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BARLASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The designated area for the Neighbourhood Plan is marked on the map below and includes the geographical area of the whole parish of Barlaston. This is an area of 1200 hectares.

The area consists of the three Wards of the Parish namely:

Barlaston East, Barlaston Park and Barlaston West- these comprise a total population of 2,800 adults residing in 1215 properties.

Barlaston East has 267 properties with 563 electors

Barlaston Park has 261 properties with 483 electors

Barlaston West has 538 properties with 1017 electors

Barlaston East borders rural countryside with over 60 dispersed properties some farms; some detached holdings as well as ribbon development housing around the Village Green, Longton Road and Hartwell Lane. Several new properties have been built as well as renovation to farm buildings has been taking place in the last ten years. The area contains a small housing association estate and a number of private substantial detached dwellings. Currently there is a public house, Village Hall, First School and Parish Church in the ward as well as the Village Green and a private hotel. An area of common land, Barlaston Common, a nature reserve of some 50 hectares, lies to the east of the ward that contains a diversity of wildlife; Barlaston Downs Banks stretches away to the south a beautiful area of mixed woodland popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Stoke –on-Trent Rugby Union Football Club is a popular venue in Hartwell. There are a number of working farms

and a dog training school.



Figure 1: The Village Green

Barlaston Park borders Stoke on Trent and the world famous Wedgwood (WWRD) ceramics factory. The Park estate was built in the 1950's by the Wedgwood Company as a housing estate for its workers. Today the ward contains properties and residents who own their properties and there are still several working farms in the ward .Much of the estate is maintained by the housing association, Stafford &

Rural Homes.



Figure 2: Barlaston Park Convenience Store

The estate is served by a local convenience shop and a purpose built play area as well as the extensive sports fields and lakes of WWRD, over 200 new houses will be built soon on the Wedgwood estate that lies outside the parish in Stoke on Trent. The Wedgwood Museum attracts visitors from all over the world but the once busy factory has a much reduced workforce today. WWRD have a large area of open space dedicated to angling in two picturesque lakes, a football pitch and a cricket pitch, a bowling green and a sports pavilion and social club. The Douglas Macmillan Hospice is also located in the ward.

Barlaston West lies to the west of the railway line and has 538 properties with 1017 residents.



Figure 3: Orchard Place

The ward is a mixture of private and housing association properties and has a parade of 8 shops, a dry cleaners, a small supermarket that houses the relocated Post Office, a public house, the Methodist Church, a toy shop and garage and a small thriving furniture factory. There are three residential Care Homes in the ward as well as sheltered accommodation for elderly/needy residents. The local scouts and guides have their hut close to the railway station which has been closed for a number of years. The main London Stoke Manchester railway line runs through the village but both the stations at Barlaston and Wedgwood are closed and unlikely to be reopened so no trains stop; the regular closing of the level crossing causes some traffic tailbacks. The proposed HS2 route runs some 5 miles to the west of the village.

The Trent and Mersey Canal runs north to south through the village and its towpath recently improved is popular with walkers cyclists and anglers. The canal itself is a very busy stretch for narrow boats.

Bus services still serve the village but have been reduced since 2012 and through traffic causes problems and some accidents as speeding is a known problem.

A mobile library visits the village two days a week. The ward has a local Health Centre and a garden centre (soon to close to be built upon). There are over 40

allotments used by local residents. The Wedgwood Memorial College, formerly a residential education college based on two sites with extensive grounds closed in March 2012 and is now up for sale to prospective developers. A design brief prepared by the Borough Council which the Parish Council approves of recommends housing on the sites with the retention of the two Edwardian buildings and the large arboretum on the Limes site.



Figure 4: Wedgwood Memorial college

In summary Barlaston is described as a key service village in the Borough of Stafford with a population of almost 3,000.

On the perimeter of the designated Neighbourhood Plan area to the south is a golf course and the site of a former coal fired power station. The site at Meaford will be redeveloped from 2015 as a 1.2 million sq.ft. Business Park with a gas powered power station and other industrial outlets hopefully providing up to 2400 jobs on a brownfield site. To the north is Stoke-on-Trent and the WWRD factory where extensive housing development is planned from 2014 onwards. To the west lies the A34 a busy trunk road and the M6 and the Severn Trent Strongford Treatment works. To the east is rural countryside with farmland and woodland and the A50 trunk road.