

BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL



150 HIGH STREET, HENLEY IN ARDEN, WARWICKSHIRE, B95 5BA

clerk@henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk

BEAUDESERT AND HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

This document summarises the process from 2014 to 2023 and relies on further references to more detailed data collected and summarised as appendices to this document or by links to supporting documents on the JPC website.

1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning regulations 2012 section 15 (2) of Part Five of the regulations sets out what a Consultation a Statement should contain.

- a) details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- b) explains how they were consulted.
- c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the person who was has consulted.
- d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered, and where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood plan.

2. Aims of consulting on the Plan

The aim of the Henley and Arden and Beaudesert Neighbourhood Plan consultation process was to:-

- a) inform residents local businesses and other stakeholders about the neighbourhood planning process
- b) to invite their participation so that local opinion informs the plan
- c) ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process
- d) engage in a variety of ways to make sure that as wide a range of people as possible were involved
- e) ensure they could receive information and provide feedback in a way that suits them.
- f) ensure that information was readily available and accessible to everyone
- g) make sure that consultation feedback was available as soon as possible after events.

3. Background to the consultation – Deciding to make a neighbourhood plan

The decision to make a neighbourhood plan in Henley and Arden and Beaudesert has not followed a traditional process. The first phase of making the plan began in 20124 and a substantial amount of the development work of the plan was undertaken between then and

2020. This included significant discussions with Stratford District Council (SDC) about the appropriateness of the plan. Whilst a significant proportion of the necessary work and major public consultations had been undertaken at that point the plan was then paused for two reasons.

First, there were still a number of outstanding issues to be resolved in order to make the plan fit for purpose in the opinion of SDC.

Second, and fundamentally, the pandemic occurred at this crucial time.

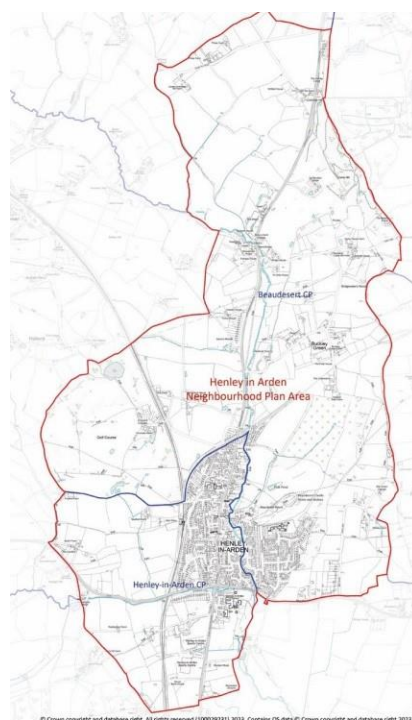
It was impossible for the JPC, residents and the working group, to continue their work resolving these issues during the restrictions of the pandemic. As a result the development of the plan was paused. Work was resumed in 2022 and was harmonised with the development of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP).

This created a coherent basis for dialogue with the sub regional authorities and SDC in particular. As the plan had been paused for a significant period of time, the JPC was uncertain as to the best way to proceed.

A decision was therefore made to obtain a review report from skilled and experienced consultants. This report was commissioned in late 2022 and delivered at the end of that year. The report clearly recommended that the JPC should complete the work paused in 2020 but build on the foundations in that report.

The aim should be to submit a neighbourhood plan as soon as possible in 2023. It was also important that the JPC engaged with the SWLP process so that the plan work took into account developments at that sub regional level. The consultancy YourLocale (YL) provided the review report in late 2022 and they were appointed to develop the neighbourhood plan on behalf of the JPC in January 2023. As a result of this unusual two stage process, several of the following sections split the description between the pre-and post-2020 periods. The review report is in appendix 2 on the JPC website.

4. Defining the neighbourhood



© Crown copyright and database right (2023). Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2023.

Figure 1: The neighbourhood area

5. Working Groups

5.1 Setting up the working group **pre-2020**

This stage of the plan was managed by a steering committee under the direction of the JPC. The membership of the SC is in Appendix 5 of the NDP and the detailed setting up is in Appendix 1 on the website.

5.2 Setting up the working group **post-2020**

In October 2022, the JPC decided to set up a review group to decide how to handle the dormant neighbourhood plan and to respond to the local plan that review group commissioned the tenders for a review report received and agreed the recommendations from the report and recommended to the Parish Council that a working group should be established to build on the work of the pre-2021 team and ensure that a due process was carried out to complete the neighbourhood plan, consult with the district Council and submit a plan which met all requirements to the community and the Parish Council as soon as possible. The JPC was successful in obtaining grant from the Locality Fund. Without that funding. This work would not have been possible in any reasonable timescale. Terms of reference and membership of the working group are in Appendix 2 on the JPC website. As a result of the urgency of the situation and to ensure that neighbourhood plan was consistent with SWLP he working group met almost weekly for four months. The schedule of meetings is in Appendix 2 on the website along with the agendas/minutes/action points agreed. The reports submitted are also shown.

6.1 Consultation Methodology Pre-2020

The consultation involved extensive discussions, surveys and public events. Appendix 2 on the website provides the detail of all the community consultation and JPC meetings and events. The principle steps were as follows.

Initial JPC Meeting

Initial public meeting conducted by the JPC to explain what NDP's are and the process for producing one for the Town. The Steering Group and its Chairman were appointed during this meeting.

May 2014 at the Baptist Hall attended by approximately around 40 attendees.

Public Meeting

Public town meeting to provide further detail on the NDP and an update on progress.

June 2014 at the Baptist Hall, attended by approximately around 85 attendees

Business Meeting

Invites given to all businesses operating in the town to attend a meeting specifically focused at discussing local business' requirements for the NDP.

July 2014 at the Memorial Hall, attended by approximately around 35 attendees

Town Questionnaire

A detailed and very extensive questionnaire sent to every household covered by the NDP asking a range of questions following the 5 core areas covered by the original draft NDP. The questionnaire is included in appendix 1 on the website. The extensive responses were received and collated by SDC on behalf of the JPC.

The results directly underpinned the priorities indicated in the plan and summarised in section 7.1 below.

Summer 2015

Special Town Meeting

A meeting called to present the draft NDP to the residents of Henley.
July 2018 Memorial Hall around 120 attendees

Meetings took place on more than 50 occasions throughout the life of this project in order to collate the responses from the community consultation, draw them together and produce the policies which are included in this NDP.

6.2 Consultation Methodology Post 2020

The working group was determined to make as much use of previous consultations as possible, and to validate the themes identified by the consultations carried out in the first phase of the work. This decision has been entirely vindicated by the confirmation in all of the discussions with the public about key themes and priorities, as will be seen in the summaries below. The level of community support has been overwhelmingly in favour of the original themes and the proposed plan priorities.

The working group established a work programme and a list of priority actions which included identifying all of the gaps in the 2019 version of the Neighbourhood Plan and responding to all of the points made by SDC. The group also identified that it was essential the work of developing the neighbourhood plan was run in conjunction with the work on the response to the SWLP. The JPC consulted the community about the development of the neighbourhood plan at the same time as briefing them on the SWLP. **Many of the issues were relevant to both.**

This posed a particular set of challenges ensuring that the public were not confused between documents and were able to comment on both. This situation turned out to be an opportunity not a problem. The challenges in the SWLP had a galvanising effect on the community and resulted in unprecedented interest in the discussions around the neighbourhood plan. The workload generated for the JPC was enormous in the first half of 2023, but with the support of YourLocale this was carried out successfully. The heightened awareness of the issues identified by SWLP was a key factor enabling the JPC to produce a plan with clear public support.

The JPC used a number of methods to contact the public all of which are included in Appendix 2 on the website.

- a) the JPC website entries
- b) entries in the Henley focus a local monthly magazine
- c) leaflets delivered to every household
- d) letters delivered to every household
- e) widely circulated notices of JPC meetings
- f) a public consultation event of the draft neighbourhood plan

The main two discussions at the JPC meetings had attendances of over 150 people in one case and over 70 in the other. The public event was attended by over 200 local people in a three hour period viewing and discussing a full exhibition of the proposals. The latter event was pivotal in shaping the final document. The consultation analysis is appended to this report.

7. Summary of findings from the events and questionnaire

7.1 Pre - 2020 Themes

The analysis of the questionnaires and the discussions with the various groups resulted in 5 key projects being identified with very substantial agreement. The projects were:

Car parking

To ensure that there is adequate parking to meet the needs of local businesses, retail outlets and residents. The parking needs to be local to the requirements of those individual groups.

Road Safety

To ensure that the traffic, both going through and within the town, can travel with little interruption and within the speed limits.

Public Transport

To ensure that the existing public transport services that run north-south are fully maintained in the future.

Over the life of this plan, to work with the transport companies and the local authorities to provide further services which will run to and from both Birmingham and Airport and the International Railway Station. In addition, work with those organisations to implement services that run east-west to both Warwick, Leamington and Redditch town centres, which would also allow residents to attend both Warwick and Redditch Hospitals. If this service ran via Warwick Parkway this would also open up an alternative rail route to London and the south.

The Mount

Maximising the value of the Mount to the town and enhancing it's potential for tourism whilst ensuring the green belt is not threatened.

Community Events

Promoting and supporting community events that enhance the lives of residents and encourage visitors to Henley .

These themes were backed up by more detailed projects. The details of these can be seen in the original draft plan on the website.

7.2 Post - 2020 Themes

The JPC and the working group were clear that they wanted to build on the previous draft and the themes which had emerged from that work. However, the situation had changed quite dramatically after the production of that draft, and it was important to evaluate its continuing validity. The two key events which shaped the priorities of the community were the JPC meeting on the 13th of January and the open event for the community on the 15th of April. It was mentioned earlier that the development of the SWLP was an important consideration for the community. The plan is only in its formative stages but raises questions for the community about the future direction of local development. The priorities which were defined and endorsed by the community were clearly set out in the proposals from the JPC and the working group. A detailed analysis of public responses is set out in the Consultation Analysis annex .This both analyses at length the number of responses and the level of support given to the central themes of this document. In the summary, the ideas which form the plan and build on the previous teams are as follows.

- a) all new housing developments in the town should be on a scale and location which is proportionate to the existing nature and size of the settlement.
- b) the historic nature of the town, and its physical and social environment must be preserved and enhanced in any future developments
- c) new developments of any kind should only be provided if the public and private authorities have identified sufficient funding and mechanisms to enhance the outdated infrastructure of the town. This particularly applies to roads, transport and communications, water and sewage management, health and environmental protection.
- d) there is a need for new affordable homes in the town, especially for younger people and adequate genuinely affordable and appropriately sized provision should be made in any new development.

- e) There are significant concerns about the future economic development of the town and detailed strategies need to be brought forward for retail, tourism services and growth industries to ensure that there is an economic future for the town. It is critical that the town that does not simply become a dormitory for larger settlements.

Table 1 below shows the strength of the endorsement from the community in the town.

Table 1 JPC Community Event 15th April 2023			
Attendance	210 residents		
Topic	Votes for	Votes against	% support
Vision	119	0	100
Housing Growth	87	1	98
Affordable Housing	84	0	100
Protecting Employment	84	1	98
New Employment	78	3	96
Leisure & Tourism	94	0	100
internet	98	0	100
Home Working	83	0	100
Community Facilities	99	0	100
Local Green Spaces	116	0	100
Renewable Energy	104	1	99
Valued Views	125	0	100
Design Quality	118	0	100
Re-use Rural Buildings	123	0	100
Protect Heritage Assets	135	0	100
Water Management	136	0	100
Forward Strategy	118	0	100

8. Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation

The regulation 14 submission was made in February 2019. The details of the submission and the responses from SDC are in appendix 1 on the website. There were two efforts to resolve these issues, but these were not fully successful.

In 2023 the Working Group and JPC considered the comments of SDC and the unresolved issues. All of the outstanding issues are believed to be addressed. These are shown in Appendix 3 on the website.

9. Activities table

The summary of key activities are shown in the main NDP document.

10. List of people and bodies consulted

These are shown in the main NDP document.

Annex

Consultation Analysis April 2023 (YourLocale)

Appendices (Available on the JPC website)

1. Pre 2020 key events
2. Post 2020 key events
3. R14/15 Consultation issues and responses