

Allensmore Neighbourhood Development Plan

2018 - 2031

First Draft Plan (Preferred Options)

January 2019



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How to Comment on this Document

Welcome to the First Draft Plan (Preferred Options) for Allensmore Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This document has been prepared by the NDP steering group of local residents and parish councillors with the help of Kirkwells consultants.

The First Draft Plan is the first version of the NDP for Allensmore. It includes draft planning policies and preferred options for site allocations for new housing. The draft planning policies have been prepared taking into account the many representations submitted in response to the consultation on the Issues and Options document in January 2018. The preferred options for site allocations have been identified from a list of 23 submitted sites which were put forward for consideration during a Call for Sites process in March/April 2018. The preferred options for housing sites are the 7 sites considered most appropriate for allocation in the Site Assessment Report for Allensmore NDP, prepared by AECOM in September 2018.

Please take some time to read the full document; we need your feedback to help us move forward with our Draft Plan for Allensmore.

To help you provide your feedback, we have prepared a separate response form to be used as you read the main document. Copies are being delivered to all houses in the Allensmore NDP area. Comments from every individual are encouraged (on separate forms please) and will be very welcome. We especially welcome comments from any younger residents as we have no school, scouts, guides etc we can consult with. Further copies of the form are available online at Allensmore.org.uk.

Copies of this main document will also be available for reading at the open drop-in event on **Monday 21st January 2019** between 7pm and 9pm. Please come along and give us your thoughts and ideas if you would like to discuss anything in person.

You can submit comments and suggestions in several ways:

- Come along to the open event
- You can download the response form from Allensmore.org.uk (MS Word format), complete on your computer and email to NDP@allensmore.org.uk
- Scan your completed response form and email to NDP@allensmore.org.uk
- Give or post your completed response form or written comments to any Steering Group member (see Appendix VII of the main document or Allensmore.org.uk) or drop them into the comments box at St Andrews Church and the community library in the former Cobhall Common phone box.

If you do not have enough room for your answers, continue on the back page or a separate sheet, or email us at NDP@allensmore.org.uk

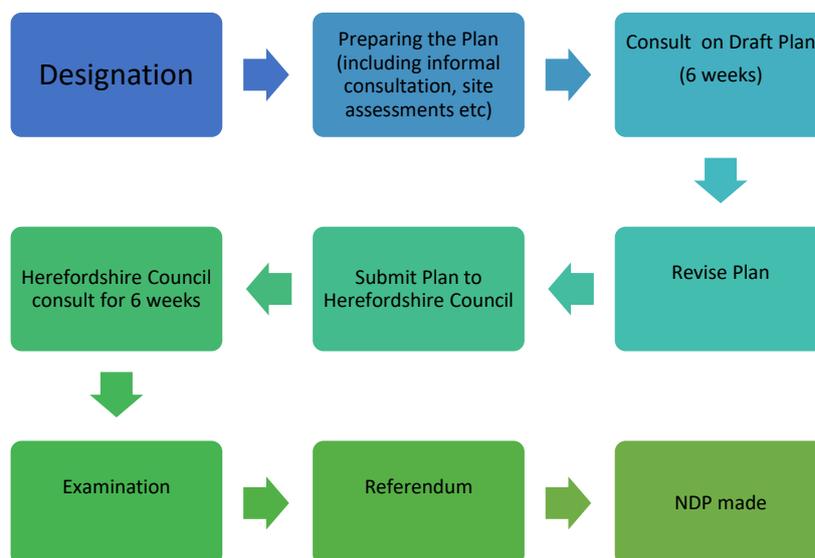
Please return all comments by the end of January 2019.

Thank you for your time and interest. Your comments will help us with the next stage – the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for Allensmore which will be published for at least 6 weeks formal consultation later this summer. The information you provide will be made available to members of the NDP steering group and the consultants, Kirkwells and may be included in the NDP Consultation Statement at submission stage. It will be used only for the purpose of creating the development plan and any information published from these responses will remain anonymous.

1. What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) are a new type of planning policy document, prepared by parish councils and some other bodies to guide new development within a defined area, such as a parish. They are used alongside local authority (here, Herefordshire Council) and national planning policy documents, to help determine planning applications. NDPs are powerful tools and present significant opportunities for local people to have a real say in how, and where, development should happen within their local area.
- 1.2 An NDP can cover a range of planning related issues, or just have one, single policy. This document has been prepared taking into account the responses to the Issues and Options consultation in January 2018. The First Draft Plan includes emerging draft planning policies and proposed preferred options for site allocations for new housing.
- 1.3 It is important to remember that NDPs cannot be prepared in isolation. They have to be in general conformity with local strategic planning policies. These are currently the strategic policies in Herefordshire's adopted Local Plan Core Strategy ¹.
- 1.4 NDPs are also required to have regard to national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012², Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)³ and other guidance.
- 1.5 All NDP planning policies and proposals have to be underpinned by a clear and robust evidence base of local opinion and technical resources, and overall the Plan has to meet a set of “basic conditions” set out in national guidance.
- 1.6 Preparing an NDP is a complex and lengthy process – see Figure 1.

Figure 1 NDP Process



¹ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/123/adopted_core_strategy

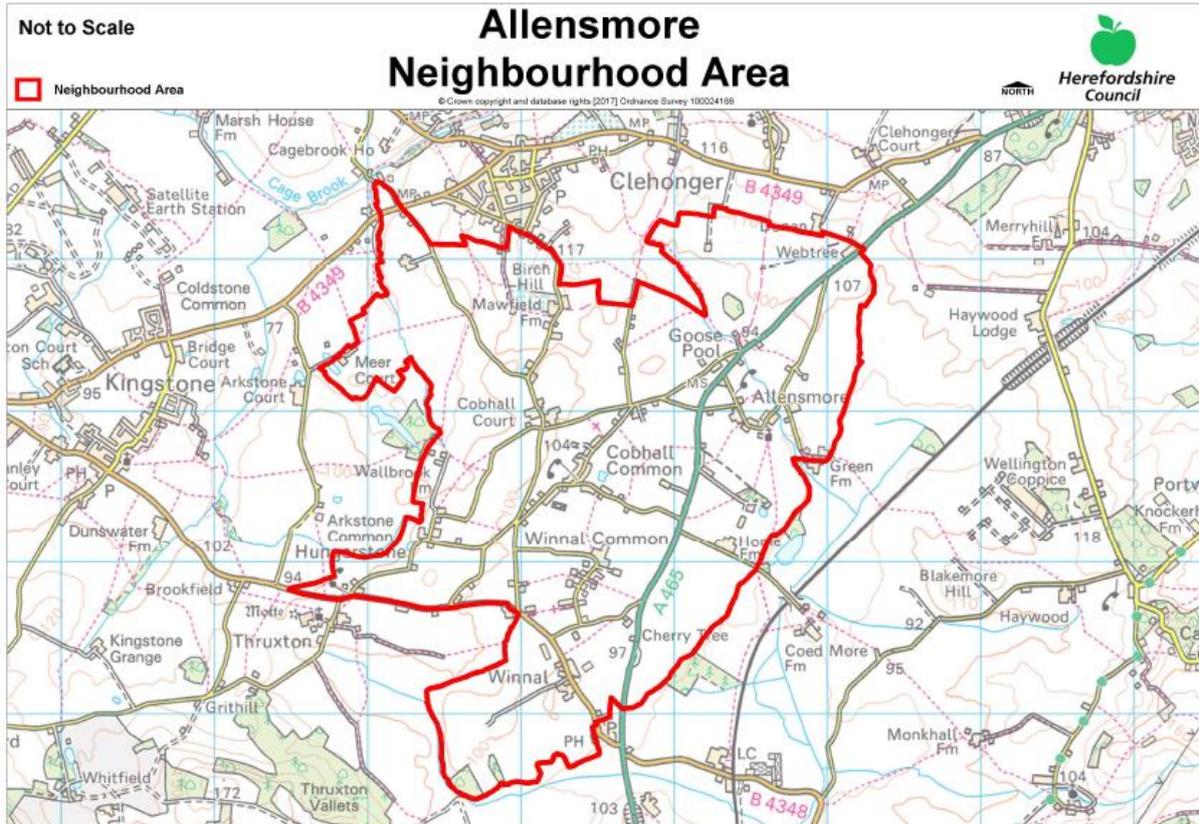
² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

- 1.7 We are part way through this process - "Preparing the Plan". We are hoping to finalise our Allensmore Draft NDP for the required 6 weeks' formal consultation (known as Regulation 14) in summer 2019. Following this, the Plan will be further revised, and submitted to Herefordshire Council, who will check it and publish it for another 6 weeks consultation (known as Regulation 16).
- 1.8 Then the Plan will be examined by an independent Examiner, who is likely to recommend further changes before the Plan is subjected to a local Referendum within the neighbourhood area. If there is a majority Yes vote (50% of turnout + 1), the Plan will be made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council and used to help determine planning applications alongside Herefordshire's planning policies and national planning policies.
- 1.9 There are therefore several stages of public consultation and engagement throughout the process, and the Plan can only be made if, at the very end, local people support it.
- 1.10 We hope to achieve all this and have a final Plan in place by the end of 2019. We need your help and ideas to do this.

2. A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Allensmore

Map 1 Designated Neighbourhood Area



- 2.1. Allensmore neighbourhood area lies approximately 5 miles south west of the City of Hereford, and about 15 ½ miles north west of Ross-on-Wye, in rural Herefordshire. The A465 cuts north / south through the eastern side of the area. The NDP area is slightly smaller than the parish as it excludes a small area of the parish south of Clehonger which has been included in the Clehonger neighbourhood area.
- 2.2. The neighbourhood area extends across 820 hectares and the population of the parish (including the area south of Clehonger) was recorded as 566 in the 2011 Census.

Preparing our Plan

- 2.3. The NDP is being prepared by a steering group of local residents and parish councillors on behalf of the parish council. Steering group meetings are publicised on the parish council website <http://allensmore.org.uk/> and the village email circulation. The meetings are open to the public - all are welcome to attend. Technical assistance and professional fees will be funded largely from Government grants available for NDPs. The NDP includes planning policies for development in the whole of the neighbourhood area and site allocations for new housing in the settlement areas.

Designation

- 2.4. The parish council applied for area designation on 7th April 2017 and the area shown on Map 1 was designated as a neighbourhood area by Herefordshire Council on 26th May 2017. The neighbourhood area is different from the parish boundary in that it excludes an area within Allensmore parish to the north. This area adjoins the built up area of Clehonger, and lies within another designated neighbourhood area - Clehonger.

Launch Event 29th July 2017

- 2.5. A launch event to promote the NDP and encourage local residents to become involved was held at the village hall on Saturday 29th July 2017. Around 64 people attended the event and were invited to write their comments about the neighbourhood area on post-it notes. Comments were collected on what residents liked about living in Allensmore, as well as another 51 post-it notes on what were felt to be 'issues and options' for the future. These comments are transcribed and grouped in tables in Appendix I.
- 2.6. The comments were considered carefully by the steering group and used to inform the Issues and Options document which was published for informal consultation in January 2018.

Issues and Options Consultation, January 2018

- 2.7. The Issues and Options document was published on the parish council website (Allensmore.org.uk) on 9th January 2018 and hard copies were made available in several public places and on request from any member of the steering group. A drop-in event was held in the village hall on 28th January 2018 at which residents could discuss and feedback their views to members of the steering group. In addition, a response form was prepared which provided a very limited summary of the document and all the questions contained in it. These were delivered to every household in the designated area and provided a mechanism for every resident to comment on the document.
- 2.8. A report was prepared setting out the results of the consultation on Issues and Options and this is available on the neighbourhood plan page of the parish council website: <http://allensmore.org.uk/Neighbourhood-Development-Plan.php>.

Headline Results

- 2.9. In total 89 responses were returned and analysed. Based on an estimate of 474 people aged 16 and over resident in the designated area (derived from 2011 Census figures), the returned forms represent 21% of those aged 16 and over.

About the respondents

- Of the 89 respondents to the survey, 42% were from Allensmore, 35% from Cobhall / Cobhall Common and 16% from Winnal / Winnal Common and 2 (2%) each from the Mawfield, Hungerstone and Webtree areas.
- Just 10% of the respondents were under 50 years old, while 24% were in their fifties, 28% in their sixties and 37% were older. 80% of the respondents had no children usually living in their household.
- Approaching half (46%) of respondents have lived in this parish for over 25 years, while 12% have lived here for less than 5 years.
- 36% of respondents are not in work or full-time education and 31% work from home.

Vision and objectives

- A large majority (83%) of respondents felt the document provided a good summary of the local context, compared with 5% who did not.
- There was also strong support for the draft vision and objectives with 77% of respondents in agreement and 11% who disagreed.

Landscape and wildlife

- A very high proportion of respondents (88% in favour, 6% not) felt that the NDP should include a planning policy similar to the one suggested to protect the local landscape character. A number of suggestions were made for further features and views which should be protected by planning policies.
- Similarly, a very high proportion (82%) of respondents felt that the NDP should include a policy to protect wildlife.

Settlement boundaries

- When asked if the NDP should include settlement boundaries, around two-thirds (68%) of respondents felt they should, while a fifth (20%) did not think so.
- The majority (60%) of respondents thought the suggested settlement boundary for Allensmore was about right, while 20% felt it should be extended and 4% considered that it should be made smaller.
- With regard to the suggested settlement boundary for Cobhall Common, again a majority of respondents (56%) felt it was about right compared with 18% who considered that it should be extended and 10% who would have liked to see it made smaller.
- A large majority of respondents (63%) felt that the draft settlement boundary for Winnal was about right, compared with 13% who would have liked to see it extended and 1% who felt it should be made smaller.

Housing

- The majority of respondents agreed that each of the suggested criteria (Brownfield, Infill, Scale/size of development, Access and Parking) should be used as a guide for speculative new housing. A number of people also commented that drainage should also be a factor.
- There was little support for having different criteria for each settlement with 44% of respondents saying “No” while 28% felt these should differ between the settlements.
- A majority (63%) of respondents felt we should plan for 12 new houses, the minimum number required by the Core Strategy, while 25% felt 13 – 20 houses was a more appropriate number and 11% felt the number should be in the range of 21 to 30.
- Most respondents (63%) considered that the new homes should be spread about evenly across the three settlements compared with 38% who disagreed.
- Most respondents believed the new developments should be either single houses (67%) or small-scale developments of 2-3 houses (71%).
- The most popular types to be included in the new homes built were family homes (3 bedrooms) (75% of respondents would have liked to see these), starter homes of 1-2 bedrooms (60%) and conversion of existing non-residential buildings (60%).

- A large majority supported the new homes to be privately owned (88% of respondents) with the next most popular being affordable housing for sale (41%).
- There was strong support (75% of respondents) for the NDP to include a policy supporting the conversion of former agricultural buildings to promote economic development.

Roads, traffic and infrastructure

- More respondents were in favour of a cycleway from the village hall to Locks garage (58%) than were against (31%) while the views were about balanced for and against for a cycleway from the village hall to Belmont.
 - Most respondents (61%) feel there was no need for additional directional signage, and there was little or no overall demand for “slow down” signs or for pursuing a lower speed limit on the A465. (However this does not reflect the views in the wider consultation from the drop in post it notes etc)
 - Nearly half (46%) of respondents found illegal dumping of waste to be a problem, while over a quarter (28%) did not, and a large majority (71%) said they would support or take part in an annual litter pick.
 - Most respondents (60%) liked the idea of a lower speed limit in the centre of their community while 31% disagreed. Support was particularly strong amongst respondents of Cobhall Common where 67% supported the idea.
 - A large majority (83%) of respondents did not support the installation of speed bumps or other traffic calming measures.
 - An overwhelming majority of respondents wanted the NDP to include a policy to protect the village hall as a local community facility and encourage investment in new or improved facilities.
 - Most respondents (59%) felt a policy should be included in the NDP to encourage improvements to the Church in order to enable a wider use of the building.
 - Subsequent to the Issues and Options consultation, the steering group recognised that they had only asked about cycleways and not footpaths, which they believe may have elicited a stronger response as evidenced by comments at the initial launch event in July (see transcribed comments in Appendix I).
- 2.10. The responses to the Issues and Options have been considered very carefully and used to inform this initial, first draft version of the NDP.

3. A Portrait of Allensmore



- 3.1. The neighbourhood area of Allensmore is made up of three main settlements: Allensmore itself, along with Cobhall Common and Winnal. These small settlements are interspersed with working farms and smaller groups of houses. The settlements of Cobhall Common and Winnal are documented in the Domesday Book of 1086 with the former having thirteen households and the latter eight. At that time, the Allensmore settlement was a wasteland on the edge of Haywood Forest and did not come into being until Alan de Plukenet, who held the manor of Kilpeck started to drain the land for agricultural purposes in the late 13th Century.
- 3.2. Over the centuries, agriculture was, and still is, at the heart of parish life with the Pateshall family owning the manor and its tenant farms from 1725 to 1958. The family also provided the village school which is now used as a community hall and renamed The Pateshall Hall in their honour. When Allensmore Court – the ‘big house’ – was demolished in 1958, a number of the farms came into the ownership of estate workers whose descendants still farm in the area today, some having recollections of life on the estate.
- 3.3. Parishioners value the rural way of life and the green tapestry of fields and small areas of woodland that link the settlement areas. They enjoy the listed buildings across the area along with a wide variety of more modern property. Housing has evolved over the years with the 1891 census recording around 142 houses and 520 residents to 1981 when there were around 156 houses and 446 residents. In 2011 there were about 230 houses concentrated in the three settlements and dispersed over a wider area, with a population of 566. There is no street lighting in any part of the parish giving dark skies valued by residents.
- 3.4. The village of Allensmore lies to the east of the A465 and is linear in nature. It has as its focal point the church of St Andrew. Whilst the south doorway of the church is Norman, most of the church today dates from the 14th century with a 15th century tower which has a peal of 6 bells and a band of enthusiastic bell ringers. The vestry window depicts the Pateshall family crest. The housing in this part of the neighbourhood area has a rich and varied mix of styles including 15th century listed buildings, Georgian farms edging the settlement, converted barns and 20th century bungalows and



houses. Most of the housing stock is detached. There are no other services in this part of the village, including at present broadband.

- 3.5. The hamlet of Cobhall Common lies to the west of the A465 and the settlement is linear in nature with buildings set back and lining the narrow lanes. Much of the housing is fragmented by fields belonging to farming families, some of whom have worked the land for several generations. Like the Allensmore settlement, Cobhall Common has a variety of housing styles, including the oldest house in the area (Little Cobhall Farm which has a cruck roof). Most



of the housing stock in Cobhall Common is detached with single and two storey dwellings. On the fringes of Cobhall Common are working farms and small holdings together with allotments provided by a local farmer for the use of villagers. A bus runs through Cobhall Common once a week. The decommissioned telephone box has recently been converted into a mini community library called 'Books in a Box'. Superfast broadband arrived in parts of Cobhall Common in 2017.

- 3.6. The medieval settlement of Winnal is believed to have developed on land associated with Winnal Farm. Housing stock is derived from four original farm houses, one of which is no longer a farm house. The oldest of these buildings is Winnall Court, parts of which date from the 17th century. Other housing in Winnal includes a cottage, a bungalow and some 1980s dwellings.

- 3.7. Winnal Common has two farm houses interspersed with cottages, bungalows and more recent residences. Winnal Common is separated from Cobhall Common by Winnal Common Farm.



- 3.8. Other small settlements in the area are Webtree, Mawfield, Hungerstone and Goosepool. More dispersed dwellings in the parish include farms, small holdings and cottages together with a few more modern individual houses.

- 3.9. Community buildings are limited to the village hall and church. Although the village hall does not lie within any of the three main settlement areas, being situated on the east side of the A465, it provides an excellent resource for the area, including bringing economic benefits. Keep fit, ballet, Women's Institute meetings and other events are run from the hall, providing an additional income opportunity for those organizing some of the events, as well as providing local classes for the community.

- 3.10. As well as its regular weekly congregation of worshippers, the church has been used over the years for coffee mornings and for secular events, Barn Dances, a Ceilidh and Morris Dancing: a large open space being created by removing the pews. The absence of basic facilities, such as a toilet and kitchen, and indeed any running water other than at the church gate, together with a lack of car parking, hamper more extensive use of what is the largest public covered space available in the parish.

3.11. There are 23 statutorily listed buildings in the parish including the Grade II* Church of St Andrew, and the remainder Grade II, including various farm houses, a milestone and a water pump (the full list is provided in Appendix II).

3.12. Allensmore is in National Character Area 100 Herefordshire Lowlands⁴ which has a tranquil and rural character with a generally flat and low-lying landscape of mixed arable farming and livestock surrounded by more distant hills such as The Black Mountains. There is still evidence of traditional orchards in the area. Smaller domestic sized orchards are in evidence across the parish. Surrounding hills are dominated by ancient woodland of ash and field



maple or oak and bracken and small-scale woodland is a prized landscape feature due to its aesthetic impact and benefits for drainage and wildlife. There is a dispersed rural settlement pattern with traditional timber framed black and white buildings, and stone and red brick are widespread as local building materials. More locally, the Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment 2004, updated 2009⁵ identifies the following landscape types in Allensmore: Principal Settled Farmlands (across almost the entire area), with an area of Wet Pasture Meadow to the south east and Wooded Estate Land to the north.

3.13. A number of ponds can be found across the parish and these support wildlife and aid drainage.

3.14. In terms of local wildlife interest there are a number of traditional orchards all around the area and an area of ancient woodland in the south western corner.

3.15. 83% of respondents supported the description of the local context in the Issues and Options consultation. The responses also demonstrated that there are significant local concerns about poor drainage and flooding in the area due to a high water table and lack of mains drainage, and this should be taken into consideration in any proposals for new development.

⁴ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4827527503675392>

⁵ <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2069/landscape-character-assessment-for-herefordshire>

4. Draft Vision and Objectives



- 4.1. An NDP is required to have a vision and a clear set of objectives. The planning policies should be designed to meet the identified objectives.
- 4.2. The Draft Vision and Draft Objectives have been prepared by the steering group and are set out below. In the Issues and Options consultation 77% of respondents supported the Draft Vision and Objectives.
- 4.3. There were concerns that new businesses could lead to adverse impacts on the peace and quiet of the countryside and increase traffic and drainage problems. There were particular concerns expressed about proposals for chicken farms. It was also noted that there was a need to enhance the safety of residents. In addition, there were comments suggesting that further consultation was required (which the process on page 4 allows for). Some minor amendments have been made in response to some of these points.

Draft Vision for Allensmore

To protect and enhance the parish’s rural character through gradual evolution and appropriate development, which improves the quality of life for current and future generations of residents by creating a sustainable environment, enhancing wellbeing and promoting community cohesion.

Draft Objectives for the NDP

OBJECTIVE 1: HOUSING

To develop policies, within the framework of Herefordshire's Core Strategy, which ensure that new housing development preserves and enhances aspects that people value, while meeting the current and future needs of both residents and businesses.

OBJECTIVE 2: THE ENVIRONMENT

To ensure that all housing and business development preserves the character of the parish and protects the landscape, so that its impact on the environment is minimised, with particular reference to water, sewage and soil management, as well as energy and water conservation.

OBJECTIVE 3: FARMING AND OTHER BUSINESS

To encourage new business initiatives which promote the economic well-being of the parish provided that they are in scale with, and sensitive to, the rural character of the locality and any adverse impact is minimal.

OBJECTIVE 4: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

To sustain and enhance existing community facilities whilst supporting investment in safe and appropriate new infrastructure as needed and desired by residents and businesses.

5. Planning Policies and Proposals

5.1 Environment and Biodiversity



- 5.1.1. Allensmore neighbourhood area is essentially agricultural with small to medium size farms shaping the landscape. Open countryside is chequered by many hedges, small coppices and trees, particularly oak. There is only one medium sized orchard of significance, but a number of small orchards can be found. There are no large woods except Courtlands Plantation which is an old bluebell wood.
- 5.1.2. The whole area is low lying and prone to bogginess and flooding. Streams and drainage channels criss-cross the land and flow sluggishly to the River Monnow some distance away. What contiguous areas of housing there are, are small and well embedded in the natural landscape. Old farming buildings and pre-nineteenth century dwellings can be found throughout.
- 5.1.3. There are several significant views within the parish from publicly accessible viewpoints such as footpaths. The Issues and Options consultation included comments suggesting the following key views should be protected:
- All views;
 - Views towards Cobhall Common, Hay Bluff and Garway Hill;
 - Views towards Black Mountains;
 - Views towards bluebell woods;
 - Views towards Breinton;
 - Views towards and from the Church
 - Views from Upper Mawfield
- 5.1.4. The NDP steering group has considered these suggestions in more detail, but decided that due to the distance and extensive nature of the many attractive views around Allensmore, specific views should not be identified on a map.

- 5.1.5. The NDP has a role in protecting the open nature of the countryside and supporting small scale development which is sympathetic to the rural character. Any renovation of older buildings should be done in a sympathetic way, retaining their character and place in the landscape. It is also proposed that the importance of hedges, small scale woodland, orchards and ponds should be given weight in any development in order to enhance local landscape character. The comments provided at the Launch event showed that local people value the beautiful rural area, open countryside and peace and quiet.
- 5.1.6. The responses to the Issues and Options consultation supported this approach with 88% of respondents wanting the NDP to include a policy to protect the local landscape character. The comments showed it was clear that people particularly value the local flora and fauna, hedgerows, trees and dispersed buildings.
- 5.1.7. Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy Policy LD1 Landscape and Townscape protects landscape character at a strategic level across the county, but Allensmore NDP adds more local detail at a neighbourhood level.
- 5.1.8. Draft Policy A1 aims to protect local landscape character, taking into account those local characteristics and features that residents value.

Draft Policy A1 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Landscape Character

Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how siting and design have taken into consideration local landscape character.

Significant Views

The sweeping nature of views to the outlying hills is valued by residents and makes an important contribution to the landscape character of the parish.

Development proposals should therefore respect the open nature of existing settlement pockets and sustain these widespread views of surrounding hills such as Garway, Hay Bluff and the Black Mountains.

Where necessary, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or similar studies may need to be carried out to ensure that any scheme is designed and sited sensitively and appropriately.

Landscaping Schemes

Development proposals should include landscaping schemes which protect and enhance the distinctive rural landscape character of the Parish. Hedgerows, mature trees, woodlands, ponds and traditional orchards are important local landscape features and should be retained wherever possible and incorporated into designs.

Local Built Character (see also Policy A4, Criteria for Development)

Development should respond to the dispersed local settlement pattern, with buildings provided at low densities in large plots and set back from the road side with front gardens and on-site parking areas.

Traditional materials such as red brick or sandstone should be used in new development, conversions and extensions to ensure development is sympathetic to the local vernacular and surrounding rural character of buildings.

Wildlife

- 5.1.9. Allensmore neighbourhood area has one designated local wildlife site (the pond at Allensmore Court – Herefordshire Core Strategy Appendix 8I ref SO43/14) and a number of areas of ancient woodland. The flora and fauna of the Allensmore neighbourhood area has been influenced largely by the farming activities and the soils of mainly medium loams. The old barns and buildings support a significant population of bats and birds such as house martins, swallows, swifts, owls and sparrows. In the winter the hedgerows and scattered woodland provide shelter for migrating birds such as starlings, redwings and fieldfare. The responses to the Issues and Options consultation indicated that barn owls and tawny owls, green and spotted woodpeckers, cuckoos, jays, herons, long tailed tits, buzzards, butterflies and bees are all seen locally. The abundance of small water courses and ponds provide habitat for many birds including all wagtail species, kingfishers, heron, moorhens, curlew and ducks. An area known as the Lawns, land which used to surround the old Pateshall House, is an area of permanent pasture and therefore relatively undisturbed land with associated grass species. In addition, comments indicated that there is evidence of small mammals such as dormice, harvest mice, bank voles and hedgehogs and amphibians (newts, toads and frogs).
- 5.1.10. Wild flowers edge the many lanes. In the Spring, snowdrops can be found in the banks as well as pockets of bluebells, cowslips and wild cyclamen. Meadowsweet, rosebay and great willow-herb and cow parsley appear in profusion in the Summer. Water courses and ponds should be

retained, and special attention given to maintaining and indeed improving their quality and character.

- 5.1.11. The comments provided at the Launch event showed that local people value wildlife. The responses to the Issues and Options consultation also showed clear support for the NDP to help protect local biodiversity with 82% agreeing that Allensmore NDP should include such a policy. In addition to comments identifying various species seen locally, it was noted that all wildlife should be protected, and habitats such as mature trees, bluebell woods and hedgerows are significant. Bat roosts are already provided in existing outbuildings. In addition, there was overwhelming opposition to street lighting in order to minimise light pollution.
- 5.1.12. Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy LD2 protects biodiversity at a strategic level but the NDP Draft Policy A2 provides more detail relevant to the Allensmore area.

Draft Policy A2 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Wildlife

The priority for new development should be to avoid direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. Where impact cannot be avoided, mitigation and then compensation measures should be provided.

Development proposals should demonstrate how biodiversity will be protected and enhanced, including wildlife in the neighbourhood area as set out in paragraphs 5.1.9 and 5.1.10, ecological networks along water courses and hedgerows, and statutory and non-statutory locally designated wildlife sites and habitats.

Landscaping

Landscaping schemes should include wildlife enhancements wherever possible, for example incorporating ponds, retaining existing areas of woodland and hedgerows, and planting new tracts using locally appropriate native species. Where appropriate, planting of wildflower meadows is supported.

Buildings

Development should take into consideration the need to protect and encourage wildlife which may be using the building(s) as habitats, such as barn owls which are known to nest locally.

Lighting

Lighting schemes should be designed sensitively to reduce any adverse impact on wildlife and to protect the dark skies which are characteristic of this rural area.

5.2 Housing



Background

- 5.2.1 Planning for new housing is a major part of the work on the NDP. Allensmore NDP has to demonstrate that the delivery of an appropriate amount, type and style of new housing over the plan period (up to 2031) is supported, in order to be in general conformity with the strategic planning policies set out in the adopted Core Strategy.
- 5.2.2. Allensmore is a very rural area with a low density of population (0.7 persons per hectare). Housing is concentrated in the three main settlements Allensmore, Cobhall and Winnal and in scattered single dwellings or small clusters in the open countryside. The 2011 Census recorded 230 dwellings in the parish with the vast majority concentrated in the three main settlements.
- 5.2.3. The 2011 Census also shows that a large majority (78%) of the properties are detached and 18% semi-detached. Over half (54%) of the properties are owned outright and a further 29% with a mortgage, while 15% are rented, almost all in the private sector. Most (84%) of properties have an occupancy of less than 1 person per bedroom, while 16% have more than 1 person. A quarter of households comprise 1 or more occupants of whom all are aged 65 or over.
- 5.2.4. A housing needs study conducted by Herefordshire Council in 2012 found that 7 households in the parish needed affordable accommodation within the parish in the next 3 years (six 1 bedroomed homes and one with 2 bedrooms). A further 5 households in the parish also indicated a need for affordable accommodation but did not specify that this would be within the parish. More broadly, the Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) 2013⁶ identified that 55% of households in the Ross-on-Wye Rural Housing Market Area are unable to



⁶ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory_record/2090/local_housing_market_assessment_2013

afford market housing and there is an annual requirement for 58 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017 across the housing market area.

- 5.2.5. The NDP can only include policies and proposals for the designated neighbourhood area. The area of Allensmore designated for the NDP excludes properties in part of Poplar Road as these have been included in the area designated for Clehonger NDP. This area includes around 22 properties, meaning that the Allensmore NDP area comprises around 90% of the dwellings in the parish as a whole.
- 5.2.6. There is a wide range of housing styles within the neighbourhood area, including a number of listed buildings some of which date to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a number of Georgian and Victorian properties, as well as early to late twentieth century and recent new buildings.



Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy requirements

- 5.2.7. Allensmore is in the Ross-on-Wye rural Housing Market Area (HMA). The Core Strategy sets out that this HMA has a 14% indicative housing growth target over the plan period up to 2031. This equates to 32 additional homes in Allensmore parish as a whole. As of April 2018, Herefordshire Council have advised that 5 of these have been completed and 15 committed (Ref Herefordshire Council data and email communication) and confirmed that the housing growth target for the NDP is therefore to support at least 12 appropriate additional homes by 2031.
- 5.2.8. Herefordshire Core Strategy Policy RA2 identifies Winnal as one of the settlements which will be the "main focus for proportionate housing development" (Table 4.14). The Herefordshire Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2012 Schedule of Sites⁷ noted just one possible suitable site, albeit with some constraints. Furthermore, sites in Winnal were not considered in the updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2015.
- 5.2.9. The settlements of Allensmore and Cobhall Common are identified as "Other areas where proportionate development is appropriate" (Table 4.15). No strategic assessment of suitable sites has been conducted by Herefordshire Council in either the 2012 or 2015 SHLAA for these two settlements.

⁷ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/5323/summary_schedules_for_rscs_and_hubs

Call for Sites and Site Assessment Process

- 5.2.10. The Parish Council undertook a Call for Sites in March 2018. 23 sites were submitted by landowners and agents for consideration, and these were all subjected to a technical site assessment process undertaken by consultants AECOM. The full report (Site Assessment Report for the Allensmore Neighbourhood Development Plan, September 2018) is published on the NDP website.
- 5.2.11. The methodology included an initial desk top study to consider constraints and opportunities for each site. The desk top study identified various issues which could be explored in further detail in a site visit. Site visits to all sites were undertaken in August 2018. Following the site visits further desk based research was undertaken to validate the findings of the site visits and to consolidate the site appraisals.
- 5.2.12. For the purposes of calculating potential housing capacity of each site, a density of 30 dwellings per hectare was used, with a sliding scale of ratios of developable to non-developable areas, depending on the size of each site. Residents should note that 30 dwellings per hectare is a standard national indication for rural areas; this does not take account of local contextual factors such as existing low densities in the settlements, the high water table and lack of mains drainage in the Allensmore NDP area. In the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (2011 – 2031), page 152, para 5.3.34, it states that “appropriate density will primarily be informed by the local context as well as site opportunities and constraints”. In Table 1 below, the notional housing capacity based on 30 dwellings per hectare is retained for information; alongside this, potential capacity using the actual local density is shown which is likely to be more appropriate. The evidence for viability of development at such low densities is provided in Appendix III which sets out examples of recent planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
- 5.2.13. The calculations for existing densities of the settlements are shown below. Note that for these purposes, we have only included garden space that lies within our proposed settlement boundaries which are drawn quite tightly against the housing line. Given that many properties are set within sizeable plots, the actual density, notwithstanding settlement boundaries, is in reality much lower. However, the figures below provide a reasonable compromise between the current characteristics and the standard national formula.

Winnal Common

Total area of settlement boundary 3.07ha

Less proposed sites:

Site 1: 0.07ha

Site 4: 0.25ha

Net area = 2.75ha

Number of houses currently within settlement boundary: 15

Therefore, average density: $15/2.75 = 5.45\text{dph}$ (dwellings per hectare)

Winnal

Total area of settlement boundary: 4.63ha

Less proposed site:

Site 14: 1.48ha

Net area = 3.15ha

Number of houses currently within settlement boundary: 10

Therefore, average density: $10/3.15 = 3.2\text{dph}$

Allensmore

Total area of settlement boundary: 3.18ha

Less proposed site:

Site 6: 0.24ha

Net area = 2.94ha

Number of houses currently within settlement boundary: 26

Therefore, average density: $26/2.94 = 8.8$ dph

Cobhall Common

Total area of settlement boundary: 8.68ha

Less proposed sites:

Site 15: 0.56ha

Site 20: 1.07ha

Net area = 7.05ha

Number of houses currently within settlement boundary: 54

Therefore, average density: $54/7.05 = 7.7$ dph

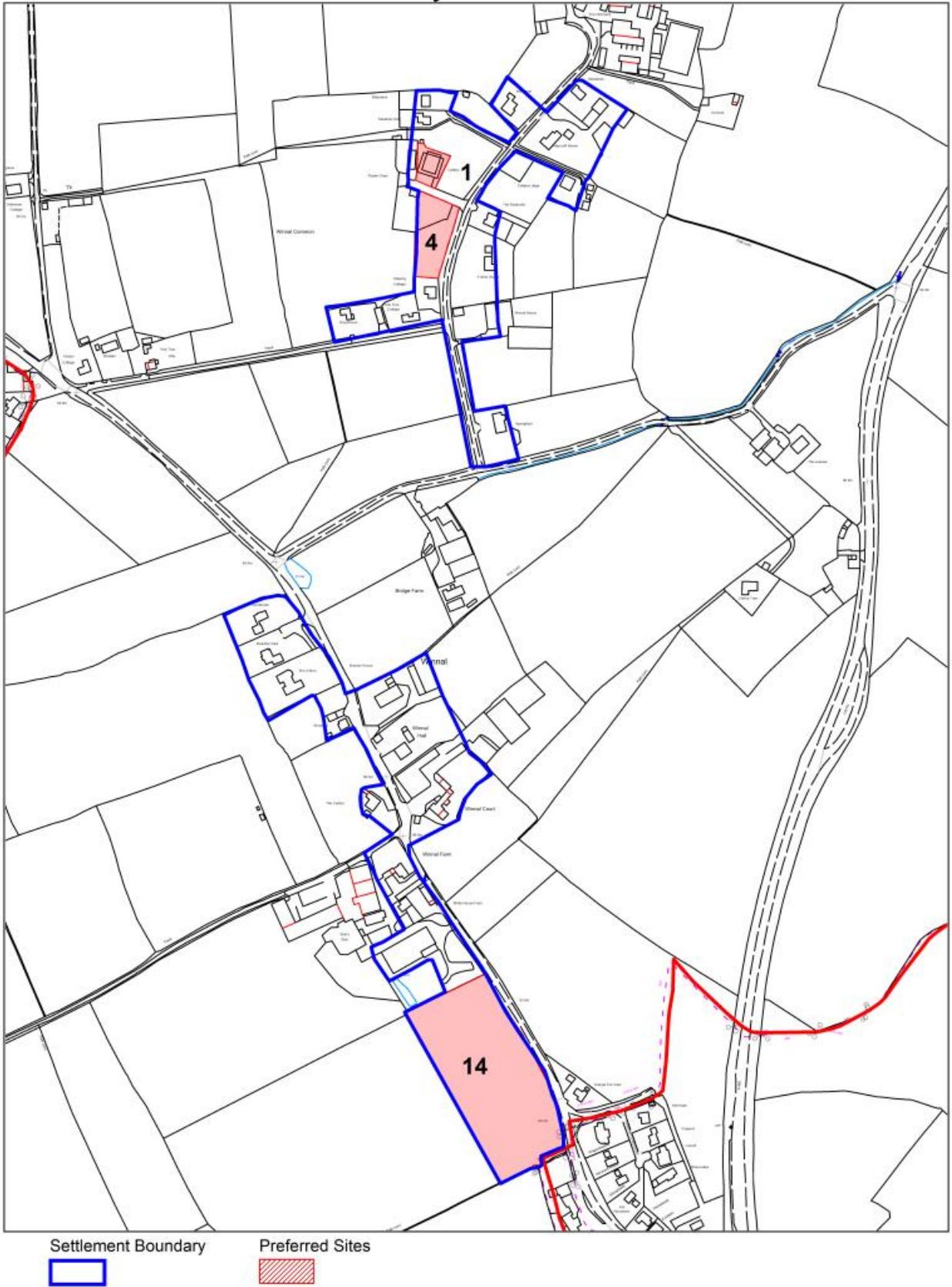
- 5.2.14. Following the completion of the site assessment the consultants recommended that six sites were considered potentially appropriate for allocation in the NDP. In addition, Site 14 was considered suitable in part (the south east corner which adjoins existing built form in the neighbouring parish of Kilpeck). These Preferred Option sites are shown in Table 1. All the recommended sites have been included in the First Draft Plan for public consultation.

Table 1 Preferred Option Housing Sites

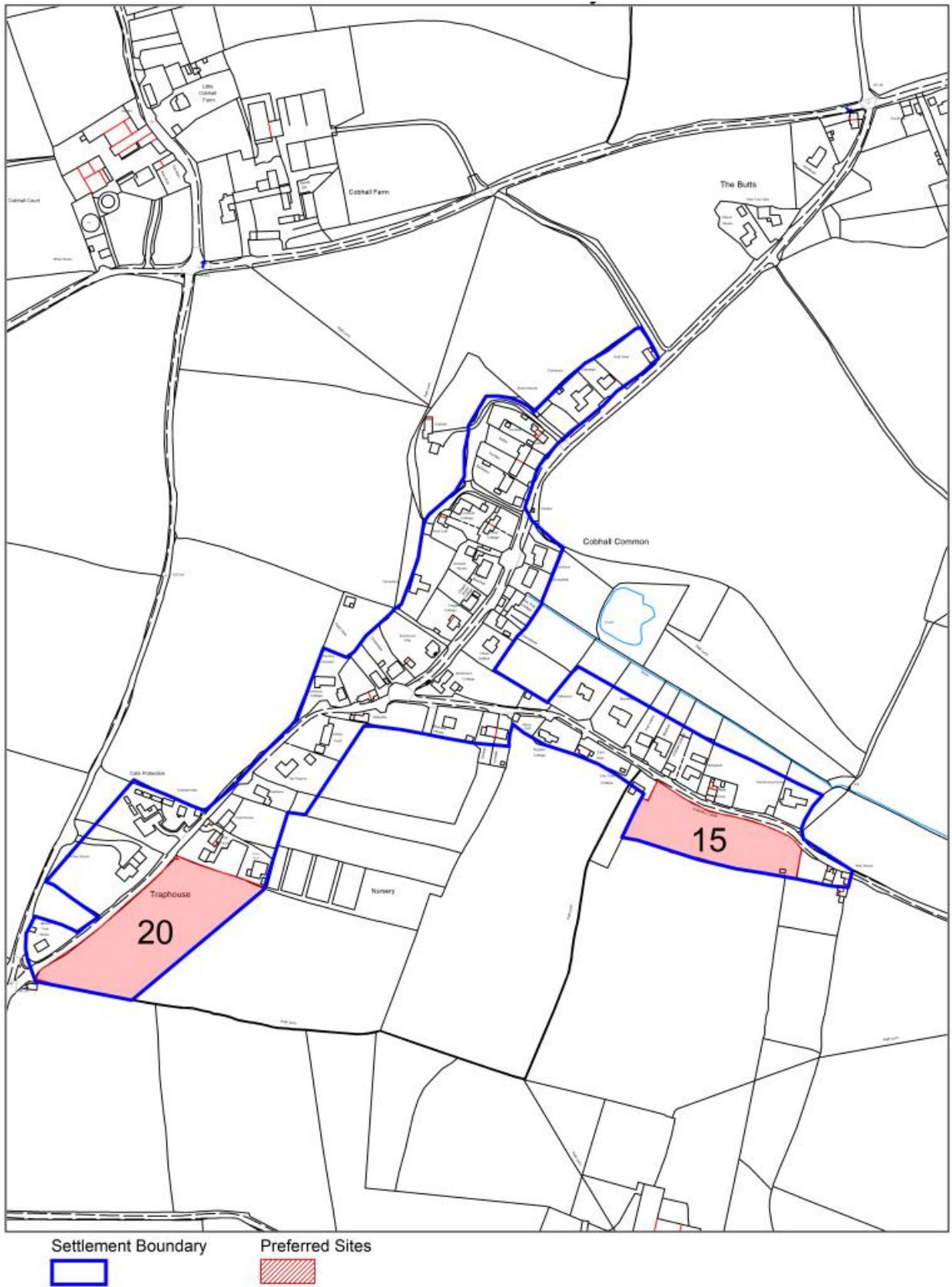
Site	Location	Area (ha)	Indicative housing capacity based on AECOM Report density of 30 dpa	Proposed capacity based on existing settlement density
Site 1	Winnal	0.07	2	1
Site 4	Winnal	0.25	5	1
Site 6	Allensmore	0.24	6	2
Site 14	Winnal	1.48	35 in total but only partial development recommended.	13 in total but only partial development recommended.
Site 15	Cobhall Common	0.56	15	4
Site 16	Court Plocks	0.05	1 (barn conversion)	1
Site 20	Cobhall Common	1.07	25	8
Total				Up to 30 houses

- 5.2.15. It is noted that, although site 16 at Court Plocks is not inside nor adjacent to the settlement boundary, it would not be in accordance with the Core Strategy Policy RA2, However, conversions of existing agricultural buildings in the rural area are supported in Core Strategy Policy RA3 and RA5. An application for this conversion would therefore be supported by the NDP.
- 5.2.16 The Site Assessment Report identified planning constraints and issues for each of the preferred sites. These have been noted and used to inform the criteria for each of the draft proposed site allocations in Policy A3. The Preferred Option sites and Settlement Boundaries are shown on Maps 2, 3, 4 and 5. A list of all the sites submitted and considered in the Site Assessment Report is in Appendix VI.

Map 2 Winnal Settlement Boundary and Sites 1, 4 and 14



Map 4 Cobhall Common Settlement Boundary and Sites 15 and 20



Draft Policy A3 – Proposed Site Allocations

The following sites are identified as Preferred Options for new housing development, subject to the criteria in the policy set out for each site. The sites are identified on Maps 2, 3 and 4.

Site 1, Cats Whiskers Boarding Cattery, Winnal - see Map 2.

This site is considered suitable for the development of 1 dwelling, provided that:

1. Site layouts reflect the characteristics of the local area with properties set back from the road and accessed by driveways.
2. Development is sited and designed to minimise overlooking of existing neighbouring properties and local residential amenity is protected.

Development of holiday accommodation (C1) would also be acceptable on this site.

Site 4, Willoughby Cottage Garden, Winnal - See Map 2.

This site is considered suitable for the development of 1 dwelling, provided that:

1. Safe and suitable access is provided from the road.
2. Any removal of existing established mature hedgerows or trees for access or development of the site is offset by replacement planting of suitable local species to enhance biodiversity.

Site 6, Church Road, Allensmore - see Map 3.

This site is considered suitable for the development of up to 2 dwellings, provided that:

1. Suitable and safe access is provided from Church Road.
2. Development proposals provide effective surface water drainage measures to protect existing and future residential areas in the Church Road area from flooding. New development should be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on the development site and to minimise runoff. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be implemented in accordance with the SuDS hierarchy unless deemed inappropriate.

Site 14, South of Winnal Farm, Winnal - see Map 2.

This proposed site is significant in scale and development of the entire area may not be appropriate. Development of part of the site for 13 dwellings is supported provided that:

1. Development proposals include suitable screening and landscaping to protect long distance views towards the site from all directions, taking into account the site's prominent location within the landscape which has an open, rural character.
2. Built form is concentrated in the south east corner as this area is considered to have a lower landscape sensitivity and adjoins existing built form at Chimney Meadows.

Site 15, Cobhall Lane, Cobhall Common - see Map 4.

This site is considered suitable for the development of up to 4 dwellings. The capacity of the site is constrained by Cobhall Lane which is a high sided single track road with limited passing spaces.

Residential development will be supported provided that:

1. Development proposals are designed and sited to integrate well with the existing built form and reflect the local linear settlement pattern.
2. Residential amenity of existing local neighbouring properties is protected and development is set back from the roadside to maximise separation distances and reduce overlooking of properties on the other side of the lane.
3. Any removal of existing established mature hedgerows or trees for access or other development of the site is offset by replacement planting of suitable local species to enhance biodiversity.

Site 20, Cobhall Common - see Map 4.

This site is considered suitable for the development of up to 8 dwellings provided that:

1. Development reflects the existing pattern and grain of nearby development where houses are set in large plots, and development is of a low density (below 30 dwellings per hectare).
2. Proposals are well integrated with the existing settlement pattern and continue the linear form of the village.

3. The design and layout of the development minimises overlooking of existing nearby properties and protects local residential amenity.

Site 16, Court Plocks - Barn Conversion

Map 5 Court Plocks



This site is considered appropriate for a single dwelling through the conversion of the existing barn at Court Plocks from agricultural use to residential use.

Any proposed conversion should be of a high quality design which is sensitive to the barn's existing character.

Settlement Boundaries

- 5.2.17. Outside the main settlements, the neighbourhood area is considered to be wider countryside and development will be much more constrained, in accordance with Core Strategy Policy RA3. In order to differentiate clearly the areas of settlements where development would be considered appropriate, from the wider countryside, Herefordshire Council encourages NDPs to identify settlement boundaries.
- 5.2.18. The comments at the Launch event showed that local people value the strong sense of community where people know each other. Settlement boundaries would help to ensure that new development is limited in scale and maintains the character of small rural communities.
- 5.2.19. The steering group identified several possible settlement boundaries for Allensmore, Cobhall Common and Winnal for consultation as part of the Issues and Options process. Although these

were largely supported by respondents, there were also a number of detailed comments and concerns set out in relation to each of the proposed boundaries. Following careful consideration of the various suggestions submitted, and taking into account the Preferred Option housing sites, the proposed settlement boundaries have been reviewed and amended. Once again local residents and stakeholders are invited to respond through the consultation process and let the steering group know if they support the proposed settlement boundaries, or whether they require further changes.

5.2.20. The proposed settlement boundaries are shown have been drawn fairly tightly around existing areas of housing and include sites with planning consent already ("commitments") together with the Preferred Option housing sites for new development. Map 2 identifies the settlement boundary for Winnal, Map 3 identifies the settlement boundary for Allensmore and Map 4 identifies the settlement boundary for Cobhall Common. These are the preferred option settlement boundaries and include all the preferred option site allocations. However, following the public consultation on this version of the NDP and taking into account any representations on the proposed site allocations, the settlement boundaries may be further amended. For example where a preferred option site is not included in the next, Regulation 14 Draft NDP, the settlement boundary may be amended to exclude the area of the site.

5.2.21. Draft Policy A4 sets out criteria where development would be acceptable within the settlement boundaries. Overall the responses to the Issues and Options consultation showed that only 28% of respondents thought that different criteria should be provided for each settlement, 29% did not know, and 44% did not think this was necessary. Therefore, Draft Policy A4 has been prepared taking into account the various suggestions made during the consultation which are common to all three settlements. These included:

- Concerns about drainage, high water table, flooding and sewage (Note - this is addressed in Draft Policy A7);
- Possible impacts from traffic and parking on narrow roads;
- The need to respond to local character;
- The need to protect the setting of the church and historic cores of settlements;
- The need to respond to local character in terms of form, materials etc; and
- That all development proposals should be assessed on their own merits.

Draft Policy A4 – Criteria for Development in Settlement Boundaries

In addition to the identified site allocations, proposals for new housing development within the identified Settlement Boundaries for Allensmore, Cobhall Common and Winnal (as shown on Maps 2, 3 and 4) will be supported where:

- 1. Development is small in scale preferably no more than 3 dwellings, on small infill sites of single depth (that is, not behind other houses), and where possible on brownfield sites where the new housing development will not be adversely impacted by existing agricultural or commercial activities and vice versa;**
- 2. Properties and extensions are no more than two storeys in height and reflect the character of the settlements with housing set back in large plots (appropriate to the size of the dwelling) and interspersed amongst green spaces. Considerations include size, scale, density, layout and landscaping;**
- 3. Design is sensitive to any nearby built heritage assets such as the church and other Listed Buildings;**
- 4. New developments, extensions and conversions are designed sensitively to respond to the setting of the site, and reflect the rural character of neighbouring buildings, using appropriate materials;**
- 5. Modern and innovative designs incorporate sustainable design technologies to maximise resource and energy efficiency, and which minimise any adverse impacts on local character and setting;**
- 6. Sites have suitable and safe access. The impact of additional traffic from development proposals on existing rural roadworks should be carefully considered and suitable measures should be proposed to encourage appropriate traffic speeds;**
- 7. Sufficient provision is made for adequate off-street parking where development is accessed from narrow rural roads;**
- 8. Provision of small-scale office facilities to accommodate home working within residential development will be considered favourably within the above context.**

Types of New Housing

- 5.2.22. The Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (2012 Update)⁸ sets out that in the rural areas of Herefordshire there is a greater need for more smaller properties such as 1, 2 and 3-bedroom houses, and a much lower requirement for 4 + bedroom houses - see Table 3 p16. In addition, para 1.14 advises that "*there is a strong retirement market within the County with older households moving to the County as it is an attractive place to live. This is evident in each of the HMAs, but appears strongest in the Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye HMAs.*"
- 5.2.23. The report also highlights in para 1.18 that "*for the affordable sector, over the longer-term just under two-thirds of housing requirements are expected to be one- and two-bedroom properties to meet housing needs.*"
- 5.2.24. The responses to the Issues and Options consultation showed that there was a local preference for family housing of three bedrooms (75% of respondents supported this), starter homes of one or two bedrooms (supported by 60% of respondents) and conversions of non-residential buildings (60% of respondents). Other suggestions included affordable housing, apartments and bungalows as well as conversions of derelict properties, where there is some architectural benefit and not executive homes.
- 5.2.25. In terms of tenure, there was a clear preference for privately owned homes (88%) with lower proportions of respondents wanting to see affordable housing. This is significant also because affordable housing can only be required on market schemes of more than 10 houses (Core Strategy Policy H1 Affordable Housing) and the Allensmore NDP is promoting smaller sites, or on Rural Exception sites (Core Strategy Policy H2).
- 5.2.26. Draft Policy A5 has been prepared to help ensure new housing proposals provide the types, sizes and tenure of housing which is suitable for Allensmore and which meets local needs.

Draft Policy A5 – Housing Mix

All proposals for new housing development and conversions of non-residential buildings to residential uses should demonstrate how they help to maintain a suitable mix of tenure, type and size of dwelling in Allensmore.

Proposals should demonstrate how they respond to local needs for family housing (3 bedrooms), starter homes of one or two bedrooms, and housing for older people. Whilst plot size should have regard to local density calculations (see 5.2.14), the actual plot density should be appropriate to the type of dwelling being proposed.

Any proposals which trigger the threshold for an affordable housing⁹ requirement should integrate both the affordable housing and market housing across the site.

⁸ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1644/local_housing_market_assessment_2013

⁹ See Appendix IV - Definition of Affordable Housing

5.3 The Economy of Allensmore, Cobhall, and Winnal



- 5.3.1 The NDP designated area is largely agricultural or private residential land. There are no industrial estates, or business parks within the boundary of our area.
- 5.3.2 There are currently approximately six working farms left in this area. These are family owned/or run businesses, many consisting of two or three generations being involved in the business. Most of these farms employ minimal outside labour, although they do rely on outside contractors at certain times of the year.
- 5.3.3 Historically there would have been many smaller farms, and in the last 40 years we have lost at least ten small dairy farms, as the economies of agriculture have changed. The numbers of staff on these small farms have been lost also as mechanisation has increased.
- 5.3.4 Some of the remaining farms are no longer farmed by the owners but let out to larger farms; this has also led to a loss of employment in the sector. Some of these small farms have been purchased by individuals as private homes, often with a couple of small fields, which they keep for a horse or other leisure pursuits.
- 5.3.5 Some of the working farms have housing for staff, which was a tradition in the past, as a farm worker often lived in a “tied cottage”. These are now lived in by family members working on the farm, been sold off, or let out for the rental market.
- 5.3.6 There used to be a few market gardens, and nurseries in the district, supplying tomatoes, cucumbers, vegetables, and flowers to locals, as well as wholesale customers in Hereford. These are now closed.
- 5.3.7 The one area that has greatly increased in recent years is the supply of horse livery facilities for people from the city to keep their horses. While this does not create employment, it does



provide income from land which would otherwise be difficult to farm due to the small field sizes. There are at least 4 of these operating within our boundary.

5.3.8 There are currently no shops, schools, or public houses within our boundary. Historically there was a school at Pateshall Village Hall, but this closed in the late 1950s. In the past, there was also a Post Office at The School House, Allensmore, a village shop in Cobhall Common, and a blacksmith at Goose Pool, Allensmore.

5.3.9 In addition to farming, there are a number of small businesses being run from home or operating throughout the region. These include:

- A groundworks and contracting business
- Several home-based consultancies
- Accountants
- An events business specializing in pyrotechnics
- A beansprout nursery
- A farm-based engineering business
- The cats' protection cattery
- Dog kennels facility
- A van sales business
- A bed and breakfast business
- A scrap metal business.

5.3.10 In summary there are currently few job opportunities in Allensmore, and the nearest job opportunities are likely to be in Hereford, or further afield. Most businesses require good infrastructure to survive, and if the proposed broadband fibre to premises in the Allensmore settlement is delivered in 2019/20 this would provide excellent opportunities for working from home, or even the development of small business units. This would provide local employment opportunities and reduce the need to travel to Hereford for work, as well as giving a future to our younger community. The advent of the University in Hereford would tie in with this.

5.3.11 The Core Strategy supports the conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to support economic development in rural areas (Policy RA5), and appropriate rural diversification such as tourism (Policy RA6). There may be opportunities for small scale business growth in hi tech / professional industries in Allensmore linked to the proposed university and development at nearby Rotherwas, provided suitable accommodation and public transport are available.

5.3.12 The responses to the Issues and Options consultation showed that 75% of respondents wanted to see a policy in Allensmore NDP supporting conversions of agricultural buildings to promote local economic development. There was recognition of the need for the farming community to be able to diversify. There were also a number of comments relating to concerns local people have about such proposals and these included the following:

- The need to limit proposals to small scale businesses and control pollution and traffic; and
- The need to promote well designed schemes (taking architectural advice) and ensure appropriate scale.

- 5.3.13 Draft Policy A6 has been prepared taking into account the responses to the Issues and Options consultation.

Draft Policy A6 - Conversion of Former Agricultural Buildings for Business Use

The sensitive re-use of redundant or disused former agricultural buildings, including farmsteads, for small scale business accommodation such as workshops, offices, and studios will be supported where it does not lead to unacceptably adverse impacts on existing agricultural or commercial activities and existing agricultural uses do not conflict with proposals.

In particular, appropriate conversions will be supported where redundant or disused buildings are adjoining or located in or in close proximity to the three settlements of Winnal, Allensmore and Cobhall Common.

Conversions should be designed sensitively and respond positively to the local context in terms of materials, scale and height. (see also Policy A4, Criteria for Development)

Adequate car parking should be provided on site and there should be suitable existing access to the highway network.

5.4 Improving Local Accessibility and Infrastructure



- 5.4.1 An NDP is concerned with planning policies related to the use and development of land and buildings. Planning policies can do little directly to address concerns about traffic speeds and traffic management, maintenance of the highway network, or improving public transport services. Planning policies can help to guide development to more accessible locations (such as those close to bus stops or local services) and encourage development proposals to link to existing walking and cycling networks to support lower levels of car use.
- 5.4.2 However, it is recognised that the adverse impacts of traffic through the area, and the need for more safe walking and cycling routes are significant issues for residents in Allensmore. Therefore, it is proposed that improving accessibility is included as an issue in the NDP, and where planning policies cannot directly address local peoples' concerns separate actions may be undertaken by the Parish Council.

Local Road Network

- 5.4.3 As the neighbourhood area is transected by the A465, communication and accessibility between Allensmore Village and Cobhall Common and Winnal is difficult. Crossing this road requires drivers and particularly walkers, horse riders and cyclists to take great care due to the high vehicular speeds. Road signs are often obstructed by vegetation and this is a particular concern along stretches of the A465.



- 5.4.4 The A465 trunk road which separates Allensmore village from Cobhall Common and Winnal, and the B4348 from Lock's Garage towards Kingstone are the only two-way roads in the parish. Almost all other roads are essentially single-track lanes with places to pass, sometimes quite far apart. This often requires vehicles to reverse to enable passing. There is a small section of pavement for pedestrians aside the B4348 by Lock's Garage and the Three Horseshoes public house, otherwise pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders share the carriageway with cars, farm vehicles and goods traffic. Apart from a ¼ mile stretch of the B4348 from Lock's Garage towards Kingstone, all other roads and lanes are de-restricted such that the National speed limit of 60 mph applies.



Footpaths and bridleways

- 5.4.5 There are many footpaths and a few bridleways in the area and these are generally well maintained by the parish council under the guidance of its Footpaths Officer. Some are well used by walkers, and the bridleways are used daily by horse riders. There are at least four commercial livery stable/yards and a number of horse owners in the area, so people are just as likely to meet horses on our lanes as walkers.



- 5.4.6 Between spring and autumn, a St Andrews Church led group, organise footpath walks around the parish. These social events see various paths well walked by up to 20 or more walkers. With the help and cooperation of landowners and the footpath officer, assisted by volunteers on occasion, most paths are kept clear. A policy of replacing stiles with gates is underway but with limited budgets it will be some years before all such stiles will be replaced.
- 5.4.7 It is possible to walk on public footpaths into Hereford, but it takes about two hours and, though a pleasant enough walk in fine weather, across the fields via Old Clehonger, it is of little value to anyone wishing to walk or indeed cycle into Hereford for work or for shopping. The verge on the A465 between Belmont and Lock's Garage is generally wide enough to walk, on one side or the other, but it is of rough grass which makes walking difficult, and totally suitable and also unsafe for cyclists, young families with push-chairs or wheelchair users. Effectively there is currently no acceptable walking or cycling route along the A465. There is an alternative route to the nearest Post Office and Shop at Lock's garage, from Winnal or Cobhall for those prepared to brave the traffic on the B4348.

Cycling

- 5.4.8 Riding a bike on the A465 is not for the faint hearted though "professionals" and cycling clubs do use the route. Other than the A465 and to a lesser extent, the B4348, cycling the lanes of our three communities is a mainly pleasurable activity and a relaxation for all ages although sometimes speeding vehicles can make this hazardous.

Traffic Speeds

- 5.4.9 Most users of the village roads drive at a reasonable pace, probably under 30 mph, but they are not legally obliged to do so and speeding vehicles can be an issue. All roads are de-classified and driving at 60 mph, though potentially lethal, would not mean drivers are breaking the speed limit. The question of whether a lower speed restriction in the centre of Cobhall Common, in Winnal and in Allensmore Village should be considered.
- 5.4.10 A number of residents have expressed concern over safely accessing the A465 from Church Road by the Village Hall. Similar concerns would appear to apply to the Mapps Pool junction and the cross roads to Cobhall just south of the Village Hall. Visibility obstructed by vegetation adds to the problem and several have suggested that the speed limit on the A465 for perhaps ½ a mile in this area should be reduced to 50mph. Some have suggested an even lower limit.

Road surfaces

- 5.4.11 All roads in and through the neighbourhood area appear to be in a reasonable condition although like anywhere, there are pot holes from time to time, which become hazardous when they are hidden by localised flooding. Almost all lanes in the village are single track roads with passing places. Some passing places are created by design; others by vehicles repeatedly cutting in to grass verges and banks. The relatively small increase in vehicle movements that will be brought about by development anticipated in the planned period (2017-2031), will have some impact on local road networks.

Hedges and Visibility

- 5.4.12 The advent of mechanical hedge cutting has generally meant village hedges are well maintained and the neighbourhood area gives an impression of being well looked after. There will be exceptions since cutting will depend on the individual landowner.

Litter and illegal waste

- 5.4.13 Drink cans and food packets are still being dropped in the hedgerows and verges around the village and items of more substantial illegal waste can often be found dumped in the Lay-by on the A465 as well as other places.

Public Transport

- 5.4.14 Public transport is available linking the neighbourhood area along the A465 to either Hereford or Abergavenny (Stagecoach X3 service). This is a two-hourly service (reduced in 2015 from hourly, presumably due to limited uptake and lack of funds). There is one public bus through Cobhall and Winnal to Hereford each Wednesday which returns two hours later. A school bus passes through daily to collect and deliver schoolchildren who attend Kingstone school. Dore Community Transport is also available to all via Dial a Ride. There is no age limit for this, although young children will need to be accompanied by an adult.
- 5.4.15 The responses to the Issues and Options consultation provided a number of suggestions for actions by the Parish Council. These have been given further consideration by the steering group and the Parish Council have also agreed to consider them. The proposed non planning actions for the Parish Council are provided in Appendix V.

Local Infrastructure

- 5.4.16 In addition to traffic and accessibility, there are other infrastructure issues in Allensmore neighbourhood area which may be significant to the NDP. Mains water is available in all three settlements in the parish although there may be a few isolated properties still dependent upon a private supply. Mains sewage is unavailable to all apart from a small area adjacent to Clehonger which is not included in Allensmore proposed NDP.
- 5.4.17 Surface water on the north west boundary of the parish enters the Cage Brook and from there flows into the River Wye. Surface water from the rest of the village flows through a network of ditches which meet below the church before passing into the Worm Brook and into the river Monnow. Due to the low-lying nature of both Cobhall Common and Winnal Common and a historically high-water table in these areas, surface drainage and flooding can be a major issue.
- 
- 5.4.18 The replacement of a difficult section of the ditch from Cobhall Common provided an opportunity to increase capacity to remove surface water, however due to a poor connection to the existing network improvements have not been made. There is the capacity to improve the drainage from Cobhall Common, but funding and the cooperation of the landowners would be required. In general, due to the relatively flat nature of the landscape around both Winnal Common and Cobhall Common water flow is relatively slow and, in some cases, has to reach a level before it will flow at all, so maintenance of these ditches is vital.
- 5.4.19 Broadband services are improving with most properties having access to fibre and the remainder likely to in the next two years.
- 5.4.20 The consultation on Issues and options demonstrated widespread concerns about drainage, flooding, sewage and the high-water table across all areas. Draft Policy A7 requires development proposals to address local issues of drainage, flooding and sewage treatment.

Draft Policy A7 – Drainage, Flooding and Sewage

With no mains drainage and high-water tables throughout the plan area, the ground is known to drain very poorly across the parish. Consequently, safe and reliable disposal of foul water is known to be challenging.

Development proposals will not be supported unless they can demonstrate with evidence (which may include fully documented porosity and percolation tests) that:

- **a sustainable foul water drainage scheme will be implemented which mitigates against these adverse conditions**
- **there is minimum risk of pollution or heightened flooding elsewhere**
- **suitable mitigation can be provided which does not exacerbate run off or higher ground water levels elsewhere**
- **designs maximise the retention of surface water on the development site and minimise runoff**
- **a reliable solution is fully compliant with all the most recent applicable national and locally adopted standards (including the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) hierarchy).**

5.5 Community Facilities



- 5.5.1 The neighbourhood area has a village hall and church but no other local community buildings. A petrol station/shop/post office and a public house are located just outside the neighbourhood area boundary adjacent to Winnal. The neighbourhood area has no significant public green spaces; there is a small area next to the village hall but this is prohibited for public use by Village Hall rules. However, all settlements are within 1 mile of the A465 giving good access onto the road network and the services and facilities of the City of Hereford - but only where residents have their own transport.
- 5.5.2 The village falls within the catchment area of Kingstone schools with school buses through Winnal and Cobhall Common. Some families opt for schools further afield in Madley, Ewyas Harold or Hereford.
- 5.5.3 The responses to the Issues and Options consultation showed that 90% of respondents supported a policy which protects the village hall as a local community facility and supports investment in improved facilities. It was clear that the village hall is valued as a focal point in the village, and that it requires on-going maintenance rather than any major improvement.



Allensmore Village Hall

- 5.5.4 Core Strategy Policy SC1 supports proposals which protect, retain and enhance existing social and community infrastructure.

Draft Policy A8 – Protecting the Church and Village Hall and Supporting Investment in Improved Facilities

The church and village hall are protected for community type uses.

Development or investment which contributes towards the improvement of existing facilities, or provision of new recreational, community and educational resources and/or infrastructure in Allensmore Parish will be considered more favourably.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. This Preferred Options NDP for Allensmore is published for an informal public consultation to be held between 8th and 31st January 2019.
- 6.2. Following careful consideration of all representations submitted, the NDP will then be revised and published for the required 6 weeks formal Regulation 14 consultation.
- 6.3. The NDP then will be revised further and submitted to Herefordshire Council who will check it and publish it for a further 6 weeks formal consultation.
- 6.4. The NDP will then be examined by an independent examiner, who will test the plan against the required basic conditions. It is likely that the examiner will require further changes before recommending that the NDP can go forward to a local referendum.
- 6.5. A majority Yes vote will mean that the NDP will be adopted by Herefordshire Council and used to help determine planning applications alongside Herefordshire's own planning policy and national planning policy.

Appendices

Appendix I: Launch Event Saturday 29th July 2017

Table 2 What residents enjoy about living in Allensmore

Main Themes from Launch Event 29/7/17	Number of Comments on this Theme 29/7/17	Actual Transcribed Comments 29/7/17
Community spirit	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Sense of community' • 'Wonderful neighbourhood with strong values' • 'Rural, quietish, friendly neighbours' • 'Small community where people know each other' • 'Peaceful, friendly, unpopulated' • 'Friendly community. Great community spirit. Quiet' • 'Lovely neighbours'
Rural environment	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Beautiful rural area' • 'Peaceful rural area' • 'Peaceful! Quiet rural location' • 'Rural feel. Good fresh air' • 'Rural environment' • 'Rural, quietish, friendly neighbours' • 'Beautiful views, peaceful apart from A465!' • 'Peace and quiet' • 'Peaceful, friendly, unpopulated' • 'Rural location. Small size' • 'Small community where people know each other' • 'Open countryside' • 'Quiet lovely countryside, under populated!'
Safe environment	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Safe community for children' • 'Feel safe' • 'Low crime rate' • 'Tranquil and secure'
Wildlife	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Wealth of wildlife' • 'Abundant wildlife' • 'Wildlife'
Listed buildings	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'We have a number of Grade II listed buildings'
Access to facilities	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Close to facilities (library, shops etc)'
Dark skies	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'No street lights – the dark sky is wonderful after city living!' • 'No light pollution. Dark skies!'

51 post it notes raised a range of issues documented in Table 2.

Table 2 Residents' comments about issues and option for the future

BROAD THEME	No of comments	Transcribed comments (number after each comment relate to the respondent who may have made points on more than one issue and therefore features more than once)
Drainage	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High water table causing flooding issues (1) • Improve drainage to get rid of unpleasant smells (9) • Proper draining on Cobhall Common to facilitate more building (11) • Draining a perpetual problem. (16) • Planting native trees to support drainage and wildlife diversity. (21) • Drainage will have to be improved if we are to have more houses – hopefully affordable ones. (26) • No building on Cobhall Common we have been SERIOUSLY flooded. Not fun (27) • Mains drainage. (29) • Clogged ditches (32) • Drainage is a major issue for Winnal Common. (33) • Improved drainage before more house building. (34) • Ditch clearance. (36) • We need a good drainage and sewage system soon. (37) • Drainage a major issue. (38) • Mains sewage. Having a tanker to empty cess pits is not a good idea. (39) • In winter sewage overflows into ditches. (40) • Drainage problems. Cobhall Common not address after 30 years. (44) • High water table. (48) • Drainage is a big issue especially since the environment agency stopped flailing ditches. (50)
Housing - including Age Profile Types of housing Affordability	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A peaceful area to live. Convenient to Hereford but we need to encourage young people as the village is becoming a retirement area. We need affordable housing (2) • Church Lane has already increased by more than 75% (3) • Create affordable housing for young families to keep Allensmore alive. Housing that blends in, not stick out. Homes for all. (5) • Cheap housing (6) • Allensmore needs to grow for its future. (7) • No council housing. Any development should be in keeping with existing buildings. (10) • Affordable housing. Family housing keeping youth in the community. (22) • Yes. Affordable housing to encourage and enable young people to live in Allensmore. (25) • Drainage will have to be improved if we are to have more houses – hopefully affordable ones. (26) • Need for affordable housing for young people maybe mobile/park homes otherwise the countryside will be an

BROAD THEME	No of comments	Transcribed comments (number after each comment relate to the respondent who may have made points on more than one issue and therefore features more than once)
		<p>open area for pensioners. No future in this. Young people are the future. (28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of new housing in harmony / keeping with local area. (45)
Farming	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more chicken farms. (10) • No more chicken sheds. Use brown field sites for building not green field. (13) • Stop broiler units near local housing. Unpleasant smells drifting far afield. (17) • Broiler Units – Bowling Green Farm – Issues: water pollution, traffic increase, odour nuisance, visual impact – NO MORE (23)
Infrastructure Including access to Hereford / public transport and broadband	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of infrastructure. Accessing city down Abergavenny road. (12) • A cycle path to Hereford would be a great boon and would avoid the potential for accidents on the main road (14) • Give residents the tools and responsibility to cut back grown around road signs and clear ditches (19) • Cycleway to Hereford. (20) • Access to services – eg no medical facilities, shop, school, bus services (once a week in Cobhall). (24) • Gas main. Fibre optic cable. Regular main road bus service. Junction sign off A465 denoting Church Road. Footpath alongside all main A465. (29) • No footpath between village and Hereford so walking into town is not safe on A465. (30) • Public transport to Hereford is poor. Lower speed limit on A465. (31) • What about Broadband? (43) • Public transport is an issue especially with an ageing population. (49)
Traffic including signage and speed limits	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding traffic on A465 and risky joining from Allensmore because of restricted visibility. Options 1. Slow traffic (40-50mph) 2. Cut back trees. 3. Do both slow traffic and cut back trees. (15) • Traffic on main road needs to be slowed (16) • 30mph speed limit plus flashing sign on road from Locks to beyond sharp bend – dangerous speeding. (18) • Junction sign of A465 denoting Church Road. (29) • Lower speed limit on A465. (31) • We need a road sign showing the junction by the village hall and a speed limit of 50mph on the main road. The hall and the church generate a lot of traffic though the year. (35) • Traffic calming – Limit on A465, 20mph on local lanes (to accommodate horse riders, cyclists and walkers. (41) • Traffic too fast on A465. What about footpath / cycle way between Locks and Belmont. (Good idea and second that added on post-it). (42)

BROAD THEME	No of comments	Transcribed comments (number after each comment relate to the respondent who may have made points on more than one issue and therefore features more than once)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmont traffic major issue. Before considering development must consider additional traffic and infrastructure. (46) • Speeding vehicles from Thruxton past the Butts to the A465 must reach 70mph. (47) • Very narrow lanes mean access and passing places for traffic can be very tricky. (51)
Misc	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there conflicts of interest with land owners on NDP committee? (4) • Why has planning permission been turned down on John Rucks property? (8)

Appendix II: Listed Buildings in Allensmore Parish

Listed Buildings – Historic England List¹⁰

There are 23 Listed Buildings in Allensmore Parish. These are:

Site	List Entry Number	Heritage Category	National Grid Reference
HUNGERSTONE HOUSE	1099688	Grade: II	SO 44393 35204
LITTLE COBHALL FARMHOUSE	1099689	Grade: II	SO 45148 36019
LITTLE VILLAGE FARMHOUSE	1099690	Grade: II	SO 46454 35922
BARN ABOUT 15 YARDS SOUTH-EAST OF MAWFIELD FARMHOUSE	1099691	Grade: II	SO 45243 36476
MEER COURT	1099692	Grade: II	SO 43873 36303
THE OLD FORGE	1099693	Grade: II	SO 43936 34803
WOOD STREET	1099694	Grade: II	SO 46777 36021
CHURCH OF ST ANDREW	1099725	Grade: II*	SO 46629 35875
BEVAN MONUMENT ABOUT ONE YARD EAST OF SOUTH PORCH OF THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW	1099726	Grade: II	SO 46623 35865
CHURCH HOUSE	1099727	Grade: II	SO 46618 35842
COBHALL FARMHOUSE	1099728	Grade: II	SO 45188 35938
HOME FARMHOUSE	1099729	Grade: II	SO 46488 35363
CHURCHYARD CROSS ABOUT 4 YARDS SOUTH OF THE WESTERNMOST WINDOW OF SOUTH SIDE OF THE NAVE OF THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW	1166648	Grade: II	SO 46632 35866
STABLES ABOUT 85 YARDS EAST OF HOME FARMHOUSE	1166712	Grade: II	SO 46615 35383
MILESTONE A465	1166781	Grade: II	SO 46336 36232
WATER PUMP ABOUT ONE YARD WEST OF WINNALL COURT	1301218	Grade: II	SO 45357 34253
BARN ABOUT 20 YARDS WEST OF CHURCH HOUSE	1301253	Grade: II	SO 46590 35846
BARN ABOUT 25 YARDS SOUTH-EAST OF COBHALL FARMHOUSE	1301255	Grade: II	SO 45219 35908
LOWER MAWFIELD FARMHOUSE	1348789	Grade: II	SO 45219 36493
STABLES ABOUT 30 YARDS EAST OF LOWER MAWFIELD FARMHOUSE	1348790	Grade: II	SO 45254 36498
WINNALL COURT	1348791	Grade: II	SO 45367 34254
MILESTONE AT GOOSE POOL	1348792	Grade: II	SO 46251 36281
GATE PIERS ABOUT 30 YARDS EAST OF HUNGERSTONE HOUSE	1348827	Grade: II	SO 44429 35193

Note – The site of Allensmore Court is also identified as an Unregistered Park and Garden in the Core Strategy Appendix 8d.

¹⁰ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

Appendix III: Recent Planning Applications for Housing at Low Densities in the NDP Area

Planning Applications:

2 dwellings approved on plot 6:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=183052

4 dwellings on plot 20:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=182371&search=allensmore

7 dwellings on plot 15 (which the Parish Council considered too many - see representation)

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=174681&search=Cobhall%20Common#tab1

1 dwelling in Cobhall Common (opposite plot 15)

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=183370&search=cobhall

Appendix IV: Definition of Affordable Housing

NPPF Annex 2: Glossary

Affordable housing: housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

a) **Affordable housing for rent:** meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).

b) **Starter homes:** is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household's eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.

c) **Discounted market sales housing:** is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.

d) **Other affordable routes to home ownership:** is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

Appendix V: Proposed Non Planning Actions for the Parish Council

Non planning issues that arise from various NDP consultations

From study of the feedback from questionnaires and drop in events at the village hall over the last 18 months, there are a number of concerns and suggestions for future action that fall outside the scope of this NDP. Since the principle of a Neighbourhood Plan is to reflect the views of parishioners it is important that the opportunity is taken to take these issues forward in the most appropriate manner. Consequently, the Parish Council, at its meeting on 22nd November 2018 agreed to help develop a Working Party of interested residents to look at broader community issues, the following ones having already arisen from the NDP process:

Highway and transport issues for future consideration:

Reducing the risk of traffic accidents on the A465

Accessing the A465 from Allensmore Village via Church Road adjacent the Village Hall or at the junction 200 yards further south at Saxon House has been noted by a number of residents as being potentially dangerous. (see 5.4.10 and Appendix I “traffic”). Similar concerns apply at the junction just north at Mapps Pool. Pedestrians or horse riders crossing at these points, particularly adjacent Saxon House (the favoured crossing for those travelling between Allensmore Village and Cobhall Common) have to be especially vigilant.

There are no warning signs for traffic on the A465 and only the national speed limit of 60mph (often exceeded!) is in force.

Ways of reducing the risk might include:-

- reducing the speed limit on the A465
- cutting back trees which obscure views
- erecting warning signs or road markings

Reducing the risk of traffic accident and improving the experience of all users of lanes in the parish

More and more communities are getting speed limits reduced in their villages from 30mph to 20mph (the national limit of 60mph applies in almost all parts of our settlement areas). Feedback from residents would appear to support such a reduction in speed. (page 10)

Footpath/Cycleway along the A465

There is clear evidence both from survey results (page 10) and the post it notes comments (Appendix I) that residents would value a footpath along the A465 between Lock’s Garage and Belmont (Appendix I feedback) and a cycleway along the same route (survey results -Page 10). It is noted that support for a footpath along the A465 would have gained higher support in the feedback had the question of a footpath as well as cycleway been posed.

Support for initiatives to get people to walk or cycle is a key policy in Herefordshire’ Core Strategy.

Possible activities and actions for the community:

St Andrews Church

Liaising with and supporting relevant authorities in maintaining and developing the use of the church building in the future. Such an exercise is currently being carried out across the deanery.

Pateshall Hall

Liaising with the trustees to maintain and enhance this facility to maximise community use.

Local history

The interest shown by residents to learn more about and to protect our local heritage suggests that a Local History Group could be formed (some initial work has been done in terms of gathering residents' memories and artefacts e.g. in relation to Allensmore Court and the village school).

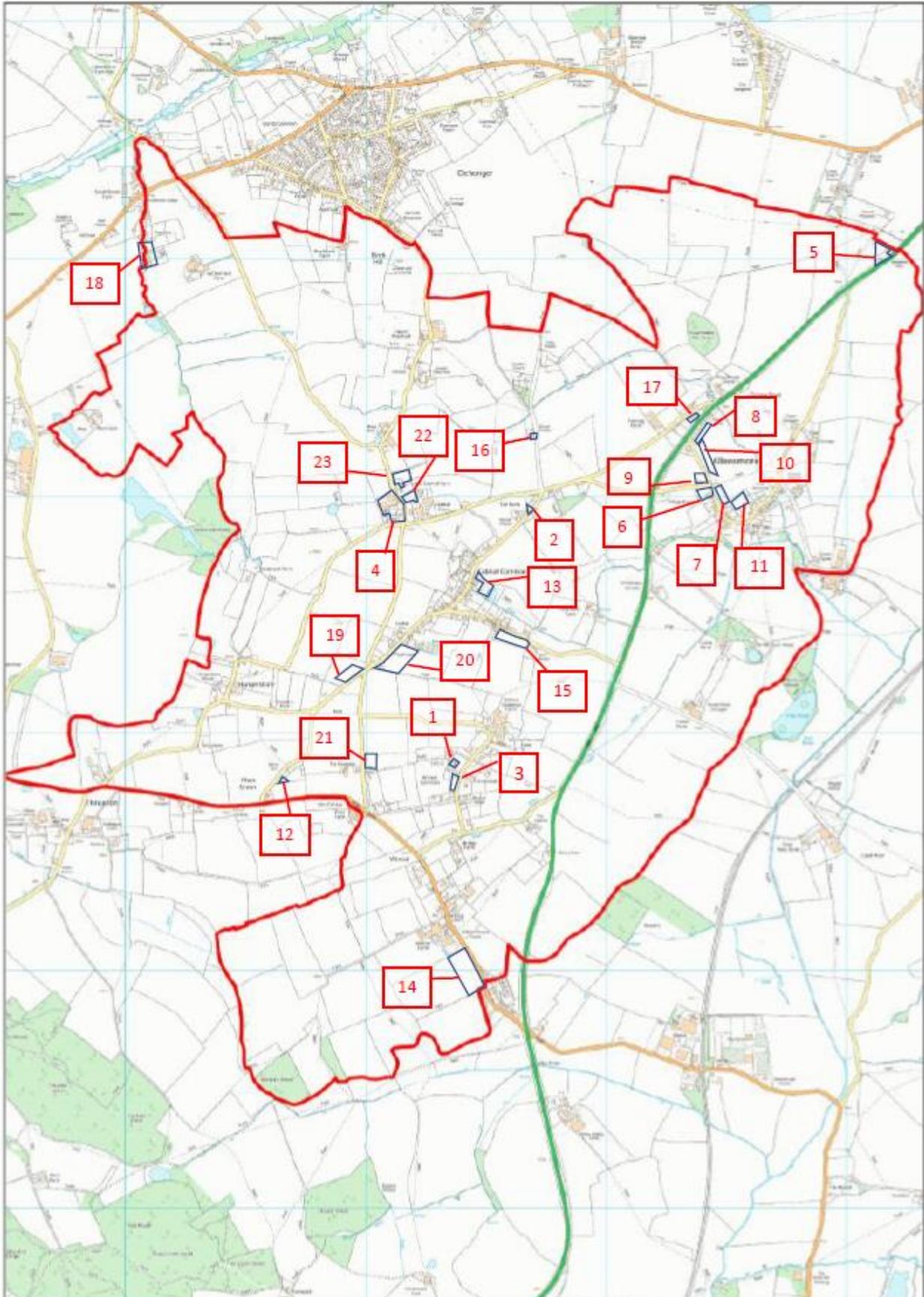
Litter

Some residents already take it upon themselves to collect litter and rubbish left at the roadside and in hedges. A more organised approach to litter picking events and deterring people from dropping litter might be applicable.

Security

Judging by Police reports, Allensmore is fortunate in having a low crime rate. However, we may wish to adopt a more proactive stance and perhaps establish a formal Neighbourhood Watch scheme, or similar.

Appendix VI: Sites map and summary of conclusions from the AECOM Site Assessment Report



Site number	Area (ha)	Appropriate for allocation	AECOM comments
Site 1	0.07	Yes	Site 1 is within a proposed settlement boundary, has no significant landscape or environmental constraints and offers potential to deliver development which has good regard for the pattern and grain of surrounding development.
Site 2	0.05	No	Site 2 is principally constrained by its location outside of the proposed settlement boundaries, particularly in light of the fact that its recent planning history indicates development is not acceptable in principle on the site.
Site 3	0.87	No	Site 3 splits naturally into two halves of differing characters, though neither half is considered suitable for allocation. The southern half is undeveloped and has a rural, open character. The northern half has a variety of previous agricultural development and is less sensitive within the landscape as it already has a developed character. However, the surrounding employment and agri-business land uses are considered to make the principle of a residential allocation on the site inappropriate.
Site 4	0.2	Yes	Site 4 has no significant landscape or environmental constraints, could support development which is consistent with the pattern and grain of existing development in Winnal and is within the proposed Winnal settlement boundary.
Site 5	0.4	No	Site 5 is principally constrained by its location outside any proposed settlement boundaries and its weak relationship with any of the main settlements. There are also issues around site access given the speed and frequency of passing traffic on the A465 and potential issues of landscape sensitivity.
Site 6	0.24	Yes	Site 6 is within the proposed Allensmore settlement boundary, is flat and well screened giving it low landscape sensitivity and could support development which is consistent with the village's linear settlement pattern. It has no significant landscape or environmental constraints though access to the site would likely require enhancing to support development.
Site 7	0.32	No	Although Site 7 is within the proposed Allensmore settlement boundary it is constrained by landscape considerations as its openness enables views out over the countryside. This site is considered to make an important contribution to the rural character and setting of Allensmore.
Site 8	0.45	No	Site 8 is principally constrained by its location outside the proposed settlement boundary, by its productive agricultural function and its openness. The site is perceptually separate from the core of Allensmore and development could be highly visible within the landscape with the open long range views to and from the east of the site particularly sensitive. There are also additional implications from traffic noise on the A465.
Site 9	0.28	No	Site 9 is principally constrained by its location outside the proposed Allensmore settlement boundary and its elevation above the level of the lanes that run past it, giving it a degree of exposure in a prominent position at the approach to the village.
Site 10	0.22	No	Site 10 is principally constrained by its location outside the proposed settlement boundary and by its productive agricultural function. Additionally, the openness of the Site 10 is considered to make an important contribution to the open and rural character of the approach to Allensmore.

Site number	Area (ha)	Appropriate for allocation	AECOM comments
Site 11	0.33	No	Site 11 is principally constrained by the settlement pattern of Allensmore as development here would be positioned behind existing dwellings and would break the established linear pattern of the village. There are additional constraints of less significance, particularly the adjacent traditional orchard Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat and the flood risk of the section of Church Lane which serves the site.
Site 12	0.06	No	Site 12 is principally constrained by its location outside any of the proposed settlement boundaries and its weak relationship with any of the settlement inside of near to the Neighbourhood Development Plan area. There are additional constraints relating to poor access to the site and to the area of traditional orchard BAP priority habitat that it sits within.
Site 13	0.32	No	Site 13 is principally constrained by the settlement pattern of Cobhall Common, as development here would be positioned behind existing dwellings, adding depth to the built area and breaking the established linear pattern of the village which is particularly strong to the east of Cobhall Common Road. It is therefore considered that development at Site 13 could harm the character of the village.
Site 14	1.48	In Part	Site 14 is the largest site in the appraisal and is partially constrained by landscape due to its openness and landform. However, the south west corner of the site sits lower in the landscape, has direct access to the road network and is well screened and it is considered that this subarea represents a discrete site appropriate for allocation.
Site 15	0.56	Yes	Site 15 is a well-defined area within the proposed Cobhall Common settlement boundary, with low landscape sensitivity and a linear form which could support development consistent with the settlement pattern of the village.
Site 16	0.05	Yes	Site 16 would be an unusual, though not unprecedented, site allocation as it simply relates to the conversion of an existing barn to a single dwelling, a process already supported in principle by local and national planning policy. However, on the basis that the site would deliver a net gain in dwellings and that it has no significant landscape or environmental constraints it is considered appropriate for allocation.
Site 17	0.02	No	Site 17 is principally constrained by its location outside the proposed settlement boundary which means it has a weak relationship with Allensmore village. The site's location next to the A465 gives it good access to the strategic road network but also generates traffic noise.
Site 18	0.24	No	Site 18 is principally constrained by its location outside any proposed settlement boundary and by environmental constraints in the form of areas of high surface water flood risk and BAP priority habitat. The site has additional access constraints.
Site 19	0.21	No	Site 19 is principally constrained by its location outside the proposed Cobhall Common settlement boundary and by landscape character as it forms part of an open field which contributes to the open and rural setting of the village.
Site 20	1.07	Yes	Site 20 is adjacent to the Cobhall Common settlement boundary and contiguous with the built area of the village. The site offers an opportunity to deliver development which is well integrated with the existing pattern and grain of the village and there are no significant landscape or environmental constraints.
Site 21	0.28	No	Site 21 is principally constrained by its location outside any of the proposed settlement boundaries and a location considered to be isolated in the countryside. The site's position in a discrete corner of an otherwise open field is potentially of low landscape sensitivity but the location has a weak relationship with any of the settlements and is not considered appropriate for allocation.

Site number	Area (ha)	Appropriate for allocation	AECOM comments
Site 22	0.18	No	Site 22 is principally constrained by listed building setting, surrounding land use and access. Although the site is of very low landscape sensitivity it is adjacent to the listed farmhouse of Little Cobhall Farm, has no existing access to the road network and is in an area of agribusiness and employment land uses. It is considered that development of residential uses on a site enclosed by non-residential land uses may be inappropriate.
Site 23	0.28	No	In terms of potential for residential allocation Site 23 is principally constrained by its location within an area of non-residential use. Although there are dwellings associated with neighbouring farms the character of the surrounding northern part of the Cobhall Common is one of agri-business and farming whilst residential uses are more prevalent in the separate southern part of the Cobhall Common. It is considered that the site is currently in its most appropriate use as an employment and storage site.

Appendix VII: Allensmore Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group Members

Present members:

Nick Chapman, chair (01432 806414)
Tim Hancox, vice-chair (01432 276020)
Tony Cramp, (Parish councillor) responsible for finance (01432 271242)
Sally Lawrence (Parish Councillor) minutes
Jeremy Lawrence (Parish Councillor)
Yvonne Chapman (01432 806414)
Merle Hancox (01432 276020)

Past members:

Pat Scanlon (23rd March 2017 - 30th April 2017)
Jim Hamilton (23rd March 2017 - 13th August 2018)
Louise Hamilton (23rd March 2017 - 13th August 2018)
Michael Owens (23rd March 2017 - 25th October 2018)



Allensmore Parish Council

Winter 2018