

Little Aston Park Residents Association (LAPRA)

[Address]

[Date]

Councillor Phil Whitehouse

Lichfield District Council

District Councillor for Little Aston

[Council Address or Email]

Dear Councillor Whitehouse,

Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Consultation – Request to Reopen Process

We are writing on behalf of the Little Aston Park Residents Association (LAPRA) to formally raise serious concerns regarding the recent consultation on the revised Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2040 (LA NP).

We represent the interests of around 300 households across the Little Aston Park estate, this equates to many more individuals, potentially into the 1000's yet it has become clear that neither community received notification of the consultation or the related Shenstone Parish Council newsletter. As a result, our residents would have had no formal opportunity to participate in or respond to a Plan that could materially affect our area, and its and immediate area, future development. It is also understood other parts of the community have also not had notification.

We also have evidence that the residents who live immediately outside of these 2 estates also have not received the newsletter or notification of the consultation.

This represents a significant and unacceptable procedural failure and prejudices the rights of well over 500 households.

We have sought independent advice, and it is felt that that this omission contravenes the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), specifically Regulation 14, which requires that qualifying bodies must bring proposed Neighbourhood Plans to the attention of those who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area. The exclusion of such a large and clearly identifiable section of the community calls into question the legitimacy and legality of the consultation.

Further, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) emphasises the need for consultation to be “open and inclusive” (PPG Reference ID: 41-047-20140306). Failing to inform over 440+ households fundamentally undermines both the spirit and letter of that guidance. It also creates a strong perception that the process lacks transparency, fairness, and democratic accountability.

We therefore respectfully but firmly request that Lichfield District Council instructs that the Neighbourhood Plan consultation be reopened and re-run, ensuring full coverage of all residential areas, including Claverdon Park and Little Aston Park, whose residents must be

afforded their statutory right to contribute. It is also vital the independent examiner is also notified of this issue and provides advice and guidance on how we can best be represented.

This is not a minor administrative oversight — it is a material failure in community engagement, one which risks invalidating the consultation process and any resulting Plan. We believe this situation requires urgent rectification to restore confidence in the process and ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is genuinely representative of the whole community.

FYI, we share the same concerns as our fellow residents on Claverdon Park around the conservation area, and we also propose that the following information be included again within the forthcoming Plan. It was previously included in the 2016 Plan:

Extension to the Conservation Area

- 1. The existing Conservation Area covering Little Aston Park currently excludes an area immediately to the west encompassing Roman Lane, Alderhithe Grove, Barns Croft, Royston Chase, Fallow Field and Vercourt. This area is known as Claverdon Park.*
- 2. In total there are 82 dwellings in Claverdon Park, comprising houses and bungalows built in the 1970s. The roads all have a distinct style and character, and the owners of the properties are bound by restrictive covenants that are upheld by Claverdon Park Management Company Ltd. All properties are set in individual plots of land, the smallest starting from one-third of an acre and upwards. The whole aspect is open plan and indeed a significant part of Claverdon Park is only accessible via Little Aston Park which itself is within the existing conservation area.*
- 3. It is considered by this part of the community that the area needs to be maintained and protected in its present form. It is considered to represent a similar type of area in character to Little Aston Park, therefore it is considered that the same restrictions on development should apply.*
- 4. It is thought that Claverdon Park could represent an extension to the existing Conservation Area. It is not considered appropriate to take this forward as part of this Neighbourhood Plan but any future proposals to extend the Conservation Area to include Claverdon Park will be supported in principle.*

We also strongly object to the removal of the GB1 policy that represents the views of residents about the importance of surrounding Greenbelt to protect the environmental, historical and preservation of the nature area. This element must be re added to the plan, without this the plan is significantly weakened and does not represent our residents views in this area. There are also many aspects surrounding road safety, traffic, flooding, sewerage, healthcare and wellbeing along with education and several other areas that need our residents views represented.

We will, of course, respond to the proposed Plan on line to share these concerns in more detail but as an urgent action would be grateful if you could raise this matter at the appropriate levels within Lichfield District and Parish Council and ask for the current plan to be paused whilst a solution is found, with the view that the whole process needs restarting.

Can you provide a formal written response to this request.

Yours sincerely,

Chair

Little Aston Park Residents Association (LAPRA)

Email Address]

[Phone Number]