

Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review Preferred Options

Consultation Plan

1.0 Background

1.1 It is a cornerstone of the planning system that communities and stakeholders should be able to influence the matters addressed in planning policy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 reinforces the importance of community involvement through the first of its Core Planning principles: “planning should be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area”. Between Thursday 15 June and Monday 14 August 2017 the District Council will undertake a consultation on the Preferred Options. The Preferred Options consultation is the second stage in the Local Plan Review process. Responses will be used to help develop the Pre-Submission Plan which will be put out for consultation in early 2018.

2.0 Adopted Statement of Community Involvement Requirements

2.1 The District Council first adopted its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in 2006. Following changes in legislation the SCI was updated, revised and adopted in February 2013. The SCI sets out the Council’s policy for involving the community in the planning process. It also details how the Council intends to involve all sections of the community and provides guidelines and minimum standards to involve the community, interest groups and stakeholders in the production of Local Development Documents. The statement provides guidance on:

- How people will have the chance to contribute their ideas, and the process for considering and responding to their views.
- How people will get the chance to participate in developing proposals and options.
- How the District Council will seek to provide feedback to keep the community informed on progress and outcomes.

2.2 The District Council places great emphasis on involving the community in planning issues and believes the following benefits can be achieved:

- It will help strengthen the evidence base for local plans and neighbourhood development plans.
- It will help foster community commitment to the future development of the area.
- It promotes a sense of ownership and strengthens the delivery of projects. The involvement of communities at an early stage helps to resolve issues.

3.0 The Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1 The duty to cooperate was created in the Localism Act 2011, and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
- 3.2 In order to fulfil the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate, all neighbouring authorities and consultation bodies covered by the Duty to Cooperate will receive a separate form to complete which will allow any concerns to be raised. Where there are no relevant issues the completed forms will provide an audit trail to demonstrate that the Duty has been fully considered and complied with. Where cross-boundary issues are identified, officers will offer to meet with each of the neighbouring authorities or organisations concerned to discuss the issues and how the Plan can best address them.

4.0 Targeting Consultation and Methods

- 4.1 The District Council will actively seek to engage all community groups within the Wyre Forest District in preparing planning policy. Local planning authorities are required to consult specific consultation bodies which they consider may have an interest in the proposed planning policy document and the general consultation bodies which it considers are appropriate. A list of the specific consultees for Wyre Forest District is set out in Appendix A to this document.
- 4.2 It is proposed to consult in a variety of ways, examples include manned exhibitions in Kidderminster, Stourport on Severn, Bewdley and in areas most affected by the proposed developments, mini poster displays in a wide range of accessible locations throughout Wyre Forest District, a press release to the local newspaper as well as a leaflet distribution to all householders. All Town and Parish Council's will be sent a consultation notice and be asked to display it on parish council notice boards.

5.0 Involving Harder-to-reach Groups

- 5.1 Within the District there are groups which are hard to reach through consultations. The District Council recognises that these groups in particular may have different levels of access to information and therefore may find it harder to get involved in the decision making process. In particular, the District Council will employ the following methods for engaging hard to reach groups: Leaflet distribution to all residents within Wyre Forest District, manned exhibitions at public locations (detailed at 6.2) and Twitter feeds.

6.0 Exhibition Specifics

6.1 During the eight week public consultation on the Preferred Options Document a number of exhibitions will be held. These will be manned at highly accessible public locations in the three main towns of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley and in areas of impact of the proposals. Display boards will be erected at the exhibitions and copies of the Preferred Options Document will be made available for viewing along with other materials. The exhibition will allow the public to view the Preferred Options in more detail and post comments. Staff will also be on hand to answer any queries raised by the public.

6.2 *Exhibition Plan*

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 10 th July 2017	3:45pm – 8:00pm	Heronwood Primary School, Spennells, Kidderminster
Wednesday 19 th July 2017	2.00pm - 7.00pm	The Wyre Room, St George's Hall, Load Street, Bewdley
Friday 21 st July 2017	1.00pm - 5:30pm	Rowland Hill Centre, Kidderminster
Saturday 22 nd July 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm	Offmore Evangelical Church Hall, Kidderminster
Wednesday 26 th July 2017	1:30pm - 6:30pm	Areley Kings Village Hall, Stourport
Friday 28 th July 2017	2.00pm – 7.00pm	Cookley Village Hall
Saturday 29 th July 2017	10.00am - 4.00pm	Stourport Civic Hall
Friday 4 th August 2017	2:00pm – 7:00pm	St Oswalds Church Centre, Broadwaters Drive, Kidderminster

6.3 *Poster Displays*

Posters will be displayed at the following locations throughout the duration of the preferred options consultation.

- Kidderminster Library
- Stourport Library

- Bewdley Library

In addition, subject to each venue being willing to display a poster:

- Library van

KIDDERMINSTER

- Wyre Forest Hub/Town Hall
- Wyre Forest Leisure Centre
- Tesco
- Sainsburys
- Morrisons
- Asda
- Aldi
- Iceland
- Hodge Hill Garden Nurseries
- Barnetts Hill Garden Centre

STOURPORT

- Stourport Civic Hall
- Tesco
- Co-op
- Lidl
- Cooks Garden Centre

BEWDLEY

- Bewdley Museum
- Bewdley Leisure Centre
- Co-op
- Tesco
- Hopleys Farm Shop

RURAL AREAS

- Wyre Forest Discovery Centre
- Cookley – Tesco or Post Office
- Blakedown Post Office
- Chaddesley Corbett Post Office
- Wolverley Stores
- Fairfield Shop
- Upper Arley Post Office
- Rowberry Farm Shop
- Far Forest Post Office/stores
- Colliers Farm Shop or Clows Top Post Office.

7.0 Awareness raising – Media

7.1 To coincide with the launch of the consultation on the Preferred Options Document press releases will be organised for the Kidderminster Shuttle. An eye-catching publicity leaflet will be delivered to every household. The leaflet will detail the dates and times of the exhibitions and details of places where the Preferred Options Document can be viewed/downloaded.

8.0 Publishing on the Web

8.1 An interactive version of the Preferred Options Document will be made available to enable electronic representations to be made. The interactive response form can be downloaded and printed or filled in and submitted online. Representations will also be accepted by e-mail or post.

8.2 The District Council will also use social media (Twitter and Facebook) to promote the consultation period and the exhibitions. Twitter and Facebook will be used to raise key questions relevant to the consultation during the consultation period and comments made will be summarised.

9.0 Formally Processing Comments – Procedures

9.1 All responses submitted to the District Council online, by letter and email will be acknowledged within five working days of their receipt. The Planning Policy Team will carefully analyse all comments and suggestions and prepare a summary report detailing proposals for consideration at

the Pre-Submission Plan stage. This will be presented to and considered by the Local Plans Review Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

- 9.2 The summary report following Cabinet's consideration will be made available for public viewing at Council Offices and on the website.

Appendix A – List of Consultees

Specific Consultees

Wyre Forest District Parish/Town Councils

Bewdley Town Council
Broome Parish Council
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council
Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council
Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council
Kidderminster Town Council
Rock Parish Council
Rushock Parish Council
Stone Parish Council
Stourport on Severn Town Council
Upper Arley Parish Council
Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council

Adjacent Parish Councils

Abberley Parish Council
Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
Astley & Dunley Parish Council
Bayton Parish Council
Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council
Clent Parish Council
Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council
Dodford with Grafton Parish Council
Elmbridge Parish Council
Elmley Lovett Parish Council
Hagley Parish Council
Hartlebury Parish Council
Highley Parish Council
Kinlet Parish Council
Kinver Parish Council
Lindridge Parish Council
Mamble Parish Council
Pensax Parish Council
Upton Warren Parish Council

Other Specific Consultees

British Telecom
Bromsgrove & Redditch DC
Central Networks
Directorate of Adult Services and Health (DASH)
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
EE
Environment Agency
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service

Appendix A – List of Consultees

Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service
Highways Agency
Historic England
Homes & Communities Agency
Malvern Hills District Council
National Grid
Natural England
Network Rail
Office of Rail Regulation
Oil and Pipelines Agency (The)
Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG
Severn Trent Water
Shropshire Council
South Staffordshire District Council
South Staffordshire Water Plc
South Worcestershire Development Plan
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire Police Authority
The Coal Authority
The Planning Inspectorate
Three
Transco West Midlands Local Distribution Zone
Vodafone and O2
West Mercia Police
West Midlands Ambulance Service
Western Power Distribution
Worcestershire County Council
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Worcestershire Partnership
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wychavon District Council
Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group

General Consultees

Organisations and individuals registered in the Planning Policy database including:

Agents
Business and Commerce Groups
Conservation Interest Groups
Developers
Education and Youth Groups
Housing Interest Groups
Individuals
Interest / Pressure Groups
Land Owners
Local Interest Groups

Appendix A – List of Consultees

Local Resident Associations
Registered Providers
Service Providers

Hard to Reach Groups

Age UK Wyre Forest
Association of Retired and Persons over 50
Big Local DY10
Buddhist Community
Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group
Friends Families and Travellers
Islamic Mosque
Kidderminster & District Scout Group
Madinatul Uloom Islamic College
Meeting Deaf Community
National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
National Travellers Action Group
Offmore Comberton Action Group
Our Lady of Ostra Brama Church
PHAB Ltd
The Showman's Guild of Great Britain Midland Section
Wyre Forest Action Group for Older People
Wyre Forest Women's Aid
Wyre Forest Local Children's Trust