



Malvern Wells Parish Council

www.malvernwells-pc.gov.uk

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25th January, 2017

Gary Williams
Joint Head of Housing and Planning
Malvern Hills District Council
The Council House,
Avenue Road,
Malvern
WR14 3AF

Dear Mr Williams,

MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL **APPLICATION TO PRODUCE A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, this is a formal application by Malvern Wells Parish Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan area. The power to designate an area as a Neighbourhood Area is exercisable under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Under regulation 5 (1) of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation, an area application has to include the following details: -

Title of the plan: - Malvern Wells Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Relevant body preparing the plan: - Malvern Wells Parish Council

Extent of the area covered: - The Parish of Malvern Wells (please see the attached map for the Parish boundaries)

Contact officer - David Taverner - Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Contact address - as shown above

A statement that the body making an area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G (2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990: - Malvern Wells Parish Council is the relevant body for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, section 61 (G) as specified by paragraph 2(a) of Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan

The following supporting information is also applicable.

Introduction

Malvern Wells is a Village and Civil Parish in the Malvern Hills District of Worcestershire. The Parish of Malvern Wells, once known as South Malvern, was formed in 1894 from parts of the civil parishes of Hanley Castle, Welland, and the former parish of Great Malvern, and owes its development to Malvern's 19th century boom years as a spa town.

It lies on the eastern slopes of the Malvern Hills-South of Great Malvern (the town centre of Malvern) and takes its name from the Malvern water issuing from springs on the hills, principally from the Holy Well and the Eye Well.

Its northern end also includes the Wyche Cutting, the historic salt route pass through the hills, forming the border between the counties of Herefordshire on the western side of the Malvern Hills at the village of Upper Colwall, and the Worcestershire side in the east. The actual cutting through the granite hill face is at a height of 856 feet above sea level.

In 1558 Queen Elizabeth I granted the land to John Hornyold, lord of the manor, under the premise that any pilgrim or traveller should be able to draw rest and refreshment from the Holy Well. This covenant still stands today. 1622 is the first record of spring water ever being bottled in the UK. This took place at the Holy Well which later became the site where Malvern Water was first drawn for sale by the Schweppes Company at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Malvern Wells Parish Council has a team of 13 Councillors and the foremost objective of the Council is to seek to, improve and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to this most beautiful part of the country and to help to protect both the Malvern Hills Conservation Area and the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in which it is located.

The Parish Council is now establishing a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, led by a team of Councillors who will be joined by volunteers from within the Parish.

Following the initial steps that have been taken the parish Council is now at a stage where it is able to make a formal application for the approval to publish its own Neighbourhood Plan.

Objectives

The development of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Malvern Wells will be facilitated by Malvern Wells Parish Council with help from volunteers across the community.

The Parish Council believes that this is a real opportunity for the community to have some ownership on future planning policy for the parish. Through the creation of the Plan, local people will have the opportunity to help shape future policies for land use and the scale of development such as where new homes, community facilities and workplaces should be built, and what they should look like.

The NP will cover the whole Parish of Malvern Wells and, subject to passing the formal tests, a local referendum and assessment, it will become part of the local planning framework until 2030, in conjunction with the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

The Plan will undergo continuing review to ensure that it remains current and meets the changing needs of the populace. It will aim to help foster economic prosperity for the area; justify the provision and location for any new housing; aim to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment; and pay close regard to the development of enhanced Infrastructure projects.

Process

The Parish Council is now working towards the establishment of a governance process to oversee the creation of the Plan and ensure democratic accountability. A NP working group is being established with delegated authority to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Malvern Wells.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group includes both Parish Council elected members as well as other volunteers within the community. Group meetings will be open to all residents to attend.

The Group will work closely with officers from Malvern Hills District Council and the Malvern Hill AONB who have agreed to attend working group meetings as required and the intention is to ensure that the whole community has real opportunities to engage in the formulation of the Plan to ensure that it is developed in compliance with strategic and national planning policy.

Community engagement

Working in close association with the Parish Council, the working group will attempt to engage the community through articles in the local parish news magazines, use of the parish and county council websites, and the publication of the minutes of working group meetings.

It is intended that community engagement events will be held where local people, including landowners, will have had the opportunity to find out the purpose of the and how they can get involved with its development.

The Parish Council is particularly keen to fulfil its commitment to openness, transparency and community involvement in this process and intends to undertake a parish-wide residents survey of all households. It will also be consulting local businesses to gather views on their needs and their aspirations for development.

Outcome

The Neighbourhood Plan will take some time to produce and it is difficult to be definitive about a timescale for the work involved at this stage of the process. The PC intends to employ specialist consultants to assist with the drafting of the plan, and it is anticipated that the costs of this will be substantially met by Government grant

We understand that the regulations require the local planning authority to publicise this application for not less than 6 weeks before reaching a decision. We would appreciate your confirmation of receipt of this application and, if it is satisfactory, the date of commencement of the 6-week consultation period

Please let me know if you would like any further information in respect of this application.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID TAVERNER

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Cc David Clarke
Planning Officer
Malvern Hills District Council