



# **AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.30pm

1. **Present:** Neil Hayward, chair (NH), Tristan Fraser (TF), Heather Swan (HS), Sam Goldney (SG), Elaine Horton (EH), Richard Nield (RN) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Terry Webb (TW), 1 member of the public attended.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:** Nothing arising.
3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the last Austrey Parish Council (APC) meeting which took place on 14th May 2025, and which included the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.
4. **Open Forum:** Cllr Stephen Shaw (WCC) attended to introduce himself and to tell those present about his aims as a county councillor.
5. **Clerk's Update:** LT has some upcoming training on helping the council to achieve UK GDPR and Data Protection compliance before the 2025/26 AGAR. \*£605 grant has been received from NWBC, which is to be used for the Community Orchard.
6. **Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**
  - i. **Adoption of APC IT policy:** The policy has been emailed to members ahead of the meeting. This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting, once the clerk has undergone the aforementioned training, in case there is anything relevant which needs to be added to the policy.
  - ii. **Church Clock:** NH reported on his recent grant application to Pilgrim Trust for £5,500 to repair the clock – we have been offered £2,000 which can be held for 2 years providing that we can demonstrate that we are seeking further grants/monies to make up the difference. Ideas on how to fundraise the remaining balance were discussed.
  - iii. **Neighbourhood Plan:** SG went through the changes to the original plan, the Consultation Statement Summary, the Basic Conditions Statement and the Statement of Modifications summary, all subject to final editorial changes. Members of the council voted on whether to formally adopt the modified. TF proposed that the plan be adopted by APC, and this was seconded by NH. All members voted in favour of the adoption as the AMNP meets all prescribed conditions and basic requirements, ensuring sustainable development while preserving Austrey's rural character and community values. It is ready for submission and examination, and the documents mentioned can be viewed as appendices to these minutes.
  - iv. **Playing Fields:** Nothing to report.
  - v. **Village maintenance:** The village planters are looking beautiful, thanks to all of the volunteers who are tending them. \*There have been some reports of some public footpaths around the village being overgrown and impassable. APC to look into cutting them back when the weather is cooler.
7. **a: New applications:**
  - PAP/2025/0242 - 81, Main Road: no objections
  - PAP/2023/0154 - Land southwest of the Headlands, Warton Lane – RECONSULTATION: Members discussed this at length and have decided to send in an objection to the application. EH to draft the response.

- PAP/2025/0256/0257 - The Limes, 87 Main Road: no objections
- PAP/2025/0246 - Northwood House, Norton Hill: no objections
- b: Determined:** Nothing determined since the last meeting

**8. Financial & insurance matters:**

**a:** payments made since the last meeting:

Clerk's salary - June 2025

HMRC PAYE – June 2025

Beeline Community Transport - £100 - donation

Lloyds Bank - £4.25 - service charges (June)

**b:** payments received:

NWBC – grant - £605

- 9. Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** SG is looking to produce a newsletter, so any articles and adverts can be forwarded to APC. TF would like to add events to the next agenda.

**Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 13th August 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell June 2025

## **Basic Conditions Statement**

The **Austrey Modified Neighbourhood Plan (AMNP)** outlines the vision and policies for sustainable development in Austrey Parish from 2025 to 2033. It has been prepared by Austrey Parish Council to meet legal requirements and basic conditions for neighbourhood planning, ensuring alignment with national policies, local strategic plans, and EU obligations.

### **Key Highlights:**

1. **Legal Compliance:** The AMNP adheres to statutory requirements, focusing on land use and development within Austrey Parish boundaries. It avoids excluded developments and aligns with the North Warwickshire Local Plan (2021).
2. **Sustainable Development:** The plan promotes economic, social, and environmental objectives, including farm diversification, renewable energy, housing for local needs, and active travel. Policies emphasize high-quality design, energy efficiency, biodiversity, and flood risk management.
3. **Community Engagement:** The plan was shaped through consultations, including housing needs surveys, public events, and feedback from stakeholders.
4. **Key Policies:**
  - **Natural Environment:** Protects local landscape features and promotes biodiversity.
  - **Local Green Spaces:** Identifies and safeguards areas of community importance.
  - **Housing:** Supports small-scale windfall developments and housing tailored to local needs.
  - **Design:** Encourages high-quality, sustainable, and heritage-sensitive designs.
  - **Active Travel:** Promotes walking, cycling, and public transport access.
5. **Compatibility with EU Obligations:** The plan complies with environmental and human rights regulations, ensuring no significant impact on European sites.
6. **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA):** Both assessments concluded that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

### **Conclusion:**

The AMNP meets all prescribed conditions and basic requirements, ensuring sustainable development while preserving Austrey's rural character and community values. It is ready for submission and examination.

## **Statement of Modifications summary for June PC**

The document is a Statement of Modifications for the Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan Review, outlining updates and changes to the existing plan for the period 2025-2033.

### **Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Overview**

The Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan Review (ANDPR) updates the previous plan from 2014-2029, reflecting changes in national policy and local needs. The review process incorporates community feedback and aims to enhance existing policies without introducing new housing site allocations.

### **Background and Purpose of the Review**

The review was initiated by the Parish Council in 2021 to update policies and proposals from the original NDP.

- The original NDP was adopted in June 2017 after examination and local referendum.
- The review considers changes in national planning policy, local housing needs, and community input.
- The aim is to ensure the NDP remains relevant and effective in guiding local development.

### **Key Influences on the Review Process**

Several factors have informed the modifications made in the ANDPR.

- Changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as of December 2024.
- Adoption of the North Warwickshire Local Plan in September 2021.
- Findings from the Austrey Housing Needs Survey Report 2021.
- Development of previously allocated sites and local housing growth over the past five years.
- Community feedback from a launch event and questionnaire conducted in May 2023.

### **Modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

The review includes material modifications to existing policies and the deletion of certain site allocations.

- Only one policy, AP9, has been completely deleted due to the development of identified sites.
- The review focuses on updating existing policies rather than adding new housing sites.
- Modified policies include updates to environmental protection, local green spaces, and design standards.

### **Types of Modifications and Their Implications**

The modifications are categorized based on their impact on the nature of the plan.

- Minor modifications do not materially affect the plan and do not require examination or referendum.

- Material modifications that do not change the nature of the plan require examination but not a referendum.
- The Parish Council believes the changes are material but do not alter the fundamental nature of the plan.

### **Summary of Modified Policies**

A table outlines the modifications made to the former NDP policies, highlighting key changes.

- Policy AP1: Updated to protect valued local features and address light pollution.
- Policy AP2: Identifies local green spaces based on community input and NPPF criteria.
- Policy AP5: Aligns with new design codes and emphasizes high-quality design standards.
- Policy AP10: Updates local housing needs based on the 2021 survey results.

### **Examination and Future Steps**

The review will undergo examination by an independent examiner, with no referendum anticipated.

- The local planning authority will assess the modifications and provide feedback.
- The Parish Council will proceed based on the examiner's recommendations as the review process advances.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Process**

The review process for the Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) involves updating policies and sections to reflect current needs and changes in planning regulations. The modifications aim to ensure the plan remains relevant and aligned with local and national policies.

- Minor modifications include updates to the introduction and legal framework sections.
- Material modifications that do not change the nature of the plan involve the addition of new policies and objectives.
- The review process is guided by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

### **Updates to Parish Profile and Demographics**

The Austrey Parish profile has been updated to reflect recent demographic changes and housing developments. The 2021 Census data indicate a significant increase in both the number of dwellings and residents.

- The parish now comprises approximately 527 dwellings and around 1,100 residents, showing a 10% increase since 2011.
- The village has limited community facilities, including a primary school, two churches, and a general store/Post Office.
- An ageing population is noted, with challenges for young families due to high house prices.

### **Environmental and Landscape Considerations**

The review emphasizes the importance of protecting the local environment and landscape character. The policies aim to enhance biodiversity and manage flood risks effectively.

- The "Green Ring" around Austrey is identified as a key feature to protect for its character and recreational value.
- Objectives include minimizing flood risk and enhancing local wildlife habitats.
- The landscape character assessment highlights the need for conservation and enhancement of local features.

### **Housing Design and Development Objectives**

The housing design section outlines objectives to ensure new developments align with the rural character of Austrey. The focus is on sustainable and energy-efficient housing.

- Objectives include protecting rural character, promoting sympathetic design, and maximizing energy efficiency.
- The plan supports the development of low-maintenance bungalows and affordable housing for local residents.
- The review incorporates updated housing needs data, emphasizing the need for smaller homes and affordable options.

### **Local Green Spaces and Community Assets**

The review introduces a new policy for Local Green Spaces to provide additional protection for important community areas. This aims to enhance the quality of life for residents.

- Areas identified as Local Green Spaces include Newton Lane Playing Fields, Old Cricket Ground, and Bishops Field.
- The designation aims to protect spaces that are significant for recreation, beauty, and community well-being.
- The community orchard initiative reflects local engagement and support for enhancing green spaces.

### **Policy Updates and Community Engagement**

The review process has involved significant community engagement, with feedback shaping the updated policies. The modifications reflect the aspirations and needs of local residents.

- Policies have been updated to include community suggestions from informal consultations held in May 2023.
- The review emphasizes the importance of sustainable development and community involvement in planning.
- New policies address active travel, health, and safety, promoting a walkable neighbourhood.

Samantha Goldney June 2025

New intro – to highlight

*Austrey Modified Neighbourhood Plan (AMNP) has been prepared through a formal Review process and comprises material modifications to the former made Austrey Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, it will be subjected to independent examination.*

*The examiner will consider whether the Modified Plan meets certain 'basic conditions'. These are:*

- 1 Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the plan.*
- 2 The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.*
- 3 The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);*
- 4 The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and*
- 5 The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements*

It is for the period of 2025 – 2033 and explains how and why we've updated it.

It explains that: *t 'There are 3 types of modification which can be made to a neighbourhood plan or order. The process will depend on the degree of change which the modification involves:*

- Minor (non-material) modifications to a neighbourhood plan or order are those which would not materially affect the policies in the plan or permission granted by the order. These may include correcting errors, such as a reference to a supporting document, and would not require examination or a referendum.*
- Material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan or order would require examination but not a referendum. This might, for example, entail the addition of a design code that builds on a pre-existing design policy, or the addition of a site or sites which, subject to the decision of the independent examiner, are not so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the plan.*
- Material modifications which do change the nature of the plan or order would require examination and a referendum. This might, for example, involve allocating significant new sites for development.'*

This NDP Review is considered to comprise material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan. The Statement of Modifications sets out the changes to the Made NDP and is published on the NDP website, alongside a 'track changes' version of the previous NDP, with the modifications.

Interesting fact: *The 2021 Census showed that the Parish comprises approximately 400 527 dwellings in a variety of design styles and has around 1,000 1,100 residents in 470 households. This demonstrates a 10% increase in residents since 2011 and reflects the significant amount of new residential development that has taken place within and around the village. We are currently sitting at approx. 550 dwellings in the village.*

We have added in a significant piece around PROTECTING LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND WILDLIFE in line with current guidelines. This gives a description of the landscape and character of area in and around the village and how we need protect this environment (this was strongly

supported in the 2023 questionnaire that was completed as part of this process) when reviewing potential future development.

There is a significant section of protecting important local spaces and views and *'North Warwickshire Borough Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (December 2023) notes the need to improve Austrey Playing Fields. Part 5: Action Plan (p85 Newton Regis & Warton Analysis Area) identifies that Site 8 Austrey Playing Fields has one poor quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity and there is a need to improve pitch quality. North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2019 to 2033 Section 2 – Key Priorities p18 includes the Area Priority (AP) To Support Austrey Parish Council with obtaining funding from HS2 to finance the relocation of its recreation ground.'*

## 25. POLICY AP2: LOCAL GREEN SPACES

*The following areas as identified on Austrey Modified Neighbourhood Plan Maps 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D are identified as local green spaces:*

1. Newton Lane Playing Fields
2. Old Cricket Ground
3. Bishops Field
4. Field to the northeast of Hollybank
5. Austrey Community Orchard
6. Woodlands off Cinder Lane (Fairy Woods)
7. Land at Bishops Cleeve cul-de-sac
8. Village Green, Wulfric Avenue
9. Play Area, Wulfric Avenue.

I have specifically added in a piece around the Community Orchard as I think that is an excellent representation of a really positive outcome from this review.

## Policy AP3: Views

The views map has just been updated, and they are one of the items that are 'subject to editorial amendment'

Housing Design – we commissioned Austrey Design Guidance and Codes as part of the NDP Review which everyone has seen previously. Four main objectives from this:

- Objective 1: To Protect Austrey's Rural Character
- Objective 2: To Promote Sympathetic Design
- Objective 3: To Maximise Energy and Resource Efficiency
- Objective 4: To Ensure Viability

## Policy AP4: Farm Diversification

Updated to include the responses from the 2023 informal consultation and also responses to changes in govt policy



#### Policy AP5: High Quality and Sustainable Design

This has been added in and requires new development to respond positively to the Austrey Design Guidance and Codes

#### Policy AP6: Sustainable Design

Has been updated to show how Development proposals will be expected to maximise resource and energy efficiency and demonstrate how designs will achieve net zero and contribute towards tackling the climate emergency.

#### Policy AP7: Promoting Safer Neighbourhoods:

Updated in line as the plan recognises the need for travel to shift away from reliance on the private car.

#### Policy AP8: Active travel and healthy lifestyles

The village of Austrey will continue to be an accessible neighbourhood, with local services and facilities provided within 10 minutes' walk (800m) of all residential areas in the village. In order to achieve this, all new development proposals must support increased walking and cycling

The former made NDP was prepared to be in general conformity with the previous local plan - the North Warwickshire Core Strategy. This set out a minimum housing growth target of 40 dwellings over the Plan period (up to 2029).

The NDP included 3 'preferred sites for development' which already had planning consent for housing at the time. These were A: Hollybank Farm, No Man's Heath, B: Crisps Farm / Glebe Field and C: Applegarth / The Croft, Norton Hill) totalling 57 new homes in the village. The NDP also included planning policies to guide windfall development, including a policy to guide house types and tenures which referred to the 2013 Austrey Housing Needs Survey.

Since then, Austrey has seen significant housing growth – far in excess of the minimum target of 40 dwellings. In total 143 new houses have been built since 2017.

The plan gives a breakdown from the 2021 census of the data about households and house types. It also refers to the Housing Needs Survey from January 2021 which *'noted that recent increases in house prices which have far outstripped average increases in earnings mean that local people may be priced out of the housing market in the area in which they grew up. The need for affordable housing is a critical issue in rural areas but while communities often recognise the need for additional housing, development needs to be balanced with impacts on local character and pressures on local services. The Parish Council is aware that these issues are very relevant to Austrey, with recent developments tending to provide a majority of large, detached 'executive' type housing for private sale, at prices often beyond the reach of parish residents and their families.'*

## HOUSING OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: To support housing in line with the Local Plan

It is a priority for this Plan that Austrey meets its legal requirements in terms of housing provision.

- 3.2 Objective 2: To meet local needs

It is important too that this Plan provides for an adequate supply of the right type of housing to meet the specific needs of present and future generations of villagers. Recent surveys suggest that there is a preference in the local community for a supply of low maintenance bungalows for those seeking to down-size, and for attractive, energy efficient smaller homes for affordable rent and owner occupation for local residents and likely to attract young families to the Parish.

- 3.3 Objective 3: To ensure growth can be accommodated by infrastructure and facilities

Where possible, the Plan aims to ensure that the village is able to grow in an organic and controlled way, in line with local facilities and infrastructure.

- 3.4 Objective 4: To support suitable local employment and encourage home working which will support the local shop and Post Office

The development of businesses in the village is supported, whereby local employment can be created without adverse impact on the surrounding area.

- 3.5 Objective 5: To support housing viability

It is understood that any new development should include a mix of housing types to ensure it is financially viable.

- 3.6 Objective 6: To ensure new housing is accessible to local facilities

The Plan sets out to ensure that any new housing development is located within easy walking distance of the village facilities such as the shop, school, churches and pub. This will help to ensure their viability in the long term. By enabling people to walk or cycle rather than drive to local amenities, this Plan also supports the shift to low-carbon living and a healthier life-style .

- 3.7 Objective 7: To promote better health and wellbeing

By ensuring that further development is located close to local amenities, this will provide a better quality of life for new residents by shifting the centre of the village away from the M42 motorway and proposed HS2 rail link, and from the associated noise nuisance.

Austrey NDP Policy AP9 sets out local criteria for assessing windfall development proposals for new housing. These are largely carried forward from the former made NDP and include the former criteria for the selection of sites and former windfall Policy AP10.

All previous developments, i.e. Hollybank Farm have now built and therefore have been removed from the plan.

From the consultations we know that:

As the village continues to grow throughout the Plan period, the residents of Austrey would like to see investment in the village to support this growth. In the event that a National Infrastructure Levy is introduced, the Parish Council would like to see CIL being spent on the following:

1. Continuing investment in street lighting in other parts of Austrey
2. Speed awareness measures
3. All weather sports facility with flood lighting
4. Improve maintenance of foot paths in and around Austrey
5. Improve drainage on Austrey playing field
6. Replace bus shelter Austrey Modified Neighbourhood Plan 2025 – 2033 Submission version June 4, 2025
7. Develop new children's play area
8. Austrey community orchard (completed in 2024).

This list will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis as new projects identified.

These projects should also be prioritised where opportunities arise from Section 106 Developer contributions.

Samantha Goldney June 2025

## Consultation Statement

### **Austrey Modified Neighbourhood Plan Overview**

The Austrey Modified Neighbourhood Plan (ANPR) for 2025-2033 updates the previous plan from 2014-2029, reflecting community input and local planning needs. The consultation process involved extensive engagement with residents, stakeholders, and landowners to shape the final submission version of the plan.

### **Consultation Process and Community Engagement**

The consultation process for the ANPR was designed to be inclusive and transparent, allowing community members to express their views and influence the plan.

- The Steering Group organized a launch event in May 2023 to promote the NDP Review and gather local input.
- A newsletter was delivered to all households, inviting participation in an online questionnaire or a hard copy.
- A public drop-in event on May 7, 2023, attracted about 45 residents, facilitating discussions on local planning issues.
- Responses from the community were collated and used to inform modifications to the draft plan.

### **Housing Needs Survey and Findings**

A housing needs survey was conducted to gather current data on local housing requirements within the parish.

- The survey was distributed in November 2020, with a return deadline of December 31, 2020.
- Approximately 440 surveys were distributed, yielding a response rate of 3.18% with 14 households indicating a need for alternative accommodation.
- The findings from the survey were utilised to inform housing policies in the ANPR

### **Regulation 14 Consultation and Responses**

The Regulation 14 consultation took place from January 27 to March 10, 2025, allowing for formal feedback on the draft plan.

- The consultation was publicised through newsletters, posters, and social media, reaching local residents and stakeholders.
- A public drop-in event on February 22, 2025, saw attendance from 86 local residents, landowners, and stakeholders.
- A total of 97 questionnaires were completed, with the majority expressing support for the modified plan, leading to only minor changes in the submission version.

### **Key Feedback and Modifications**

Feedback from the consultation highlighted several key areas of concern and suggestions for improvement.

- North Warwickshire Borough Council provided constructive comments, leading to updates in the plan, including clearer maps and updated references.
- Local residents raised concerns about housing policies, environmental objectives, and the need for more proactive engagement in future surveys.
- The Steering Group addressed these concerns but decided to retain most proposed policies, emphasising community support for the modifications.

### **Conclusion and Future Implications**

The ANPR has been developed through extensive public consultation, ensuring it reflects the needs and desires of the local community.

- The plan is designed to guide future development in Austrey, balancing local housing needs with environmental considerations.
- Once completed, the ANPR will serve as a crucial part of the statutory development plan for Austrey and North Warwickshire Borough.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Review Process**

The Austrey Neighbourhood Plan Review aims to update the existing plan from 2014-2029 to reflect current needs and policies. The review will involve community input and follow government regulations to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

- The previous plan was adopted in June 2017.
- The review is necessary due to changes in national policies and local development pressures.
- An independent examiner will assess the review and determine if a referendum is needed.
- The process includes community consultations and feedback opportunities.

### **Key Planning Themes Identified**

The review will focus on several key planning themes that are important to local residents. These themes will guide the development of policies in the updated Neighbourhood Plan.

- Protecting local landscape character and wildlife.
- Safeguarding important open spaces and views.
- Supporting farm diversification and renewable energy initiatives.
- Promoting high-quality housing design and sustainable development.
- Addressing local housing needs and preferences.

### **Community Engagement and Feedback**

Residents were encouraged to participate in the consultation process by completing a questionnaire. This feedback informed the Steering Group whilst preparing the Draft Plan.

- The questionnaire was available online and at local venues.
- Responses were requested by May 31, 2023.

- Personal information was processed for communication purposes but will be anonymised in public documents.
- The consultation event was held on May 7, 2023, at the Village Hall.

### **Environmental and Landscape Considerations**

The review sought to identify and protect important local landscape features and open spaces. Community input is vital in recognising additional areas that require protection.

- Existing features include hedgerows, woodlands, and ancient trees.
- Proposed Local Green Spaces include Newton Lane Playing Fields and Bishops Field.
- Residents were encouraged to suggest other areas for protection, such as wild meadows and woodlands.
- Light pollution is highlighted as a concern affecting local wildlife and community well-being.

### **Housing Development Needs**

The review addresses the housing needs identified in the 2021 Parish Housing Needs Survey. This includes a focus on smaller homes and affordable housing options.

- The survey indicated a demand for smaller houses and homes for older residents.
- The updated plan will include policies on the types and sizes of housing needed in the parish.
- Community feedback will shape the housing development strategies in the updated plan.

### **Protection of Local Green Spaces**

The community emphasises the importance of protecting local green spaces to maintain the village's character and provide recreational areas for residents. Key areas proposed for protection include Bishops Field, the Old Cricket Ground, and the Playing Fields.

- Bishops Field is considered the "heart of the village" with unique views and significant community use.
- The Old Cricket Ground has historic significance and is well-utilised for public footpaths.
- The Playing Fields serve various community activities, including sports and events.
- Residents express concerns about potential development threatening these green spaces.

### **Importance of Community Views**

Residents highlight the significance of preserving important views within and around the village to maintain its rural charm and community identity.

- Key views include those from surrounding hills into the village and from Bishops Field towards the church.
- The community values the aesthetic and emotional connection these views provide.
- Suggestions for additional views to protect include those from Orton Hill and Windmill Hill.

## **Housing Needs and Development Concerns**

The updated Neighbourhood Plan addresses the local housing needs identified in a 2021 survey, focusing on smaller homes and bungalows for older residents.

- There is a local need for bungalows and starter homes for young people.
- The community expresses concern over overdevelopment, with many feeling that the village has already seen sufficient housing growth.
- The plan aims to balance new housing with the preservation of the village's character and infrastructure.

## **Support for Sustainable Design Practices**

The community supports the inclusion of design codes in the Neighbourhood Plan to promote high-quality and sustainable development.

- Residents emphasised the need for new buildings to fit in with local surroundings and maintain the village's aesthetic.
- Key considerations for good design include adequate parking, energy efficiency, and minimal impact on existing properties.
- There is a strong preference for designs that reflect the village's heritage and character.

## **Promotion of Walking and Cycling**

There is a strong community desire to promote walking and cycling as alternatives to car use, enhancing local connectivity and health.

- Residents suggest improving footpaths and creating safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The need for traffic calming measures and better maintenance of existing paths is highlighted.
- A direct footpath to the playing fields is proposed to encourage safe access for families.

## **Community Engagement and Future Initiatives**

The Neighbourhood Plan process involves active community engagement to shape the future of Austrey.

- A successful application for funding from the King's Coronation Fund has led to the planting of a community orchard.
- The community is encouraged to participate in planning events and initiatives to enhance local spaces.
- Ongoing discussions focus on balancing development with the preservation of the village's unique character.

## **Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan Review**

The Austrey Parish Council is currently reviewing its Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to enhance local development and protect community interests. The review process includes

consultations with residents and landowners to gather feedback on proposed local green spaces and development policies.

- The NDP aims to guide future development in Austrey, focusing on community needs.
- A steering group of local residents and councillors is leading the review process.
- The draft modified plan will replace the previous NDP and will be used for planning applications by North Warwickshire Borough Council.

### **Community Orchard Project Overview**

The Community Orchard initiative in Austrey was inspired by local suggestions and funded by the King's Coronation Fund, aiming to create a space for nature and community engagement. Volunteers have actively participated in transforming an unused land area into a vibrant orchard.

- The project began with a government grant to support tree planting for the Coronation of King Charles III.
- Volunteers cleared the land and planted heritage apple and pear trees, creating a welcoming space for residents.
- Community events and activities, including a "Big Dig" event, have engaged local residents, especially children.

### **Local Green Spaces Designation**

The review process includes identifying and designating Local Green Spaces that hold significance for the community, as per the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The proposed spaces are assessed based on their proximity, significance, and character.

- Nine areas have been proposed for Local Green Space designation, including the Austrey Community Orchard and Bishops Field.
- Each area must meet specific criteria outlined in the NPPF, such as being close to the community and holding local significance.
- The assessment process involves gathering feedback from landowners and residents before finalising the list.

### **Landowner Responses and Concerns**

Crisps Farm Ltd has raised concerns regarding the proposed designations of certain local green spaces, particularly Bishops Field, and has provided feedback on inaccuracies in the assessment which have all now been corrected

- Crisps Farm Ltd disputes the classification of Bishops Field as Local Green Space, citing its agricultural use and historical significance.
- They have pointed out inaccuracies in the area measurements and descriptions of various proposed green spaces - these also have been amended.
- The landowner has requested a reconsideration of the proposed designations and has provided evidence to support their claims.

### **Public Consultation and Community Engagement**



The Austrey Parish Council is actively engaging the community through public consultations and events to gather feedback on the draft modified plan. Residents are encouraged to participate and share their views on the proposed changes.

- A public drop-in event was scheduled for February 22, 2025, to discuss the draft plan and collect responses.
- The consultation period ran from February 10 to March 24, 2025, allowing ample time for community input.
- Feedback has been compiled and considered before submitting the final plan to North Warwickshire Borough Council for examination.