

Development Plans.

The control of development in Britain is through a plan-led system.

The government sets out the parameters for development in the National Planning Policy Framework.

In response Stafford Borough Council produce a local development plan.

The current one is the Plan for Stafford Borough. <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/lp>

The Plan for Stafford Borough is being revised. The Parish Council are being consulted on the documents that build into the new Local Plan and are making comments in the interest of residents.

The Plan for Stafford Borough had a development hierarchy where most development took place in Stafford, then Stone, then key service villages and finally rural areas such as Stowe by Chartley. The 35 parishes in the rural area had an allocation of 800 houses. These were not to be allocated to any particular place because Barlaston, for instance, is surrounded by Green Belt land. Green Belt land can only be developed in exceptional circumstances whereas Green Field land does not enjoy the same level of protection.

Most of the 800 houses in the rural areas would be provided by barn conversions. The government is making it easier for farmers to change the use of rural buildings to domestic use.

Development in rural areas other than barn conversions is strictly controlled. Where there is a particular need then, with Parish Council support, an exception can be made for a particular site. A Rural Exception Site is for a small development of affordable houses to meet the needs of local residents.