

Local Plan 2021-241 – Spatial Options Parish Council Information Evening

3 February 2022

Question themes

1) Access to the documentation

Question	Council response
Please can you post a link to the video in the chat?	<p>The introduction video can be seen again on the following link https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/local-plan-1/local-plan-2021-2041</p> <p>The Consultation platform can be found here https://hlp.commonplace.is/</p>

2) Consultation platform

Question	Council response
Can we make comment without answering the question?	Yes comments are also welcome. Answering the specific questions on the online platform does help the team to analysis the responses to the spatial options but all comments are welcome
Is there an option to respond as Parish Council or another group or is it best as an individual?	A submission on behalf of a parish council is best to come from one email address
Do you have to complete your submission in one go? Can you respond to a few questions and come back at a later date to update or add to it.?	A responder can go back in and edit their comments and communication preferences once they have verified their email address
If a submission is being made by a whole Parish Council does it have to come from one person's email address?	<p>A response can come on behalf of the PC but we also welcome responses from individuals within the parish and other groups.</p> <p>They cannot all come from the same email address however.</p>
<p>Is the website the only way to respond?</p> <p>Is there a hard copy response mechanism for those without IT access or capability?</p>	For those who do not have any means of submitting their response via the website or email, yes we can accept a hard copy response

Question	Council response
<p>Please can you advise on how people can obtain all the information contained on the website? Do you have a suite of consultation documents?</p>	<p>Hard copies of the consultation document have been sent out to libraries and info centres across the county.</p> <p>Posters and flyers have also been sent to all of the Parish Clerks, which are being used to get the word out there.</p> <p>The Spatial Options document is the only consultation documents at the moment</p>
<p>Could you bring a display to talk community cafes, so residents can see what is proposed?</p>	<p>Talk Community Hubs have all been contacted and asked to have posters up and flyers available.</p> <p>Due to Covid restrictions, not all are taking leaflets at the moment, but I will continue to ask for information to be displayed.</p>

Consultation deadline

Question	Council response
<p>Is there any possibility of extending the 28th February deadline?</p> <p>This doesn't strike me as much time to digest and discuss this at council meetings, let alone put a coherent response together.</p> <p>The deadline is prior to Ross on Wye's next planning meeting, for instance</p>	<p>In terms of an extension to the deadline, we are on a very tight deadline for the preparation of the plan.</p> <p>However, if Town and Parish Councils are unable to comment by the 28th due to the date of their next meeting, we would ask them to let us know and respond as soon as possible after the PC has met and discussed the document.</p>
<p>The point about time is a good one. We have one meeting in Feb at the City Council in Feb we can use, many parish councils meet bi-monthly so a 25 day turn round isn't really realistic.</p> <p>The response of an elected body representing a whole community should carry more weight than an individual, but that only works if that response is derived from an open meeting with members and the public in the parish able to express their views.</p>	

Call for Sites

Question	Council response
Is the 'Call for Sites' is just for a new village not sites for consideration elsewhere? Does this mean that the option for a 'new village' has already been decided?	No decision has been made for any of the options as yet but in making that decision we will need to know whether there are candidate locations for new settlements.

Spatial Options

Question	Council response
<p>How can the options be assessed before reassessing the rural settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>Many of the settlements set as 'main focus of proportionate development' have very restricted local facilities and some that existed at the time of the Core Strategy are no longer or are 'hanging by a thread.</p> <p>Surely you cannot expect residents to express their preferences if they do not know how they will be applied?</p>	<p>Work on reviewing the current rural settlement hierarchy is ongoing and will be subject to a further consultation later in the spring. The spatial options are seeking to gauge opinion on how rural growth is distributed. For example, widely to a larger number of settlements or a larger amount of housing to few settlement/hubs.</p>
<p>All of the options envisage substantial growth in rural settlements.</p> <p>How does this accord with the objectives of retaining local character and ensuring that an extensive range of infrastructure and services, such as health, transport and education, are provided to support the new development.</p>	<p>The work on the rural settlement hierarchy will be reviewing a wide range of infrastructure and environmental issues to assist identifying the most sustainable rural areas</p>
<p>The approach appears to be that there is a 'need' for an additional 17,000 additional dwellings but that there are 5800 extant planning permissions (commitments).</p> <p>The approach in the options appears to apportion the remaining 11,200 new dwellings and then add in the extant permissions.</p> <p>Does this not place a disproportionate burden on the rural areas where almost ½ of the extant permissions are located and which are the least sustainable of the locations.</p>	<p>The extend permissions are shown within the Spatial Options Paper collectively but similar to proportional growth figures for parish councils producing NDPs, the locations of these extent permissions will be reflected within the settlement hierarchy work.</p>
<p>Is it possible to combine elements of various options?</p>	<p>Yes, the options could be combined and mixed and matched in the final spatial strategy. The final preferred option may well be a hybrid.</p>
<p>It might be that we need to agree a new interpretation of 'sustainability' as</p>	<p>These changes are being taken into account within the rural settlement hierarchy work</p>

Question	Council response
<p>circumstances have changed with regard to home working, broadband, community resilience, shared or mobile service provision etc. 'connectivity' is no longer the main driver of sustainability esp for rural areas and how they may continue to change over next 20 years</p>	<p>being undertaken. This will be consulted upon in the Spring.</p>

Settlement hierarchy and rural options

Question	Council response
<p>Why petrol stations when all using EV's. How is Hereford going to place sufficient chargers</p>	
<p>For Options 3 and 4 there would be substantial growth in very few rural hubs.</p> <p>Would this not destroy the character of these settlements by 'urbanisation'?</p>	<p>The work on the rural settlement hierarchy will be reviewing a wide range of infrastructure and environmental issues to assist identifying the most sustainable rural areas</p>
<p>The Rural Areas Profile and Key Facts paints a picture of an area well served by local amenities with over 200 local amenities and facilities and over 200 places of worship.</p> <p>However the Core Strategy identifies 119 'RA2' settlements and 97 'RA3' settlements.</p> <p>Are not local amenities and services spread very thinly in all but a small number of settlements?</p>	<p>The locations of services and facilities are being reviewed as part of the rural settlement hierarchy work.</p> <p>For easy of reference the rural areas were shown as a combined total within the Spatial Options document</p>

Lugg Catchment

Question	Council response
<p>Very little prospect of the River Lugg problem being resolved in the near future. How do the proposals allow for this?</p>	<p>There is an assumption in terms of the work to-date that the Phosphate issue will be resolved and the Council will meet its housing need over the next 20 years.</p> <p>If in preparing the plan there is clear and robust evidence that this is not possible then, firstly the Council would need to ask neighbouring authorities to accept and element of the growth under the duty to co-operate.</p>

Question	Council response
	If the other authorities could not accept this growth the Council would have to demonstrate at the Examination in Public that they could not accommodate the full level of housing growth.

NDPs

Question	Council response
<p>How does the project affect existing NDPs (both in preparation and adopted) especially as they reference the current Core Strategy?</p> <p>Will existing NDP policies be affected?</p>	<p>NDPs need to be in conformity with the adopted Core Strategy at this stage.</p> <p>All made NDPs will retain part of the development plan until new Local Plan 2021-2041 is adopted.</p> <p>The NDP team will discuss reviews of any NDPs in light of the draft Local Plan 2021-2041 with individual parish councils.</p>
<p>What is the impact on the existing provision of housing provided in the made Neighbourhood development plans which were voted on agreeing housing within those Parishes up to 2031?</p>	<p>NDPs will be used to inform the new rural policies within the Local Plan.</p> <p>If settlements remains within the new settlement hierarchy then we will also review those existing site allocations which have yet to be developed and their ability to contribute any future growth</p>
<p>Will NDPs which have not been adopted because of the HRA issues be taken into account as part of the evidence based review</p>	<p>Yes the NDPs which have yet to be adopted will also be taken into account</p>
<p>We don't have a NDP will this affect us in anyway for the future?</p>	<p>No, the additional local evidence base available to us through the NDP work will be use when reviewing the settlement hierarchy. However the parish questionnaire sent last October has been an opportunity to gather information from all parishes regardless of their NDP status</p>
<p>If your parish changes its designation through one of the spatial options what would happen to any housing allocations already within its NDP especially if they have not been developed before the new local plan was adopted</p>	<p>The NDPs remain part of the development plan until the Local Plan 2021-2041 is adopted. Therefore all site allocations will remain unaffected in the short term.</p>
<p>It is a super tight timescale!</p>	<p>The NDP team are happy to discuss any NDP reviews with parish councils in light of the</p>

Question	Council response
Presumably we then need to bring forward NDP revisions/rewrites to be ready for as close to formal adoption as possible	Local Plan timescales - Please contact the NDP directly for specific advice.

Climate change

Question	Council response
This could be a great opportunity to think about. Sustainable energy and reduce reliance on Oil / Gas. Need to think beyond the way we operate now.	The next stage of the policy options development will be looking at the issues surrounding sustainable energy and EV. The Climate Assembly have been added to the list of consultees and a briefing to the Board has been requested.
How will the Climate assembly and climate board and subgroups feed into this and other consultations?	
One of the key things that comes up in many meetings either parish council or hall, is electric charging points and the need to require new builds to have solar etc	