6.30pm to 9pm on Thurs 19th Oct at Audley Pensioners Hall and Thurs 16th November at Halmer End Institute
- Post Offices at Audley, Halmer End, Bignall End and Wood Lane
- The Gresley Public House, High Street, Alsagers Bank
- During Minnie's Café at The Stute, Wesley Place, Halmer End (every Weds mornings 11.30am to 1.30pm)

**If you would like to view a large print version please contact us by ringing 07946 060826.*

A summary of the Draft ARNP is included within this leaflet.

Q: How do I respond to the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan 'Regulation 14' Consultation?

A: A form is available online at www.audleyplan.org and anywhere we have paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan available. You can also respond via email to: audleyparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or by post to: **Audley Rural Parish Council, c/o The Croft, Barthomley Road, Audley, Staffs ST7 8HU**. Post or email responses should refer to the page number and/or policy reference for each comment.

We are holding the following community drop-in events:

- **Thurs 19th October 2023 at Audley Pensioners Hall 6.30pm to 7.00pm***
- **Sat 11th November 2023 at:**
 - 10.00am to 11.00am at The Stute (Wesley Place, Halmer End),
 - 11.15am to 12.15pm Alsagers Bank Primary School (The Drive, Alsagers Bank),
 - 12.45pm to 1.45pm Audley Pensioners Hall (Church Street, Audley)
 - 2.00pm to 3.00pm Wood Lane Vibe (Community Centre Apedale Road, Wood Lane)
- **Thurs 16th November 2023 at Halmer End Institute 6.30pm to 7.00pm***

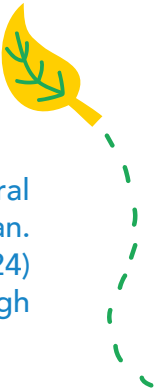
**(before start of the Parish Council meeting)*

Q: What is Newcastle-under-Lyme (NUL) Borough Council's Local Plan?

A: Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans are both part of the overall statutory development plan (planning policies and proposals) for an area.

Once adopted, the NUL Local Plan will shape the future of planning in Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough until 2040. The Local Plan will identify how many new homes are required and where new housing and employment sites will be allocated, as well other types of development. The Local Plan includes policies for the whole Borough which are used by planning officers to manage development and shape the character and appearance of the area. The Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan specifically reflects the needs and wants of the Parish community and will be used along with the NUL Local Plan to inform planning decisions made for the Parish of Audley. You can read more about the NUL Local Plan at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy





Q: Does the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan allocate sites for employment and housing developments?

A: No the housing and employment sites are not allocated or determined by the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan. The housing and employment sites are allocated within the NUL Local Plan. You are encouraged to respond to the next NUL Local Plan consultation (expected Spring 2024) when you can have your say on the proposed housing and employment sites for the Borough which will include Audley Rural Parish.

To inform this, the policies within the Draft Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan seek to preserve the rural character of the Parish. For instance, Policy ANP9 Natural Environment and Landscape states that 'development should not involve the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land'. Policy ANP1 Residential Development caters for a small-scale growth within the existing village boundaries ('envelopes') to meet our local population needs. For example, an independent study used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan suggests the type and mix of new housing required in our Parish includes specialist housing for older people, affordable housing, small homes and family homes.



A summary of the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan (ARNP)

The beginning of the Draft Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan sets out the background and context of the Parish eg location and characteristics, Census 2021 statistics and a number of key issues. It includes some infographics of the findings of the consultation surveys, which have informed the vision, aims and the 5 key themes:

- **Housing**
- **Economy**
- **Design and heritage**
- **Green environment**
- **Infrastructure**

The 13 policies within the Draft Plan are individually referenced and grouped within the 5 key themes. Each policy contains a purpose, planning rationale and the policy detail with some relevant images. A summary of each policy is set out below:

Section 1 - Housing:

Policy ANP1 Residential Development seeks to ensure that the parish provides people with a range of affordable, high quality housing opportunities which help ensure the vibrancy and diversity of the area. It caters for the small-scale level of growth identified and sets out sustainable locations for housing growth.

Section 2 - Economy:

The rural economy is supported in policy ANP2 Business and Community Facilities which protects existing services and supports diversification and rural business enterprise and agriculture. ANP3 Audley Village Centre is a focused policy to support the thriving 'hub' of services that support the entire Neighbourhood Area.



Section 3 - Design and heritage:

Sustainable and innovative design including high energy performance and low carbon development is supported through policy ANP4 Sustainable Design. Policies ANP5 Audley Conservation Area, ANP6 Character of Settlements and ANP7 Heritage seek to protect and enhance the townscape and character of the settlements. The Neighbourhood Area has a range of heritage assets, including the prominent grade II* 'St James the Great' church in Audley and Castle Hill motte a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a number of non-designated assets. Policy ANP7 Heritage encourages sensitive refurbishment and reuse to preserve and enhance the heritage assets across the Neighbourhood Area. Policy ANP8 Shopfronts seeks to protect historic shopfronts and support well designed active frontages.

Section 4 - Green environment:

The natural and rural environment is a key priority of the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan. Key landscape characteristics, features and habitats are identified in policy ANP9 Natural Environment and Landscape, recognising the importance of the rural landscape character. Policy ANP10 Green Infrastructure identifies priorities for biodiversity net gain and encourages new development to include high quality space for amenity of new residents. The 48 Local Green Space designations are included, some of which contribute to biodiversity or support local wildlife and contribute to the wider green infrastructure of the area. The Local Green Spaces designated are demonstrably special to the community they serve for recreation, leisure, and the value to the natural environment. These are listed in policy ANP11 Local Green Space.

Section 5 - Infrastructure:

The plan promotes a balanced and sustainable range of transport in policy ANP12 Transport and Active Travel supporting the existing path network and active travel routes such as the former Mineral Line. Policy ANP13 Local Energy Generation supports community energy production and renewable energy generation.

The document includes a green guidance note for developers on green design. It is an informal note, so includes non-planning matters. However, use of the guidance may help in achieving compliance with the policies of the neighbourhood plan, in particular those relating to design and landscape.

The Draft Plan concludes with the complete infographic of the consultation carried out with the household and businesses in the Parish in March 2022.

