

Regulation 16 Consultation on the Submitted Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan RESPONSE FORM

Under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Malvern Town Council has submitted the draft Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan to Malvern Hills District Council. In accordance with Regulation 16, Malvern Hills District Council would like to invite comments from organisations and individuals on the Neighbourhood Plan.

This consultation runs for six weeks from Friday 9th November to 5:00pm on Friday 21st December 2018.

If you wish to comment on the draft Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan **please complete and return this form no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 21st December 2018** to:

Email: policy.plans@malvern hills.gov.uk , or by

Post: Planning Policy, Malvern Hills District Council, Planning Services, The Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3AF.

The personal information you provide on this form will be held and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Please note that your name and comments will be made publicly available when displaying the outcome of this consultation and cannot be treated as confidential. Any other details, including signatures, private telephone numbers and email addresses will not be published on the Council's website, but the original representations with personal details redacted will be published. Your details will be retained in order for us to validate your comments. We will use these details to notify you of the progress on the Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan. If you do not wish to be notified of the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan please let us know by ticking the appropriate box at the end of this response form.

Please fill in your details in the boxes below:

Full Name: Ken Timms

Organisation (if applicable): Malvern Community Forest

Address (including postcode):

Telephone number:

Email address:

Please state which part of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. which section, objective or policy) your representation refers to (please use a separate form for each representation):

Policy MD1: Building Design, Section A, paragraph 2

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Part 1 – Background

1. Malvern Community Forest is a charity that establishes, maintains and uses woodland and other environmental assets for the educational, health and environmental benefit of the community. We work in partnership with communities, charities and other agencies to increase the awareness, knowledge, appreciation and involvement of the public with trees and woodland, associated skills and crafts, and their products. Most of our projects are located in the Malvern NPA, in urban and peri-urban woodlands.
2. Malvern Community Forest has been working for many months with local and county-wide landowners, tourism and leisure organisations, wildlife and local government agencies to develop a strategy to establish or strengthen local tree and woodland policies. This strategy is planned to be launched during National Tree Week, December 2019.
3. The strategy will apply to urban as much as to countryside areas in the NPA. Living in close proximity to trees and woodland has recognised positive social, environmental, economic as well as health and well-being impacts. What is less appreciated is the necessity to restore and maintain the health and well-being of trees and woodlands in urban settings, so that these benefits are sustainable. Appropriate management at an ecological level is required. This applies to how existing trees, hedgerows and woodlands are protected and enhanced as much as to how new green infrastructure is provided and sustained.
4. The views expressed below in Comments on and Responses are those of Malvern Community Forest alone, and not those of any other organisation or agency with which we are working or with whom we are holding discussions.

Part 2 - Comments on Policy MD1: Building Design, Section A, paragraph 2

Paragraph 2 to be changed by removing 'and makes efficient use of land', viz.,

2. Are of an appropriate scale and mass to their surroundings whilst ensuring that the amenity of the area and neighbouring residents is not unacceptably adversely impacted;

'Efficient use of land' without any further clarification, does not include green space and retaining/planting of landscape features and wildlife corridors promoted in Sections 5.2 Green Infrastructure and 5.3 Visual Amenity, whilst also contradicting Policy MD2: Landscaping and Public Realm, paragraph 3, and its Reasoned Justification, paragraph 5.6.13

Future Notification

Please state whether you would like to be notified of the decision on the Neighbourhood Plan proposal: Yes ✓

Signature [redacted] **Date**20/12/2018.....

Thank you for completing this form.

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Please state which part of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. which section, objective or policy) your representation refers to (please use a separate form for each representation):

Policy MG3: Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows.

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Part 1 – Background

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Part 2 - Comments on Policy MG3: Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows.

The first paragraph should remain in its current form.

In order to fulfil the Reasonable Justification paragraphs 5.2.8 and 5.2.10 the remaining text needs to be changed.

The second paragraph to be changed as follows: (changes in **bold**)

Appropriate **silvicultural or ecological** surveys must be provided to assess the value of the existing trees and hedgerows, **whether and how they can be managed and improved**, and the impact of the proposals on them. Trees and hedgerows not to be retained as a result of the development are to be replaced on an **appropriate** basis. Additional new trees and hedgerows will be planted on the site as part of a wider planting scheme to help reflect and enhance the landscape character of the site.

Explanation

1. *Arboricultural surveys consider only individual trees and not their relationship to each other and the local ecology. Silvicultural surveys are for woodland and forestry purposes, taking a wider view. Ecological surveys will consider the place of trees in relation to other plants, fungi and wildlife interacting with them, as well as neighbouring green infrastructure.*

Continues below

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Strategy Section 4.12

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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Part 2 - Comments on Strategy Section 4.12

Section 4.12 needs to be modified in the following way (added words in **bold**)

4.12 Trees, woodland and hedges **are** of local importance and **their** high **visual amenity, biodiversity and ecosystem** value will be protected. Should there be a loss of these valuable habitats the plan seeks appropriate mitigation. Nature conservation and wildlife sites will be protected and opportunities sought to open up public access to allow people to experience natural habitats.

This comment needs to be read in conjunction with Comments on Policy MG3: Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows, particularly

Future Notification

Please state whether you would like to be notified of the decision on the Neighbourhood Plan

proposal: Yes ✓

Signature [redacted] **Date**20/12/2018.....

Thank you for completing this form.