



worcestershire county council

To: Head of Planning, Wychavon District Council

Date: 11th January 2015

From: Natasha Friend, Principal Planner

Subject: Consultation from Wychavon District council in respect of the application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Harvington.

Recommendation: that these comments are taken into account in the determination of the designation of a Neighbourhood Area Harvington.

Summary of Worcestershire County Council response: In respect of the departments contributing to this advice (namely Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy, Waste and Minerals Planning and Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service), Worcestershire County Council officers have no objection to this proposal. The comments of contributing departments referred to below are intended to help improve the sustainability of the proposal and to direct the applicants towards best practice. Any departments not included within this response may choose to comment and/or object separately.

Location: Bredon.

Proposal: Wychavon District Council has received an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Harvington. The designation of a 'neighbourhood area' is the first formal stage in the process towards developing a neighbourhood development plan.

Introduction

Thank you for consulting Worcestershire County Council on the designation above. We don't object to the designation and to assist the Parish Council in future stages of the process we would like to bring to their the attention the following comments, strategic documents and designations. This response comprises officer only comments from Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy, Waste and Minerals Planning and Archive & Archaeology Service.

Strategic documents and designations to take account of include:

Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013 (consultation draft)

Landscape Character Assessment

Local Wildlife sites

Habitat inventory (not currently available on line but we can extract data from it)

Biodiversity Action Plan documents

Waste Core Strategy Local Plan 2012-2027

Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan 1997

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Minerals Local Plan (in development)
South Worcestershire Development Plan
South Worcestershire Infrastructure Delivery Plan
Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3), in particular the Development Control (Transport) Policy
Historic Environment Assessment for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Area

They should also be aware of the following County Council produced document, Planning for infrastructure in Worcestershire: Worcestershire Infrastructure Strategy, Consultation January 2013 and the Planning Research Papers on Soil, Climate Change, Water and Renewable Energy may provide them with some useful information and guidance.

Green Infrastructure

Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership

The Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Team at Worcestershire County Council is a lead member of the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure (GI Partnership) and provides its secretariat. The GI Partnership includes the statutory agencies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage, local authorities, and voluntary sector organisations such as Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

What is green infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure or GI is the network of green spaces that intersperse and connect our cities, towns and villages, providing multiple benefits for environment, economy and communities. GI is a holistic approach to viewing and managing the natural environment; acknowledging the multiple benefits and vital services it provides and making tangible links to economic, health and social welfare agendas and aspirations. The components of GI include biodiversity, landscape, historic environment, access and recreation and water.

The underlying principle of GI is that the same area of land can frequently offer multiple benefits. Multifunctionality may be defined as the ability to perform several functions and provide several benefits in the same spatial area. The functions delivered can be environmental, such as conserving biodiversity or adapting to climate change; social, such as providing greenspace; or economic, such as supplying jobs or increasing property prices.

GI can be delivered at a number of different levels depending on the nature of the project proposed:

- **Strategic or county scale:** These are large-scale projects which provide functions and facilities which benefit more than one district or population within the county. An example of strategic green infrastructure would be the provision of a 100ha+ country park to attract visitors from the whole of the county, or a large-scale flood scheme to reduce incidence of fluvial flooding.
- **District scale:** These are green infrastructure schemes providing a range of functions at a district level which benefit the population of the district. An example is the green infrastructure corridor alongside the River Severn in Worcester, providing a range of functions including flood alleviation, off-road walking and cycling routes and enhanced biodiversity.
- **Neighbourhood or local scale:** These are small-scale green infrastructure enhancements which would typically be included within a development site. Examples could include off-road walking and cycling routes connecting with the local centre which also includes sustainable drainage provision through swales and balancing ponds.

National Policy

National planning policy provides strong support to planning for green infrastructure:

- **Natural Environment White Paper (2011)** recognises green infrastructure as an important as an important ecological link between town and country. The document emphasises multifunctional benefits of GI such as supporting economic growth, improving health and wellbeing and reducing the negative impacts of climate change.
- **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** states that Local Plans should address climate change, biodiversity and landscape issues through *"planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure"*.
- **National Planning Policy Guidance (2013)** states that *"local and neighbourhood plans and planning decisions have the potential to affect biodiversity or geodiversity outside as well as inside designated areas of importance for biodiversity or geodiversity. Local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies should therefore seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners, including Local Nature Partnerships, to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence"*.

Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy: county level

A focus for the GI Partnership has been development of the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy (GI Strategy) and supporting evidence to guide the delivery of green infrastructure in the county through development, regeneration and environmental projects. The Strategy is now complete and is available, together with all associated documents, on the Worcestershire County Council web pages (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/GI).

The GI Strategy has been informed by the evidence base documents which include:

- **GI Framework 1 (November 2008)** provided an introduction to the concept of Green Infrastructure (GI) and also identified the need for the strategic planning of GI and the policy drivers that support the planning of GI at differing spatial scales.
- **GI Framework 2 (July 2012)** provided an introduction to the natural environment data sets of landscape, biodiversity and historic environment and developed the concept of GI Environmental Character Areas based on the quality and quantity of these natural environment assets.
- **GI Framework 3 (May 2013)** identified the functionality, and supply of strategic recreational assets in Worcestershire. It also explores the potential need for new recreational assets and identified areas of search and potential funding mechanism for new facilities.
- **GI Framework 4 (September 2014)** explores how the multifunctional green infrastructure solutions can provide economic and health benefits as well as contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The GI Partnership is currently developing another paper on viability and costing of green infrastructure to support delivery of green infrastructure by different stakeholders.

District and neighbourhood scales

The GI Strategy is a strategic document and only the first step in planning and delivering of GI in the County. It is envisaged that district councils will develop further work based on the vision and priorities established in the Strategy. The more localised assessment of the strategic priority areas should be undertaken by each authority. This approach is being supported within the adopted and emerging district Local Plans.

Similarly, it is encouraged that any emerging Neighbourhood Plans will have regard to the GI priorities identified in the GI Strategy. Furthermore, the evidence base developed to support the Strategy could be used to inform Neighbourhood Plans.

Site level

Worcestershire GI Partnership also works at the site level to prepare GI Concept Plans and Statements which contain principles and priorities for GI on the strategic sites in Worcestershire. The GI Partnership is currently testing an innovative model of joint working with the potential applicants to inform their masterplanning in order to ensure that there is a sufficient amount of good quality, accessible green infrastructure provided to protect and enhance natural environment as well as to support the local economy as well as health and well-being of the future residents.

Contacts

We would be happy to provide advice and help with an interpretation of this county level information. Please contact Marta Dziudzi, Planning Policy Assistant, Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Team, County Council on e-mail: mdziudzi@worcestershire.gov.uk or tel: 01905 766794.

Flood Risk Management

In order to minimise flood risk and to enable sustainable development, discussions on the most appropriate type of drainage for the area should be conducted at the outset, during the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. We would recommend that in the first instance further advice is sought from officers of the South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership.

Opportunities should be sought to deliver multiple benefits such as flood risk management, water quality improvements, amenity or biodiversity in line with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, emerging LFRMS, emerging SWMP and local development plan policies.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

In 2010 the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) delegated upper-tier authorities as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) with responsibility for their respective area's Local Flood Risk Management.

Worcestershire County Council is therefore the LLFA for Worcestershire. This role currently relates to ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater

flooding (fluvial flooding from main rivers is still currently the responsibility of the Environment Agency).

Worcestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

As LLFA for Worcestershire, the County Council is required to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). The Strategy is a 'statutory' document and will focus on local flood risk due to flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and must be consistent with the Environment Agency's National Flood Risk Management Strategy for England. Work is currently ongoing by the County Council and partners to develop the Worcestershire LFRMS.

The Worcestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be an important new tool to help everyone understand and manage flood risk within the county. The Strategy will be the primary method through which the LLFA discharges its role to provide leadership and co-ordinate flood risk management on a day to day basis. It will act as a focal point for integrating a range of flood risk related outcomes across the county.

This strategy will be the first of its kind to cover the whole of Worcestershire. With an improving understanding, additional legislation and budgetary constraints it will be necessary to update and review the strategy and its associated action plan on a regular basis.

The county council is committed to consulting with and involving local communities and other stakeholders in preparing the LFRMS. Public consultation will be undertaken at key points in the strategy development, including on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the draft strategy document. It is currently envisaged that the LFRMS will be subject to public consultation in spring 2015 and will be available for comment on the County Council webpages.

We would therefore welcome the inclusion of references to the Worcestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy given the statutory status of this document.

Other responsibilities of the LLFA

The FWMA has delegated a number of other statutory powers and duties to LLFAs extending their previous responsibilities for flood risk management, including:

- Powers to request information from any person in connection with the authority's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions;
- Power to do works to manage flood risk from surface runoff or groundwater;
- Following commencement of paragraphs 32-34 of Schedule 2 of the FWMA on 6th April 2012 transfer has been made of the regulatory powers (consenting and enforcement) on Ordinary Watercourses from the Environment Agency to LLFAs (internal drainage boards will still have this role on ordinary watercourses in their system).

As permitted by the FWMA, a number of statutory functions of the LLFA have been delegated to the District Drainage authorities. This currently includes the ordinary watercourse consenting function.

Worcestershire Surface Water Management Plan

The County Council is working with partners including District Authorities, Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of surface water flooding in Worcestershire. This work includes the development of the 'emerging' Worcestershire Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) which will be a key part of evidence and will also inform the LFRMS.

The emerging SWMP is a 'living draft' and brings together existing sources of information and provides a high-level overview of flooding in Worcestershire using existing data to identify a list of historical and potential future flooding locations (including areas that may have not flooded in the past). The SWMP will in future identify potential for 'quick win' solutions and identify locations where further investigation and consideration would be beneficial.

The SWMP evidence is informed by the Environment Agency Updated Flood Map for Surface Water Flooding, extracts of this map can be found by accessing the Environment Agency website at <http://watermaps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiyby.aspx?topic=ufmfsw#x=357683&y=355134&scale=2>

The LLFA would welcome the opportunity to discuss the SWMP further with the Parish Council. However, in the first instance liaison should be sought with officers of the South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Rather than commencing Schedule 3 of the FWMA, which included the establishment of SuDS Approval Bodies, the Government now intends that SuDS will be encouraged via the existing planning process. It has recently consulted LLFAs about them becoming a statutory consultee on all major

developments (10 dwellings or more) in relation to surface water drainage and the results of this consultation are currently awaited.

Local Planning Authorities will scrutinise planning applications and ensure compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework policy, to prioritise Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). However, it is likely that they will not do so in Neighbourhood Plan areas, other than in areas where there is risk of flooding. Therefore, Neighbourhood Plans need to include appropriate reference to the need for sustainable drainage to be prioritised.

Whilst it is likely that Neighbourhood Plans will not be measured against the new NPPF policies and revised technical guidance they will still be measured against the local plan policies. For the time being the local plan policies won't be as stringent as those in the NPPF but they will generally still require SUDS. However, this could change in the future with the adoption of supplementary planning guidance if the LLFA and LPAs pursue this approach. Whilst waiting for confirmation of these changes Neighbourhood Plans are encouraged, particularly in areas at risk of surface water flooding, to adopt SUDS policies and to 'Make Space for Water'.

We would, therefore, welcome and support the inclusion of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan to encourage the uptake of exemplar SuDS in new development. In addition to this positive approach we would welcome the inclusion of additional policy 'hooks' that would encourage developers to design and construct SuDS in line with the new national standards and guidance or any future locally adopted policies. This should help to reduce the risk of future surface water flooding from prolonged or intense rainfall events and increase resilience to the potential impact of projected climate change.

The LLFA does not object to the principle of designation of the Neighbourhood Area in this location, and would like to bring to the attention of those concerned the points highlighted above and the policy documents referenced. It is worth noting, once again, this response is officer comment only. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Parish Council any of these issues highlighted above.

Strategic Issues – Minerals and Waste

We have no comments to make on the geographical boundary of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area.

As County Matters, minerals and waste developments are "excluded development" under Section 61 of the Localism Act. This means that any parish or neighbourhood plans or development orders will not be able to make provision for minerals or waste development in that area. However, Harvington Parish Council should ensure that it is aware of these issues and any implications for other types of development in their areas.

Waste:

Harvington Parish Council should be aware that the Waste Core Strategy Local Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan and therefore any parish or neighbourhood plans or development orders must conform to its provisions.

The following points are the key issues which the Parish Council will need to consider with regard to waste issues.

Geographic hierarchy

Settlements within Worcestershire perform different waste management functions. The geographic hierarchy takes into account current waste arisings, resource demand and existing waste management capacity of each settlement. The settlements which have a major role to play are in the top levels (level 1 is the highest level) and those which have only a minor role are in the bottom levels (level 5 is the lowest level).

Harvington Parish is in Level 5 which is the lowest level of the geographic hierarchy, meaning any proposals for waste management development in the parish would need to be strongly justified.

There are no specific site allocations for waste management facilities in the Waste Core Strategy as a whole or in the area proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan in particular. There is no identified requirement for new landfill sites over the life of the Waste Core Strategy (to 2027) and no locations are proposed for landfill sites. The Parish Council should however be aware that although not expressly encouraged, proposals for waste management facilities could be acceptable within the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area, subject to justification and conformity with the provisions of the Waste Core Strategy as a whole and the Parish Council should be particularly aware of the provisions of Policy WCS 6 (Compatible Land Uses) and paragraphs 5.1 – 5.3 of the Strategy in this regard.

Policies

The following policies are also likely to be particularly relevant within the proposed Plan area:

- **Policy WCS 5 – Landfill and disposal**

The Waste Core Strategy seeks to ensure that waste is managed as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Landfill and disposal of waste should be a last resort. This is relevant to the development of parish plans or development orders in relation to excavated materials from development.

Part a) of Policy WCS 5 sets out that planning permission for landfill or disposal will not be granted unless:

- i. re-use, recycling or energy or resource recovery are not practicable for the waste type to be managed and no landfill or disposal capacity exists in the county for that type of waste; or
- ii. there will be a shortfall in landfill or disposal capacity necessary to achieve the aims and purpose of the strategy; or
- iii. the proposal is essential for operational or safety reasons or is the most appropriate option.

The explanatory text supporting policy WCS 5 states that:

"excavation activities, a normal part of the construction process, can result in considerable arisings of subsoils. In some cases, this type of waste can usefully be re-used for purposes such as... landscaping, levelling of sites, the construction of bunds, embankments or features for noise attenuation. However, to prevent inappropriate development, these kinds of proposals will be considered against Policy WCS 5: Landfill and disposal. The decision on whether proposals are a form of disposal will be guided by the Environment Agency's advice (currently set out in "Defining Waste Recovery: Permanent Deposit of Waste on Land" Regulatory Guidance Series No EPR 13)".
(Emphasis added)

Whilst we welcome the minimisation of waste by re-use on site where appropriate, Harvington Parish Council should ensure that any neighbourhood plan or development orders do not allow unnecessary landscaping to become an inappropriate disposal of waste.

- **Policy WCS 16 – New development proposed on or near to existing waste management facilities**

Policy WCS 16 aims to safeguard existing waste management facilities by considering the potential impact and design of new development on or near to

existing waste management facilities. There are currently no waste management facilities in the parish.

Harvington Parish Council and developers implementing future neighbourhood plans or development orders should consult the web-tool which has been developed to support this policy (available through the Waste Core Strategy webpage www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs) to establish whether there any more waste management facilities are developed within 250m and if so, the provisions of this policy should be applied or included in the conditions of the development order.

The Parish Council and developers may need to assess issues such as any noise, vibrations, dust, odours or fumes that may result from the normal operation of the waste site. Bio-aerosols should be considered where the waste management facility handles biodegradable waste. Where impacts are likely to affect the proposed development, considered design, site layout and landscaping or screening of the proposal will normally be adequate to mitigate any impacts. Liaison with the waste site operator is encouraged.

Any proposals for waste management facilities which come forward will be considered under the provisions of the Waste Core Strategy, the rest of the Development Plan and any material considerations. Once adopted, the Harvington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the Development Plan.

- **WCS 17: Making provision for waste in all new development**

Policy WCS 17 aims to ensure that the waste implications of all new development are considered. The policy provisions expect that proposals for new development either:

- a) incorporate facilities into the design that allow occupiers to separate and store waste for recycling and recovery; or
- b) make appropriate developer contributions where this is more appropriate than on-site facilities; or
- c) have adequate existing provision.

The explanatory text accompanying this policy sets out that the level of on-site provision should be adequate to meet the needs of the proposed development. Harvington Parish Council and developers implementing future parish plans or development orders should ensure that facilities for storage and collection of waste are in line with the ADEPT report "Making Space for Waste" (June 2010). http://www.lqcplus.com/Journals/3/Files/2010/7/14/ADEPTMakingspaceforwaste_000.pdf

Minerals:

Harvington Parish Council should be aware that the saved policies of the adopted Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan 1997 form part of the statutory Development Plan and therefore any parish or neighbourhood plans or development orders must conform to its provisions alongside the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The County Council is currently developing a new Minerals Local Plan for Worcestershire and consulted on the draft vision, objectives, spatial strategy, restoration priorities, areas of search and policy concepts in the Second Stage Consultation during Winter 2013/14. We would encourage Harvington Parish Council to engage with future stages of consultation to ensure that the development of the Minerals Local Plan and Harvington Neighbourhood Plan are complementary.

The following points are the key issues which Harvington Parish Council will need to consider with regard to minerals issues.

Mineral resources, safeguarding and mineral development

The Harvington Neighbourhood Plan area contains 8 sand and gravel deposits. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that: "Minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and our quality of life. It is therefore important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation." (NPPF Para 142).

It states that: "In preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should...define Minerals Safeguarding Areas and adopt appropriate policies in order that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, whilst not creating a presumption that resources defined will be worked; and define Minerals Consultation Areas based on these Minerals Safeguarding Areas;" (NPPF Para 143)

The policy for safeguarding minerals in Worcestershire is currently set out in:

The County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan which identifies known mineral deposits to be safeguarded on the Proposals Map

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/minerals-and-waste-policy/adopted-minerals-local-plan.aspx>).

All of these sand and gravel deposits, viz:

- 5/9 "Leys Barn"
- 5/10 "Ellenden Farm"
- 5/10 "Ellenden Farm a"
- 5/13 "Harvington"
- 5/13a "Harvington a"
- 5/30 "Harvington North"
- 5/31 "Harvington West" and
"Harvington Green Street Allotment"

are identified on the Proposals Map of the Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan.. These deposits should be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans when applying paragraph 144 of the NPPF which states that: "When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should...not normally permit other development proposals in mineral safeguarding areas where they might constrain potential future use for these purposes".

The identification of these resources does not mean that planning permission to win or work minerals in them will be given, only that their value should be assessed before any decisions about the future use of the land are made.

Harvington Parish Council will need to ensure that any development proposed through a parish plan or development order will not inadvertently sterilise mineral resources and we will be happy to work with the Parish Council to ensure this is managed in an appropriate manner. However, the Parish Council should be aware that this may require some in-depth mineral resource assessments at the developer's expense.

The Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan does not identify any Preferred Areas for mineral extraction in the Harvington Parish area. However, the council is currently developing a new Minerals Local Plan and is aiming for this to be adopted in 2015 to cover a period of at least 15 years. At this stage, we know that there is a requirement for minerals to be extracted and new minerals sites will need to be developed over the life of the plan and beyond.

We are in the process of developing the new Minerals Local Plan. We are likely to propose that minerals sites should be developed in locations which will not only contribute to providing mineral resources, but which also present an opportunity for mineral site restoration to deliver Green Infrastructure (for

example biodiversity enhancement, flood alleviation, access and informal recreation). The Minerals Local Plan and Harvington Neighbourhood Plan are likely to be developed in parallel. This means that it will be increasingly important to maintain a dialogue to ensure that the plans develop complementary priorities.

Although we have not yet finalised the quantity of minerals which will be required or defined the likely location of development, the Analysis of Mineral Resources in Worcestershire (October 2013) which was published alongside the Second Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan analyses the available information about the mineral resources in the county in order to identify which deposits might be viable to be worked during the plan period. Information about the methods used is set out in the document, and each mapped deposit is discussed in detail in the relevant appendix . The sand and gravel deposits in the Harvington Parish Neighbourhood Plan area are identified as:

Sand and gravel deposits,

- 5/9 "Leys Barn"
- 5/10 "Ellenden Farm"
- 5/10 "Ellenden Farm a"
- 5/13 "Harvington"
- 5/13a "Harvington a"
- 5/30 "Harvington North"
- 5/31 "Harvington West"
- "Harvington Green Street Allotment"

All of these deposits form part of the areas of search proposed in the Second Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan. "Areas of search" are likely to be large areas which present the best opportunities for supplying the minerals that we need but also for realising additional benefits through site restoration. The areas of search may be subject to change in future consultation stages or the final Minerals Local Plan, but this gives a good indication of the likely importance of the deposits.

We will be able to provide Harvington Parish Council with some information on or maps of these mineral resources and would be pleased to speak to the Parish Council about this in due course.

The "areas of search" will not be site specific, although we are now looking at whether more detailed site allocations might also be required. Three of the resources referred to above:

- 5/30 "Harvington North"
- 5/31 "Harvington West"
- "Harvington Green Street Allotment"

have been proposed as specific sites for mineral working by the Diocese of Worcester.. We are currently in the process of deciding how these and other

sites should be assessed and how and if they should be promoted in the Plan. At present we have very little information about them.

We will also be developing policies to ensure that environmental and historic assets are protected and enhanced and that local amenity is protected during the operation of any mineral sites. We will be consulting on these again within the year.

We are happy to discuss any of these issues with Harvington Parish Council and will support them in considering them as they develop their plans. Please contact Nicholas Dean on 01905 766374 or email minerals@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service

The Historic Environment Record and Advisory Team can provide extensive information on the heritage assets, distinctive characteristics and historic landscapes of your area alongside valuable guidance on advocating them within a Neighbourhood Plan.

The historic environment has a significant, but often under-represented, influence on many areas of the planning process: from the preservation of local heritage assets; to landscape character; biodiversity and habitat management; countryside access and amenity; the form and design of new housing development; and flood risk-assessment or alleviation, amongst many others. The Archive and Archaeology Service can support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan in a variety of ways: The Historic Environment Record and Advisory Team holds extensive information on the historic buildings, archaeological monuments, and historic landscapes of the county, alongside a substantial collection of documentary and cartographic source materials. The team is experienced in helping communities create their Neighbourhood Plans, and can provide valuable guidance on how to assess, record, and advocate the highly distinctive environments and assets of your area.

We therefore strongly encourage you to contact us to discuss the distinctive historic environments of your local area and how they can be enhanced and promoted through your Neighbourhood Plan: You can reach us via: email on archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk; Phone on 01905 765560; or by visiting The Hive, Worcester.

Concluding Remarks

WCC does not object to the principle of designation of the Neighbourhood area in this location, and would like to bring to the attention of those concerned the

points raised above and policy documents to take account of. It is worth noting, once again, this response is officer only. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Parish Council any of these issues highlighted above.

Yours sincerely

Natasha Friend
Principal Planner
