

THE BEWDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION REPORT

May 2026

Introduction

1. The Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) formally commenced when Bewdley Town Council applied for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area. Public consultation on the proposed designation ran from 20 April to 18 May 2015, and the Neighbourhood Area was formally approved by Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) on 10 June 2015.
2. Following designation, a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established by the Town Council, comprising councillors and volunteers from the local community. The Steering Group led engagement activities to raise awareness of neighbourhood planning and to identify local priorities and issues that the Plan should address.
3. Early community engagement was undertaken prior to Regulation 14 in March 2016 to identify local issues, priorities and options that informed the preparation of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. An initial informal consultation then took place between 18 March and 29 April 2017. The first formal Regulation 14 consultation was subsequently undertaken between 9 April and 4 June 2018.
4. At that time, the original anticipated timetable aimed for a neighbourhood plan referendum in May 2018. However, due to the progression and timing of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2019–2030), which did not align with the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council was advised to revise the anticipated referendum date to May 2019.
5. Subsequent delays, including the COVID-19 pandemic and associated national lockdowns, resulted in work on the Neighbourhood Plan being paused. The Steering Group did not reconvene until October 2022.
6. Following discussions with the Senior Planning Policy Officer at WFDC, it was recommended that the neighbourhood planning process recommence from an early stage. This approach was advised to ensure that the Plan reflected significant changes that had occurred at global, national and local levels since the original consultations were undertaken.
7. The first stage of renewed consultation was therefore undertaken between 5 February and 1 March 2024 to reassess local priorities and inform the development of an updated draft NDP and policies.
8. The revised Regulation 14 Draft Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan was published for consultation between 6 October and 16 November 2025, for a period of not less than six weeks, in accordance with statutory requirements.

Structure of the Consultation Report

9. The first part of this report details engagement undertaken prior publication of the Regulation 14 Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.
10. The second part of the consultation report provides details of the consultation arrangements provided for the Regulation 14 consultations.
11. The final part of the consultation report provides an assessment of consultation responses including clarifications to address comments, references to plan amendments to address comments, and other points in response to comments.

Consultation and Engagement Activities Prior to Regulation 14 Draft Plan Consultation

12. Engagement of the local community is regarded as essential in the developing a vision and objectives for the future development of neighbourhoods and to provide the detailed information to support non-strategic policies that can make a difference to localities.
13. Following designation of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Area in June 2015 a Steering Committee was established to oversee the development of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). At the inaugural meeting of the steering committee, a Terms of Reference and a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan webpage were initiated.
<https://bewdleytowncouncil.gov.uk/council-meetings-committees-groups/neighbourhood-plan>
14. The Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan has been supported by engagement and consultation in a variety of forms. These are summarised below to show the development of approaches now set out in the neighbourhood plan.

Acknowledgements

15. Bewdley Council acknowledges and thanks the large number of people have given up their time and expertise in the preparation of this report and are listed below:
 - Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn (Chair), Cllr Calne Edginton White, Cllr Sarah Billett, Cllr Nicole Harper, Richard Perrin, Tony Leach, Richard Brine and Robert Smith
 - Former Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Members: Jock Gallagher, Chris Jackson, Anna Coleman, Derek Killingworth, Philip Edmundson, Linda Candlin, Martin Guard and John Beeson
 - Bewdley Town Council Staff: Tracy Bodley, Town Clerk and Lynne Williams, Town Clerk's Assistant, former Town Clerk, Nick Farress
 - Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officers: Helen Hawkes, Planning Manager, Robert Wall, Senior Planning Policy Officer, Paul Allen, Tree and Biodiversity Officer

and Sally Horne, former Senior Planning Policy Officer, Peter Bassett former Conservation Officer

- Other Agencies: Kirsten Huizer, Senior Water Management Officer, Worcestershire County Council, Adam Mindykowski Historic Environment Advisor and Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service
- Andrea Pellegram Planning Ltd: Lee Searles

Summary of face-to-face community engagement events

16. Following reestablishment of the Steering Group in October 2022 a summary list of events held to encourage input to and feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Plan are set out below:

16.1.1 Consultation Survey – February 2024

- Drop – In Presentation Sessions Friday 9 February – Saturday 10 February 2024
- Drop – In Presentation Sessions Friday 23 February – Saturday 24 February 2024

16.1.2 Regulation 14 – October 2025

- Drop – In Presentation Sessions Friday 17 October – Saturday 19 October 2025
- Drop – In Presentation Sessions Friday 24 October – Saturday 25 October 2025

17. Other community engagement activities are listed below:

- Neighbourhood Plan Website
- Social Media Posts (Facebook)
- Local Media – Bewdley Bridge Magazine Articles
- Posters and Noticeboards
- A Boards
- Public Notice – Kidderminster Shuttle
- Public Notice – Public Notice Portal
- Direct email to subscribers
- Direct email to statutory consultees and interested parties

Consultation Survey

18. On the advice of the Wyre Forest District Council Senior Planning Policy Officer, the Steering Group resolved to establish whether the needs and views of the Bewdley community had changed since the initial neighbourhood plan consultation undertaken in 2016. The Steering Group considered this review to be essential in order to understand the potential impacts of significant intervening events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, a national economic recession, and the ongoing housing crisis, on local priorities and community aspirations. This approach also provided an opportunity to assess whether neighbourhood planning at a local level continues to deliver benefits for the local economy and housing needs, and whether community perceptions of growth, development, and the quality and function of the town's built and natural environment have shifted as a result of these recent challenges.

19. A consultation survey was prepared and distributed in hard copy to all 4,544

households in the town in February 2024 and access to an online was also provided. Those wishing for additional hard copy questionnaires were asked to contact the Town Council Office and hand delivered upon request. The number requesting additional questionnaires was very small, totalling 3 requests.

20. The response was positive with 703 surveys completed representing a breakdown of 292 hard copies returned and 411 online responses. Approximately 15.47% of households returning a hard copy or online response.

Click here to complete the survey online
[Complete the survey online](#)
 Download the survey
[Download the survey](#)

Completed questionnaires can be returned to one of the following local addresses:

- Bewdley Town Council, 6 Load Street
- Wyre Forest Books, 54 Load Street
- The Hop Pole and Hopley's Farm Shop on Clebury Road
- Catchem's End Fish Bar, 134 Kidderminster Road

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation is underway, offering you the opportunity to contribute your thoughts on how our town can evolve for sustained growth and prosperity.

Consultation Period: Running from Monday 5 February to 5 pm on Friday 1 March 2024, this initiative encourages residents to actively participate in the decision-making process.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: At the heart of this effort is the Neighbourhood Development Plan, a blueprint that will guide the future development of Bewdley. Your insights will play a pivotal role in shaping policies and projects that align with the community's vision.

Ways to Participate: Participation is easy and accessible, engage in the consultation through various methods, including an online questionnaire designed to gather your valuable feedback. We believe that your voice is instrumental in determining the path Bewdley takes in the years to come.

If you would like to complete a questionnaire but would also like to find out more information about the Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan we are also holding drop-in sessions at the following locations:

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Friday 9 February 2024	2pm – 6pm	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EP
Saturday 10 February 2024	10am – 12 noon	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EP
Friday 23 February 2024	2pm – 6pm	All Saints Church, 86 Kidderminster Rd, DY12 1DQ
Saturday 24 February 2024	10am – 12 noon	All Saints Church, 86 Kidderminster Rd, DY12 1DQ

Together, let's create a future for Bewdley that reflects the aspirations and priorities of its residents. Your contribution matters!
 Join us in shaping the future of our town.

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Survey

5 February – 1 March 2024

Total Responses
 703 responses received

How People Responded
 292 paper questionnaires
 411 online submissions

Hard Copy Collection Points - 5 locations in total
 2 central Bewdley locations
 3 locations on the outskirts of the town

Age Representation
 3% of responses from **young people** (approx. 21 respondents)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 2024

Help us shape Bewdley's future for its continued growth and prosperity.
 A consultation is being conducted and we need you to take part
 The consultation runs from
Monday 5 February—5pm on Friday 1 March

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE SURVEY ONLINE

Or go to the Bewdley Town Council Website to download a Word Version
<https://bewdleytowncouncil.org/ndp>

Each household within Bewdley will receive a copy of the questionnaire and further copies can be collected from Bewdley Town Council Office or at the drop-in sessions.

Completed questionnaires can be returned to one of the following local addresses:

- Bewdley Town Council, 6 Load Street
- Wyre Forest Books, 54 Load Street
- The Hop Pole, Clebury Road
- Catchem's End Fish Bar, 134 Kidderminster Road
- Hopley's Farm Shop, Clebury Road

COME AND JOIN MEMBERS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP AT DROP-IN SESSIONS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Friday 9 February	2pm – 6pm	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EP
Saturday 10 February	10am – 12 noon	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EP
Friday 23 February	2pm – 6pm	All Saints Church, 86 Kidderminster Rd, DY12 1DQ
Saturday 24 February	10am – 12 noon	All Saints Church, 86 Kidderminster Rd, DY12 1DQ

bewdleytowncouncil.org/ndp Help us shape Bewdley's future for its continued growth and prosperity

Have Your Say in Shaping Bewdley's Future!

Share your thoughts on how Bewdley can continue to grow and prosper with the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The consultation period runs from Monday 5 February to 5 pm on Friday 1 March 2024.

Participate now! Click the link to complete the questionnaire and make a positive impact on our town's future: <https://s.surveypal.com/8y2zru53>

For more information on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, please visit <https://bewdleytowncouncil.org/ndp>

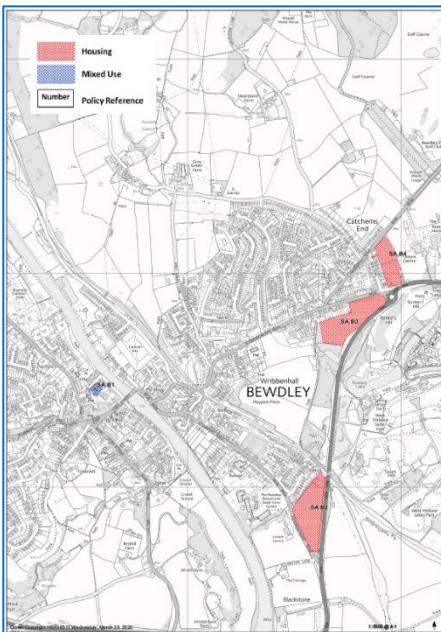
Let's work together to shape the future of our town! 🌱 #BewdleyCommunity #HaveYourSay

Neighbourhood Plan Drop In Sessions

21. The initial community consultation was open for a period of just over three and a half weeks, from 5 February to 1 March 2024. During that time four public drop-in sessions were held to provide residents with opportunities to view materials, ask questions, and discuss the emerging Neighbourhood Plan in person. Given that the Bewdley Neighbourhood Area is divided by the River Severn, it was considered important to ensure that engagement opportunities were accessible to residents on both sides of the river. The first drop-in sessions were held on the Bewdley side of the river at Elim Church on 9 and 10 February. The second drop-in sessions were held on the Wribbenhall side of the town at All Saints Church on 23 and 24 February. This approach helped ensure that residents across the whole Neighbourhood Area were able to engage with the consultation in a convenient and accessible way.

Display Boards Images Used

WFDC Allocated Sites and Local Plan Policy SP.5



Policy SP.5 - Role of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley as Market Towns

1. Within the District's market towns of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley, both of which have Conservation Areas as their town centres, the following development proposals will be sought:
 - Employment, start-up business units and commerce, to provide local employment opportunities and enhance economic viability.
 - Current retail provision will be safeguarded where possible, however, diversification proposals will be assessed against their overall positive contribution to the town centre.
 - New retail development proposals should be appropriate to the town's position in the District's settlement hierarchy.
 - Developments which provide additional community and health facilities for the local area.
 - Sustainable transport infrastructure should be enhanced to ensure ease of access to the town's services and facilities, particularly from the surrounding rural areas. Access from the market towns to the higher order services available in Kidderminster will also be improved where practical and viable.
 - There will be some Green Belt release to enable the market towns to contribute to the housing requirement whilst addressing the need for sustainability and cost effective infrastructure provision (see Chapters 33 and 34).
 - Sufficient protection/provision of outdoor sports facilities.
 - Development within the towns' Conservation Areas must preserve or enhance those areas, the heritage assets contained therein and their settings.

Bewdley:

- Bewdley's contribution towards the District's housing need will be limited to the development of the allocated sites for Bewdley and development which ensures the long-term vitality and viability of Bewdley. This reflects the town's conservation context and the more limited availability of jobs and services within the town. Some limited greenfield development will be permitted to enable this.
- The role of Bewdley as a sustainable tourist destination is to be enhanced, with sustainable transport links to the Wyre Forest, Severn Valley Railway, West Midland Safari and Leisure Park and Kidderminster Rail station being a particular focus, where practical and viable.
- Development within the Bewdley and Wribbenhall Conservation Areas should preserve or enhance those areas.
- The allocations for Bewdley are detailed within Chapter 34.

📅 SESSION DATES

Friday 9 February
 Saturday 10 February
 Friday 23 February
 Saturday 24 February

👥 TOTAL PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

15 residents

👥 SESSION BREAKDOWN

9 February

👤 6 attendees

👥 4 councillors + 1 NDP Steering Group member

10 February

👤 4 attendees

👥 4 councillors + 3 NDP Steering Group members

23 February

👤 0 attendees

👥 3 councillors + 2 NDP Steering Group members

24 February

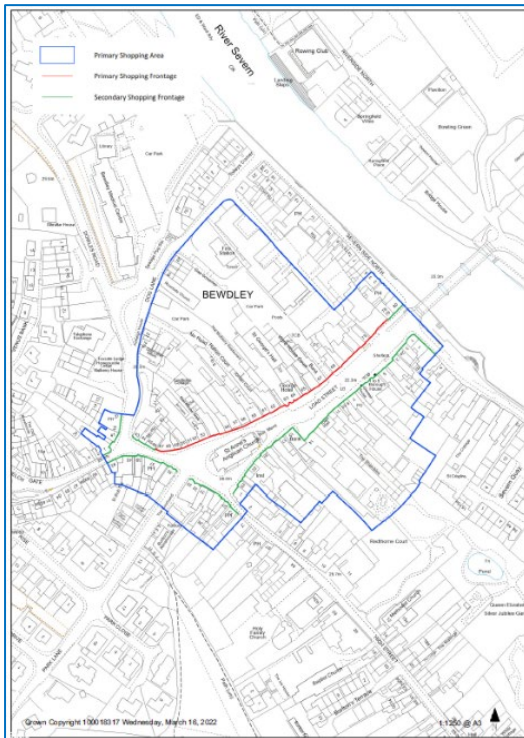
👤 5 attendees

👥 4 councillors + 1 NDP Steering Group member

✅ Key Message

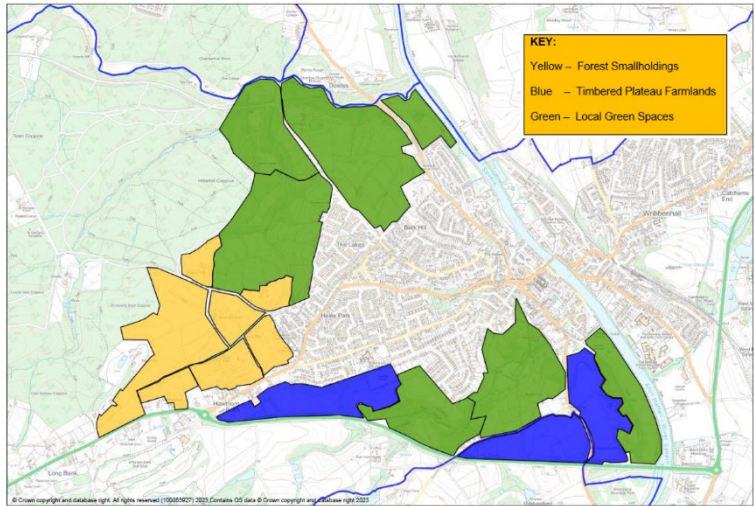
Four fully staffed drop-in sessions were provided on both sides of the river, offering residents accessible, face-to-face engagement opportunities alongside the wider

**WFDC Local Plan – Bewdley
Primary Retail Area**



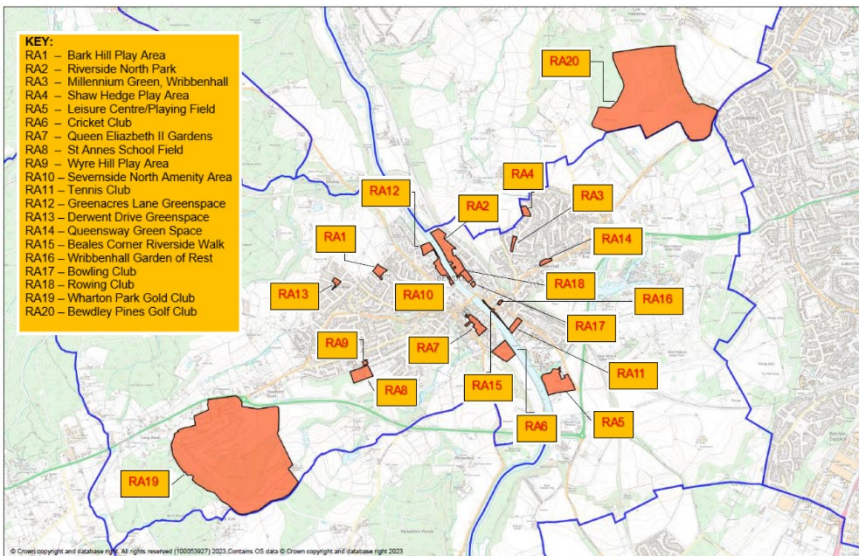
SIGNIFICANT AND VALUED OPEN SPACES

The plan below shows existing land parcels and types surrounding the town produced for the Town Council in 2018. The parcels of land were assessed for natural Beauty, tranquillity, recreational value, wildlife value and historical nature. Assessments were made following Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment guidelines.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, SPORT & RECREATION

The plan below shows existing sports, recreation and green spaces located within Bewdley Parish.



WFDC Local Plan – Policy SP.17

WFDC Policy SP.17 - A Diverse Local Economy

- At least 29 hectares of employment land will be brought forward in the plan period up to 2036.
- The sites allocated for employment use over the plan period are shown on the Policies Map and are listed in table 9.0.1. These sites are to be safeguarded for economic development. The development of these sites will need to be in line with the site specific policies identified in Part C of this Plan.
- In addition to the sites allocated for employment use, all future employment land should be located in highly accessible locations and be in accordance with the settlement hierarchy in Policy SP.2.
- The development of small-scale businesses and starter units which are less than 500 sqm, will be encouraged in suitable locations and where they do not conflict with other policy objectives. Live work units will be encouraged where they conform to requirements of Policy DM.11.
- Land and premises within the District's existing employment areas will be reserved for B2 and B8 use classes as well as employment generating uses including Class E offices (other than professional and financial services offices), research and development and light industrial uses and, where appropriate, sui generis uses.
- Small scale (less than 500 sqm gross) development of retail uses in rural areas will be supported where appropriate.
- Small scale (less than 500 sqm gross) development of commercial and leisure uses in rural areas will be supported where appropriate.
- Proposals for expansion, updating and intensification of employment uses on existing sites will be supported where they do not compromise the activities of the employment area or conflict with other policy objectives.
- Rural employment sites will be safeguarded for employment uses where appropriate. Proposals for small scale employment of less than 500 sqm in rural areas will be assessed on their merits and should have regard to accessibility by public transport and national policy as well as other Development Plan Policies (such as Policy DM.10). The use of previously developed land will be supported where suitable sustainable, accessible opportunities exist.

Bewdley

The nearest allocated industrial site to Bewdley is the former Alton Glass Houses site of 1 Hectare adjacent to Bewdley Business Park. Both are located just outside the Western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

There are small pockets of industrial area with the NP area, namely in St John's Lane, the Brewery in Lax Lane and Riverside North.

Other Community Engagement

Town Meeting Annual Reports

22. Progress updates on the preparation of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan have been reported to every Annual Town Meeting since 12 April 2016, providing residents with regular opportunities to be informed of, and comment on, the Plan's development.

Relevant extracts from the meetings are included below.

Annual Town Meeting Date	Extract from Bewdley Town Council Annual Report
12 April 2016	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>46. The Council have started working on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan. This area covered by the Plan will coincide with the boundaries of the Town Council. Throughout the country with encouragement from the Government, more town and parish councils have embarked on this process, the purpose of which is to give a stronger voice to local residents on planning issues and land use. The Neighbourhood Plan does need to be in conformity with the District Council's own planning policies and national planning policy. The first public consultation took place in March 2016 and there will be further opportunities for the community to develop ideas and objectives for what should or should not be built, how open spaces should be enhanced and overall amenities improved. Ultimately it will be the subject of a referendum for Bewdley residents to either accept or reject. You can find information about the Plan at www.beinbewdley.org.</p>
10 April 2017	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>45. The Council continue to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan. Throughout the country with encouragement from the Government, more town and parish councils have embarked on this process, the purpose of which is to give a stronger voice to local residents on planning issues and land use. The Neighbourhood Plan does need to be in general conformity with the District Council's own planning policies and national planning policy. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the 18th March 2017. There will be further opportunities when the draft Plan is published for the community to comment. Ultimately it will be the subject of a referendum for Bewdley residents to either accept or reject. You can find information about the Plan at www.beinbewdley.org.</p>
9 April 2018	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>45. The Council continue to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan. Throughout the country with encouragement from the Government, more town and parish councils have embarked on this process, the purpose of which is to give a stronger voice to local residents on planning issues and land use. The Neighbourhood Plan does need to be in general conformity with the District Council's own planning policies and national planning policy. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the 18th March 2017. The draft Plan is being launched at the Annual Town Meeting on the 9th April 2018.. You can find information about the Plan at www.beinbewdley.org.</p>
8 April 2019	
13 April 2020	<p>The Annual Parish Meeting was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the statutory disapplication of the requirement under emergency coronavirus legislation.</p>

19 April 2021	<p>10. Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>We continue to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan with a group of dedicated members of the community. The purpose of the plan is to give a stronger voice to local residents on planning issues and land use. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the 18th March 2017. Following changes to the draft plan Wyre Forest District Council have asked us to hold another consultation exercise which should take place during 2021. Look out for the consultation, please get involved and have your say.</p>
25 April 2022	<p>10. Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The council continues to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan with a group of dedicated members of the community. The purpose of the plan is to give a stronger voice to <u>local residents</u> regarding planning issues and land use. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the <u>18th</u> March 2017. Following changes to the draft plan Wyre Forest District Council requested that the Neighbourhood Planning Group hold a further consultation exercise however this has not been progressed <u>as yet</u>.</p>
7 March 2023	<p>9. Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The council continues to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan with a group of dedicated members of the community. The purpose of the plan is to give a stronger voice to local residents regarding planning issues and land use. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the 18 March 2017. Following changes to the draft plan Wyre Forest District Council requested that the Neighbourhood Planning Group hold a further consultation exercise however this has not been progressed as yet.</p> <p>Steps to finalise the completed draft are underway and at this stage it is anticipated that an independent review may be sought to offer fresh eyes to create a robust and forward focused document.</p>
22 April 2024	<p>9. Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The council continues to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan with a group of dedicated members of the community. The purpose of the plan is to give a stronger voice to residents regarding planning issues and land use. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the 18 March 2017. Following changes to the draft plan Wyre Forest District Council requested that the Neighbourhood Planning Group hold a further consultation exercise which commenced on Monday 5 February and closed on Friday 1 March. Various consulting methods were used, and the results are being independently processed and upon conclusion of data collection formal analysis will take place.</p> <p>Following analysis of consultation results the group must then decide if any of the current policies require amendment before reaching out for further consultation or finalisation of the draft plan in its current form.</p>
24 March 2025	<p>9. Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The council continues to work on Bewdley's Neighbourhood Plan with a group of dedicated members of the community. The purpose of the plan is to give a stronger voice to residents regarding planning issues and land use. The first public consultation took place in March 2016, with the draft objectives and policies consultation held on the 18 March 2017. Following adoption to the Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan, there was a need to hold a further consultation exercise in the spring of 2023.</p> <p>Following analysis of consultation results the group has appointed a consultant to work with them to update the existing policies and creating a supporting evidence base prior to further consultation and further stages to reach referendum in 2026.</p>

Regulation 14 Consultation Arrangements

23. The Regulation 14 consultation was undertaken between 6 October and 16 November 2025, a period of six weeks, which satisfied the statutory requirement to run the consultation for at least six weeks. The following methods of consultation were undertaken:

- a) The draft NDP and supporting documents were published on the Bewdley Town Council website.
- b) Paper copies of the NDP were available to view at Bewdley Library, the Town Council Office and at four drop-in events.
- c) Notices were put up in public places around the town to include Bus Shelters and three public noticeboards.
- d) An online NDP Survey was live throughout the consultation period via the Town Council website and Survey Planet.
- e) A downloadable word version of the NDP Survey was also available on the Town Council Website
- f) Written responses could be made on the plan to the Town Council office.
- g) Four drop-in events were held at the Shaw Hedge Road Community Centre on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 October 2025 and at Elim Church on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October 2025. This allowed visitors to inspect the draft Neighbourhood Plan, ask questions and seek any necessary clarifications.
- h) Social Media was used to promote awareness of the NDP Consultation.
- i) Advertisement in the local free Community Magazine, The Bewdley Bridge was placed in the October and November edition.
- j) A public notice ran for a two week period in the local press, The Kidderminster Shuttle.
- k) A public notice was also placed on the Public Notice Portal.
- l) A consultation list was obtained from Wyre Forest District Council and a range of statutory and other important stakeholders were consulted.

Consultation with Statutory Consultees

24. In accordance with regulations, statutory consultees and other organisations that would have an interest in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan were consulted.

Town Council Website



Hi, Town Clerk Assistant

I am looking for...

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Neighbourhood Plan

You are here: [Home](#) / [Council Meetings, Committees & Groups](#) / [Neighbourhood Plan](#)

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan, when approved by the people of Bewdley, will set out the vision for the town in terms of future land use and form part of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan. The plan will belong to the town and will be a legal document used to inform future planning and development issues.

All Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies for an area as well as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and European Legislation.

As with a Local Plan, a Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to an independent Examination. However, it additionally requires a local referendum to be held to ensure that the community has the final say on whether the plan comes into force or not.

Why is it so very important?

In practice, communities have often found it hard to have a meaningful say in planning decisions. The Neighbourhood Plan puts power back into the hands of local residents, businesses, councils and civic leaders.

Who decides what is in the plan?

The plan is intended to reflect the views of people who live, work, shop, enjoy and have an interest in Bewdley. Ultimately, whether the plan is to be adopted or not will be decided by a formal referendum involving local people.

How will it be paid for?

The Town Council successfully applied for the maximum grant awarded by Locality which administers government money for supporting neighbourhood planning. It has also allocated funding to the project.

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 2025

This updated 2025 consultation document presents the revised Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which reflects changes in national planning policy, an updated evidence base, and evolving community priorities. It builds on the previous 2021 consultation and includes new and revised policies that will guide development in the parish to 2040.

The draft NDP has been produced by the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, working in partnership with the Town Council, local community groups, and planning professionals.

It reflects the community's shared ambition to protect Bewdley's historic character, enhance its green spaces, support sustainable development, and ensure a vibrant local economy and resilient infrastructure.

This is your chance to shape the future of our town. Once adopted, the NDP will be a statutory part of the planning framework and used in determining planning applications.

This is a vital part of the process, so please take part!

The consultation period will run: Monday 6 October – 5pm on Sunday 16 November 2025

The deadline for replying to the survey is 5pm on Sunday 16 November 2025.

In **hardcopy format** – copies can be collected from Bewdley Town Council Office, 6 Load Street, Bewdley.

Online Survey – The easiest way to take part is via the online version of the questionnaire. Please use the link below to access the survey.

<https://s.surveypal.com/ywcku51s>

Or use the QR Code:



Downloadable Word Version – A Downloadable version in Word format is available below.

Neighbourhood Plan Documents



Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Draft – Reg. 14 Consultation September 2025

[APL.Bewdley.010.D-Regulation-14-NDP-DRAFT.pdf](#)

File size: (6.88 MB)



Regulation 14 Consultation Survey

[Bewdley-NDP-Reg.14-Consultation-2025.docx](#)

File size: (203.14 KB)



Bewdley Local Green Space Review – Final

[Bewdley-Local-Green-Space-Review-Final.pdf](#)

File size: (12.62 MB)



Bewdley Design Code Final Report

[Bewdley-Design-Code-Final-Report.pdf](#)

File size: (16.96 MB)



SEA Reports - Environment Agency , Historic England and Natural England

[SEA-Responses-NE-EA-and-Historic-England.pdf](#)

File size: (375.47 KB)



Neighbourhood Plan Road Map

[NP_Roadmap_online_full.pdf](#)

File size: (1.48 MB)

Neighbourhood Plan so far...

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has, since 2015, been working with community representatives to identify priorities for Bewdley's future, the planning challenges our town faces and possible solutions to these challenges.

Items contained in the plan:

Community and Wellbeing

- To ensure that there are green, open areas in Bewdley Parish for play, recreation, and sports activities to take place

Managing Housing Supply

- To ensure that all future housing development provides a mix of homes to meet identified housing needs and contributes positively to the unique and natural characteristics of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan area.

Jobs and the Local Economy

- To maintain a thriving town centre and retail economy.
- To promote business by supporting provision of suitable employment land.
- To preserve and promote Bewdley as a popular market town, with a regular events programme.

Improving the Infrastructure

- To improve traffic flow through the main thoroughfare of the town and seek methods to reduce congestion, pollution, and speeding.
- To improve car parking facilities in and around the town
- To maintain and enhance the existing network of footpaths, cycleways and public rights of way to provide access to the surrounding countryside.
- To enable improved linkages in and around Bewdley


Protecting the Countryside

- To protect and enhance watercourses including the River Severn, Riddings Brook, Dowles Brook and Snuff Mill Brook and manage the effects of flooding.
- To protect and enhance the open countryside setting of Bewdley including its open spaces, wildlife areas and green space separation from neighbouring towns to preserve the town's distinctive settlement area.
- To protect the identity of Bewdley as an historic riverside market town within its open countryside and woodland setting and ensure that new developments respect the landscape character.

Heritage and Character

- To protect and preserve the historic environment and architectural features of Bewdley, comprising the town centre, adjoining residential streets, part of the River Severn, adjoining river frontages and other landscape features and part of the old settlement of Wribbenhall.
- To ensure that future developments or changes of use enhance the existing character of Bewdley.
- To ensure that shop frontages and signage are in keeping and enhance the historic character of Bewdley.

Neighbourhood Plan Online Survey

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

This updated 2025 consultation document presents the revised Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which reflects changes in national planning policy, an updated evidence base, and evolving community priorities. It builds on the previous 2021 consultation and includes new and revised policies that will guide development in the parish to 2040.

The draft NDP has been produced by the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, working in partnership with the Town Council, local community groups, and planning professionals.


It reflects the community's shared ambition to protect Bewdley's historic character, enhance its green spaces, support sustainable development, and ensure a vibrant local economy and resilient infrastructure.

This is your chance to shape the future of our town. Once adopted, the NDP will be a statutory part of the planning framework and used in determining planning applications.

This is a vital part of the process, so please take part!

Email optional

Terms of Service | Privacy Notice

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 1 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposals which would lead to the loss of sites in local community use, or which otherwise provide essential local facilities and services will not be supported, unless:

- a. Equivalent alternative provision exists within a suitable distance, or is proposed; or,
- b. It can be clearly demonstrated that the facility is no longer needed. To demonstrate lack of need, developers should submit evidence that all reasonable efforts have been made to market the site/facility for its current use without success over the preceding 12 months. *

Do you support this policy?


Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree

Strongly Agree

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 1?

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 2 - SPORTS, PLAY AND RECREATIONAL SPACES AND FACILITIES

Proposals for development that would affect existing provision of sports, play and recreation spaces and facilities in Bewdley should demonstrate how the proposals would protect provision and where appropriate enhance it.

With reference to the facilities shown in Figure 12 in the draft neighbourhood plan, proposals for development that would lead to a loss of sports, play or recreation provision should demonstrate the availability of accessible suitable alternative provision, or should include proposals for replacement provision.

Proposals for new sports, play and recreational spaces and facilities that would help to meet existing needs and improve local provision will be welcomed in principle. Proposals should demonstrate how they would maintain and enhance the historic character, landscape character and natural environment setting of Bewdley.*

Do you support this policy?

Strongly Disagree


Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree


Strongly Agree

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 2?

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 3 - HOUSING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Proposals for housing development in Bewdley that meet the requirements of Local Plan policies SP.1 Spatial Distribution, SP.9 Housing Density and Mix and SP.10 Affordable Housing will be supported in principle.

Proposals for housing development within heritage buildings in Bewdley will be supported where they demonstrate through high-quality design that they will restore, maintain or enhance building features, character and setting.

Do you support this policy?

Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree


Strongly Agree

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 3?

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 4 - HIGH QUALITY DESIGN

Proposals for development in Bewdley should, where relevant, demonstrate how development will be undertaken in accordance with the Design Codes set out in Figure 18 in the draft neighbourhood plan and with reference to the supporting Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Design Codes.

Applications for new residential development should have regard to the density of surrounding development in the area. Particular care should be taken to ensure that development design proposals will maintain or enhance the character of the Conservation Area.

All proposals for new development should include measures to create and/or enhance habitats in accordance with Design Code GB2 and Green/Blue Infrastructure in accordance with GB1. Measures to meet Biodiversity Net Gain requirements should be provided on site wherever possible.

Do you support this policy?

Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree

Strongly Agree

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 4?

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 5 - HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ASSETS

Proposals for development in Bewdley which secure productive and viable uses of heritage buildings and areas will be welcomed in principle where they would contribute to the delivery of NDP objectives and policies relating to maintaining the heritage environment of the town, the growth of its economy and its attractiveness for visitors.


All development proposals within Bewdley's Conservation Area should demonstrate how they will maintain and where possible enhance the area's historic character features set out in the Bewdley Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

In addition, through their design approaches, applications will need to demonstrate how they have considered and responded to sensitive heritage receptors, including the following:

- a) Designated Heritage assets including Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments.
- b) Heritage assets on the adopted Local Heritage Lists for Bewdley and the Severn Valley Railway.
- c) Other historic sites and monuments, including Bewdley's (Telford) Bridge and Statue of Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley.
- d) The setting for Bewdley's historic environment and heritage assets comprised of the River Severn and the surrounding elevated landscape setting for the town.*

Do you support this policy?

- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 5?

[Next](#)

BEWDLEY 6 - BEWDLEY'S LANDSCAPE

Proposals for development within the open landscape to the north, west and south of Bewdley should be limited in scale and of good design.

Where relevant, Planning applications should have regard to landscape condition and sensitivity, key characteristics and advice on new settlement pattern set out in Table 2 and Figure 21 in the draft neighbourhood plan.

Applications should demonstrate how they have contributed to the maintenance and enhancement of landscape character features, historic landscape character and improved public access. They should consider the value of these areas to the local community as open areas for recreation and nature and as local green spaces.

- a) River Severn & Dowles Road Parcel
- b) Lakes Road and Dry Mill Parcel
- c) Grove Farm Parcel
- d) The Lakes Parcel
- e) Hole Farm Parcel
- f) Coppice Gate Parcel
- g) Beaucastle Parcel
- h) Bowcastle Farm Parcel
- i) Tanners Hill & Cleobury Road Parcel
- j) Hopleys Camping Parcel
- k) Long Bank Parcel
- l) Whartons Park Parcel
- m) Snuffmill Dingle Parcel
- n) South of Bewdley Centre Parcel
- o) Heightington Road Parcel
- p) Winterdyne Parcel
- q) River Severn To Winterdyne Parcel*

Do you support this policy?

- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

Next

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 6?

Next

BEWDLEY 7 - LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The following sites, shown on Figure 22 in the draft neighbourhood plan and detailed in the Local Green Spaces Assessment, are designated as Local Green Spaces, and other than in very special circumstances, no inappropriate development will be permitted within them that would harm their green character and reason for designation.*

Do you support this policy?

- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

Next

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 7?

Next

BEWDLEY 8 - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE WATER ENVIRONMENT


Proposals for development will be supported in principle where it is appropriate for them to contribute to local priorities for local nature recovery and the water environment in the following ways:

- a) Deliver an integrated approach to flood risk avoidance and mitigation and utilise design approaches to reduce flood impacts, maintain the effectiveness of watercourses and create environmental benefits for nature and recreation.
- b) Include proposals to expand, strengthen and connect areas of importance for nature in Bewdley.
- c) Use land management techniques such as riparian buffers alongside sustainable drainage techniques.
- d) Enhance the riverside to provide landscaped areas, formal parks and gardens for recreational purposes.*

Do you support this policy?


- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 8?

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 9 - TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS


Development proposals which provide additional public car parking capacity to serve Bewdley Town Centre will be supported in principle, subject to the following considerations:

- a) The parking is short stay parking.
- b) The location is convenient for town centre users.
- c) The development is consistent with historic environment objectives and policies. Support in principle will also be given to a reorganisation of existing car parking to provide more spaces for visitors whilst meeting the needs of town centre residents and businesses. Proposals to provide improved signage to existing car parks would be welcomed.*

Do you support this policy?

- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 9?

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 10 - VISITOR ACCOMMODATION IN BEWDLEY


Proposals for development that would deliver additional visitor accommodation in Bewdley will be supported in principle, subject to the following considerations:

- a) The accommodation is guest house, hotel or camping/caravanning accommodation.
- b) Proposals for a larger hotel with significant events capacity would be particularly welcomed as this would replace lost provision and meet a clear local need.
- c) Wherever possible, parking provision is provided on site (but local constraints are recognised).
- d) Conversion proposals for heritage buildings into new visitor accommodation are sensitive to building and Conservation Area character features. *

Do you support this policy?


- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 10?

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 11 - TOURISM, MARKETS, AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sympathetic development of infrastructure, structures and buildings that would enable and support the provision of permanent and temporary markets, cultural events and tourism services within Bewdley Town Centre and on its riverside, will be supported. All development within the Bewdley Conservation Area must have regard to its character features and be designed to avoid harming them. *

Do you support this policy?

Strongly Disagree


Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree


Strongly Agree

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 11?

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 12 - BEWDLEY TOWN CENTRE

a) Primary Shopping Areas and Secondary Shopping Frontages within Bewdley Town Centre are defined on Figure 28 in the draft neighbourhood plan.

b) Proposals for development of retail uses within Primary and Secondary Shopping Frontages of Bewdley Town Centre will be supported in principle as an important contribution to Bewdley's economy.

c) Proposals for development of other commercial town centre uses (such as hotels, restaurants, bars and personal/professional services) will also be supported, but particularly on Secondary Shopping Frontages provided that, across the town centre as a whole, at least 50% of ground floor properties remain in retail use.

d) Proposals for hot food take aways will be supported where the proportion of these uses less than 10% of town centre ground floor retail and commercial uses (see Table 6 in the draft neighbourhood plan).

e) Retail development that would maintain or create active frontages at ground floor level will be supported in principle. Non-retail development that would result in dead frontages of three or more properties in a row will not be supported.

f) Proposals for residential development within the town centre (where this involves a change of use from a retail or other commercial use) are discouraged and should be accompanied by evidence of marketing for alternative retail/commercial uses over an 18-months period preceding the proposal.

g) All proposals for development within Bewdley Town Centre should demonstrate how they will retain or enhance the vitality and viability of Bewdley Town Centre to meet the needs of local residents, people from surrounding rural communities and tourist/leisure visitors to Bewdley.

h) All proposals for development or redevelopment of shopfronts and/or public areas within Bewdley Town Centre must have regard to the Bewdley Design Codes SF1, BT1, and BM2, and other design guidance to ensure that shopfronts and public areas to buildings make a positive contribution to the town centre and Bewdley Conservation Area.*

Do you support this policy?

Strongly Disagree


Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree


Strongly Agree

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 12?

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 13 - TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PRIORITIES

In commenting on and in determining planning applications for major development in Bewdley, Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council should consider what opportunities there are for schemes to contribute to the delivery of local transport and accessibility priorities as outlined in Table 9 in the draft neighbourhood plan and summarised below.

Key priorities for transport and travel improvements:

Walking and Cycling:

- a) Traffic Lights on the River Severn Bridge to allow for wider pavement.
- b) New Pedestrian bridge across the River Severn.
- c) Provide separation of walking and cycling routes from car traffic.
- d) Ensure all walking routes to key local facilities and services have pavements.
- e) Improve footpaths to encourage walking. *

Do you support this policy?


Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree


Moderately Agree

Strongly Agree

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 13?
PART 1

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 13 - TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PRIORITIES

In commenting on and in determining planning applications for major development in Bewdley, Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council should consider what opportunities there are for schemes to contribute to the delivery of local transport and accessibility priorities as outlined in Table 7 and summarised below.

Key priorities for transport and travel improvements:

Bus and Rail Travel:

- f) Re-introduce Sunday Bus Services.
- g) Extend bus services from Kidderminster later than 18:30.
- h) Increase bus service frequencies to Kidderminster and Stourport.
- i) Improve quality of bus fleet serving Bewdley.
- j) Extend national rail services to Bewdley from Kidderminster over the Severn Valley Railway.
- k) Improve bus accessibility through more direct services to Kidderminster Rail Station. *

Do you support this policy?


Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Moderately Agree

Strongly Agree

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 13?
PART 2

[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

BEWDLEY 13 - TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PRIORITIES

In commenting on and in determining planning applications for major development in Bewdley, Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council should consider what opportunities there are for schemes to contribute to the delivery of local transport and accessibility priorities as outlined in Table 9 and summarised below.


Key priorities for transport and travel improvements:

Car Parking and Traffic Management:

- l) Improved car parking for town centre businesses and residents.
- m) Improved car parking for visitors to the town centre.
- n) Provide coach parking for tourist visitors to Bewdley.
- o) Provide safe HGV delivery locations in the town centre.
- p) New roundabout at Junction of A456 and Stourport Road.
- q) Traffic management reorganisations in the town centre to remove conflicts, 1 ease flow and improve air quality through Welch Gate.*


Do you support this policy?

- Strongly Disagree
- Moderately Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Moderately Agree
- Strongly Agree

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEWDLEY 13?
PART 3


[Next](#)

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

Will you support the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan at Referendum? *

Yes No


Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

Gender: *

Male Female Prefer Not To Say

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan 

Age Range: *

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan

Postcode: *

Next

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan

Additional Comments *

Would you like to add any further comments?
Please include the relevant policy or section number if applicable:

Submit

Regulation 14 Consultation Drop – In Sessions

25. As part of the regulation 14 pre submission draft consultation four drop-in sessions were held giving residents the opportunity to view the draft report and supporting documents and ask any questions on the plan and policies.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Friday 17 October	2pm-6pm	Community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road, DY12 1EU
Saturday 18 October	10am-12 noon	Community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road, DY12 1EU
Friday 24 October	2pm-6pm	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EF
Saturday 25 October	10am-12 noon	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EF

Regulation 14 Drop-In Sessions



Elim Drop-In Session
24 October 2025

A - Board below displayed at the entrance to each drop-in session



Poster below displayed on 5 town noticeboards

BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 2025
Help us shape Bewdley's future for its continued growth and prosperity

Have your say – complete the survey

The consultation runs from
Monday 6 October—Sunday 16 November

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE SURVEY ONLINE

DOWNLOAD A COPY FROM BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE
<https://bewdleytowncouncil.gov.uk/ndp>

Bewdley residents are encouraged to complete the survey online, but a paper copy of the questionnaire can be collected from Bewdley Town Council office or at the drop-in sessions listed below.

Completed questionnaires can be returned to one of the following local addresses:

Bewdley Town Council, 8 Load Street	Bewdley Library, Dog Lane
Wyre Forest Books, 54 Load Street	Hopley's Farm Shop, Cleobury Road
Catochem's End Fish Bar, 134 Kidderminster Road	

MEMBERS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AT THE DROP-IN SESSIONS, AS FOLLOWS:

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Friday 17 October	2pm-6pm	Community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road, DY12 1EU
Saturday 18 October	10am-12 noon	Community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road, DY12 1EU
Friday 24 October	2pm-6pm	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EF
Saturday 25 October	10am-12 noon	Elim Church, Dog Lane, DY12 2EF

At each drop-in session, display boards were used to present the key themes, draft policies and proposals of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan in a clear and accessible format. The boards supported discussion with councillors and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members and enabled residents to view information at their own pace while providing comments and feedback.



👥 TOTAL PUBLIC ATTENDANCE
39 residents

👥 SESSION BREAKDOWN

17 October
👤 3 attendees
👥 2 councillors + 2 NDP Steering Group members

18 October
👤 0 attendees
👥 2 councillors

24 October
👤 15 attendees
👥 3 councillors + 2 NDP Steering Group members

25 October
👤 21 attendees
👥 2 councillors + 1 NDP Steering Group member

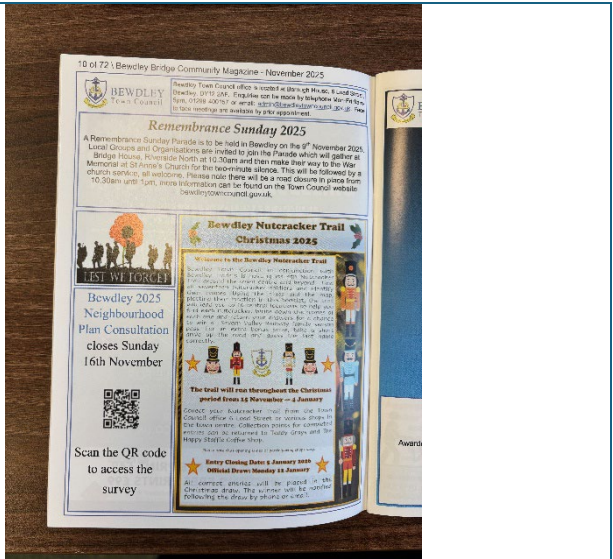
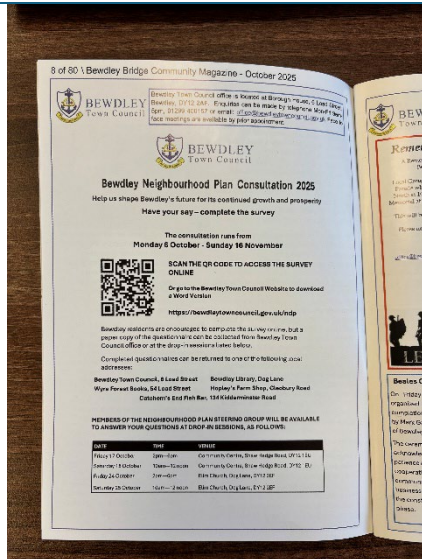
✅ Key Message

The Regulation 14 consultation drop-in sessions provided **multiple, fully staffed opportunities for face-to-face engagement**, resulting in **39 residents attending in person**, with the highest attendance occurring at Elim Church, likely arising from the town centre location.

Regulation 14 Promotional Material and Social Media

26. In addition to a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan webpage, a range of communication methods was used to reach all sections of the community. These included promotion in the October and November editions of the local Bewdley Bridge magazine, information published on the Town Council website, social media posts, posters displayed on five town noticeboards, and the placement of two public notices in The Kidderminster Shuttle and on the Public Notice Portal.

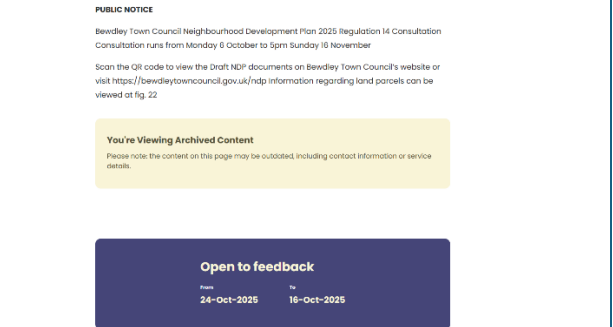
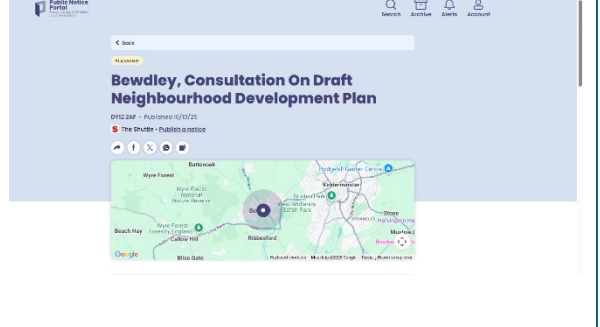
Bewdley Bridge Magazine
October 2025 and November 25 editions



The Kidderminster Shuttle –
Public Notice
16 October 2025 and 23 October 2025



Public Notice Portal
16 October 2025 and 23 October 2025



<p>Facebook Posts 30 Sept 25, 4 Nov 25, 11 Nov 25, 15 Nov 25</p>	<p>Bewdley happenings not censorship - Join Richard Brine · 4 November · 🌐</p> <p>Wishing to encourage the people of Bewdley incl. traders to respond to our Neighbourhood plan survey. All docs are available on the Town Council website and the response can be completed on line. With a unitary council on the agenda, it quite important we all have our say.</p> <p>8 comments 2 shares</p> <p>Like Comment Share</p>	<p>Bewdley Mayor 2025 2026 Nicole Harper 12 November at 10:21 · 🌐</p> <p>It's now the last day for your views on the future of Bewdley to make their way to the...</p>	<p>Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan</p>
<p>Town Council Website Posts 30 Sept 25 22 Oct 2025</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Development Plan – Regulation 14 Consultation 30th September, 2025 / in News / by Town Clerk Assistant</p> <p>Read more ></p>	<p>Bewdley Town Council – Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation 2025 22nd October, 2025 / in News / by Town Clerk Assistant</p> <p>There is still time to complete the survey and have your say on the future of Bewdley.</p> <p>Read more ></p>	

Regulation 14 Consultation Results and Comments

27. This part of the Consultation Report summarises the responses made to the NDP where these raise a criticism and/or request a change to the NDP or its supporting documents. The full responses from consultees are published separately to this Consultation Report.

Survey Responses

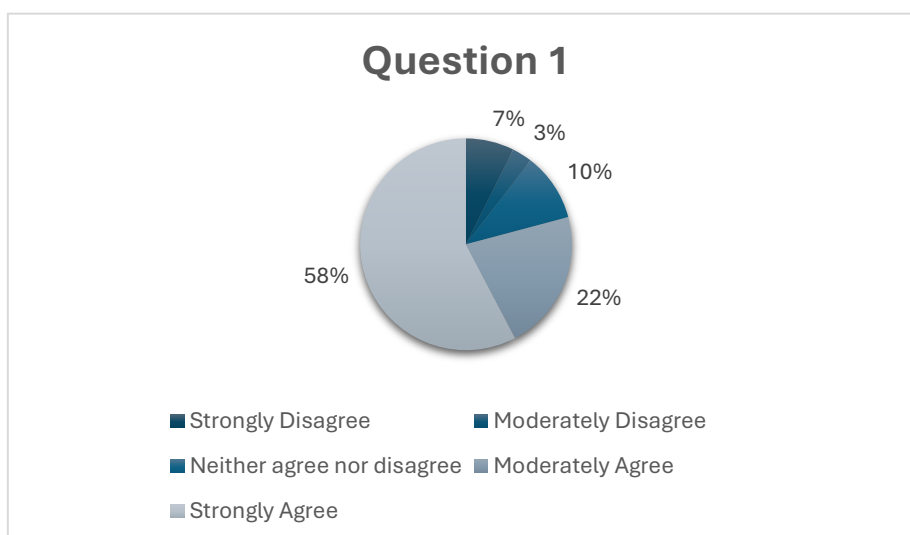
28. 163 Completed survey responses were received on the draft NDP. This includes online survey responses and hard copy questionnaires.

29. The survey primarily sought views on the proposed Vision, Objectives and Policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, using a structured response format that allowed participants to indicate levels of agreement, disagreement, or neutrality.

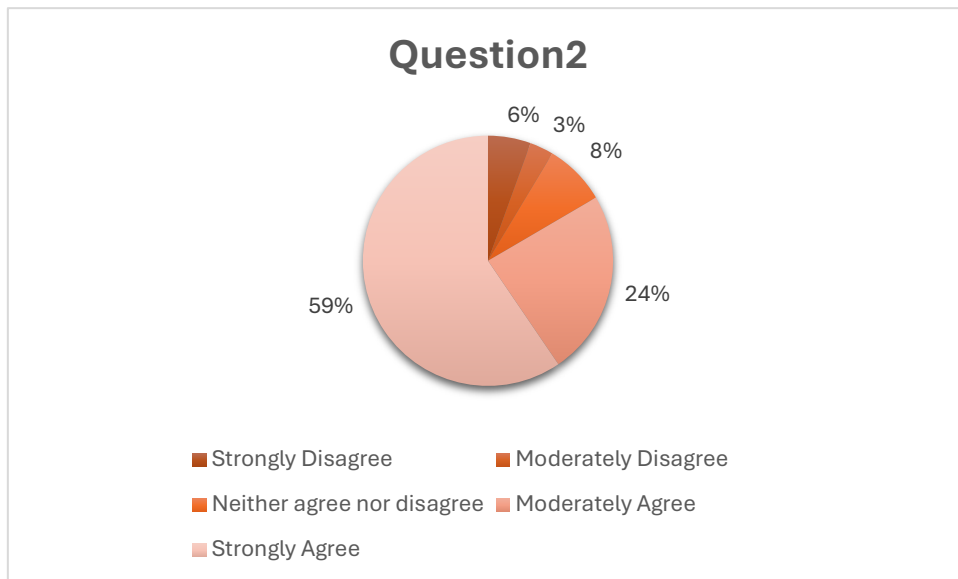
30. The pie charts and tables below show a breakdown of response levels to each question. In general terms, there was clear support for the Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives and for all policies proposed.

- BEWDLEY 1 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

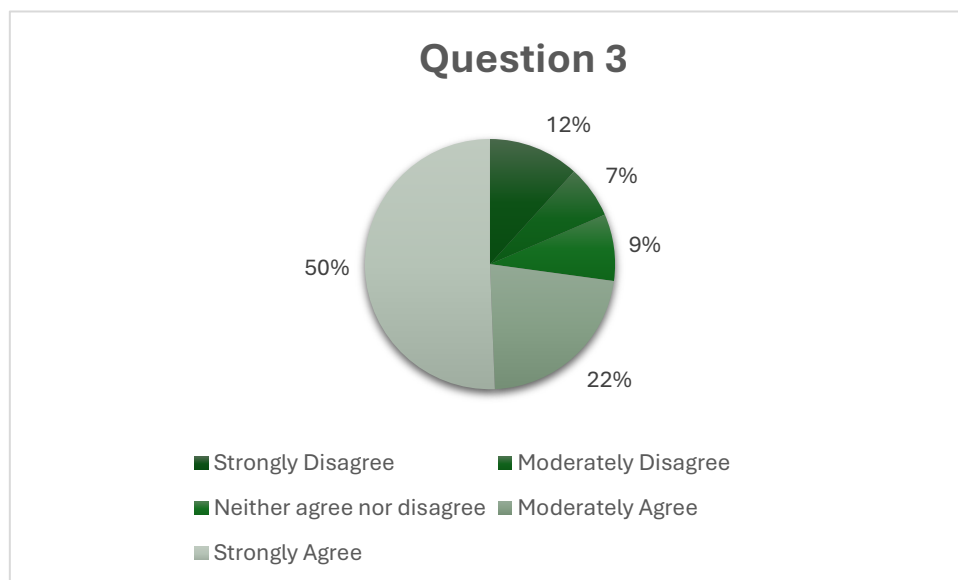
Protects valued local facilities unless replacement or justified redundancy is demonstrated.



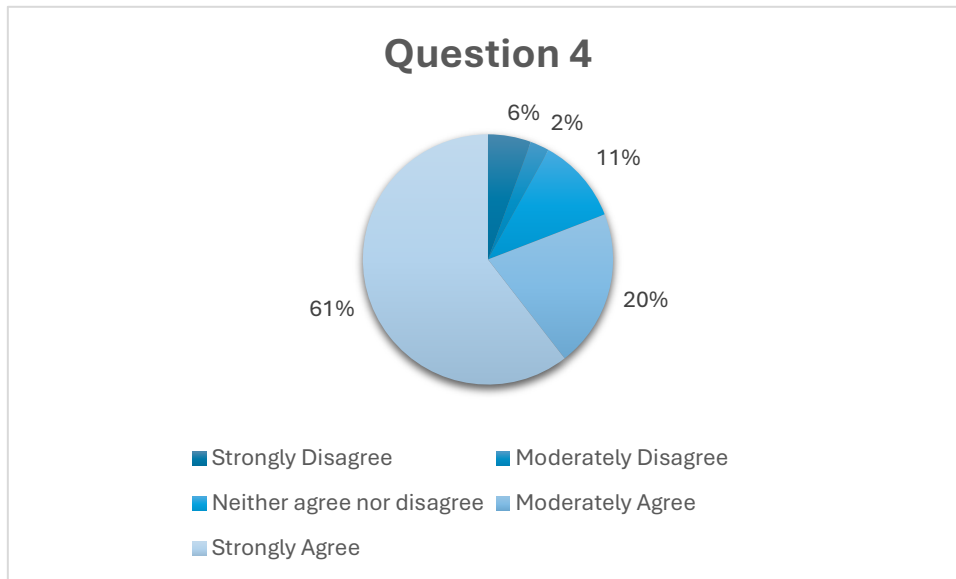
- BEWDLEY 2 – SPORTS, PLAY AND RECREATIONAL SPACES AND FACILITIES**
 Protects existing recreation areas and supports new provisions aligned with landscape and heritage character.



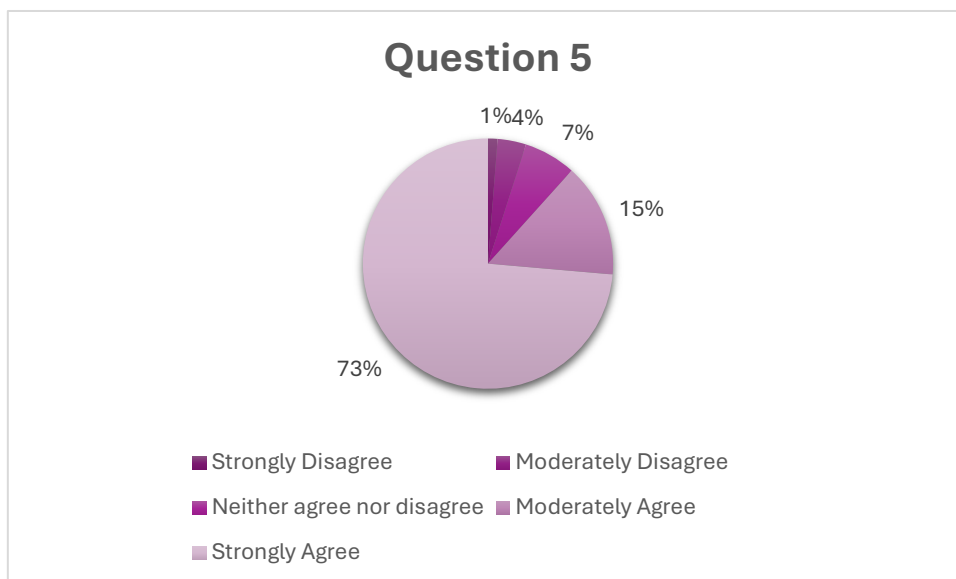
- BEWDLEY 3 – HOUSING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES**
 Supports sensitive, small-scale development, with design criteria in line with the town's heritage and character, whilst taking into account constraints surrounding access, service and environment.



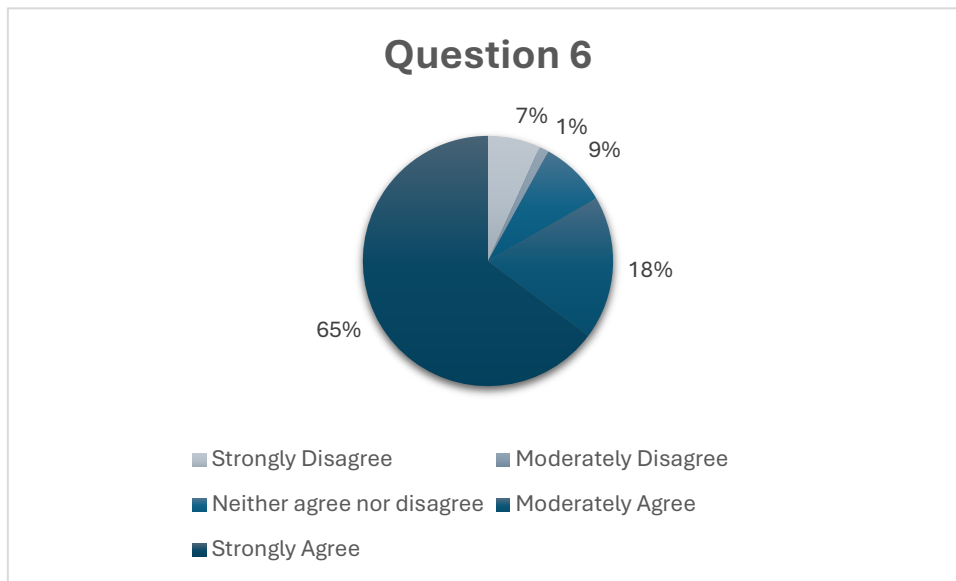
- **BEWDLEY 4 – HIGH QUALITY DESIGN**
Applies design codes for each part of the parish.



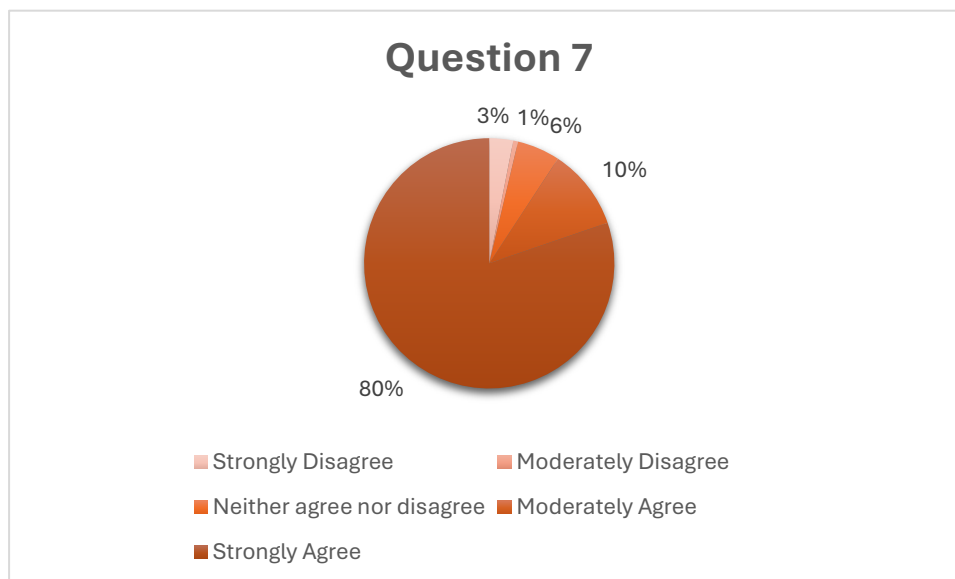
- **BEWDLEY 5 – HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ASSETS**
Protects non-designated heritage assets and ensures development respects their character.



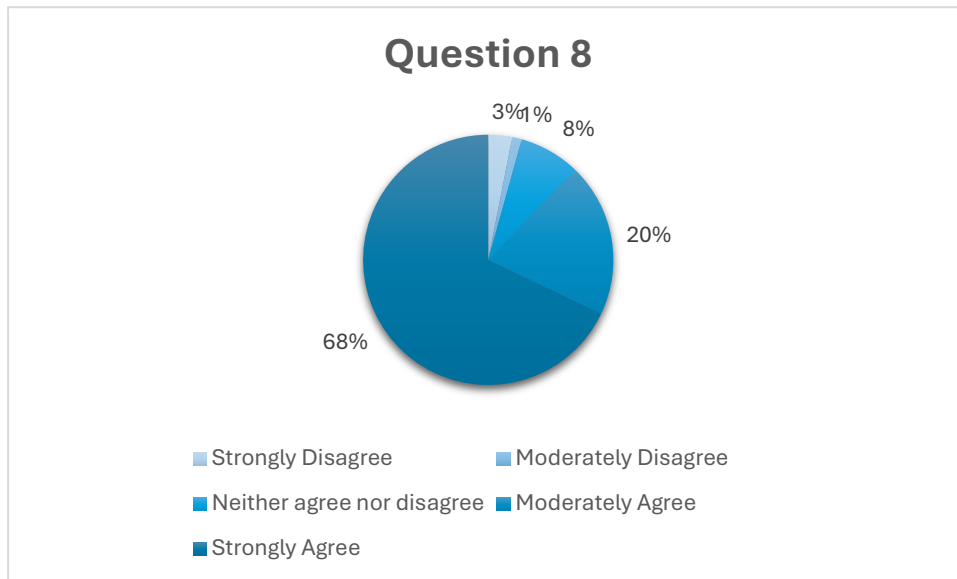
- BEWDLEY 6 – BEWDLEY’S LANDSCAPE**
 Protects open landscape limiting scale and encouraging best practices in design.



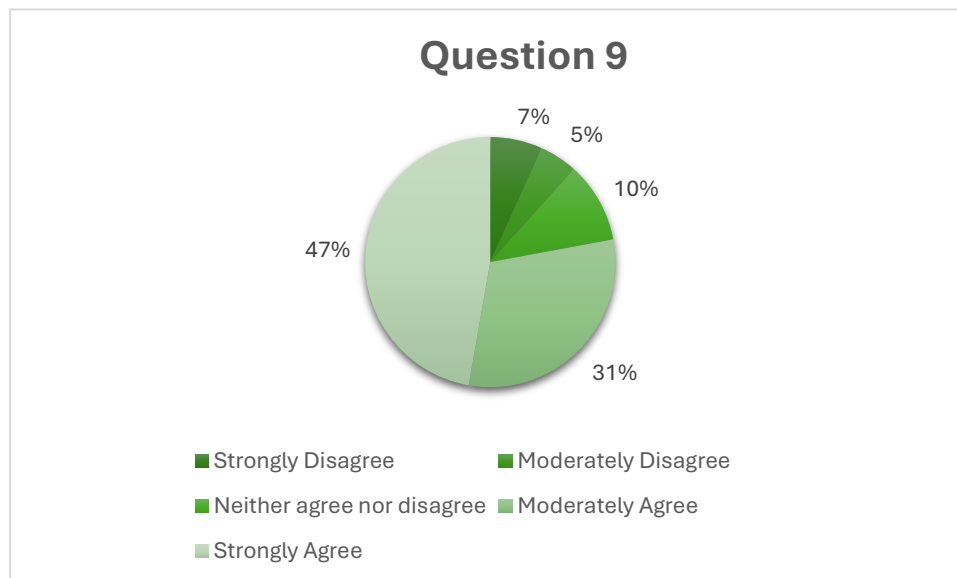
- BEWDLEY 7 – LOCAL GREEN SPACES**
 Protects from inappropriate development harming green characteristics.



- **BEWDLEY 8 – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE WATER ENVIRONMENT**
Ensuring new buildings don't negatively impact the natural environment.

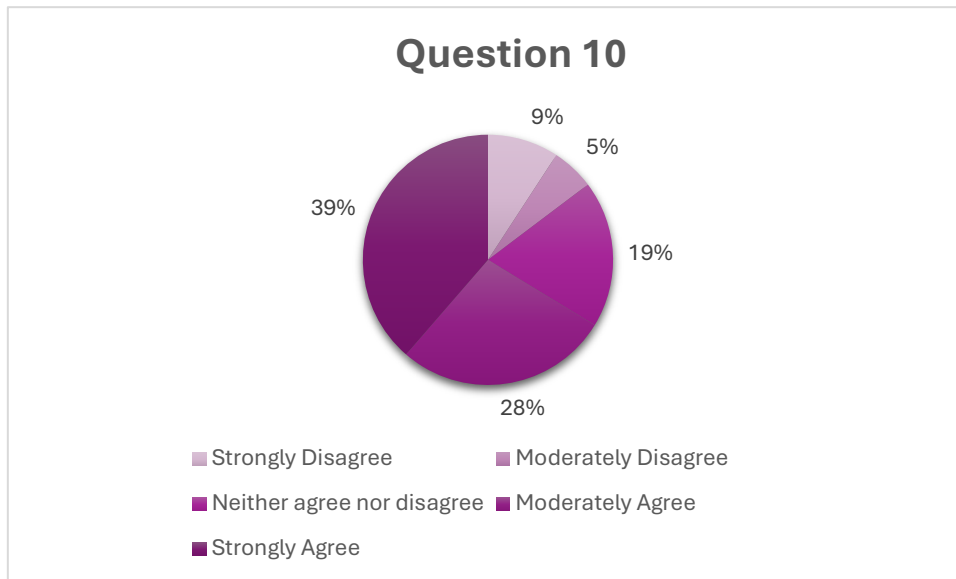


- **BEWDLEY 9 – TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS**
Supports active use of the town centre by encouraging parking provisions.



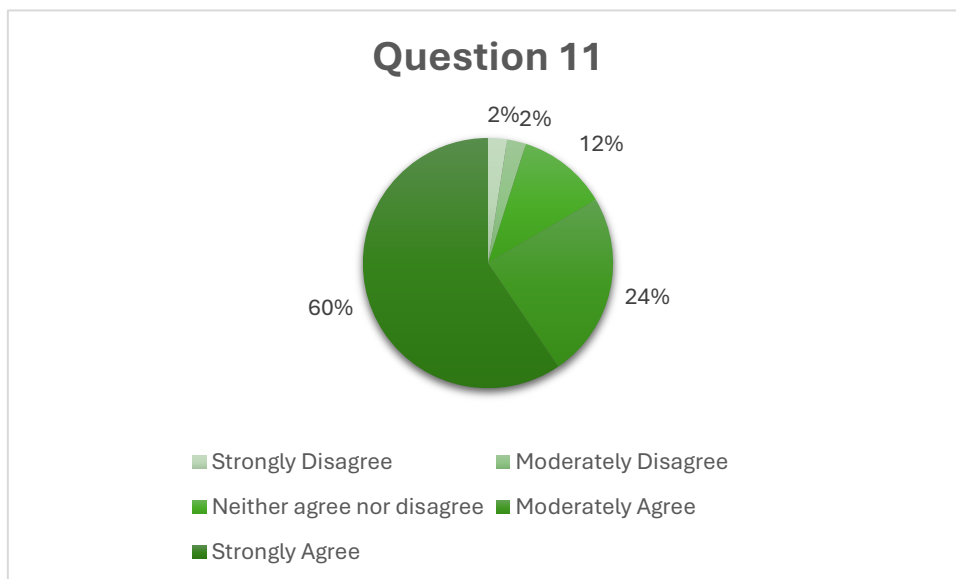
- **BEWDLEY 10** – VISITOR ACCOMMODATION IN BEWDLEY

Supports tourism-related development sympathetic to conservation characteristics.

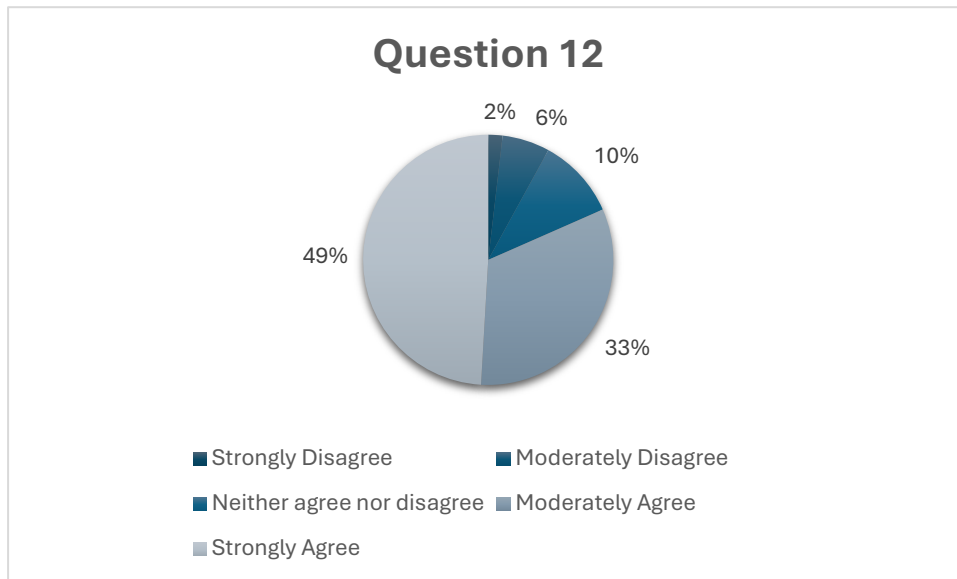


- **BEWDLEY 11** – TOURISM, MARKETS, AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Ensuring development adheres to towns ethos.

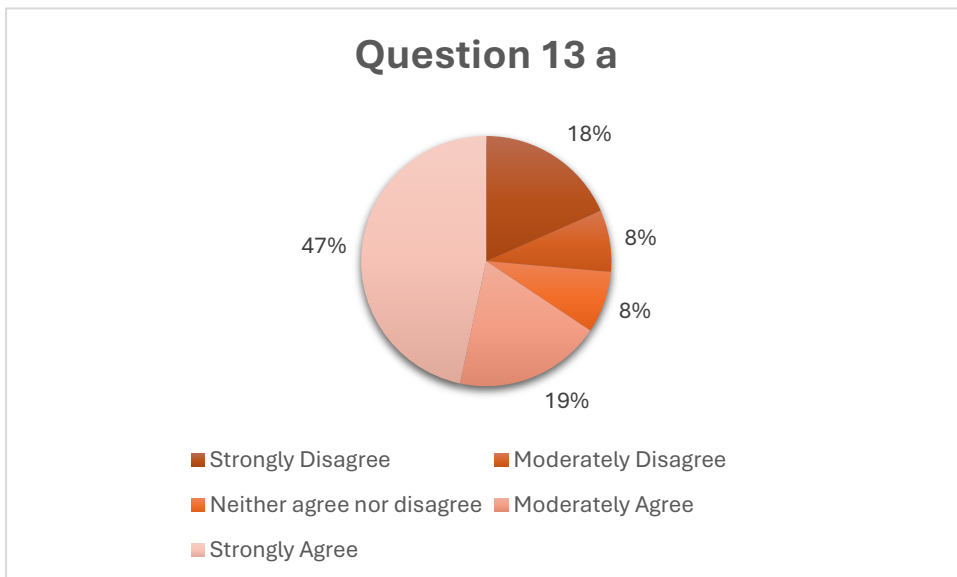


- BEWDLEY 12 – BEWDLEY TOWN CENTRE**
 Supporting current business in the town centre.



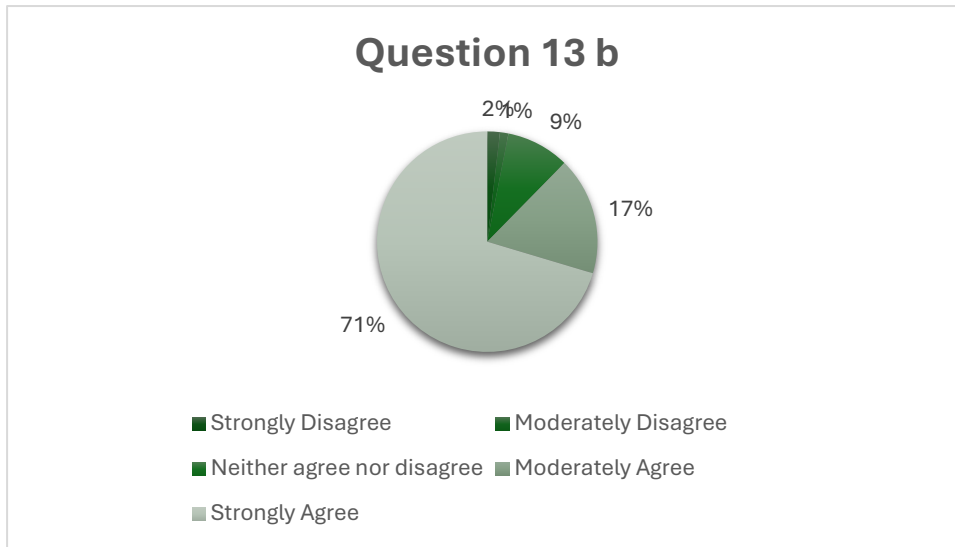
- BEWDLEY 13a – TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PRIORITIES**
 Encourages opportunities for transport and accessibility

Walking and Cycling



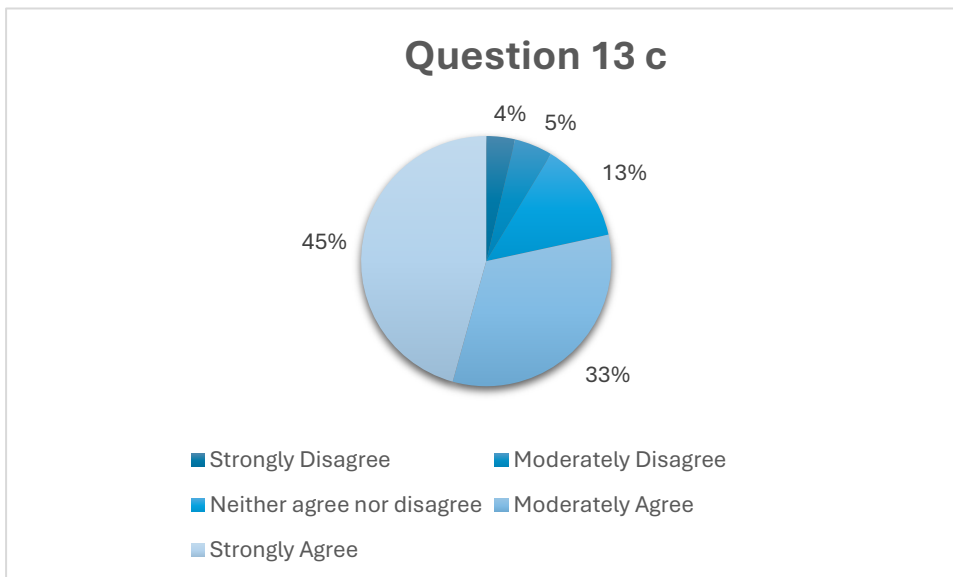
- **BEWDLEY 13b – TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PRIORITIES**

Bus and Rail Travel

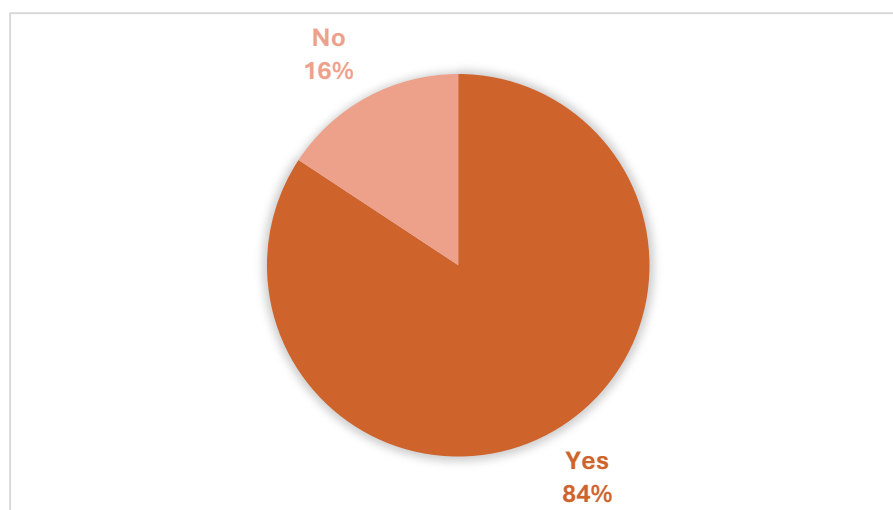


- **BEWDLEY 13c – TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT PRIORITIES**

Car Parking and Traffic Management



- **Will you support the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan at Referendum?**



31. In the survey, space was provided to allow for free comments on the Vision and Objectives, on each policy and in general reaction to the plan. Comments made on the survey by members of the public are summarised below. (full comments table attached to end of the document).

Overall Comments Summary

32. **Question 1:** Overall, the dominant view is that Bewdley has already reached (or exceeded) its capacity for housing growth and that further development should now stop. Many feel the town is being overdeveloped without the necessary infrastructure in place, with schools, doctors, roads and other services already under strain. There is strong opposition to building on green belt land, which residents see as irreplaceable for wildlife, recreation, farming and mental wellbeing, especially since their value was highlighted during the COVID period. Brownfield sites are consistently preferred instead, particularly empty or deteriorating historic buildings in the town centre which people believe should be restored and reused before any more land is lost. A strong emotional theme runs throughout, with residents worried that Bewdley is losing its historic character, independence and sense of identity through unchecked growth driven by developers rather than community needs.

Alongside this, there are calls for better accountability and fairness in planning, with concerns that developer evidence is not properly challenged and that councils are overpowered by well-financed developers. People want community facilities, public spaces and local amenities protected rather than sacrificed, and there is resistance to removing any existing community buildings or green areas. While most oppose further development, some recognise a need for genuinely affordable housing for local people and first-time buyers, provided it does not increase pressure on services or destroy green space. Accessibility and quality of life are also major issues, with public transport described as poor, including an urgent call for a usable bus service to Worcester. One contributor highlights dangerous pavement conditions and lack of dropped curbs for disabled users, showing that basic access and maintenance are as important as large scale planning decisions. Overall, responses point to a desire for a smaller, better-served, greener and a more community-focused town, rather than one that grows at the expense of liveability and heritage.

Question 1 Overall summary:

There is strong community support for Policy BEWDLEY 1 in seeking to protect community facilities and infrastructure, although many responses extend beyond the policy's scope into broader objections to housing growth and development pressures; no fundamental change to the policy is indicated, but the strength of feeling reinforces the importance of maintaining robust protection for facilities, green spaces and infrastructure capacity, with no weakening of the policy recommended.

33. **Question 2:** Responses strongly emphasise the importance of protecting not only formal sports facilities but also informal green spaces, which many see as essential infrastructure for physical and mental health rather than 'nice-to-have' amenities. Open land, countryside access and wildlife areas are valued as daily wellbeing resources for all ages, particularly for walking, relaxation and connection with nature. There is clear resistance to any development that would reduce existing green spaces, with repeated concern that once these areas are lost they cannot be replaced. Many respondents see nearby countryside, river corridors and nature reserves as integral to the town's identity and quality of life, rather than separate from recreational planning.

There is widespread agreement that existing sports and leisure provision should not only be protected but improved. Many consider current facilities inadequate for the size of the population, particularly the lack of a swimming pool and the poor condition or limited size of the leisure centre. People call for updated facilities that match modern trends, such as padel or paddle tennis, while also supporting traditional clubs in tennis, cricket, bowling and rowing. Accessibility is a major issue: respondents stress that leisure facilities must be located centrally, be reachable on foot, and be affordable so that children, older people and those without transport can use them. There is concern that moving facilities out of town would reduce use and increase car dependency.

Residents also highlight the need to improve access routes to recreational areas, including footpaths and rights of way, and to protect wildlife corridors, mature trees and habitats along these routes. Some ask for specific improvements like reinstating the paddling pool or better maintenance of play areas. Although there is strong backing for sport and recreation overall, there are signs of underlying frustration about antisocial activity and safety in the evenings, suggesting people also want public spaces to feel safer and better managed. Across the responses, the message is consistent: Bewdley's green environment, recreation spaces and sports facilities are central to community health and should be protected, enhanced and made accessible for everyone, not traded away for development.

Question 2 Overall summary:

There is strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 2, with responses aligning closely to its aims to protect and enhance sports, play and recreational spaces; while some comments raise wider issues of safety, access and facility provision, these reinforce rather than contradict the policy, and no change in policy direction is required, though the strength of feedback supports continued emphasis on accessibility, protection of informal green spaces and qualitative improvement of facilities.

34. **Question 3:** Responses show very strong opposition to further housing development in Bewdley, with many residents saying the town is already overdeveloped and that recent building has brought disruption without any matching improvement in infrastructure. A consistent theme is that new development is viewed as benefitting developers more than the community, while placing increasing pressure on doctors, schools, roads, parking, and public services. Many consider the town physically unsuitable for further large-scale growth due to steep land, narrow roads and limited space, particularly in parts of the east of the town. There is also widespread concern that ongoing development will cause Bewdley to merge with neighbouring towns, eroding its identity, independence and historic character.

There is strong support for keeping the green belt between Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport intact to prevent urban sprawl. At the same time, some respondents acknowledge a need for more appropriate housing types, particularly genuinely affordable homes, social housing, and smaller properties for older residents to downsize into, rather than large executive homes. A small number of comments also highlight the importance of housing policy in attracting younger families to rebalance the age profile of the population.

Infrastructure limitations dominate the discussion. People repeatedly state that healthcare, education, drainage, roads and parking are already overstretched and that new homes should not be approved without guaranteed investment in supporting services. Traffic safety near schools, congestion hotspots, and a lack of parking in residential areas are raised as significant problems worsened by recent development. There are also concerns about the quality of new developments, with calls for clearer design standards, stronger design codes, and more scrutiny of developers' claims. Overall, the tone suggests strong resistance to growth unless it is limited in scale, well designed, environmentally responsible, and directly linked to improvements in infrastructure and community provision.

Question 3 Overall summary:

Responses demonstrate qualified support for Policy BEWDLEY 3's emphasis on small-scale, sensitive and well-designed development, although many comments extend beyond the policy into opposition to further housing growth in principle; no change to the overall policy approach is indicated, but the feedback reinforces the need for strong design criteria, clear limits on scale, and explicit links between any new housing and infrastructure capacity.

35. **Question 4:** A common frustration is that many new houses are seen as unaffordable, poorly designed and out of character, with large estates viewed as profit-driven rather than community-focused. Residents also express concern that demand may be overstated, pointing to slow sales and empty properties as evidence that further expansion is not necessary. Where housing is supported at all, there is a strong preference for genuinely affordable homes for local people, reuse of existing buildings, and development on brownfield land only.

There are strong calls for Biodiversity Net Gain to be mandatory rather than conditional. Many want stricter environmental requirements to be enforced, including sustainable drainage, wildlife protection measures and long-term maintenance of ecological features.

New development is expected to be environmentally responsible, visually appropriate and aligned with local character appraisals and design guidance. Concerns are also raised about weak design standards and unclear policies, with several responses arguing that stronger design codes, better-defined requirements and closer oversight by planning authorities are needed. Many contributors also emphasise the value of creative and cultural industries, calling for adaptive reuse of buildings as studios, workshops and cultural spaces to strengthen the local economy without damaging the town's heritage or environment.

Question 4 Overall summary:

There is strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 4, with responses closely aligned to its aim of securing high-quality, locally distinctive and environmentally responsible design; while some comments extend into wider concerns about housing need and delivery, these reinforce the case for stronger design codes, mandatory biodiversity and clearer standards, and support strengthening the policy rather than altering its direction.

36. **Question 5:** Residents place extremely high value on Bewdley's historic character and Conservation Area and want any change to proceed with great caution. Many feel the town's heritage has already been diluted by modern development that does not fit its Georgian identity, and there is a strong desire to preserve the town's architectural integrity and visual quality. The bridge and river frontage are seen as defining features of Bewdley, with concerns that any intrusive changes, such as traffic lights or a poorly designed footbridge would severely harm the town's appearance and atmosphere. While there is support for restoration, several comments stress that repairs and reuse of historic buildings should prioritise authenticity and good design, with a focus on bringing long-empty Georgian properties back into use rather than constructing new developments.

There is also concern that the narrow historic streets are under pressure from modern traffic, with complaints about noise, vibration, speeding, pollution and damage to buildings that were never designed for current traffic levels. Residents feel it is unfair that homeowners must follow conservation rules while traffic remains largely unrestricted. Alongside preservation, some see creative reuse as vital to keeping the town alive, calling for more artist studios, workshops and cultural spaces that reflect Bewdley's heritage of craft and making, rather than generic retail which "cheapens" the town's character. Tourism and local pride are repeatedly linked to heritage quality, with the underlying message that once historic character is damaged, it cannot be recovered.

Question 5 Overall summary:

There is very strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 5, with responses closely aligned to its intent to protect heritage assets and the Conservation Area; while some comments raise wider traffic and management issues beyond the policy's direct scope, these reinforce the importance of safeguarding Bewdley's historic character, and no change in policy direction is required, though the strength of feeling supports a robust and precautionary application of the policy.

37. **Question 6:** Residents emphasise that open landscapes, wooded hillsides and fields are not “spare land” but essential to biodiversity, mental health and the historic setting of the town. There is deep frustration that development to date has already brought traffic congestion, aggressive driving, strain on doctors and schools, and pressure on limited road access routes. The bypass is frequently described as already at capacity, with fears that further growth will worsen pollution, safety risks and quality of life. Residents consistently express scepticism that environmental protections promised in planning applications are properly enforced once building begins, and there is strong demand that any commitments made by developers must be monitored and delivered in practice.

While many oppose growth outright, some acknowledge housing may be necessary if genuinely required, but only under strict conditions: protecting landscape character, avoiding “cutting into new ground,” prioritising previously developed or underused buildings, and ensuring infrastructure such as healthcare, roads and schools is in place before expansion. Several residents stress the need for housing that meets local needs rather than market-led developments, particularly smaller homes and accommodation for older residents wishing to downsize. There is also concern about creeping urban sprawl causing Bewdley to merge into neighbouring towns, eroding its identity as a distinct market town. Overall, the message is clear that the surrounding countryside is viewed as irreplaceable, and any development must be exceptional, evidence-based, and demonstrably enhance rather than damage the town’s character, landscape and quality of life.

Question 6 Overall summary:

There is strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 6, with responses closely aligned to its aim of protecting landscape character and limiting the scale of development; although many comments extend into wider objections to growth and infrastructure capacity beyond the policy’s direct scope, the feedback reinforces the need for a precautionary approach, strict landscape protection and robust enforcement, with no change to the policy’s overall direction recommended.

38. **Question 7:** Most respondents strongly support the designation of the identified parcels as Local Green Space and see this as one of the most important parts of the plan. The sites are widely viewed as essential to Bewdley’s character, visual setting and sense of place, and as spaces that directly support everyday wellbeing through walking, recreation, quiet enjoyment and contact with nature. Many comments emphasise that these landscapes represent some of the most valuable and attractive areas in and around the town, combining scenic quality with ecological richness, and should therefore be protected permanently from development.

There is also strong concern about “special circumstances” that might allow building. Respondents repeatedly state that this should mean only truly exceptional situations, with several arguing that housing pressure or government targets should not qualify. Others ask for clarity on what would actually count as a special case, and some say there should be no exceptions at all. Protection of wildlife corridors, floodplain function, and the natural role of brooks and watercourses is also a consistent theme, with comments noting that many of the parcels help absorb floodwater and support biodiversity. A number of people also highlight practical issues such as illegal parking damaging green spaces and call for better

management, access protection and habitat improvement, rather than any form of development. Overall, residents see these spaces as irreplaceable and believe that once lost, they are gone forever.

Question 7 Overall summary:

There is very strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 7 and the designation of Local Green Spaces, with responses closely aligned to its intent to provide permanent protection from inappropriate development; while some comments seek tighter definition of “special circumstances” and raise management issues beyond the policy’s core scope, these do not undermine the policy and instead support a robust and tightly framed application with no change in overall direction recommended.

39. **Question 8:** Across the responses there is strong support for protecting Bewdley’s natural environment, particularly the riverside, wildlife habitats and surrounding green spaces. Many respondents stress that the riverside should remain largely natural and not be over-formalised into recreational landscaping, with several highlighting its value as a rare riverside meadow habitat that should be enhanced for biodiversity rather than developed. There is also significant concern about flood risk, with calls for much tougher scrutiny of developers’ flood assessments and for surface-water flooding (not just river flooding) to be properly accounted for in planning decisions. People repeatedly emphasise that new development should include sustainable drainage, permeable surfaces and soakaways, and that flood protection measures should prioritise long-term resilience rather than shifting costs onto the public. Linking development to climate change and future flood risk is viewed as essential.

Residents also want better walking routes into surrounding countryside areas such as the Golden Valley, but without damaging natural character. Infrastructure pressures come through strongly, with calls for less development overall and more focus on sewage, health services, schools and roads. Frustration is expressed about past disruption (especially the bridge closure), and there is scepticism about whether policies will be properly enforced in practice. Several contributors want wider consultation with local community and flood action groups. Overall, respondents broadly support the intent of the policy but want it strengthened, better enforced, more environmentally protective, and more realistic about infrastructure capacity and flood risk.

Question 8 Overall summary:

There is strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 8, with responses closely aligned to its aim of protecting green infrastructure and the water environment; while some comments extend into wider concerns about infrastructure capacity and enforcement beyond the policy’s immediate scope, the feedback supports strengthening environmental safeguards, flood risk scrutiny and implementation rather than altering the policy’s direction.

40. **Question 9:** Responses show strong concern about the cost, availability and management of parking rather than a simple demand for more spaces. Many issues centre on affordability, with frequent calls for free or cheaper short-stay parking, weekend concessions, and a free initial period to support local shops and encourage visitors to stay longer. Residents also raised problems with enforcement, high charges, and pay-on-entry

systems reducing footfall. A significant number of comments highlight the need for adequate parking for residents, workers and essential services such as doctors and pharmacies, with suggestions including resident permits and better control of long-stay parking on residential streets.

While some respondents support a mix of short- and longer-stay parking to help local businesses, others are concerned that increasing parking within the town centre would damage Bewdley's historic character and make it more vehicle-dominated and less pedestrian-friendly. Alternatives such as park-and-ride, park-and-walk, and better use of existing sites (including school car parks and private land through agreements) are widely supported, alongside calls for improved bus and rail links to reduce reliance on cars. Views on electric vehicle charging are mixed: some welcome it, others worry it would reduce space and increase costs. Overall, the emphasis is on balance, keeping the town accessible for residents and visitors while protecting its character, managing traffic more effectively, and avoiding further pressure on green spaces.

Question 9 Overall summary:

Responses show qualified support for Policy BEWDLEY 9 in seeking to support active use of the town centre, although many comments extend beyond the policy into issues of parking cost, enforcement and wider transport strategy; no change to the policy's overall intent is indicated, but the feedback supports a balanced approach that prioritises affordability, effective management and alternatives to increased town-centre parking in order to protect Bewdley's historic character.

41. **Question 10:** Overall, respondents show little support for large new hotels, event venues or major new tourist accommodation in Bewdley. Many feel that large-scale development would be out of character with the town's historic and rural identity and could damage what makes Bewdley distinctive in the first place. There is strong concern about oversupply, with frequent comments that existing accommodation is already sufficient and that recent hotel closures suggest demand may not justify new provision. Several people also question whether increased accommodation would even be attractive while traffic, parking and congestion remain unresolved.

Rather than building new hotels or caravan parks, there is broad support for reusing and restoring existing sites, especially the former Heath / Mercure Hotel, including reinstating leisure and swimming facilities. Many see this as a far better solution than allowing new-build developments. There is also clear opposition to any expansion of caravan parks and worries about visual impact and over-intensification at current sites. A recurring theme is concern about the growth of short-term lets, with calls to limit Airbnbs, second homes and holiday lets to protect housing for residents and avoid hollowing out the town.

At the same time, many recognise that tourism plays an important role in sustaining shops, pubs and restaurants and do not oppose visitors in principle. The prevailing view is that tourism should grow in a way that is sensitive, small-scale and rooted in the town's character, favouring guest houses, reused historic buildings, creative concepts and distinct, locally inspired ideas rather than chain hotels or generic accommodation. Town-centre vitality, parking provision, traffic management and enforcement are repeatedly raised as more urgent priorities than increasing visitor numbers. Overall, respondents

support tourism that complements daily life in Bewdley, rather than turning the town into a destination at the expense of residents.

Question 10 Overall summary:

Responses show qualified support for Policy BEWDLEY 10, with strong resistance to large-scale or generic visitor accommodation and clear preference for small-scale, character-led reuse of existing buildings; while some comments extend into wider concerns about parking, traffic and short-term lets beyond the policy's direct scope, the feedback supports retaining the policy's direction with an emphasis on sympathetic, locally distinctive tourism rather than expansion in scale.

42. **Question 11:** Comments show mixed views on the role of markets and events, but a shared concern about the town's long-term vitality. Many people feel Bewdley needs stronger activity throughout the year, with calls for more regular markets, better promotion, and well-planned tourism events to boost footfall and support struggling businesses. A monthly market was specifically mentioned as something that had been missed and was seen as effective in bringing visitors into the town. There is also clear interest in using markets and events to celebrate Bewdley's creative heritage, including support for maker spaces, artist studios, galleries and craft-based activity that reflects the town's history of making, rather than relying only on conventional retail or hospitality.

Others believe the current level of markets is sufficient and are cautious about adding permanent event infrastructure or over-commercialising the town. There is concern about too many charity shops and bars, alongside calls for a banking hub and better variety in town-centre uses. Several comments stress that tourism should support rather than overwhelm the town, and that Bewdley should remain a "working town" for residents as well as visitors. Maintenance standards were also raised, with frustration about poor-quality repairs that undermine the town's appearance. Overall, people want activity that feels carefully curated, locally focused and high quality, with markets and events contributing to economic health without damaging character or everyday life.

Question 11 Overall summary:

Responses show qualified support for Policy BEWDLEY 11, with many comments aligning with its aim to support tourism, markets and cultural activity that reflects Bewdley's ethos, while some concerns about over-commercialisation and town-centre balance fall outside the policy's direct scope; no change in policy direction is indicated, though the feedback supports a carefully managed, locally focused and high-quality approach to markets and cultural development.

43. **Question 12:** Respondents consistently expressed a strong desire for Bewdley to become a thriving, year-round town rather than one dependent on seasonal tourism. Many emphasised the importance of supporting independent, locally owned businesses and avoiding the dominance of chain stores, betting shops, vape outlets, or an oversupply of similar takeaways and fast-food outlets. There was particular concern about the growing number of licensed premises, with residents linking this to noise, antisocial behaviour, and declining safety in the town centre. People valued the individuality of Bewdley's retail offer

and felt this distinctive character was essential to both community pride and economic appeal.

A common frustration was the number of empty shop units, which were widely viewed as signs of decline. Some felt empty premises harmed the town more than new food outlets, while others argued for proactive intervention to prevent long-term vacancy, including reuse for housing where retail was no longer viable. High rents were frequently cited as a barrier for small businesses, alongside the need for fair, transparent enforcement of policy conditions. Improved transport links, especially buses, were seen as essential to supporting local shops, along with affordable short-stay parking to encourage everyday use of the town centre. Overall, respondents wanted a balanced, well-managed high street offering diverse, quality businesses that meet local needs while maintaining Bewdley's identity and community atmosphere.

Question 12 Overall summary:

There is strong support for Policy BEWDLEY 12, with responses closely aligned to its aim of supporting a vibrant, year-round town centre focused on independent businesses and local needs; while some comments extend into wider issues of licensing, transport and parking beyond the policy's immediate scope, the feedback reinforces the policy's intent and supports a balanced, proactive approach with no change in overall direction recommended.

44. **Question 13a:** Most comments focus strongly on the River Severn bridge and show widespread opposition to installing permanent traffic lights on it. Many residents fear this would worsen congestion, harm air quality, discourage visitors, and damage local businesses, especially after the long disruption already caused by the permanent flood defence works. There is also concern that traffic lights would fundamentally change the historic character and visual appeal of the bridge and town centre. While a smaller number of respondents support traffic lights if they improve safety and widen pavements, the prevailing view is that they would create more problems than they solve. Many people question why traffic lights are being considered after previously being dismissed during flood works, and several also express frustration about continual changes and a desire for a period of stability to allow the town and its economy to recover.

In contrast, there is broader support for a separate pedestrian bridge as a safer solution, particularly for children, disabled people and those with pushchairs, although this is tempered by concerns over cost, location and visual impact on the historic river setting. A number of people emphasise that any new bridge must be sensitively designed and positioned away from the existing bridge to protect views. Beyond the bridge itself, respondents consistently call for better public transport especially more frequent and later bus services, along with safer crossings, traffic calming and improvements at known danger points like Wyre Hill and Kidderminster Road. Some also support separate cycling routes and pavements but stress these should not intrude on green spaces or heritage areas. Overall, people want safer movement around the town, but not at the expense of Bewdley's historic character, natural setting, or already-stretched road network.

Question 13a Overall summary:

Responses show qualified support for Policy BEWDLEY 13a, with many comments extending beyond the policy into specific opposition to traffic lights on the Severn bridge and views on potential pedestrian bridge options; while these matters are more detailed than the policy's scope, the feedback reinforces the policy's emphasis on accessibility, safety and balanced transport solutions that protect Bewdley's historic character, with no change to the policy's overall direction indicated.

45. **Question 13b:** There is strong support for improving public transport in and out of Bewdley, particularly through better bus services and stronger rail connections. Many residents highlight the need for frequent, reliable and direct bus services to Kidderminster station as a priority, stressing that this would make commuting, accessing healthcare and making onward rail journeys far easier especially for older residents, people who cannot drive, and those with disabilities. Calls are also made for earlier morning services, later evening buses, and the restoration of Sunday services. Several responses express frustration at current timetabling, with services running too close together and then leaving long gaps and suggest this could be addressed with better scheduling rather than increased cost.

Rail connectivity attracts particular interest. Many respondents support exploring a reinstated passenger service via the heritage railway or reconnecting Bewdley to the national rail network entirely. This is seen as a way to reduce road traffic, support tourism and provide long-term benefits for residents and the local economy. Some suggest creative solutions such as integrated ticketing, commuter passes, or heritage-themed shuttle services, provided they are affordable and practical. However, a minority raise concerns about viability, capacity limitations on the heritage line, empty buses, and the risk of investing in services that may not be sustained if usage is low. Overall, residents strongly favour improved connectivity, but want assurances that any changes are realistic, properly funded, and delivered in a way that produces lasting benefits rather than short-term experiments.

Question 13b Overall summary:

There is strong support for improving public transport in line with Policy BEWDLEY 13b, with responses closely aligned to its objectives of enhancing accessibility and connectivity; while some comments explore aspirational or longer-term rail options beyond the policy's immediate scope, the feedback reinforces the need to prioritise reliable bus services, better integration with rail, and realistic, deliverable transport improvements rather than changes to the policy's direction.

46. **Question 13c:** The responses show a strong concern about traffic, parking, and the impact of visitor pressure on Bewdley's character and daily life. There is support for ideas that reduce congestion such as park and ride, limiting large vehicles, and managing visitor traffic better, but little appetite for changes that would urbanise the town or increase stress on already narrow roads. Many comments highlight the need to keep heavy goods vehicles and through-traffic out of the town centre, with suggestions such as last-mile delivery hubs, off-peak delivery windows, and electric shuttle services for businesses to reduce damage, pollution, and safety risks in the Conservation Area. Coach tourism divides

opinion: while some recognise the economic benefit, many want numbers controlled to avoid overcrowding and to prevent Bewdley losing its village-scale feel.

Parking is seen as essential but highly constrained by space. Residents generally favour short-stay or free parking to support local shops, and many oppose charges that they believe discourage visitors. Others argue for park-and-ride instead of expanding town-centre parking, and express frustration with enforcement. School traffic, safety issues at key junctions such as Welch Gate and Dowles Road, and concerns over proposed new roundabouts recur throughout the comments, with some supporting targeted improvements and others warning that poorly designed changes could cause worse congestion elsewhere. A recurring theme is that any change should be carefully planned, affordable, and genuinely improve daily life rather than simply add infrastructure for its own sake. Above all, residents want traffic to move more smoothly, access for locals to take priority, and solutions that protect Bewdley from becoming over-engineered or overwhelmed.

Question 13c Overall summary:

Responses show qualified support for the aims of Policy BEWDLEY 13c in managing traffic and visitor pressure, with many comments extending into detailed operational measures beyond the policy's scope; the feedback reinforces the need for carefully planned, proportionate and locally focused transport and parking solutions that reduce congestion and protect Bewdley's character, with no change to the policy's overall direction recommended.

47. Regulation 14 Consultation Response from Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) and other Statutory Consultees

- a) The table below provides a draft review and response from Bewdley Town Council (BTC) to comments provided by WFDC on the Regulation 14 Draft Bewdley NDP. Three other responses from the Severn Valley Railway, Canal and River Trust, and Historic England are also provided.
- b) The response has been reproduced verbatim (typos and all) with a comment from BTC next to it.
- c) Some comments have multiple elements. Where this occurs, each one is numbered in bold in both columns so you can see what the response relates to.
- d) A specific concern is raised by the response from the WFDC biodiversity officer. See the section of the table where this response is detailed.

WFDC Comment	BTC Response
<p>Neighbourhood plans are not required to meet the tests of soundness which local plans and other development plan documents must meet. Instead, in order for them to be able to be put to referendum, they must meet the ‘basic conditions’ set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Those relevant to neighbourhood plans are as follows:</p> <p>(a). having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan).</p> <p>(d). the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>(e). the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).</p> <p>(f). the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.</p> <p>(g). prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan).</p>	<p>Amend. Agreed, text will be amended</p>
<p>This consultation response aims to highlight where policies of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan require modification in order to be in full conformity with the basic conditions. Points (f) and (g) above relate to certain obligations which plans must adhere to, primarily in relation to habitats and environmental impacts. Some plans require a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment. The LPA have undertook screenings and it has been determined that neither a full HRA nor an SEA are required to comply with this basic condition.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>The LPA have the following key concerns:</p> <p>1. It appears that the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan has placed significant reliance on windfall sites to meet local housing needs for the plan period (2025-2040) and the LPA are unclear on minimum housing requirement being only 15 dwellings. Please note that the Wyre Forest District Local Plan site allocations for housing in Bewdley have under provided by 22 dwellings. The NPPF seeks to significantly boost the supply of housing and Para. 77 advises that “Neighbourhood planning groups should also give particular consideration to the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites (of a size consistent with paragraph 73a) suitable for housing in their area.” Wyre Forest District Council will shortly be undertaking a Housing Needs Assessment and will be able to provide you with the housing needs figure for Bewdley for the neighbourhood plan period.</p>	<p>Please see below, two emails. The first is dated 8 January 2025, sent from BTC planning consultant to Sally Horne, Senior Planning Policy Officer at WFDC. This confirms the NDP period as 2025-2040 and requests the local housing requirement be provided</p> <p>The second email is a reply from Sally Horne of WFDC, dated 20 January 2025. This confirms a Local Housing Requirement of 15 dwellings. This has been reflected in the Draft NDP.</p> <p>Based on this requirement, the reliance on windfall, amounting to one dwelling per annum over the plan period, was not viewed as significant for a town and parish the size of Bewdley and given its development context.</p> <p>We acknowledge that WFDC will be updating its assessments and requirements in due course.</p>
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FW: Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan - Local Housing Requirement

Monday, 20 January 2025 at 10:55

Sally Horne... To: Lee Searles

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Hi Lee,

I have received your email re: Housing Requirement for Bewdley. The current requirement is for 15 dwellings. This figure takes account of the latest HNS figure minus the housing being delivered on the Local Plan Allocated sites and windfall developments in the town.


If you need any further information, please get in touch.


Thanks

Sally

Sally Horne
Senior Planning Policy Officer
Wyre Forest District Council
01562 732524
Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire, DY11 7WF
Sally.Horne@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

FW: Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan - Local Housing Requirement

 **Sally Horne...** Monday, 20 January 2025 at 10:55

To:  Lee Searles

To protect your... [Download external images](#) [Go to Settings](#)

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I have received your email re: Housing Requirement for Bewdley. The current requirement is for 15 dwellings. This figure takes account of the latest HNS figure minus the housing being delivered on the Local Plan Allocated sites and windfall developments in the town.

If you need any further information, please get in touch.

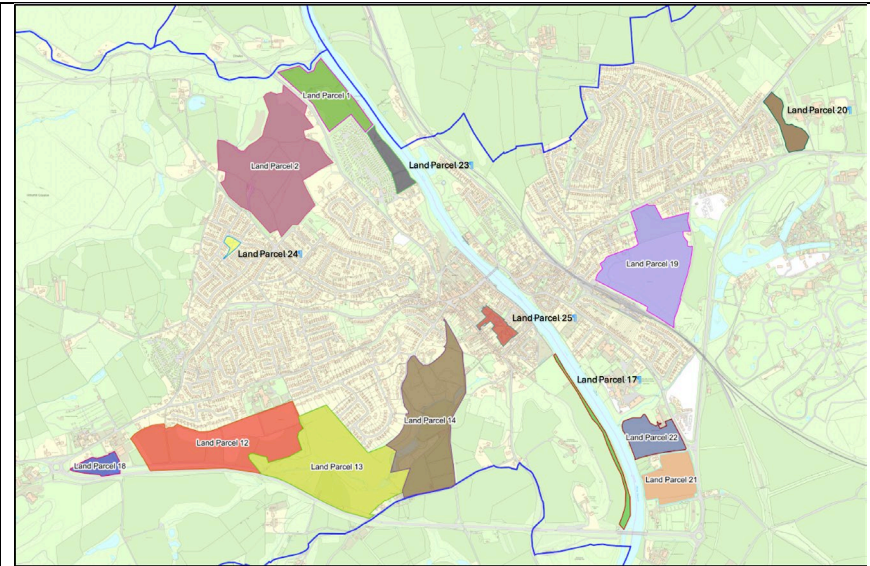
Thanks

Sally

Sally Horne
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	<p>FW: Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan - Local Housing Requirement Summarise ☺ ↶ ↷</p> <p> Sally Horne <Sally.Horne@wyreforestdc.gov.uk> Monday, 20 January 2025 at 10:55</p> <p>To:  Lee Searles</p> <p>To protect your privacy, some external images in this message... Download external images Go to Settings</p> <hr/> <p>From: Lee Searles <lee@pellegram.co.uk> Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 3:53 PM To: Wyre Forest Planning Policy <planning.policy@wyreforestdc.gov.uk> Subject: Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan - Local Housing Requirement</p> <hr/> <p>This email originated from outside of the organisation</p> <p>STOP? : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine? THINK : Before you CLICK on any links or OPEN any attachments.</p> <hr/> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a planning consultant retained to support Bewdley Town Council in the development of its Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>I would be grateful if you would provide me with the local housing requirement for Bewdley or, if this is not possible, an indicative housing requirement. The Neighbourhood Plan time period will extend 15 years 2025 to 2040.</p> <p>You may be aware that the Neighbourhood Plan was previously consulted upon at Regulation 14 and following comments from WFDC, this stage will be repeated following further work. The council were not sure whether the LHR was already provided, hence my request.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Lee Searles</p>
<p>The LPA do not support the high number of Local Green Space designations in Policy Bewdley 7. The policy designates 8 land parcels as Local Green Spaces, which effectively removes any future ability to allocate land for sustainable urban extensions to deliver housing and employment growth and to meet the new annual housing need that has been set upon us by the Government. This policy would sterilise this land for development to meet the local needs for housing and employment.</p>	<p><u>Reference to Green Belt Language</u> - Development of land that has been designated as Local Green Space is subject to Green Belt policies – the wording has been amended in line with Examiner recommendations on other recent NDPs. The application of Green Belt policies is the only planning policy effect of LGS designation. Grey Belt and Golden Rules provisions in the NPPF do not apply to LGS.</p> <p><u>Regulation 14 consultation on sites for Local Green Space Designation</u> – At the time of proposed designation in the Regulation 14 Draft NDP, candidate Local</p>

<p>The policy is also not very clear in that the policy wording does not define what is inappropriate development and what you mean by very special circumstances as none of these designated sites fall within the Green Belt but green belt language has been used.</p> <p>The LPA do not believe the Local Green Spaces designations comply with Paragraph 106 of the NPPF as they have to be “... consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services .. and only be designated when they are capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period” (writers emphasis) which would not be the case as they prevent sustainable urban extensions being allocated for housing and employment. The LPA do support the use of the LGS designation, however, it is considered that the scale and number of designations should be revisited. It is the LPA’s view that existing green spaces within the urban area such as the field between All Saints Church (Wribbenhall) and Persimmon Housing Development, and the field at the eastern end of Church View should have been designated, and not fields adjoining the urban edge.</p>	<p>Green Space sites were not subject to planning allocations nor planning applications. As of now, this remains the case.</p> <p>Apart from Site 12, the proposed designation of sites as LGS were supported by a professionally-prepared Local Green Space Assessment (2019) which considers Worcestershire County Council Landscape Character Assessment and supporting technical documents, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation; • Aerial photography and Ordnance survey mapping; and • Designations mapping from Natural England sources and Local Authority Development Plans. <p>The assessment approach was based on GLIVIA.</p> <p>Table 2 in the Draft NBDP provides a summary of the findings for each site/parcel from the LGS Assessment.</p> <p>The effect of Local Green Space designation on the potential for expansion of the built area is understood. However, a number of factors were considered to enable a positive recommendation for Local Green Space designation.</p> <p>Following Regulation 14 consultation, meetings were held with WFDC to review the proposed Local Green Space Designations. WFDC made recommendations for the alteration and removal of some sites and suggested that additional sites should be considered.</p> <p>Bewdley Town Council undertook further work to address comments, consider suggestions and update Local Green Space designation proposals. This has resulted in a comprehensive evidence document included as an appendix to the updated Regulation 15 NDP. The following policy wording and LGS Sites are now proposed (figure 22 from the updated NDP is shown for information):</p>
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Revised policy wording *'The following sites, shown on Figure 22 and in Appendix A, are designated Local Green Spaces where development proposals should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts. No development will be permitted within them that would harm their green character and reason for designation.'*

- 1 – River Sever / Dowles Road*
- 2 – Land north of Bark Hill / Lakes Road and Dry Mill 22*
- 12 – Park Dingle and St Anne’s Playing Fields*
- 13 – Snuff Mill Dingle*
- 14 – South of Bewdley Centre*
- 17 – Winterdyne / River Severn*
- 18 – Wharton Park / Blackmanstitch Edge*
- 19 – Kidderminster Road / Cordle Marsh Ridge / Maypole Piece*
- 20 – Wribbenhall Gardens*
- 21 – Land off Netherton Lane*
- 22 – Leisure Centre Fields*
- 23 – Riverside Meadow*
- 24 – Derwent Drive*

	<i>25 – QE II Jubilee Gardens’</i>
Para. 1.17 – Final sentence needs amending to say that anticipate that Bewdley Conservation Area Character Appraisal is to be updated by Summer 2026.	Amend
Para. 3.3 - We would query the 15 dwellings requirement – The site allocations have all under delivered in terms of their indicative capacity, our calculations are as follows: Actual site allocation delivery: Habberley Road – 41 dwellings Kidderminster Road (Catchems End) – 79 Stourport Road (triangle site) – 79 Bewdley fire station site – 6 This equals a total of 205 Policy SP.1 within the adopted Wyre Forest Local Plan at Table 5.0.2 states that the expected minimum growth delivery for Bewdley will be 227 net additional dwellings. When taking into account the actual delivery on the site allocations in Bewdley, the requirement will be 22 dwellings and not 15.	Amend. See above response, the number used was provided as the LHR by WFDC in January 2025. However, if it has been changed, the number can be amended.
Policy Bewdley 1 – This Policy could also include the following under ‘other essential local facilities: • Bewdley Institute. • Scouts and Girl guides, e.g. 3rd Bewdley Scout Hut. We also question why the Leisure Centre/Playing Field is in this list/policy and then included again in Policy Bewdley 2? 4.15 and Table 1 – Can we ask whether the draft plan has taken into account the LEAP that are being provided at Catchem’s End (Kidderminster Road) and Triangle site (Stourport Road) housing developments. In light of this, figure 13 should be updated to include these two LEAPs	BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Agree to include the Bewdley Institute and the former Scout Hut now used by the Repair Café to be included as Community Facilities. Leisure Centre in BEWDLEY 1 and BEWDLEY 2 – BTC view the Leisure Centre as both important community facility as well as fulfilling a purely leisure purpose. BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Not built as yet but it is part of the planning conditions. The triangle site at Stourport Road – It is understood that there is no planned play area as the site is too small.

<p>4.17 and Table 1 – Can we please ask if you have included the Green Space adjacent to Catchem’s end housing development that is being offered by Persimmon as a Green Space?</p>	<p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – The area adjacent to Catchem’s End was offered to BTC but was rejected due to the nature of the site in terms of management and maintenance costs. It is understood WFDC proposed developing the site as a Community Orchard but this was later withdrawn. No further offer has been made to BTC. As the LPA, WFDC would have information on the current status of the site. BTC is not aware of current situation with the land.</p>
<p>Policy Bewdley 2 needs to include the two new LEAPs as mentioned above at 4.15. We would question whether viability also needs to be a consideration to ensure that it is in line with Local Plan ‘Policy DM.8 - Provision for Open Space, Sports Pitches and Outdoor Community Uses in Housing Development’, given that the clubs may close due to lack of viability but that there may not be an alternative provision in Bewdley such as the cricket club, bowling club, rowing club and tennis club, or is the plan indicating that these can only be redeveloped if the proposal includes replacement provision?</p>	<p>The first part is flexible enough to take account of viability and site-specific circumstances</p> <p>Amend - The second part is fairly standard and in line with development plan requirements – can add a reference to demonstrating that there is no need for the facility.</p>
<p>Para. 5.1 – The last sentence of this paragraph should be amended as 227 dwellings have not been delivered, only 205 dwellings.</p>	<p>Amend</p>
<p>Para. 5.2 needs to be amended to 22 dwellings and not 15.</p>	<p>Amend</p>
<p>Para. 5.13 – Can we ask why the Mercure hotel and swimming pool is not included on the Brownfield Register or considered as a PDL? BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – It is a matter for WFDC to determine what is included in the Brownfield Register. BTC worked on the existing register.</p>	<p>The Brownfield Register of PDL is maintained by WFDC. The WFDC online map shows no Brownfield Sites in Bewdley on the Register.</p> <p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Agreed that it should be on the BF Register.</p> <p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Agreed that it should be considered as PDL.</p>
<p>Para. 5.18 – We consider that the second sentence should be replaced with –</p>	<p>Amend</p>

<p>‘This means that only sites with 10 or more dwellings will be required to provide affordable housing.’</p>	
<p>Para. 5.19 – Should be replaced with – ‘Policy SP.10 sets an indicative tenure split of 65% rented (primarily social rent) and 35% intermediate (shared ownership) units.’</p>	<p>Amend</p>
<p>Bewdley 6 – We would recommend that a ‘or’ is included between recreation and nature in the following sentence ‘<i>They should consider the value of these areas to the local community as open areas for recreation and/or nature and as local green spaces.</i>’</p>	<p>Amend</p>
<p>Para. 7.30 needs to state NPPF (2024) not (2019) and paragraph 106 of 2024 NPPF.</p>	<p>No. The reference was intentional as made clear by the sentence which follows it.</p>
<p>Para. 7.32 – We would request clarity on this point, as this land contains a number of storage containers and we did not believe that all of this parcel has recreational value. Please see the current planning application via the following interactive link: 36 storage containers Bewdley Auto Services Ltd Unit 10 Whartons Farm Cleobury Road Bewdley Worcestershire DY12 2QJ (Planning Ref. No: 25/0128/CLE)</p>	<p>Agreed to remove the semi- industrial site from LGS. This parcel has been split into two parcels demonstrating different character land values.</p>
<p>Bewdley 9 – We think that this policy needs to define what short stay parking is and what is the rationale behind this restriction.</p>	<p>Amend Bewdley 9. The definition is in para 9.22 (up to 3 hours proposed), but this can be included in the policy.</p> <p>The rationale is set out in paras 9.10-9.22, Fig 26 and Table 3, which explains that 50 spaces in the most in demand car park are given over to long stay and this could be switched to short stay with an extra hour to encourage longer visits. Other long stay capacity appears to be underused and this could be better utilised. There is nothing further to add on that as it is clear.</p>
<p>Para. 9.29 and Table 4 – You may want to update this with the recent allowed appeal at The Coppins, which permits 4 shepherd huts to be used for holiday lets. The Appeal reference for this is: APP/R1845/W/25/3368220</p>	<p>Agreed that the land has been developed and accommodation in use.</p>

<p>Bewdley 10 – We consider that this policy would open the doors for camping and caravanning in the ‘Kidderminster gap’ parcel, which would erode the openness of the Green Belt and the landscape character and would conflict with Policy SP.7 – Strategic Green Belt Review</p>	<p>BTC do not agree with WFDC Planning Policy Officer Comments.</p>
<p>Bewdley 11 – This policy needs to consider the impact of this new infrastructure on the risk of flooding if located on the riverside. Also, impact on the significance of listed buildings also needs to be a consideration to ensure compliance with Policy SP.21 – Historic Environment.</p>	<p>The policy already refers to the need for sympathetic development and for regard/avoid harm to character features of the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Amend. Reference to listed buildings can be added.</p> <p>Flood Risk – Strategic policies cover this and they do not need to be restated in the NDP.</p>
<p>Bewdley 12 – Figure 28 needs updating to reflect the correct frontages in line with our policy maps. Only the northern side of the high street is primary shopping frontage and the other areas are shown as secondary shopping frontage. Please see the following link to view the shopping frontages: Aurora In light of the below – please can you advise what are the current percentages, and how does the draft Neighbourhood Plan arrive at 50% and 10% limits?</p> <p>‘c) Proposals for development of other commercial town centre uses (such as hotels, restaurants, bars and personal/professional services) will also be supported, but particularly on Secondary Shopping Frontages provided that, across the town centre as a whole, at least 50% of ground floor properties remain in retail use.’</p> <p>‘d) Proposals for hot food take aways will be supported where the proportion of these is less than 10% of town centre ground floor retail and commercial uses (see Table 5).’</p> <p>We also believe that three is too restrictive in the below and should be amended:</p> <p>‘e) Retail development that would maintain or create active frontages at ground floor level will be supported in principle. Non-retail development that would result in dead frontages of three or more properties in a row will not be supported.’</p>	<p>Figure 28 refers to proposals for amendments to the frontage designations. BTC wish to designate the south side of the Load Street as a primary shopping frontage and want WFDC to take into account the evidence provided with the NDP that supports this proposal. It is a matter of choice for WFDC as to whether the NDP will be allowed to amend the internal frontages within the defined town centre.</p> <p>Bewdley Town Centre needs to retain a retail offer else why will tourist day-visitors come to visit it? Town centres are clearly evolving but, already a significant proportion of units in Bewdley Town Centre are not the sort of shops that day-visitors would want to use (see Table 6). A balance is needed to meet local and visitor needs, especially as the economic fortunes of many enterprises in the town centre rely on visitors.</p> <p>The current provision of retail units is shown in Table 5 with 46 ground floor units in retail/food retail use and 7 other shops currently vacant. This totals 53 ground floor units the current/last use of which is retail/food retail. This is from a total of 95 ground floor units surveyed in 2025, or just less than 56%.</p> <p>The NDP objective is to retain frontages with interest and to avoid dead frontages in the town centre formed from offices or conversion to residential on the high street. Allowing for some change, 50% is a reasonable limit.</p>

	<p>A significant proportion of high street retail units are on the south side of the Load Street and the work undertaken in support of the policy, to survey the town centre uses, appears to show little justification for a secondary frontage designation here, which should be a primary frontage. This is proposed.</p> <p>Table 5 shows that take away establishments currently form just over 5% (5 units) of ground floor units in the town centre. There are an additional 20 food and drink establishments in the town centre on the ground floor.</p> <p>These are also dead frontages from a visitor shopping viewpoint. Some flexibility has been indicated for a modest growth in take aways, but this should not come to dominate town centre provision. 10% is considered to be a reasonable limit.</p> <p>Already on Bewdley Load Street, too many properties have no visual interest or engagement for passers-by and the risk is of this increasing through changes of use leading to over-concentration of uses with no effective frontage (offices, betting shops, take aways, residences, etc). There is a need to maintain visual interest in shopfront so that the town centre remains interesting for visitors and at the same time, opportunities need to be taken to improve shopfront design in the Conservation Area as and when they arise.</p>
<p>Please could we also request if you could send the Bewdley Design Code to review?</p>	<p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Yes the Design Code is and always has been on the NDP page of the Council website. It has been sent to the Planning Policy Officer as well.</p>
<p>The NP is silent on how new community infrastructure could be provided. There are certain planning interventions that could be considered. One would be seeking contributions toward infrastructure from development. One approach could be for the NP to seek to identify appropriate locations or allocate land for new facilities. Non-planning interventions can also be considered such as lobbying public service providers for investment.</p>	<p>This is not the case. Section 11, Table 9 sets out actions required to deliver and monitor policy implementation and this refers to the actions suggested (but not site allocations in the NDP).</p>

<p>The NP is silent on new housing allocations.</p>	<p>The NDP Group has not proposed new site allocations. There is no requirement for it do so.</p>
<p>Appendix A Conservation Officer</p> <p>Reference the 2022 Bewdley Conservation Area Character Appraisal more clearly in sections 1, 6 and 7</p> <p><i>Suggested insertion (end of paragraph 1.17 or similar):</i> “The Bewdley Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2022) provides an up-to-date assessment of the special interest and character of the town and forms an important evidence base for this Neighbourhood Plan. The policies in this Plan have been prepared to support the Appraisal’s objectives for preserving and enhancing the town’s historic environment.”</p> <p><i>Optional short sentence for section 6 (Design and Development Form introduction):</i> “Development proposals within or adjoining the Conservation Area should have full regard to the Bewdley Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2022) and demonstrate how they respect its identified character areas, architectural qualities and key views.”</p> <p><i>For section 7 (Local Heritage, Landscape and the Environment introduction):</i> “The 2022 Conservation Area Character Appraisal identifies the qualities that make Bewdley special, including its Georgian townscape, historic river frontage and varied roofscape. This Neighbourhood Plan seeks to reinforce those qualities through locally specific heritage and design policies.”</p>	<p>Amend. Happy to include these additional references in the sections referred to.</p>
<p>Mention non-designated heritage assets earlier in the document for consistency</p> <p><i>Suggested addition to paragraph 2.34 (Heritage):</i> “In addition to designated heritage assets, Bewdley contains a number of buildings and features of local historic or architectural interest which are identified on the Wyre Forest Local Heritage List.</p> <p>These non-designated heritage assets make an important contribution to the town’s historic character and sense of place.”</p>	<p>Amend. The local list is referred to in para 7.5 and 7.6 already but will add reference to the specific words ‘Wyre Forest Local Heritage List’ in 7.5.</p> <p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Agree to include a map or reference a link.</p>
<p>Add setting and views as design requirements in BEWDLEY 4</p> <p><i>Suggested additional paragraph at the end of Policy BEWDLEY 4:</i></p>	<p>Amend.</p>

<p>“Development should also demonstrate a positive relationship with the wider townscape and landscape setting of Bewdley. Particular attention should be given to the protection of key views to and from the River Severn, the rising topography surrounding the town and the approaches to the Conservation Area. Proposals should maintain or enhance these views and avoid any harm to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area and its setting.”</p>	
<p>Include a short note on heritage assets at risk <i>Suggested insertion after paragraph 7.5 (or similar within the heritage background section):</i> “A small number of listed and locally significant buildings in Bewdley have been identified as being at risk through vacancy, deterioration or inappropriate alteration. The Town Council will work with Wyre Forest District Council, Historic England and property owners to encourage the repair, reuse and long-term maintenance of such buildings to ensure their continued contribution to the town’s historic environment.”</p>	<p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – Agree to include sentence after section 7.5.</p>
<p>Require a Heritage Statement for development proposals affecting heritage assets or the Conservation Area <i>Suggested insertion within Policy BEWDLEY 5 – Historic Environment and Heritage Assets (final paragraph):</i> “Applications affecting designated or non-designated heritage assets, or development within or adjacent to the Conservation Area, should be supported by a proportionate Heritage Statement. This should describe the significance of the asset(s) concerned, assess the potential impact of the proposal and set out how the development will preserve or enhance that significance.”</p>	<p>There is no need to add this as it is covered by WFLP policies, but we can add it if you want to? Need to think about new national development management policies which might cover heritage requirements, so building it in now only to take it out later.....</p>
<p>Clarify in BEWDLEY 6 that it also protects the setting of the Conservation Area <i>Suggested minor revision to the first sentence of Policy BEWDLEY 6 – Bewdley’s Landscape:</i> “Development proposals should conserve and, where possible, enhance the landscape character of Bewdley and the surrounding countryside, including the setting of the Conservation Area and key heritage assets.” <i>Optional supporting sentence for the justification text:</i></p>	<p>Amend. Can <u>add</u> suggested policy text to the first sentence but not replace the existing text there.</p> <p>Can incorporate suggested supporting text into para 7.29</p>

<p>“The open landscapes to the west of the River Severn and the wooded slopes to the east form an integral part of the town’s historic setting and make a vital contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.”</p>	
<p>Tree and Biodiversity Officer</p>	
<p>Please see my Comment on THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR BEWDLEY REGULATION 14 DRAFT, SEPTEMBER 2025 (Version: APL.Bewdley.010.D)</p> <p>(1) The key issue is the plan has chosen not to address the requirement for future housing development and hence its value as a planning tool is greatly inhibited. I would question its relevance as the increasing housing is the single most impactful factor facing the plan area.</p> <p>1.9 The area covered by the Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan has environmental designations which are relevant under regulations for the consideration of screening for HRA and SEA. These include the Wyre Forest Special Areas of Conservation, Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve and Sites of Special Scientific Interest located within the parish boundary.</p> <p>This is missing the River Severn and the Severn estuary SAC including qualifying species. It also needs to give reference to the Protected and notable species which are covered by the plan has significant importance. White clawed crayfish, adder.</p> <p>Local Plans Context:</p> <p>(2) The plan has no reference to the LNRS. the LNRS is likely to be published in concurrence with the neighbourhood plan and the plan needs to reflect this and describe how the local pan as had regard to the LNRS.</p> <p>Supporting Documents</p> <p>(3) No mention of LNRS No mention of the 2016 Wyre Forest Plan & NNR Plan. Worcestershire Landscape character assessment (mention of this is made in 7.23 but it is incomplete.)</p>	<p>Various points raised have been numbered and the responses to each point is set out below.</p> <p>(1) The view on the value of the NDP in not address future housing requirements is noted. There is no requirement for NDPs to allocate sites. The Local Housing Requirement is small and can be met through windfall development. Updated housing requirements resulting from WFDC local plan proposals will be considered when these are published.</p> <p>1.9. In relation to the SEA Screening Assessment. A SEA Screening Determination was issued by WFDC in relation to the Regulation 14 Draft NDP to say no SEA was required. This contained caveats that WFDC have undertaken an ‘initial’ review.</p> <p>An HRA still screening determination still has to be issued and responsible and will produce this.</p> <p>(2) There is a section in the NDP (8.7-8.9) including two Figures 24 and 25 showing emerging nature recovery priorities and a supporting document directly addressing the LNRS and other nature designations. Policy BEWDLEY 8 first sentence and part (b) also directly address LNRS priorities.</p> <p>(3) Amend. Include text with refs to the WFLP policies, NNR Plan and more detailed cross reference to LCA. LNRS is already addressed.</p> <p>2.33 – We think this comment is incorrect. We are happy to discuss further, but our understanding of the application of S40 of NERC 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) is set out below.</p>

<p>2.33. - The plan states that “All development will be expected to mitigate risks to the natural environment and countryside and seek measures to enhance and integrate with the existing green infrastructure and biodiversity assets.” This is not in compliance with the section 40 of the NERC act Updated as part of the 2021 Environment act that requires Public Authorities in exercising their function such as the preparation of a Neighbourhood plan to actively enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>4.11 - There should be strategic analysis of play provision to assure that plan provision meets forecast play demand and the demographic of that paly demand. Eg toddlers teens etc.</p> <p>(4) No mention is made of the strategic nature of riverside open space and the importance this has to the tourist economy of Bewdley.</p> <p>The plan should reflect this value and perhaps provide guidance on how this strategic asset can be developed.</p> <p>(5) Consideration should be given to enhancing existing provision rather that creation of new play and sports provision.</p> <p>5.15 - No mention on new government requirements for additional housing provision and its impacts on recreation .</p> <p>(6) No strong design themes brough forward to assure the charter of Bewdley is preserved by new development.</p> <p>(7) No guidance on tree provision</p> <p>Figure 18 - no incorporation of landscape character or LNRS</p> <p>7.7 and 7.8 gives no context or methodology of how the aspiration are to be achieved</p> <p>Figure 21 and 22 are not complete. Large area of the plan area ignored. No discussion on how the Plan interacts with the bordering areas.</p>	<p>(5) In this section— “local authority” means— (a) F9 a county council in England], a district council, a parish council, a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly; (b) F10...</p> <p>“local planning authority” has the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8);</p> <p>NERC S40, Clause 5 defines what a ‘local authority’ is for the purposes of the duty to enhance biodiversity under NERC.</p> <p>Under Clause 5(a), a ‘local authority’ is defined to include parish councils and so Bewdley Town Council must consider how to meet the requirements of the duty through its general policies and programmes as required.</p> <p>Under Clause 5(b) a local planning authority is defined as is set out in the TCPA. Under the TCPA, Parish Councils are not LPAs and so Bewdley is not a local planning authority. The only purpose of distinguishing between a Local Authority and Local Planning Authority, is to define which bodies have land use planning responsibility in relation to this duty.</p> <p>Responsibility rests with WFDC and WCC as the LPAs. Bewdley Town Council does not have land use planning duties under the NERC in relation to its NDP.</p> <p>NDP policies form part of the Development Plan operated by the District Council and County Council as LPAs. Strategic policies of the Local Plan are complemented by non-strategic policies of the NDP – the NDPs policies can be as comprehensive or as limited as necessary to address community concerns and objectives raised through consultation and engagement.</p> <p>There are no compliance requirements on NDPs to include particular policies as they are voluntary local planning mechanisms that do not exist everywhere. NDPs and Local Plans fit together like a jigsaw and should not duplicate each other.</p> <p>As such the development plan composed of the Local Plan and the NDP for Bewdley (and other NDPs) will adequately discharge duties under the NERC.</p>
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<p>Chapter 8 doesn't consider current environmental policy or leavers for environmental gain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its ecological statement are not presented with current ecological data • A triple SSSI is not a designation • No mention of the NNR in chapter 8 or its significance <p>LNRS mentioned but its role as a tool not brought forward.</p> <p>The descriptive in chapter 8 is poor it need to examine the current ecological context of the plan area in both national and local term. It needs to set aspirations and identify leavers for delivery.</p>	<p>4.11 – See Table 1 and Policy BEWDLEY 2. Organic projected population growth is likely to be small and will indicate an ageing population. Larger population growth will come from significant development that will bring in new residents to a different age profile. The NDP will be monitored and forecast work can be undertaken once local plan proposals for the area are known. Amend. Write the need to forecast needs into the monitoring sections.</p> <p>(5) Noted. The BTC has focused on provision and capacity against standards.</p> <p>5.15 The government requirements for housing under the NPPF December 2024 are strategic matters that will be addressed by WFDC through a new local plan. There is no indication as yet what the strategic approach to development in Bewdley will be.</p> <p>(6) Noted. We disagree. The NDP is supported by a Design Guidance and Codes document prepared by AECOM. This sets out detailed analysis of local character and design styles and policy BEWDLEY 4 refers strongly to this. A significant part of Bewdley is also subject to Conservation Areas guidance.</p> <p>(7) Noted. This was not an issue that was raised during engagement with the community and so has not been included as a specific section of the NDP.</p> <p>Figure 18 is designed to show the character areas for design codes only.</p> <p>7.7 and 7.8 aspirations will be achieved by BTC through its plans and programmes outside the NDP. Amend. Reference will be added to Section 11 actions to implement the NDP.</p> <p>Figure 21 and 22 are reproduced from a LGS Assessment prepared in 2019. This was focussed on the landscape around Bewdley town and not the wider parish or with bordering areas. This was a priority for BTC.</p>
<p>The Severn estuary SAC and qualifying species in not mentioned.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Notable species that the plan are important for are not identified.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>No context of how new development will add to the green and blue infrastructure.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No mention of the impacts of new development of ecologically sensitive access. Identification where increased recreation and or access would be harmful and opportunities to bring forward buffer sites to protect ecologically sensitive assets.</p>	<p>This matter has not been identified as a priority for the NDP. If the NDP proposed site allocations, then it would need to be addressed.</p>
<p>Bewdley 8d is not relevant here. (relevant in recreation and should be highlighted as this is important to the town economy.</p>	<p>It is relevant in the sense that riverside land in Bewdley will take on multiple functions and so it is right to mention in this policy.</p>
<p>Chapter 9 Why do people come to Bewdley – it states “the range of shops and businesses is not the main reason for people loving the town” but doesn’t go into what is.</p>	<p>Whilst the range of independent shops and businesses contributes positively to the vitality of the town centre, consultation responses consistently demonstrated that this alone is not the principal reason why residents and visitors value Bewdley. The town’s attraction is strongly linked to its distinctive historic character, Georgian architecture, riverside setting, surrounding landscape, and access to the natural environment including the River Severn and Wyre Forest. Visitors are drawn to the quality of the public realm, independent character of the town, cultural and community events, riverside walks, heritage attractions, hospitality venues, and opportunities for recreation and tourism. The combination of these factors creates a unique sense of place which supports the local economy and distinguishes Bewdley from larger competing retail centres. The Neighbourhood Plan therefore seeks not only to support local businesses and retail activity, but also to protect and enhance the wider environmental, heritage and cultural qualities which underpin Bewdley’s attractiveness as a destination.</p>
<p>In my opinion It may well be the beauty of the natural environment and the historic market town vibe with independent retailers.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I also feel that Car parking is an issue as is the through put of traffic in the town centre preventing the expansion of café culture and trading opportunity and Welsh Gate with air quality</p>	<p>Noted. We agree.</p>
<p>The chapter does not go into how to strategically improve the car parking and vehicular throughput but does identify it as an issue. There is also conflicts between the riverside provision of carparking and this being the location of the most attractive green assets on the town.</p>	<p>It recommends reallocation of short and long stay spaces and provision of coach parking facilities. The NDP was not in a position to identify specific sites or make specific funded proposals at this time.</p>

	Amend. We agree that the uses on the riverside do need to be resolved through wider action with partners over time. Add in supporting text to refer to this more clearly.
There is a disjoint between the Bewdley station and the town. Options of increased connectivity need to be discussed.	This is addressed in Section 10 of the NDP
Wyre forest is mentioned but this needs to be referenced to the 2016 Wyre Forest Plan & NNR Plan and how tourism and visits are discussed. 9,47 misses the main reason people visit the town. the natural beauty and the historic market town feel.	Amend. Add in references where suggested
Consideration may also be need to look at out of town shopping provision as the population of Bewdley expands. This might reduce the utilitarian requirement of the town centre providing opportunity for more tourist drive offers. Reduce town centre traffic and through put and reduce the reliance of the population on adjacent Kidderminster increasing Bewdley sustainability.	Noted. This can be considered in a future review of the NDP once long-term development strategy options for Bewdley are consulted on by WFDC.
The dependence of the town on tourism need to be reflected with guidance on how the high street is developed giving guidance of frontage and character of development	It is set out in detail in the town centre section of the NDP and in relation to design codes.
Discussion on local shopping opportunities needs to be included to reduce travel needs and enhance residential sustainability.	Consideration was given to the inclusion of a 800m/100m walking isochrones map to local shops to show where provision is lacking for access on foot. However, initial work showed that the whole town lies within suitable walking distance of existing shops such that they are already sustainable and accessible by active travel means.
No discussion on night time economy	Noted.
A thought from me would Bewdley 12 be sufficient to resist an off the shelf KFC or it like application in a sensitive area?	Other policies would be considered alongside including from the local plan.
10.7 - Lights on the bridge I understand that Traffic stopped queuing is not good for air pollution. perhaps consideration of creating pulsed traffic like Bewdley road in Stourport. No mention are pollution issues - AQMA at Welsh gate A discussion on reducing the need to travel is also needed.	See above. Re AQMA and reducing the need to travel, Beyond this, the NDP seeks to improve parking facilities and improve public transport, walking and cycling routes. Response to consultation indicated a significant opposition to traffic lights on the bridge and so this proposal has been removed.

<p>I note that we will be required to produce a HRA for this plan. I feel we need more detail to assess the risk. The plan is not very biodiversity driven and may not meet the minimum legal requirement to be compliant with the 2012 Environment Act. It is also a concern that a few of the policy are not plan-wide</p>	<p>The comments are noted and have been carefully considered by the Steering Group. Following Regulation 14 consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed to strengthen references to biodiversity, green infrastructure, habitat connectivity and environmental enhancement across relevant policies and supporting text. Additional consideration has also been given to ensuring that policies operate consistently across the Plan area where appropriate.</p> <p>The Council will continue to work with Wyre Forest District Council and relevant consultees regarding Habitat Regulations Assessment requirements and any associated environmental assessment work necessary to support the Regulation 15 submission. The Basic Conditions Statement and supporting evidence base will also be updated where required to ensure conformity with national policy and environmental legislation.</p>
<p>There is not a reflection on the LPA requirements to deliver increased housing and as such the plan may be vulnerable to ad hoc application that will not deliver strategic benefits that could lead to ecological and environmental harm.</p>	<p>The requirement is on WFDC to produce a local plan to avoid this outcome.</p> <p>NDP policies are non-strategic. The WFDC Spatial Strategy to meet increased housing needs across the district is strategic and well-beyond the scope of the Bewdley NDP to address given heritage, landscape, ecology and flood risk considerations, also all strategic in nature. It is surprising that this is being suggested by WFDC.</p>
<p>Reading the screening:</p> <p>No thoughts on the impact of future housing seems to largely negate the plan’s purpose.</p> <p>Air pollution is being potentially impacted on by policy in the plan</p> <p>The policy in the plan do not give robust direction to ensure ecology is enhanced.</p>	<p>Comment on housing – noted.</p> <p>Comment on ecology – noted but see earlier comment on requirement to enhance not applying to NDPs.</p>
<p>North Worcestershire Water Management</p>	
<p>I welcome that one of the objectives is “To ensure the green and blue infrastructure in Bewdley contributes to the local historic and natural landscape character, improves biodiversity, and promotes opportunities for play, recreation and sports.”</p> <p>Policy Bewdley 4 (High Quality Design) sets out that all proposals for new development should include measures to create and/or enhance Green/Blue Infrastructure in</p>	<p>Amend. Bewdley 7 and supporting text add reference to watercourses where appropriate.</p> <p>Do you wish to consider the following area for LGS designation - between Kidderminster Road and development site The Maples, which contains the Riddings Brook?</p>

<p>accordance with Design Code GB1. I support this as GB1 details that water features such as ponds and streams should be considered within development to support wildlife diversity and improve community quality of life. This sits well with the WFDC policy that gives preference to above ground, green SuDS. It also echoes the recently published National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) (Defra, July 2025).</p> <p>Policy Bewdley 7 (Local Green Spaces) seems to focus on areas west of the River Severn, informed by the Bewdley Local Green Space Assessment (2019). I note that the majority of the parcels indicated suitable for Local Green Space Designation contain a watercourse (Snuff Mill Brook or tributaries of Dowles Brook) or are adjacent to the River Severn. These parcels therefore perform, or could perform, a function to store flood water, which should be taken into account. This importance is for the River Severn acknowledges in section 8.14 but is true for all watercourses. I wonder whether the area between Kidderminster Road and development site The Maples, which contains the Riddings Brook, could be eligible for a Local Green Space allocation?</p> <p>The justification for Policy Bewdley 8 (Green Infrastructure and the Water Environment) could I feel be improved by acknowledging other forms of flooding. Currently only fluvial flooding is highlighted, which is flooding from the Severn and local watercourses. The main other form of flood risk that could easily be highlighted too is the risk of surface water flooding. Figure 25 currently displays fluvial flood risk only, as floodzone mapping is used. I would encourage the use of the Flood map for Planning (see https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/) which includes fluvial and surface water flood risk. Surface water flood risk data can be downloaded from https://www.data.gov.uk/.</p> <p>With regards to Policy Bewdley 8 subsection d (Enhance the riverside to provide landscaped areas, formal parks and gardens for recreational purposes) I would like to reflect that some part of the riverside (such as Local Green Space 1) form part of an important, and nowadays rare, riverside meadow habitat and would benefit from being excluded from any development, with the focus being on enhancing the habitat further.</p> <p>In the justification the Neighbour Plan refers to Bewdley Design Codes WD1 (Water and Drainage). To strengthen Policy Bewdley 8, I would suggest that this could reference WD1 like policy 4 references GB1. For instance by adding something along the lines of: “All proposals for new development should minimise the risk of flooding to the development</p>	<p>Since meeting with WFDC Planning Officers changes has been made to the LGS Designation.</p> <p>Amend. Bewdley 8. Add in surface water flood risk map and refer in supporting text.</p> <p>Bewdley 8 (d) - The Riverside Park owned and managed by BTC has a holistic plan for this area covering its various functions for flood storage, habitat, open space etc?</p> <p>Amend. Bewdley 8 – add in design code references as suggested.</p> <p>Amend. Ref 8.17 Add in reference to standards as suggested.</p> <p>Amend. Section 11 monitoring. Add in action to share information with EA and LLFA.</p>
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<p>and avoid downstream impacts to other areas of the town in accordance with Design Code GB1.”</p> <p>In response to justification paragraph 8.17 I would like to comment that in line with national policy all developments are required to incorporate surface water drainage systems that control the flow of runoff and mimic the pre-development situation. See National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) (Defra, July 2025).</p> <p>I welcome the action detailed in section 11.5 for Policy Bewdley 8 to maintain a photographic record of local flood incidents. I would encourage this to be shared with the Environment Agency and Worcestershire County Council in its Lead local Flood Authority role, as this information can be used to validate flood risk models and improve warning and informing for future events.</p>	
<p>County Highways – comments to follow, but not received as yet.</p>	
<p>Canal and River Trust</p>	
<p>Thank you for your consultation on the above document.</p> <p>We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green -blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Canal & River Trust (the Trust) is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process, and as such we welcome the opportunity to input into planning policy related matters to ensure that our waterways are protected, safeguarded and enhanced within an appropriate policy framework.</p> <p>The Trust have no waterways, assets or land interests within the area covered by the document and as such we have no comment to make.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Historic England</p>	
<p>Thank you for consulting Historic England regarding your Regulation 14 draft neighbourhood plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>The area covered by your Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of important designated heritage assets. In line with national planning policy, it will be important that the strategy for this area safeguards those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets so that they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area.</p> <p>If you have not already done so, we would recommend that you speak to the planning and conservation team at your local planning authority together with the staff at the county council archaeological advisory service who look after the Historic Environment Record. They should be able to provide details of the designated heritage assets in the area together with locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes.</p> <p>Some Historic Environment Records may also be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>). It may also be useful to involve local voluntary groups such as the local Civic Society or local historic groups in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Historic England has produced advice which your community might find helpful in helping to identify what it is about your area which makes it distinctive and how you might go about ensuring that the character of the area is retained. These can be found at:- https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/</p> <p>You may also find the advice in <i>"Planning for the Environment at the Neighbourhood Level"</i> useful. This has been produced by Historic England, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. As well as giving ideas on how you might improve your local environment, it also contains some useful further sources of information. This can be downloaded from: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf</p> <p>If you envisage including new housing allocations in your plan, we refer you to our published advice available on our website, "Housing Allocations in Local Plans" as this relates equally to neighbourhood planning. This can be found at https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/heag074-he-and-site-allocation-local-plans.pdf/</p> <p>If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>	
<p>Severn Valley Railway</p>	
<p>Our formal response is as follows, would you be able to ensure it's submitted please?</p>	<p>BTC comments from Steering Group Meeting 10 December – No, The Severn Valley Railway would be responsible for any improvements or amendments</p>

<p>1. The Severn Valley Railway (SVR) welcomes the draft Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan, its recognition of the tourism and heritage conservation benefits the SVR brings, and its interest in improving rail connectivity to and from the town.</p> <p>2. We welcome the Plan’s aspiration at ‘Bewdley 10(p)’ for extension of some Birmingham Snow Hill-Kidderminster rail services to Bewdley.</p> <p>3. Together with West Midlands Rail Executive and West Midlands Trains we are undertaking an initial assessment of the case for such an extension.</p> <p>4. This suggests there could be an operationally feasible service using trains which currently terminate at Kidderminster, and a sufficient market to cover its operational costs.</p> <p>5. Further detailed work would be necessary to confirm this and the SVR would welcome the Town Council’s support for further development of the concept.</p> <p>6. If there were to be a future railway station serving West Midlands Safari Park this could add to the case and also offer additional car parking capacity to provide access for a wider catchment around Wyre Forest and parts of Shropshire.</p>	<p>affecting their service. BTC would support a feasibility study commissioned by SVR.</p>
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48. Other Responses

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	1	Wasn’t well publicised and that the form should have been sent to all households in Bewdley.	The NDP Consultation measures are set out in the Consultation Report and demonstrate an extensive effort was undertaken to consult widely.
Member of Public	1	Its population is big enough now given the new housing in progress	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for housing development.
Member of Public	1	STOP BUILDING HOUSES	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for housing development.
Member of Public	1	Protect Bewdley’s historic character by prioritising brownfield development, safeguarding green spaces and wildlife, and ensuring any use of historic or community land gives clear benefits back to residents.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	1	Build no more homes until infrastructure improves. Healthcare and schools are overstretched, parking is becoming dangerous, and there's a lack of retirement housing.	Noted. The NDP sets out local infrastructure needs where there is evidence to support that.
Member of Public	1	Too much new house building for the size of the town.	Noted.
Member of Public	1	Stop building homes on green land	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for housing development.
Member of Public	1	Bewdley is already having loads of new houses built we don't have infrastructure to support any more dwelling	Noted. The NDP sets out local infrastructure needs where there is evidence to support that.
Member of Public	1	Developer evidence must be fact checked and truthful.	Noted. Developer submissions in relation to planning applications are available for comment and are reviewed by statutory consultees.
Member of Public	1	I believe we don't need more green space being taken from Bewdley, we need to keep our green spaces	Noted. See Local Green Space proposals.
Member of Public	1	People need community buildings etc. for meetings, clubs, groups etc. People need to meet with others for mental health and support	Agreed, reflected in the identification of community meeting facilities.
Member of Public	1	Local amenities need to be kept wherever possible. The words suitable distance worries me as who defines what's suitable. Things can be changed but need to stay in Bewdley	The catchment for the provision of different types of facilities will vary according to its scale and significance. Some flexibility is required to allow for this to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
Member of Public	1	It seems silly to fund things are not be utilised anymore, but the question is the threshold to which you measure it against.	Sites in local community use are important in that alternative land for community uses is hard to come by. It makes sense to seek to retain land in community use if possible as, once lost, it will likely not be replaceable elsewhere given the opposition to development and land values.
Member of Public	1	Strong opposition to making the bridge single-lane with traffic lights, citing past disruption, harm to the town and businesses, and urging the bridge to remain fully open	Noted. This comment will be addressed as part of the response to transport comments
Member of Public	1	Needs a bus to Worcester that's actually usable - it must get into Worcester for 8am, and with the last bus leaving after 6pm.	Noted. This comment will be addressed as part of the response to transport comments
Member of Public	1	Once lost equivalent cannot be found especially when it comes to green spaces so valuable especially during Covid pandemic.	Noted. Other policies in the NDP address this the retention of important local green spaces

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	1	Green field space is also important for recreation etc. Also, good arable land should be kept for food production.	Noted.
Member of Public	1	Oppose building on green belt land, call Bewdley overdeveloped, and urge developers to prioritise brownfield sites and restore empty historic town-centre buildings instead.	Noted. The NDP does not propose housing development or development on green belt land. WFDC's new local plan will set strategic policies relating to development in Bewdley.
Member of Public	1	This can depend on which facilities you're referring to, as importance varies depending on the individual.	Noted. Some individuals are able to see the wider benefits to the community of community facilities provision, whether they use them personally or not.
Member of Public	1	Housing development appears to be occurring on unsuitable sites including very steep areas of Dowles Brook and Park lane.	Noted.
Member of Public	1	The proposal as drafted may simply encourage the creation of a period of disuse in order achieve removal.	Do not agree. The alternative is swift closure and potential loss of a site in community use which could be hard to replace once gone.
Member of Public	1	No removal of any local community locations or buildings or land.	Policies need to be applied reasonably and this would not be reasonable if applied absolutely.
Member of Public	1	Losing its independent identity	Noted.
Member of Public	1	Do not agree that Bewdley now has a Turkish barbers, we have more than enough barbers and hairdressers already.	Not clear to what this refers.
Member of Public	1	My agreement would be based on what section of society is affected and how the loss of any service or availability would affect them financially, emotionally	Noted. The NDP seeks to meet the needs of the community as a whole.
Member of Public	1	Maintaining the public areas of Bewdley is a high priority. Mutually benefits the residents and the commerce due to maintaining visitor numbers.	Agreed.
Member of Public	1	There is far too much housing development taking place which will mean not enough capacity in schools, doctors or hospitals. Road structures are inadequate	Noted. These are matters which are considered in planning applications by Worcestershire County Council and relevant local NHS bodies.
Member of Public	1	I feel that some evidence exists that unfortunately well financed developers have an upper hand over town, district and county councils.	Noted.
Member of Public	1	Too much development causing overload on facilities already stretched for current residents.	Noted.
Member of Public	1	I would be interested in the fact that over the period of a very long time, has a pedestrian Bridge over the river ever been discussed, and or if not why not?	This is addressed in the transport policy section.
Member of Public	1	Houses are needed for first time buyers, starter homes.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	1	Need to maintain the right level of population to the level of services ratio i.e. schools, medical surgery and other support services	Agreed.
Member of Public	1	Must be adhered to and implemented	Agreed.
Member of Public	1	Severe accessibility problems for a mobility-scooter user due to missing dropped kerbs and pavements blocked by bins, making travel into town and to the medical centre unsafe. The issue has existed since moving to Bewdley, affects others too, and needs an official response and action to improve access.	Noted. Whilst this has not been addressed in the draft NDP, the matter will be kept under review and may addressed outside the NDP or through a future review.
Member of Public	1	The document is praised as high quality and well considered, but there is concern it will be ignored by those who control funding and decisions.	Noted. As much as possible, policy requirements are specific, evidenced and sufficiently flexible to enable their positive use.
Member of Public	2	STOP BUILDING IN BEWDLEY	Noted.
Member of Public	2	We need these facilities for both physical and mental health	Agreed.
Member of Public	2	Informal green spaces are essential health infrastructure, not optional extras, and places like St Anne's School Fields provide irreplaceable wellbeing benefits for all ages; development that reduces them would harm public health and contradict the policy's aims.	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development. The NDP Steering Group has considered inclusion of this site as part of LGS.
Member of Public	2	Support new green and recreation spaces, but insist existing ones must be protected, properly maintained, improved where needed, and never lost to development.	Certain open space resources can be replaced in accordance with standards of provision, others are protected because of their special value (Local Green Space).
Member of Public	2	Developer evidence should be factor checked and truthful	Noted.
Member of Public	2	sports facilities need to be in a central position for all Bewdley residents. Not everyone has transport to reach these places and facilities out of town.	The emphasis in the NDP is on retaining provision where it exists and promoting new provision to meet policy standards, which includes catchments for play areas.
Member of Public	2	Sports and recreation areas need to be maintained and improved not lost.	Agreed. The policy must allow flexibility as to how this is done, including through replacement provision where appropriate.
Member of Public	2	Missing a swimming pool. Utilize the one at the Mercure, it would bring business to the town	Noted. BTC will consider how to promote further leisure provision outside the NDP.
Member of Public	2	More care of the areas we got for playing.	Noted. This is a matter to be addressed outside the NDP.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	2	Protect not just recreation areas but also the access routes to them, such as the right of way by St Anne's playing fields, because they provide vital links to the countryside and support important wildlife and mature trees.	Public Rights of Way are protected. St Annes Playing field is included in the LGS designation.
Member of Public	2	Expand and modernise sports and recreation facilities as the population grows, while continuing to support and promote existing clubs and amenities.	Noted. This is what should happen but often doesn't owing to lack of funding.
Member of Public	2	The area adjacent to snuff mill walk is an area for wildlife, e.g. deer, rabbits, foxes, birds. It's regular used by walkers individuals and groups and provides a breathing space	Noted. Snuff Mill is already addressed in a number of chapters and policies relating to landscape, local green space, biodiversity and the water environment
Member of Public	2	Once again how easy would it be to find alternatives?	Applicants can provide alternatives through making land available for them or providing financial contributions for delivery by others. They may seek to demonstrate adequate alternatives already exist.
Member of Public	2	Existing facilities must be maintained unless something much better is possible.	Noted.
Member of Public	2	No change to current availability of sports or recreational facilities.	Noted.
Member of Public	2	Need to have areas for sport and exercise. Rowing club can be got rid of.	Noted. Not sure the Rowing club would agree however! Rowing is a sport and an exercise.
Member of Public	2	Should the Devil's Spittleful area be included in this?	The site is a SSSI already and reference has been added to Chapter 8.
Member of Public	2	Recognition should also focus on the multiple nature reserves and the Wyre Forest itself as part of this agenda	Noted. Revisions have been made to the Green Infrastructure section of the NDP
Member of Public	2	I would like the paddling pool reinstated in Bewdley	Noted. This matter lies outside the scope of the NDP.
Member of Public	2	I think that there is a drug availability problem late at night in Bewdley, that needs addressing.	Not clear what this is referring to – medicines or drug-dealing? The NDP has not addressed this matter.
Member of Public	2	Protect existing town-centre green spaces and sports facilities, as moving them elsewhere would reduce access (especially for children and non-drivers) and increase reliance on cars	Noted.
Member of Public	2	Access to fitness and group activities should be affordable and local, so cost and transport do not become barriers, helping improve physical and mental health and reduce pressure on health services.	Agreed.
Member of Public	2	The history and unique placing on the river Severn and in Wyre Forest is a gift to the town. This great gift must be enhanced and treasured at all costs.	Noted. Not clear what 'all costs' means.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	2	Bewdley's sports facilities are inadequate, lacking a pool and with an undersized leisure centre, and should be modernised by adding popular options like paddle courts.	Noted. BTC will continue to make a case for investment in Bewdley outside the NDP
Member of Public	2	Do not lose sports and activity facilities; any relocation must be easily accessible, delivered immediately, and strictly enforced by planning authorities to protect physical and mental health.	Noted.
Member of Public	2	Leisure facilities should not be lost	Noted.
Member of Public	2	Non other than recognition of severely disabled needs getting around the town	Noted. Whilst this has not been addressed in the draft NDP, the matter will be kept under review and may addressed outside the NDP or through a future review.
Member of Public	2	Local recreation spaces like St Anne's School field are vital for children's sports and activities.	St Anne's playing field is included in the LGS designation.
Member of Public	3	Old buildings should be restored and reused (for example as flats) to keep them in good condition	Agreed.
Member of Public	3	No more housing has been built because there is not enough infrastructure.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Bewdley has been over developed it is not benefitting the town or local residents. The only benefit is the financial benefit to developers	There are existing local residents who need affordable housing, which must be recognised. There are some older people living locally who say they want retirement housing. The local constraints on new housing development are clear and the NDP has not proposed to allocate sites. The Government has set significantly higher housing targets. A new local plan from WFDC will set a strategic approach to development in the wider area including Bewdley.
Member of Public	3	It would be positive to have all currently empty historic buildings restored and used in the town, with sympathetic design and use only.	It would. Historic building renovation requires significant investment and successful outcomes from planning applications, Listed Building Consents and Conservation Area Consents. Viability of investment becomes a clear consideration given the constraints.
Member of Public	3	Large-scale housing on the eastern side should be avoided because limited space, narrow roads and steep hills make it unsuitable for major development.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	We have enough new housing in Bewdley and surrounding areas. Our infrastructure doctors cannot take anymore	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	3	STOP BUILDING HOUSES IN BEWDLEY	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Too much development will lead to Bewdley Stourport and Kidderminster to become one. I feel that those at the top must be colour blind as they cannot differentiate between Green, Grey and Brown	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Use housing policy to attract younger families and rebalance the ageing population, as long-term trends have seen younger generations leave and the town become increasingly older.	The NDP has not proposed to allocate sites for housing. WFDC will produce a new local plan to provide strategic direction on future development in Bewdley.
Member of Public	3	Encourage mixed use in historic buildings with shops or community uses at ground level, expand creative studios and arts spaces, and develop an art centre with a café and parking to boost tourism, the local economy and wellbeing.	The NDP has examined and provides support for such development in the town centre. Specific initiatives may be considered outside the NDP in relation to specific opportunities where they arise.
Member of Public	3	No more housing. We have so much already. Especially this last year. We don't want to lose any more green spaces to accommodate more people who add to the difficulties at GP surgeries, dentists, road traffic, etc.	Noted. The NDP has not proposed to allocate sites for housing. WFDC will produce a new local plan to provide strategic direction on future development in Bewdley.
Member of Public	3	Oppose further housing due to lack of infrastructure, loss of green spaces, and concern that Bewdley's identity and separation from nearby towns are being eroded.	Noted. Green Belt separates Bewdley from other nearby towns and this is a strategic policy matter.
Member of Public	3	Put new housing on the east side to reduce traffic and include green space and play areas.	Noted. Development in the Green Belt is a strategic policy matter.
Member of Public	3	Infrastructure is already inadequate and green/brown land should stay undeveloped.	Development on brownfield is generally encouraged to ensure the efficient use of land and reduce impacts from development of green spaces.
Member of Public	3	Future housing targets will likely rise, so site density should increase and the plan should be reviewed to stay up to date.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Pause housing until infrastructure improves, especially dangerous school traffic on Stourport Road.	Unfortunately, in the UK, infrastructure investment is usually committed alongside or following development and rarely in advance.
Member of Public	3	Oppose more housing without supporting infrastructure; partly agree with the policy.	Noted
Member of Public	3	No new building in Wribbenhall.	The NDP does not propose housing in Wribbenhall.
Member of Public	3	Do not build on green land because of environmental harm.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	3	Limit housing, prioritise bungalows and flats for downsizing, and protect green belts between towns.	The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for housing.
Member of Public	3	Concern about disruption, traffic and pressure on services from new housing.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Affordable housing is needed.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Infrastructure capacity and vehicle access must be considered.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Protect land already approved for homes from being lost to non-residential uses.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Convert historic buildings into housing.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Support affordable housing on brownfield only, with matching infrastructure investment.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Manage parking and traffic better for residents in flats.	Policy 4 addresses high quality design in relation to residential parking provision. Policy 9 addresses parking management.
Member of Public	3	Any housing must include more facilities and proper traffic planning.	Noted. However, not all housing requires new infrastructure investment if already in place.
Member of Public	3	No houses of multiple occupancy.	The NDP has not addressed this. However, if people cannot afford to own or rent their own homes, they may need to live in a HMO.
Member of Public	3	Increase social housing because new homes are too expensive.	The NDP has not proposed to allocate sites for housing.
Member of Public	3	Do not build without first expanding infrastructure (schools, health services, roads).	Contributions from development (from sales receipts) help to fund infrastructure provision so are normally provided in phases as development proceeds.
Member of Public	3	install more litter bins around town.	Noted. This has not been addressed in the NDP. BTC may consider this matter outside the NDP as part of its normal business.
Member of Public	3	Oppose development, citing overstretched services and blaming national population growth.	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development.
Member of Public	3	Previous redevelopment (e.g. former Midland Bank) reduces confidence in similar projects.	Noted.
Member of Public	3	Housing should stay within current infrastructure limits.	The WFDC Local Plan will set out a forward planning requirement for the area and this will include proposals for the provision of infrastructure to support development.
Member of Public	3	Define “high-quality design” clearly with standards or a design code.	See policy 4

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	3	Require 50% affordable housing in new developments.	The NDP has not set requirements for the level of affordable housing contribution in local developments, which is a strategic policy matter for the WFDC Local Plan
Member of Public	3	No more housing due to lack of industry and infrastructure.	The NDP has not proposed to allocate sites for housing. WFDC Local Plan will set out future development requirements including for housing and employment.
Member of Public	3	New estates have caused parking problems and overloaded health services.	See Policy 4 reference to design codes on parking provision. Worcestershire CC and the local NHS will determine whether local health services have capacity to deal with additional population resulting from development.
Member of Public	3	Traffic access must be addressed.	Not clear what this is referring to.
Member of Public	3	Bewdley already has enough housing.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Protect wildlife and green spaces, ensure development fits Bewdley's character	The Design Codes were prepared to support the NDP policy 4 and these are based on an assessment of character features in Bewdley.
Member of Public	4	Make Biodiversity Net Gain mandatory, not optional.	BNG is mandatory above qualifying development thresholds, which are low meaning most development qualifies.
Member of Public	4	Design rules for the Conservation Area should also apply to nearby developments that affect its setting or views.	They do. The impact of development on the setting of the Conservation Area Character/Features is a consideration in the determination of planning applications.
Member of Public	4	Less area for building, more space for landscaped areas around houses.	The Design Codes refer to development form and different approaches to plot development and building line. There is a need to reconcile the low density of existing development with the need to demonstrate an efficient use of land for new development.
Member of Public	4	No development in conservation areas unless it directly supports building preservation.	Not a reasonable proposal.
Member of Public	4	Stop all housebuilding.	Not a reasonable proposal
Member of Public	4	Do not build while existing homes stand empty.	Not a reasonable proposal
Member of Public	4	Invest in creative industries and studios to revive local crafts, culture and tourism.	This matter is outside the scope of the NDP. BTC may consider opportunities to promote economic initiatives as part of its normal business.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	4	No further housing; Bewdley already has enough.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Require environmentally friendly homes, including wildlife features like nest boxes.	No specific work has been done to support a bespoke approach in Bewdley. The Government's Future Homes Standard will ensure that sustainable building design, energy efficiency and renewable/low carbon energy generation are featured as much as possible in new buildings.
Member of Public	4	Question the need for more housing when homes are unaffordable and unsold.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Ensure designs follow the updated Conservation Area Character Appraisal.	Noted. WFDC policies and the NPPF ensure that this is addressed in relevant applications.
Member of Public	4	Infrastructure problems must be addressed before more building.	Phasing infrastructure delivery is a key consideration in the determination of planning applications.
Member of Public	4	Bewdley is overdeveloped with expensive housing.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Oppose new development in Wribbenhall.	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development in Wribbenhall.
Member of Public	4	The plan is a waste of money and time.	Disagree. The NDP provides a framework for stating local development objectives and concerns, identifying key infrastructure requirements and setting out local evidence to support local priorities. This can be considered by developers and decision-makers. At the very least, where developments contribute to Community Infrastructure Levy. Bewdley TC will receive 25% of the amount (with a NDP in place) rather than 15% (without).
Member of Public	4	Policies are unclear and full of jargon.	The policies are carefully worded to have effect in the planning system, which has a complex policy and legal basis.
Member of Public	4	New housing is poor quality, overpriced, out of character and deliberately restricted to keep prices high.	Noted. The design codes policy encourages better design approaches.
Member of Public	4	Define affordable housing as genuinely affordable for local wages.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Pause development to assess impacts and housing demand.	Noted. This is not within the scope of the NDP or BTC.
Member of Public	4	Bewdley is already overdeveloped.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	4	Do not build on green space; protect the environment.	The NDP seeks to protect Local Green Spaces and protect the unique character of Bewdley through Policy 4 and a range of other policies in the plan.
Member of Public	4	Do not weaken nature protection rules.	The NDP does not do this.
Member of Public	4	Too much development with poor environmental protection.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Stop building on green land and protect the green belt.	The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development or promote development on the green belt.
Member of Public	4	Avoid overdevelopment.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Key diagrams are unclear and hard to interpret.	Figure 17 explains the different design code character areas in Bewdley and Figure 18 shows them on a map in broad terms.
Member of Public	4	Improve bus services.	Noted. See transport chapter.
Member of Public	4	Reuse empty properties and reduce new build.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Remove flexibility from biodiversity rules; make them strict.	The framework for BNG is set out in regulations and referred to in the NPPF. Clear rules are in place.
Member of Public	4	Support green infrastructure, water features and SuDS to benefit wildlife and communities.	Agree.
Member of Public	4	Prioritise traffic control and road safety.	Agree.
Member of Public	4	Ensure strong oversight and enforcement.	Enforcement is carried out by WFDC.
Member of Public	4	New builds will not match town character.	Policy 4 says new build development should have regard to character features and complement them.
Member of Public	4	Create a clear design code to strengthen policy.	Policy 4 refers to the set of design codes produced, referred to Figure 18 and in the supporting design codes document.
Member of Public	4	No more housing.	Noted.
Member of Public	4	Maintain biodiversity features long-term.	BNG provision is secured under planning obligations and covenants for a period of at least 30 years.
Member of Public	4	Avoid green belt loss and further strains on roads and services.	Noted. Green Belt review is a strategic policy matter for WFDC.
Member of Public	4	New development should match the town's character.	Policy 4 says new build development should have regard to character features and complement them.
Member of Public	5	Stop building houses in Bewdley.	The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development.
Member of Public	5	Need to support heritage areas, which bring tourists.	Policies 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 seek to do this.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	5	Move the Baldwin statue to Jubilee Gardens so it is more prominent and to free up useful community space in the town centre.	The suggestion has been noted. BTC have no plans to support a move of the statue.
Member of Public	5	Return the Baldwin statue to Riverside because it is currently hidden by vehicles and has little value where it is.	The suggestion has been noted. BTC have no plans to support a move of the statue.
Member of Public	5	Protect Bewdley's heritage and do not diminish it.	Policies 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 seek to do this.
Member of Public	5	Safeguard the Conservation Area and carefully assess impacts of any new footbridge on the river frontage.	Policies 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 seek to do this.
Member of Public	5	Support creative industries, studios and markets linked to Bewdley's heritage.	Specific initiatives may be considered by BTC outside the NDP in relation to specific opportunities where they arise.
Member of Public	5	Traffic in the Conservation Area is damaging buildings, unsafe, noisy and polluted; residents bear restrictions while vehicles are uncontrolled.	Transport chapter of the NDP addresses traffic management.
Member of Public	5	Heritage should be protected, but policies must consider building condition and viability so brownfield sites are not left unused.	The ability to redevelop land and buildings within the Conservation Area, involving listed buildings is complex. Sensitive restoration of heritage buildings at risk for beneficial use should be supported where possible.
Member of Public	5	Modern development has harmed Bewdley's historic character.	Noted. Policy 4 and 5 seek to ensure that future development has a positive relationship with the existing town.
Member of Public	5	Bewdley's historic built environment is a valuable asset.	Agree.
Member of Public	5	The area has major historical importance linked to Catherine of Aragon and Prince Arthur.	Noted.
Member of Public	5	New design should fit the historic character of the town.	Agree that new development should respect and complement existing character. See policy 4.
Member of Public	5	Restore and reuse derelict Georgian buildings as a priority.	Noted. The ability to redevelop land and buildings within the Conservation Area, involving listed buildings is complex. Sensitive restoration of heritage buildings at risk for beneficial use should be supported where possible.
Member of Public	5	Agree with the policy; no changes needed.	Noted.
Member of Public	5	Allow tasteful development that supports local businesses, with consultation.	Noted.
Member of Public	5	Owners, not public funds, should pay to maintain historic buildings.	That is the principle. Some owners lack the funds to do this.
Member of Public	5	Heritage must be protected because it cannot be replaced.	The NPPF places heritage impacts within a planning balance alongside the benefits that development can bring.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	5	Avoid shops that harm the town's appearance and character.	Shopfront redevelopment will be more closely controlled within the Conservation Area where permitted development rights are removed. Policy 4 refers to design codes including shop front codes. Policy 9 refers to shopfront codes.
Member of Public	5	Preserve character because it supports pride and tourism.	Agree.
Member of Public	5	Strong support for the policy.	Noted
Member of Public	5	No more new development.	Noted.
Member of Public	5	Criticises consultation timing after fire station closure.	Noted. Not clear why this should delay the NDP process.
Member of Public	5	Do not alter the bridge or install traffic lights; protect it as a key feature.	Noted. See transport section.
Member of Public	6	Bewdley is overdeveloped, development benefits developers not residents, and green belt building harms the environment.	Noted. Presumably, the occupants of new development will benefit from having a home. They become residents.
Member of Public	6	Open countryside around Bewdley must be strictly protected as essential to wellbeing, heritage and recreation.	Noted. WFDC Local Plan will set our future development requirements for Bewdley as part of its wider strategy to meeting increased housing targets and employment requirements.
Member of Public	6	Support in principle, but "good design" must be clearly defined.	The design codes referred to in Policy 4 define good design.
Member of Public	6	No new building on green spaces.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Stop housing development.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Biodiversity should be protected and improved in any new development.	BNG applies to require this.
Member of Public	6	Build less and provide more landscaped green space around housing.	The Design Codes refer to development form and different approaches to plot development and building line. There is a need to reconcile the low density of existing development with the need to demonstrate an efficient use of land for new development.
Member of Public	6	Protect the land between the two new housing developments (Kidderminster Road and Stourport Road), near Maypole and All Saints' cemetery, from development.	The land in question is Green Belt.
Member of Public	6	Do not build on green spaces.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Landscape and topography are vital to Bewdley's character and compensate for lack of parkland.	See reference to Policy 7 which designates local green spaces
Member of Public	6	Protect wild land at Park Dingle for biodiversity, recreation and traffic control.	The area has been proposed as a Local Green Space.
Member of Public	6	Traffic congestion and driving behaviour have worsened due to recent housing.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	6	Protect the natural landscape completely.	In the planning system, it remains possible to develop within the natural landscape in accordance with NPPF and Local Plan Countryside policies and subject to ensuring there are no significant impacts on landscape character features or visual impacts.
Member of Public	6	No development in Wribbenhall.	Noted. The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development at Wribbenhall.
Member of Public	6	Development overloads schools, healthcare and roads.	Unless infrastructure is already available to support it or can be provided to address the increased use arising.
Member of Public	6	Restrict development and build suitable housing for older people to free up family homes.	Noted. The planning system, through the NPPF and the WFDC Local Plan seek to provide a range of homes to meet all needs.
Member of Public	6	Strong support for limiting development to protect setting and countryside.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Encourage some development north of the bridge, not only to the south.	Not clear what this refers to. Policy 6 identifies areas of landscape importance.
Member of Public	6	Build within existing urban areas, not into new countryside.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Lack of roads and footpaths makes access unsafe.	Not clear what this refers to.
Member of Public	6	Demonstrate how traffic will be managed west of the river.	Not clear what this refers to – the policy is about landscape character.
Member of Public	6	Correct site name to Snuff Mill.	Corrected in Policy 6.
Member of Public	6	These landscapes should never be built on.	In the planning system, it remains possible to develop within the natural landscape in accordance with NPPF and Local Plan Countryside policies and subject to ensuring there are no significant impacts on landscape character features or visual impacts.
Member of Public	6	Oppose development on these areas.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Strong opposition to developing green land due to wildlife, wellbeing and mistrust of planning promises.	In the planning system, it remains possible to develop within the natural landscape in accordance with NPPF and Local Plan Countryside policies and subject to ensuring there are no significant impacts on landscape character features or visual impacts. The NDP identifies local landscape features and considerations that should be taken into account.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	6	No further development due to environmental and traffic harm.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Oppose any more development.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Stop building on green land.	The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development.
Member of Public	6	Asks whether Wribbenhall land is included.	The NDP does not propose to allocate sites for development in Wribbenhall or elsewhere.
Member of Public	6	Housing only if truly necessary, with matching infrastructure and identity preserved.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Oppose further residential applications.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	No more housing.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Allow safe cycling along river paths.	The NDP has not considered cycle routes. BTC may keep this matter under review as part of its ongoing work.
Member of Public	6	Enforce planning conditions, not just promise them.	WFDC.
Member of Public	6	Preserve green belt and prioritise reusing empty buildings.	Noted.
Member of Public	6	Traffic impacts must be addressed.	Noted.
Member of Public	7	Nature conservation should be a top priority, and the swans and geese are an important attraction for visitors.	Noted.
Member of Public	7	The sites are the best remaining areas for landscape value and biodiversity and should be protected.	Noted.
Member of Public	7	Strongly support designating the parcels as Local Green Spaces with strict protection.	Noted.
Member of Public	7	Oppose any development on these areas.	<p>Whilst public support is noted for the policy on a basis that it would 'stop development' as part of a broader objective to restrict further development around the town, it must be stressed that this is not the purpose of Local Green Space policy nor of the proposed designations in the NDP.</p> <p>Proposed LGS designations are based on an assessment of whether proposed LGS sites meet NPPF criteria. The criteria and the assessment recommendations are set out in a supporting Local Green Space Assessment.</p>
Member of Public	7	Stop all housing development.	
Member of Public	7	Leave the green spaces untouched.	
Member of Public	7	Prevent westward expansion of Bewdley; support rejection of the Gladman proposal.	
Member of Public	7	Green spaces 12 and 13 are vital for residents and wildlife.	
Member of Public	7	Support as long as the policy is properly enforced.	
Member of Public	7	Do not allow any "special circumstances" for development.	
Member of Public	7	Protect green spaces but address misuse for parking.	
Member of Public	7	Strong support for Local Green Space status; suggests sensitive improvements like habitat and access upgrades.	
Member of Public	7	No development at all.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	7	Plenty of other land exists; do not use green space for housing.	<p>LGS designation will determine proposals for development in accordance with national Green Belt policies.</p> <p>LGS sites are demonstrably special and valuable to local communities who can demonstrate that this is the case.</p> <p>LGS sites must be in reasonably close proximity to the communities they serve. In Bewdley, the proposed LGS sites are directly adjacent to residential communities who use the proposed sites extensively for walking and recreation.</p> <p>In addition, the proposed LGS Sites have a strong cultural/heritage resonance for the local community given that many of the sites provides an important landscape context and setting for the town, which is experienced on walks through the sites.</p> <p>Many of the sites also provide an important natural habitat resource and transition from Bewdley Town to the Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve, or riverside setting along the River Severn.</p>
Member of Public	7	Reject any justification for “special circumstances”; oppose all development on green space.	
Member of Public	7	Keep all green land undeveloped to prevent urban spread.	
Member of Public	7	Asks what qualifies as “special circumstances”.	
Member of Public	7	Parcel 12 is rightly included due to landscape value and public rights of way.	
Member of Public	7	Illegal parking is damaging green areas.	
Member of Public	7	Keep green spaces green.	
Member of Public	7	“Inappropriate development” should include housing too.	
Member of Public	7	Local green spaces also act as flood storage; consider adding the Riddings Brook area.	
Member of Public	7	Too much green belt has already been lost.	
Member of Public	7	Oppose development.	
Member of Public	7	Warns of total countryside loss if building continues.	
Member of Public	7	Protect the green belt from any use.	
Member of Public	8	More building will increase rainwater runoff and Bewdley’s drainage system cannot cope.	
Member of Public	8	Stop building houses in Bewdley.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Protect natural spaces.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Use permeable surfaces and soakaways to reduce runoff and sewer pressure.	The NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance require that proposals for development are accompanied with drainage scheme proposals formed in accordance with the Drainage Hierarchy.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	8	Improve walking routes, including access to Golden Valley.	The NDP steering group has not assessed walking routes. Further consideration of opportunities to improve specific walking routes may be undertaken by BTC in due course.
Member of Public	8	Keep the riverside natural; parking is already unsafe and excessive.	BTC is not clear that current parking arrangements are unsafe. The riverside area performs a number of roles, including as a natural habitat, recreational area, historic setting for the Conservation Area and tourism destination.
Member of Public	8	Strictly scrutinise flood risk and mitigation plans before approving developments.	This undertaken by WFDC in conjunction with the LLFA.
Member of Public	8	Protect wildlife.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Reduce development and prioritise infrastructure and services.	Development normally contributes to investment in infrastructure.
Member of Public	8	Limit development to an absolute minimum.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Agrees in principle, seeks clarity on implementation.	See Section 11 Monitoring, Delivery and Review
Member of Public	8	Opposes public funding of flood defences for riverside homes.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Wants more engagement with CARP.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Keep riverside areas natural, not formal leisure parks.	The riverside area adjoining the town centre has multiple functions.
Member of Public	8	Frustration with bridge closures.	Noted. Works were required.
Member of Public	8	Flood protection is increasingly important due to climate change.	Noted.
Member of Public	8	Include surface water flooding in policy, protect riverside meadow habitat, strengthen SuDS rules, and share flood data with authorities.	Surface water flood map now included.
Member of Public	9	Parking should be affordable, not increased, to prevent business owners using residential streets.	Parking pricing is not addressed in the NDP.
Member of Public	9	Support short-stay parking but allow some long-stay to attract professional services and strengthen the economy.	Long Stay Parking is provided at Dog Lane and Gardners Meadow, but is under-utilised.
Member of Public	9	Make weekend parking free to boost visitor spending.	The majority of car parking is provided by WFDC which sets the charges.
Member of Public	9	Oppose further housing development.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Provide affordable short-stay parking for people accessing health services.	Parking pricing is not addressed in the NDP.
Member of Public	9	Extra parking is hard in a historic town; EV charging should be included.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	9	Introduce one-way system and resident permits on Wyre Hill to fix congestion and unsafe driving.	Comment more relevant to Policy 13.
Member of Public	9	During the flood-defence disruption, parking should have been free to help residents and visitors support local shops, and it should remain free anyway.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Residents should be able to park free so they can use local shops and attend medical appointments without extra cost.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Affordable town-centre parking is essential; lack of it encourages unsafe or inappropriate parking and harms normal town use.	Noted. The policy supports actions to make available more (longer duration) short stay spaces through reorganisation of long stay and short stay provision at Load St.
Member of Public	9	Most visitors travel by car, so electric vehicle charging is needed, while also improving public transport to reduce car dependence.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Parking should have been free during the bridge closure to avoid unfair extra travel and costs for residents.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Any change must not disrupt existing parking.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Use park-and-ride; avoid more town-centre parking to protect heritage and reduce traffic.	Park and ride will not work in a town as small as Bewdley.
Member of Public	9	Concern about where new car parks would go and impact on residents.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Balance short- and medium-stay to support shops and tourism.	This is the aim of Policy 9.
Member of Public	9	Reduce car dominance and move toward a traffic-free centre using park-and-walk / park-and-ride.	Park and ride is not likely to be viable. The town is too small, the distances involved are too short.
Member of Public	9	Install EV charging to meet visitor demand.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parks.
Member of Public	9	Parking is overpriced and space is limited.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges. Apart from at Load St (where policy proposals are suggested) there is capacity at other car parks.
Member of Public	9	Ensure adequate resident parking.	See policy 4 and design codes.
Member of Public	9	Provide both long- and short-stay for visitors and residents.	This is the purpose of the policy.
Member of Public	9	Offer mixed-stay parking and reduce strict enforcement to encourage visitors.	The proposal is support an increase short stay provision at Load St and reduce long stay to encourage use of other long stay provision away from the prime car park in the town centre.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	9	Promote alternatives to town-centre car use and provide parking further out with transport links.	Transport links are not going to be economically viable or well-used. Probably that the bulk of car park users are local residents.
Member of Public	9	Return to pay-on-exit so shoppers aren't rushed and businesses lose trade.	Noted. This is not addressed in the NDP.
Member of Public	9	Introduce free short-stay parking like Bromsgrove.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Provide at least 30 minutes free parking.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Introduce permits and long-stay options for workers and residents affected by overspill parking.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Worried about where parking will be located.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Free parking should support struggling local shops.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Expand park-and-ride, buses and rail; don't increase town-centre parking.	Such measures are not likely to be viable or well-used owing the small size of Bewdley.
Member of Public	9	Allow up to 3-hour parking and stop price rises.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Use rowing club land for parking by agreement.	Noted. This has not been addressed in the NDP.
Member of Public	9	Parking cost matters more than signs; illegal overnight parking needs enforcement.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Use Bewdley school car park at weekends instead of adding central parking.	Noted. This has not been addressed in the NDP.
Member of Public	9	Prioritise residents' wellbeing, not turning the town into a car park.	If residents want a town centre, then it needs to accommodate visitors. Until public transport offers better alternatives, people who drive need somewhere to park.
Member of Public	9	Parking is scarce, expensive and over-enforced; EV spaces reduce capacity and are costly.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Introduce park-and-ride.	Park and Ride is unlikely to be viable or well-used
Member of Public	9	Visitor parking supports business and council income.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Not relevant.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Improve traffic management and road safety; curb aggressive driving.	Refer to Policy 13 section on transport.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	9	Set fair charging and reinvest parking revenue locally.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges. BTC has no influence over the use of the revenues from the car parks.
Member of Public	9	More parking is needed but space is limited.	Noted. There is space at some car parks which suggests that greater use could be made of them, particularly for long stay.
Member of Public	9	Oppose further housing development.	Noted.
Member of Public	9	Create more parking by closing vital services.	This is not supported.
Member of Public	9	Parking is already bad and will worsen with housing; park-and-ride needed if buses are poor.	Park and Ride measures are not likely to be viable or well-used owing to the small size of Bewdley.
Member of Public	9	Public transport must improve.	See transport section.
Member of Public	9	Consider parking cost impacts on residents	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	9	Do not build more car parks; they would harm green space and residents' enjoyment.	The NDP would support additional car parking for the town centre where this can be accommodated in conjunction with other NDP policies.
Member of Public	9	Provide more free short-stay parking for local shoppers.	Noted. WFDC own the majority of car parking sites and set car parking charges.
Member of Public	10	Opposes large hotels or event venues; wants proof of need before adding accommodation and protection for small businesses.	The NDP Steering Group noted the loss of the only significant venue for local events/weddings with accommodation and would support replacement provision of such accommodation as this has a role in meeting local community needs.
Member of Public	10	there is already enough visitor accommodation.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	There is concern that very little visitor accommodation remains in Bewdley.	The policy supports the provision of additional visitor accommodation.
Member of Public	10	Bewdley should remain mainly residential; B&Bs and holiday lets should be limited because they reduce housing and harm the sense of community.	Visitor accommodation brings in visitors who support local businesses, services and facilities that everyone who lives in the town can benefit from. It also improves civic focus on maintaining the local environment, so it looks better. This provides direct benefits to residents and fosters pride in the community.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	10	Provide a self-contained motorhome parking area to bring income to local businesses without harming residential areas.	Noted, the notion is supported as this type of provision works well in other areas. However, WFDC raised concerns about impacts on green belt and the ability to address this opportunity has been reduced through policy rewording.
Member of Public	10	Opposes further housebuilding.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Reopen the Heath and its sports facilities to help resolve visitor needs.	Noted. The NDP has not addressed this matter.
Member of Public	10	Reopen the former Heath/Mercure and restrict Airbnb use.	The NDP Steering Group has not identified a need to discourage Air BnB. BTC would welcome proposals for replacement hotel provision on the former Mercure site if these came forward.
Member of Public	10	Suggests reusing existing venues, clarifying policy on Airbnbs, and exploring imaginative heritage-based tourism ideas.	BTC may consider promoting specific initiatives as may arise outside the NDP.
Member of Public	10	Reuse the former Mercure as a hotel.	BTC would welcome proposals for replacement hotel provision on the former Mercure site if these came forward.
Member of Public	10	Provide parking for visitor businesses without impacting residential streets.	There is sufficient (under-utilised space) in long stay car park close to the town centre.
Member of Public	10	Sceptical about a large hotel; wants business case and impact assessment and prefers small guesthouses over Airbnbs.	<p>The NDP Steering Group noted the loss of the only significant venue for local events/weddings with accommodation and would support replacement provision of such accommodation as this has a role in meeting local community needs.</p> <p>If a new hotel were to take on the Mercure site, it would not require a planning permission provided the use/parameters are in accordance with existing permission.</p>
Member of Public	10	Few places for visitors to stop or stay.	Noted. The policy supports additional provision.
Member of Public	10	No more caravan parks and reduce overcrowding at existing ones.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Enough caravan sites already; agrees with other parts of the policy.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Reopen the Heath/Mercure and restore leisure facilities.	BTC would welcome proposals for replacement hotel provision on the former Mercure site if these came forward.
Member of Public	10	Tourism is important.	Agreed.
Member of Public	10	No more caravan sites and doubts demand for new hotels.	Noted.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	10	Opposes new caravan parks and questions hotel demand after closures.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	The Heath should be redeveloped for accommodation.	Although not on the Brown Field Site register held by the local planning authority, the NDP support development on brown field sites.
Member of Public	10	Cautious about a large hotel and wants to preserve the town's character.	There is a planning permission on the Mercure Site for a large hotel. A new one could open there.
Member of Public	10	Believes high rents and lack of business support matter more than hotels.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Questions whether the former hotel closed due to lack of demand.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Does not want Bewdley turned into a tourist attraction at residents' expense.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Supports creating a safe travel route to bring visitors into town.	Noted. The NDP has not considered walking routes.
Member of Public	10	There are already plenty of Airbnbs; accommodation is not a problem.	Noted.
Member of Public	10	Limit second homes and holiday lets.	The NDP steering group has not identified a need to discourage Air BnB.
Member of Public	10	Visitor parking and resident parking controls must be addressed.	Not clear what is meant.
Member of Public	10	Any development must respect town character.	Noted. This is set out in other policies to complement policy 10.
Member of Public	10	Traffic makes the town unattractive for visitors.	Noted. Transport section sets out proposals.
Member of Public	10	Restrict caravan sites and reopen the Mercure instead of building new hotels.	BTC would welcome proposals for replacement hotel provision on the former Mercure site if these came forward.
Member of Public	10	Allow accommodation in town but keep camping and caravans on the outskirts.	The policy has been amended to refer to existing caravan/camping sites.
Member of Public	11	Support more regular markets and tourism events linked to Bewdley Festival.	The potential to hold more regular markets will be considered as part of ongoing work outside the NDP
Member of Public	11	Existing markets are sufficient.	Noted.
Member of Public	11	Too many charity shops and bars; want a banking hub.	The scope to promote a banking hub will be considered as part of ongoing work outside the NDP.
Member of Public	11	Promote creative industries, maker spaces and arts-led development.	The scope to support development of creative/arts venues will be considered as and when potential opportunities arise.
Member of Public	11	Market location, design and trader involvement need careful planning.	Agreed.
Member of Public	11	Town needs more promotion and improvement.	BTC will consider opportunities for greater promotion of the town outside the NDP.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	11	Maintain public areas properly after development.	BTC will continue to engage with landowners, property occupiers and relevant agencies and undertakers to ensure that the public areas of Bewdley are well maintained.
Member of Public	11	Supports current approach.	Noted.
Member of Public	11	Reduce rents and business rates to attract more shops and avoid empty premises.	BTC has no ability to influence rents and business rates.
Member of Public	11	Residents' needs should come first in all decisions.	And also resident businesses and visitors who have come to spend time and money in the town.
Member of Public	11	The Mercure Hotel is a suitable venue for events because it has parking.	Agreed. Also, BTC would welcome proposals for replacement hotel provision on the former Mercure site if these came forward.
Member of Public	11	Concern that the town lacks attractions and is declining.	The town's population is ageing. A younger population would encourage more vitality. But if the town will not support more housing, then it needs visitors to shore up local businesses and services through tourism spend.
Member of Public	11	Tourism should be supported with accommodation and parking.	Noted.
Member of Public	11	Bewdley should remain a working town, not only a visitor destination.	The NDP has not set out policies for employment land and premises other than in relation to the town centre.
Member of Public	11	Reintroduce a regular monthly market.	Noted.
Member of Public	11	Local people should be involved in planning and running activities.	Noted. BTC will consider appropriate arrangement for initiatives it is involved in going forward.
Member of Public	11	Opposes permanent structures for event use.	Presumably this would depend on what it is and where it is? The NDP has not proposed any permanent structures.
Member of Public	12	No more takeaways or Pakistani restaurants.	The policy identifies a 10% limit for support but does not distinguish between types of takeaways.
Member of Public	12	Encourage year-round businesses that are not reliant on tourism.	The businesses identified are year-round businesses, but they are to some extent reliant on tourism because of the limited local market/age-profile.
Member of Public	12	Reopen the Heath and avoid decline, using Narberth as a model.	Although not on the Brown Field Site register held by the local planning authority, the NDP support development on brown field sites.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	12	Control takeaways where possible, ensure short-stay parking, and recognise bridge closure harmed shops.	This is addressed in the policy and in Policy 9.
Member of Public	12	Ensure rental valuations are fair; independent shops are key to Bewdley's appeal.	BTC and the NDP has not influence over rents.
Member of Public	12	Keep Bewdley tidy, add more bins, lamp posts and seating along the riverside, and encourage footpaths to stay clean.	Noted. Support for an attractive and vibrant town centre would encourage greater focus on these things
Member of Public	12	Maintain a better balance between retail and non-retail so Bewdley remains a good place to live and work, not just for tourists.	Noted. The approach is already balanced.
Member of Public	12	Keep the high street and nearby areas focused on shops, avoid over-concentration of hot-food takeaways, and reduce litter.	Agreed, this is part of the purpose of the policy.
Member of Public	12	Discourage new shops opening in Welch Gate because they are not sustainable there.	Welch Gate remains in the town centre and so shops are supported there.
Member of Public	12	There is already enough commercial activity; preserve the town's character and note that free parking should have been introduced earlier, before the bridge closure.	Commercial activity can help to preserve the town's character by providing resources to fund building repairs, improve the public spaces and support local activities.
Member of Public	12	Rules must be followed.	Noted.
Member of Public	12	Good mix of independent shops already; too many pubs could cause antisocial behaviour.	Noted.
Member of Public	12	Avoid major fast-food chains; support local independent businesses.	Noted.
Member of Public	12	Too many barbers and overpriced shops.	Noted.
Member of Public	12	If retail can't be sustained, convert empty units to housing instead of leaving them vacant.	Once shops turn to housing then they will never come into another use. The purpose of town centre frontage policy is to seek to retain and encourage town centre uses.
Member of Public	12	Town needs a lively independent retail scene; better to convert long-empty shops to housing to keep centre active.	A house is not an active frontage or a town centre use that encourages liveliness.
Member of Public	12	Need funding to enforce policy.	Noted.
Member of Public	12	Empty shops are worse than more takeaways; market forces should decide.	Only if they remain empty. The aim is to improve the profile of the town and to make it more attractive so that shops and other enterprises prosper.
Member of Public	12	Discourage bargain stores, vape shops and low-quality eateries; improve dining options to raise standards.	Public authorities can work to improve the conditions in which businesses can thrive, including by improving the attractiveness of the place for residents and visitors. This can encourage better quality business occupiers over time.

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	12	Better bus services and fair rents are needed to keep businesses alive.	BTC has no control over either of these but can work with partners to address core issues to improve Bewdley's economy.
Member of Public	12	Empty shopfronts and low-quality window signage damage the town's appearance.	Agreed. This is why it is important to address to do what can be done to improve the business environment of the town.
Member of Public	12	Keep retail local; avoid large chains.	Noted. Some chains can be a welcome addition if they meet local needs.
Member of Public	12	More licensed premises have increased antisocial behaviour and road safety problems.	Noted.
Member of Public	12	Prioritise proper shops over fast food and bars.	Noted, the text and policy address the balance of provision
Member of Public	12	Mixed-use development (homes with shops/café) supports thriving town centres and attracts younger people.	Noted. The survey undertaken noted the fairly high proportion of upper floor premises in residential use in the town centre, which is to be welcomed.
Member of Public	12	No more duplicate takeaways; new applications should bring something unique.	This is difficult to control.
Member of Public	12	Town centre needs safer walking conditions; narrow pavements, traffic and bridge safety issues put people off shopping locally.	The NDP has not produced a town centre masterplan which would be useful to address this matter.
Member of Public	13a	Support better walking and cycling but protect heritage; no traffic lights on the bridge and any footbridge must not harm the historic setting.	Agreed that the provision of a footbridge within the setting of the Conservation Area would need to directly consider potential heritage/character impacts.
Member of Public	13a	Do not pave the Dowles route; keep it natural.	Noted. Chapter 8 also addressed this route in the context of water environment, biodiversity and recreation
Member of Public	13a	Improve pavements and footpaths, provide better bus services (including evenings and Sundays), improve rail links to Kidderminster, and add coach parking to support tourism.	Agreed, this is supported in the NDP.
Member of Public	13a	Do not install traffic lights or a roundabout; they would worsen air quality and congestion. The consultation was poorly publicised and does not reflect people without internet or cars.	The majority of responses indicate a clear opposition to the suggestion of traffic lights on the bridge. Whilst opposing the lights, many acknowledge that there are pedestrian safety issues on the bridge. However, some (a minority) do not think there is a problem and that no action is needed.
Member of Public	13a	Traffic lights on the bridge would increase congestion; a pedestrian bridge is a better solution.	
Member of Public	13a	Limit traffic on Bewdley Bridge, build the long-promised pedestrian bridge, improve bus services (especially Sundays), and replace the demolished medical centre to support the town and tourism.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	13a	A new pedestrian bridge over the River Severn would greatly improve safety, especially for families and people with mobility issues.	<p>transport and more walking from points further out such as a park and ride or bus stops or the railway station. However, there are not better bus services in place, and a park and ride is doubtful in terms of use/viability.</p> <p>There is no clear support for any specific measure to improve pedestrian safety on the existing bridge.</p> <p>A new pedestrian bridge is strongly supported in the responses. There is no strong consensus on or mention of a location, but many are clear that it would need to be carefully sited and designed to avoid impacts on the historic town centre Conservation Area and specific listed buildings.</p> <p>Views about the efficacy of other proposed measures have led to a range of views which are not unified. Many views about whether proposed solutions will work or not are clearly given, but are generally assertions not supported by reasoning or evidence.</p> <p>There is also an element of conflict between comments which are difficult to resolve, e.g....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic access to Load St both harms and supports the town centre. • Improved pedestrian access to the town centre is needed but measures to provide it will damage the town centre Conservation Area. <p>In this context, the NDP group will sustain local priorities, recognising that these are recommendations for consideration based on work undertaken by the NDP Steering Group, but also mainly drawing on published</p>
Member of Public	13a	Do not add traffic lights to the bridge; fix Welch Gate junction and flood-defence disruption instead, and reinstate rail services to the Severn Valley line with proper frequency.	
Member of Public	13a	Strong support for pedestrian priority: a new footbridge is needed, traffic dominates the town centre, and illegal riverside parking is not being enforced.	
Member of Public	13a	Traffic lights may increase safety but would cause more congestion and pollution in Load Street; a pedestrian bridge and better pavements are higher priorities.	
Member of Public	13a	Support pedestrian-focused planning, discourage car use, avoid traffic lights on the bridge, and build a pedestrian bridge; restore improved bus and train services.	
Member of Public	13a	No traffic lights on the bridge; build a pedestrian bridge, create a bypass route via Dowles/Cleobury, and improve the roundabout layout near the chip shop.	
Member of Public	13a	Questions traffic lights; supports better buses in principle; rail extension unlikely due to capacity; supports A456 roundabout; queries current rail links.	
Member of Public	13a	Make Wyre Hill one-way with resident permits to address speeding, safety and parking abuse.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes traffic lights, footbridge and roundabout; sees no need for change.	
Member of Public	13a	13a would worsen congestion; 13b's siting must protect bridge views.	
Member of Public	13a	Supports traffic lights to widen pavements; prefers widened paths and a sympathetic footbridge over a modern metal design.	
Member of Public	13a	Oppose traffic lights; prefer a separate footbridge despite funding challenges.	
Member of Public	13a	Believes approach prioritises cars; wants traffic data; questions value and cost of a footbridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes traffic lights; keep bridge as it is.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes 13a; wants priority or junction controls at Welch Gate to improve flow.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes bridge lights; give residents priority and improve junction control.	
Member of Public	13a	Calls for a crossing or traffic calming on Kidderminster Road.	
Member of Public	13a	Condemns traffic lights after two years of disruption; supports a footbridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Suggests traffic lights instead at Catchems End junction.	
Member of Public	13a	Calls the proposal costly and harmful to the high street.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	13a	Needs earlier and later buses to support work and rail connections.	<p>County Council plans and programmes. The purpose is to ensure that work undertaken to establish that there are issues which need to be addressed, and that potential solutions have been identified, are considered when new development proposals come forward.</p> <p>Steering Group Members have considered responses as part of Reg. 14 Consultation and made the following revisions to the NDP Draft Plan as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic lights on the Telford Bridge – It is agreed to remove this from Policy 13. • The need for crossing or traffic calming on Kidderminster Road – It was agreed that this was would not be included into Policy 13. • Specific measure to address air pollution and congestion at Welch Gate – The NDP Steering Group support any measures to improve air quality however it is beyond the remit of the plan. • Suggested one way system on Wyre Hill – This is outside the remit of the plan. • Pedestrian crossing at Park Lane-Load Street - - Although aspirational this is outside the remit of the plan.
Member of Public	13a	Bridge lights would harm trade; wants a pedestrian bridge instead.	
Member of Public	13a	Strong opposition to lights due to congestion and air quality; businesses already harmed	
Member of Public	13a	No permanent traffic lights on the bridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Questions inconsistency if lights were ruled out before.	
Member of Public	13a	Supports lights and widened pavements; says it could remove need for a footbridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes lights; supports building a pedestrian bridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Strongly opposes lights; bridge disruption has already harmed lives and business.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes cycle lanes and lights; town isn't a city and must preserve character.	
Member of Public	13a	Requests safe crossing by Park Lane / Load Street.	
Member of Public	13a	Improve cycle access, reduce town traffic, explore park-and-ride, and pedestrianise or widen Load Street.	
Member of Public	13a	Bridge not fit for purpose; suggests separate footbridge or making bridge one-way; wants better buses.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes lights due to congestion backing up to Welch Gate.	
Member of Public	13a	Support cycle lanes and better pavements; oppose footbridge and lights as eyesores.	
Member of Public	13a	Cycling is hazardous due to narrow, hilly roads.	
Member of Public	13a	No lights or cycle lanes; footbridge desirable but too expensive.	
Member of Public	13a	Do not restrict bridge flow; footbridge acceptable, but access for residents and businesses must remain.	
Member of Public	13a	No traffic lights on the bridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Wants proper discussion; supports a footbridge for safety, especially for children.	
Member of Public	13a	Strong support for a pedestrian bridge; current bridge is dangerous.	
Member of Public	13a	Calls for extended bus hours and Sunday services.	
Member of Public	13a	Criticises poor project timing and lack of coordination.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes bridge lights due to congestion and pollution.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes lights; calls for protective bollards on bridge corner.	
Member of Public	13a	Concerned about lights; supports footbridge if funded.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	13a	Says lights would deter visitors and harm trade.	
Member of Public	13a	Says option (a) fails without enforcement, especially against obstructive parking.	
Member of Public	13a	A new bridge would harm views; suggests raising weight limits instead.	
Member of Public	13a	Calls for a realistic, resourced action plan.	
Member of Public	13a	No more disruption; bridge worked fine as it was.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes further works after flood-defence disruption; businesses need stability.	
Member of Public	13a	Agrees pavements are narrow; dislikes lights due to congestion.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes residential growth if bridge capacity drops.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes both lights and a new footbridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Supports improvements; avoids town when busy due to bridge safety.	
Member of Public	13a	Urgent need for footbridge or wider path due to daily danger.	
Member of Public	13a	Open riverside paths to cyclists; oppose lights; build footbridge.	
Member of Public	13a	Questions value of footbridge for an ageing population.	
Member of Public	13a	Traffic lights only if congestion can be prevented.	
Member of Public	13a	Pedestrians currently unsafe due to narrow pavements.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes lights as they would gridlock traffic.	
Member of Public	13a	Opposes footbridge and lights as ugly, costly and unnecessary.	
Member of Public	13a	Says Bewdley urgently needs a pedestrian bridge.	
Member of Public	13b	Supports extending national rail services to Bewdley to boost tourism, connectivity and reduce road traffic.	<p>The comments received provide strong support for the policy proposals to support measures to improve bus and rail services to the area. Apart from endorsement of the objectives in the policy, there are some concerns about whether, once provided, people will take up use of bus services (which indicates the need for frequent services to make this option more attractive). There is one mention of the need to serve wider destinations including Worcester and Redditch.</p> <p>A regular rail service to Kidderminster would likely have a material effect on car use if the responses received are typical of wider views.</p>
Member of Public	13b	Improve the quality and reliability of bus services.	
Member of Public	13b	Opposes further housing development.	
Member of Public	13b	Wants a direct bus link to Kidderminster station; suggests using the Severn Valley Railway if feasible.	
Member of Public	13b	Reopen the Severn Valley Railway (SVR) with regular, publicly supported services.	
Member of Public	13b	Supports improvements, but not pointless change.	
Member of Public	13b	Direct buses to Kidderminster station are essential to encourage public transport.	
Member of Public	13b	Sceptical that policy can deliver transport improvements because services depend on private operators.	
Member of Public	13b	More buses are needed.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	13b	Believes extended services won't significantly increase usage.	Some comments (a minority) appear to support restricting development, restricting visitors and dampening demand as a way to reduce the growth of car use. As a general proposition, this is not supported in view of NPPF and Local Plan policies which support economic growth and sustainable development objectives.
Member of Public	13b	Supports better train links and suggests discounted commuter passes for residents on the SVR.	
Member of Public	13b	Rail services are vital to relieve congestion.	
Member of Public	13b	Suggests a vintage bus service between SVR and the town centre.	
Member of Public	13b	Needs early and late bus services to Worcester.	
Member of Public	13b	Wants the direct bus to Kidderminster station reinstated.	
Member of Public	13b	Calls for a regular bus service to Kidderminster station.	
Member of Public	13b	Supports improvements if funding allows.	
Member of Public	13b	Needs better public transport to hospitals in Worcester and Redditch.	
Member of Public	13b	Would regularly use a rail link to Kidderminster.	
Member of Public	13b	Supports only if practical; questions current low usage.	
Member of Public	13b	Believes good public transport will attract users; cites overseas examples.	
Member of Public	13b	Wants earlier and later buses to support work and night-time economy.	
Member of Public	13b	Strongly supports direct buses to the train station.	
Member of Public	13b	Requests bus access to Wyre Forest Leisure Centre to cut car use.	
Member of Public	13b	Wants more frequent and later buses and reinstatement of station access by bus.	
Member of Public	13b	Wants Bewdley to remain a working town; restrict short-term lets.	
Member of Public	13b	Sunday buses and better scheduling needed to improve frequency.	
Member of Public	13b	Supports improved and Sunday bus services.	
Member of Public	13b	Better station links would transform access to work and social life for non-drivers.	
Member of Public	13b	Fully supports rail and bus improvements to reduce car dependency.	
Member of Public	13b	Says all proposals are necessary for modern living.	
Member of Public	13b	Supports rail extension via SVR; less certain about bus proposals	
Member of Public	13b	Direct bus to Kidderminster station is essential.	
Member of Public	13b	Public transport is poor; wants more buses and a Bewdley station.	
Member of Public	13b	Improved transport needed due to ageing population.	
Member of Public	13b	Transport links are currently inadequate.	
Member of Public	13b	Questions whether later services will be used enough to survive long-term.	
Member of Public	13c	Limit coach tours to avoid overtourism.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	13c	Only change things if there is a clear improvement; otherwise leave them as they are.	<p>The comments, when taken together, indicated a wish that Bewdley was not dominated by traffic and had a sensible arrangement for access by car to the periphery with appropriate onward access from high quality parking/transfer facilities into the centre/Conservation Area (what you would find in many a European town with similar heritage and scenic context).</p> <p>A significant level of investment and a willingness to accommodate change would be required over a sustained period of time to deliver such a vision.</p> <p>Specific comments for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage/Park large vehicles (Heavy Goods Vehicles and Coaches) away from the Conservation Area. Use final-mile delivery vehicles and coach shuttles - There is already an advisory for larger vehicles to park outside of the town, such as dedicated coach parking at West Midlands Safari Park. However, this is unenforceable. It is noted that many deliveries into the town are already made by smaller vehicles. • Address the problem of through-traffic with new proposals e.g. a bypass route – This is outside the remit of the NDP. • Perhaps associated with the above, address problems at Welch Gate - The NDP Steering Group support any measures to improve air quality however it is beyond the remit of the plan.
Member of Public	13c	Keep HGVs out of town; use edge-of-town consolidation points with shuttle deliveries and park-and-ride.	
Member of Public	13c	Restrict HGVs in the conservation area; use e-vehicle final-mile delivery; address traffic/heritage conflict town-wide.	
Member of Public	13c	Keep free short-stay parking; consider free evening parking after 6pm.	
Member of Public	13c	Give residents priority over through-traffic.	
Member of Public	13c	Be cautious with coach provision and cycling schemes; any footbridge must suit the town and be well-sited.	
Member of Public	13c	Stop lorries using the bridge and switchback.	
Member of Public	13c	Do not change junction priority at Welch Gate; Dowles Road must stay prioritized.	
Member of Public	13c	Some proposals are negative and poorly thought through.	
Member of Public	13c	Oppose junction priority changes; include a bypass extension near Habberley Road / Heath Hotel to relieve congestion.	
Member of Public	13c	Questions whether the proposals are needed.	
Member of Public	13c	Supports a new roundabout but wants the nearby crossing redesigned; no coach parks.	
Member of Public	13c	Short-stay parking charges hurt business; copy free-short-stay models used abroad.	
Member of Public	13c	Opposes certain proposals (L, M, N); deliver coach access via shuttles instead.	
Member of Public	13c	Questions the need for a new roundabout.	
Member of Public	13c	Supports better coach provision but notes space limits; drivers also need facilities.	
Member of Public	13c	Promote active travel and consider underground parking with usable public space above	
Member of Public	13c	Supports better coach provision but notes space limits; drivers also need facilities.	
Member of Public	13c	Promote active travel and consider underground parking with usable public space above.	

Respondent	Policy	Comment	BTC Response
Member of Public	13c	Reduce enforcement pressure from wardens; Welch Gate is a major bottleneck.	
Member of Public	13c	Ban HGVs from the town centre due to size, damage and pollution.	
Member of Public	13c	Schedule HGV deliveries outside daytime hours.	
Member of Public	13c	Strong support for the proposals.	
Member of Public	13c	Support changes to keep traffic moving and reduce air pollution	
Member of Public	13c	Costs to residents must be considered.	
Member of Public	13c	Disabled drivers struggle at peak times; need more accessible parking.	
Member of Public	13c	Oppose road expansion that would urbanise Bewdley or make it like Kidderminster.	