

Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham
Submission Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)
Consultation Statement – Spring 2017

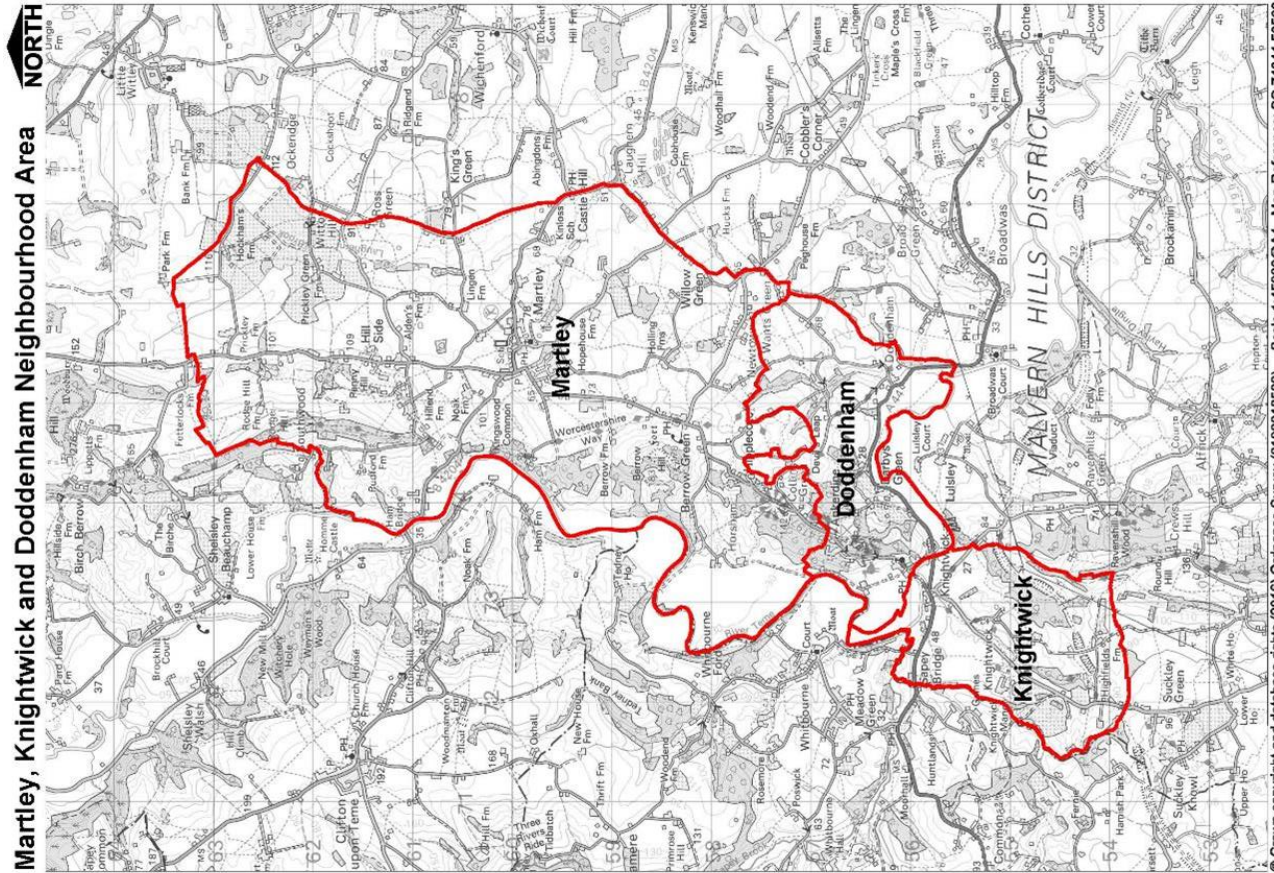


With assistance from



Map 1 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Designated Neighbourhood Area

Map 1 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area



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1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 637) Part 5 Paragraph 15 (2)¹ which defines a “consultation statement” as *a document which –*

(a) contains 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 persons consulted; and

(d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

1.2 Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared in response to the Localism Act 2011, which gives parish councils and other relevant bodies, new powers to prepare statutory Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) to help guide development in their local areas. These powers give local people the opportunity to shape new development, as planning applications are determined in accordance with national planning policy and the local development plan, and neighbourhood plans form part of this framework. Other new powers include Community Right to Build Orders whereby local communities have the ability to grant planning permission for new buildings.

1.3 The neighbourhood area extends over the three Parishes. An application for neighbourhood area designation was submitted to Malvern Hills District Council on 18th July 2013 and approved for designation by the District Council on 24th September 2013. The designated neighbourhood area is the same as the boundary of the three Parishes and is shown in Map 1. The neighbourhood area has two Parish Councils: for Martley, and Knightwick and Doddenham. These have formed a joint committee with lay members to prepare the plan.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>

2.0 Early Information Gathering and Informal Public Engagement and Consultation

2.1 The joint committee prepared the NDP taking into consideration a substantial local evidence base from extensive public consultations. These include:

Two household surveys using postal questionnaires delivered to all houses.

2.2 The first survey (of Martley Parish only) was completed in August to November 2011, and had a response-rate of 36%. This was used to inform the Martley Parish Plan and further information about the results is provided in **Appendix I**.

2.3 The second household survey was completed for the whole neighbourhood area in March 2014, and had a response-rate of 16%. Both questionnaires gathered information about household-composition, future housing need, employment, transport, and attitudes to future development. A copy of the March 2014 Questionnaire is provided in **Appendix VII** and a report of the results is provided in **Appendix VIII**.

Open Days for all members of the community and local organisations to explain the planning process and discuss options for the neighbourhood area.

2.3 These were held in October 2011, September 2012, and March 2014 in Martley Memorial Hall, and included: display boards explaining the planning process, the SWDP, and the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; detailed maps of the neighbourhood area giving attendees the opportunity to indicate preferred development sites; sheets with post-it notes which attenders could use to write comments on different aspects of the proposed plan; stalls organised by different organisations in the Parish; crèche facilities; and excellent tea and cakes. Each Open Day attracted over 150 people.

2.4 Further information about these open events is provided in **Appendices II, III and IV** (September 2012), and **Appendices V and VI** (March 2014) .

2.5 **Appendix IX** provides various extracts from The Villager Magazine and Briefing Notes which were used to keep local stakeholders informed and up to date about the progress of the NDP and to invite participation and involvement.

Area surveys of local landscape features, protected views and architectural characteristics, carried out by teams of volunteers from January 2015.

- 2.6 These used the Place Check techniques of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. Volunteers from the local community were trained by Jack Hanson (formerly Historic Landscape Officer with Worcestershire County Council). The volunteers recorded information on standard forms with photographs, and aimed to find evidence about the local vernacular in building design, in order to ensure that future construction would harmonise with its surroundings.

Informal Public Consultation on the Emerging Draft Plan – 30th January to 27th February 2016.

- 2.7 The emerging First Draft Plan was published for informal consultation early in 2016 (see letter and response form in **Appendix X**).
- 2.8 A further exhibition was held in Martley Memorial Hall on Saturday 30th January 2016 12.30 – 3.00pm, when the informal consultation draft was presented (see **Appendix XI**). This included posters summarising the Plan's contents and an opportunity for residents to meet the authors of the Plan to discuss the emerging vision, objectives and draft policies. Questionnaires were circulated to all residents requesting their feedback under defined headings. This resulted in extended discussions on the Plan with individual residents, as well as nine written responses. There was broad support for the aims of the Plan, although one local landowner was critical of the proposals to limit housing development. Several detailed textual amendments were proposed, and these were incorporated into subsequent drafts.
- 2.9 The First Draft Plan and other background documents were made available for viewing and downloading at <http://martley-pc.org.uk/> . Hard copies to read were available in the library at Martley Memorial Hall and at the Surgery at Knightwick or on request from the Parish Clerk for Martley, Mrs Janet Dale, 1 Vernon Close, Martley WR6 6QX (telephone: 07890 615 972).
- 2.10 The responses are provided in **Appendix XII** and were used to inform the finalisation of the Draft NDP.

3.0 Formal Consultation on the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan – 6 weeks from Monday 5th September to 5pm Monday 17th October 2016

3.1 The public consultation on the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was carried out in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 637) Part 5 Pre-submission consultation and publicity, paragraph 14. This states that:

Before submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority, a qualifying body must—

(a) publicise, in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area

(i) details of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan;

(ii) details of where and when the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan may be inspected;

(iii) details of how to make representations; and

(iv) the date by which those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date on which the draft proposal is first publicised;

(b) consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan; and

(c) send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.

3.2 The Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was published for formal consultation for 6 weeks from Monday 5th September to 5pm Monday 17th October 2016. (The Screening Opinion for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Neighbourhood Plan was published for consultation with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency by Malvern Hills District Council in May 2016 before the Draft Plan was published.)

- 3.3 The Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting documents could be viewed and downloaded from the Martley Parish Council website: <http://martley-pc.org.uk/> (See **Appendix XIII**).
- 3.4 Hard copies to read were made available in the library at Martley Memorial Hall and at the Surgery at Knightwick or on request from the Parish Clerk for Martley, Mrs Janet Dale, 1 Vernon Close, Martley WR6 6QX (telephone: 07890 615 972).
- 3.5 A drop-in event and exhibition was held on Wednesday 7th September in Martley Memorial Hall from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. All were welcome. (See **Appendix XVII**)
- 3.6 A letter or email (**Appendix XIV**) was sent out advising of the consultation to the consultation bodies and other known local groups and organisations (see list in **Appendix XV**) providing information about the consultation dates, and the locations where the Draft Plan and accompanying documents could be viewed and downloaded. Consultees were invited to use the representation form (**Appendix XVI**) or submit any comments by email to mkdplan@gmail.com or in writing to the Parish Clerk.

4.0 Summary of Consultation Responses to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

- 4.1 Detailed representations on the Draft NDP were submitted by Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council (including from several different County Council services). General representations were received from several other Consultation Bodies including Environment Agency, Natural England, and Coal Authority. Two neighbouring parish councils (Clifton upon Teme and Whitbourne Parish Councils) submitted supporting comments. There was a representation from a local landowner objecting to the NDP's approach to residential development and suggesting a site for allocation, and a suggestion from a resident that the NDP should protect higher grade agricultural land. There was a very supportive comment from Hereford & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust and several supportive and detailed comments submitted by local residents and the primary school. Overall representations were submitted by about 15 different individuals and organisations.
- 4.2 Malvern Hills District Council recommended a number of detailed changes to draft policies and supporting text. These are summarised in the covering letter and set out below:

This is a Malvern Hills District Council officer response to the consultation draft. The response has not been considered nor endorsed by Members.

A schedule of our comments is hereto attached.

As a context for our comments, the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. In doing so, it sets out requirements for the preparation of neighbourhood plans and the role these should take in setting out policies for the local area. The requirements set out in the Framework have been supplemented by guidance contained in DCLG's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Neighbourhood Planning.

PPG on Neighbourhood Planning includes the following guidance on what evidence is needed to support a neighbourhood plan and how neighbourhood plan policies should be drafted:

In relation to the emerging Draft Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan, we consider that there is a need to strengthen the supporting text which explains the intention and rationale behind some of the policies. Whilst all of the draft policies include accompanying text, it is considered that for some policies the background information is either not directly relevant to the policy or does not adequately explain the choices made and the approach taken.

In order to be effective, some of the draft policies could be more concise and made clearer to help decision makers apply them consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. In particular, it is considered that Policy MKD1 seeks to address too many different uses and, as currently drafted, does not provide a practical framework within which planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency, as required by paragraph 17 of the Framework.

We appreciate that the Parish Council is responsible for editing the Plan but have suggested some possible alternative wording for some policies.

PPG on Neighbourhood Planning also outlines the Basic Conditions against which the draft neighbourhood plan will be examined. As background, when the draft Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham neighbourhood plan is submitted to the District Council it will need to be accompanied by a Basic Conditions Statement and a Consultation Statement. The Basic Conditions, as applied to neighbourhood plans, are:

“a. having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan.

d. the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

e. the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).

f. the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

g. prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.”

“Proportionate, robust evidence should support the choices made and the approach taken. The evidence should be drawn upon to explain succinctly the intention and rationale of the policies in the draft neighbourhood plan”.

“A policy in a neighbourhood plan should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared”.

Based on some of our comments in the attached schedule, we consider that the current pre-submission consultation draft of the Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan may fall short of meeting some aspects of Basic Conditions. As background, you may be aware that the Wantage Neighbourhood Plan recently failed at examination primarily due to extensive protectionist policies and a lack of robust, proportionate, evidence to support them.

We would also like to draw your attention to the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS). The NPIERS comprises of a panel of qualified independent examiners who will carry out a pre-submission “health check” of neighbourhood plans. As part of the “health check”, an independent examiner will conduct a review of the draft plan to consider whether it meets the basic conditions, and subsequently provide advice on any potential amendments required to ensure that the plan is fit for purpose. Many groups at a similar stage of progression to Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham have found this service valuable and constructive, and it is something which we recommend that the Parish Councils consider. Further information on the NPIERS is available at the following link: <http://www.rics.org/uk/join/member-accreditations-list/dispute-resolution-service/neighbourhood-planning-independent-examiner-referral-service-npiers/>

We would like to congratulate the Parish Councils and the volunteers for all the hard work that has clearly gone into preparing the draft Plan.

We hope that the schedule of comments is constructive and helpful. Should you, or the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, have any queries in relation to our comments, or would like to discuss the comments further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

- 4.3 Most of the detailed comments and suggestions for changes have been taken on board in the revised, submission version of the NDP.
- 4.4 *Worcestershire County Council advised that *The Plan has been reviewed with particular attention to Landscape; Built Heritage and The Historic Environment and overall, WCC believe the Plan has a strong set of policies that adequately represent the local environment of the three parishes. There are clear links to key policies and evidence supporting proportionate local constraints and opportunities.. Most of the representations have been taken on board in the revised, submission version of the NDP.**
- 4.5 The County Council also recommended including supporting text and a further policy to promote health and wellbeing and this has been incorporated into the Submission NDP.
- 4.6 Most of the representations submitted by the other Consultation Bodies were standard / general in nature.
- 4.7 *The Hereford and Worcester Earth Heritage Trust advised that *as the organisation within the county that advises the local authorities on geological conservation issues and recommends locations as Local Geological Sites, we commend this plan for the inclusion of the outstanding and extensive geological interest of the area and the educational and recreational opportunities it offers.**
- 4.8 The accompanying Consultation Tables (provided as separate documents) set out the responses submitted to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, together with information about how these responses have been considered by the Parish Council, and how they have informed the amendments to the Submission Neighbourhood Plan.

4.9 Table1 below sets out responses from the Consultation Bodies to the SEA Screening Report prepared by Malvern Hills District Council..

Table 1 Responses from the Consultation Bodies to the SEA Scoping Report

Consultation Body	Response
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>(By Email) Sent: 07 April 2016 15:04</p> <p>Dear</p> <p>Thank you for the below. We take a risk based approach to the way we interact with NPs. We would only make bespoke comments to NPs that proposed development in Flood Zones 2 and 3.</p> <p>To assist we would refer to the attached guidance documents that we trust help you shape the NP moving forwards.</p> <p>Having regard to those matters within our remit we have no reason to consider the NP would give rise to ‘significant environmental effects’.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Planning Specialist Sustainable Places Environment Agency - Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire</p>



WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

██████████
Malvern Hills District Council
Council House
Avenue Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3AF

██████████
Our ref: PL00017851

13 May 2016

Dear Mr Lewis

DRAFT MARTLEY, KNIGHTWICK, AND DODDENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the above pre-consultation Neighbourhood Plan.

Historic England is supportive of both the Vision and objectives set out in the Plan and consider that it takes a suitably proportionate approach to the historic environment of the Parish. Beyond these observations we have at this stage no further substantive comments to make.

I hope you find this advice helpful.

Yours sincerely,

██████████
Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG
Telephone ██████████
██████████
██████████



**Natural
England**

Date: 20 May 2016
Our ref: 183794
Your ref: Martley Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan



Malvern Hills District Council,
Development Plans and Conservation

Hombeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Clarke,

**Planning consultation: Martley Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan:
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 04/04/2016.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment – Screening

We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report. Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome i.e. that no further SEA is required with regard to Natural England's remit.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Tom Amos on 02080 260961. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service

Yours sincerely

Tom Amos
Consultations Team

Appendix I Parish Plan

Results from the Consultation

The people of Martley

The 208 completed questionnaires were from households including 496 people, of all ages. The results show that Martley is a residentially-stable community. Half (50%) of respondents had lived in the parish for more than 21 years, with a further 33% resident for between six and 20 years, and the remaining 17% for five years or less.

However, only 17% of households said that they had always lived in Martley, and it was clear that the majority had moved into the parish because of the attractions of its countryside and of living in a village. Reasons for moving into Martley are given in the table below.

Reasons for moving to Martley	%
The countryside	66
Village life and amenities	44
Local schools	29
Proximity to towns	26
To be near family	22
To be near work	20
Always lived here	17
Other reasons	5

NOTE: figures add up to more than 100 because multiple responses.

Only 11% of households were considering moving from the parish in the next five years. The most common reasons were to move to a smaller home, to be near family, to be nearer employment, and to move to a larger home.

Employment

Among those aged over 18 years, 44% were employed and 39% were retired. Employment status is shown in the table below.

Employment status	%
Employed	44
Retired	39
Housewife/husband	5
Full-time education	5
Unemployed, seeking work	3
Long-term sick and/or disabled	2
Other	3
TOTAL	100

Results from the questionnaire showed that 17% of households operated a business, in over 80% of cases from their own home. Almost all businesses served a wider area than Martley parish, and a fifth identified a need for more space.

Community engagement

When asked whether they felt engaged with their community, 44% replied positively, a further half (50%) said 'in part', and 6% said they did not feel engaged. Respondents were asked things that helped improve community spirit. The results are shown in the table below.

Things that help improve community spirit	%
Neighbours/local people	84
The village fete	70
The village hall	63
Local clubs and groups	59
Local amenities	58
Social events	55

NOTE: figures add up to more than 100 because multiple responses.

About a quarter of the people in Martley make frequent use of the Village Hall. When asked how often they attended, 13% said 'once a week', a further 15% said 'at least once a month', 60% said 'occasionally', and the remaining 13% said 'never'. A third (34%) rated the facilities at the Village Hall as 'good', 45% as 'adequate', and 5% as 'poor'. The rest did not know, presumably because of infrequent attendance. When asked what could be improved in the Village Hall, respondents identified better and more accessible toilets, an improved bar area, a dishwasher in the kitchen, better soundproofing, solar heating panels, and better lighting. As noted above, the Village Hall is in the midst of a programme of improvements, which will respond to many of these suggestions.

<p><u>The Village Hall needs modernisation/rebuilding</u></p> <p>“[Need] better toilets and bar [area]”</p> <p>“[Need] a dishwasher in the Village Hall”</p> <p>“Soundproofing is needed between the rooms in the Village Hall”</p>
<p><u>There should be more activities in the Village Hall</u></p> <p>“[Need] more clubs and events at the Village Hall”</p> <p>“Needs to be more on offer for teenagers at the Village Hall”</p>
<p><u>The heating at the Village Hall should be improved</u></p> <p>“[Need] better heating, improved hot water and a new cooker”</p> <p>“Village Hall heating needs to be improved”</p>
<p><u>The Village Hall should be redecorated and cleaned</u></p> <p>“[The] Village Hall needs a good clean”</p>
<p><u>There should be better parking space at the Village Hall</u></p> <p>“[Need] a larger carpark at the Village Hall”</p>

Apart from the Village Hall, the other community facilities that people said they used were the Central Stores and the Post Office (both used by 91% of respondents), the local network of footpaths (70%), one or more of the two pubs in the parish (57%), the Central Garage (50%), the Parish Church (43%), Sport Martley (27%), the children’s play area (26%), and the playing field (20%). Respondents were also asked whether there are sufficient childcare facilities in Martley. Most (71%) had no opinion, but 17% said yes, and 12% said no.

14% of respondents said that they had a disability. Of this group, 80% said they found local facilities accessible.

Housing

When asked whether there should be more housing in Martley, just over half (52%) said yes, 36% said no, and the remaining 12% had no opinion. The types of new housing that was most frequently specified were first-time buyer homes (45% of all respondents), smaller homes of one or two bedrooms (29%),

and affordable houses to rent (25%). Smaller numbers indicated a wish for bungalows (14%), larger houses (14%), retirement homes (13%), and supported housing (8%). Note that these numbers add up to more than 100% because people could give multiple responses.

Information about the quantity of local housing need came from the question about whether respondents, or a member of their family, wished to move within Martley Parish at some time in the future. A fifth (21%) said this was the case, with the main reasons being the need for a smaller home (7%), and to be nearer their family (5%). Smaller number wished to move to have a larger garden, to be an owner-occupier, to be in a home without stairs, to have a home adapted for disabled people, and to move into sheltered housing.

When asked where new houses should be built, the majority favoured building on previously-developed land (61%), and in small clusters of five to ten houses (56%). A substantial minority also favoured building new houses spread across the parish (45%), while a third (32%) said new houses should be on garden land or infill. There was much less support for building on agricultural land (18%), or for building housing in a medium-sized estate of 20 to 30 houses (11%). Virtually nobody (1%) favoured building an estate of more than 30 houses. The proposal to build behind the Crown pub and in front of the Nubbins was supported by only 7%, with 63% opposed, and 31% with no opinion. These opinions are reflected in the open-ended responses on housing in the questionnaire, shown in the table below.

There is no need for more housing in Martley.

“The Nubbins is an important part of the Geopark and the local geology project. If the area at the foot of the Nubbins were built on, it would permanently spoil the vista and its tranquillity would be lost. It is also an excellent piece of agricultural land.

“The proposed site for houses to be built at the back of the Crown would cause more traffic problems in the village and extra flooding. Any new site should be on the outskirts of the village”.

“[There has been] severe flooding in the wider area around the Crown pub. The escarpment behind the site contributes to this”.

“More housing would be a strain on current facilities and destroy tranquility and atmosphere”.

“I strongly object to the large development proposed behind the shop and post office. More houses = more traffic and more commuting”.

There should be small housing developments, but not the large development planned for the field behind the Crown.

“If we have a lot of housing, the roads will get busier and more dangerous. The speeding needs to be tackled... the community feeling of the village will be destroyed if there are 62 more houses. A development of 5-10 would not be a problem.”

“There are more suitable places for building such as brownfield”.

“We need about nine starter homes spread across the parish”.

There is a need for affordable housing.

“No affordable rented housing available”

There were several comments made by attenders at the Open Day. The box below shows a random sample of these.

“NO to large scale development! Need small clusters of housing around the village. No to large scale development. Where is the evidence for the need?”

“Small clusters of new houses dotted around the village. Not an estate on agricultural land.”

“[A large development would mean] 100+ extra cars returning from Worcester, having to leave the B4204 junction opposite the shops. It is very good agricultural land-most unsuitable.”

“Housing is needed but in small clusters. Not a large estate”.

“Housing should be spread out across the Parish as it has always been. We should not plonk a crude development in the centre as a knee-jerk reaction.”

These results are very similar to those in the Martley Housing Survey, which found that 57% of respondents wanted new housing in the parish, with overwhelming support for infill and brownfield sites, and very little support for developments on greenfield sites. The types of housing most favoured were ‘affordable’ (ie subsidised) homes, two or three-bedroom semi-detached houses, and homes for retired people. The Martley Housing Needs Survey in 2008 also found a need for a small number of affordable housing, both rented and for sale, as well as some open market housing as new households for local people.

Traffic and transport

For most people in Martley, transport means using a car. Over half (52% said they used a car to get to work, compared with 10% who walked, 3% who used the bus, 3% who cycled, and 1% who used other (unspecified) means of travel. The remaining 31% did not travel to work. The figures were different for travel to school or college because of the availability of a primary school and high school in the village, and the availability of a bus service for students attending the technical college and sixth form college in Worcester. Nevertheless, the car was the still the most common form of transport (15% of

households), compared with walking (10%), using the bus (9%), and cycling (1%). The use of a car to take children to school (and the use of cars generally in the Parish) is not only a result of distance, but also of the lack of footpaths along several roads and the narrowness of those footpaths that do exist.

When asked whether they were satisfied with the local bus service, 23% said yes, 27% said no, while half (50%) had no opinion. Perhaps because of this reliance on cars, 60% said they were concerned about traffic in the parish. The following table summarises the comments on traffic and transport from the open-ended questions.

There is too much traffic and it is too fast

“Dangerous traffic by the post office and shop”

“The bus that comes through the village speeds through. Cars are parked on bends, cars speed through the village. The junction by the shops is very dangerous, and I’m surprised there has not been a serious accident”.

“Speeding through Berrow Green”.

“Traffic around the shop, garage and schools causes concern”.

“Heavy lorries coming through the village”.

The bus service should be more frequent

“Bus times are not frequent enough for getting to and from work easily”.

“Need a later bus from Worcester back to the village”.

There is a need for more parking space

“Parking by garage, post office, and shop causes concern”.

There is a need for more footpaths

“[Need] pathways to walk or cycle safely to the Village shop”.

The next box shows a random sample of comments on transport made by visitors to the Open Day.

“Enforce speed limits/review existing limits”.

“Speed limit should be 20mph at start and end of school. Traffic slowing measures essential at these times.”

“Country lanes to Holt Heath now busy with commuter traffic during rush hours. We do not need more commuters.”

“Look at bus routes (small mini-bus), including Hope House Lane.”

“Better bus service in the evenings for people to get in and out of the City safely.”

“Less HGVs through the village.”

The results from both the Questionnaire and the Open Day are similar to those in the Martley Housing Survey, in which respondents identified a safer junction near the shops, and more parking spaces as the two most important improvements needed in the parish.

Environment and sustainability

People in Martley have a strong commitment to preserving the countryside and the appearance of the village. Almost all (97%) agreed that it is important to preserve the countryside and good agricultural land in the parish.

The main environmental hazard in the Parish identified from the survey was flooding (including mudslides). Just under half (46%) reported that they had been affected by flooded roads near their home. 16% had suffered damage to their gardens or land as a result of flooding, and 9% to their home. The main incident of flooding locally was in 2002, when water and mud ran off the land in front of the Nubbins into the village centre and Drury Lane.

Most (54%) were satisfied with the condition of the roads in the parish, and 56% with the condition of the pavements. However, a third (33%) said that dog fouling is a problem, and 20% said there was too much litter. The following table is taken from the open-ended responses.

Roads are poorly-maintained

“[The] roads by Heaton House and [the] bus stop [are] already breaking up after recent repairs”.

“Badly-surfaced roads need renewing”.

“[There are] potholes, uneven road surfaces, eroded verges”.

Litter is a problem

“[There is] litter on Hillside, Clifton Road”.

“[There is] litter on the back lanes”.

Dog fouling is a problem

“[There is] dog fouling on footpaths and pavements. [Need] more poo bins on the estate”.

“[There is] poo on the paths from the village centre to the school”.

There is a problem with flooding and mudslides

“[There have been] flooding and mudslides”

There is a need for improved pavements and better-maintained pavements

“Paths [are] too narrow - unsafe for young people when lorries and buses pass”.

When asked whether they supported various options to improve sustainability, 76% said there should be more locally-sourced food on sale in village shops, 67% wanted a local farmers’ market, 32% local allotments, 29% a local freecycle scheme, 26% a local thrift shop, 18% a car-share scheme, and 9% a garden share scheme.

At the Open Day, visitors made a limited number of suggestions about measures to improve the local environment and promote sustainability. A random sample are shown in the box below.

“Small scale wind power generation?”

“No more bonfires in the summer on the estate. It’s not fair on other residents.”

“Would like to see the collection of grass/leaves on my compost – as my compost can only take so much. Weekly trips to tip are insufficient.”

Crime

There is limited crime in Martley, and people feel safe in their homes and the streets. A total of 39% of respondents said they had witnessed or experienced a crime or anti-social behaviour in the parish in the preceding five years. The most common problems cited were vandalism (14% of all respondents), noise and disturbance (13%), theft from their home or property (9%), theft from a vehicle (5%), damage to a vehicle (5%), damage to a their property (4%), and assault (4%). Note that some individuals may replied to more than one of these. Just under two-thirds (63%) of victims of crime or anti-social behaviour said they had reported this to the police, compared with 58% of those who had witnessed such behaviour. Almost all (96%) said they felt safe walking around Martley, and 89% felt safe from crime in their home.

Local democracy

People in Martley are aware of the Parish Council, know how to contact it, and are able to access several sources of information about local affairs. When asked if they knew what the Parish Council does, 49% said yes, 44% said ‘in part’, and the remaining 6% said ‘no’. A large majority (88%) said they knew how to contact the Parish Council. The main local sources of information are shown in the table below.

Sources of information	%
<i>The Villager</i> monthly magazine	98
Notices in the shop and post office	73
Word of mouth	71

The village noticeboard	34
The Martley website	20
Attending Parish Council meetings	6
The Myparish website	3

NOTE: figures add up to more than 100 because multiple responses.

Youth

Responses from the Questionnaire found that over two-thirds (69%) of young people took part in local activities and/or belonged to an organised group. At the Open day, many young people and their parents identified their needs. The box below shows a random sample of their comments. Note that since the Open Day, a youth club has been set up, and work has begun on an extended play area.

“Saturday football at Sport Martley is great for my 5 year old boy, but nothing similar for girls. What can we do?”

“The 5-a-side football pitch is great idea with two football nets - made for primary aged children. It appeals far more than huge pitch. They get to play with friends or simply practice their shots. Astro turf great for all weathers.

“Martley needs a youth club.” (Note that this has now been set up).

“A year round pre-school eg like Clifton.”

“Like the idea of cardio equipment, haven’t seen this before.”

“An activity area for parents alongside children’s play area would be ideal. Mums/dads could exercise alongside children-perfect! Keep the village fit.”

“I am a parent of three teenagers in the village and would fully support the games area planning application.”

“I would like this area to play. It would provide entertainment all year round.”

“Of the play equipment I feel the activity net is the best idea. It’s attractive to several age groups and allows more children to take part at any one time more than a simple roundabout.”

“I am 15 years of age and love football. There is no where really in Martley that is good for playing football all year round, so I believe our community needs this games area.”

Martley Parish Council Website, 09/04/2011

Neighbourhood Plan

Martley Parish Council has joined with Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council to prepare a neighbourhood plan. When completed and approved, this will give local people more control over how our parishes develop over the next 20 years. Earlier this year, we completed a survey of local households as a first step. But since then, progress has been slower than we hoped. This is because we need more people who can volunteer their help in developing the content of the plan. In the New Year, we will set up a series of meetings to discuss individual topics. These will include: housing (need, design and location); leisure and recreation; conservation and the natural environment; transport and footpaths; and employment. We will also need a meeting specifically for Knightwick and Doddenham. Each meeting will have an invited speaker, and will discuss options for the particular topic. It should conclude by agreeing the relevant part of the draft neighbourhood plan. Details of these meetings will appear on this website.

If you wish to contribute to the neighbourhood plan, please contact Councillor Stuart Cumella at 01886 888797, email stuartcumella@gmail.com.

Appendix II September 2012 Open Day Invitations / Posters

***MARTLEY PAST,
PRESENT & FUTURE***

*Open consultation on the
proposed Neighbourhood
Plan for the village*

Saturday, 8th September

10.00 – Noon

Martley Memorial Hall

Please come along and have some input

Refreshments will be served



MARTLEY PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

**OPEN CONSULTATION
ON NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN FOR MARTLEY**

***8TH SEPTEMBER VILLAGE
HALL***

10 am – Noon

***Please come along and give
your input***

Appendix III September 2012 Open Day Exhibition Material

What is a neighbourhood plan?

Malvern Hills District Council has been working with Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council to prepare the **South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)**. The first draft was published last year, and a second draft with some minor changes appeared in June this year. The final version will be assessed by a planning inspector and approved by the Secretary of State next year. It will then become the 'local plan'.

A local plan sets out general policies for the development and use of land, and designates specific sites for development between now and 2030. **In the case of Martley, the second draft of the SWDP proposes that 51 dwellings are built on the Crown Meadow.** Local plans have legal force, which means that all new developments must conform to the plan. It also means that if an area is scheduled in the plan for development, then that development will take place. All local plans must conform to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was published in March 2012.

A **neighbourhood plan** is like a local plan, but for a smaller area (such as Martley Parish). It has legal force, but must conform to the strategic policies set out in the Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans must be agreed by the parish council, approved by an independent examiner (who may suggest amendments), after which it must be submitted to a referendum of people in the area covered by the plan. A simple majority of votes is required for the plan to be accepted.

Martley already has a parish plan, completed earlier this year. But a parish plan has no legal force. Creating a neighbourhood plan for Martley will give people in the Parish more control over what development takes place, and how best take advantage of it.

Aims

The Martley Parish Plan set out the following aims:

1. To maintain the rural character of the Parish, with its characteristic landscape of fields, woodlands and dispersed communities.
2. To maintain the Parish as a centre of employment, including both workplaces in industrial and office estates and home-based work.
3. To provide an active and stimulating community life for all the people in the Parish. To be a pleasant place to be young and a pleasant place to grow old.
4. To hand to future generations a Parish as good as or even better than the one we have inherited.

Do you think these aims are appropriate? If not, what changes are needed?

Protecting key features

Martley Parish has many environmental features of high quality, including its landscape, geology, the conservation area, its historic buildings, and the ancient monument on Berrow Hill. Local people and visitors can enjoy Martley's landscape because of the extensive network of well-maintained footpaths (including the Worcestershire Way and the Geopark Way).

A neighbourhood plan can designate particular sites as 'local assets', which deserve special protection. Here is a possible list:

- ▶ The buildings in the Conservation Area (the central part of the village and the area near the church).
- ▶ Berrow Hill, its ancient hill fort and burial mound.
- ▶ The Nubbins escarpment and its approaches.
- ▶ The Millennium Green.
- ▶ Martley Rock

One way of protecting the local landscape is to designate the lower Teme Valley (including the hills in the West of the Parish) as an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). These have additional legal protection against development, but designation (by the Secretary of State) is a lengthy and complex process.

What other local assets should be designated?

Should we proceed with an application for an AONB?

Employment

Martley has several local employers and twice as many people as the national average who work from home. There is space for new industrial and commercial development in local trading estates, which are now about 75% occupied. However, new capacity may be needed in the next two decades.

Many employers need fast Internet connections to contact customers and suppliers, and new employment is most likely to occur in areas which have access to superfast broadband. Broadband speeds in Martley are low and BT has no plans to upgrade the local exchange.

Employment opportunities for people in Martley are also restricted by the poor local bus service combined with rising fuel costs. It is particularly important to have a later evening service from Worcester so that people can use public transport to get to and from work in Worcester.

What are the main steps needed to guarantee local employment opportunities for people in Martley?

What housing is needed?

New houses are needed for people who live in or wish to return to Martley. The 2008 Housing Needs Survey Report identified a need for:

- ▶ 8 new affordable homes in the following five years, of which 6 would be rented from a housing association and 2 would be shared ownership with a housing association.
- ▶ 13 new homes in the private sector open market. Some of these could be built in 'windfall' sites such as barn conversions.

The Parish Plan survey found that about 40 households wish to move to a different type of house within the Parish. Most are elderly people who want more manageable housing.

New housebuilding should be spread over a period of time, as new families are formed and people age. The proposal in the SWDP for 51 new houses in Martley by 2030 would therefore meet local housing need, **but only if the right kind of house is built, and if building is spread over several years.**

Martley is dependent on oil for heating, and oil prices will probably rise by 2030. New houses should therefore be energy-efficient and have alternative sources of heating such as wood-burning stoves and heat pumps. No new house should be higher than two stories, and any new housing developments should be landscaped.

What sort of housing is needed in Martley?

What sort of housing is needed for elderly and disabled people?

Where should houses be built?

There has been strong opposition among people in Martley to any new housing development on the Crown Meadow. The Parish Plan survey found that people that development should be dispersed throughout the parish, rather than concentrated exclusively in the village centre. Most people also preferred small-scale developments of 5-10 houses.

There are potential brownfield, infill and other opportunities for developments of this size in the Parish which collectively could provide for the number of dwellings specified by the SWDP. However, all such sites must be 'deliverable', ie the landowner must be willing to sell and the houses should be accessible for roads and local services.

One alternative site has been proposed by Bayhill Property Developments, for 40 houses (including 10 'affordable') on the Worcester Road above the Old Smithy.

Would you support alternative sites to the Crown Meadow?

If so, where are the best sites for new houses?

Implications for other services

New houses, even over a period of 20 years, will have an effect on local schools, roads, and other public services. The SWDP proposes 200 new houses for the whole Chantry School catchment area, and this will substantially increase traffic in the Village.

But the Parish can bid for additional funds from the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which developers pay for each new development. It is therefore important that the people of Martley agree on what to bid for. This could include:

- ▶ An improved road junction in the centre of the Village.
- ▶ Better insulation for the Village Hall to reduce heating bills.
- ▶ Connections for superfast broadband.
- ▶ Better footpaths to the local schools.

What would be your preferences for a CIL bid?

What is the highest priority?

Next steps

Your comments will be included in the first draft of Martley Neighbourhood Plan. This will be discussed by the Parish Council.

If approved, the draft plan will be circulated in the parish for comments, and we will begin formal consultations with neighbouring parishes, public bodies, local employers and others.

A final version of the plan, together with copies of the responses to consultation will be discussed by the Parish Council. If approved, it will be submitted to an independent assessor who will decide whether or not it can proceed to a referendum.

Appendix IV Feedback from Open Day

Feedback from Open Day

Attendance

25 people attended.

Comments on presentation

The following comments were posted on the presentation sheets.

Aims

Do you think these aims are appropriate?

"These aims are very appropriate"

"Good aims and very appropriate".

Protecting key features

Should we proceed with a application for AONB?

"Yes, definitely proceed with application. Who could argue? "

"Yes - we should proceed with an AONB and quickly too."

"AONB is a great idea".

"Yes, I agree the area should be an AONB".

Employment

What are the main steps needed to guarantee local employment opportunities for people in Martley?

"Buses are almost empty NOW. (Yet we have a coach station in the village!)."

What housing is needed?

What sort of housing is needed in Martley?

What sort of housing is needed for elderly and disabled people?

"Growth will happen in any village. We would be short-sighted to think we can stop it, but we can control it. Martley is a lovely mix of young and old. This needs to continue with appropriate housing. We also need to protect our natural beauty. So any building needs to be low-key clusters."

"Martley is a mixed village of old and young and all levels of earning. Keep it like that. Build a mix of housing".

"It is natural and beneficial for everyone to have a mix of young and old in a community".

"Martley is a small village with small schools. If the housing development goes ahead,

then more people will be applying for the school, and many will have to be turned down. Do we want children running around in the day and possibly disturbing our neighbourhood?"

"There are old buildings on Martley farms which could be converted. Space for three 'affordable' dwellings on bramble patch [at] village end of Hollins Lane. Space for houses on bramble patch - old petrol station on Great Witley Road".

Where should houses be built?

Would you support alternative sites to the Crown Meadow?

If so, where are the best sites for new houses?

"I strongly oppose the Crown Meadow and prefer the suggestion of more 'infill' sites. The site above the Old Smithy seems very dubious traffic-wise as it would be almost on the bend at the top of the hill."

"I think land on the outskirts should be viewed, as anything around the shops or schools will lead to more congestion. We need to keep the character of the village. This won't be done by big housing estates. Small clusters please."

"Small scattered sites will have less impact on the village in relation to traffic. But what about school spaces?"

"Crown Meadow is the wrong name! 1843 tithe map says 'Longstone Hopyard'. Other threatened site is Jury Meadow - now useful market garden land. Land by Old Smithy (listed) also superb arable. This is the Lanthorn Field used by local (named) people in Henry VIII's and Elizabeth I's reigns. Don't build on it!"

"I strongly object to the Crown Meadow proposal".

"I agree that small developments of 5-10 houses would be preferable to one site of 50+".

"We strongly object to the proposal to build above the Old Smithy. In our view, this would require extensive development of the roads leading into this development, as the corner opposite Martley Court is already a tight and dangerous one. An extensive development of 40 houses is exactly what local residents expressed a view against. Smaller, dispersed developments will retain the character of the village".

Implications for other services

What would be your preferences for a CIL bid?

What is the highest priority?

"Improved road junction would be necessary if Crown site was approved".

"Superfast broadband IE this keeps traffic to a minimum. Highest priority is no more TRAFFIC!"

"Better heating solutions. This affects everyone and the crippling costs go up all the time. Road junction is fine. Just stop the parking on it!"

Stuart Cumella
24 September 2012

Appendix V March 2014 Open Day Invitations



February 2014

To All Martley Organisations

Community Open Day – Saturday March 15th 11.00 – 3.00pm

You may recall in 2011 an Open Day was held to enable residents to give their views on proposed local housing and also gave organisations the opportunity to let people know about their group, how to join, benefits to be gained, etc. etc.

This day was very successful and Parish Council was asked at the Annual Parish Meeting if such a day could be organised again.

You may, or may not, be aware that Martley, in conjunction with, Knightwick and Doddenham is in the throes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Both Councils need to collect data for this exercise so it was agreed to hold a further open day.

This will be held on March 15th between 11.00 and 3.00. Refreshments will be provided (tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes).

This will be an opportunity for your group to “advertise” itself as well as give members the opportunity to give feedback to the Councils involved on their views.

Can you please confirm whether your group plans to attend so that space can be reserved for you at the Village Hall. Please phone 01886 888472 or email martleypc@btinternet.com

OPEN DAY – SATURDAY MARCH 15th

MARTLEY MEMORIAL HALL 11.00 – 3.00pm

Martley Parish Council, in conjunction with Knightwick & Doddenham, is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plans were introduced under the Localism Act 2012. A neighbourhood development plan establishes general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood:

- where new homes and offices should be built
- what they should look like
- how local residents wish the community to develop

So that the Parish Council can compile a plan which is in line with the wishes of the local population the Council **NEEDS** to get the views of the parishioners. As a result of the Taylor Wimpey planning application for houses behind the Crown there is a considerable amount of funding available to the village for Public Open Space, Sport and Recreation. The Parish Council has to bid for this funding on your behalf. **WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT PROJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO BID FOR.**

The purpose of the Open Day is for parishioners to meet, discuss and bring ideas for both of these major issues for the village.

Village organisations will be invited to come along and it will be an opportunity for people to find out exactly what is currently on offer in the village. A social opportunity to learn and contribute.

A questionnaire will be delivered to every household with the March edition of the Villager Magazine. The ways to return it will be on the questionnaire. They can also be returned at the Open Day and should anyone require assistance in completing the questionnaire people will be there to help.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED – TEA/COFFEE/CAKES

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP THE
VILLAGE PLAN FOR ITS FUTURE**

Appendix VI March 2014 Open Day Exhibition Material

Welcome



This exhibition has been organised by the Teme Valley Parishes Neighbourhood Plan Committee, made up of people nominated by the parish councils of Martley and Knightwick and Doddenham. The aim of the Committee is to prepare a draft **neighbourhood plan**, which will set out how our parishes should develop over the next 20 years.

When finally approved, the neighbourhood plan will have legal force as a planning document. However, it must conform to the strategic policies set out in the South Worcestershire Development Plan, when this is finally approved by the Secretary of State later this year.

Stages in creating the neighbourhood plan

1. Malvern Hills District Council designates the three parishes as a 'neighbourhood area'. This took place last year.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee consults local residents and employers about what should be in the plan. This is happening now, with the questionnaire and this exhibition.
3. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee prepares a draft plan. This will be published on the Internet and paper copies will be available on request. This stage will be completed later this year.
4. There will be formal consultations on the draft plan, with letters to nearby local authorities, local organisations and other public agencies.
5. The draft plan and the results of the consultation will be assessed by an outside expert appointed by the District Council. The plan will be revised to take account of his recommendations.
6. The revised draft plan will be put to a local referendum. No date has been set for this, but it could be in May 2015, at the same time as the parish council elections.

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council has recently applied to join with Martley and Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Councils in developing a joint neighbourhood plan. This will require a new designation of the revised neighbourhood area.

Aims

The draft aims of the neighbourhood development plan are as follows:

1. To maintain the rural character of our parishes, with their characteristic landscape of fields, woodlands and dispersed communities.
2. To maintain employment in our parishes, including workplaces in industrial and office estates and home-based work.
3. To provide an active and stimulating community life for all the people in our parishes. For our parishes to be a pleasant place to be young and a pleasant place to grow old.
4. To hand to future generations a community as good as or even better than the one we have inherited.

The Neighbourhood Area

The neighbourhood area comprises the three parishes of Martley, Doddenham and Knightwick. Their combined population is about 1500, although this will rise by about 150 or more when the new houses in Martley are occupied.

The area has an age-structure that is very similar to that of Malvern Hills District as a whole. About 27% are under the age of 16 years, 51% are between the ages of 16 and 64 years, and 22% are aged 65 years or above (including 10% aged 75 years or above). At the time of the 2011 Census, a quarter of all economically-active people were self-employed. 10% of households had no access to a car or van. Over 96% were born in the UK and describe themselves as 'UK white'.

Challenges

Over the next 20 years, the main challenges facing our parishes may be:

1. **Pressure for development.** The population of Malvern Hills District is expected to rise by 15% by 2030. But the number of new houses needed will be even greater because more people in the future will live in single-person households. This is creating pressures to build new houses in rural areas. In Martley, 51 houses are now under construction on the Crown Meadow site, and there are planning applications for at least 16 more houses in the village. This will affect the rural character of the area,
2. **An ageing population.** In the next 20 years, the number of people over 65 years of age in this area is expected to rise by at least 50%, while the number over 80 years will more than double. The great majority of elderly people will continue to live in their own homes, with support from family-members (who may themselves be elderly) and from services paid by the local authority and/or from their own savings. But an increasing number may find it difficult to manage in their own homes, or will be socially-isolated.
3. **Rising energy prices.** Since 1990, electricity and domestic heating oil prices in the UK have doubled and are still rising. The price of petrol in 2012 is now more than three times the price/litre in 1990. If this trend is maintained over the next 20 years, it will have important consequences for rural communities. There will be increased demand for houses that are energy-efficient and which have alternative sources of heating such as solar panels, wood-burning stoves and heat pumps.

Conservation

The area has many environmental features of high quality, including its landscape, geology, the conservation area, its historic buildings, and the ancient monument on Berrow Hill. Local people and visitors can enjoy the local landscape because of the extensive network of well-maintained footpaths (including the Worcestershire Way and the Geopark Way).

A neighbourhood plan can designate particular sites as 'local assets', which deserve special protection. Here is a possible list:

- ▶ The buildings in the Conservation Area (the central part of the village and the area near the church).
- ▶ Ankerdine Hill.
- ▶ Berrow Hill, its ancient hill fort and burial mound.
- ▶ The Nubbins, an important sandstone outcrop.
- ▶ The Millennium Green.
- ▶ Martley Rock
- ▶ The route of the Geopark Way.

One way of protecting the local landscape is to extend the area covered by the Martley Conservation Area (shown on the map) to include the Nubbins. Another way is to extend the existing Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Northwards from the Suckley Hills to include the Teme Valley between Knightwick and Stamford Bridge. AONBs have additional legal protection against development, but designation (by the Secretary of State) is a lengthy and complex process, and would require the support of the County Council, District Council and the parishes involved.

Employment

Martley has several local employers and twice as many people as the national average who work from home. There is space for new industrial and commercial development in local trading estates, which are now about 75% occupied. However, new capacity may be needed in the next two decades. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee will seek the views of local employers in the near future.

Many employers need fast Internet connections to contact customers and suppliers, and new employment is most likely to occur in areas which have access to superfast broadband. Broadband speeds in the area are low (especially for houses linked to the Wichenford exchange), although BT currently have no defined plans for upgrading this exchange.

Employment opportunities for people in Martley are also restricted by the poor local bus service combined with rising fuel costs. It is particularly important to have an evening service from Worcester to enable people to use the bus to get to and from work.

Section 106 payments

Section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act deals with 'planning obligations', or the requirements laid upon developers by the local authority to make the development acceptable. The section (and associated regulations) covers issues like the amount of 'affordable' housing and open space to be included in new housing estates. There may also be a requirement for the developer to pay the local authority a sum to cover the additional costs that result from the development (such as school places, roads and recreation facilities).

The new housing agreed for the Crown Meadow in Martley will result in a sum of £186,000 to meet the additional costs for recreation facilities. The Parish Council will need to bid for specific proposals if we are to make use of this money. Proposals will need to be justified and costed. They can include recreation facilities for all age groups.

Implications for other services

New houses, even over a period of 20 years, will have an effect on local schools, roads, and other public services.

But the Parish can bid for additional funds from the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which developers pay for each new development. It is therefore important that the people of Martley agree on what to bid for. This could include:

- ▶ An improved road junction in the centre of the Village.
- ▶ Better insulation for the Village Hall to reduce heating bills.
- ▶ Connections for superfast broadband.
- ▶ Better footpaths to the local schools.

Appendix VII Questionnaire, March 2014

Teme Valley Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan Questionnaire 2014



This questionnaire is your chance to shape the new Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parishes of Doddenham, Knightwick and Martley. The Plan will identify the main challenges facing our three parishes over the next twenty years, and propose how we can best respond. It will be written by members of the parish councils for Martley and for Knightwick and Doddenham. When completed, the Plan will be assessed by an outside expert appointed by the District Council, and will then be put to a local referendum. If people vote for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, it will have legal force and will shape future development in our three parishes.

An important part in developing the plan are the opinions of local people. It is therefore really important that you fill in this questionnaire. We aim to get one completed from each household in Doddenham, Knightwick and Martley. The answers you give to these questions will be confidential. Help is available if you have problems in reading or writing. Please bring completed questionnaires to either Martley Central Stores, the Library in Martley Memorial Hall or to the Reception at the Talbot Hotel in Knightwick by Saturday March the 15th. We can arrange for someone to collect the questionnaire from your home if you have mobility problems. Another option is to bring completed questionnaires to the Open Day. This will be on Saturday March the 15th, and will be held in Martley Memorial Hall. It will run from 11am to 3pm, and will include stalls and presentations by many local organisations. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be available.

The questionnaire includes questions about the people in your household, the local services you use, and your opinions about how your parish should develop over the next 20 years. Please ring the answers that apply to you. All you write will be treated with confidence.

You and your household

1. First, some questions about who lives in your house. Please list below the number of people in each age-group who usually live in your house.

Age-group	Number
0 - 4 years	
5 - 17 years	
18 - 29 years	
30 - 59 years	
60 - 74 years	
75 years and above	

2. How many years has your family lived in this parish?
 - Always lived here
 - Lived here for _____ years
3. *If you have not always lived in this parish*, please give the main reason your family came to live here.

4. Do you expect to still live in this parish in five year's time?
 Yes/No

If NO, what is the main reason for planning to leave?

5. Please list below the number of people who usually live in your house who attend schools, colleges or universities?

	Number
Nursery	
Pre-school	
Primary school	
High school	
Sixth-form college	
Technical college	
University (living at home)	
University (living away from home)	

Living in this community

6. Now some questions on how much you take part in activities with other local people. Do you feel part of your local community?

- Yes/No

If YES, what helps you feel part of this community?

7. What else could be done to create a better community in this parish?

8. Do you know how to contact your Parish Council?

- Yes/No

9. How do you find out about what is going on locally? *(Ring all that apply)*

- Parish website
- Local parish magazine
- Word of mouth
- Notice boards
- Other *(please state)*

10. Do you feel safe from crime in your home?

- Yes/No

11. Do you feel safe from crime walking around the local roads and lanes?

- Yes/No

12. What services have members of your household used in Martley, Knightwick or Doddenham in the last 12 months? *(Ring all that apply)*

- Local shops
- Local GP surgery.
- Local pubs.
- Sport Martley
- Memorial Hall
- Others *(please state what)*

13. Is anyone in your household a member of any organisations which hold their meetings in Martley, Knightwick or Doddenham?

- Yes/No

If YES, which events?

14. In the last 12 months, has anyone in your household been to any local events, such as annual shows, farmers' markets or meetings which have been held in Martley, Knightwick or Doddenham?

- Yes/No

If YES, which events?

Housing

15. Next are some questions about local housing. Do you think there should be more housing in this parish?

- Yes/No

(If YES), what sort of housing is needed? (Ring all that apply)

- 'Affordable' homes to buy.
- 'Affordable' homes to rent.
- Sheltered housing.
- Small houses for people who want to downsize.
- Larger houses for families.
- Low-energy homes.
- Bungalows.
- Self-build homes.
- Specialised housing for disabled people.
- Other *(Please state)*.

16. Suppose more houses are needed in this parish, where would be the best place to build them?

17. Is your present house adequate for the needs of your household?

- Yes/No

If NO, what makes it unsuitable? (Ring all that apply)

- Too big
- Too small
- Wrong location
- Structural problems
- Other reason *(please state)*

18. Are there members of your family who need housing in Martley, Doddenham or Knightwick now or in the future?

- Yes/No

If YES, please give details.

19. Do you operate a business from home?

- Yes/No

If YES, what would help your business grow?

4; 20. Do you connect to the Internet from your home?
- Yes/No.

If YES, what sort of connection do you have?

- through ordinary phone lines.
- Martley Web Mesh
- Satellite

21. (If you have a connection to the Internet), are connection speeds adequate for your needs?
- Yes/No

The environment

22. Now a few questions about the local environment. What do you think about the conservation of listed buildings in this parish?
- It is very important to retain them (with a change of use if necessary).
- It would be good to retain them if practicable.
- Not bothered one way or the other.

23. Are there sufficient pavements alongside the roads in this parish?
- Yes/No
(If NO), where are new pavements needed?

24. Are you satisfied with the condition of the existing pavements?
- Yes/No

If NO, please state where the problems are.

25. Do you think that litter is a problem in this parish?
- Yes/No

26. Do you think dog fouling is a problem in this parish?
- Yes/No

27. Are there any eyesores in the parish that you would like to see improved?
- Yes/No
If YES, please state where and what the eyesore is.

28. In the future, communities may need to take more responsibility for their Energy needs. Would you support the development of Local or Community Renewable Energy generation schemes?
- Yes/No

Roads and transport

29. A few questions next about local transport. Are you satisfied with the condition of the roads in the parish?
-Yes/No

If NO, what improvements are needed?

30. Do you think there are parking problems in this parish?
- Yes/No

If YES, where are the main problems?

31. Do you think that there are speeding problems along some of the roads in this parish?
- Yes/No

32. During the last 12 months, has any member of your household ever used the local bus service?

- Yes/No

If YES, How many times have people in your household used the local bus service in the last seven days? (Count a return journey as two trips).

33. Are you satisfied with the local bus service?

- Yes/No

If NO, please state where the problems are.

The future

34. Finally, we would like to learn your ideas for how life can be improved for people living in Doddenham, Knightwick and Martley. What changes would you like to see over the next 20 years? Here are some ideas. Please indicate whether which of these you favour (Ring all that apply)

- A car share scheme/community transport.
- More local employment opportunities.
- A garden share scheme.
- Allotments.
- Improvements to Martley Memorial Hall.
- Improvements to Knightwick Village Hall
- Better play areas.
- More parks and green spaces.
- More sporting facilities.
- More opportunities for older people to keep in contact.

Please add your own ideas in the box below.

35. The law says that housebuilders should pay a lump sum for each new house to cover the cost of recreation and leisure (called 'Section 106 payments'). The new housing agreed for the Crown Meadow in Martley will result in about £186,000 of funding. Where do you think this should be spent?

36. The law also gives parish councils the power to designate 'assets of community value' in their neighbourhood development plans. An asset can be a building or landscape feature which furthers the interest of the local community. Designation gives some protection in case the owner decides to sell the land or property for another use.

Which buildings or areas of land do you think should be designated? (Ring all that apply)

- Martley Memorial Hall
- Knightwick Village Hall
- The Old School, Berrow Green Road
- The Talbot Hotel
- The Admiral Rodney
- The Crown
- Central Stores and Garage
- Knightwick butchers.

- Others (please state below)

37. Which of the following features should be designated for conservation? (*Ring all that apply*)

- Berrow Hill.
- Ankerdine Hill.
- The Nubbins (the line of sandstone hills in the centre of Martley Parish).
- The Millennium Green near Martley Parish Church.
- Martley Rock.
- The route of the Geopark Way.
- Others (*Please indicate in the box below*)

Many thanks for your help.

Teme Valley Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee

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Martley

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Appendix VIII Results of Questionnaire Survey 2014

Teme Valley Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan Background

This paper reports the results of the survey completed in March 2014 by Martley Parish Council and Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council. The aim of the survey was to collect the opinions of local residents about the future development of the three parishes, to help the two parish councils formulate a neighbourhood development plan. Information was collected using a questionnaire, one copy of which was distributed to each household. Collection boxes were located in Martley Post Office, the Talbot at Knightwick, and at the exhibition on neighbourhood planning which was held in Martley Village Hall on 15th March.

The author wishes to express his thanks to: Mrs Janet Dale (Martley Parish Clerk), who organised the printing and distribution of the questionnaire and the data-entry of the results; to the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, who helped develop the questionnaire; and to those who distributed the questionnaires to individual households.

Households

A total of 105 questionnaires were returned from the three parishes. This is less than the 208 completed questionnaires completed for Martley Parish alone in 2011, when a similar survey was completed as part of the process for developing the Parish Plan. The higher rate of completions in 2011 may have occurred because of widespread opposition in the parish at that time to the proposal to build a new housing estate on the Crown Meadow. This raised local interest in planning issues, which may have subsided since the decision by Malvern Hills District Council to approve these plans.

Answers given to the questions about individual households showed that they included 243 individuals. The great majority were long-term residents. Very few (10%) of households had lived all their lives in their parish, but another two-thirds (67%) had lived ten or more years in their parish. The main reasons people gave for moving into this area were the desire to live in a rural location and because work was available locally. Smaller numbers mentioned a wish to move closer to other members of their family, or because a suitable house was available in this area.

Living in this community

When asked 'Do you feel part of your local community?', just over two-thirds (68%) agreed. Those who did feel part of the community gave many reasons. The most common related to personal contact with other residents, mainly through membership of organised groups, the church, attending local events, meeting other parents at the schools, visiting local shops and pubs, and volunteering their own time. Many commented on the friendliness of local people, said they 'knew everyone' and had many friends locally. The great majority said that members of their household had in the last 12 months visited local shops (95%), one of the local GP surgeries (90%), one or more of the local pubs (76%), and their memorial hall (68%). A quarter (25%) reported that a member of their household had used Sport Martley in the last 12 months. Just under half (47%) said that someone in their household was a member of a local organisation in their parish.

The survey found little fear of crime. Almost all (96%) said they felt safe from crime in their home or when walking around local roads and lanes. The great majority (88%) said they knew how to contact their parish council. Most people used multiple sources of information to find out about local events, of which the most common were their parish magazine (95%), word-of-mouth (84%), and notice-boards (53%). A total of 13% also used parish websites.

When asked 'What else could be done to create a better community in this parish?', a wide range of suggestions were made, of which the most frequent were more local events and groups, better parish websites, places for people to meet (such as a local café or seating area), and safer footpaths and roads to enable people to get about on foot.

Housing

There was an even division between those who believed there should be more housing in their parish (50%) and those who did not (50%). When asked which type of housing was preferred, the most frequent responses were affordable houses to buy, affordable houses to rent, small houses for people who want to downsize, low-energy houses, bungalows, and sheltered housing. Note that several of these categories overlap.

Type of housing %

Affordable to buy 37

Affordable to rent 28
Small houses for downsizing 28
Low-energy homes 21
Bungalows 20
Sheltered housing 19
Specialised housing for disabled people 16
Self-build homes 13
Larger family homes 12

Some of the proposals for new housing were probably to meet the needs of local residents, or of former residents who wish to return to the neighbourhood area. Eight percent said their present house was not adequate to meet their needs (in most cases because their house was too big), while 22% said that there were members of their family who would need housing now or in the future.

The great majority of homes (90%) had an internet connection. The majority of those with a connection (55%) reported that connection speeds were not adequate to meet their needs. Better connection speeds were mentioned as a factor by a third of the 15% of residents who said they ran a business from home.

The environment

There was strong support for the conservation of listed buildings. Two-thirds (68%) said it is very important to retain them, and a quarter (26%) said it would be good to retain them if practicable. The remaining six percent said they were 'not bothered one way or the other'. Households were asked which local landscape features should be designated for conservation. Responses are shown in order in the table below.

Conservation %

Berrow Hill 68
Ankerdine Hill 66
The Nubbins 64
Millennium Green 60
Martley Rock 50
Route of Geopark Way 47

A further question asked which local services should be designated as 'assets of community value'. These are listed in order below.

Asset %

Martley Memorial Hall 74

Central Stores and Garage 60

The Talbot Hotel 51

The Crown 49

The Admiral Rodney 44

Knightwick Butchers 34

Knightwick Village Hall 30

The Old School, Berrow Green Road 30

A large majority (88%) of households supported community renewable-energy schemes. Half (52%) of households said that there are sufficient pavements along the roads in their parish and three-quarters (74%) said they were satisfied with the condition of the pavements. The main areas recommended for additional pavements were between Martley village and Hillside, and between Martley village and Berrow Green. The main reason given for preferring more pavements was road safety, especially for children walking to school. There were some specific problems with the local environment mentioned by minorities of households. These included litter (36%), dog-fouling (43%), and local eyesores (39%). The most frequently-mentioned eyesores were the cones in front of the former post office in Martley, Pencroft's yard, Roger's yard, and the area around the Central Stores and Garage.

Roads and transport

Only 28% of households were satisfied with the condition of local roads. The most common problem identified was potholes, with smaller number mentioning poor drainage and the maintenance of verges. Two-thirds (66%) said there were parking problems in the area, almost all of whom mentioned the shop in Martley, with several also identifying problems at Martley Memorial Hall and the Martley schools. Two-thirds (68%) said there were speeding problems on some local roads. The questionnaire did not include a question on where speeding problems were most severe, but some households wrote about their concerns about the A44 road through Knightwick and Doddenham. Just under half (45%) said that a member of their household had used local buses in the last 12 months. The main complaints about the bus services were that it was infrequent, and that the last bus left Worcester for Martley at too early a time to allow people to use it to commute to work.

The future

The final section of the questionnaire asked for ideas about the future of the three parishes, and included a list of possible improvements. The table below shows these in order of preference. It can be seen that half identified a need more local employment opportunities, more opportunities for old people to keep in contact, and improvements to Martley Memorial Hall. A third supported a community transport scheme and local allotments, while a quarter saw a need for more parks and green spaces and more sporting facilities.

Preferred improvements %

More local employment opportunities 49
More opportunities for old people to keep in contact 49
Improvements to Martley Memorial Hall 47
Cars share/community transport 33
Allotments 31
More parks and green spaces 24
More sporting facilities 23
Garden share scheme 13
Better play areas 11
Improvements to Knightwick Village Hall 9

Finally, households were asked to suggest priorities for spending Section 106 payments agreed for the new houses on the Crown Meadow in Martley. This produced many interesting ideas, including improvements to Martley Memorial Hall, landscaping and visual improvements, various new recreational facilities, more car parking spaces, and more local events and entertainments. The full list of ideas is appended.

Stuart Cumella
3 July 2014

Appendix IX Extracts from The Villager Magazine, Planning News and Briefing Notes

The Villager, 15/01/11

Neighbourhood Plan

The first open meeting on the neighbourhood plan will on Monday, 26th January at 7-30pm in the Dave Cropp Room, Martley Memorial Hall. This will define policy relating to conservation and the environment. All are welcome. I will prepare a briefing note for people to read in advance. If you need a copy, please email me at stuartcumella@gmail.com.

The Villager, 09/04/11

Neighbourhood Plan

Martley Parish Council has joined with Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council to prepare a neighbourhood plan. When completed and approved, this will give local people more control over how our parishes develop over the next 20 years. Earlier this year, we completed a survey of local households as a first step. But since then, progress has been slower than we hoped. This is because we need more people who can volunteer their help in developing the content of the plan. In the New Year, we will set up a series of meetings to discuss individual topics such as preservation of the landscape, employment, and housing needs. Details of these will appear on the new Martley Parish Council website. If you wish to contribute to the neighbourhood plan, please contact Councillor Stuart Cumella at 01886 888797, email stuartcumella@gmail.com.

The Villager, September 2012 Planning Update

South Worcestershire Development Plan

Malvern Hills District Council have voted to accept the 'significant changes' version of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). This still includes a proposal to build a housing estate on the Crown Meadow, despite considerable opposition from people in the Parish. The

number of dwellings proposed by the SWDP has been reduced to 51. A 'targeted public consultation', in which the District Council informed the public of changes to the plan, took place on 13th August in the Village Hall. The final version of the SWDP is due to be assessed by a planning inspector in November and December, and submitted to the Secretary of State early next year. The Parish Council has already stated its opposition to development on the Crown Meadow, and has not supported any alternative site. However, Bayhill Property Development have independently proposed a development of 40 houses on the Worcester Road above The Smithy, and may organise their own consultation meeting.

Martley Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has set up a Neighbourhood Plan Committee to prepare a plan that will shape the future of Martley over the next 20 years. A neighbourhood plan would have legal force, but must conform to the strategic aims set out in the SWDP. 'Strategic aims' here means the number of houses proposed for the Parish in the SWDP, but not necessarily their proposed location. The Committee has organised an exhibition and open meeting between 10am and noon in the Village Hall on Saturday 8th September. This is to give people living in the Parish a chance to look at the draft proposals and suggest changes. If you are unable to get to the meeting, please email or write to one of your parish councillors.

Proposed tarmac track down Berrow Hill

At the time of writing, Malvern Hills District Council has not made a decision on this application. If this remains the case when you read the *Villager*, you can still make your views known to the District Council. You do this by writing to the Planning Department or submitting a comment electronically by going to www.malvernhills.gov.uk/eaccess/Applicationsearch.asp. The application number is 12/00472.

Dr Stuart Cumella

Stuart Cumella writes in a personal capacity, and his views do not necessarily represent those of the Parish Council.

The Villager, August 2016

Neighbourhood Plan

The neighbourhood plan for Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham is still steaming ahead, slowly but surely. Martley Parish Council met on the First of August, and agreed the latest version. This is the 'formal consultation' (Regulation 14) draft, which will be circulated to neighbouring parishes, County and District Councils, local employers, public services and members of the public. You can download a copy at www.martley-pc.org.uk. Paper copies will also be available to read at the library in the Memorial Hall, and the Crown. Or you can contact Mrs Janet Dale, the Parish Clerk, at 07890 615 972. The period of consultation ends on Monday 17th October. Comments on earlier versions of the plan have been very helpful in improving its contents. You can comment on the latest version by emailing mkdplan@gmail.com, or in writing using the representation form enclosed with this copy of the *Villager*.

Planning News

Neighbourhood Planning News 150131

Landscapes and historic buildings

We held a training day and public meeting on how to collect evidence for the neighbourhood plan on landscapes and historic buildings. Details are elsewhere on this website. We will meet at 11am on Saturday 28th February at Martley Memorial Hall for a walkabout.

Housing need and building design

The next public meeting will be at 7-30pm on Monday 23rd February in the Dave Cropp Room, Martley Memorial Hall, and will discuss what sort of houses we need in the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham to meet local needs over the next 20 years. All are invited.

Planning News 150303: 2nd March 2015

Housing need and design

The public meeting on 23rd February 2015 discussed whether any additional houses should be built in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham over the next 20 years, and, if so, what sort of houses they should be. Discussion followed Briefing Note 2, which had been circulated earlier. It was agreed that the 70+ new houses under construction or with planning approval in the neighbourhood area are more than enough to meet local need in the immediate future, although additional houses may be needed to meet population expansion in ten or more years time. The meeting agreed with the briefing note that the neighbourhood plan should follow Policies CC2, CC9 and CC10 in the Chaddesley Corbett plan, with the following amendments:

- That all building and not just building alterations or extensions should be sensitive to the local context in terms of materials, design, colour scheme, scale and structure (CC9).
- That there should be no street lighting in the neighbourhood area (CC2).
- To delete the section in CC10 proposing that 'new development proposals need not imitate earlier architectural periods or styles and could be the stimulus for the use of imaginative modern design using high quality materials in innovative ways.'

The meeting preferred that any innovative local designs should be in unobtrusive locations.

One issue that needs clarification is what counts as a 'local connection' for determining eligibility for affordable housing.

Characteristic buildings, views and local character assessment

There was a walkabout on 28th February to gather information on landscapes, characteristic buildings and valued views. This completed Martley village. Further work will be needed on the various outlying communities.

Stuart Cumella

2 March 2015

Planning News: 26th March 2015

Leisure and recreation The public meeting on 23rd March 2015 discussed plans for leisure and recreation in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham over the next 20 years. This discussion will be incorporated into the draft neighbourhood plan. The meeting included a presentation by Holly Penwarden of Freedom Leisure, which will shortly own Sport Martley (together with the Malvern Splash and the Tenbury Wells swimming pool). She noted the intention of the company to make a major investment in these facilities, including a contribution to the floodlit all-weather pitch proposed by the Chantry School. Freedom Leisure also has wider aims, including the Lottery-funded Sportivate programme for young people and activities for children during school holidays.

The meeting agreed that in addition to Sport Martley, the neighbourhood area is well provided with recreation facilities. Sports clubs and leisure activities requiring varying degrees of energy are available at Martley Memorial Hall. Other forms of leisure and recreation discussed were:

- Walking. There is a well-maintained network of rights-of-way, and the neighbourhood area is crossed by several long-distance footpaths. More casual walking can be encouraged by providing attractive places to walk to. An example would be to upgrade the Millennium Green (as discussed in a previous meeting).
- Horse-riding. Although several residents own horses, there is no network of bridleways in the neighbourhood area.
- Cycling. Martley is the location for cycle races on many weekends of the year, but many residents believe the roads are unsafe for children to cycle.
- Passive leisure. Tabletop activities and film shows may be developed at Martley.

Memorial Hall

The meeting did not include any residents from Knightwick and Doddenham, which may have distinct requirements for leisure and recreation.

Future meetings

The first three public meetings held to discuss the draft neighbourhood plan have now been completed, and have generated a wide range of ideas about its contents. The meeting proposed that three further meetings are needed, to discuss employment, social contact (particularly to minimise social isolation), and transport.

Stuart Cumella

26 March 2015

Planning News 10th July 2015

Our small team has almost completed the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Martley. You can get a copy by emailing me at stuartcumella@gmail.com, and I will send it as a file attachment. I realise that not everyone has the Internet, and so I will place a paper copy in the library in the Memorial Hall. You can also phone me at 01886 888797. I welcome your comments and ideas. After we have completed the draft, we will get some expert advice and then prepare a print copy for circulation to members of the public and also the various public authorities that need to be consulted. The next step is a formal assessment by an expert appointed by the District Council. After that, the final version will be put to a local referendum. When this is all over, the neighbourhood plan will specify what should be built and where, and will also regulate how best to protect the environment, promote local employment and improve the appearance of the village.

Completing the neighbourhood plan is important because there is at present no approved local plan for Malvern Hills District. The Planning Inspector is currently evaluating the South Worcestershire Development Plan at a lengthy series of public hearings, and it is unlikely that it will be finally approved for many months. This makes it much easier for developers to get approval to build housing estates in villages and the open countryside. There are at present at least 75 houses either being built or with planning approval in Martley Parish, and it is probable that there will be more planning applications in the next few months. A neighbourhood plan is thus one way in which we can keep Martley a pleasant rural community and prevent it turning into an ugly sprawling suburb.

Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Note 1

This briefing note has been prepared for the public meeting on 26th January 2015, which will discuss what the neighbourhood plan should say about conservation and the environment. The key parts of a plan are its objectives and its 'policies'. The objectives state the general aims the plan is intended to achieve, while the policies are more specific statements setting out what type of development is permitted. Neighbourhood plans must conform to the 'strategic objectives' of the local plan, as well as to national planning policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Malvern Hills District Council is one of three councils that are preparing a new local plan called the 'South Worcestershire Development Plan' (SWDP). This will probably be finally approved later this year. The most recent version is the 'Track Changes' document of May 2013. Although the SWDP does not yet have legal force, it makes sense for our neighbourhood plan to conform to its strategic objectives. These are listed in the box below. Those under heading C are the ones most relevant for conservation and the environment.

A. Economic Success that is Shared By All

- A1. Development that focuses on improving the area's economic prosperity, delivering new jobs, retaining key employers and maximising high value employment opportunities through the right employment sites.
- A2. To work with partners, in particular the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, to strengthen the urban and rural economies by enabling local businesses, including farms, to start, grow, adapt and diversify.
- A3. To promote the sub-regional role of Worcester as the major leisure, retail, tourist and university centre and support the sustainable growth of the city.
- A4. To prioritise the re-development, including mixed uses, of brownfield land within the urban areas in order to aid the regeneration of the city / town centres.

B. Stronger Communities

- B1. To deliver sufficient new homes needed by local communities and which will help support economic growth.
- B2. To provide a balanced mix of house tenures and types, including extra care provision, to satisfy the full range of housing needs and help create active / inclusive / sustainable communities.
- B3. To maximise opportunities to deliver affordable housing.
- B4. To allocate most development in locations where there is good access to local services and where transport choice is maximised.
- B5. Providing a basis for Neighbourhood Plans.

C. A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow

- C1. To ensure that the scale and type of new development does not compromise landscape character or south Worcestershire's built heritage.
- C2. To ensure development is designed to the highest possible environmental standards in order to minimise carbon emissions resource consumption, pollution, flood risk and increase the proportion of renewable energy.
- C3. To maintain open landscape and prevent the merging of settlements in both Green Belt and non-Green Belt locations.
- C4. To protect the Green Infrastructure Network and take every opportunity to increase its coverage and quality.
- C5. To enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape quality, water quality and protect the highest quality agricultural land.

D. Improving Health and Well-being

- D1. To ensure that new development supports the delivery of healthcare provision and accessibility.
- D2. To ensure that new development sets out high quality formal / informal recreational opportunities and contributes to enhanced sporting facilities in order to encourage healthy lifestyles.
- D3. To promote opportunities and access to a range of skills / vocational training and levels of education for all generations.

E. Communities that are Safe and feel Safe

- E1. All new development to employ 'Secured by Design' and 'Design out Crime' principles.
- E2. All new development to contribute to the provision of accessible community infrastructure that increases 'footfall' / pedestrian movements in public places.

The two most relevant policies in the SWDP for conservation and the environment are numbers 5 and 6. These are shown in the table below. Note that the term 'green infrastructure' (GI) is used to mean everything from open space in housing developments to the management of stormwater.

SWDP 5: Green Infrastructure

A. All qualifying development, as set out below, is required to contribute towards the provision, maintenance, improvement and connectivity of Green Infrastructure (GI).

For housing proposals (including mixed use schemes), the following is required:

- i. For greenfield sites exceeding 1ha gross - 40% Green Infrastructure.
- ii. For greenfield sites of less than 1ha but more than 0.2ha – 20% Green Infrastructure.
- iii. For brownfield sites within the urban areas – no specific Green Infrastructure.

B. The precise form and function(s) of Green Infrastructure (GI) will depend on local circumstances and Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy's (WGIS) priorities and should be agreed with the partner authorities in advance of a planning application. Effective management arrangements should also be clearly set out and secured. Once a planning permission has been implemented, the associated Green Infrastructure will be protected as Local Green Network (SWDP 38 refers).

C. Development proposals that would have a detrimental impact on the important GI attributes within the areas identified as “protect and enhance” or “protect and restore”, as identified on the Environmental Character Areas Map will not be permitted unless the following can clearly be demonstrated:

- i. The proposal is for a local community-backed use that does not compromise the accessibility, connectivity and function of the GI; or
- ii. A robust, independent assessment of community and technical need shows the specific GI typology to be surplus to requirements in that location; and
- iii. Replacement of, or investment in, GI of at least equal community and technical benefit is secured.

SWDP 6: Historic Environment

A. South Worcestershire's historic environment is a valuable, finite and irreplaceable resource, which is central to the character and identity of the area. It has a crucial role in supporting sustainable development through enhancing the quality of life of those currently living in and visiting the area and for generations to come, as well as delivering wider economic benefits through tourism and uplift in related development benefits.

B. Development proposals should conserve and enhance those aspects of the historic environment that are recognised as being of significance for their historic, archaeological, architectural, or artistic interest. Their contribution to the character of the landscape or townscape should be protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of south Worcestershire.

C. Development proposals will be supported where they sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. In particular this refers to:

- i. Designated heritage assets; i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields, as well as undesignated heritage assets.
- ii. The wider historic landscape of south Worcestershire, including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands and commons and historic farmsteads and smallholdings.
- iii. Designed and other landscapes, including parks, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes.
- iv. Archaeological remains of all periods from the earliest human habitation to modern times.
- v. Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and trackways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries.
- vi. The civic, religious and market cores of south Worcestershire's city, towns and village fabric with their wide variety of building styles, materials and street and plot patterns.

D. In addition to designated assets, south Worcestershire possesses a wealth of heritage assets of local significance and a variety of building styles and materials. The informed management of this resource will benefit current and future generations, with its importance being recognised in legislation and policy.

The key decision we must make for our neighbourhood plan is whether to accept these objectives and policies, or change them. Some alternatives appear in neighbourhood plans from other parts of the country. The two in the table below are in the neighbourhood plan prepared for Chaddesley Corbett. Much of the detail in policy CC8 is specific to Chaddesley Corbett, but it is an example of how particular views and landscape features can be incorporated into planning policies.

CC8 - Landscape Design Principles

All new development proposals will be required to demonstrate consideration of the following landscape design principles:

1. The pattern of open spaces surrounding settlements should be retained in any future developments. Of particular importance is the open space either side of Hockley Brook between Stewards Cottage (Briar Hill) and Hemming Way. The additional and important open spaces identified in the Chaddesley Corbett Conservation Area Character Appraisal are particularly significant (see Map 3 below).
2. The Protected Views are shown on Map 5 in Appendix III. They are:
 - a. The view across the Parish looking towards St Cassian's Church spire and Harvington from the edge of Chaddesley Woods and footpath 640.
 - b. The view of the Conservation Area of Harvington Hall and its environs from Harvington Hall Lane and footpaths 614 and 615.
 - c. The views east from footpath 620 across fields towards Chaddesley Village.
 - d. The view of Barrow Hill from footpath 599 at Tanwood Lane.
 - e. The views towards Chaddesley Corbett and St Cassian's Church spire across fields, trees and hedgerows from footpath 599 at Tanwood Lane.
 - f. The view of the medieval fishponds looking towards Brockencote from footpath 674 in St Cassian's churchyard and the view into the Conservation Area looking towards St Cassian's church from the pavement alongside the A448.
3. Development proposals should seek to preserve or enhance the character of the village and hamlets both within and outside the Conservation Areas, especially those with buildings dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The demolition of buildings and structures that contribute to the character and appearance of these areas including those identified in the proposed Local Heritage List will be resisted.
4. Local habitats and wildlife should be preserved and enhanced.
5. Minimal and discreet signage will be supported to promote compliance with rules and regulations in respect of access to paths for walkers and the control of dogs and horses.
6. Mature and established trees should be protected and incorporated into landscaping schemes wherever possible. The planting of local species will be encouraged. Species should be appropriate to the location and setting in terms of type, height, density and the need for on-going management. When constructing boundaries native tree species should be used in preference to building walls or the planting of "Leylandii / conifer". Existing hedgerows should be retained and the establishment of new native hedges is encouraged.
7. New development must take account of known surface and sub-surface archaeology, and ensure unknown and potentially significant deposits are identified and appropriately considered during development. Lack of current evidence of sub-surface archaeology must not be taken as proof of absence.
8. Any proposed increase in the development of poly-tunnels and glasshouses should take account of the visual impact on the landscape of the Parish.
9. All new development must incorporate Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) which are fully compliant with the most recently adopted national and local standards.

CC11 - Local Heritage List

Once the Local Heritage List for Chaddesley Corbett has been adopted by Wyre Forest District Council, proposals requiring consent which affect a building or structure on the Local Heritage List must demonstrate how they protect or enhance the heritage asset. The renovation or alteration of buildings or structures identified on the Local Heritage List should be designed sensitively, and with careful regard to the heritage asset's historical and architectural interest and setting. Loss of non-designated heritage assets (locally listed buildings) should be resisted.

Some other examples are in the attached overheads from Pete Boland of English Heritage. The meeting will also hear Jack Hanson, the Historic Landscape Officer for the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, who will speak on planning policies for protecting the environment.

Stuart Cumella
12 January 2015

Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Note 2

This briefing note has been prepared for the public meeting to be held at 7-30pm on Monday February 23rd in Martley Memorial Hall. The meeting will discuss what the neighbourhood plan should say about the numbers and types of houses that should be approved in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham over the next 20 years.

The survey carried out for the neighbourhood plan and the earlier survey in Martley for the Parish plan showed that local opinion is evenly divided about the need for new houses. When asked which type of housing was preferred, the most frequent suggestions were affordable houses to buy, affordable houses to rent, small houses for people who want to downsize, low-energy houses, bungalows, and sheltered housing.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), which may finally be approved at the end of this year, has several policies that are relevant. Policy SWDP2 says that:

- 'A. The Development Strategy comprises the following principles:
- i. Provide accessible, attractive employment sites and positive generic policies to deliver job creation opportunities.
 - ii. Safeguard and (wherever possible) enhance the open countryside.
 - iii. Re-use accessible, available brownfield land prior to the release of greenfield land.
 - iv. Maintain the openness of the Green Belt and Significant Gaps (as shown on the Policies Map).
 - vi. Focus most development on the urban area, where both housing needs and accessibility to lower-cost public services are greatest.'

This does not mean that this policy opposes any development in rural villages, for it also sets out criteria for approving any 'windfall' developments (ie those which are not identified in the local plan). For larger villages like Martley, it proposes that such developments should be 'predominantly aimed at helping to address housing needs and support local services'. For smaller settlements, the policy states that 'limited infill development is acceptable, subject to more detailed policies... Where a need for affordable housing can be demonstrated and it cannot be delivered in a Category 1, 2 or 3 village, 'exception' sites could be acceptable...' In open countryside, 'development will be strictly controlled, especially in designated areas such as the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and will be limited to dwellings for rural workers, small scale employment (where supported by more detailed SWDP policies), house extensions, replacement buildings and renewable energy projects...'

Finally, Policy SWDP2 sets out some general principles for any developments:

- 'E. With regard to development proposals, the scale must be proportionate to the needs and size of the settlement, local landscape character and/or location as well as the availability of community service infrastructure to accommodate it in a sustainable manner.
- F. Within development boundaries and within the Worcester City administrative area, preference is given to the redevelopment of brownfield sites before bringing forward greenfield land. In the open countryside the preference will also be to redevelop brownfield sites in the first instance although, availability of

infrastructure and accessibility to local services will be material considerations. The biodiversity interest of brownfield sites will also be considered...'

Various other SWDP policies permit new housing in rural areas. Policy SWDP15 covers affordable housing, and the proportion of such houses required in each new development. It includes the following statement: 'For sites outside the city or towns, developers will need to demonstrate that secure arrangements exist to ensure the resulting housing will remain permanently affordable and available to help meet the continuing needs of local people'. Policy SWDP18 sets out conditions for replacements of existing housing in the countryside. This is shown in the box below.

The replacement of an existing dwelling in the open countryside with another single dwelling will be permitted where:

- i. The existing dwelling is not a caravan, mobile home or subject to a temporary planning permission.
- ii. The use of the existing dwelling has not been abandoned.
- iii. It can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the partner authorities that accommodation needs cannot be met through the alteration, extension and/or refurbishment of the original dwelling.
- iv. The replacement is not disproportionately larger than the existing dwelling and will not exceed the size of the original footprint by more than 30%.
- v. The proposed dwelling is positioned on the footprint of the existing dwelling, unless it can be demonstrated to the partner authorities that there are visual, landscape or highway safety or other environmental grounds to justify an alternative location within the existing curtilage.
- vi. The curtilage of the replacement building is no greater than that of the existing dwelling.
- vii. The proposal includes the demolition of the dwelling to be replaced.
- viii. The proposals are consistent with policies relating to flood risk, ecology, drainage and landscape considerations.
- ix. Where a dwelling has been provided in relation to agricultural purposes, a condition will be attached to ensure that the dwelling can only be occupied by an agricultural worker once it has been built.

Note that the 'curtilage' of a house or dwelling is the land immediately surrounding it, including any closely associated buildings and structures, but excludes any associated 'open fields beyond' as well as closely-associated buildings that constitute a separate household. In addition, Policy SWDP19 covers rules for building houses for rural workers,

The key decision we must make for our neighbourhood plan is whether to accept these objectives and policies, or change them. We have to answer two questions: how many new houses are needed over the next 20 years; and what sort of houses should they be?

There are at present over 70 new houses either under construction or with planning approval in the neighbourhood area, all in Martley Parish. They include a mix of different housing sizes, and include some affordable homes. This should be more than enough to meet local need in the neighbourhood area in the immediate future, but it is possible that more houses will be needed to meet population expansion in ten or more years time. The

two local surveys saw a particular need for smaller manageable homes for people to downsize to, as well as affordable (preferably rented) homes for people on lower incomes. Either way, new houses should follow the earlier small developments like Hastings Close which are small, on the edge of the village, and which do not spoil a valued local view of the countryside. New buildings should also look appropriate, and should be energy-efficient.

One possibility is to adapt the policies in the Chaddesley Corbett neighbourhood plan, which aim to restrict development as well as control the types of houses built. These are shown in the boxes below.

Policy CC2 - Types of New Housing Development

Where suitable sites are identified in accordance with the Sustainability Appraisal and Policy CC1 above, limited residential development will be supported where it comprises one or a combination of the following types:

1. Affordable housing for rental or shared ownership by those with a local connection (as defined in Wyre Forest District Council’s Local Connection Policy).
2. Properties should be one or two-bedroomed to meet the needs of first time buyers and small families.
3. Properties designed to be suitable for the elderly (Lifetime Homes standard), which are located close to key facilities.

All proposals for new housing will be required to be supported by an up to date Local Needs Survey.

Policy CC9 - Settlement Design Principles

All new developments will be required to demonstrate how they have taken into account the following settlement design principles:

1. New developments should be small in scale and retain the open spaces surrounding settlements, as for example the 2013 infill development on The Green, off Briar Hill, which does not adversely impinge on the rural setting of the existing settlement, and those spaces identified in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal for Chaddesley Corbett.
2. Gated housing developments will not be supported.
3. Driveway and entrance gates should reflect the rural nature of the Parish and be of traditional wooden or metal field design, such as “5-bar” gates.
4. The use of sustainable drainage systems and permeable surfaces should be used in preference to hard surfaces in both domestic and commercial developments to reduce run off.
5. Extensions to properties should be of a subordinate scale to the original building.
6. Infill developments should be subservient in scale to the immediate surrounding area and not adversely affect neighbouring properties by way of privacy and outlook or amenity.
7. The use of street lighting is discouraged unless it is deemed necessary for reasons of safety, in which case it should be sympathetic in design and luminosity to the surrounding area. Street lighting is not supported in any of the conservation areas.

CC10 - Building Design Principles

All new development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they have taken account of the following:

1. New development should enhance and reinforce the local distinctiveness of an area and proposals should show clearly how the general character, scale, mass, and layout of the site, building or extension fits in with the “grain” of the surrounding area within Design and Access Statements.
2. New development should be of a scale, mass and built form which responds to the characteristics of the site and its surroundings, care should be taken to ensure that building(s) height, scale, and form, including the roofline, do not disrupt the visual amenities of the street scene and impact on any significant wider landscape views. Proposals should not feature designs specific to a generic “scheme” and should display how they take account of the locally distinctive character of the area in which they are to be sited within Design and Access Statements.
3. New buildings should follow a consistent design approach in the use of materials, fenestration and the roofline to the building. Materials should be chosen to complement the design of a development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment. New development proposals need not imitate earlier architectural periods or styles and could be the stimulus for the use of imaginative modern design using high quality materials in innovative ways.
4. Building alterations or extensions in the Parish Conservation Areas especially should be sensitive to the local context in terms of materials, design, colour scheme, scale and structure. The Parish Council promote the use of natural materials from environmentally responsible sources, the use of energy saving materials, and materials of high quality, which have been reclaimed, salvaged or recycled.
5. Redevelopment, alteration or extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings within the Parish should be sensitive to their distinctive character, materials and form. Due reference and consideration should be made to the Worcestershire Farmstead Assessment Framework.
6. Proposals should minimise the impact on general amenity and give careful consideration to noise, odour and light. Light pollution should be minimised wherever possible and security lighting should be appropriate, unobtrusive and energy efficient.

Stuart Cumella
18 February 2015

Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Note 3

This briefing note has been prepared for the public meeting to be held at 7-30pm on Monday March 23rd in Martley Memorial Hall. The meeting will discuss what the neighbourhood plan should say about leisure and recreation in the parishes of Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham.

The most recent version of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) has two relevant policies. SWDP37 concerns 'indoor leisure and community facilities', which in our case would include village halls and Sport Martley. The policy states that: 'The provision of new community and leisure facilities or the enhancement of existing facilities will be supported where a need exists, particularly where the proposals have resulted from neighbourhood planning... It is essential that the community is involved in considering the merits of any new facility and the suitability of proposals for alternative forms of community use'. Part of the policy concerns the change of use of existing facilities, and detailed restrictions are set out including 'An alternative community facility of equivalent size to meet local needs is, or will be, provided in an equally/more accessible location and in any case within a safe walking distance of no more than 800m'.

A further policy (SWDP38) deals with the 'local green network', shown in the box below.

- A. The local Green Network, as detailed on the Policies Map, includes public open space, sport and recreation facilities as well as some private gardens. This policy aims to:
- i. Protect existing sites and facilities of value.
 - ii. Help address existing local deficiencies in provision through qualitative and quantitative enhancement of existing sites and facilities, improving access to existing facilities or securing new ones; and.
 - iii. Ensure that proposals for new development contribute to open space, sport and recreation requirements at a level commensurate with the need generated by those proposals.
- B. In determining the nature of new or improved provision, the partner authorities will consult with Town and Parish Councils, together with potential users of the Local Green Network, to ensure that it meets local needs.
- C. No development of existing open spaces or facilities will be permitted unless the following exceptional circumstances are satisfied:
- i. The proposal is for a community/recreational use that does not compromise the essential quality and character of the open space; or
 - ii. An assessment of community and technical need (using recognised national methodology where appropriate) clearly demonstrates that the land or facility is surplus to requirements; and

iii. Alternative/replacement open space or facility of equivalent value to the community has been secured in a convenient and accessible location within the same parish/town/city.

Finally, policy SWDP 39 sets out the required provision for outdoor community spaces in any new developments. This states that 'Any development proposals exceeding five dwellings (net) must provide open space together with secure arrangements for its long-term management and on-going maintenance.' The policy sets out the precise minimum allowance in hectares/1000 population.

These policies are clearly designed for urban areas and large developments of the kind proposed on the fringes of Worcester, Droitwich and Malvern. There is an assumption in the SWDP that recreation only takes place on designated sites rather than in the landscape as a whole. Yet Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham have an excellent network of footpaths through beautiful countryside (including parts of several designated long-distance paths) and important geological sites, while the Teme Valley Geological Society is seeking formal designation for Martley as a European geovillage. The neighbourhood plan should therefore include a policy or policies that will defend leisure and recreation throughout the countryside.

Stuart Cumella
18 March 2015

Appendix X Informal Consultation on First Draft Plan, February 2016

Letter to Local Residents and Businesses



10th February 2016

Dear Sirs,

Re: Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan

I am enclosing a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham for informal consultation. Could you please send any comments you may have on the plan by email to mkdplan@gmail.com or write to me at the address below. Any comments must be provided by 5pm on Monday 29th February.

This version of the plan is for informal consultation only and has no legal status. An amended version for formal consultation will be circulated in March.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Dale
Clerk & RFO

Response Form

**Martley, Knightwick & Doddenham Parishes
Neighbourhood Development Plan
Mini Questionnaire 2016**

Martley Parish Council has produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. The plan will be available to view in the Martley Memorial Hall on Saturday 30th January from 12 noon until 3pm. It is important that we understand the community's thoughts and views on the contents, policies and proposals within the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This is your opportunity to provide us with these and help influence and shape the Final Plan before being submitted for independent examination. The consultation period lasts for four weeks from Saturday 30th January 2016. Any comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan must be provided to the Parish Council by **5pm on Monday 29th February 2016**.

Name: Address:
E-mail:

The personal information you provide on this form will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be used only for the preparation of local development documents or any subsequent statutory replacement. However, your name and representations will be made publicly available when displaying and reporting the outcome of the consultation stage, and cannot be treated as confidential.

OTHER DETAILS, INCLUDING YOUR ADDRESS AND EMAIL, WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL

Page No/ Paragraph No/ Policy Ref	Comment	Suggested Change

PTO

Name: Address:
E-mail:

Page No/ Paragraph No/ Policy Ref	Comment	Suggested Change

Please continue on separate sheets if necessary.

Comments to be sent to: mkd@gmail.com or The Neighbourhood Plan Committee, C/O Martley Parish Council, 1 Vernon Close, Martley, Worcester. WR6 6QX, by **5pm on Monday 28 February 2016**.

Appendix XI Posters / Display Material for Event, February 2016

Welcome

This aim of this exhibition is to present the draft neighbourhood plan for the parishes of Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham. Copies of the plan are available for you to look at, and we can email an electronic copy to you on request. Please send an email to mkdplan@gmail.com.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

A neighbourhood plan sets out how a town or rural area should develop in the future - between now and 2030. The key questions a neighbourhood plan should answer are:

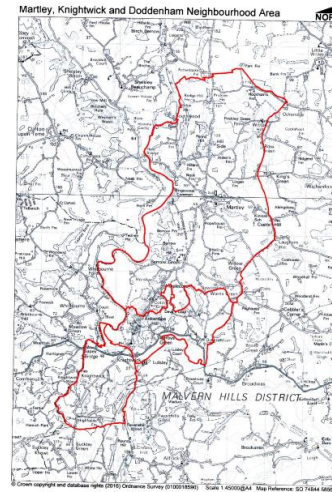
- ▶ How will the area develop in the future?
- ▶ How much land should be set aside for new houses, shops and places of employment?
- ▶ Where is the best place for development to take place?
- ▶ What should new buildings look like?
- ▶ What else is needed to provide a good quality of life?

The most important parts of a neighbourhood plan are its objectives and its policies. Policies are the detailed legal rules which control development. There are 14 policies in our neighbourhood plan.

Why do we need a neighbourhood plan?

A neighbourhood plan will help prevent the wrong kind of development in our parishes, and promote a higher quality of building design. Planning inspectors must refer to the neighbourhood plan in cases where developers appeal against a refusal of planning permission. The neighbourhood plan, when approved will have a greater local impact than the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

Land and people



Martley Doddenham and Knightwick parishes cover 2501 hectares. At the 2011 Census, the population was 1565, of whom 21% were under the age of 18, and 21% aged 65 and above. The age-structure is similar to that of Malvern Hills District as a whole. There were 677 dwellings, of which 74% were owner-occupied, 15% rented from housing associations and 11% were rented from private landlords.

Official projections show that the population of Malvern Hills District is expected to rise 15% by 2030. But the number of people over the age of 65 is expected to rise by 53% and the number over the age of 80 by 139%.

A rising number of very elderly people will increase the need for domiciliary and day care, as well as place major demands on health services. It may also increase the number of people dependent on public transport.

Vision and objectives

Vision

Our Vision for Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham is for our three parishes to remain places of great natural beauty, characterised by wooded hills, riverside meadows and scattered small villages and hamlets. Our community will provide a safe and stimulating life for people of all ages and occupations, having within its boundaries primary healthcare clinics, primary and secondary schools, places to shop, eat and drink, and a range of places to work.

Objectives

1. To protect the rural character of our parishes, with their characteristic landscape of fields, woodlands, riverside meadows and dispersed communities.
2. To maintain a range of employment opportunities for local residents, including workplaces in industrial and office estates and home-based work.
3. To provide an active and stimulating community life for all the people in the area, being a pleasant and safe place to be young and a pleasant place to grow old.
4. To hand to future generations of the three parishes as good as or even better quality of life than the one we have inherited.

Our environment

Our three parishes are an area of great geological diversity comprising mainly timbered farmlands, wooded hills and riverside meadows. Things that make our area distinctive include:

- ▶ Considerable biodiversity, unusual for the English Midlands. Semi-natural woodland cloaks the sides of the limestone ridges and beneath its canopy, there shelters a rich shrub sub-layer and ground flora, with abundant birdlife. There is a mosaic of ancient fields and meadows set amongst woodland and woodland clearings, inset with many half-timbered farmsteads and cottages



- ▶ The three parishes are intersected by several steep and winding lanes, which can be dark in summer because of vegetation. These lead to hills and crests with some of the finest views in England.




- ▶ A landscape divided by many distinctive boundaries. These include boundaries of mature hedges and trees, and red sandstone walls within and between settlements
- ▶ Riverside meadows and wooded banks. The River Teme forms the Western edge of Martley Parish, where its banks are hilly meadows followed by steeply-wooded hills succeeded in turn by the meadows of Horsham and Knightwick.



The built environment

Things that make our villages and hamlets distinctive include:

- ▶ A scattered and irregular settlement pattern. Buildings are scattered across the three parishes, in small settlements and farmsteads. Within the villages of Martley and Knightwick, there is a scattering of buildings, with many open spaces and piecemeal development in varied styles and with irregular layouts. As a result, there are views out from all settlements (including Martley Village) into open countryside (including many views of wooded hills). This is particularly striking in Knightwick Village, which is dominated by the wooded slope of Ankerdine Hill. 
- ▶ Characteristic styles of local building. The three parishes have a diverse range of landmark architecture, including Martley Parish Church, Knightwick Mortuary Chapel, the Talbot Hotel, the Admiral Rodney and Crown public houses, several fine farmhouses, and domestic conversions of former schools and chapels. There is a fine row of almshouses in Knightwick, with timber-arched verandas. Although there are now two estates of pattern-book housing in Martley, there are many local houses with characteristic building styles. These are shown on the next poster.

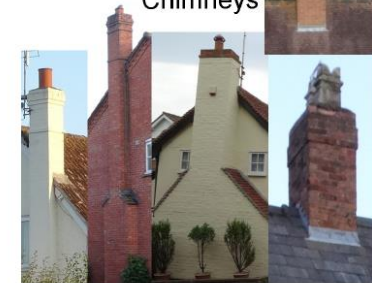
Traditional local building features



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Chimneys



Doorways and porches



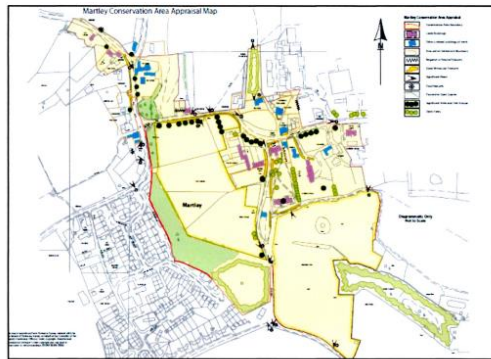
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Protecting the environment

The three parishes include part of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and several sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). The Plan proposes to protect the following landscape assets:

- ▶ Ankerdine Common on the summit of Ankerdine Hill (a designated Local Nature Reserve).
- ▶ the Millennium Green next to Martley Parish Church.
- ▶ the Iron Age camp on the Berrow Hill.
- ▶ the Nubbins ridge above Martley village.
- ▶ Martley Rock geological site.
- ▶ Penny Hill quarry
- ▶ Kingswood weir.
- ▶ the ridgeway along Rodge Hill.
- ▶ Knightwick limestone quarries.

The Plan also recommends that the District Council extend the Martley Conservation Area to include the full length of the Nubbins. The existing Conservation Area is shown below.



Housing demand

If the population of the three parishes rises at the same rate as the rest of the District, there will be about 1800 residents by 2030. The number of households usually grows at a higher rate than population because of the trend to single-person households. As a result, it is estimated that 83 new dwellings will be required between 2010 and 2030. Almost all this increase will be met from the 75 new houses which have either been recently-completed, are in building, or which have planning permission.

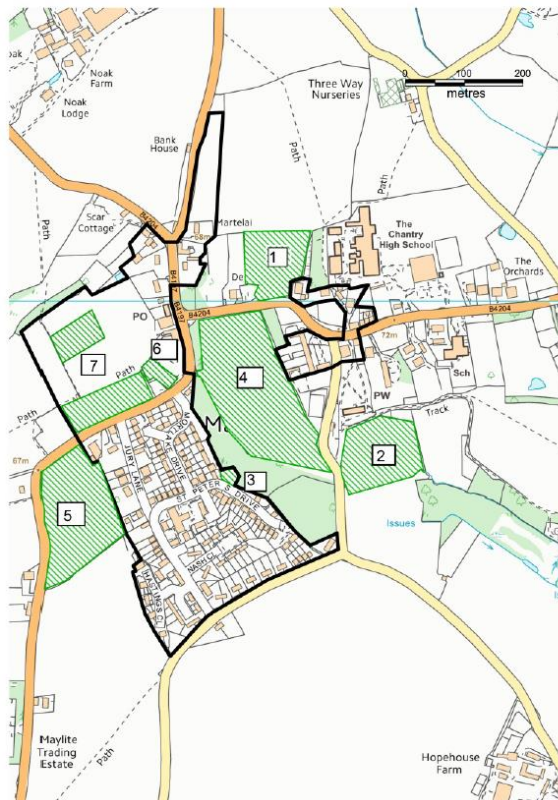
Local housing surveys in Martley Parish in 2011 estimated a need for eight new 'affordable' homes (including six rented from a housing association and two in shared ownership with a housing association) and 13 new homes in the private sector open market. The survey also found that about 40 households wish to move to a different type of house within the Parish. Most were elderly people who wanted more manageable housing.

There is therefore no local need for any further estates of houses in the three parishes. Instead, the Plan restricts development to small clusters of houses within the settlement boundary. In the rest of the neighbourhood area, conversions and limited extensions will be allowed, as well as rural exception sites to meet defined local need.

The Plan proposes to give priority to affordable housing for rental or shared ownership by those with a local connection (i.e. current or previous resident in the neighbourhood area, employed in, or acting as a carer for a resident in the neighbourhood area); properties with either one or two bedrooms to meet the needs of first time buyers and small families; properties designed to be suitable for the elderly, which are located close to key facilities; and plots for individual self-build houses.

Settlement boundary

The map below shows the proposals in the Plan for Martley village. The 'settlement boundary' is the area within which development is permitted. There are no settlement boundaries defined for other parts of the three parishes. The map also shows areas that should be kept free of building because they are defined as 'green spaces' for recreation, or because they contribute to the distinctive character of the community.



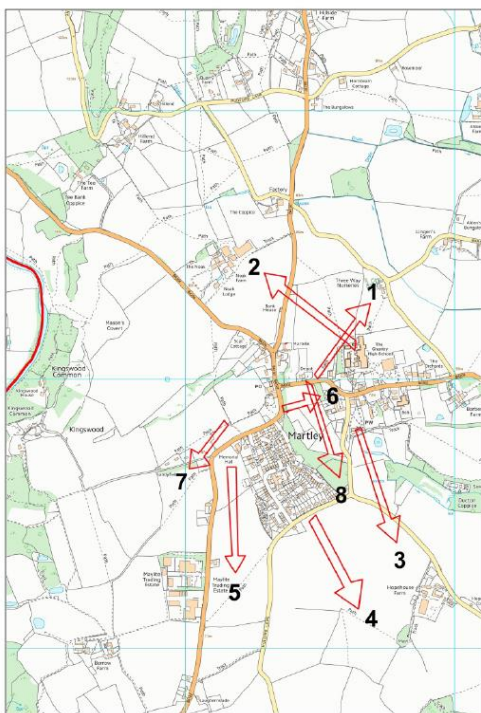
What sort of houses?

The Plan proposes that all new housing developments should:

- ▶ be small in scale (less than six houses) or on larger developments include phasing or building styles that create a sense of small-scale, organic growth rather than a standard 'estate' style
- ▶ retain/create open spaces.
- ▶ have boundaries (including driveway and entrance gates) of a design and materials that reflect the rural nature of the area.
- ▶ use sustainable drainage systems.
- ▶ have limited lighting that ensures public safety but does not lead to light pollution that detracts from the area's dark skies.
- ▶ should enhance and reinforce the local distinctiveness of an area through appropriate attention to character, scale, mass, and layout of the site.
- ▶ follow a consistent design approach in the use of materials, fenestration and the roofline to the building. Materials should be chosen to complement the design of a development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment.
- ▶ new buildings and all building alterations or extensions must be sensitive to the local context in terms of materials, design, colour scheme, scale and structure. Housing should use natural materials from environmentally-responsible sources, using energy-saving materials and materials of high quality, which have been reclaimed, salvaged or recycled.

Protected views

A key feature of living in our community is that we are surrounded by hills and can see open countryside, even from the centre of Martley village. To protect this, the Plan designates some protected views, shown in the map below.



Community life.

The three parishes are active communities, with many people taking part in a wide range of activities, clubs and meetings. There are good recreational facilities, local shops and three public houses. There is also an excellent range of accessible public services, including a primary school and a secondary school, and the services of two medical practices. There is an extensive network of footpaths, maintained by a team of local volunteers.

The expected increase in the number of old people in the neighbourhood area over the next 20 years makes it essential to facilitate activities that involve moderate exercise and/or sociability. The most common leisure activity in the three parishes is country walking (including walking with dogs). This can be encouraged by providing clearly-marked and well-maintained rights of way, and attractive places to walk to.

The local economy

There are several employers in the neighbourhood area, including firms based at two large industrial estates in Martley Parish and in barn conversions near local farms. The largest single employer is the Chantry School with over 100 staff. This attracts considerable retail trade to Martley, provides business for the bus garage, and generates local traffic in the mornings and early evenings. It is therefore essential for the local community that the School continues to be successful, and the neighbourhood plan should therefore include provision for the expansion of the School and the protection of its distinctive rural environment. Martley Primary School may also expand in response to a growing local population and the possible closure of smaller nearby schools. Sites must therefore be designated to enable this expansion and to maintain space for play areas.

There is sufficient vacant space for new industrial and commercial development in the local trading estates for any foreseeable expansion in local employment. However, the creation of large new trading estates or the expansion of existing ones would have a negative impact on the rural characteristics of the neighbourhood area. This would not be the case with the conversions of redundant buildings on smaller sites, or an expansion of home-based employment.

Transport

For most people in the three parishes, transport means using a car. The Malvern Hills District has one of the highest rates of car-ownership in England, with high rates of multiple ownership. Although there are schools in Martley village, many children are still driven to school because of the lack of safe roadside footpaths from some outlying areas.

Bus services are infrequent and do not run in the evenings. They are therefore inadequate for people who wish to use public transport to work in Worcester or any other neighbouring town. Nevertheless, the bus service is essential for the 10% of the population in the neighbourhood area who do not own a car. This group includes a small number of disabled people who live in isolated settlements and are unable to get to the local GP surgery, public houses or local events. Some nearby parishes have volunteer-staffed community transport schemes, and this may become necessary here as well.

There is a growing problem of speeding along some roads, especially the A44 through Knightwick. There is also a problem with HGVs using the narrow road along Ankerdine Hill. Both of these problems are the responsibility of the County Council and are not covered by a neighbourhood plan.

Policies

The Plan includes detailed policies, designed to protect the unique character of our three parishes. These are:

- ▶ MKD1. Landscape design principles.
- ▶ MKD2. Maintaining the settlement patten in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham.
- ▶ MKD3. Building design principles in Martley and affecting the Conservation Area.
- ▶ MKD4. Building design principles.
- ▶ MKD5. Protecting local heritage assets and archaeology.
- ▶ MKD6. Providing open space and green infrastructure.
- ▶ MKD7. New housing development in Martley village.
- ▶ MKD8. New housing development in the countryside.
- ▶ MKD9. Housing mix.
- ▶ MKD10. New housing development settlement design principles.
- ▶ MKD11. Housing design.
- ▶ MKD12. Protecting local community facilities.
- ▶ MKD13. Supporting local employment.
- ▶ MKD14 Transport management.

What happens next?

Informal consultation. This lasts four weeks from now. People in Martley Knightwick and Doddenham will have a chance to comment on the Plan. This Plan will then be amended.



Formal consultation. Martley Parish Council will write formally to a list of local organisations and authorities. They will have up to six weeks to reply. The Plan will be amended again.



The revised plan with a statement of the results of the consultations will be sent to the District Council, who will then consult on the plan for another six weeks (!) This will lead to further amendments.



The Plan will be assessed by an independent evaluator, who may recommend changes. These must be incorporated in the final version of the Plan.



Referendum. Voters in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham will vote on whether to accept the Plan.

Acknowledgements

The neighbourhood plan was edited by Stuart Cumella, based on text and comments supplied by Geoffrey Brewin, Nigel Bruen, Alan Colburn, Janine Fox, Paul Fox, Mandy Gardiner, John Nicklin, Tim Nott, Martin O'Brien, Lynn Sivill, Nick Skilbeck and Ian Pennell.

Photographs were taken for the Plan, and were supplied by Geoffrey Brewin, Nigel Bruen, Francis Budden, Alan Colburn, Helen Furniss, Ian Logan, John Nicklin, Martin O'Brien, Lynn Sivill, and Nick Skilbeck.

How to comment

Please complete one of the questionnaires. It is important that you give your name and address. You can also email comments to: mkdplan@gmail.com.

Appendix XII Results of Informal Consultation on Emerging First Draft Plan, Spring 2016

Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan

Responses to informal consultation

Summary

This paper lists the comments, both written and emailed, on the informal draft of the neighbourhood plan for Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham. These followed the exhibition in Martley Memorial Hall on Saturday 30th January and the circulation of electronic and printed copies of the Plan. Comments have been grouped by theme, which has meant that some have been split over more than one heading. I have, however, placed the comments of the District Council planning officers at the end. An additional files includes the detailed comments of MHDC planners.

General comments

From anonymous:

Why bother? People will do what they want. Waste of time . No-one listens anyway! No action is ever taken on basis of villagers' opinions. Government bodies will do what they want... too many brown envelopes tempting the 'powers that be' including in WCC and MHDC!

From Resident

The Draft NDP contains some admirable work on conserving some of our most precious assets.

From Resident.

We attended the Village Hall to view the Neighbourhood Plan, Saturday pm. Thanks needed for the hard work that goes into these things. All as beautifully presented. I believe Councillor Cumella had spent many hours refining the documents and the overall impression was of very committed councillors steering the village into the future by keeping the character of this lovely village safe. Homes are needed, but care is needed also. Living such a short space of time in the Taylor-Wimpey houses, and being the house bordered by public rights-of-way, we have heard of the efforts to forestall the building on this particular field. But once it was obvious building would proceed, the committee made the building site as attractive as they could, ie moving the building line back from the roadway etc. I know that should I have been a villager then, I too would have been against using such an iconic site.

I cannot understand how one of the County's most significant geological areas could be roughshod into spoiling its beauty by housing partly hiding its very attractive 'Nubbins'. Have the planners not read all the books, pamphlets and maps profiling the history and very exclusive rare rocks (Mesozoic) to the Triassic rocks of the 'Nubbins', that walkers and geographers are invited to view - alas no longer, and you cannot stand, as the writer suggests, "on the lower reaches of the Nubbins". It is in fact where our house stands, "to the left of an old shed". It is therefore unimaginable that more housing to the West of us will block those rocks and the quarry even more and the beauty of the escarpment completely lost. At the Open Day, I was told that our local council knew of better sites that would not spoil the rural character of Martley. The houses, very nice ones, are still a 'blot on the landscape'. Coming into the village from Knightwick, they really take your eye and not in a good way. However, it is done.

I so hope we can support our hardworking council to stop further development that will spoil the Nubbins and village. Few true villages are left - we have a shop, post office, garage, excellent schools and friendly community. Building must stop to this side of the village. It intrudes on the eye and on the attractive rural centre that is the pub, shop, schools. Whatever land Martley Council are against for building, I concur. Don't let this building plan go ahead. The Nubbins is Martley. It is for visitors and its residents to walk and enjoy.

I cannot comment on other propositions as I am so newly a resident. My husband attends your meetings and feels as I do. Thank you all for doing so much for this lovely village. PS. In September, I spoke to Germans who had come especially to walk East Malvern Fault and the Nubbins. Walkers were in groups or couples enjoying the village. It is a tourist spot.

From Resident.

Page 2 add: *"and also with many thanks to all those who responded to the public consultations and exhibitions"*

Page 5 add Parish names to parish map.

Page 13 change: 2.2.3 *.."of the adopted Local Plan, as well as taking full account of emerging policies"...*

Page 16 change?: *" Our vision for MKD is for our three parishes to remain centred in the beauty of a rural landscape which has at its heart, a viable and sustainable agricultural sector set amongst scattered small villages, riverside meadows and wooded hills."*

Landscape

From Resident.

Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance by WCC: isn't the most recent version of this document that of August 2012, rather than the one of October 2011?

Typo in 4.1.2: line 3: change "for inappropriate development" to "from inappropriate development".

4.2.6: Is the reference to Area of Great Landscape Value still valid? My understanding is that WCC, in response to advice in Planning Policy Statement 7 of 2004 (paras. 24 and 25), dropped this local designation, NOT - as MHDC have maintained - to lessen protection for the areas concerned, but to protect them by different, less sweeping, means. PPS 7 mentions Landscape Character Assessment as one such means and WCC have gone for this option, also in response to EU legislation. So the beauty of the area concerned should not be less protected than it was under the AGLV designation but it is supposed to be protected by "criteria-based policies".

Page 29: Figure 17: The "House" of "The Crown Public House" has shifted itself to lodge under the photo of Martley Court.

4.3.2: the bullet-point covering the Knightwick Limestone Quarries/Bromsgrove Sandstone Quarry: in the sixth line should there be a definite article before "Talbot"?

From Resident.

Page 18/19 comment - I think the subject of the map should be made more prominent and centred. Crown Copyright placed underneath (This also should apply to other maps?)

Page 4.2.6 add: "an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) *in the outgoing Development Plan*"

Page 31: add Osebury Rock

Page 33. Change MKD1 4. Boundary treatments should favour, where appropriate, planted hedges of native species, reclaimed brick that matches local examples or sandstone walls

Page 34 add: 7. "...visual impact on the landscape *as well as the loss of, or detriment to, Public Amenity*" 9. "which adversely *affects significant historical assets and geological features* and landscape features...."

Page 35 Map arrows should be both in and out for views into assets in the Conservation Area

Development

From Resident.

We have enough housing with existing and current approved developments. Further expansion would seriously affect current amenities, eg schools, roads, buses which would not cope. The current landscape is unique. Further development will destroy this forever.

From Resident.

5.4: Prominent in this section needs to be a statement that challenges the current MHDC policy of putting the bulk of new rural housing development in Category 1 villages. Of course Martley Parish Council (in particular) can put its case direct to

District that there should be no more medium- or large-scale housing development in Martley, because otherwise Martley will cease to be a rural community. I very much hope personally that Martley PC will do this. But not to raise the issue, together with its preferred solution, in such an important document as the NDP would be to throw away a unique opportunity of defending Martley and the desire of the majority of its residents to retain a way of life that is precious to them but is under threat. No doubt there are better ways of making this statement than the one I have already drafted and, if so, let them be used. But the problem and the threat need to be flagged up in the NDP, together with a justification of the residents' position on the matter. On a particular issue, we cannot really tolerate a situation in which Affordable Housing in Martley is automatically available as of right to anyone in MHDC within a ten-mile radius, without a corresponding obligation on other parishes for the benefit of Martley residents.

8. 5.4: The references to former policies CH1, CH3 etc., if they are still relevant, could usefully be given some explanation/content. There is a reference to "7.7 below", which seems obscure.

5.4: Policy MKD10 accepts the principle of developments that are larger than 6 dwellings.

The NDP should state that no development will be allowed on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (Grades 1,2 and 3a). Proposals for development on Grade 3 land must be accompanied with payment for a soil test by an independent, DEFRA-approved agency (let's hope that there is such a thing), to establish whether the land in question is Grade 3a, in which case the development will not be approved

From Landowner.

I am writing on behalf of the joint owners of the parcel of land south of the recreation field and to the west of Hastings Close as edged red on the attached plan being Map 12 of the Neighbourhood Plan. We are commenting on the draft consultation for the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan. The results of the parish survey are commented upon in the Plan. In relation to housing it is stated that about half those surveyed supported additional housing with the type of house that was preferred most frequently stated as being affordable houses to buy or rent, smaller houses for people who want to downsize, low energy houses, bungalows and sheltered housing. In paragraph 5.2 of the plan entitled 'Housing Demand' you state that the local housing surveys found that about forty households wish to move to a different type of house within the Parish with most being elderly who wanted more manageable housing.

With this background the following principle policies relating to housing supply have been proposed. The draft framing policy of the Plan MKD2 has been proposed that includes the statement that:

'1. New developments must be small in scale (less than six houses) and retain the open spaces surrounding settlements'.

Subsequent draft policies relating to housing include:

Draft Policy MKD9 – Housing Mix then states the following:- New residential development comprising 5 or more units will be should seek to incorporate the following with the mix of house types:

- a. Affordable housing for rental or shared ownership by those with a local connection (i.e. current or previous resident in the neighbourhood area, employed in, or acting as a carer for a resident in the neighbourhood area).
- b. Properties with either one or two bedrooms to meet the needs of first time buyers and small families.
- c. Properties designed to be suitable for the elderly, which are located close to key facilities.
- d. Plots for individual self-build houses.

Draft Policy MKD10 – New Housing Development Settlement design principles:-

- a. Be small in scale (less than six houses) or on larger developments include phasing or building styles that creates a sense of small scale, organic growth rather than a standard estate style’.

Draft policy MKD7 New Housing Development in Martley village states:-

New housing development within the Martley village settlement boundary (Map 12) will be permitted if:

- a. It is infill development on previously developed land, or is the conversion, re-use or extension of an existing building;
- b. It does not lead to the loss of community or recreation facilities or local employment opportunities; and
- c. It accords with other relevant policies of the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Plan and South Worcester Development Plan.

On reading it seems to us that policy MKD9 as worded is all but superfluous in that it can only apply to a proposal for 5 houses in the light of MKD2. The settlement boundary as proposed in map 12 is drawn so tightly around the existing built up environment that when referred to in Draft Policy MKD7 it is evident that there is little or no prospect of any new housing development in Martley at all during the Plan period with the parish relying on the existing planning consents to say that they have fulfilled the minimum housing requirements sought of them during the period of the Neighbourhood Plan. It seems possible to us that this is ignoring the wishes of half the respondents who would support extra housing and many of whom (about 40 at the time of the survey) would like the opportunity to move within the Parish to the types of dwelling that Draft Policy MKD9 – Housing Mix supports.

If the draft plan is adopted as proposed then the Parish is accepting that there will be many parishioners during the period of the plan who will not be able to fulfil their wish to remain in the village with the type of accommodation that would suit them and so presumably have to move elsewhere.

As owners of the field that we highlight we are able to offer the Parish a probably unique opportunity if it forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan to provide a phased mix of housing that can fulfil the criterion stating in Draft Policies MKD9, MKD10 and MDK11 assuming MKD2 is amended to consider larger sites if they meet other housing policies within the Plan. It is only on such a larger phased site that a mix of housing

can be achieved as envisaged by draft MKD9. It should be understood by the Parish that with the proposed draft policies it will not be possible to achieve any such social mix and in reality there may only be the odd open market dwelling on a cramped infill site within the period of the Plan. Is this really what the majority of the village parishioners want looking to the future and considering their own possible future housing requirement?

Malvern Hills District Council and SWDP independently identified the site as being suitable for housing with minor constraints in their SHLAA reports. We think our proposed site is well situated in planning terms being immediately adjacent to the main village and recreation field and the employment opportunities of Maylite whilst having little impact on neighbours and outside the historic conservation area of the village. Our offer to work with the village to provide the social mixture of housing as proposed in Draft Policy MKD9 is likely to be a unique opportunity for the village to design a social mix of housing in consultation with the owners of the land that will potentially meet the social requirements of the village for generations to come, an opportunity that perhaps it may in future regret if declined. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any proposals that the Parish might want to discuss. Should you have any queries in the meantime then please do not hesitate to contact me.

From Resident

Page 56 add MKD8 “ new housing development.....will *only* be permitted...”

Housing design

From Resident.

Houses being built without sustainable energy provision, eg solar roof panels. [Suggest] no new builds without deep pipe water for heating, solar panels for electric.

From Resident.

4.5.8: Draft Policy MKD 4, Building Design Principles: point 3: could the reference to "roof tiles" allow of photovoltaic roof tiles? The question of Renewable Energy is admittedly a sensitive one, but it is important and needs to be mentioned in the NDP, even if merely as a problematic issue that will need to be addressed - sooner rather than later.

Traffic

From Resident.

Landslide and movement of [Ankerdine] Hill in four years 6 archway and patio moved down slope. [Suggest] weight of traffic should be lowered travelling on Ankerdine Hill.

From Resident.

Page 68 8.2.1 “...there was also *a strong opinion* in Martley for the better management....”

Page 69 “Action to *continue to restrict HGV traffic over 17T MGW* on the B4197....”

Retail

From Local retailer.

Thank you for giving us a copy of the plan for comment. Although not residents we found it very interesting, easy to read and informative. Our only thought is that the shop and post office is not mentioned as an “existing community facility and service” page 60 although the pubs are mentioned and zumba! The post office is run at a loss under the existing “local model” so is very much a community service which is really economically unviable - we therefore hope it is appreciated as the efforts involved are certainly unrewarded. It is also not thought to be an “asset of community value” at the moment (page 64). As the only shop and post office in the neighbourhood maybe this should be addressed - especially as you mention that 95% of households visit the local shop? The post offices at Broadheath, Abberley and Great Witley are being asked to change to the local model format as part of the PO transformation programme but without significant retail businesses behind them they may not survive the drop in income. This could make Martley the only post office between Worcester and Bromyard and, therefore, surely more of an asset than the pubs ? Hope the consultation period goes well - thank you again,
PS first sentence of draft policy mkd9 page 57 needs editing

Comments of MHDC planning officers

From MHDC.

As a context for our comments, the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. In doing so, it sets out requirements for the preparation of neighbourhood plans and the role these should take in setting out policies for the local area. The requirements set out in the Framework have been supplemented by guidance contained in DCLG's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Neighbourhood Planning. Paragraph 14 of the Framework says that a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking. Paragraph 16 of the Framework sets out the positive role that neighbourhood plans should play in meeting the development needs of the local area. It states that: "The application of the presumption [in favour of sustainable development, set out in paragraph 14 of the Framework] will have implications for how communities engage in neighbourhood planning. Critically, it will mean that neighbourhoods should:

- develop plans that support the strategic development needs set out in Local Plans, including policies for housing and economic development.
- plan positively to support local development, shaping and directing development in their area that is outside the strategic elements of the Local Plan; and
- identify opportunities to use Neighbourhood Development Orders to enable developments that are consistent with their neighbourhood plan to proceed."

Paragraph 184 of the Framework provides guidance on the relationship between neighbourhood plans and strategic policies for the wider area which are set out in the recently adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP): "The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area and ensure that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as quickly as possible.

Neighbourhood plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies."

Paragraph 185 of the Framework says that "once a neighbourhood plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and is brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict."

DCLG's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Neighbourhood Planning includes guidance on what evidence is needed to support a neighbourhood plan and how neighbourhood plan policies should be drafted: "Proportionate, robust evidence should support the choices made and the approach taken. The evidence should be drawn upon to explain succinctly the intention and rationale of the policies in the draft neighbourhood plan or the proposals in an Order."

"A policy in a neighbourhood plan should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared."

PPG on Neighbourhood Planning also outlines the Basic Conditions against which a draft neighbourhood plan will be examined. As background, when the draft MKD neighbourhood plan is submitted to the District Council it will need to be accompanied by a Basic Conditions Statement and a Consultation Statement. The Basic Conditions, as applied to neighbourhood plans, are:

- a. having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan.
- d. the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- e. the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- f. the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- g. prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

If the Neighbourhood Plan does not meet the Basic Conditions there is a risk that it will fail when it reaches the Independent Examination. Based on our comments in the attached schedule, we consider that the current draft of the MKD Neighbourhood Plan may fall short of meeting some aspects of Basic Conditions (a), (d) and (e). In particular, officers consider that further work is required to ensure that the emerging draft MKD neighbourhood plan policies:

- Have regard to relevant national planning policies.
- Have regard to relevant policies in the adopted Local Plan (the SWDP).
- Have proportionate, robust evidence to support the choices made and the approach taken.
- Are sufficiently clear so that a decision maker can apply the policy consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications.

In some cases it appears that draft policies may have been copied from neighbourhood plans in other areas where the strategic planning context may be quite different - i.e. they do not have an adopted Local Plan or their plan policies are very different to the SWDP.

There also appears to be a potential conflict between some emerging policies. For example, MKD2(1) proposes that new developments must be no more than 5 dwellings, whilst MKD9 relates to developments comprising 5 or more dwellings.

There is also a potential conflict between some of the emerging neighbourhood plan policies and those in the SWDP. For example, MKD9 proposes slightly different requirements to SWDP15 (Meeting Affordable Housing Needs) without seeking to explain why SWDP15 is not considered appropriate in the MKD neighbourhood area. It is also considered that there is a lot of repetition and duplication in some of the emerging policies. In particular, MKD11 largely duplicates MKD4.

We hope this response is constructive. Should you have any queries in relation to our comments, or would like to discuss the comments further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stuart Cumella

7 March 2016

11

Appendix XIII Regulation 14 Consultation Webpages

Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham

Draft Neighbourhood Plan (DNP)

Formal Public Consultation 5 Sept - 17 Oct 2016

To view the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2030 - May 2016,
[click here.](#)

A Representation Form is provided for comments - it can be either printed or accessed online.

To print the Representation Form, click on the picture below left.
To access the Representation Form online, click on the picture below right.

August 2016

Dear Consultee

Notification of Formal Public Consultation on the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (Regulation 14 Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)

I am writing to advise you that the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been published for consultation jointly by Martley, and Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Councils.

The Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared by a neighbourhood planning steering group of local parish councillors and interested residents on behalf of the two Parish Councils, building on extensive public consultation and engagement undertaken since 2014, and informal public consultation on the emerging Draft Plan in Spring 2016.

The consultation period runs for 8 weeks from 5th September 2016 until 17th October 2016

The consultation period runs for 8 weeks from 5th September 2016 until Friday, 17th October 2016

The Draft Plan and other supporting documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Neighbourhood Development Plan website:

<http://martley-pc.org.uk/>

Hard copies to read will be available at: Library at Martley Memorial Hall, Central Stores, Martley, Martley Surgery, Great Witley Surgery, Knightwick Surgery, Crown Inn, Admiral Rodney, The Talbot Hotel Or from the Clerk, 1 Vernon Close, Martley.

A drop-in event and exhibition will be held on Wednesday 7th September in the library at Martley Memorial Hall between 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm. All are welcome.

Please use the representation form (provided on the website or on request from the Clerk) and submit any comments by email to mkdplan@gmail.com or in writing to the Parish Clerk.

Following the public consultation process on the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Plan will be amended and submitted to Malvern Hills District Council together with supporting documentation, including a Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement setting out who has been consulted, how the consultation has been undertaken and how the representations received have informed the Plan.

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If you require any further information, please contact the Parish Clerk for Martley at the address provided below.

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- **The Library at Martey Memorial Hall**
- **Central Stores, Martley**
- **Martley Surgery**
- **Great Witley Surgery**
- **Knightwick Surgery**
- **Crown Inn**

- **Admiral Rodney**
- **The Talbot Hotel or**
- **On request from the Parish Clerk for Martley Mrs Janet Dale**

Yours Sincerely

Martley Parish Council

Mrs Janet Dale

1 Vernon Close, Martley WR6 6QX (telephone: 07890 615 972)

[0inShare](#)

NP Draft to 2030

Screenshots

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Tabs:** "Inbox (1,271) - louise.kiri", "Designated Neighbourh...", "NP Formal Public Consu..."
- Address Bar:** www.martley-pc.org.uk/index.php/neighbourhood-plan/formal-public-consultation/np-formal-public-consultation
- Logo:** Martley Parish Council with a stylized 'M'.
- Navigation Menu:** HOME, PARISH COUNCIL, ALL DOCS AT A GLANCE, PARISH AREA, NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, REPORT A PROBLEM, USEFUL LINKS, CONTACT US.
- Image:** A landscape photo of Martley, Knightwick, and Doddenham with the text "USEFUL LINKS" overlaid.
- Calendar:** A calendar for November 2016. The 7th is highlighted in pink, and the 19th and 26th are highlighted in blue.
- Main Content:**
 - Section Header:** **Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) Formal Public Consultation 5 Sept - 17 Oct 2016**
 - Text:** "To view the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2030 - May 2016, [click here](#)."
 - Thumbnail:** A thumbnail image of the "NP Draft to 2030" document cover, titled "MARTLEY, KNIGHTWICK AND DODDENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006-2030".
- Taskbar:** Windows taskbar with icons for "Ask me anything", Edge, File Explorer, OneDrive, PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Chrome, and a system tray showing the time as 12:11 on 24/11/2016.

To view the Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2030 - May 2016, [click here](#)

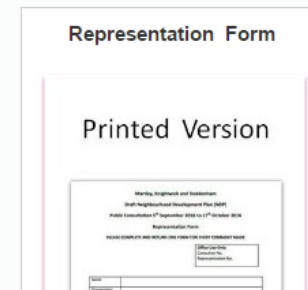
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UPCOMING EVENTS NP
No events found



Inbox (1,271) - louise.kirk x Designated Neighbourhood Plan NP Formal Public Consultation x

www.martley-pc.org.uk/index.php/neighbourhood-plan/formal-public-consultation/np-formal-public-consultation



August 2016

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Printed Version



Online Version





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Help shape the future of YOUR village



Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2030
Formal Public Consultation 5 September - 17 October 2016



Martley Parish Council



<http://martley-pc.org.uk/>

The Vision for our three Parishes is to continue to be a beautiful rural landscape which has at its heart a viable and sustainable agricultural sector and efficient local businesses.

<http://martley-pc.org.uk/>

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- On request from the Parish Clerk for Martley Mrs Janet Dale

Yours Sincerely

Martley Parish Council

Mrs Janet Dale

1 Vernon Close, Martley WR6 6QX (telephone: 07890 615 972)

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Clerk Janet Dale
1 Vernon Close
Martley WR6 6QX

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Appendix XIV Regulation 14 Consultation Letter



August 2016

Dear Consultee

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Clerk to Council: Mrs Janet Dale, 1 Vernon Close, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QX
Telephone: 01886 888472. Email: martleypc@btinternet.com



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Telephone: 01886 888472. Email: martleypc@btinternet.com

Appendix XV Consultation Bodies and Other Organisations Contacted

Consultee

Act on Energy
Alfrick & Lusley Parish Council
Baden Powell Committee Chair
British Horse Society
Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council
CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)
Churches Together in Worcestershire
Clifton upon Teme Parish Council
Community First
Council for British Archaeology West Midlands
County Land and Business Association
CPRE
CPRE Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Worcestershire Branch
CTIL on behalf of Vodafone & Telefonica
DIAL South Worcestershire
Disability Action Worcestershire South
E.ON UK
EE
Environment Agency
Federation of Small Businesses Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Forestry Commission
Fortis Living
Great Witley Parish Council
Harriet Baldwin (MP)
Heart of Worcestershire College

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust
Herefordshire Council
Highways Agency
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
Home Builders Federation
Homes and Communities Agency
Phil Grove (County Councillor)
Great Witley Surgery
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council
Knightwick Surgery Practice Manager
Little Witley Parish Council
Lovell Homes
Malvern Hills AONB
Malvern Hills District Council
Malvern Hills District Council
Martley Primary School
Martley Village Hall Committee Chair
MBNL (EE and Three) Health & Safety & Community Affairs Manager
National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
National Grid
Natural England-sustainable development consultation team
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
NFU
NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Npower

Planning Aid England
Plusnet
Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion
Ramblers Association
Renewable UK
Royal British Legion
Severn Trent Water
Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb
Shelsley Beauchamp Parish Council
South Worcestershire Older people and People with Disabilities, Adult and Community Services
Stanford with Orleton Parish Council
Sustrans
Teme Valley Wildlife
Tenbury Transport Trust
The Chantry School Head
The Coal Authority
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Virgin
Wales and West Utilities
West Mercia Constabulary Police HQ
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
West Midlands HARP Planning Consultation
West Midlands Housing Nexus
Western Power Distribution
Whitbourne Parish Council
WI Chair
Worcester City Council

Worcester Diocesan Advisory Committee Church Buildings Team
Worcester Sixth Form College
Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service
Worcestershire Biological Records Centre
Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils
Worcestershire County Council
Worcestershire County Council Ecology Service
Worcestershire County Council Mobile Libraries
Worcestershire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs
Worcestershire LEP
Worcestershire Scouts
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust-Steve Bloomfield
Wychavon District Council
Wychavon District Council
xln
National Trust
Civil Aviation Authority

Appendix XVI Regulation 14 Representation Form

Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham

Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Public Consultation 5th September 2016 to 17th October 2016

Representation Form

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN ONE FORM FOR EVERY COMMENT MADE

Office Use Only Consultee No. Representation No.
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Name	
Organisation	
Address	
Email	
Tel. No.	

To which part of the Draft Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham Neighbourhood Development Plan does your representation refer?

Page Number	
Paragraph Number	
Policy Number	

Are you supporting, objecting, or making a comment? (Please Tick ✓)

Support	
Object	
Making a Comment	

Please use the box below and overleaf for any comments.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Please return this form by 5pm 17th October 2016 to the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Janet Dale, 1 Vernon Close, Martley WR6 6QX

Email: mkdplan@gmail.com

Appendix XVII Open Day Exhibition Posters

Welcome

This aim of this exhibition is to present the latest draft of the neighbourhood plan for the parishes of Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham. This is the formal consultation ('Regulation 14') draft, and includes many changes from the version circulated in January. Copies are available for you to look at, and we can email an electronic copy to you on request.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

A neighbourhood plan sets out how a town or rural area should develop in the future - between now and 2030. The key questions a neighbourhood plan should answer are:

- ▶ How will the area develop in the future?
- ▶ How much land should be set aside for new houses, shops and places of employment?
- ▶ Where is the best place for development to take place?
- ▶ What should new buildings look like?
- ▶ What else is needed to provide a good quality of life?

The most important parts of a neighbourhood plan are its objectives and its policies. Policies are the detailed legal rules which control development. There are 14 policies in our neighbourhood plan.

Why do we need a neighbourhood plan?

A neighbourhood plan will help prevent the wrong kind of development in our parishes, and promote a higher quality of building design. Planning inspectors must refer to the neighbourhood plan in cases where developers appeal against a refusal of planning permission. The neighbourhood plan, when approved will have a greater local impact than the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

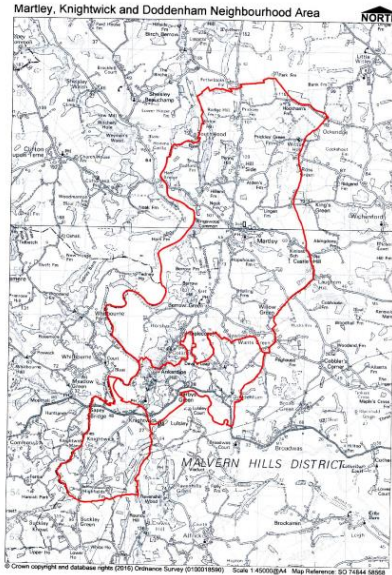
Policies

The Plan's policies are designed to protect the unique character of our three parishes. They are:

- ▶ MKD1. Landscape design principles.
- ▶ MKD2. Building design principles in Martley Conservation Area and its immediate setting.
- ▶ MKD3. Building design principles outside Martley Conservation Area.
- ▶ MKD4. Protecting local heritage assets and archaeology.
- ▶ MKD5. Maintaining the settlement pattern in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham.
- ▶ MKD6. New housing development in Martley village.
- ▶ MKD7. New housing development outside the Martley settlement boundary .
- ▶ MKD8. Housing mix.
- ▶ MKD9. Local green spaces.
- ▶ MKD10. Providing green infrastructure.
- ▶ MKD11. Providing, enhancing and protecting recreational open space.
- ▶ MKD12. Providing and protecting local community facilities.
- ▶ MKD13. Supporting local employment.
- ▶ MKD14 Transport management.

Vision and objectives

Land and people



Martley Doddenham and Knightwick parishes cover 2501 hectares. At the 2011 Census, the population was 1565, of whom 21% were under the age of 18, and 21% aged 65 and above. The age-structure is similar to that of Malvern Hills District as a whole. There were 677 dwellings, of which 74% were owner-occupied, 15% rented from housing associations and 11% were rented from private landlords.

Official projections show that the population of Malvern Hills District is expected to rise 15% by 2030. But the number of people over the age of 65 is expected to rise by 53% and the number over the age of 80 by 139%.

A rising number of very elderly people will increase the need for domiciliary and day care, as well as place major demands on health services. It may also increase the number of people dependent on public transport.

Vision

Our Vision for Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham is for our three Parishes to continue to be a beautiful rural landscape which has at its heart, a viable and sustainable agricultural sector and efficient local businesses, set amongst scattered small villages, riverside meadows and wooded hills. Our community will provide a safe and stimulating life for people of all ages and occupations, having within its boundaries primary healthcare clinics, primary and secondary schools, places to shop, eat and drink, and a range of places to work.

Objectives

1. To protect the rural character of our parishes, with their characteristic landscape of fields, woodlands, riverside meadows and dispersed communities.
2. To maintain a range of employment opportunities for local residents, including workplaces in industrial and office estates and home-based work.
3. To respond to the housing needs of people living in the neighbourhood area, by supporting the provision of appropriate types of dwellings built to high standards of design in locations which respect the character of our communities and countryside.
4. To provide an active and stimulating community life for all the people in the area, being a pleasant and safe place to be young and a pleasant place to grow old.
5. To hand to future generations of the three parishes as good as or even better quality of life than the one we have inherited.

Our environment

Our three parishes are an area of great geological diversity comprising mainly timbered farmlands, wooded hills and riverside meadows. Things that make our area distinctive include:

- ▶ Considerable biodiversity, unusual for the English Midlands. Semi-natural woodland cloaks the sides of the limestone ridges and beneath its canopy, there shelters a rich shrub sub-layer and ground flora, with abundant birdlife. There is a mosaic of ancient fields and meadows set amongst woodland and woodland clearings, inset with many half-timbered farmsteads and cottages



- ▶ The three parishes are intersected by several steep and winding lanes, which can be dark in summer because of vegetation. These lead to hills and crests with some of the finest views in England.



- ▶ A landscape divided by many distinctive boundaries. These include boundaries of mature hedges and trees, and red sandstone walls within and between settlements


- ▶ Riverside meadows and wooded banks. The River Teme forms the Western edge of Martley Parish, where its banks are hilly meadows followed by steeply-wooded hills succeeded in turn by the meadows of Horsham and Knightwick.



5

The built environment

Things that make our villages and hamlets distinctive include:

- ▶ A scattered and irregular settlement pattern. Buildings are scattered across the three parishes, in small settlements and farmsteads. Within the villages of Martley and Knightwick, there is a scattering of buildings, with many open spaces and piecemeal development in varied styles and with irregular layouts. As a result, there are views out from all settlements (including Martley Village) into open countryside (including many views of wooded hills). This is particularly striking in Knightwick Village, which is dominated by the wooded slope of Ankerdine Hill.
- 
- ▶ Characteristic styles of local building. The three parishes have a diverse range of landmark architecture, including Martley Parish Church, Knightwick Mortuary Chapel, the Talbot Hotel, the Admiral Rodney and Crown public houses, several fine farmhouses, and domestic conversions of former schools and chapels. There is a fine row of almshouses in Knightwick, with timber-arched verandas. Although there are now two estates of pattern-book housing in Martley, there are many local houses with characteristic building styles. These are shown on the next poster.

Traditional local building features



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Chimneys



Doorways and porches



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Protecting the environment

The three parishes include part of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and several sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). The Plan (Policy MKD1) proposes to protect the following landscape assets:

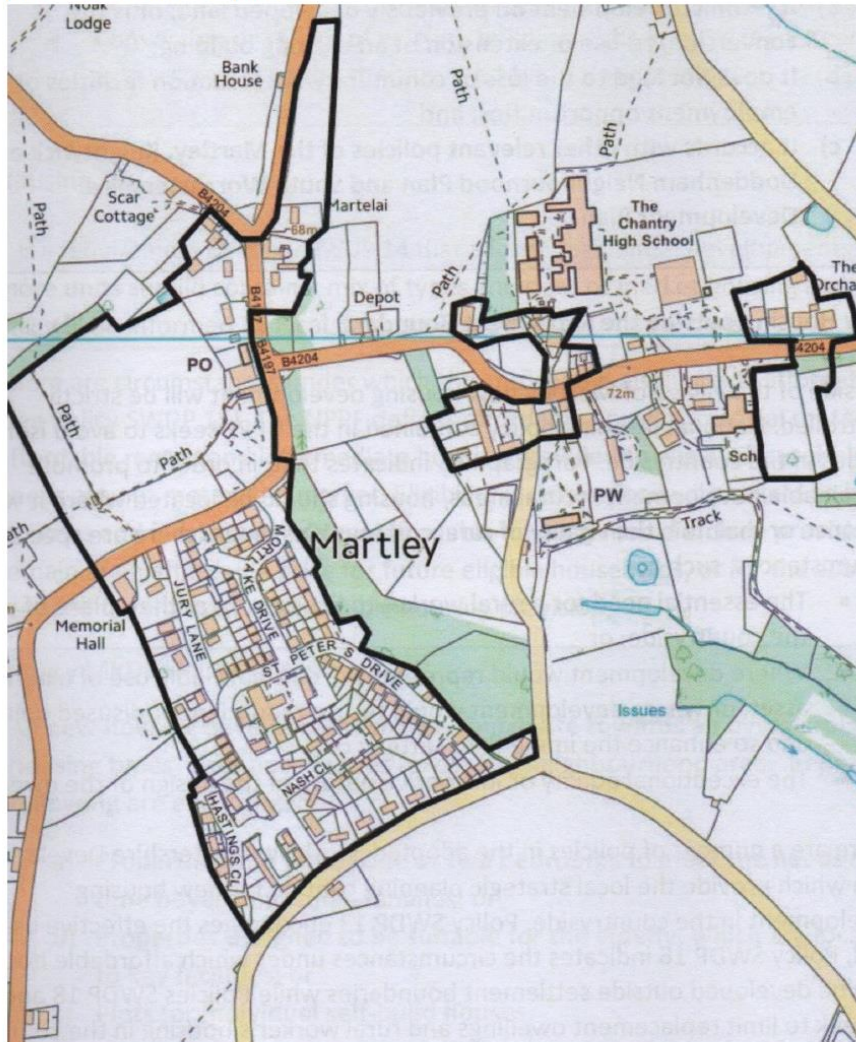
- ▶ Ankerdine Common on the summit of Ankerdine Hill (a designated Local Nature Reserve).
- ▶ the Millennium Green next to Martley Parish Church.
- ▶ the Iron Age camp on the Berrow Hill.
- ▶ the Nubbins ridge above Martley village.
- ▶ Martley Rock geological site.
- ▶ Penny Hill quarry
- ▶ Kingswood weir.
- ▶ the ridgeway along Rodge Hill.
- ▶ Knightwick limestone quarries.

The same policy also requires that development proposals must ensure that key features of any significant views can continue to be enjoyed including distant buildings and natural features or features of importance, areas of landscape and the juxtaposition of settlement edges and open countryside. A list of significant views are included in the Appendix to the Plan.

Policy MKD9 also lists important areas of open public land (called 'green spaces') that should be protected. These include: Chantry Academy Conservation Area; Martley Millennium Green; Badger Green; Hollins Lane banks; Martley Playing Field; Crown Orchard; the Hopyards Green; the Crown Meadow and Ankerdine Common. Locations are shown in the Appendix to the Plan.

Settlement boundary

The map below shows the proposals in the Plan for Martley village. The 'settlement boundary' is the area within which development is permitted. There are no settlement boundaries defined for other parts of the three parishes.



What sort of houses?

Policy MKD5 specifies that all new developments must meet the following design principles:

1. New developments must be small in scale (less than six houses) and retain the open spaces surrounding settlements.
2. New developments must be fully integrated into the existing settlement through layouts which promote permeability and accessibility to neighbouring residential areas, open spaces and facilities.
3. Infill developments should be in keeping with the scale of the immediate surrounding area and not adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring properties by way of privacy and outlook. Proposals will be required to demonstrate that proposed buildings on infill plots will not result in the unacceptable loss of open spaces which are characteristic of the dispersed and scattered settlement pattern.

Policy MKD8 specifies that all new housing development should contribute towards an overall mix of housing types, sizes and tenures across the neighbourhood area. In particular, the following are encouraged:

- a) Properties with either one or two bedrooms to meet the needs of first time buyers and small families; or
- b) Properties designed to be suitable for the elderly, which are located close to key facilities; or
- c) Plots for individual self-build houses.

Community life.

The three parishes are active communities, with many people taking part in a wide range of activities, clubs and meetings. There are good recreational facilities, local shops and three public houses. There is also an excellent range of accessible public services, including a primary school and a secondary school, and the services of two medical practices. There is an extensive network of footpaths, maintained by a team of local volunteers.

The expected increase in the number of old people in the neighbourhood area over the next 20 years makes it essential to facilitate activities that involve moderate exercise and/or sociability. The most common leisure activity in the three parishes is country walking (including walking with dogs). This can be encouraged by providing clearly-marked and well-maintained rights of way, and attractive places to walk to.

The Plan therefore proposes that existing recreational space should be protected (Policies MKD11 and 12).

The local economy

There are several employers in the neighbourhood area, including firms based at two large industrial estates in Martley Parish and in barn conversions near local farms. The largest single employer is the Chantry School with over 100 staff. This attracts considerable retail trade to Martley, provides business for the bus garage, and generates local traffic in the mornings and early evenings. It is therefore essential for the local community that the School continues to be successful, and the neighbourhood plan should therefore include provision for the expansion of the School and the protection of its distinctive rural environment. Martley Primary School may also expand in response to a growing local population and the possible closure of smaller nearby schools. Sites must therefore be designated to enable this expansion and to maintain space for play areas.

The Plan proposes (Policy MKD13) to support developments at the existing trading estates and extensions to existing rural premises where these do not conflict with other policies in this plan and the SWDP. Rural diversification at existing agricultural businesses will be supported providing the proposed new use does not detract from, or prejudice, the existing agricultural undertaking or its future operation, the scale of activities associated with the proposed development is appropriate to the rural character of the area and, wherever possible, existing buildings are used to reduce the need for additional built development. Extensions to existing dwellings to support home-based working will be supported where this would not lead to an adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent users and uses.

All new employment development should seek to include measures to facilitate access to the latest information technologies.

Transport

For most people in the three parishes, transport means using a car. The Malvern Hills District has one of the highest rates of car-ownership in England, with high rates of multiple ownership. Although there are schools in Martley village, many children are still driven to school because of the lack of safe roadside footpaths from some outlying areas.

Bus services are infrequent and do not run in the evenings. They are therefore inadequate for people who wish to use public transport to work in Worcester or any other neighbouring town. Nevertheless, the bus service is essential for the 10% of the population in the neighbourhood area who do not own a car. This group includes a small number of disabled people who live in isolated settlements and are unable to get to the local GP surgery, public houses or local events. Some nearby parishes have volunteer-staffed community transport schemes, and this may become necessary here as well.

There is a growing problem of speeding along some roads, especially the A44 through Knightwick. There is also a problem with HGVs using the narrow road along Ankerdine Hill. Both of these problems are the responsibility of the County Council and are not covered by a neighbourhood plan.

What happens next?

Formal consultation. Martley Parish Council has written to a list of local organisations and authorities. Local residents can comment by email or in writing. Consultation ends on 17th October. The Plan will be amended in response to these comments.



District Council consultation. The revised plan with a statement of the results of the consultations will be sent to the District Council, who will then consult on the plan for another six weeks. This may lead to further amendments.



Independent assessment. The Plan will be assessed by an independent evaluator, who may recommend changes. These must be incorporated in the final version of the Plan.



Referendum. Voters in Martley, Knightwick and Doddenham will vote on whether to accept the Plan. A simple majority will be sufficient to give the Plan legal force.

Acknowledgements

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How to comment

To comment on this document, please email: mkdplan@gmail.com. You can also write to the Parish Clerk for Martley, Mrs Janet Dale, 1 Vernon Close, Martley WR6 6QX. It is important that you include your name and address.

