

Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2030 **Consultation Statement**



18-3-2017

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1 Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) Consultation Statement

1.1 Background

This Consultation Statement has been prepared in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 637) Part 5 Paragraph 15 (2)1 which defines a “consultation statement” as a document which –

1. **Contains details of the persons and bodies** who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan
2. **Explains how they were consulted**; consulted
3. **Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered** and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan
4. **Summarises the main issues and concerns** raised.

The Alvechurch Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared in response to the Localism Act 2011, which gives parish councils and other relevant bodies, powers to prepare statutory Neighbourhood Plans to help guide development in their local areas. These powers give local people the opportunity to shape new development, as planning applications are determined in accordance with national planning policy and the local development plan, and neighbourhood plans form part of this Framework. Other powers include Community Right to Build Orders whereby local communities have the ability to grant planning permission for new buildings.

1.2 The Alvechurch Plan consultation process

In November 2011 the community gave its support for the making of a Neighbourhood Plan (see below). The Plan development and consultation process has taken over more than 5 years, reflecting the elongated nature of the plan making process in Bromsgrove District Council. Extended cross-boundary discussions between Bromsgrove DC and both Redditch BC and Birmingham City Council meant that the Bromsgrove Local Plan was only adopted in early 2017. Up to 2013/14, the perception was that the Bromsgrove Plan would be adopted around 2015 and a Green Belt review instigated, perceptions, which influenced the early stages of policy development and public consultation in Alvechurch. As time progressed, advice to the Steering Group recommended a change in emphasis, less identification of potential development sites (until after a Green Belt review) and an accompanying emphasis-change in public consultations.

The 5/6 year period of consultation has been of great value though, in its repeated awareness-raising of our Neighbourhood Plan and the quantity and quality of feedback received. All community feedback has been reviewed by the Steering Group (and often summarised for the Parish Council as a whole) and has informed the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies and community projects.

2 Community set-up meeting November 2011

People consulted:

The invitation was issued through the Village magazine, posters, fliers and web sites, to an initial meeting at Alvechurch village hall to explore the possibility of writing a Plan. About 70 people attended,

Aim of consultation:

To raise awareness of the NP process; to gauge interest in the parish for a Plan; to find key issues in people's perception of the parish

Nature of consultation:

Evening meeting: presentation from 3 Parish Councillors, question and answer session; short questionnaire on every seat asking what people most valued and most wanted to improve about the parish

Main issues and concerns:

There was a very clear agreement on what people "valued most about Alvechurch parish". The three elements most chosen were "access to the countryside, green belt and open spaces", "community services and facilities" and "appearance or feel of the area." There was less agreement about what people "most wanted to improve." However, the main ones were public transport, leisure services and facilities, traffic and parking, youth facilities, range and quality of shops, appearance or feel of the area, and opportunities for new business. There was also agreement on the need for more affordable housing.

Contribution to plan formation:

Used to set up a steering group to proceed with the Plan, led by the Parish Council but including involvement of community volunteers, and to identify broad issues and concerns

The designation of the Neighbourhood Area followed in 2012, and an overarching Steering Group was established together with a series of Working Groups consisting of volunteers from different local groups and organisations and Parish Councillors. Five Working Groups were set up to consider the following themes:

- Topic 1 Housing**
- Topic 2 Heritage, Design and the Natural Environment**
- Topic 3 Leisure, Health and Well-Being**
- Topic 4 Local Business, Shops and Services**
- Topic 5 Getting Around - Transport**

Working in partnership with Bromsgrove District Council, Alvechurch Parish Council was successful in gaining neighbourhood planning funding from the Community and a Locality Fund. At the initial community "testing the water" presentation in November 2011 Alvechurch Parish Council formally approved the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. An application was made to Bromsgrove District Council for designation of Alvechurch parish as a neighbourhood planning area. No representations were received and the application was approved by the District Council in January 2012, following a six week consultation. The proposed area designation was endorsed by Bromsgrove District Council's Planning Committee. Full details are available at; www.bromsgrovedistrictcouncil.gov.uk

The Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan builds on earlier work, undertaken by the Parish Council in partnership with other organisations, to provide a planning framework and design context for the Parish. The Parish Council prepared the old Parish Plan in 2004. An Alvechurch Village Design Statement was prepared in 2005, and this described the distinctive character of the area through the landscape setting, shape of settlements and individual buildings, and set out a number of design principles. The Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) if and when adopted by a majority at a referendum will

Neighbourhood Planning – giving power to the people

The Government claims Neighbourhood Plans will become the new building blocks of the planning system where communities have the power to grant planning permission if a local majority are in favour



- ▶ **Changing the way planning is run**
- ▶ **Moving away from Top Down planning**
- ▶ **Seeking to make our Parish the best it can be**
- ▶ **Emphasising individual responsibility**
- ▶ **Encouraging community involvement**

supersede the old Parish Plan. The Village Design Statement has been updated to a wholly inclusive; Alvechurch Parish Design Statement (APDS), which will form an integral part of the APNP as a supplementary document to accompany the main APNP planning document.

Left: Power point display used at our introductory meeting in 2011 (double click to activate)

Working Groups met on a regular basis, and throughout the development of a Draft Plan continued to talk to local residents, visitors, schools and businesses about their future aspirations. A designated website was set up and this was regularly updated with information about the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, including minutes and notes from Steering Group and Working Group meetings. The significant amount of dedicated time and hard work provided by the Groups led to the formulation and development of objectives, later developed into Key Aims, which led to proposals and policy making for the plan.

3 Developing a project structure and community engagement strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan

Getting started – Getting the community on board, establish working groups, produce a programme, develop a community engagement strategy.

Sustainability Appraisal – To be prepared and consulted on alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and will be used to assess the suitability of Policies.

Developing Vision and Objectives – Gathering relevant information, identify the area's strengths and weaknesses; define the neighbourhood area, draft vision and objectives, checking for conformity with strategic national and local policies, checking draft vision and objectives with the community.

Developing the Plan – Develop policies, develop an implementation plan, finalise draft Neighbourhood Plan, checking for conformity with strategic national and local policies, formal six-week consultation on draft plan to get feedback from the community and other stakeholders.

Independent Examination – Submission to Bromsgrove District Council, formal six-week publication period, appointing an Examiner, publishing Examiner's report to the Community.

Referendum – To be co-ordinated by the District Council

Adopting the Plan – If referendum indicates community support, the Neighbourhood Plan is “made” by the local planning authority.

The following methods of consultation were identified as appropriate in a Consultation Plan.

Proposed Consultees	Methods of consultation
Residents of the Parish	<p>Questionnaires posted to each household</p> <p>Survey posted to each household</p> <p>Parish magazine used – at key stages</p> <p>Village magazine & local press used</p> <p>Public Meetings/Exhibitions/presentations</p> <p>Community Fete/Events</p> <p>Publication on Web-Site www.alvechurchparishplan.org</p> <p>Web Response by E-Mail</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>Alvechurch Village Society AGM</p> <p>Summary of Proposals</p> <p>Paper copies of Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Leaflets / posters distributed around the parish</p>
Employers and Employees	<p>Survey delivered by hand and post</p> <p>Survey/leaflets handed out to shops and small business outlets</p> <p>Newsletter with proposals sent by post</p> <p>Consultation letter sent by post</p> <p>Presentation for businesses</p>
Children	<p>Survey on line</p> <p>Meeting with pupils and school council of the Middle School</p> <p>Meeting with school Governors</p>
<p>Specific Consultation Bodies</p> <p>Government Departments</p> <p>General Consultation Bodies</p> <p>Local Strategic Partnership Members</p> <p>Other Consultees</p> <p>Hard to Reach Groups</p>	<p>Statutory Notice</p> <p>Press releases</p> <p>Notification letter/e-mails</p> <p>Publication on Web-site/medical practice/doctors</p> <p>Summary leaflets</p> <p>Individual talks to;</p> <p>Women's Institutes and Residents Associations, young mothers group, and elderly resident at their coffee mornings.</p> <p>Exhibitions /presentations</p>

General Public Employers in the Parish	Workshops Public Meetings Site Notices Deposit Locations Newsletters
District and County Council Councillors	Draft report circulated for consultation Statutory consultations

4 Statutory consultation: Application for designation of a neighbourhood area – November 2012 to January 2013

Regulation 5 (1) – where a relevant body submits an area application to the local planning authority it must include;

A map, which identifies the area to which the area application relates,

A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area;

A statement that the organisation or body making the area application: Is a relevant body for the purpose of Section 61G of the 1990.

Regulation 15

Where a Parish Council submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority, it must include—

- A map or statement, which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;
- A consultation statement;
- The proposed neighbourhood development plan; and, 7
- A statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act [see below].

In this regulation “consultation statement” means a document which—

- contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- explains how they were consulted;
- summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

This undertaking was submitted to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) in letter supplied by Alvechurch PC to the Local Authority Planning department on 24-09-12 along with the designated documents. This was followed by:

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

On the 7-November 2011 BDC at their Neighbourhood Planning Committee meeting stated in section 2.

2.1 That the following applications for designation as a Neighbourhood Area be publicised by the Council for a consultation period of 6 weeks in accordance Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012:

A) Alvechurch Parish Council

For the designated 6 week consultation period the application was posted on, Parish, District and Neighbourhood Plan web sites and was designated as a Neighbourhood Planning Area without objection on;

Date designated - 23.01.2013

Following the area designation a summary screening was sent by BDC to

People consulted:

The Regulations state that “a local planning authority must publicise the following on their website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring the area application to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the area to which the area application relates”. The consultation was advertised on the Council's website as per this requirement.

Aim of consultation

This is the first formal stage in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan in line with the 2012 Regulations. The aim is to inform interested parties of Alvechurch Parish's intention to begin the Neighbourhood Planning process and to set out the boundary to which the Neighbourhood Plan will apply.

Nature of consultation

Following approval from Bromsgrove District Council's Cabinet on 7th November 2012, the consultation to designate a Neighbourhood Area commenced later in November 2012. It was publicised on the Bromsgrove District Council web site and also on the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan websites and was available to view in person at District Council offices and at Alvechurch parish Council's office.

On 23rd November 2011, a presentation on the Government's aims for Localism and Neighbourhood Planning was made to the community, jointly presented by the Parish Council and the Village Society at Alvechurch Village Hall to inform and gather local opinion for making a Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

There followed various presentations/consultations and press releases throughout from December 2011 –January 2013 .Listed in this statement below.

Main issues and concerns

No consultation responses were received and the formal Neighbourhood Area was designated by Bromsgrove District Council on 23rd January 2013.

Contribution to plan formation

This is an essential stage, which sets out the Parish's intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. It allows the Parish to progress with drafting the Neighbourhood Plan

5 Consultation with statutory bodies about Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening 2013

People consulted

The statutory consultees of English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency were consulted during this formal consultation as is required in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.

Aim of consultation

The aim of the consultation is to seek the formal view of the statutory environmental consultees to determine whether Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This is known as a Screening Opinion.

Nature of consultation

Bromsgrove District Council, as the local planning authority, wrote to each of the three consultees in February 2013, seeking their views on whether SEA is required on the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Main issues and concerns

The screening was undertaken based on information available at January 2013 regarding draft plan objectives and outline sustainability issues. The main concern voiced by the Council was the potential for the Neighbourhood Plan to allocate sites. As the parish is predominantly Green Belt, there is the potential for the allocation of sites for development to have a significant environmental impact. The views of the statutory environmental consultees were more mixed, with Natural England confirming that SEA would be required because of the plan's intentions regarding the location of housing and associated infrastructure. The suggestion was also made that Sustainability Appraisal should be carried out. The comments received from English Heritage were lengthier but they suggested that more detail needed to be made available before a decision could be taken on the likelihood of significant effects. Finally, the comments from the Environment Agency were very detailed, covering the issues of flood risk, water quality, ecology, groundwater vulnerability, contaminated land and sustainable development. Many useful pointers were provided as to key areas of environmental concern in Alvechurch parish. However, the Environment Agency reached the conclusion that there would not be significant environmental effects as a result of the plan.

On the whole, it was felt by the District Council that SEA should be carried out on the Neighbourhood Plan given the Parish Council's intentions to allocate land for development and the unknown environmental effects at this stage.

Contribution to plan formation

Bromsgrove District Council formally issued the Screening Determination on 2nd October 2014. The delay in publication was due to a change in staff at the Council and other work priorities regarding the Bromsgrove District Plan. The outcome of the consultation informed the APNP Steering Group that SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan is required. The decision has been taken to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the plan, and this will incorporate the formal requirements of the SEA Regulations.

6 Community invitation session and follow-up meetings March 2012

People consulted:

Identified representatives of 26 community groups in the parish were contacted by letter and/or email

Aim of consultation:

To raise awareness of Plan; to find out how groups would like to be involved in the making of the Plan; to improve their knowledge of the Plan process; to identify issues they thought important

Nature of consultation:

Invitation to a special steering group meeting on 15 March

Short presentation on Plan and extended question-and-answer session

Main Issues and concerns

The main issue was people's fear that the Plan would not have any force as development would go on against their wishes. There was also a general need for information about the possible scope of the Plan. There were productive suggestions about methods of consultation and involvement

Contribution to plan formation:

Suggestion that we visit their meetings for our consultations; identification of difficult areas where the public would need more explanation; recognition of the needs of some groups such as the elderly; inclusion of some group representatives in a wider steering group and a circulation list; decision to set up ward-based meetings with questionnaires.

Production of a list of questions and answers about the Plan process for circulation to groups.

7 Neighbourhood Plan web site

A dedicated web site was set up in April 2012 with links to all relevant Neighbourhood Plan documents for public scrutiny:

www.alvechurchparishplan.org

The site has been regularly used to feedback comments received from various public consultations.

8 Jubilee Picnic in the Park June 2012

People consulted:

Attendees were visiting the Jubilee Picnic in the Park in Alvechurch on 4 June. The steering group had a stall and this was the first consultation to make use of an existing public event. **142 comments were collected**

Aim of consultation:

To involve a wide group of people from the Parish in forming a vision for the Parish – identification of the main issues that concerned people in an open-ended way

Nature of consultation:

A stall with maps of the Parish, and invitation to post stickers saying what people liked, disliked and wanted to change in the Parish, coupled with a parish quiz for children and adults and information boards about the Plan.

Main issues and concerns

There was strong consensus about what was valued: the community spirit, facilities and vitality; and the access to countryside and valued landscape. There was less consensus about what was disliked or needed improvement, but transport issues, including car, public transport and pedestrian issues, were uppermost. Improvements to local businesses and facilities were also raised. There was little concern about housing.

Contribution to plan formation

The views in this consultation were seen to back up those of the initial meeting. They were used to help form the vision for the Plan. They also emphasised the need for the Plan to be about more than just housing and land. It led to a decision to continue to consult on housing, with greater clarity of the issues, and also about countryside and environment, business and jobs, and transport.

9 1st March 2013 Scoping Report finished with help from the CPRE consultant

Screening report sent to BDC, and statutory consultees, the result from Natural England on 27 February 2013 advising SEA and SA is carried out. *(This was later amended in 2015, to an SEA not being necessary as development sites were not being allocated)*

10 Consultations across the parish wards September 2012 – June 2013

People consulted:

There were eight stages to this consultation event, in different wards and venues of the parish. Most of the sessions were timed to coincide with other meetings and events, by invitation from the groups running them.

The first was at Rowney Green and included people from Rowney Green and Bordesley: it was advertised in both villages. It was timed to coincide with an evening at the Goat and Trousers, a “pub” within the Peace Hall, which opens at weekends.

The second was at a Saturday morning session of The Lounge café, which supports a youth project in Alvechurch. Most people were resident or working in Alvechurch.

The third was over Friday and Saturday at the Alvechurch Baptist church hall, alongside a mother-and- toddler session, a coffee morning for older members and a general open session.

Two short presentations also took place one at Hopwood WI (3-May-2012) and the other to Weatheroak Residents Association (16 November 2012) A small number of people took the opportunity to complete the questionnaires, and these were counted in with the ward questionnaires.

The next was again in two parts, a background event to two evening public meetings in Alvechurch, the Village Society AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Finally, a separate presentation was held at Hopwood village hall all day on a Saturday, for any residents there who hadn't attended other events.

132 people attended the specific sessions. At the AVS/APC meetings there were high numbers but it wasn't possible to count how many took an active interest in the Plan. Overall, 73 questionnaires were returned.

Nature of consultation

The format changed slightly depending on the nature of the venue, but generally consisted of display material, people from the steering group to talk to, a questionnaire to fill in. and an invitation to add any comments. Each was advertised with a combination of leaflets (in the smaller settlements), notices in the Village magazine and Baptist church magazine, posters and A-boards.

Aims of consultation:

To increase awareness of the Plan

Five topics; ([housing](#), [business](#), [environment](#), [health and well-being](#) and [transport](#)) with four possible question options to each one (not necessarily mutually exclusive options) were indicated and set out as a results of comments made from previous consultations. A summary of these issues are laid out under the headings below;

MAIN ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

BUSINESS AND JOBS

There is general support for encouraging more business across the parish, but not for giving up green belt land, and support for an improvement plan for Alvechurch village, especially at the Lounge session.

HOUSING

Many people do not accept the premise that some green belt land may have to be released and just repeat that it should be preserved. Some do not realise we don't have brown field sites. However, there is some indication that limited development around settlements may be acceptable. There is general support for this to be small inexpensive houses. There were comments in some sessions about housing for the elderly. There is inconsistency in the spread of answers, so our questions will need to be more carefully phrased in future.

COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT

There is overwhelming support for keeping the countryside wildlife-friendly, with a high proportion "strongly agreeing", though some people confuse this with green belt. Generally people support farming and other appropriate use, improving access to the countryside, and more use of green technology and energy conservation. Where people are not in favour they have tended to not disagree either but remain neutral.

HEALTH WELL BEING AND RECREATION

The community have grave concern that any more future development will have a grave effect on the already full school and the overburdened medical centre. Infrastructure is already lacking within the parish and this was another concern, with walking and cycling not encouraged as a result of poor highway footpaths and no safe cycle tracks at all in the parish area linking smaller settlements to the main service area of Alvechurch Village. Improved recreation facilities need providing as much of the present is becoming outdated and mainly for the toddler and young school children, with no acceptable provision for older generations.

TRANSPORT

There is overwhelming support for improving public transport from all participants, with a high proportion "strongly agreeing", and some offering suggestions. People are also strongly in favour of improved traffic management, being especially concerned about speeding at Rowney Green, Hopwood and Alvechurch. Generally, better footways and cycleways are supported. Car parking in Alvechurch is not such a big issue but a review is generally supported. Several questions had a relatively high proportion of people offering no opinion.

General conclusion

There is clear evidence of respondents' agreement on some issues, for example protection of the countryside and improving public transport. There is less agreement on some issues, especially in the development of housing, but the responses here give a good basis for further consultations. There is some difference between the wards on a few questions, but generally the results are spread evenly across the sessions.

Contribution to plan formation

This consultation has shown there to be strong support for improving transport facilities, encouraging business, and especially maintaining an accessible green environment. There is less agreement over housing issues, and a need for further explanation of BDC's policies and how they affect Alvechurch. However, the numbers completing the questionnaire have been relatively small, and the process needs extending. It has consolidated the importance of including issues other than land use (business, environment, transport) in the Plan.

11 Businesses and Landowners 18th January 2014

People consulted

An open event for stakeholders was held at Alvechurch Village Hall. It was advertised in the Village magazine, by fliers round the shops and other businesses in Alvechurch village and Bordesley Hall, and by email to larger businesses working locally. Any residents who had missed earlier opportunities were also invited.

Aim of consultation

To engage stakeholders – i.e. people with a business interest in Alvechurch parish, not necessarily resident – and check what issues they might want considering

Nature of consultation

This was a Saturday afternoon open event, with displays about neighbourhood planning and members of the steering group on hand for discussion. Turnout was small (10 people) but useful contacts were made and ideas gathered. Attendees were invited to fill in the Business section of the questionnaire used for residents

Main issues and concerns

Recognising that Alvechurch is a dormitory village and most people work and shop elsewhere. However, it has good facilities, and a need to preserve them, add or extend some, and maximise those we have

Importance of small businesses, entrepreneurship and working from home

Leisure as a potential growth area

Shortage of pre-school provision especially for 2-year-olds, at the same time as bit of a local baby boom

Some improvement needed to shopping centre, perhaps on a shared space basis

Consideration of adequacy of services, especially GPs, if there is housing growth

The need for faster broadband in parts of the parish

Contribution to plan formation

The comments confirmed what residents had said about business. It was decided to make separate approaches to the Middle School and the Medical Practice, discuss plans for business with BDC, and to talk to some of the local developers for their views.

12 Bromsgrove District Council 28th January 2014

People consulted; Leader of BDC and the councillor concerned with planning

Aim of consultation

To ensure the emerging ideas in our plan were in line with future thinking in the District Council

Nature of consultation

Three members of the steering group met the two councillors for a discussion based on the five themes in the NP

Main issues and concerns

The emerging local view that any new housing should be near Alvechurch Village and form part of the green belt review, agreed by both parties

Possible business development

BDC talked especially about commercial development around the M42 and A435 corridors, in and near the parish, which might have significant employment opportunities. They also suggested possible development of care homes and care villages

Some differences on broadband provision: BDC thought it adequate but it may not be so for businesses needing design facilities, and in specific parts of the parish

An emphasis on sport development and improving play spaces

Agreement that transport facilities were patchy: the Network Rail service would benefit us but was not well integrated with bus services

Contribution to plan formation

The steering group has had good support from officers of BDC and this meeting helped inform us of the councillors' longer term views, especially on business development.

13 Alvechurch Medical Centre (AMC)

People consulted

Consultation with the lead GP of Alvechurch Medical Centre (part of Northwood and Alvechurch GP practice) began in 2014. An initial meeting which included the practice manager and deputy manager, chair of the Patient Participation Group has been followed by periodic discussions on capacity and service planning. Steering Group members have also met representatives of the South Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, most recently in May 2017.

Aim of consultation

To investigate the implications of AMC belonging to a Birmingham-based CCG rather than one focussing solely on the community health needs of the Redditch and Bromsgrove District. To ascertain whether the practice has sufficient capacity to deal with current demands and future housing growth.

Nature of consultation

Periodic meetings (2014/17) to discuss these specific issues, complemented by other meetings with the two CCGs, the Patient's Participation Group (PPG) and the Parish Council (PC)

Main issues and concerns

Planning for Alvechurch Parish's community health services is made more difficult by the cross-boundary nature of AMC / CCG relationship. Discussions have explored ways of ensuring Alvechurch patients could also access some Worcestershire-based services.

The AMC surgery building is used to capacity. The practice can currently cope with fluctuations in patient numbers, but major growth (e.g. over 100 houses) would necessitate a new building for increased personnel and services.

Contribution to plan formation

The plan will take account of AMC being at or very close to capacity, and explore links with other practices, possibility of new premises, and other options linked with increased housing

14 Alvechurch Church of England Middle School 2014 onwards

People consulted

Members of the steering group attended a Governors Meeting in May 2014, explained the process, and discussed how to consult young people in the school. Subsequently in June the Steering Group (SG) met the deputy head and student council to develop a questionnaire. The SG then met the student council and discussed the main issues. The students then operated the questionnaire in their year groups in July. Completion was very good, covering the whole middle school except two groups who were out of school

Aim of consultation

To find out what the students saw as valuable in Alvechurch and what they would like changed for the future

To engage them (and indirectly their parents) in the process of local planning

Nature of consultation

Discussion and to present the school questionnaire. The latter was mostly open-ended asking students to write in a limited number of answers. Further consultations with the School occurred in 2016 and again, in 2017, on both general community issues and pupil-views on play equipment improvements linked to the availability of Section 106 developer's contributions.

Main issues and concerns

There was overwhelming support for the parks and playgrounds, and next came the community. The school rates high, along with local facilities like the fish and chip shop and the Co-op. Next come the countryside and environment

Like adults, young people dislike litter, graffiti and dog mess. Several students also think there are "too many houses". They dislike bad behaviour: smoking, drinking, drugs and especially, teenagers hanging around and spoiling their fun. These "in between age" young

people feel threatened by teenagers and don't think there is enough just for them. A large number want improvements to play spaces and equipment and more sports facilities. Many want more shops.

Students were given the opportunity to make other comments. Most who did wrote about not building any more houses on countryside and keeping the village as it is.

We asked them where they thought any extra housing should be built. Several refused to fill this in. The majority wanted them in the smaller villages, not around Alvechurch village

Contribution to plan formation

The comments endorse a need for development of sport and play areas, and other facilities for this age group. They also echo adult concerns, the two main "likes" in the first adult



feedback (May 2012) were the community and the environment. The perception that the village has already grown too big, and that houses should be built outside it, probably represents adult concerns. It suggests the need to promote better understanding of the reasons for building near the "large settlement" of Alvechurch.

The Chairman and Secretary of the APNP Steering Group talking and listening to year 8 pupils at Alvechurch Middle

School

15 Community questionnaire survey March 2014

People consulted

The parish as a whole was consulted. This is a continuation of element 6, across the whole parish to get a bigger sample.

Aim of consultation

To increase awareness of the Plan

To present four topics

Housing, business, environment and transport

To give those consulted four possible options to each topic (not necessarily mutually exclusive options).

To get people's agreement or disagreement on the ideas raised in the topics

To ask for any general comments about parish needs for the future.

To invite comments on the vision and objectives of the Plan

Nature of consultation

The questionnaire included the same questions with additional explanation, and additional elements on the vision and objectives. 2,000 copies were included in the Village magazine, delivered free to households in the parish. Collection points for responses were arranged across the parish. 200 replies were received. Feedback was provided in a subsequent Village magazine

Main issues and concerns

93% supported the vision and 86% the core objectives of the Plan. Some people wanted them to be simpler and have less “local government speak.” Some said that they should emphasise what we already have in Alvechurch Parish. This was considered by the steering group and these comments taken into account with slight amendments to the core objectives and a simpler Vision statement issued.

Housing remains a contentious issue. Some respondents wanted an option to build no more houses. Our suggested options were to spread housing equally across the settlements or to concentrate them around Alvechurch village. Neither of these got clear approval

While there was not a majority for “smaller inexpensive housing”, some people were very much in support of suitable housing for elderly and young people.

The other themes – business, transport and environment – produced a more consistent response. There is a majority for encouraging small, appropriate businesses in Alvechurch and the smaller settlements, though not for giving up green belt land to accommodate them. Most people would support some improvements to the centre of Alvechurch village.

All the environmental options were supported, especially strongly for maintaining a wildlife-friendly countryside and improving access to it. Most people agreed that the countryside should also be used for farming, tourism or sport, and that we should try to support green and energy-saving measures.

All the transport options were supported, especially better, more integrated public transport. Good traffic management, car parking and cycleways were also strongly supported.

Contribution to plan formation

The steering group decided that more explanation was needed to parishioners of the importance of sustainable housing, which would mean being nearer to the facilities of Alvechurch village, and of the necessity to contribute to BDC’s housing targets. There was a need to further explain the coming green belt review and how we could best use it.

There was a decision to move forward on looking at suitable housing sites, and start the process of drafting policies. The steering group worked intensively with BDC officers on the sites in the SHLAA and area assessment, and on progressing plan objectives and linking them with the SEA objectives

These sites mentioned above were subject to a preliminary consultation during the Picnic in the Park in May 2014, when residents were invited to comment on areas for possible development. 38 people left written comments and many more commented verbally.

The mission statement was simplified and the objectives reviewed and confirmed.

16 Community open days 18-19th July 2014

People consulted

All parishioners were invited to an open day to view, discuss and vote on some possible housing areas for consideration and use for some future development when a Bromsgrove District Council Green Belt review is undertaken in Alvechurch Parish.

The voting was limited to parishioners and their post-codes were recorded. The invitation was issued in the Village magazine, with a map of sites, and posters were displayed around the parish. 114 people attended. Feedback was provided in a subsequent Village article

Aim of consultation

To present possible broad areas around the edge of Alvechurch Village aligned to the BDC Strategic Housing Land Area Assessment (SHLAA) 2013 document. To give some title for identification purposes the areas were divided into assigned titles A to E.

To show the community that the whole of Alvechurch parish is classed as Green Belt land and for future housing to be built there needs to be some land released, by the Local Authority, through a Green Belt review that only Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) can do.

To indicate, for later use in cooperation with BDC, which broad areas of land around Alvechurch Village the community saw as being best possible for some future parish housing if needed. The exact extent of future housing needed will only be known when the submitted BDC new Local Plan has been assessed through examination and is adopted. This process is still ongoing as of May 2015.

To formulate results the Steering Group classed these findings into more outstretched locations aligned to the points of the compass; North, South, East and West. This was to give broader scope as it is not possible for the Neighbourhood Plan to designate land that has not yet been released from the Green Belt.

To give the NP and BDC the ability to co-operate considering the community's preferred options for future land that could be released in a future Local Authority's Green Belt review.

To explain why certain land areas had been picked out as being special cases. Site 1 is an example, to the East, there is another identified small parcel of land in that area also identified in SHLAA, which may possibly be considered, as this area is seen as being the best option mainly for older people's homes as this is the closest location for easy access to the Village Centre. Site C to the West (The old Brick Works) is also singled out as being one of only a few only Brown Field sites within the Green Belt but restricted by its poor access and within the confines of the canal.

To raise awareness of issues of sustainability

To show the pros and cons of each area around Alvechurch Village and any implications of choosing them

To get feedback on the proposed areas and ascertain whether there were clear preferences among parishioners

To use the consultation as a community tool to influence a BDC led Green Belt review at the appropriate time.

Nature of consultation

The Village Hall was open for two afternoon-and-evening sessions with steering group members in attendance throughout

A detailed prospectus was prepared titling each area; A, B, C, D, & E and classed by the Steering group to provide greater scope into more outstretched areas represented by compass points; North, East, West, South, Southeast and Northwest of the Village centre plus for separate sites marked as Site 1 and site C.

Each area prospectus and map were displayed and attendees invited to read them and ask any questions

Attendees were given three voting cards and asked to vote for up to three preference areas indicated for ease alphabetically, apart from Site 1. Attendees were invited to put written comments against each area.

Main issues and concerns

The results showed an overwhelming preference for the area north of the village. This had 52.5% of the votes, in other words more than all the others put together. It also attracted many positive comments

There was less difference between areas to the northwest, west and southeast and south getting 7.5%, 15.4%, 14.8% and 9.66% respectively.

The Area to the northwest (either side of Callow Hill) attracted unfavourable comments because of poor road and pedestrian access.

The Area to the west of the village (exemplified by the old brickworks) was also seen to have poor access, and there were concerns about contamination. However it had some favourable comments too. There were wildlife concerns about all areas.

Areas to the south of the village (exemplified by the back of Station Road and School Lane) were said by some to be the worst option: people disliked the fact that it had no good boundaries and would open development towards Redditch. There were also heritage and wildlife concerns.

The Area to the south east (exemplified by Lye Meadows) was opposed on wildlife, heritage, important views, farming and landscape grounds, as well as difficult access. Neither areas to the south and southeast attracted any favourable comments.

Contribution to plan formation

The results give the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) steering group a snapshot of views from parishioners, with a clear preference for some future development to be towards the north of Alvechurch village if released from the GB in the future by BDC.

The comments were recorded and will be used to inform BDC when they decide to carry out their future Green Belt (GB) review.

At that time the Neighbourhood Plan if already adopted could then be reviewed itself to include any sites indicate by the BDC GB review needed to support their future housing numbers. For the moment however the NP cannot allocate sites in the plan until that review has been completed.

The steering group decided to move forward with a draft plan based on all comments and preferences received so far and those yet to be gained from future draft plan consultations before naming any particular sites, with a possibility of other areas being considered as reserves if more housing is found to be required.

The draft NP plan for the moment cannot include or mention what land may or may not be released in a Local Authority future GB review that is for BDC only. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is governed currently by the BDC plan in use at these times, which are the 2011-2030 District plans. However this exercise is seen as a very useful tool to be kept in readiness for when such a BDC GB review is implemented, and will give Alvechurch's community the opportunity to work with BDC and to have a say in that GB review.

Currently it is only possible to mention community consultation and preferences that relate to current policy, which is set out in the 2011 to 2030 BDC District Plan (adopted January 2017): otherwise the NP would be seen as not conforming to NP regulations or national Planning Policy.

The policies on housing will be complemented by a suite of other policies relating to transport, business, environment, health, well-being and other requirements, based on the preference for any particular build area.

17 Continuing consultation

Throughout the plan development, the APNP website invited comments from residents, either directly on to the site or through the Parish Office. People who commented were contacted, and in some cases invited to meetings. Their comments were used to inform the wider consultation process.

Members of the steering group attended meetings of neighbouring parishes, Barnt Green and Lickey & Blackwell. The nearest parish, Barnt Green, was invited to have a representative attend steering group meetings. These discussions were used to ascertain where there was common ground between parishes

The Neighbourhood Plan was a monthly item on the Parish Council agenda, ensuring all councillors were kept informed and could contribute. It featured in quarterly Parish Council newsletters, published through the Village magazine.

As indicated in specific consultation events, the Village magazine was used throughout the process to feedback on progress to the local community

Further progress is put on hold now whilst awaiting the outcome of the examination of the Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) emerging Local Plan and the questioning about the District housing numbers, the need for a Green Belt (GB) review and the duty to co-operate with neighbouring Local Authorities.

The community have indicated their preferences for areas they consider more suitable for future housing in or around Alvechurch but this will need to be agreed by BDC and by them releasing such areas through a G B review.

Bromsgrove District Council have not yet indicated to the Neighbourhood Plan which land in the Parish will be considered for release from the GB in a review for future housing need, or of the numbers of houses that BDC expect Alvechurch to take for future housing in order to support future District strategic housing figures.

Once these emerging Local Plan anomalies have been resolved by the Examiner the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) will be able to further progress and consult on a draft plan.

18 2015 Reviewing the project, community feedback and policy development

2015 was spent reviewing comments gathered from all presentations, and meetings with BDC planning department for training sessions on Policy writing, sustainability process and evaluating the structure of the Draft Neighbourhood plan.

The Steering Group (SG) were given the tasks of finishing their Topic Sections and filling in the “BDC” organised homework sheets/matrices, and cross-checking policies and conformity with higher Plans and regulations.

Much time was spent on supplying Kirkwell consultants with relevant information and then awaiting their results before that information was formulated into the Draft Documents.

In March 2015 new funding was applied for to employ a sustainability consultant. To make a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to support the draft NP document in its formation. Unlike local plans or development plan documents produced by the District Council, Neighbourhood Plans are not required to have Sustainability Appraisals undertaken on them. What is advisable is a review of the “sustainability” (economic, environmental, and social) impacts of the neighbourhood development plan, which could be necessary and useful for a lot of neighbourhood development plans that are being produced to meet the basic conditions checked at examination. This does not mean that sustainability appraisals as used on local plans are required. It is good planning practice to check what the potential impacts of a planning policy will be on an area, helping to advise which potential options might be best; and doing this against the topics of social, environmental and economic impacts makes a lot of sense. This is why the APNP steering group have decided to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal to run alongside its Plan.

In April 2015 it was decided that BDC should present a revised SEA screening report to the statutory bodies, as the route the plan previously took suggested nominating development sites. The SG found it is not possible for the APNP to designate sites, as only a Local Authority can designate sites within the Green Belt following a BDC Green Belt review.

In May 2015 a new grant was agreed for APNP from the Local Communities organisation, this will be used for making a sustainability appraisal to back up the APNP.

In July 2015 a final draft NP was handed over by Kirkwell’s consultants, and this was passed on to BDC for consideration.

In August 2015 BDC’s new planning officer helping us with the NP, talked through the NP SEA/HRA screening document and during discussion the following points emerged: BDC

have concluded that there is no specific impact on the environment but this needs confirming with the Statutory Consultees (Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England). **(See letters received agreeing no need for SEA in Appendix 11).**

BDC circulated a Draft NP copy to its planning officers for comments by 14 Sept 2015. BDC to email NP with tracked changes prior to discussion at additional SG meeting on 30 Sept 2015 –

October 2015: following extensive comments received from BDC on the Draft NP it was decided further work was needed on Policy writing and a meeting with District council planning Officers was arranged for November 2015 to further the draft NP and the individual Topic sections.

November 2015, following the Policy training sessions the next meeting was deferred to January 2016.

19 2016 Progressing the Draft NP document

The main documents were being updated by the Topic groups with continued checking and suggested tracking consultation emails received from the Local Authorities ratifying policy sections and document make ups, comments were received from BDC and WCC planning officers.

20 In May 2016: Picnic in the Park



Setting up for the 2016 Picnic in the Park

The Steering group took a stall at the Picnic in the Park yearly Alvechurch fete; attendance was not as good as previous years due to weather, but interest was shown by those visitors who attended.

People consulted

Most visitors are Parish residents or local business owners and friends and

relatives. People come from far and wide and visit the many stalls dotted around the Wiggin Field. The Neighbourhood Plan always gets attention and as before at these events the public always want to know how many more houses are likely to be built for the future in the parish.

Aim of Consultation

The Picnic in the park shows are a way of keeping the Neighbourhood Plan in the public eye, and to update those that are interested to what has been happening with the plan process.

Nature of consultation

The Steering group set a small gazebo up, with a few display boards showing latest work and handing out brief questionnaires to try to gather responses to help keep the

Neighbourhood Plan process community based. Many questionnaire leaflets were handed out inviting response. Many spoken opinions were received by steering group members but out of 100 odd leaflets handed out only 11 written responses were received back at the Parish Council office.

Main issues

Many similar points were raised, mainly how much more housing can we take without affecting the balance of services that exist at present....**see Appendix 12(Page 44) for more detail and community responses.**

Contribution to Plan formation

These responses go together with all others from previous presentations to lead the way for our Key Aims and policy making to reflect community opinion. Having done many presentations and chairing several group discussions with associations and parish clubs, it has now reached a stage where community comments are much alike over the various topic themes.

21 September 2016: 15 page whole community Booklet

PARISH-WIDE CONSULTATION – AUTUMN 2016

People consulted

All residents and businesses in the parish

Aim of consultation

To continue the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan public consultation exercise and specifically assess current views on the plan's emerging policy areas.

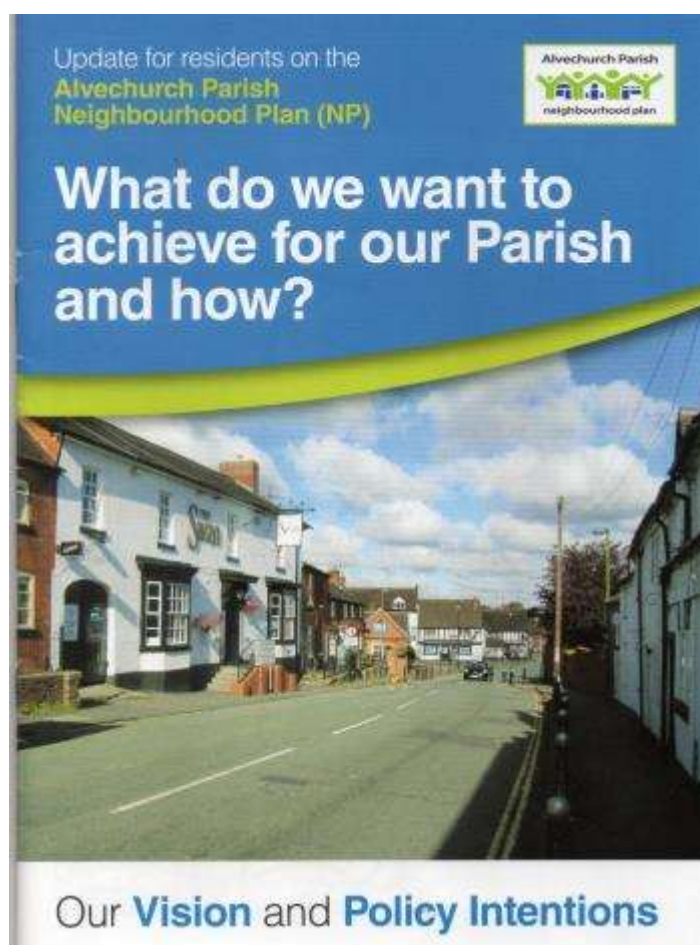
Nature of consultation

A 14-page booklet was prepared by the Steering Group with assistance from planning officers at Bromsgrove District Council. A specialist graphic designer integrated the text and photographs to give a professional feel to the document.

The Parish was divided into delivery areas and Parish Councillors hand-delivered nearly 2200 to the majority of properties. Booklets were posted to approximately 100 outlying properties.

A 6 week period was allowed for public responses and the consultation exercise was publicised on web sites, social media and, via a press release in local papers. Reminders about the exercise were posted on the PC's social media page.

Main community issues and concerns



General feedback on the booklet was very positive. Many comments on social media praised the look and feel of the booklet, its quality and clarity...and supported the work of the Parish Council in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. A summary of comments follows.

Comments on the overall draft Plan, its vision and the Parish Council approach

A summary of comments received, split between general comments and those specific to the 5 topic areas is shown in Appendix 13.

Post-consultation analysis

Comments were assessed by the Steering Group against the aims and policies in the draft plan. The vast majority of comments were similar to those received in earlier consultations and matched plan policies. Several specifics from policy area 5 (Getting Around) were set aside to form part of a Community Action – Village Centre improvement project.

22 2017 Progressing finalisation of policies and accompanying documents

Throughout 2017 the Steering Group continued to gather information and correlate all presentation results and comments gathered so far and form them into the Neighbourhood Plan policies.

Policies were then checking for conformity against the recently adopted Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030 and against the National Planning Policy Framework and European conformity. These processes led to the completion of the Basic Conditions Statement and further work on the Evidence base Summary, and this Consultation Statement.

Work also continued on updating the old Alvechurch Village Design Statement into the new Alvechurch Parish Design Statement, which will form an integral part of this Neighbourhood Plan, and will be consulted on at the same time as the other main Neighbourhood Plan Documents.

February Steering Group (SG) Meeting...Barratt Homes update NP on their future proposed development for Alvechurch North

SG Continue updating documentation in cooperation with Bromsgrove Planning Department.

SG sends proposed draft NP to BDC planning officer for comments and suggestions

SG amends and restructures draft Plan, work follows now on other documents

Sustainability Appraisal check overs and finalising with GA Consultants

Discussions with BDC Town centre manager re proposed future improvements to Alvechurch Village centre taking into account comments from the community at various presentations and picnic in the Park events.

Further amendments to the draft NP document to take in comments from BDC and WCC.

23 Community event Picnic in the Park - May 2017



People consulted

As in previous years the event attracted a large number of local people and visitors, visiting the many stalls including that promoting the Neighbourhood Plan. This year the Steering Group were specifically asking visitors to complete a questionnaire on the future of Alvechurch village centre. This focus

was specifically intended to complement recent media interest in the quantity and quality of shops and how parking and other highways issues might affect their usage.

Aim of Consultation

To gather information on how local people want to see the village centre develop and to remind everyone that the Plan is nearing completion and will soon enter the formal stages of pre-submission consultation and independent inspection.

Nature of consultation

Display boards within a gazebo as in previous years, manned by Steering Group members (and other Parish Councillors) wearing printed eye-catching polo shirts (see photo) to promote the Neighbourhood Plan.

Contribution to Plan formation

Appendix 13 shows a copy of the questionnaire used and a summary report on the 111 completed questionnaires. Much of the responses matched material already included in the draft Plan, specifically supporting a proposed Community Project to enhance the quantity and quality of commercial premises involved. Preparatory work for that Community Project has already started as the Parish Council is working with the Bromsgrove Centres Manager to carry out a business audit of commercial premises in the village centre.

24 Pre-submission consultation

People consulted

Statutory consultees, neighbouring Councils, residents of Alvechurch Parish, landowners and business people and a range of local organisations..

Aim of consultation

To inform all consultees of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, its policies and other proposals and how they relate to national, regional and local planning policy.

Nature of consultation

A 3-day public event in Alvechurch village supported by similar exercises in the surrounding settlements in the Parish. All events promoted via a media campaign and

encouraging local people to understand what the Plan aims to achieve and reminding them that its formal approval in a community referendum is necessary before it can be legally adopted.

Main issues and concerns

Overriding issues are raising widespread public awareness of the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan and reminding local people that the Plan is part of, but not the primary tool for approving developments on the ground.

Contribution to plan formation

Reinforcement that the Plan has acknowledged previous community feedback and that the Steering Group has listened to what people have said, analysed how feedback fits with planning policies and then drafted sustainable policies and proposals that will enhance the Parish to the year 2030 and beyond. ,

APPENDICES

- 1. COMMUNITY MEETING NOVEMBER 2011**
- 2. STATUTORY CONSULTATION - PUBLICATION OF INTENT TO PRODUCE A PLAN 2012**
- 3. MEETING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS MARCH 2012**
- 4. COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK JUNE 2012**
- 5. COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK JUNE 2014**
- 6. CONSULTATION WITH STATUTORY BODIES 2013**
- 7. CONSULTATIONS ACROSS THE PARISH WARDS SEPTEMBER 2012 – JUNE 2013**
- 8. SPECIAL GROUPS**
- 9. MAJOR QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY MARCH 2014**
- 10. COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS 18-19th JULY 2014**
- 11. RE-SCREENING BY STATUTORY BODIES 2015**
- 12. COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK MAY 2016**
- 13. COMMUNITY INFORMATION BOOKLET / QUESTIONNAIRE SEPTEMBER 2016**
- 14. COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK MAY 2017**
- 15. PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION OCTOBER 2017**

APPENDIX 1 COMMUNITY MEETING - NOVEMBER 2011

People consulted

The invitation was issued, through the Village magazine and posters, to an initial meeting to explore the possibility of writing a Plan. Approximately 80 people attended, not all filled in their details.

Aim of consultation

- To raise awareness of the NP process
- To gauge interest in the parish for a Plan
- To find key issues in people's perception of the parish

Nature of consultation

Evening meeting: presentation from PC, question and answer session; short questionnaire asking what people most valued and most wanted to improve about the parish

Main issues and concerns

There was a very clear agreement on what people "valued most about Alvechurch parish". The three elements most chosen were

- access to the countryside, green belt and open spaces
- community services and facilities
- Appearance or feel of the area.

There was less agreement about what people "most wanted to improve." However, the main ones were;

- public transport
- leisure services and facilities
- traffic and parking
- youth facilities
- range and quality of shops
- appearance or feel of the area
- opportunities for new business

There was agreement on the need for more affordable housing.

Contribution to plan formation:

Used to set up a steering group to proceed with the Plan, including involvement of community volunteers, and identify broad issues and concerns

APPENDIX 2: STATUTORY CONSULTATION - PUBLICATION OF INTENT TO PRODUCE A PLAN 2012

Letter sent by the then Parish Clerk to Bromsgrove District Council on behalf of the Parish Council.



M Dunphy
Strategic Planning Manager
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Dear Mike

I the under signed, for and behalf of Alvechurch Parish Council, hereby submit formal application to Bromsgrove District Council for designation of the Parish of Alvechurch as a Neighbourhood Area, as defined on the accompanying map which identifies the area to which the application relates.

The Parish of Alvechurch is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area since the Parish of Alvechurch has a defined boundary and is already in place as an area governed by Bromsgrove District Council.

The body making the area application, namely Alvechurch Parish Council, is the relevant body for the purposes of section 61G(2) for the 1990 Act (inserted by paragraph 2 of the Schedule 9 to the Localism Act), and as stated in The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Goode
Clerk
Alvechurch Parish Council

Consultation: Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

Bromsgrove District Council has consulted on applications for the designation of a neighbourhood area. The application showed the area in which the parish intend to use the new neighbourhood planning powers arising from the Localism Act and the supporting neighbourhood planning regulations.

Bromsgrove District Council is committed to publishing all applications received (in accordance with The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 2, Regulation 6).

No objections were received by 6th January 2013

Questions for Bromsgrove Council about their role can be submitted by e-mail to strategicplanning@bromsgrove.gov.uk or by post to:

Strategic Planning
Planning and Regeneration
Bromsgrove District Council
the Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1AA

Follow this link to see the area and the application letter from Alvechurch Parish

<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/cms/environment-and-planning/planning/strategic-planning/neighbourhood-planning.aspx>

Designated Area Accepted

All was deemed above board and the designated area has been accepted so the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan is off the starting blocks and being prepared with the help of our community

APPENDIX 3: MEETING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS MARCH 2012

People consulted

Identified representatives of 26 community groups in the parish were contacted by letter and/or email

Aim of consultation

To raise awareness of Plan; to find out how groups would like to be involved in the making of the Plan; to improve their knowledge of the Plan process; to identify issues they thought important

Nature of consultation:

Invitation to a special steering group meeting on 15 March. Short presentation on Plan and extended question-and-answer session

Main issues and concerns:

- The main issue was people's fear that the Plan would not have any force as development would go on against their wishes.
- There was also a general need for information about the possible scope of the Plan.
- There were productive suggestions about methods of consultation and involvement

Contribution to plan formation:

- Suggestion that we visit their meetings for our consultations
- Identification of difficult areas where the public would need more explanation
- Recognition of the needs of some groups such as the elderly
- Inclusion of some group representatives in a wider steering group
- A circulation list
- Decision to set up ward-based meetings with questionnaires
- Production of a list of questions and answers about the Plan process for circulation to groups

APPENDIX 4: COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK JUNE 2012



Nature of consultation



- Transport issues, including car & public transport, and pedestrian issues were uppermost.
- Improvements to local businesses and facilities were also raised.
- There seemed to be less concern about housing.

Contribution to plan formation

The views in this consultation were seen to back up those of the initial meeting. They were used to help form the vision for the Plan. They also emphasised the need for the Plan to be about more than just housing and land. This led to a decision to continue to consult on:

- Housing, with greater clarity of the issues
- Countryside and environment,
- Business and jobs
- Transport

People consulted

Attendees at the Jubilee Picnic in the Park in Alvechurch on 4 June. This was the first consultation to make use of an existing public event. 142 comments were collected; Over 2000 people attended the event.

Aim of consultation

To involve a wide group of people from the Parish in forming a vision for the Parish – identification of the main issues that concerned people in an open-ended way

A stall with maps of the Parish, and invitation to post stickers saying what people liked, disliked and wanted to change in the Parish, coupled with a parish quiz for children and adults and information boards about the Plan.

Main issues and concerns

There was strong consensus about what was valued:

- The community spirit
- Facilities and vitality
- Access to countryside and valued landscape.

There was less consensus about what was disliked or needed improvement

APENDIX 5: COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK JUNE 2014



Setting up

There were many visitors during the 4th May picnic in the Park at Alvechurch Meadow's Field (The Wiggin). Lots of community residents along with their children and other visitors made the best of a glorious day. There was a

variety of stalls on offer together with lots of on field entertainment.

Much interest was shown throughout the day in the Neighbourhood Plan stall, which displayed maps of broad areas for possible development that the recent community questionnaire results pointed to.

The larger maps pointed out sites from Bromsgrove District Council's document, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Several A4 versions of the smaller map, illustrated below, were displayed in loose form on the table for people to use.

There were 38 written comments on post-it notes left in the post box and many more spoken opinions, dealt with by the 6 steering group volunteers who manned the stand throughout the day from 10am to 5pm.

Rather than general comments, which we had received from previous presentations these maps and diagrams pointed to 3 specific parts of the village boundary; Areas to the North, West and Southern edges of Alvechurch village and this generated better detailed comment.



Most spoken comments were of the opinion that if Green Belt were to be released it should be in those areas that are able to be well contained by natural and physical boundaries. Quite a few other people mentioned they would like to see some improvements to the centre of Alvechurch village through soft landscaping, more seating and some better traffic control especially a crossing from the square to the medical centre.

Many said they thought the parish was good left just as it was with just a small amount of future housing for the young and elderly if there was a proven need for it.

The general consensus was that the motorway to the North offered the best physical attributes that could contain development and would do less damage by releasing just that area of the Green Belt for the Parish's future housing. Many said some small sympathetic canal side development looked possible at the Old Brick Yard site as it had a previous industrial nature but there were reservations on traffic access and exiting.

Quite a few visitors wanted to know the specific housing numbers that Alvechurch was expected to take up to 2030, as they thought quite a lot have already been provided for in Alvechurch.

Several people thought it a bad idea to spread development around the other areas of the Parish as it would result in the Green Belt being less effective and would lead to joining up of urban areas eventually.

Broad areas of land for the public to indicate their preference if more housing is needed

38 written comments were as follows;

B 48 7SB	Build near School
B487AP	Crossing on A441 near Westmead Hotel
B48&7EA	It would be good to improve the centre of Alvechurch, particularly The Square, soft planting, benches etc.
B48 7PX	Let's make Village look better, crossing from square to Drs
B48 7SX	Within walking distance of facilities.
B48 7RY	Best near the motorway
B48 7AD	Not in Hopwood
B48 7SW	develop around Alvechurch, Do not disperse community
B48 7RY	Traffic calming through village
B48 7DJ	only around Alvechurch, not in G Belt
B48 7PS	Prefer A, (near motorway) don't join housing to Redditch
B48 7NQ	Build only near motorway, some for elderly, keep village, and don't spread
B48 7RP	Preference to site A (near motorway)
B48 7QT	Don't spread around, keep constrained
.....	traffic calming measures on Tanyard Lane- Accident waiting to happen



- can we do something to help pedestrians around The Square, I saw a near miss when an elderly person tried to cross by the doctors, there is no safe place to cross The Square.
- We should avoid development along and spoiling Old rectory lane, which remains a quiet walkable route.
- B48 7RY Development should be to south of village
- B48 7RZ Any development to be by motorway as less visually obstructive etc. School provision to be covered too.
- B48 7NG West of Alvechurch.
- A Clarence Don't turn our village into an urban sprawl!
- B48 7NG As a resident of Alvechurch I can walk in any direction out into the countryside.
- People don't all want to live in Birmingham.
- B48 7EA the island by the Red Lion is irrational
- order of preference...
- B already on old brickworks
- A motorway prevents further natural spread
- C –
- B 48 7NB I have no problem with housing on Plot A , 1,2,3,4,5
- Plot B- Just the brickworks
- Plot C –behind Nursery
- Mr & Mrs Kenny Rowney Green lane Suggest housing provides for young (affordable) and elderly (Sheltered)
- B48 the Old Brickworks, as it has an industrial use, it would be good if that use continued albeit with new building of workshops/ or sensitive residential development. T Williams
- B48 7PB I am concerned about developing George Road playing field. The increase in traffic and loss of the only playing field in our part of the village would be a real loss. They are small gardens in our area and if the playing field goes children will play in the street! K. Smith (George Rd).
- B48 7JX Build on side of station, plot 7, 8 & 9
- B48 7RY Please can the Parish Council address the increasing levels of traffic through the village? We are concerned at the increasing number of large lorries using Council Yard on Redditch road-this is a weight restricted road.
- B48 7QN Don't build in Green Belt

- Natural Boundary of Village used please .Keep the Village a village & not an increasingly large Town.
- MORE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
- B48 7PT When villages get too large they lose the community spirit.
- B97 6AD (Redditch) Mixed housing doesn't work out of experience. Having moved in & out of a new build in last 3 years.
- .. What No. of Houses? Keep building restrained in one area.
- B48 7NN Area A near motorway....Keep other areas open!!

APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION WITH STATUTORY BODIES 2013

Environment Agency

Mr. Tim Collard
Bromsgrove District Council
Planning Policy
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA
Our ref: SV/2010/103997/OR-
06/IS1-L01
Your ref: 6/23.30
Date: 3 April 2013

Dear Mr. Collard

SEA/SA Requirement for Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for referring the above consultation, seeking our views on whether an SEA/SA is required for the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood plan. The consultation documents include the emerging objectives and strategic options of the plan along with a map outlining the designated neighbourhood area. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments to assist:

Flood Risk

The plan area is part of the River Arrow catchment and as such all water flows through the parish to Redditch which has known flooding issues. The fluvial floodplain extents are shown on our Flood Zone Map, copy enclosed. The River Arrow is classified 'Main River' from its location to the east of Alvechurch downstream.

Any new development should be sited outside of Flood Zone 3 and 2, within Flood Zone 1 ('low probability') and should not increase flooding issues downstream in Redditch, in line with national planning guidance. As part of this surface water drainage proposals should be designed with sufficient attenuation, through sustainable drainage (SuDS) techniques, to maintain the existing pre-development greenfield runoff rate or betterment for brownfield sites. Overall, opportunities for flood risk betterment should be sought in line with the policy aims of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its Technical Guidance.

In order to preserve water quality in all watercourses and to ensure that flooding problems are not created or exacerbated in any way, new drainage systems should implement SuDS techniques and be designed and installed in accordance with industry standard Circa 697. When new development is planned it should not be sited over or close to existing culverted watercourses and the plan provides an opportunity to identify watercourse improvements, including the removal of culverts where practicable, in line with the NPPF and objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The Neighbourhood Plan may, in certain cases, wish to promote/focus on reducing any known flooding hotspots. We would recommend that flooding is highlighted as an issue when the local community is engaged. All sources of flooding should be considered in producing the plan. We would recommend that you consult with the North Worcestershire Water Management Team, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, for further information on any local flooding issues and in considering all sources of flooding.

Water Quality/Ecology

Every public authority has the duty to conserve biodiversity as specified under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006. The Neighbourhood Plan should therefore look to conserve local biodiversity assets and promote the enhancement of biodiversity in accordance with priorities specified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

The plan should look to identify important and designated sites for nature conservation ensuring these features are maintained and/or enhanced. Where a development has the potential to affect nationally designated sites or species Natural England should be contacted.. We would expect Natural England to have been consulted on this SEA/SA screening opinion.

The Upper River Arrow catchment has several important conservation sites with the Bittell Reservoir complex forming a significant part of these sites, designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Hopwood Dingle SSSI is also located within the plan area, which is a National Trust site north-east of Bittell Reservoir.

The River Arrow in this catchment has been classed as moderate ecological status under the WFD. The main issues in this part of the catchment are:

- Nutrient enrichment from phosphate
- Excess sediment/silt
- Failing invertebrates
- Sewage pollution from septic tanks

Run-off from the adjacent land and brownfield development in the Barnt Green and Longbridge area has historically caused problems to the catchment. Phosphate levels have been an issue at Bittell Reservoir since the 1990's and the site is currently failing its SSSI status due to poor water quality and aquatic macrophytes. Bittell Reservoir is a significant source of the River Arrow and therefore any problems at this site can quickly spread further downstream. Development should consider WFD status to ensure no deterioration and to assist in achieving 'good status' by 2027 in surface waters, groundwater and protected areas, in line with the objectives of the WFD.

As part of the plan we would wish to see the river habitat corridor maintained and improved with the aim of restoring natural features alongside and within the watercourse. Where practicable, this could incorporate the removal of barriers to fish passage. River shading should be taken into consideration through tree planting along watercourses, thus helping to control water temperature as a climate change adaptation strategy. Woodland grant schemes are available. Again, the use of SuDS techniques such as the creation of retention ponds, vegetated swales, wetlands and reed beds where appropriate, will not only provide for drainage and flood storage but can create biodiversity and water quality benefits, in addition to enhancing the aesthetics and therefore improving well-being.

The north of the plan area is considered particularly sensitive, as there are numerous sites of significant ecological importance and it is used for water abstraction purposes (see groundwater vulnerability section below). Any development would need to take these issues into account to ensure that the plan does not put the area at risk or negatively impact its WFD status. Any work close to the Bittell reservoir complex should provide an appropriate level of surface water treatment through SuDS.

Additionally, some of the area is not on a foul sewer network and sewage pollutions from septic tanks are common, particularly in the Hopwood area. Investment in first time sewerage should be discussed as an option early on with Severn Trent Water Ltd.

Should non-mains drainage be required, proposals should be sustainable and appropriate in protecting the water environment.

In general, the plan should incorporate a holistic view at a local landscape level to improve, enhance and create habitat sites to make "more, bigger, better and joined" landscapes for wildlife as specified in 'Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Networks by John Lawton. Planning at this level can help

to create a more resilient ecological network for the future and to prevent fragmentation of important wildlife sites and their corridors.

There is an opportunity to encourage environmentally and wildlife friendly farming practices through environmental stewardships, incorporating buffer zones, fencing to prevent livestock poaching and creating silt traps near watercourses. This will help to prevent run-off and sediments degrading the watercourses.

The plan could encourage the local community to create 'friends of' groups, to work in partnerships with the local Wildlife Trust to manage and enhance important urban green spaces as their own. These groups can apply for various community funding opportunities to enhance and improve their local green space, benefiting people and wildlife.

Groundwater Vulnerability/Contaminated Land

The area of Alvechurch Parish is predominantly green belt land and located on Mercia Mudstone, which is classed as a low sensitivity Secondary B Aquifer and not particularly vulnerable. Further west towards Bromsgrove the geology changes into Sherwood Sandstone strata, which is a Principal Aquifer and much more valuable in terms of groundwater resource. As a result, Severn Trent Water Ltd. has got public water abstractions in the area further to the west (e.g. Brockhill pumping station in Tutnall, some 3km to the south-west of Alvechurch and some boreholes at Burcot too, at some 4km westerly). Within the plan area there are groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) in Hopwood for public water abstraction, categorised as Zones 1, 2 and 3, which would restrict certain activities, particularly when it comes to the Inner SPZ (1). Further guidance on activities within SPZ1 (and topics including: brownfield regeneration, cemeteries, sewage works, groundwater flooding, sustainable drainage, waste storage, fuel storage, groundwater resources, agricultural disposals, ground source heat pumps etc.) is set out in our Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice document (GP3), available via: <http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/144346.aspx>

It is essential that these principles are adhered to where relevant when it comes to detailed proposals being produced.

Also, there is useful guidance for the redevelopment of land in the form of the procedures set out in the NPPF and in CLR11 – Model Procedures for the Management of Contamination. This would include assessing the suitability of sites for redevelopment based on their environmental setting, as well as previous site history and potential for contamination to be present and the best ways to mitigate any risks to Controlled Waters shown i.e. there are a number of historic waste pits located within the plan area.

Sustainable Development

We acknowledge the emerging objectives refer to sustainable development. Your Council's Outline Water Cycle Study (WCS) by MWH Ltd and emerging Local Plan picks up local water resource issues and the need for water efficiency as part of sustainable development. We would advise consideration of water efficiency techniques within the design of dwellings, with reference to the Code for Sustainable Homes water efficiency levels (such as level 3/4 for water of 105 litres per person per day). As part of sustainable development, we would also expect water efficiency techniques to be incorporated within the design of the commercial/employment buildings e.g. to BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) very good standard or above, or alternatively the 'Good Practice' level of the AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) for non-residential development, which relates to water efficiency only.

Summary

In considering the emerging objectives and strategic options for the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan and the environmental context for the plan area, we do not consider that there would be 'significant environmental effects' as a result of the plan. The plan will need to comply with existing legislation and national policies and have regard to your Council's emerging Local Plan, which is still in draft. Notwithstanding this, the above environmental issues should be taken into consideration, along with opportunities to deliver environmental improvements through the objectives and policies of the plan.

The plan should be informed by a robust and credible evidence base to ensure that its policies and broad site allocations are justified and effective. Reference should be made to your Council's WCS work by Royal Haskoning and MWH Ltd, which may need to be updated to inform the plan.

I trust the above comments are of use at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rachel Whiteman
Senior Planning Officer

Direct dial 01743 283 505

Direct fax 01743 283 419

Direct e-mail rachel.whiteman@environment-agency.gov.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE
WEST MIDLANDS REGION

Mr T Collard
Strategic Planning
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Our ref: HD/P NHP
Your ref:

Telephone 0121 625 6851
Fax 0121 625 6820

18 March 2013

Dear Mr Collard

**re: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REQUEST-
ALVECHURCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Thank you for your email of 12 February and the accompanying information on the emerging Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of such consultations, English Heritage confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

The accompanying information with the consultation included a map of the Parish, a draft schedule of objectives (as at January 2013) and an outline sustainability issues SWOT analysis.

The draft objectives indicate that the Plan will identify areas of search for new housing, direct development to existing 'ADRs' and release greenbelt land for future development. The draft objectives also indicate the creation of a business development plan for Alvechurch village centre with options for pedestrianisation and highway changes and encouragement for farm diversification. It is unclear, however, based on the information provided how such proposals may affect the historic environment and heritage assets of the Parish, as for example the Alvechurch conservation area and the extensive scheduled monument at the Bishop's Palace immediately to the east of the town.

Moreover, the draft objectives do not include any provisions for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the area's heritage assets. In this context, therefore, English Heritage considers that there is insufficient information at this stage to determine the likely impact of the Plan and any significant effects on cultural heritage.

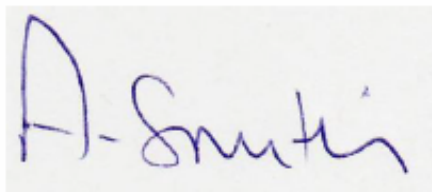
I recommend that a concise Screening Report is prepared to help inform the consultation process and the decision as to the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A possible approach is that used by Madeley Parish Council, Telford and Wrekin Council. The consultation Screening Report outlined the emerging objectives for the Plan and the emerging development strategy. It also provided a short assessment against each of the criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive. These provide the framework for helping to determine whether there are likely to be significant effects resulting from the implementation of the Plan.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, I would be happy to forward further advice on this. English Heritage is about to publish updated guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment which is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning.

With regard to general information on the preparation of neighbourhood plans, outlined in an Annex to this response is an extract of general advice English Heritage typically provides when consultation on area designations. In particular, it includes a series of signposts to further information including the relevant pages on our main website.

Please let me know if you require any further information or wish to discuss our comments in further detail at this stage.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Smith
Planner (West Midlands)
E-mail: amanda.smith@english-heritage.org.uk

Date: 27 February 2013
Our ref: 78236
Your ref: Alvechurch NP

Tim Collard
Planning Officer
Bromsgrove District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY



Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business
Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

Dear Mr Collard

Planning Consultation:

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 12 February 2013

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be required for the Neighbourhood Plan given that the plan's objectives include the location of housing and associated infrastructure, which would impact on the environment including the protected nature conservation sites (Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI) which fall within the parish boundaries.

We would also suggest that there would be a need for a Sustainability Appraisal because of the changes that the plan may make to the environment, society and the local economy. However we understand that the need for a Sustainability Appraisal appears to be something that is recommended as good practice but not necessarily a legal requirement.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Roslyn Deeming on 0300 060 1524. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Roslyn Deeming

Land Use Adviser

The Bromsgrove District Council Screening letter October 2014.

<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/1058146/20141002-APNP-SEA-Screening-Determination.pdf>

BDC advised that the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) should carry out a Sustainable Environmental Assessment but the Steering Group has requested that this be revisited considering the APNP is not allocating sites and will be complying to BDC policy and to development that is on land released from the green belt through the BDC Green Belt Review.

In August 2015, a new planning officer was recruited by BDC and she offered to help the Steering Group carry forward the NP. One of her first recommendations was to re-submit the screening options for SEA, as it was now thought that the plan had taken a new direction and was not advocating the allocation of development sites. This second screening exercise is shown in Appendix 11.

APPENDIX 7: CONSULTATIONS ACROSS THE PARISH WARDS SEPTEMBER 2012 – JUNE 2013

People consulted:

- There were five stages to this consultation event, in different wards of the parish. Most of the sessions were timed to coincide with other meetings and events, by invitation from the groups running them.
- The first was at Rowney Green and included people from Rowney Green and Bordesley: it was advertised in both villages. It was timed to coincide with an evening at the Goat and Trousers, a “pub” within the Peace Hall which opens at weekends.
- The second was at a Saturday morning session of The Lounge café, which supports a youth project in Alvechurch. Most people were resident or working in Alvechurch.
- The third was over Friday and Saturday at the Alvechurch Baptist church hall, alongside a mother-and- toddler session, a coffee morning for older members and a general open session.
- The next was again in two parts, a background event to two evening public meetings in Alvechurch, the Village Society AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Finally, a separate session was held at Hopwood village hall all day on a Saturday, for any residents there who hadn’t attended other events
- Two short presentations also took place at Weatheroak Residents Association (16 November 2012) and Hopwood WI (date 2013). A small number of people took the opportunity to complete the questionnaire, and these were counted in with the ward questionnaires.
- 132 people attended the specific sessions. At the AVS/APC meetings there were high numbers but it wasn’t possible to count how many took an active interest in the Plan. Overall, 73 questionnaires were returned

Nature of consultation

The format changed slightly depending on the nature of the venue, but generally consisted of;

- Display material
- People from the steering group to talk to
- A questionnaire to fill in
- An invitation to add any comments

Each was advertised with a combination of leaflets (in the smaller settlements), notices in the Village magazine and Baptist church magazine, posters and A-boards.

Aims of consultation:

- To increase awareness of the Plan
- To present four topics (housing, business, environment and transport) with four possible approaches to each one (not necessarily mutually exclusive options). These topics and approaches were suggested by previous consultations
- To get people’s agreement or disagreement on the ideas raised in the topics
- To ask for any general comments about parish needs for the future.
- To see if there were different views in the different wards.

Main issues and concerns:

- **Business and jobs:**
- General support for encouraging more business across the parish, but not for giving up green belt land

- Support for an improvement plan for Alvechurch village, especially from the Lounge session
- **Housing:**
- Many people do not accept the premise that some green belt land may have to be released and just repeat that it should be preserved.
- Some do not realise we don't have brown field sites.
- There was indication that limited development around settlements may be acceptable.
- There is general support for this to include small inexpensive houses.
- There were comments in some sessions about housing for the elderly.
There is inconsistency in the spread of answers, so our questions will need to be more carefully phrased in future.
- **Countryside environment:**
- There is overwhelming support for keeping the countryside wildlife-friendly, with a high proportion "strongly agreeing", though some people confuse this with green belt.
- Generally people support farming and other appropriate use
- They support improving access to the countryside
- More use of green technology and energy conservation are supported
- Where people are not in favour they have tended to not disagree either but remain neutral.
- **Transport:**
- There is overwhelming support for improving public transport from all participants, with a high proportion "strongly agreeing", and some offering suggestions
- People are also strongly in favour of improved traffic management, being especially concerned about speeding at Rowney Green, Hopwood and Alvechurch
- Generally, better footways and cycleways are supported
- Car parking in Alvechurch is not such a big issue but a review is generally supported.
- Several questions had a relatively high proportion of people offering no opinion.

General conclusion

There is clear evidence of respondents' agreement on some issues, for example;

- protection of the countryside
- improving public transport.

There is less agreement on some issues, especially in the development of housing, but the responses here give a good basis for further consultations.

There is some difference between the wards on a few questions, but generally the results are spread evenly across the sessions.

Contribution to plan formation:

This consultation has shown there to be strong support for:

- improving transport facilities,
- encouraging business
- maintaining an accessible green environment.

There is less agreement over housing issues, and this leads to a need for further explanation of BDC's policies and how they affect Alvechurch. However, the numbers completing the questionnaire have been relatively small, and the process needs extending.

It has consolidated the importance of including issues other than land use (business, environment, transport) in the Plan.

APPENDIX 8: SPECIAL GROUPS

a) Businesses & Landowners 18th January 2014

People consulted

- An open event for stakeholders was held at Alvechurch Village Hall.
- It was advertised in the Village magazine, by individual fliers round the shops and other businesses in Alvechurch village and Bordesley Hall, and by email to larger businesses working locally.
- Any residents who had missed earlier opportunities were also invited.

Aim of consultation

- To engage stakeholders – i.e. people with a business interest in Alvechurch parish, not necessarily resident
- To check what issues they might want considering

Nature of consultation

This was a Saturday afternoon open event, with displays about neighbourhood planning and members of the steering group on hand for discussion. Turnout was small (10 people) but useful contacts were made and ideas gathered. Attendees were invited to fill in the Business section of the questionnaire used for residents

Main issues and concerns

- Recognition that Alvechurch is a dormitory village and most people work and shop elsewhere. However, it has good facilities, and a need to preserve them, add or extend some, and maximise those we have
- Importance of small businesses, entrepreneurship and working from home
- Leisure as a potential growth area
- Shortage of pre-school provision especially for 2-year-olds, at the same time as there is a bit of a local baby boom
- Some improvement needed to shopping centre, perhaps on a shared space basis
- Consideration of the adequacy of services, especially GPs, if there is housing growth
- The need for faster broadband in parts of the parish

Contribution to plan formation

The comments confirmed what residents had said about business. It was decided to

- make separate approaches to the Middle School and the Medical Practice,
- discuss plans for business with BDC
- talk to some of the local developers for their views.

(b) Bromsgrove District Council 28th January 2014

People consulted

Leader of BDC and councillor concerned with planning

Aim of consultation

To ensure the emerging ideas in our plan were in line with future thinking in the District Council

Nature of consultation

Three members of the steering group met the two councillors for a discussion based on the five themes in the NP

Main issues and concerns

- The emerging local view that any new housing should be near Alvechurch Village and form part of the green belt review, agreed by both parties
- Possible business development. BDC talked especially about commercial development around the M42 and A435 corridors, in and near the parish, which might have significant employment opportunities.
- Suggested possible development of care homes and care villages
- Some differences on broadband provision: BDC thought it adequate but it may not be so for businesses needing design facilities, and in specific parts of the parish
- An emphasis on sport development and improving play spaces
- Agreement that transport facilities were patchy: the new rail service would benefit us but was not well integrated with bus services

Contribution to plan formation

The steering group has had good support from officers of BDC and this meeting helped inform us of the councillors' longer term views, especially on business development.

(c) Medical practice

People consulted

The lead GP of Northwood and Alvechurch GP practice, practice manager and deputy manager, and chair of the Patient Participation Group

Aim of consultation

- To ascertain what action could be taken to ameliorate the Alvechurch medical practice belonging to a Birmingham CCG
- To ascertain whether the practice has sufficient capacity to deal with housing growth

Nature of consultation

A meeting to discuss these specific issues, complementing other meetings with the two CCGs by the PPG and the PC

Main issues and concerns

- Planning for Alvechurch Parish's medical services is made difficult by the practice currently preferring Birmingham-based services due to being part of a bigger practice. The discussion explored ways of ensuring Alvechurch patients could also access Worcestershire services.
- The surgery building is used to capacity. The practice can currently cope with fluctuations in patient numbers, but any major growth (say over 100 houses) would necessitate a new building for increased personnel and services.
- The Alvechurch half of the practice is now larger than the "headquarters" half in Kings Norton

Contribution to plan formation

- The plan will take account of the practice being at capacity, and explore links with other practices, possibility of new premises, and other options linked with increased housing

(d) Alvechurch Middle School

People consulted

- Members of the steering group attended a Governors Meeting in May 2014, explained the process, and discussed how to consult young people in the school.
- Subsequently in June the SG met the deputy head and student council to develop a questionnaire. The SG then met the student council and discussed the main issues.
- The students then operated the questionnaire in their year groups in July.
- Completion was very good, covering the whole middle school except two groups who were out of school

This initial consultation session in 2014 was followed with similar discussions, some informal with staff and governors and others asking pupils for their views on the future of the village. The most recent of these has taken place in 2017, where various tutor groups were asked about their views (via a questionnaire) on future play facilities in the Meadows. Various equipment options and their costs/benefits were assessed with the final scheme being funded by developers contributions.

Aim of consultation

- To find out what the students saw as valuable in Alvechurch and what they would like changed for the future
- To engage them (and indirectly their parents) in the process of local planning

Nature of consultation

Discussion and questionnaire. The latter was mostly open-ended asking students to write in a limited number of answers.

Main issues and concerns

- There was overwhelming support for the parks and playgrounds, and next came the community. The school rates high, along with local facilities like the fish and chip shop and the Co-op. Next come the countryside and environment
- Like adults, young people dislike litter, graffiti and dog mess. Several students also think there are “too many houses”. They dislike bad behaviour: smoking, drinking, drugs and especially, teenagers hanging around and spoiling their fun. These in between age” young people feel threatened by teenagers and don’t think there is enough just for them.
- A large number want improvements to play spaces and equipment and more sports facilities. Many want more shops.
- Students were given the opportunity to make other comments. Most who did wrote about not building any more houses on countryside and keeping the village as it is.
- We asked them where they thought any extra housing should be built. Several refused to fill this in. The majority wanted them in the smaller villages, not around Alvechurch village

Contribution to plan formation

- The comments endorse a need for development of sport and play areas, and other facilities for this age group.

- They also echo adult concerns: the two main “likes” in the first adult feedback (May 2012) were the community and the environment.
- The perception that the village has already grown too big, and that houses should be built outside it, probably represents adult concerns.
- It suggests the need to promote better understanding of the reasons for building near the “large settlement” of Alvechurch

APPENDIX 9: MAJOR QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY MARCH 2014

People consulted

The parish as a whole was consulted. This is a continuation of previous consultations, across the whole parish to get a bigger sample.

Aim of consultation

- To increase awareness of the Plan
- To present four topics (housing, business, environment and transport) with four possible approaches to each one (not necessarily mutually exclusive options).
- To get people’s agreement or disagreement on the ideas raised in the topics
- To ask for any general comments about parish needs for the future.
- To invite comments on the vision and objectives of the Plan

Nature of consultation

- The questionnaire included the same questions with additional explanation, and additional elements on the vision and objectives.
- 2,000 copies were included for delivery within the Village magazine, delivered free to households in the parish.
- Collection points for responses were arranged across the parish.
- 200 replies were received
- Feedback was provided in a subsequent Village magazine

Main issues and concerns

- 93% supported the vision and 86% the core objectives of the Plan. Some people wanted them to be simpler and have less “local government speak.” Some said that they should emphasise what we already have in Alvechurch Parish.
- Housing remains a contentious issue. Some respondents wanted an option to build no more houses.
- Suggested options were to spread housing equally across the settlements or to concentrate them around Alvechurch village. Neither of these got clear approval through lack of explanation
- While there was not a majority for “smaller inexpensive housing”, some people were very much in support of suitable housing for elderly and young people.
- The other themes – business, transport and environment – produced a more consistent response. There is a majority for encouraging small, appropriate businesses in Alvechurch and the smaller settlements, though not for giving up green belt land to accommodate them.
- Most people would support some improvements to the centre of Alvechurch village.
- All the environmental options were supported, especially strongly for maintaining a wildlife-friendly countryside and improving access to it.
- Most people agreed that the countryside should also be used for farming, tourism or sport, and that we should try to support green and energy-saving measures.

- All the transport options were supported, especially better and a more integrated public transport
- Good traffic management, including car parking, and provision of some cycleways were also strongly supported.

Contribution to plan formation

- The steering group decided that more explanation was needed to parishioners of the importance of sustainable housing and its location, which would mean being nearer to the facilities of Alvechurch village, and of the necessity to contribute to BDC's housing targets.
- There was a need to further explain the coming green belt review and how we could best use it.
- There was a decision to move forward on looking at suitable housing sites, and start the process of drafting policies. The steering group worked intensively with BDC officers on the sites in the SHLAA and area assessment, and on progressing plan objectives and linking them with the SEA objectives
- These sites were subject to a preliminary consultation during the Picnic in the Park in May 2014, when residents were invited to comment on areas for possible development. 38 people left written comments and many more commented verbally.
- The mission statement was simplified and the objectives reviewed and confirmed.

APPENDIX 10: COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS 18-19 JULY 2014

People consulted

- All parishioners were invited to an open day to view, discuss and vote on possible housing areas. Areas being considered were: North, West, East and South on the edges of Alvechurch Village. To give some further local recognition areas were more specifically labelled A,B,C,D,E and Site 1(site 1 being very specific)
- Voting was limited to parishioners and their post-codes were recorded.
- The invitation was issued in the Village magazine and the press, with a map of sites, and posters were displayed around the parish.
- 114 people attended. Feedback was provided in a subsequent Village article

Aim of consultation

- To present five possible broad areas, currently in green belt, around Alvechurch village, as possible sites for future housing, and to promote one small site for homes for older people which may also be considered
- To show the pros and cons of each area and any implications of choosing them
- To raise awareness of issues of sustainability and the need to be within a 15 minute walk
- To give parishioners an opportunity to comment on the sites, and discuss them with the steering group
- To get feedback on the proposed areas and ascertain whether there were clear preferences among parishioners

Nature of consultation

- The Village Hall was open for two afternoon-and-evening sessions with steering group members in attendance throughout
- A detailed prospectus was prepared for each area A, B, C, D, & E.

- Each area prospectus and map were displayed and attendees invited to read them and ask any questions
- Attendees were given three voting cards and asked to vote for up to three areas.
- Attendees were invited to put written comments against each area.

Main issues and concerns

- The results showed an overwhelming preference for area A, bounded by the M42, Birmingham Rd, Old Rectory Lane and the River Arrow. This had 52.5% of the votes, in other words more than all the others put together. It also attracted many positive comments
- There was less difference between areas B, C, D and E, getting 7.5%, 15.4%, 14.8% and 9.66% respectively
- Area B (either side of Callow Hill) attracted unfavourable comments because of its poor road and pedestrian access
- Area C (the old brickworks) was also seen to have poor access, and there were concerns about contamination. However it had some favourable comments too
- There were wildlife concerns about areas B and C
- Area D (the back of Station Road and School Lane) was said by some to be the worst option: people disliked the fact that it had no good boundaries and would open development towards Redditch. There were also heritage and wildlife concerns.
- Area E (Lye meadows) was opposed on wildlife, heritage, farming and landscape grounds, as well as difficult access.
- Neither D or E attracted any favourable comments.
- Site 1 was not discussed but presented as the most likely location purely for possible housing restricted mainly for older residents and the site having the ability to provide an alternative access for the currently restricted access to the Wiggan Field.

Contribution to plan formation

- The results give the APNP steering group a snapshot of views from parishioners, with a clear preference for Area A. The comments were recorded and will also be used to inform the plan.
- The steering group decided to move forward with a draft plan based on Area A as the chosen area, with a possibility of area C if more housing was required.
- The policies on housing will be complemented by policies on transport, business, environment and other facilities, based on the preference for area A.



APPENDIX 11:RE-SCREENING BY STATUTORY BODIES 2015

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY,

Helen Smith
Strategic Planning Officer
Planning and Regeneration
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Our ref: SV/2010/103997/OR-06/IS2-L01

Your ref: 150909/BLB19

Date: 24 September 2015

Re: SEA and HRA screening assessment for Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Ms Smith

I refer to your email of 4 September 2015 with attachments.

We note that the Neighbourhood Plan steering group have asked your Council to undertake a screening assessment to check if Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required as part of the plan making process.

We note the screening assessment as submitted which concludes that an SEA and a HRA are not necessary.

We would not comment on the HRA but recommend that you seek the views of Natural England. We offer the following comments on the SEA:

With regard to SEA, Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209 of the National Planning Practice Guidance offers advice on assessing whether a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect.

We note that your conclusions are based around this guidance in so far as you confirm;

- ☐ *There are no plans for the proposed Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan to allocate sites for development;*
- ☐ *The Neighbourhood Plan itself is unlikely to have environmental effects; rather it is the specific developments that come forward as part of planning applications within the neighbourhood area that may result in environmental effects;*
- ☐ *The neighbourhood plan will seek to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects by providing guidance for applicants when making proposals for development within the neighbourhood plan area. This will help to reduce the number of negative environmental effects occurring within the neighbourhood plan area.*

As confirmed previously in our letter of 3 April 2013 (within your Appendix B) in response to your consultation on SEA and SA screening for this plan; and upon consideration of the current objectives and strategic options, we would reiterate that there would not be any significant effects, relevant to our remit, as a result of the plan.

Notwithstanding the above, we would reiterate the comments within our previous letter of 3 April 2013, to help inform the environmental context and inform environmental improvements through the objectives and policies of the plan.

We would also take this opportunity, whilst there are no formal site allocations proposed as part of this particular plan, to provide you with our 'Neighbourhood Plan proforma' (copy enclosed) which has been developed to assist parish council's with the production of evidence base to support plans. I trust that the above clarifies our position and is of interest.

Yours sincerely

Mark Davies
Planning Specialist
Direct dial 01743 283405

HISTORIC ENGLAND

Helen Smith
Strategic Planning Officer
Planning and Regeneration
Bromsgrove District Council
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA

Our ref: 1510
Your ref:
Telephone 0121 6256887



13 October 2015

Dear Ms Smith

ALVECHURCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING OPINION & HRA SCREENING REPORT

Thank you for your consultation received on the 4th September and the request for a Screening Opinion.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

On the basis of the information supplied, including that set out in the draft plan, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and accordingly that Strategic Environmental Assessment is currently unlikely to be required.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before

the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/strategic-envirom-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/>.

As regards the HRA Screening Report Historic England does not wish to comment in detail and would defer to Natural England and other statutory consultees, however, we have no adverse comments to make on the report.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours faithfully

Pete Boland

Historic Places Adviser

E-mail: peter.boland@historicengland.org.uk

NATURAL ENGLAND

Date: 16 October 2015

Our ref: 164632

Your ref:

helen.smith2@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY



Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ
T 0300 060 3900

Dear Helen Smith

Planning consultation: Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 04 September 2015

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the updated Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment HRA for the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan.

I can confirm that, Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, therefore no further assessment work would be required.

In addition we also concur that, through compliance with the emerging Bromsgrove Local Plan, any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal of this plan and therefore no further assessment work should be required.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Stephanie Jones on 07917 041195. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Jones

Sustainable Development

APPENDIX 12: COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK MAY 2016

People consulted

The steering group members consulted with many visitors to the Picnic in the Park on a cold day with numbers down from previous years when the weather was considerably warmer.

Aim of consultation

To raise awareness of Plan; to find out opinions from people of where any future housing might be located and what extra facilities if any were likely to be needed and to improve their knowledge of the Plan process; to identify issues they thought important.

Nature of consultation:

Over 100 short questionnaire sheets were handed out and the display boards showed some of the policy topics being made and the Key Aims of the Neighbourhood plan, together with a large map of the Neighbourhood Area.

Main issues and concerns:

The main issue was people's fear that the Plan would not have any force as development would go on against their wishes. Most people refer to unknown housing numbers and either not wanting any more or the need for some small amount of mixed affordable and family housing including start up properties of 2-3 bedroomed well designed houses that don't impact on the environment. Locations for future housing favoured close to Alvechurch Village near to facilities; towards the motorway or the Football Ground. Improvements to bus services were mentioned by many including needed improvements to rail Station car park. Most responses had concerns that any more housing would put severe strain on education and medical services, saying the Doctor's is full and needs expanding⁶. Some people mentioned retaining the Post Office was essential, a bakery, delicatessen and green grocers would be good. Improvements to promote Cycling were also supported. Business increase was only mentioned for small localised enterprise through extension to existing business properties.

Contribution to plan formation:

Like many other consultations the community opinion and responses to questions asked are leading to a better community inclusive plan led by their thoughts on the issues that affect Alvechurch Parish

The Leaflet handed out at the Picnic in the Park 2016 is shown below.

Moving forward again towards a Neighbourhood Plan for Alvechurch Parish.



What is a Neighbourhood Plan (NP)?

A Plan like this brings together descriptions of how the Parish is now along with policies to allow some housing and related developments in the right place with the right design and balanced by the right amenities. There's no mystery – NP's are simply a few pieces of paper containing maps, lists and the emerging local policies being prepared by the Plan's steering group. They include practical things that will make a difference to local people's lives in the future, like:

- Housing of good design for families, as well as for younger and more elderly people
- New facilities
- Extension to the school and medical centre to cope with growth
- Pedestrian and cycle walkways
- New amenities in the park or play area
- Where allotments go
- Protecting wildlife and landscape areas

‘What’s the progress with the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan?’

Our NP has to be in general conformity with the Bromsgrove Council’s new District Plan. Following long delays in being adopted including very detailed public examination by an independent Inspector, the Bromsgrove Plan is likely to be adopted around the end of this year or early 2017. This would make it six years behind schedule as it’s a plan for 2011-2030.

This delay has considerably held back work on our Neighbourhood Plan (NP). We now feel it is time to restart our work and progress the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan toward its finish.

What will finish mean?

Our community led Neighbourhood Plan will have proper legal status if voted ‘yes for adoption’ by you at a referendum when finished, and developers would have to address our NP first and foremost before any other, and conform to our policies to gain approval for any future substantial development.

Meanwhile we need more of your views?

The NP Steering Group held consultations throughout 2013 to 2015 .You gave us some views then Can you now help us again?Please answer a few more questions overleaf and return to us here or to the Parish Council Office later.

PTO

All communities need housing.

Future generations will need somewhere to live. We only have Green Belt land left around Alvechurch so some of this will need to be used for future housing!!

Questions and the written community responses received from Picnic in the Park 2016

1. How much more housing will we need in the next 2 decades?

“If the population keeps increasing of course Alvechurch needs to take its share , but how many?”

“We have no idea, but more will be needed”

“Hopefully not much more”

“20-50”

The population is due to increase by 15% by 2039, I think 15% increase in housing is more than enough if empty housing in cities are taken in to account”

“Probably as much as in the last two”

“You are the better judge of that!”

“Only for what’s proven we need”

“Enough for 200 people”

“ NONE, I moved to Alvechurch specifically because it was a small village ,any bigger I will move away”

“ I often wonder about housing figures –vested interest(not your fault).What about existing buildings being converted into housing, e.g. the old bakery”

2. In addition, where can they be built, to be sustainable, i.e. within walking distance of facilities and amenities to reduce the need for car travel?

"In and around Alvechurch Village, there are no/few facilities elsewhere, use the football Ground"

"Within walking distance of centre of Alvechurch"

"Radford road or Rowney Green"

"Smaller development between school and Motorway"

"Somewhere there is minimal impact on wild life and landscape"

"Next to existing housing"

"Within walking distance...and encourage infill"

"Near facilities"

"No further than motorway or football club, between railway and river Arrow."

"Near the recent developments...if it has to happen".

"Ideally with the Village"

3. What type of housing should this be?

"Big for rich small for poor"

"Mixed affordable family housing"

Affordably family home (3bed) for young people"

"Suitable for first time buyers and affordable"

"Affordable"

"Affordable, and mixed type"

"Affordable smaller homes e.g. 2 bedrooms"

"Affordable of good design"

"3-4bedrooms"

"High-tech, energy efficient modern housing ...no Barrett boxes!"

"Affordable"

4. Will we need more school places and more access to local GPs and dental care to cope, and how could this be achieved?

"Obviously YES.....Drs surgery needs new larger premises"

"Yes ...extend or new build"

"More of everything"

Yes extension to school, new additional medical centre +dentists and other public services"

"More staff is the main priority"

"Yes school and Doctors are full"

"Longer opening hours and weekend opening".

.....

"Depends on if Doctors want to expand or build anew"

"Extend school/ infants/junior nursery"

"The Government will yet again have to find the money"

5. In making the village centre a better place what new shops and parking might be needed?

"Retaining existing shops is enough of a challenge, where are new shops or parking going to be located"

"More parking"

"Greengrocery, bakers, drapery, Post office a must"

"Bakery, restaurant, Train Station car park needs improving"

"I think a non-chain bakery could do well in the village – a tea room"

"Can't see how to do this as no available land".....perhaps a delicatessen

.....

"Keep what we have, pedestrianise by the precinct area, more parking spaces"

"Make square just parking" "widen Birmingham Road to allow more parking"

"No new shops required, everything is going on-line. Promote walking, cycling into the centre – not cars parking."

" Not sure- The Social club and shoppers car parks are pretty good IMHO."

6. Do we need more businesses other than shops in the Parish and where could we locate them?

"No"

Redditch Road /Radford Road

"Light industrial, social enterprise start-ups, near motorway"

"No"

.....

"Yes on existing sites through extension"

"keep them within the centre...where they are.....Corner shops are a good idea"

"Not really , only retail and office space"

"No...there are good rail links for commuters"

"Not sure"

7. Are bus and train services sufficient to meet local travel needs?

.....

"Yes but more parking at station needed"

"Bus service needs improving / train service OK."

"Longer hours on bus to Birmingham"

"Bus-No- very poor"

"Bus services to Birmingham & Redditch are abysmal"

"Buses are not good, Better timetable needed, Car park at station is atrocious"

"Yes"

"Yes"

"The bus from Birmingham to Redditch stopped running at school times, I don't understand why? (146)"

8. What else do you think we should include in the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan?

"20 mph zones , but not reducing traffic coming to the village"

"More car parkingbetter play equipment"

Encourage better services to give value to high council tax.

"Be very open to modern design...sadly lacking! After all old houses were modern once!!"

"Better control over enforcement"

"Cycle path through Parish"

APPENDIX 13: COMMUNITY INFORMATION BOOKLET / QUESTIONNAIRE SEPTEMBER 2016

The following is a summary of general and more specific comments received.

General comments

- A positive plan
- Support your approach
- Sensible and well thought out
- Congratulate the Steering Group on their hard work
- Pleased to see a plan for the village
- Clearly laid out
- Informative and well presented
- Agree entirely with stated aims
- Support the Parish Council in its efforts to forge a strong future
- Strong community spirit needs to come through in the plan
- We should NOT have to take on the responsibilities of Birmingham

Comments on policy area 1 – Housing

- Pleased how housing policies are set out
- Community-preferred housing sites should be identified in the plan
- New housing should only be for retired people (freeing up family homes)
- Planning laws must be more flexible e.g. a “scrubby piece of useless Green Belt” should have been used for retirement housing
- Green Belt too inflexible....“Landlocked eyesore” should have been used for retirement housing
- Presented well but not enough information on housing sites and numbers
- Affordable housing should only be for those born in the Parish
- More retirement housing needed
- Large % of older people here so more retirement housing needed (bungalows)
- Housing has not been provided for over 65s...not balanced enough

Comments on policy area 2 – Heritage, Design and the Natural Environment

- Fear that semi-rural community will be lost
- Strong support for heritage conservation
- Preserve rural nature of the environment and wildlife
- Green spaces should be preserved
- More retention of hedgerows and trees by developers
- Retain trees / TPOs adjacent to Oak Tree Close as M42 barrier...wildlife etc.
- Protect and conserve local heritage and environment
- Protect and conserve local heritage and environment
- Fields and trees in the Parish give it its identity this must NOT be lost in the NP
- Character of the village must be maintained
- Ensure green spaces are maintained / respected
- Alvechurch needs to be kept a place of refuge from the towns

Comments on policy area 3 – Leisure, Well-being and Health

- GP practice and schools need expansion to cope with future growth
- Concerns over schools capacity
- Alvechurch patients disenfranchised from local planning (CCG) decisions
- Concerns over GP practice capacity and future location
- Education, medical and shopping facilities must keep pace with housing developments
- More NHS dental provision needed

Comments on policy area 4 – Business, shops and services

- The plan should support local businesses, especially the Co-op
- More control of businesses is needed in rural areas
- There should be no animal waste operations in the Parish
- Reduce business rates for local shops
- Concerns over farm diversification and implications for adjoining residents and traffic

Comments on policy area 5 – Getting Around

- Housing growth will have an impact on traffic volumes
- More strident approach needed to traffic management, too many HGVs, speeds too high
- Despite proof from traffic surveys, little is done to reduce speeds etc.
- Promote public transport more
- Reduce HGVs through Alvechurch village
- Replace speed hump with zebra crossing
- Chicanes are preferable to pinch points
- Lower speed limits better than cycleways
- One-way system for safety in the village centre
- Reduce speed limits
- Use Section 106 money to manage traffic better
- Parking/congestion by The Precinct
- Better bus services needed
- Parking problems near the railway station need addressing
- Cars parked on pavements should be warned / fined
- More 146 bus services needed
- No evidence base for 20mph limits
- Pavement parking must be controlled
- Bicycle racks needed at the railway station
- Cycling and walking should be better promoted

APPENDIX 14: COMMUNITY EVENT - PICNIC IN THE PARK MAY 2017

A14.1 ALVECHURCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE Summer 2017

Introduction

The Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan is close to being completed and the Steering Group would be grateful if you would answer a few questions so your views can be considered for inclusion in the final version.

1. Do you live or work in the Parish of Alvechurch? Yes or no

Your Postcode or street name please:-

.....

2. Do you ever visit Alvechurch Village Centre? yes or no

3. How often do you use Alvechurch Village Centre for? :-

For shopping Social reasons or for business

4. What do you like about Alvechurch Village Centre?

Also Is there anything you don't like about the centre?

5. Moving on to highway issues, what are your views on . . .

Should we have.....?

a. Parking more less or is it ok

b. Speed Limits more less or are they ok

c. Double yellow lines more less or are they ok

a. Pedestrian crossings more less or are they ok

b. a 'one way system' in the village centre yes no not sure

c. Partial Pedestrianisation in the village centre yes no not sure

d. Do you have any other highway issues

.....

6. What other features would you like to see in Alvechurch Village Centre?

a. Extra pedestrian crossings yes or no

b. Landscaping/trees/planters yes or no

c. Public seating yes or no

d. Character signage yes or no

e. Pavement improvements yes or no

NOW, TWO QUESTIONS REGARDING LEISURE PLAY AREAS AND OTHER GREEN SPACES WITHIN THE PARISH.

7. Would you be in favour of more riverside walks along the River Arrow within the Parish of Alvechurch? Yes or no

8. Do you support greater protection of our current 'open green spaces' or promote an increase of them through the Neighbourhood Plan? Yes or no

A14.2 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire on aspects of Alvechurch Village Centre - May 2017

Introduction

Alvechurch residents and others came to the Wiggin Playing Field on the 28 May 2017 for the annual Picnic in the Park event. This year the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had prepared a questionnaire about aspects of the Alvechurch village centre and green spaces in the Parish, the aim being to obtain a good response rate from those attending the Picnic. In the event and drawing on questions 1 and 2, questionnaires were completed by 112 people with only five by non-Alvechurch residents. As those five people said they came to the village for shopping their answers are combined with the answers from 107 Alvechurch residents in the report that follows.

The Questionnaire

A few points need to be made about the questionnaire itself where it affects the way in which the findings are reported below.

Question 3 asked for information about the frequency of using the village centre for variously shopping, business and/or social purposes. Not all respondents mentioned or could record how frequently they came to the village centre, so answers to question 3 simply report reasons why people came and not how often.

Question 4 asked for a list of likes and dislikes about the village centre. Respondents were able to provide more than one response.

In question 5 items are not numbered in sequence so for the purposes of this report pedestrian crossings became item 5d, one way systems item 5e, partial pedestrianisation item 5f, and other highway issues item 5g.

At question 6a respondents were asked to say whether they would like more pedestrian crossings in the village centre. This is essentially a repeat of question 5d. Accordingly some respondents stated they would not give an answer to both items.

The Questionnaire Findings

Moving on to the answers given by people at the Picnic in the Park, these follow the order of the questions.

From question 3, Shopping was mentioned 109 times as a reason for using the village centre, social reasons 94 times and business reasons only 19 times. The first two are plainly the chief reasons why people come to the village centre.

Question 4 involved what people like and dislike about the village centre. Respondents mentioned their likes 138 times. They liked particularly "the atmosphere", a mix of sense of community, friendliness and shopping made enjoyable (69 mentions). The range of shops was mentioned as likeable 36 times and the nearby convenient shopping was mentioned 32 times.

There are quite a number of things that people dislike about Alvechurch village centre with 85 mentions overall. Shops being empty or of poor appearance got 22 mentions, the shortage or layout of vehicle parking got 16 mentions, while the limited range of

shops and the absence of fresh fruit and vegetables providers together formed 12 dislikes. Continuing, the high numbers of cars and speeding of vehicles at the centre attracted 11 dislikes and finally the built form of the precinct and the rubbish (mainly Coop) accumulating there got 8 mentions.

Question 5 explored a range of highway related issues and respondents' answers follow.

- In response to question 5a, 62 thought parking arrangements were ok, 46 wanted more parking and only 2 suggested less.
- 5b asked about speed limits with 43 replies that speed limits were ok, 38 replies wanting more limits or more enforcement and 25 replies suggested less use of these.
- 5c mentioned double yellow lines with by far the largest number saying the present situation was ok – 75 replies with only 17 suggesting more and 13 wanting less.
- In the renumbering of question 5 pedestrian crossings comes next as 5d, with 64 people saying the number of crossings is satisfactory, 30 wanting more and 14 suggesting fewer.
- Question 5e dealt with the possible introduction of a one way system in the village centre. 50 respondents do not favour this and 23 support it while a further 26 are unsure about its benefits.
- Question 5f mentioned partial pedestrianisation of the village centre as a matter for consideration with 45 respondents in favour, 37 against and 20 saying they were unsure.
- Question 5g asked for any other highway issues of concern to respondents. Among the issues raised here were to do with car and lorry parking including pavement blocking (5 mentions), excess speeding and the need for more enforcements of limits (5 mentions), installing a pavement between the Dilshad and the Dentist - partial pedestrianisation? (4 mentions), improving road and pavement access for mobility scooters (3 mentions) and finally enlarging pavement widths and installing more dropped kerbs (4 mentions).

Question 6 in its various parts dealt with a range of other facilities people might wish to see in the village centre.

6a picked up once more on the case for extra pedestrian crossings. As previously mentioned this has already been covered in a previous question such that not all respondents chose to answer 6a. Of those who did 52 were against extra crossings while 31 favoured more.

Question 6b raised the case for more landscaping or trees or planters in the village centre and this attracted 99 positive views against 6 in opposition.

Question 6c referred to public seating in the village centre with over 90 respondents wishing to see more and only 18 not giving support.

Question 6d mentioned character signage being used in the village centre with 64 people supporting this while 37 were opposed.

Finally 6e on pavement improvements was supported by 79 respondents with 28 opposed to this.

The final two questions moved away from the village centre focus to deal with leisure and recreational opportunities. Question 7 on creating more riverside walks within the parish brought near unanimous support from 106 people with a similar significant level of support for question 8 on protection and increase of green spaces in the parish with 105 respondents in favour.

Report Summary

Drawing on the above and summarising the highlights from this questionnaire exercise:

Alvechurch village centre is used predominantly for shopping purposes, closely followed by its use for social activity and visits for business purposes being considerably fewer. People like the Alvechurch village centre particularly the parts that go to make up a very pleasant atmosphere. They also like the range of shops and that they are nearby to many in the parish. Reasons for disliking the village centre include the number of empty shop fronts and their often poor appearance. There are concerns too about the limited amount of car parking and the way it is laid out in the centre coupled with the number of vehicles passing through often at excessive speed.

When asked directly about highways matters and the village centre, the clear majority see no case for more parking to be introduced while a small majority think that existing speed limits are satisfactory. The large majority do not think there is a case for more double yellow lines and a further large majority do not think that more pedestrian crossings are needed. A majority also held the view that they do not want a one way system to be introduced in the village centre although by a small majority there is support for partial pedestrianisation in the village centre.

In terms of improvement in the village centre the majority of respondents favour more landscaping, planters, public seating and character signage improvements.

Finally more riverside walks and green spaces protection and increases get pretty much unanimous support from those attending the Picnic in the Park.

APPENDIX 15: PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has agreed a 3-stage consultation process for the final and formal public consultation on the draft Plan, prior to its submission.

- **PREPARATION (July / September 2017)**
 - Agreeing which draft documents to consult on
 - Completing maps and diagrams
 - Finalising and proof reading draft Plan
 - Finalising Sustainability Appraisal and other documents
 - Compiling Executive Summary of the Plan to ease public understanding
 - Defining consultees and methodology of consultation
 - Booking halls for community displays
 - Planning publicity / media coverage of consultation process
 - Testing consultation techniques
 - Finalise all arrangements and review at Parish Council
- **PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD (October / November 2017)**
 - Initiate publicity campaign
 - Hold permanent and mobile displays / events
 - Review initial feedback at Steering Group / Parish Council
 - Adjust consultation and consider extension if needed
- **POST-CONSULTATION WORK (November / December 2017)**
 - Analyse feedback / consolidate comments

Review and amend policies and Plan if needed
Formally summarise consultation process / decisions made
Agree all documents at Steering Group / Parish Council prior to submission