

Consultation Statement

1. Background to the Neighbourhood Plan

Following the production of Melbourne Parish plan in 2009, the two significant developments were Melbourne Sporting Partnership and the transfer of the running of Melbourne Assembly Rooms to volunteers who run it as not for profit enterprise. Both have been successful and have added to the amenities in Melbourne and Kings Newton.

Since the publication of the Parish Plan, there had been a spate of housing planning applications from speculative developers. Several applications had already been approved in Melbourne and in Kings Newton, resulting in the completion of 130 dwellings from 2011 to April 2015. Planning permission had been granted for a further 185 dwellings to be completed in the near future (See Appendix 5), an increase of more than 14% in the number of households compared with the 2011 census data. This was causing a lot of concern amongst residents of the villages, particularly since the SDDC Local Plan Part 1 had yet to be ratified.

1.1 Public Meeting

In response, following extensive local advertising, a public meeting was held in Melbourne Assembly Rooms in September 2014. More than 200 people attended this meeting. Following short presentations the following subjects emerged as key areas of concern: Housing, Education, Health, Traffic, Roads and transport, Sewerage and drainage, Leisure facilities, particularly for the young and the elderly, and the character of our villages. Feelings ran high, and the decision was taken to form a NDP working group in order to have some input into developments in the villages over the next 15 years.

1.2 Setting up a working group

Following a meeting with Melbourne Parish Council, a working group was established under the chairmanship of the Parish Council, consisting of a number of volunteers.

The first meeting was held in October 2014 and the Working group continued to meet monthly. All minutes were posted on the Parish Council website. Meetings were open to the public.

On November 4 2014 Melbourne Parish Council agreed to the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan and a formal application to designate the whole of Melbourne Parish area was submitted to SDDC. The application was successful and was confirmed on January 29 2015.

1.3 Consultation approaches

The objective of the working party has been to consult extensively and meaningfully with the community, businesses and local organisations covering people of all ages. The issues that emerged from the public meeting of September 2014, were extensively explored at the first formal NDP public meeting in January 2015. At this drop in meeting residents were invited to make any comments on any issue on post it notes at various stations around the room. The comments were captured, recorded and consolidated, and so formed the discussion headings for the emerging NDP.

From this meeting, attended by 150 people, we compiled a list of over 100 email addresses from people who expressed interest in contributing to or being kept informed of the development of the Plan.

We also agreed to create an NDP Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/melbournendp>) and to post regular articles in the Village Voice (the local newspaper for Melbourne and Kings Newton) The NDP was a regular standard agenda item on all Parish council meetings to ensure local councillors and any members of the public attending the meetings could be kept informed.

All formal communications were hosted on the Parish council website (<https://www.melbourneparishcouncil.org.uk>)

Over the next twelve months we met with various groups and representatives of local organisations and societies to understand their views on the NDP.

We surveyed all listed local businesses and special interest social and community groups by questionnaire.

A year later we hosted a further public consultation meeting in February 2016 to update the public on progress of the NDP and to solicit further views. Again the meeting was well attended with over a hundred participants. At this meeting we fed back comments from the 2015 meeting and the progress that had been made on the NDP. This was displayed in storyboard form. Once again residents were invited to make post it note comments on the issues identified and also any new issues that might have arisen. The originally identified issues remained the key concerns with no new areas identified. Housing remained the major concern but there was still considerable emphasis on the infrastructure consequences of housing development.

All consultation events were publicised by poster and advertised in the Village Voice.

Following collation of the information gleaned during the February 2016 and all other consultations, a first draft NDP was produced in April 2016. A summary of consultation activities is show in the table below.

2. Table summarising consultation activities

Date/Title of consultation	Consultation	Method of publicising	Outcomes	CEF
September 2014	Public meeting to discuss speculative housing development	Posters round the villages Village Voice article Leaflets inserted in Village Voice	200 attendees Decision to form NDP working party Discussion of some key themes Presentation of status of local plan Report in Village Voice	Pre NDP
January 2015	First NDP public meeting	Posters around the villages Village voice article Leaflets inserted in Village Voice Publicity in local shops	150 attendees Email list of interested parties Post its used for expression of views and collation of issues Emergence of key themes	CEF 2 CEF4
April 2015 Facebook page	Facebook page created	Social media	Regular updates and notifications of meetings. Opportunity for people to comment on the NDP	CEF 7
During 2015 and 2016	Surveys of : Scouts and Guides Community Care Business community Senior Citizens Historical society Civic Society Melbourne Transition Group Melbourne Footpaths Group Societies and interest groups Key stakeholders, e.g Melbourne Sporting Partnership Melbourne Assembly rooms Secondary Head teacher GP Practice Manager Local Dentist Local letting and estate agents Visitors to Melbourne Festival	Email Survey monkey Contact with local groups Interviews	Development of key themes Information gathering Skeleton policies Documented evidence to inform policies	CEF 3

	Spot survey on sport and leisure Parking Digital Derbyshire			
Regular updates through 2015/16/17	Village Voice articles Facebook page Parish council website Minutes of meetings Meetings with SDDC planning department and Rural Action Derbyshire	Through a variety of media	Information sharing Comments on and consolidation of policies	CEF 1 CEF 5 CEF 6 CEF 7
February 2016 Second NDP Public meeting	Feedback of information gathered during the previous year. All day session for people to drop in and express their views	Posters Village Voice article Facebook page Publicity in local shops Melbourne Assembly Rooms advertising Parish council website	Similar themes emerged and were reinforced Post its collated to add to body of evidence Further list of volunteers Information gathered shared in Village Voice, Facebook page, emails and minutes of NDP meetings	CEF 4
March 2017 Questionnaire to test draft policies	A questionnaire setting out all our draft policies was delivered to all households and also posted on line	Village Voice Facebook page	Overwhelming endorsement of policies and comments	CEF 8
May 2017	Results of questionnaire	Village voice, Parish council website, Facebook page		CEF 8
August 2017	NDP Version 6 to SDDC		Modifications suggested	
March 2018	NDP Version 7 to SDDC		Improvements to Consultation Document suggested and included	

July 2018	Modified Consultation Document to SDDC			
May 2019	Regulation 14 Consultation by Melbourne Parish Council		August 2019 Detailed response from SDDC	
September 2019			Late comments from DCC	
March 2020	NDP Version 8		Extensive rewrite of NDP incorporating all SDDC comments	
August 2020	NDP Version 9		Further comments from SDDC October 2020	
February 2021			Modifications to Appendix 8 and Open Green Spaces section agreed	
April 2021	Version 10		Confirmation of repeat screening that SEA/HEA unnecessary	

3. Developing and Testing Draft Policies within the community

The background evidence collected and the results of all the above consultations led to a first draft NDP produced in April 2016 with draft policies on

Housing

Open Spaces

Environment and Heritage

Initially there were 4 housing policies, 4 open spaces policies, 1 Heritage and Conservation policy, 3 leisure facilities policies, 2 education policies and 1 health care policy.

Over the following six months this draft was continuously revised following consultations with SDDC planning department, Joe Dugdale of RAD and internal discussions within the committee.

A major revision entailed separating the NDP into two sections. It had been realised that policies pertaining to Community Aspirations whilst arousing considerable passion and debate (as evidenced by the public meetings) were not within the formal jurisdiction of the NDP . These were consequently placed in section 2 whilst section 1 outlined all policies within the jurisdiction of the NDP.

Section 1 now contained 3 Housing Policies, 4 Open Spaces Policies, and 1 Heritage and Conservation Policy

Section 2 contained aspirations relating to

Improving parking

Reducing traffic congestion

Improving public transport

modernising and improve sewerage and drainage

Provision of primary and secondary school places

Provision of Health care

Improving senior citizens centre and Community care provision

improving recreational facilities and playgrounds

Improving indoor sport and fitness facilities

Providing new performance venue

Improving mobile signal, internet and broadband access.

This culminated in NDP Version 5 produced in January 2017. This formed the basis of a Residents Questionnaire which was devised specifically to test reactions to the policies and their wording, and also to test the priorities for the Community Aspirations. Free comment was also invited on all issues.

The questionnaire was launched in February 2017. It was delivered to every household in Melbourne and Kings Newton. In addition the survey was posted

online. Residents were given 6 weeks until the end of March for consultation to comment on the draft policies. The questionnaire was publicised in the Village Voice newspaper. In addition residents were invited via the questionnaire to refer to NDP Draft 5 which was posted on the Parish Council website and was available as a hard copy in the library.

There were 573 usable completed questionnaires (60% paper 32% online)

All 573 were analysed and all written verbal feedback collated (CEF 8)

All policies were strongly endorsed, but modifications to the NDP draft 5 were made when verbal responses were taken into consideration.

NDP Version 6, the pre submission draft, was then produced and submitted to SDDC in August 2017.

SDDC Planning Department suggested further modifications which were incorporated into NDP Version 7. This was submitted to SDDC in March 2018.

4. On- going consultation with Public and Statutory Bodies

In addition to the engagement and consultation exercises with the community set out above, the NDP working group consulted frequently with SDDC . There were a series of meetings with SDDC throughout the formulation of the plan. These meetings took place in April, August and October 2015, January and October 2016 and May 2017. During these sessions we were kept informed of the progress of the Local Plan parts 1 and 2.

Members of the NDP working group attended all the relevant community consultations on Local Plan Part 1 and Part 2.

We were also ensuring that our policies were in harmony with those in the local plan.

We engaged Joe Dugdale of Rural Action Derbyshire for consultancy support and engagement. Joe delivered workshops in November 2014, May and November 2015, and was available for ongoing consultation

5. Consultation Statement- Compliance with Regulation 14

The NDP documentation including the NDP Version 7.0, the Consultation Statement, and map of the area covered by the NDP were submitted to SDDC on 5th March 2018. Subsequently SDDC provided suggestions on how to improve the clarity of the Consultation Statement in July 2018. These suggestions have been incorporated into the Consultation Statement.

It is recognised that further Consultation Statement revision may be necessary at subsequent stages of the process

South Derbyshire District Council have undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Assessment. This confirms that a Strategic

Environmental Assessment is not required for the Parish of Melbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan. The screening was submitted to the statutory environmental bodies (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency). All have responded and none have suggested that the Plan would give rise to likely significant effects.

A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening was also undertaken by South Derbyshire District Council. The screening exercise concluded that there were no European sites that would be affected by the proposals within the Parish of Melbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Melbourne Parish Council undertook a Regulation 14 consultation from May 20 to July 2 2019. The delay was necessitated by a degree of misunderstanding between SDDC and the group and a veto on consultations during the annual Local Council elections .

There were no significant comments from residents or other statutory consultees , to the Regulation 14 consultation apart from the following:

Significant comments and recommendations on many policies were raised by SDDC in August 2019 and also by DCC in October 2019, in a very late response to the Consultation.,

It was clear from SDDC's comments that Rewriting certain elements of the NDP was necessary.

The group enlisted the help of Bryan Wolsey Dip TP, Dip Arch Cons, MRTPI (retired) (Retired Chartered Town Planner) to assist with this task. We agreed that points raised by DCC concerning matters such as the cycle network and elements of many of the community aspirations whilst being very helpful had not been raised in our own consultations , and would have necessitated significant repeat public consultation which the group were reluctant to undertake at this stage after so many delays. We therefore decided not to incorporate those comments.

All comments raised by SDDC have been considered, and we have modified our policies according to their suggestions. These are captured in the rewritten version of the Plan (Version 9)

Policy DP1 Infill

This policy was reworded in a more positive way. We are clear that by encouraging infill rather building on green fields, we are contributing in a positive way to future development within South Derbyshire , whilst retaining the character of Melbourne and Kings Newton. The two villages had already absorbed 130 houses between 20011-2015 and there are further 185 which have already been granted planning permission.

Policy DP2 Separation Policy

This policy was strengthened by adding the Planning Inspector's Appeal Decision concerning a proposed development in Jawbone Lane in which he refers to the importance of the separation of Melbourne and Kings Newton. This is as set out in Appendix 10

We also added Appendix 13 which sets out the SDDC Character Statements of the three Conservation areas. This is to emphasise the different characteristics of the two settlements, and in particular the significance of historic buildings and archaeological remains in King's Newton

Policy DP3 Three bedrooms or fewer

This policy has been reworded to take account of SDDC's concerns, but there was strong feeling it should remain with its aim intact, as a testimony to the group's desire to influence development to meet the needs of different groups of local residents. This would include first time buyers and people wishing to downsize and would mean building more affordable housing and avoid building even more executive homes.

Policy OS1

We have reworded the policy to conform with BNE8 as proposed by SDDC

The bowling green by the Senior Citizens centre was in our original list of proposed green spaces, but was removed from the SDDC list recently following a request to the landowner.

Policy OS2

We have made changes to the wording to reflect comments made by SDDC

Policy OS3

This has been reworded to reference BNE3 and BNE7 in the local plan

Policy OS4

The wording has been improved and the policy strengthened to respond to SDDC's comments

Version 9 was submitted to SDDC August 2020. Further comments were received.

In the light of the SDDC adopted Local Green Spaces plan, and in conjunction with SDDC, in January/February 2021 modifications were made to Appendix 8 and the list of Local Open Green Spaces in NDP version 9 to align with SDDC policy documents. This resulted in NDP version 10 being produced in April 2021

A repeat screening determination for SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HAS) was made by SDDC in the light of the

changes made to the Plan. This again confirmed that these were not necessary for Melbourne Parish NDP.

6. Conclusions

An extensive and thorough consultation process has been undertaken by the Melbourne NDP group over the last 5 and half years. There have been numerous delays and nine iterations prior to the current NDP version 10.

The information and evidence gathered has been used in the creation of our NDP.