

Beaudesert/Henley Joint Parish Council

South Warwickshire Local Plan : Preferred Options Stage November 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Question Number	Question	Answer
1	What is the South Warwickshire Local Plan and what period does it cover?	The South Warwickshire Local Plan is the strategic planning document which establishes planning policies for Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils. It covers the period 2025-50
2.	Who is preparing it and why now?	Stratford and Warwick District Councils have come together to produce a joint Local Plan. It is the legal responsibility of local planning authorities to ensure that they prepare and keep up-to-date a local plan every 5 years to manages development planning proposals. Central Government is demanding up to date plans are prepared as soon as possible.
3	Why are Stratford and Warwick District Councils working together to produce a joint plan?	The geography of the area has many shared links and the two Councils have been working together for some time
4	When will it be completed?	There are a series of stages to the process. This first consultation stage ends in March 2025 but the final approval is planned for December 2027.
5,	What is the housing target for South Warwickshire/Stratford?	28,000/13,000 new homes by 2050

6	What is the housing target for Beaudesert/Henley?	The Local Plan is currently silent on this. However, a potential strategic allocation of 2,500 dwellings is identified for Henley, along with a further 23 sites elsewhere across Warwick and Stratford. Not all of these sites will be included as allocations in the final Local Plan.
7	Where are these homes to be built?	The provisional area is in the North-West of the town between the town boundary BGL and the Western edge of the former Golf course
8	How can there be such a big target when Beaudesert/Henley is surrounded by Green Belt?	There is a review of the green belt being carried out as part of the Local Plan. Some of the green belt may have to be redesignated to enable the housing targets to be met
9	Has this target been finally agreed by Stratford Council?	Definitely not. There are a total of 24 strategic sites identified across Stratford and Warwick which exceed the amount of land needed. It will be another year before the final list of sites is identified and longer before the recommendations will be presented to government.
10	Can Beaudesert/Henley change or stop this proposal?	The legal powers are with the government and local government not with the town. However, government is required to consult at every stage and take comments into account.
11	If the proposal is approved when is the development likely to start?	Not before 2028 and possibly later.
12	How much of the development will be affordable homes?	That is not decided. The government suggested in August that the rule for former Green Belt sites would be 50% affordable, but this has been heavily criticised so is likely to be revised.

13	Will necessary infrastructure improvements be included in the plan?	The plan suggests that it will. Developers will be required to pay for improvements within and around the sites. The responsibility for town wide improvements is spread across a range of agencies.
14	How long would the building period be?	We have no information on that at present but development on the scale proposed is likely to take many years to complete.
15	Are there other proposals in the plan besides housing?	Yes, a large number for employment leisure and climate change uses. Part of the potential Henley site is set aside for employment
16	Residents agreed with the Beaudesert/Henley neighbourhood plan. So why doesn't the plan prevent this happening?	The neighbourhood plan will remain in place until the Local Plan is approved so will provide protection against inappropriate developments until then. Strategic developments such as those proposed in the Local Plan cannot be prevented by a neighbourhood plan.
17	Why should we continue producing a new Neighbourhood Plan?	With the potential release of Green Belt land, it is even more important that as many environmental protections as possible are identified and included in the Neighbourhood Plan Review. We can also establish design criteria and safeguard existing community facilities, as well as identifying the infrastructure needs for Henley moving forward.
18	What has the JPC done to influence these proposals?	The JPC has commented at every stage so far especially about infrastructure. The NDP Review is looking at several of the key issues which are also in the Local Plan
19	How can residents have their say?	The first opportunity will be on Monday 2 nd December at the normal Joint Parish Council meeting but there will be arrange of meetings and events to give views between now and March next year to coincide with the consultation period for the draft Local Plan.

20	Are we wasting our time to comment?	Definitely not. There will be major changes to the whole plan and the town's voice should be heard.
21	What happens next?	We need to make our views known as part of the Local Plan consultation process and continue to update the Neighbourhood Plan so that it helps to shape development locally.