1. Introduction

This statement has been produced in support of Long Ashton Parish’s Neighbourhood Development Plan. The NDP team intends to submit this document for independent examination. It describes how Long Ashton Parish’s NDP team (see end note) has undertaken community participation and stakeholder involvement to produce the NDP plan document.

2. Methodology and timescales

A list of stakeholders was produced early on during the process (April 2012) which was added to as more stakeholders became apparent. This recorded contact details as well as whether the stakeholder had taken part in the consultation process following invitation.

We have held four public engagement sessions in Long Ashton Village Hall totalling 18 hours on different days and times to reach people with varying commitments.

- 21 June 2012
- 11 July 2012
- 12 September 2012
- 11 March 2014

To publicise these events we’ve inserted leaflets and placed advertisements into the Parish council magazine, Estune and Publishing Today which are delivered to all houses in Long Ashton.

In addition we emailed residents using email lists managed by community groups Transition and the Village Hall who manage events. We published meeting dates
and consultation events on the parish council website and lalife.org which was created for the communication of the neighbourhood plan.

Posters were placed in the parish council notice boards in Long Ashton and Leigh Woods and leaflets in the post office, library, vet and dentist. We directly invited by phone, letter and email businesses, service providers, clubs and societies. Signs were put up at both ends of the village to advertise major consultation events.

At these events we gave a presentation explaining neighbourhood planning and invited questions to open up discussion. We broke into groups focusing on the most popular issues which were roads and transport, economy, community facilities, housing needs and retaining the village’s physical separation from Bristol. We gave out feedback forms to collect thoughts on what people liked about Long Ashton and what they wanted to change.

Over the year 2011 – 2012 the NDP team was present at the monthly village market promoting the plan and at key events including the Jubilee picnic, summer picnic and apple day fete. Full days of consultation were held at Birdwell and Northleaze primary schools in Long Ashton and the children created some wonderful maps and models showing what they like about their village and what they’d like to change. We held additional events to get input into the Village Enhancement scheme on 8 October 2013 and 5 November 2013 in the Village Hall.

Key issues

The most common issues put forward were to remain separate from Bristol, to reduce traffic speeds and create a village centre. A consultant was commissioned to make recommendations to meet these concerns. A meeting was organised and widely advertised to present the consultants findings and over 100 people attended. Only two people expressed a negative response to these ideas at the meeting.

Draft plan

The consultation on the draft plan was held from 10 February to 17 March 2014. This was extensively promoted by leafleting every household, placing posters in the Parish notice boards and library. A consultation event was held on 4 March (5.00 – 7.30pm) attended by over 40 people. 13 people tendered written comments at the event. Additional responses were submitted by email to the Parish Council clerk, by completing the comments form on the website and by placing written comments into boxes in the Post Office and Library. Bristol Post featured an article regarding the Draft Plan on 6 March. Articles were also placed in the local school’s newsletters and promotion boards were placed at the entrance to the village to promote the event and the draft consultation.
Marketing collateral

- A5 leaflets and adverts in local publications
- Pull-up banners used at consultations and village events
- Websites – lalife.org.uk - created for the NDP process and longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Posters on parish notice boards and in schools, vets, library, village hall.
- Articles in school newsletters x 6, press release in The Post and article on BBC Radio Bristol.

3. Main issues raised and how the results have been incorporated into the Neighbourhood Development Plan

The key themes that emerged from the consultations were:

- to remain separate from Bristol within the green belt
- the need for a village centre
- improvements for pedestrians moving around the village
- greater traffic and parking control
- more shops
- increased youth activities
- more outdoor recreation facilities
- a larger doctors surgery / health centre with increased services and facilities
- an improvement in planning for school provision

Appendix ii shows the full list of ideas that were submitted and how they have been incorporated into the plan, or if they haven’t been incorporated why not.

4. Summary

- In total we received 695 written comments at consultation events.
- The website has received 544 visitors since the consultation began.
- The Plan has been viewed 585 times, the Village Enhancement Scheme 192
- There were 74 comments on the pre-consultation submission draft plan

Appendix i
Long Ashton Parish Council published a Parish Plan during 2007 following extensive community consultation exercises. These results have been taken into account in producing the new Neighbourhood Development Plan. This document is available to download from the parish council website www.longashtonparishcouncil.com.

The NDP team comprises members of the Parish Council, with inputs from members of the public and a wide section of the community, representing families, business and other interests. The membership for each meeting is given in the minutes.