North Cannock: Chadsmoor, Broomhill and Blackfords

Character Description: Largely interwar and postwar character areas stretching northwards from the edge of Cannock town centre, comprise residential development with associated schools, pubs, churches, public open space and a cemetery. Shops and commercial uses in local centres at Chadsmoor and Blackfords, where there are some older 19th century buildings, and at Festival Court.

Key features are:

- Historically area of farmland with gravel pits and brickworks. Scattered settlement along main roads e.g. Chadsmoor and at road junctions e.g. Blackfords and High Town. In 20th century incremental development throughout area including new roads.
- Topography and woodland landscape create natural green setting to area with views towards Hednesford Hills and the Huntington Belt between and over buildings. Large publicly accessible space of Cavan's Wood lies on western edge, with Cannock Park to south-west.
- Higher density smaller scale traditional Victorian development around Blackfords and central Chadsmoor, with larger scale lower density interwar housing estates along main roads. Modern infill of gaps and post-war/modern large area infill to rear of these frontages at low-medium density.
- Incremental nature of development has led to variety in style and materials however coloured render/pebbledash or red brick predominate throughout with red/brown/blue tiles. 2 storey dominant but with significant number of bungalows. Traditional detailing such as chimneys contribute to 'roof-scape' variety on older housing.
- Significant mature trees along some road frontages in gardens and in highway. Many older properties retain traditional front boundary hedges and walls, though some removed for off-street parking/hard surfacing. Green 'avenues' with grass verges evident in many parts of area.
- Chadsmoor, the historic local centre, retains 19th century character alongside 1950/60s modern infill. Linear pattern with small scale terraced Victorian properties/shops with traditional detailing. Modern infill reflects small scale nature of centre. Accomodates variety of largely convenience based stores and restaurant/fast food outlets.
- Piecemeal public open space within the urban area may reflect incremental nature of development. Cannock Cemetery at junction of Pye Green/Cemetery Road, a traditional cemetery with brick built chapel and boundary walls, forms a distinctive local green space.

Key Local Design Principles or 'New development should':

- Preserve and enhance locally distinctive features and details e.g. the detail on the former 'Beehive Stores' corner shop at Chadsmoor local centre, and low brick walls/hedges enclosing front gardens.
- Recognise scope for a variety of good quality design and materials throughout area whilst respecting scale and density of existing development.
- Promote the small scale and mixed use character of Chadsmoor local centre, particularly encouraging convenience-based uses accessible to people's homes with public realm enhancement and removal of clutter.
- Promote and enhance 'green' aspect of area with tree and hedge planting on development frontages and retaining views of surrounding landscape between and over buildings.
- Enhance existing public open space, including green links through the urban area extending towards the Chase and adjacent countryside.
- Ensure the urban-rural edge to the west is buffered and views maintained via woodland planting on the urban fringe.
- Respect and enhance the form of any historic farmsteads in their landscape context.

Further information:

- See character types descriptions for further information on the built character and detailing.
- Cannock Chase Local List

