

WENDRON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, STAGE TWO

Prepared for Wendron Parish Council

July 2026

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	3
3. Summary baseline data	4
4. Community engagement and consultation.....	5
5. Vision and objectives equality assessment	5
6. Policy by policy equality assessment	7
7. Potential disproportionate impacts on people with protected characteristics	11
8. Main residual risks	14
9. Overall conclusion	14
10. EqIA Outcome and Statement	15

1. Introduction

1.1 This Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) assesses the Submission Draft Wendron Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2026 to 2030 against the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the additional Cornwall-related factors of socio-economic position and rural isolation.

1.2 The assessment builds on the Wendron Stage One EqIA. That assessment identified the principal risks likely to arise during preparation and implementation of the Plan, including the possibility that young people, older people, disabled people, people with long-term health conditions, carers, people without good internet access and residents of isolated rural settlements could be less able to participate in plan-making or benefit from development.

1.3 This Stage Two assessment tests the Vision, Objectives, Spatial Strategy and 31 planning policies in the Submission Draft. It considers whether they are likely to have a positive, neutral or negative effect on people with protected characteristics, whether any group could be disproportionately affected, and whether further mitigation is required.

1.4 The assessment should be read with the Submission Draft NDP, the Stage One EqIA, Consultation Statement, Basic Conditions Statement, Design Codes and Guidelines and the environmental screening material submitted with the Plan.

2. Methodology

2.1 The assessment has been prepared by reviewing the Submission Draft NDP, the Stage One EqIA, the demographic and housing evidence, the Communications and Engagement Strategy and the consultation record. Each Objective and policy has been considered in relation to the following protected characteristics and additional Cornwall factors:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic position
- Rural isolation

2.2 The assessment uses the following impact categories:

Impact category	Meaning
Positive	The policy or objective is likely to help remove disadvantage, improve access, support inclusion or respond to an identified need.
Neutral	No specific equality effect has been identified, or the effect is likely to apply broadly to the whole community without differential impact.

Impact category	Meaning
Negative low	A possible adverse or uneven effect has been identified, but it is limited, capable of mitigation or justified by wider planning objectives.
Negative medium	A more significant adverse effect may arise unless additional mitigation is introduced.
Negative high	A serious potential equality issue has been identified which would require the policy to be stopped or substantially rethought.

2.3 The assessment is qualitative and proportionate. It does not seek to repeat the detailed evidence in the supporting reports. Its purpose is to establish whether the Plan is likely to promote equality, avoid unlawful discrimination, reduce avoidable disadvantage and provide reasonable mitigation where a possible uneven effect has been identified.

3. Summary baseline data

- The Parish had a usually resident population of 3,095 at the 2021 Census. Approximately 49.1% of residents were male and 50.9% female.
- The age profile is a significant equality consideration. By 2021, 47.8% of residents were aged over 50. Older single-person and older family households form an important part of the community, while younger and working-age residents have reduced proportionately over the longer term.
- In 2021, 17.6% of residents, 543 people, were disabled under the Equality Act. Including residents with a long-term physical or mental health condition who were not recorded as disabled under the Act, 785 people, about 25.4% of the population, reported a long-term condition. Around 10.4% of residents aged five and over provided unpaid care.
- Housing affordability and suitability are major equality issues. The Submission Draft records 77 households with a valid local connection seeking affordable housing. About three quarters require one- or two-bedroom accommodation, including 18 households aged 55 or over, while the existing affordable stock contains a relatively low proportion of smaller homes. The Plan consequently supports an indicative requirement of 105 affordable homes.
- The Parish is predominantly White, at 96.8%, and 18.6% of residents identified as Cornish. About 45.8% reported a religion, predominantly Christianity. The comparatively small size of minority ethnic, faith, LGBTQ+ and gender-diverse populations does not remove the need to ensure that engagement, community facilities and public places are inclusive and safe.
- Wendron is generally healthier and relatively well qualified, but the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation placed the Parish among the 40% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally overall and among the 10% most deprived for Barriers to Housing and Services. Housing costs, distance from services and limited transport choices can intensify disadvantage.

- Rural isolation is therefore a central cross-cutting issue. The dispersed pattern of villages, hamlets and individual dwellings, limited public transport, reliance on private vehicles, uneven broadband and mobile coverage, and the location of many health, education and retail services outside the Parish can affect older people, disabled people, carers, young people and lower-income households most strongly.

4. Community engagement and consultation

4.1 The NDP was prepared through a long-running engagement process guided by a Communications and Engagement Strategy that made equality and diversity integral to consultation. Methods included household questionnaires, online platforms, paper copies, Parish Council and project websites, social media, local publicity, community events, business and estate-agent surveys, and drop-in sessions held at accessible locations across the Parish.

4.2 The principal evidence stages included the parish-wide 2022 questionnaire, a 2024 GoCollaborate consultation, business and housing-market surveys, and the Regulation 14 consultation in 2026. Regulation 14 used SmartSurvey with provision for handwritten responses, which were transcribed into the same system. It produced 29 community responses, 128 substantive written comments and about 170 individual points, together with responses from statutory and other consultation bodies.

4.3 Consultation showed clear support for the Plan. Agreement ranged from 82.76% for the Vision and Objectives, Housing, and Business and Employment themes to 96.55% for Community Facilities and Infrastructure. Equality-related issues raised included affordable and smaller homes, homes suitable for older and disabled people, access to health and community services, isolation, public transport, safer walking and cycling, digital connectivity, the cost of low-carbon measures and the protection of accessible open space and recreation.

4.4 The Stage One risk of uneven participation has been reduced through the range of engagement methods and the availability of paper responses. It has not been removed completely. Earlier survey responses were weighted towards older residents, and young people, disabled people, people without internet access and residents of isolated settlements may still be under-represented. Future Regulation 16 publicity, referendum information and Plan monitoring should therefore continue to use accessible language, non-digital routes and targeted contact with representative organisations.

5. Vision and objectives equality assessment

5.1 The Plan's Vision seeks to retain Wendron as a living, working and caring rural parish while enabling sustainable, needs-led development, protecting its natural and historic environment and improving resilience, housing choice, employment, facilities and connectivity. This is positive in equality terms because it links environmental protection with community wellbeing and the needs of present and future residents.

5.2 The Sustainable Growth and Prosperity approach is also positive. It recognises that economic, social and environmental objectives are interdependent and that growth should improve quality of life, access to opportunities and community resilience. The principal equality consideration is to ensure that environmental and design requirements are applied proportionately and do not unintentionally obstruct accessible, affordable or adaptable development.

Objective	Assessed impact	Comments and mitigation
A, Climate change and resilience	Positive with low risk	Benefits residents vulnerable to flooding, extreme weather, high energy costs and service disruption, including older people, disabled people and lower-income households. Mitigation is proportionate application of cost and retrofit requirements.
B, Housing	Strong positive	Supports affordable housing, one- and two-bedroom homes, accessible and adaptable homes, local-need housing and community-led delivery. Benefits younger households, older downsizers, disabled people, families and lower-income households.
C, Business and employment	Positive	Supports local employment, rural enterprise, home working and digital connectivity. This can benefit disabled people, carers, parents, older workers, young people and residents for whom long-distance commuting is difficult or expensive.
D, Natural environment	Positive	Protects biodiversity, green infrastructure, flood resilience, trees and tranquillity. Benefits health and wellbeing. Where public access is intended, routes and spaces should be inclusive and accessible.
E, Heritage, Cornish distinctiveness and design	Positive or neutral with low risk	Protects local identity and promotes safe, well-designed places. Heritage and design requirements should allow sensitive accessibility adaptations, targeted lighting and proportionate energy improvements.
F, Community facilities and infrastructure	Strong positive	Protects facilities, open space, sports assets, walking routes, transport access and communications. Provides particular benefits for older people, disabled people, young people, families, faith groups and people affected by rural isolation.

6. Policy by policy equality assessment

6.1 The table below assesses each of the 31 Submission Draft policies using the final policy numbering. No policy has been assessed as having a negative medium or negative high equality impact. Several policies may impose limited constraints or costs on individual development or property interests, but these are generally capable of mitigation and are justified by wider objectives including affordable housing, accessibility, climate resilience, flood safety, community wellbeing, landscape and heritage protection, infrastructure capacity and local economic resilience.

Policy	Purpose	Relevant groups	Impact	Likely benefits or disadvantages to people with protected characteristics
Policy 1 - Sustainable Design and Low Carbon Heat	Promotes high-quality sustainable design, resource efficiency, water efficiency and low-carbon heating or retrofit where relevant.	Age, disability, socio-economic position	Positive with low negative risk	Warmer, more efficient and resilient buildings may particularly benefit older and disabled residents and households vulnerable to fuel poverty. Upfront costs or technical requirements could affect lower-income households or small schemes unless applied proportionately.
Policy 2 - Local Energy Storage	Supports battery and other local energy-storage systems associated with renewable or low-carbon generation, subject to safety and amenity safeguards.	Disability, age, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive	Improves resilience during power interruptions, with particular benefits for isolated residents and people dependent on powered medical, mobility or communication equipment. Noise, fire safety and visual effects require appropriate control.
Policy 3 - Community-Led Renewable Energy	Supports renewable-energy projects initiated, owned or substantially controlled by the community and capable of providing local benefits.	All groups, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive with low risk	Can retain income locally, improve energy resilience and support community facilities. Benefits should be distributed across the community and not limited to residents who can afford to invest financially.
Policy 4 - Alternative Energy Production	Supports appropriately located renewable and low-carbon energy, including solar, wind, geothermal and other suitable technologies, subject to environmental and amenity safeguards.	All groups, disability, age, socio-economic position	Positive with low negative risk	Contributes to climate mitigation and energy resilience. Poorly located schemes could create noise, glare, traffic or visual impacts affecting nearby residents, including people with sensory or health conditions; policy safeguards reduce this risk.
Policy 5 - Sustainable Drainage	Requires development to manage surface water through sustainable drainage, water efficiency and appropriate runoff control.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, socio-economic position	Positive	Reduces flood, pollution and property-damage risks. Older people, disabled people, families and lower-income households may be less able to evacuate or absorb recovery costs. Drainage features should not create barriers to movement.
Policy 6 - Natural Flood Management and Groundwater Resilience	Supports nature-based flood management, groundwater protection and measures that improve catchment resilience.	Age, disability, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive	Benefits residents vulnerable to surface-water or groundwater flooding and supports environmental quality. Any paths, wetlands or public-access features associated with schemes should be safely and inclusively designed.
Policy 7 - Transition to Low-Carbon Heating in Traditional and Historic Buildings	Supports proportionate transition from oil and gas heating while conserving traditional materials, fabric and significance and avoiding moisture damage.	Age, disability, socio-economic position	Positive with low negative risk	Can improve comfort, efficiency and carbon performance. Costs, disruption and technical complexity may disproportionately affect older, disabled or lower-income occupiers. The policy's emphasis on feasibility, end-of-life replacement and compatible materials provides mitigation.
Policy 8 - Replacement Windows, Doors and Fascias	Supports energy-efficient replacement or improvement of windows, doors and fascias where character and heritage significance are conserved.	Age, disability, socio-economic position	Neutral to positive with low risk	Improved warmth, security and ease of use can benefit older and disabled residents. Heritage-sensitive products may be more costly, so proportionate solutions and appropriate adaptation should be allowed.

Policy	Purpose	Relevant groups	Impact	Likely benefits or disadvantages to people with protected characteristics
Policy 9 - Sustainable Settlements	Directs residential development to named settlements and the Helston urban fringe in forms proportionate to settlement role, accessibility, facilities and infrastructure.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive with low risk	Locating homes near services and safe pedestrian or cycle links reduces isolation and car dependence. A rigid interpretation could limit housing opportunities in smaller places; the policy includes appropriate exceptions and should be applied with current national and strategic policy.
Policy 10 - Housing Mix	Requires a housing mix informed by current need, including smaller homes, affordable tenures and homes suitable for older and disabled people, with accessible standards where required or justified.	Age, disability, socio-economic position	Strong positive	Directly addresses the shortage of one- and two-bedroom homes and the needs of younger households, older downsizers, disabled people and lower-income residents. Delivery and tenure mix require monitoring so that policy benefits are secured in practice.
Policy 11 - Rural Exception Sites for Affordable Housing	Supports affordable housing-led development adjoining suitable settlements where it meets identified local need and remains affordable.	Age, disability, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Strong positive	Provides a principal route for meeting local affordable housing need. Benefits younger people, families, older people and disabled residents with a local connection. Sites should provide safe access and reasonable connection to services.
Policy 12 - Community Led, Self and Custom Build Housing	Supports community-led, self-build and custom-build housing that responds to local need and is suitably located and designed.	Age, disability, socio-economic position	Positive with low risk	Can widen housing choice and enable local households to remain in the Parish. Self-build models may favour people with capital, skills, time or confidence; community-led and affordable mechanisms should therefore remain central.
Policy 13 - Infill Within Hamlets and Small Groups of Dwellings	Allows genuinely small-scale infill or rounding off where development is proportionate, closely related to existing buildings and does not harm character or extend into open countryside.	Rural isolation, age, disability, socio-economic position	Neutral to positive with low risk	Allows limited housing opportunities while avoiding isolated or car-dependent growth. Restrictions may reduce opportunities for some landowners or households, but are justified by accessibility, landscape and infrastructure considerations.
Policy 14 - Small Business Development and Safeguarding of Employment Land	Supports proportionate business expansion and workspace while safeguarding important employment sites and controlling amenity, access and environmental effects.	Socio-economic position, age, disability, sex, rural isolation	Positive	Supports local jobs and business resilience, reducing travel costs and benefiting residents who find commuting difficult. Amenity and highway safeguards protect nearby residents, including older and disabled people.
Policy 15 - Working from Home and Home Based Businesses	Supports home working and home-based enterprise where residential amenity, access and local character are protected.	Disability, carers, pregnancy and maternity, sex, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive	Particularly benefits disabled people, carers, parents, pregnant women, older workers and residents without reliable transport. Safeguards limit noise, traffic and other effects on neighbours.
Policy 16 - Rural Business Diversification and Rural Tourism	Supports farm diversification and small-scale rural tourism where proposals are proportionate and do not cause unacceptable traffic, amenity, infrastructure or environmental effects.	Socio-economic position, rural isolation, age, disability	Positive with low negative risk	Can create local jobs and sustain rural businesses. Seasonal traffic, noise or pressure on services could affect residents, including older and disabled people, unless the scale and cumulative effects are controlled.
Policy 17 - World Heritage Site Setting and Scenic Protection	Protects the setting, significance and scenic qualities of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site and other valued landscapes.	All groups, socio-economic position	Positive with low risk	Protects identity, wellbeing and tourism-related employment. Constraints could increase costs or limit some development, including accessible alterations, so balanced and proportionate assessment remains necessary.

Policy	Purpose	Relevant groups	Impact	Likely benefits or disadvantages to people with protected characteristics
Policy 18 - Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Gain	Protects and strengthens the Parish green-infrastructure network, ecological connectivity and biodiversity gain, taking account of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	All groups, age, disability, socio-economic position	Positive	Supports access to nature, cooling, drainage, recreation and wellbeing. Where public access is provided, routes and spaces should be accessible to disabled people, older people and families with pushchairs.
Policy 19 - Trees, Cornish Hedges and Hedgerows	Seeks to retain, protect, restore and integrate trees, Cornish hedges and hedgerows affected by development.	All groups, age, disability, rural isolation	Positive with low risk	Provides shade, biodiversity, drainage and local character benefits. Retention should be balanced with highway visibility, safe access and reasonable adaptations where these are necessary for disabled users or public safety.
Policy 20 - Tranquillity and Dark Skies	Protects tranquillity and dark skies by controlling noise and unnecessary or poorly designed lighting while safeguarding wildlife and rural character.	All groups, disability, age, sex	Positive with low negative risk	Reduced noise and light spill benefit health and amenity. Insufficient lighting could affect women, older people, visually impaired people and night-time users; targeted, shielded and appropriately controlled lighting should therefore be supported where needed for safety.
Policy 21 - Design Principles for Sustainable, Characterful Development	Requires safe, durable, locally responsive design, outdoor space, secure-by-design measures, pedestrian connectivity, privacy, servicing and appropriate parking.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, sex, all groups	Strong positive	Promotes safe and usable places for all ages, including disabled people, carers, children and women. Implementation should ensure level access, adaptable layouts, safe parking, natural surveillance and inclusive communal space rather than relying solely on vehicle provision.
Policy 22 - Heritage, Design and Cornish Distinctiveness	Conserves heritage significance and locally distinctive settlement patterns, forms, materials, details and placenames.	All groups, disability, age, socio-economic position	Positive with low risk	Protects sense of place and cultural identity. Heritage requirements may increase the cost or complexity of access and energy improvements; sensitive, reversible and proportionate adaptation should be enabled.
Policy 23 - Non-listed Historic Assets	Identifies and protects the significance of non-designated historic assets and their settings through proportionate assessment.	All groups, disability, socio-economic position	Neutral to positive with low risk	Protects local history and community identity. Development or alteration may be constrained, but the policy requires a balanced assessment and should not prevent justified accessibility or viable-use adaptations.
Policy 24 - Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities	Protects valued community facilities and supports their improvement, expansion or appropriate replacement.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Strong positive	Facilities are essential for older people, disabled people, families, carers, faith groups, young people and residents without cars. Any replacement or change should maintain accessibility, affordability and reasonable geographic coverage.
Policy 25 - Protection and Enhancement of Open Space and Recreation	Protects open space, play and recreation assets and supports improved or additional provision arising from development.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, socio-economic position	Strong positive	Benefits physical and mental health, children, young people, older people, disabled people and households without private gardens. Spaces and equipment should be designed and managed inclusively.
Policy 26 - Assets of Community Value	Supports the retention and appropriate use of designated Assets of Community Value and recognises their social importance.	Age, disability, religion or belief, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive	Helps communities retain facilities and meeting places that reduce isolation and support local identity. Community acquisition processes can favour groups with greater resources, so information and support should be accessible.
Policy 27 - Regional Sports Facilities	Supports the continued development and environmental improvement of the Wendron Cricket and Football Club complex and Stithians Water Sports and Visitor Centre.	Age, disability, sex, socio-economic position	Positive	Supports health, youth activity, female participation, volunteering and community life. Improvements should provide inclusive changing, viewing, access, parking and activity opportunities for disabled participants and spectators.

Policy	Purpose	Relevant groups	Impact	Likely benefits or disadvantages to people with protected characteristics
Policy 28 - Transport, Highways and Communications	Supports safer access, traffic management, sustainable transport, bus-stop accessibility, parking and communications resilience appropriate to local conditions.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, sex, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive	Benefits pedestrians, cyclists, older and disabled people, children, carers and households without cars. The policy cannot itself deliver services or maintenance, so partnership working remains necessary.
Policy 29 - Footways, Pedestrian Links and Public Rights of Way	Protects and improves footways, walking and cycling links and public rights of way, including connections to services, facilities and public transport.	Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Strong positive	Provides direct benefits for wheelchair users, people with mobility or sensory impairments, older people, children, parents with pushchairs and residents without cars. Surfacing, gradients, gates, signage and maintenance determine whether benefits are realised.
Policy 30 - Digital Infrastructure, Resilience and Investment	Supports high-quality broadband, resilient communications networks and associated infrastructure, including provision within new development.	Disability, carers, pregnancy and maternity, sex, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Strong positive with low risk	Improves access to work, education, health information and services for isolated residents, disabled people and carers. Digital provision should complement, not replace, accessible non-digital services and consultation routes.
Policy 31 - Mobile Signal Infrastructure	Supports appropriately located mobile communications infrastructure that improves coverage while managing landscape, heritage and amenity effects.	Disability, age, socio-economic position, rural isolation	Positive	Better coverage improves emergency communication, access to services, business resilience and personal safety, especially in isolated areas. Siting and design safeguards reduce visual and amenity impacts.

7. Potential disproportionate impacts on people with protected characteristics

7.1 The Stage Two EqlA has not identified any likely unlawful discrimination arising from the Submission Draft NDP. The overall effect is positive because the Plan supports affordable and smaller homes, accessible and adaptable housing, community facilities, open space, sports provision, safer movement, flood resilience, local employment, digital connectivity and inclusive design. The principal remaining risks are indirect and relate to implementation, affordability, accessibility and whether the intended benefits are secured in practice.

Protected characteristic	Potential disproportionate impact	Assessment
Age - older people	Older residents may be more affected by housing suitability, low-carbon retrofit costs, access to services, transport, digital exclusion, flooding and loss of local facilities. The Plan responds through smaller and adaptable homes, facility protection, safer routes, resilience and communications policies.	Positive overall, low residual risk. Benefits depend on delivery of accessible housing, facilities, transport links and practical support.
Age - children and young people	Young people may be affected by housing affordability, lack of local employment, limited recreation, unsafe roads and dependence on others for transport. The Plan supports affordable housing, local enterprise, open space, regional sports facilities, safe links and digital infrastructure.	Positive overall, low residual risk. Monitor affordable housing, youth and recreation provision and safe routes.
Disability	Disabled people could be disadvantaged if housing, paths, open space, parking, drainage measures, community facilities or historic-building alterations are not accessible. They may also be more vulnerable to isolation, outages and flooding.	Positive overall, with low to medium implementation risk. Accessible and adaptable housing and inclusive design requirements should not be weakened at application stage.

Protected characteristic	Potential disproportionate impact	Assessment
Gender reassignment	No specific adverse land-use effect has been identified. The main risk is exclusion from engagement or community life through language, assumptions or perceived lack of safety.	Neutral, low risk. Continue respectful language, inclusive engagement and safe design of community spaces.
Marriage and civil partnership	No policy differentiates between people according to marriage or civil-partnership status. Housing and facility policies apply to all household types.	Neutral. No specific mitigation required.
Pregnancy and maternity	Pregnant women and parents or carers of babies may be affected by unsafe routes, poor access to services, inaccessible public space, traffic, isolation and limited local facilities.	Positive overall, low residual risk. Benefits depend on safe walking routes, accessible facilities, seating, play space and appropriate parking.
Race	The minority ethnic population is small, which may make its needs less visible. No policy has an identified adverse racial effect, but engagement and community facilities must remain welcoming and accessible.	Neutral, low risk. Use plain language, accessible information and inclusive consultation.
Religion or belief	Places of worship and associated halls, burial grounds and meeting spaces may be important community facilities. The Plan protects community and heritage assets without favouring a particular faith.	Positive to neutral. No disproportionate disadvantage identified.

Protected characteristic	Potential disproportionate impact	Assessment
Sex	Women and girls may be disproportionately affected by isolated routes, poor natural surveillance, unsafe parking or inadequate lighting. Men may be affected by changes in rural employment sectors. Design, transport, employment and facility policies are generally positive.	Positive overall, low residual risk. Dark-skies controls should be balanced with personal safety and targeted lighting.
Sexual orientation	No specific land-use impact has been identified. The principal risk is exclusion from engagement or community spaces rather than a direct policy effect.	Neutral, low risk. Inclusive engagement and safe, welcoming community facilities should continue.
Socio-economic position - additional Cornwall factor	Lower-income households may be disproportionately affected by housing costs, transport costs, energy and retrofit costs, loss of facilities, poor connectivity and flood-recovery costs.	Positive overall, with low to medium delivery risk. Affordable housing, local employment, energy resilience, facilities and connectivity are key mitigations.
Rural isolation - additional Cornwall factor	Rural isolation can intensify disadvantage for older and disabled people, carers, young people, pregnant women and residents without cars or reliable digital access.	Positive overall, with implementation risk. The Plan cannot itself provide bus, health or communications services, so partnership working and monitoring are essential.

8. Main residual risks

The main potential disproportionate effects do not arise from the intention of the policies, but could occur through their implementation. The principal residual risks are:

1. Accessibility and inclusive design. If housing, public spaces, recreation facilities, paths, parking arrangements, drainage features or community facilities are not designed and maintained inclusively, disabled people, older people, pregnant women, carers and families with young children could be disadvantaged.
2. Housing affordability and delivery. If the Plan does not lead to a sufficient supply of genuinely affordable, smaller and adaptable homes, younger households, lower-income residents, hidden households, older downsizers and disabled people may remain unable to meet their needs locally.
3. Rural isolation, transport and digital exclusion. The NDP cannot itself deliver bus services, healthcare, road maintenance or communications investment. If development is poorly connected, or digital provision is treated as a substitute for face-to-face services, disadvantage may persist for residents without a car, reliable broadband or mobile coverage.
4. Cost and disruption of low-carbon measures. Sustainable design, low-carbon heating, energy storage and heritage-sensitive retrofit are positive overall, but installation costs and disruption could affect older people, disabled people and lower-income households disproportionately unless requirements remain proportionate and practical support or funding is available.
5. Balancing heritage, landscape, dark skies and safety. Controls protecting historic character, scenery, tranquillity and dark skies may increase costs or constrain some alterations. They should be applied flexibly where necessary to secure accessibility, personal safety, targeted lighting, energy efficiency and the continued viable use of buildings and facilities.
6. Implementation and monitoring. The intended equality benefits depend on planning decisions, legal agreements, infrastructure delivery and partnership working. Housing mix, affordable housing, accessible design, safe routes, facility retention, digital infrastructure and any equality concerns raised through applications or community feedback should be monitored.

9. Overall conclusion

No protected characteristic group is expected to experience a significant negative disproportionate impact from the Submission Draft NDP. The most substantial effects are positive, particularly for older people, disabled people, younger households, families with children, carers, people working from home, lower-income households and residents affected by rural isolation.

The residual risks are assessed as low, provided that the Plan's accessibility, affordability, amenity and proportionality safeguards are retained and applied through development management, infrastructure planning and ongoing Parish Council monitoring.

10. EqIA Outcome and Statement

EqIA outcome	Stage Two conclusion
Outcome 1 - no major change required	Applicable. No potential unlawful discrimination or negative medium or high equality impact has been identified. Equality considerations should continue to inform implementation and monitoring.
Outcome 2 - changes may be required to remove barriers or better promote equality	Not applicable at a fundamental level. The Submission Draft already includes substantial mitigation through affordable and accessible housing, inclusive design, community facilities, safe movement, open space and digital connectivity. Minor clarifications may still improve accessibility or operation.
Outcome 3 - some policy actions may be retained despite potential adverse impact or missed opportunities	Applicable. Some policies may constrain particular development or property interests, but the limited effects are justified where they secure climate resilience, landscape and heritage protection, community wellbeing, safety, affordable housing or infrastructure capacity.
Outcome 4 - stop and rethink because of actual or potential unlawful discrimination	Not applicable. No actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified.

- The Stage Two assessment has not identified any policy that is likely to result in unlawful discrimination or a negative high equality impact.
- The overall equality impact of the Submission Draft Wendron Parish NDP is assessed as positive. The Plan responds directly to ageing, disability, housing affordability, need for smaller homes, rural isolation, access to facilities, safe movement, local employment and digital connectivity.
- Some policies may place limited constraints or costs on individual land or property interests, particularly in relation to renewable energy, drainage, heritage, landscape, dark skies, parking, tourism and development in less sustainable locations. These are assessed as low negative risks where relevant and are justified by the evidence and wider public-interest objectives.
- The most important remaining mitigation is implementation and monitoring. The Parish Council should monitor affordable and accessible housing delivery, community facilities, open space and sports provision, walking and wheeling links, digital and mobile infrastructure, and any equality issues arising through planning applications or community feedback.

- On the basis of this assessment, no fundamental change to the Submission Draft NDP is required for equality reasons. Minor wording or implementation refinements may still be made where they improve clarity, accessibility, inclusive language or the practical operation of policy safeguards.