

Much Marcle Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation Statement

CONTENTS

1. Consultation Process
2. Key responses from Consultation
3. Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation

Appendix: Consultation Statement Summary Table - see separate document

1. Consultation Process

Introduction

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Much Marcle Neighbourhood Development Plan (MMNDP).
- 1.2 The legal basis of this Consultation Statement is provided by Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, which requires that a consultation statement should:
- Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed NDP;
 - Explain how they were consulted;
 - Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- 1.3 The Vision, Objectives and Policies contained in the MMNDP are the result of considerable interaction and consultation with the local community and businesses within the parish of Much Marcle. The preparation of the MMNDP has been overseen and coordinated by a Working Group, which was established by the Parish Council in September 2013. This work has engaged the local community, the Working Group and Parish Council over approximately 4.5 years, through questionnaire surveys, public open meetings and events. Views and interactions from this process led to the Vision and Objectives in Section 3 of the MMNDP, and subsequently helped to inform the basis for the Policies set out in Sections 4 to 10 and non-land use Policies included in Section 11.

Consultation aims

- 1.4 The aims of the MMNDP Consultation process were to:
- 'Front-load' the consultation to understand the needs and wants of the local community;
 - Involve as many local people, businesses and groups within the community as possible;
 - Use a variety of approaches and techniques, venues, dates and times to ensure the widest possible engagement with the consultation process;
 - Convey the vision and objectives, and emerging policies of the MMNDP across to the local community and seek their input;
 - Develop the MMNDP in conjunction with the local community, taking time to gather a wide range of views and play back what we heard.

A high level summary of the consultation process, Working Group responses and subsequent actions is shown in the Consultation Statement Summary Table in the Appendix to this document, which should be read together with the Consultation Summary Report (May 2017) and a more detailed summary of the Regulation 14 consultation responses available for scrutiny on the Much Marcle Parish Council website www.muchmarcleparishcouncil.org.

Public meetings and consultation activities

- 1.5 Consultation was undertaken by the MMNDP Working Group, in association with Much Marcle Parish Council.
- 1.6 Public meetings and consultation activities took place at the following stages in the MMNDP process:
 - ‘Start Up’ Public Meeting (July 2013) – Public open meeting at Much Marcle Memorial Hall;
 - Local Residents Questionnaire Survey (November 2014) - Front-loaded consultation designed to scope initial issues;
 - Initial Progress and Process Update (March 2015) – Two public open meetings at Much Marcle Memorial Hall;
 - Local Businesses Questionnaire Survey (March 2015) – Targeted questionnaire to which 12 local businesses responded;
 - Redundant Buildings Survey (June 2015) – Targeted survey of 19 redundant and disused buildings suitable for conversion was completed and their owners approached about their willingness to them bring forward for new housing during the Plan period;
 - Progress Update: Vision & Objectives Consultation (April 2016) – Public open meeting and question and answer session at Much Marcle Memorial Hall;
 - Regulation 14 Consultation (December 2016) - Public open meeting at Much Marcle Memorial Hall and written representation consultation;
 - Kynaston Landowners Questionnaire (December 2016) – Targeted questionnaire survey, carried out by the local parish councillor, to which 3 local landowners responded with views about their willingness to release and bring forward land for new housing in Kynaston during the Plan period;
 - Rushall Residents Consultation (January 2017) - Public open meeting at Rushall Club to discuss settlement boundary and other issues relating to Rushall and Kynaston;

- Old Pike (Much Marcle) local residents consultation (March 2017) – Public open meeting at Much Marcle Memorial Hall called to invite local residents to discuss specific concerns about housing site allocations and affordable housing;
- Monks Meadow local residents consultation (September/October 2017) – Targeted consultation with the owners of the ‘garden plots’ behind Monks Meadow to seek views about their willingness to release and bring forward their land for new housing during the Plan period;
- Parish magazine article – an article summarizing the Regulation 15 submission, the Regulation 16 consultation process, and what happens next was submitted for publication in the January 2018 issue of The Mercury.



1.7 Groups that the Working Group has consulted include:

- Much Marcle Primary School Governors Meeting (May 2014)
- Parochial Church Council Meeting (July 2015)

1.8 There were no specific groups that were felt to be under-represented throughout the process. Attendance at the various public open meetings was from a wide cross-section of the community that broadly represented the demographic mix of Much Marcle.

Stakeholder consultations

1.9 Throughout the plan-making process the Working Group engaged closely with Herefordshire Council. Close contact was kept with the Neighbourhood Planning Team at Herefordshire Council throughout and meetings were also held with officers of the Strategic Planning and Development Management Teams at key stages in the process, in particular to address matters relating to the creation of settlement

boundaries for Rushall and Kynaston and housing site allocations outside the settlement of Much Marcle.

- 1.10 The Working Group submitted a formal screening request regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft MMNDP in 2014. Herefordshire Council provided its formal response later in 2014, stating that an SEA was required. A copy of the full Screening Report is included as part of the supporting evidence base.
- 1.11 Herefordshire Council prepared a SEA Scoping Report and the Working Group submitted comments in September 2014. The final SEA Scoping Report was submitted for formal consultation in October 2014 with the relevant statutory bodies. The 5-week consultation period ran from 3rd October 2014 to the 7th November 2014.
- 1.12 The consultation resulted in 2 responses. Both responses were collated and incorporated within the SEA document where relevant.

2. Key responses from consultation

- 2.1 The Local Residents' Questionnaire, distributed in November 2014 identified some of the key issues that the Working Group then sought to address. The questionnaire was distributed to more than 500 local residents over the age of 18 and 191 responses were received, equating to approximately a 39% response rate. Some of the main findings included:
 - Centre and edge of settlement locations were preferred areas for new homes.
 - Conversions of existing buildings and brownfield sites were by far the most popular, while 85% agreed with the principle of new homes being delivered from conversion redundant buildings.
 - Between 35% and 44% felt self-build, social and sheltered housing should be the priority.
 - Strong preference was given for traditional style buildings.
 - Agriculture, tourism, leisure, crafts, holiday accommodation and food & drink employment opportunities should be encouraged.
 - 40% favoured positive options to address climate change.
 - Faster broadband and better mobile phone reception desired.
- 2.2 The *Analysis of Residents Questionnaire* (January 2015) report, which includes a copy of the Questionnaire Survey, is available for scrutiny on the Much Marcle Parish Council website www.muchmarcleparishcouncil.org.
- 2.3 After a two initial progress and process update meetings in March 2015, the emerging Vision, Objectives and Policies were consulted on at an open public meeting in April 2016. They received strong support, although the number of consultation responses from local residents were received which stated reasons for objection to land identified for possible affordable housing at Old Pike.

2.4 The strong support for the emerging Vision, Objectives and Policies, as well as general support for the proposed housing site allocations enabled the Working Group to produce an initial draft Plan in the autumn of 2016.

3. Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation

3.1 The Working Group finalised the draft MMNDP in October 2016. The Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation on the draft Plan took place during an 8-week period between November 7th 2016 and January 3rd 2017.

3.2 A coordinated publicity campaign was undertaken which comprised:

- Notice and link on the Much Marcle Parish Council website:
<http://muchmarcleparishcouncil.org/much-marcle-parish-neighbourhood-plan/>
- Notice and link on Herefordshire's website:
<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/much-marcle>
- Parish magazine article – an article summarizing the Regulation 14 consultation process and timeline was published in the December 2016 issue of The Mercury;
- A leaflet 'flyer' with similar text to the Parish magazine article was distributed to as many households that could be reached via the local postman;
- Digital copies of the consultation draft MMNDP were made available to view and/or download from the community websites: muchmarcleparishcouncil.org, and muchmarcle.net;
- Physical hard copies of the consultation draft MMNDP were made available for consultation at Much Marcle Stores, Graham Baker Motors, the Memorial Hall and at the home addresses of all Much Marcle Parish Councillors;
- Evidence Base Summary, Working Group Reports and all other documents concerning the consultation draft MMNDP were made available on the Parish Council website muchmarcleparishcouncil.org;
- A public open meeting was held to discuss the consultation draft MMNDP at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 7th December 2016.

3.3 The full list of statutory consultees that were written to is as follows:

- Neighbouring Parishes (including those in Gloucestershire)
- Herefordshire Council Ward Member (Barry Durkin)
- Parliamentary constituency MP (Bill Wiggin)
- Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Planning Team
- Wye Valley NHS Trust
- Council for the Protection of Rural England
- Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
- RWE Npower Renewables
- Amec Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Severn Trent Water
- Western Power Distribution
- Natural England

- Environment Agency
 - English Heritage
 - Historic England
 - Highways England
 - Homes & Communities Agency
 - Hereford & Worcester Chamber of Commerce
 - Ledbury & District Civic Trust
 - Ross-on-Wye & District Civic Trust.
- 3.4 Acknowledgements of receipt of the Regulation 14 consultation and/or “no specific comments” were received from CPRE, Environment Agency, English Heritage, Highways Agency, Natural England and Severn Trent water. Welsh Water stated no objection and Historic England’s responses stated support for the plan.
- 3.5 Herefordshire Council’s Planning Policy and Development Management Teams both responded to the consultation stating that, since Kynaston is not identified as a settlement in Figures 4.14 and 4.15 of the Core Strategy, it should be treated as open countryside. This was therefore in conflict with the proposed aim of the MMNDP to assign settlement boundaries to both Rushall and Kynaston, and to allocate housing sites to both villages.
- 3.6 As a result of these consultation responses discussions were held between the MMNDP Working Group, and officers of the Neighbourhood Planning, Strategic Planning and Development Management Teams at Herefordshire Council in January and September 2017.
- 3.7 It was eventually agreed that Herefordshire Council would support the principle of the allocation of settlement boundaries to Rushall and Kynaston on the basis that the NPPF requires that “*planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs*” and that “*to promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities*”.
- 3.8 It was agreed that two of the proposed housing allocation sites at Kynaston would be removed from the emerging plan due to the impact upon the setting of listed buildings or their wholly unsustainable and isolated location.
- 3.9 In total 12 responses were received from local residents, which pertained mainly to 5 topic areas:
- Settlement boundaries – some concern was expressed that Rushall should not have a settlement boundary;
 - Housing site allocations in Rushall and Kynaston – the housing allocations in Rushall received some opposition;
 - Housing site allocations in Much Marcle – a small number of representations were received which objected to one of the housing allocations;
 - Rural exception sites – some respondents cited the recent refusal of planning permission at Dobbins Pitch as a reason for objecting to other ‘open countryside’ housing site allocations.

- Proportionate Housing Growth 2011-31 – responses from 8 local residents suggested that the allocation of almost 50% of new dwellings to Rushall and Kynaston seems disproportionate, compared with Much Marcle.
- 3.10 A detailed summary of the Regulation 14 consultation responses available for scrutiny on the Much Marcle Parish Council website www.muchmarcleparishcouncil.org.

MMNDP Working Group

December 2017