

**Representation to Mr Christopher Collison, Planning and Management Ltd and independent examiner of the Malvern Town Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

**From the Trustees of Charitable Incorporated Organisation "EngageMalvern" (Registered Charity Number 1175088, registered 2017, website: [engagemalvern.org.uk](http://engagemalvern.org.uk)):-**

Mrs Ruth Forecast, Mrs Jill Freeth, Professor Barry Jones, Mr Eoin McCarthy, Professor David Tweats (Secretary), Dr Andrew Webb (Chair). All are residents in Malvern Hills District.

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**Subject : Inclusion in Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan of a desire to advance through planning *"Community Citizens Organising and Community Trusts Engagement in Land and Housing, Transport and Social Care"*.**

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**EngageMalvern** is a not-for-profit, non-party political, voluntary body set-up in Malvern as a charity with objectives :

*"To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged, and socially disadvantaged communities of Malvern and its surrounding villages in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.*

*The advancement of education for the public benefit in Malvern and surrounding villages in South Worcestershire and North Herefordshire in the areas of citizenship , science, religion, philosophy and ethics."*

The charity supports community activities that have been running since 2012, for example the bi-annual Malvern Lansdowne public discussions/debates at the Methodist Church on topical issues particularly those affecting vulnerable people, and the annual weekend Festival of Ideas in Malvern.

**EngageMalvern** already has the support of many individuals and organisations active in the communities of Malvern Hills District.

The charity seeks to grow and establish effective community organising, particularly to address the needs of vulnerable people by encouraging self-help groups and networks in the Malvern Hills and surrounding areas. The purpose is to work with local people to empower them to meet their most pressing needs. Thus the purpose is to be democratic, move away from charity towards justice, and train people to organise together for better housing, better transport , better social care and so on, by affecting the decisions taken by those in power and by developing services themselves.

**EngageMalvern** is therefore a guider, an encourager, an enabler of self-help community groups. It plans to be funded by subscriptions from supporting individuals, independent groups and voluntary organisations including the churches, and is seeking local, regional and national support for the training of community organisers.

**EngageMalvern (EM)** has developed a link with the national body CitizensUK ([www.citizensuk.org](http://www.citizensuk.org)) and plans to send people on their training courses for community organisers. Funding is now being sought to support this activity, with plans for **EM** full-time/part-time community organisers in the Malvern Hills and surrounding areas.

**EngageMalvern** will remain legally independent of both the statutory and the private sectors.

One of the ways to organise is to build communities that will establish non-profit voluntary charitable trusts, for example a Community Land Trust (CLT), a Community Transport Trust (CTT), a Community Social Trust (SCT) and so on.

**EngageMalvern** would like the Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan to more fully acknowledge the importance of developing the "third sector" as outlined above. In particular that the Plan will embed the concept of independent "Community Organising and Community Trusts (COCTs)" such that in implementation of the Plan opportunities are given for COCTs to be active.

For example when new housing is being planned a local CLT should be provided with the opportunity to obtain land through donation or at low cost for the building of CLT affordable housing and self-build housing so that housing costs could be significantly reduced (~ 60% of market prices) and housing become affordable to those in lower income brackets, including some vital local public service workers. It is imperative that a local CLT has the support of the local planning authority and a local housing association.

In Worcestershire a CLT is in progress in Tibberton and another is currently being considered in Stourbridge, while there is a CTT in Tenbury.

**EngageMalvern** will seek to provide any further information that may be required by the independent examiner.

Submitted on behalf of the Trustees of **EngageMalvern** on 10th December 2018.

  
Professor Barry E Jones, 

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