

Stratford on Avon District Councillor's Monthly Report for July 2024

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Neighbourhood Development Plan

Item 7 on the Agenda of the full Council Meeting on Monday, 8th July is Henley's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

The recommendation to Council is as follows: "That the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan be adopted with immediate effect with the consequence that it becomes part of the Development Plan for Stratford-on-Avon District."

I shall be able to report on whether the recommendation was agreed by the Council at the JPC meeting later the same day. I hope that I shall be able to confirm that the NDP is now in force.

The preamble to the recommendation states that at Referendum on 30 May 2024, the local community endorsed the Plan, with 834 'yes' votes to 85 'no' votes. The ballot generated a 36.5% turnout of the eligible voters.

It goes on to say that the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP meets the basic conditions and its promotion is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to 'make' (adopt) the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden NDP if more than half of those voting in the Referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications within the neighbourhood area.

General Election

By the time of the Council and JPC meetings, the result of the General Election will be known. The country may have a new government and Stratford-on-Avon constituency will certainly have a new Member of Parliament.

As a result, however, new business at the District Council has been somewhat curtailed in recent weeks, both by the constraints of 'purdah' and the attention of elected members to various campaigns in support of their candidates. As a

result of boundary changes, Stratford-on-Avon District falls into two constituencies: mostly Stratford-on-Avon, but also Kenilworth and Southam to the east of the District, bordering Henley-in-Arden to the north and stretching south almost to Banbury.