



BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

41 High Street, Henley in Arden, Warwickshire B95 5AA
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Beaundesert & Henley-in-Arden response to issues and options questionnaire

The JPC organised a drop-in session on 22 February to obtain residents' views on SWLP. 200 people attended the session.

SG23, the area proposed for mixed development in Henley-in-Arden, has raised significant concerns throughout the community. These are primarily:

- Residents expressed concern that the overwhelming scale of the SG23 development would pose threats to the historical character and heritage of Henley and adversely impact the strong community spirit and sense of pride in the Town.
- The need for comprehensive improvements in the infrastructure of the town, not least storm and foul water drainage.
- Rather than contribute to the net-zero carbon target, the increased volume of traffic will lead to greater air pollution in and near the High Street as stationary and slow-moving traffic will be inevitable without a major transformation in public transport connectivity and/or a relief road. Ongoing congestion is already a significant problem.
- The town already has connectivity problems as both the railway station and bus services are problematic and unreliable.
- The primary and secondary are not close to the proposed new development area, and this is unlikely to meet the current NPPF revisions.
- Flooding is an increasing concern, particularly in the light of climate change and regular flooding within the River Alne Valley. Storm water run-off from the escarpments to either side of the basin in which Henley sits, already causes flash flooding.
- Considerable housing developments, particularly the structures and infrastructure required, will exacerbate storm water run-off, which will ultimately end up in the Alne Valley and its floodplains.

Whilst it is appreciated that Government is dictating the volume of housing and other construction, the proposal more than doubles the population of the Beaundesert & Henley Parishes. Additional substantial infrastructure by way of schooling, medical centres and local shopping will be necessary, again creating significant built over areas which will be



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largely impermeable. Development and proposals for new settlements along the A3400 and within a five-mile radius of Henley will simply add to congestion along the primary routes.

It is recognised that significant thought has been given to the initial number of proposed sites, with some being deemed undevelopable within the joint parishes

The community is not against development and was pleased to see that the first part of the green belt review commented on the open space surrounding historic towns and deprecates development where this is likely to injure the nature and aesthetics of villages and settlements like Henley-in-Arden. The community fully accept that a level of development is positive, however, it should be proportionate and sustainable. Detailed consultation and agreement between the authorities and the community, is necessary. It is imperative that the residents of Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden need to be fully involved and represented in the decision-making process to ensure that their concerns are adequately addressed. The community of Henley is ready to make positive contributions to the future of the Town. Many are long-term residents and know what the Town needs to move forward.