

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> November to 5:00pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 to:

Email: policy.plans@malvernhills.gov.uk, or by

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

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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 Any other details, including signatures, private telephone numbers and email addresses will not be published on the Council's website, but the original representations with personal details redacted will be published.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 postereds)	
Address (including postcode):	
Talanhana numbari	
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.
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## 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	$\checkmark$



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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

Woodlands, trees and hedgerows that have been neglected can be brought back .into management and improved relatively easily and this stage of 'protecting and enhancing' needs to be assessed. They will be part of eco-systems established over many years that will be easily revived, but would take at least as many years to re-establish if the trees are lost.

3. Replacement should be on an appropriate basis, not an unspecified 'like-for-like'. For example, a number of young trees need to be planted to ensure the mid-long term replacement of an older established tree. An ash tree cannot be replaced by other ash trees at the moment, due to the threat of chalara ash die-back infestation. To adapt to climate change, a mix of tree types is highly recommended, to ensure sustainability of street scene, hedgerow or woodland.

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

Where it is not possible or appropriate to secure this new or replacement tree planting on site, trees should be planted at a suitable location **adjacent to or as close as possible** to the site such as on LGS and NOS or other publicly owned land. Planning conditions or legal agreements will be used to secure this.

Explanation

This is to maintain as much visual, biodiversity and eco-system integrity as possible.

A fourth paragraph to be added:

Further details of the manner in which the policy will be implemented with respect to trees, hedgerows and woodland will be set out in a Trees, Hedgerow and Woodland Supplementary Planning Document.

This needs to be complimented by an additional paragraph in the Reasoned Justification section, 5.2.11:

A Trees, Hedgerow and Woodland Supplementary Planning Document will be produced to provide guidance to developers, planners and public on protecting and enhancing existing trees, hedgerows and woodland; on judgements of appropriateness, practicality, and practical adjustments in development projects; on mitigation measures for tree losses; and the use of trees as part of green infrastructure requirements, including street scene planting.

Please use a separate form for each representation.

### **Future Notification**

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**Signature Date** .....20/12/2018......

Thank you for completing this form.



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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

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**Signature Date** ......20/12/2018......