

# **Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan**

## **Consultation Statement – March 2020**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Localism Act 2011) (as amended) require a Consultation Statement to be prepared setting out the consultations undertaken for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 Part 5 Paragraph 15 (2) of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, defines a Consultation Statement as a document which includes:
  - i. details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed NDP.
  - ii. a description of how they were consulted
  - iii. a summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted
  - iv. a description of how these issues and concerns have been considered and, if appropriate, addressed in the proposed plan.
- 1.3 Guidance from Department for Communities and Local Government (10 Sept 2013) states that: *'the Consultation Statement submitted with the draft Neighbourhood Plan should reveal the quality and effectiveness of the consultation that has informed the Plan proposals.'*
- 1.4 This Statement sets out details of all consultation and engagement activity. It lists how the local community and other stakeholders have been involved and how their input has informed the development of the NDP.
- 1.5 The aim of the consultations in Much Birch Parish has been to ensure the widest possible understanding of the purpose and content of the NDP, and to ensure that every resident and stakeholder had the opportunity to contribute to its development.
- 1.6 This Statement demonstrates that there has been extensive community and stakeholder engagement and consultation throughout the process. There is evidence available to support all the statements regarding consultation summarised below.
- 1.7 The community and stakeholders were kept informed and engaged via a range of media which are laid out in the Timeline below. These included an NDP section on the Much Birch Parish Council website (<http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/>), the Birches Newsletter that covers Much Birch Parish and also the adjacent parish of Little Birch, noticeboards, and exhibitions forming part of drop-in events. Steering Group Meetings were also open to the public to attend, ask questions and make comments. Public and stakeholder input was taken into account throughout the development of the neighbourhood plan. Specific examples of where and

when this has happened are highlighted in the timeline below with relevant extracts from, or references to, steering group minutes, consultation events and Facebook entries. For the sake of brevity, not all instances are listed, but are available by searching the full set of minutes on the Parish Council website under NDP Documents.

## **Section 2 follows**

## 2 Much Birch\_NDP Consultation Timeline

The Much Birch NDP process began in 2016. Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy was “made” in 2015.

<b>1</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b> <b>Parish Council</b>	<p>Much Birch Parish Council agreed to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and to arrange a community briefing. This was publicised by posters at key sites and on notice boards around the Parish and through a special notice in ‘The Birches’ parish magazine.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Much Birch Parish?</b></p> <p><b>“Every village in Herefordshire will have to grow in the next decade. A Neighbourhood Plan gives us a greater say in where these homes will be built.”</b></p> </div> <p>The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) based on the Localism Act is a short document replacing thousands of pages of detailed rules. It removes many of the old planning restrictions and encourages strategic development at national, regional and local levels. The NPPF has been implemented at our local level by Herefordshire Council through The Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031 (adopted October 2015) which sets out new guidance for development and change in the county for towns, villages and settlements over the next 20 years. .</p> <p>The Localism Act also makes provision for Neighbourhood Development Plans through which communities led by their Parish Councils are positively encouraged to produce their own development plans for their area taking on board the Strategic Objectives of the local plan in our case the Herefordshire Core Strategy.</p> <p>A Neighbourhood Development Plan establishes local planning policies for the development and use of land such as where new homes should be built and what they should look like. The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want. It must however reflect the Herefordshire <b>Core Strategy</b>. (For further detail please refer to Herefordshire Council web site.)</p> <p>The process of the development of the plan (which has to be submitted to the Council for final ratification and when agreed be the subject of a local referendum) will take time and resources and the first task of the Parish Council is to “Get the community on board” and establish a team which may include members of the community who are not on the Parish Council</p> <p><b>This is our chance to set planning policies for our own community so:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What do you want our community to look like in 10 or 20 years’ time?</b></li> <li>• <b>Where should new developments be built?</b></li> <li>• <b>What should new development look like?</b></li> <li>• <b>What other planning policies should be in place for our parish, villages and countryside?</b></li> </ul> <p>Neighbourhood Planning is a new opportunity for us. Until now all planning policy was set by central government or Herefordshire Council. Parish councils are consulted on planning applications but had no power to shape or set local planning policy. All this has changed under the government’s Localism Act and the new planning framework. Our community now has the opportunity to set planning policies for our parish by devising its own Neighbourhood Development Plan. Without this plan, policies and decisions on development will continue to be out of our hands for years to come, and there will be fewer restrictions on development in our community.</p> <p>The Parish Council needs your backing to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Development Plan as it must be led by the Parish Council and involve the whole community. People other than councillors should be actively involved in leading the work and so we need people to join the Steering group or helping out in lots of other ways.</p> <p><b>A meeting is being held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 @ 7:30 at Much Birch Community Centre when Sam Banks from Herefordshire Council will be there to explain how a Plan is put together, what needs to be done and how we do it.</b></p> <p>We need <b>EVERYONE</b> to reply so please return your response slip by <b>19<sup>th</sup> February 2016</b> to:</p> <p>Mrs A Wright, Longfield House, Goose’s Foot, Kingstone, Hereford, HR2 9NE</p> <p>Or: by email to: <a href="mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk">muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk</a></p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Or: bring it to the meeting.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESPONSE SLIP</b></p> <p><b>Do you want Much Birch Parish Council to start work on a Neighbourhood Development Plans?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p><b>I would like to help with producing a Neighbourhood Plan by:</b></p> <p><b>Being on the Steering Group</b> <span style="float: right;">Yes/No</span></p> <p><b>Other volunteer work</b> <span style="float: right;">Yes/No</span></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> </div>
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<b>2</b>	<b>Post January 2016</b>	Publicity Poster
	<b>Parish Council</b>	

<b>3</b>	<b>3rd March 2-016</b>	The Parish Council at its meeting agreed to hold a further briefing during the summer because the previous one was thinly attended most likely as a consequence of the cold weather and dark nights.

<b>4</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016</b>	The Parish Council agreed to publicise the briefing meeting through improved distribution of flyers, posters and electronic communication.
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EVENT</b></p> <p><b>TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 7.00PM</b></p> <p><b>The Parish Council will be holding an Event to re-launch the idea of engaging the Community in producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.</b></p> <p><b>Do come along to the</b></p> <p><b>Much Birch Community Centre</b></p> <p><b>To hear a presentation, find out more about the process and ask any questions you may have.....</b></p> <p><b>All are welcome and refreshments will be served</b></p> </div>

<b>5</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	A summary of a successful briefing was received showing interest from members of the public and acknowledging a number of people who had put forward their names to assist with Steering group etc to work upon the NDP for Much Birch Parish. The parish Council decided to proceed
	<b>Parrish Council</b>	

<b>6</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	Application from Much Birch Parish Council to Herefordshire Council for the whole Parish Council area to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area. ( <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/much_birch_app_form.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/much_birch_app_form.pdf</a> )
	<b>Parish Council</b>	

7	18 <sup>th</sup> July to 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Designation consultation period opened and closed with no representations having been received. ( <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/1735/much_birch_neighbourhood_development_plan_document_s">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/1735/much_birch_neighbourhood_development_plan_document_s</a> )
	Herefordshire Council	
8	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Designation approved by HC with no objections. ( <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/1735/much_birch_neighbourhood_development_plan_document_s">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/1735/much_birch_neighbourhood_development_plan_document_s</a> )
	Herefordshire Council	
9	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Approval Notice issued. ( <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/1735/much_birch_neighbourhood_development_plan_document_s">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/1735/much_birch_neighbourhood_development_plan_document_s</a> )
	Herefordshire Council	
10	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Steering Group formed and officers elected. Terms of Reference for the Steering Group, based upon the model provided by Herefordshire Council, were agreed by the Steering Group and forwarded to the Parish Council. ( <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Much-Birch-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan-Minutes-27-October-Meeting.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Much-Birch-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan-Minutes-27-October-Meeting.pdf</a> )
	Steering Group	
11	Whole plan preparation period	Steering Group meetings were open to the public. They were generally held on the last Thursday of the month although there was some variation where circumstances required, especially during the early formative period. Dates of meetings were included within The Birches (parish magazine for Much Birch and Little Birch parishes) and on the Parish Facebook page.  <b><u>Dates of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings for 2019. All to be held at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm</u></b>  28 February, 28 March, 2 May, 30 May, 27 June, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November. Please remember that your opinion, and any input to the plan, is welcomed at all stages of the process. Meetings are public and open to all.
	Steering Group Meetings	



David Goldsmith  
27 June 2017

Neighbourhood Development Plan.  
The next steering group meeting will be held this Thursday at 7.30pm in the Community Hall.  
All attendees are welcome.

1 Like

Comment



12	<b>Whole plan preparation period</b>	The Parish Council received regular progress reports from the two Parish Council Members upon the Steering Group, provided support to the public consultation events that were organised, and gave feedback at relevant stages.
	<b>Parish Council</b>	Neighbourhood Plan reporting was standing item on the Parish Council Agenda. Minutes of Parish Council meetings can be found at: <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/docs.html">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/docs.html</a>

13	<b>1<sup>st</sup> December 2016</b>	The composition of the Steering Group and its officer's were confirmed and a draft project plan agreed.
	<b>Steering Group</b>	<a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Much-Birch-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan-meeting-1-December-2016.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Much-Birch-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan-meeting-1-December-2016.pdf</a>

14	<b>May/June 2017</b>	The Steering Group organised and held a 'Launch Event' to publicise the preparation of the NDP and seek preliminary views from residents. Launch event publicity included:
	<b>Steering Group</b>	<p>1. Notices of the event were placed on notice boards around the Parish, upon the Parish Council website and in 'The Birches', the Newsletter covering Much Birch Parish (together with the adjoining Little Birch and Aconbury Parish).</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div data-bbox="913 774 1272 1284" data-label="Image"> <p><b>MUCH BIRCH PARISH</b> <b>Neighbourhood Development Plan</b> PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE The Parish Plan Includes; Housing, Leisure, Sport, Community Facilities, Transport and more ! We need your views.....</p> <p><b>LAUNCH EVENT</b></p> <p>IN THE Much Birch Community Hall Tuesday 13 June 2017 Come and give us your views. Between 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm.</p> <p><b>DON'T LET OTHERS DECIDE FOR YOU COME AND GIVE US YOUR VIEWS AND IDEAS !! - Tea &amp; Coffee.</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1433 790 1780 1276" data-label="Image"> <p><b>MUCH BIRCH PARISH</b> Neighbourhood Development Plan Planning for the Future The Parish Plan includes Housing, Leisure, Sport, Community Facilities, Transport and more! We need your views.... <b>LAUNCH EVENT</b> In the Much Birch Community Hall Tuesday 13 June 2017 Come and give us your views Between 2.00pm and 7.00pm <b>DON'T LET OTHERS DECIDE FOR YOU. COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY!!</b> Tea and Coffee available.</p> <p><b>Aconbury Shepherd Huts</b> Our huts are hand built to the highest of standards. Our standard hut includes insulation, double glazing, electric and decoration. Uses include craft room, play house, sleep over's etc. Come and see our display hut or request our new brochure We also build stables, field shelters, garden sheds, play houses, garden features and bespoke gates. Please ring for our dedicated brochure Stephen Turner, The Underhills, Holybush Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8JX. Telephone: Office 01981 540090 Mobile 07788 206296 <a href="http://www.aconburyashepherdhuts.co.uk">www.aconburyashepherdhuts.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:turnerstiffersw@btinternet.com">turnerstiffersw@btinternet.com</a></p> <p><b>Self-storage Herefordshire</b> £15 per week - no VAT 20ft x 8ft 7 Days a week access Long or short term rental. <b>Seasoned Firewood for Sale</b> George Cole Mob: 07800952317 Tel: 01981241274 Email: <a href="mailto:coleg600@gmail.com">coleg600@gmail.com</a></p> </div> </div> <p>2. Publicity through Facebook, including reminder:</p>

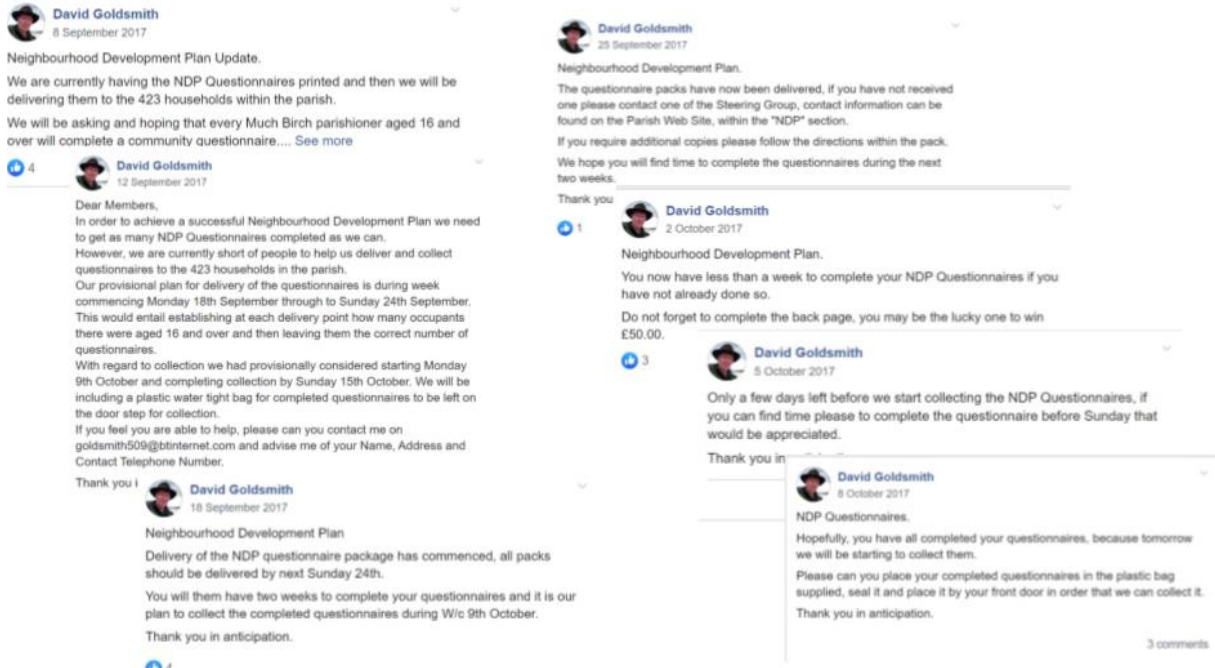
		<p><b>Terry Cook</b> Admin · 4 June 2017</p> <p>For further information on the plan being developed and the associated paperwork, please go the NDP section on the website.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>MUCH BIRCH PARISH</b></p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Development Plan</b></p> <p>PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE The Parish Plan Includes; Housing, Leisure, Sport, Community Facilities, Transport and more ! We need your views.....</p> <p><b>LAUNCH EVENT</b></p> <p>IN THE Much Birch Community Hall Tuesday 13 June 2017 Come and give us your views. Between 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm. <b>DON'T LET OTHERS DECIDE FOR YOU</b></p> </div> <p><b>David Goldsmith</b> 12 June 2017</p> <p>Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan. Reminder: Less than 24 hours now before the NDP Launch Event in the Community Hall. Come and see what it is all about between 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm tomorrow.</p> <p>Like Comment</p> <p>Write a comment...</p>
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<b>15</b>	<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>	Day of the Launch Event. This was attended by 81 stakeholders.
	<b>Stakeholder Consultation</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>














		<p>Further material used in the presentation and photographs of the event can be found at:  <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/0-NDP_Launch.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/0-NDP_Launch.pdf</a></p> <p>Further details upon attendance were presented to the Steering Group Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and these can be found in the meeting's minutes at:  <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/0-Much-Birch-N_D-Plan-steering-group--meeting-29-June--2017.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/0-Much-Birch-N_D-Plan-steering-group--meeting-29-June--2017.pdf</a></p>
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<b>16</b>	<b>June/July 2017</b>	<p>Comments received at the event can be found at: <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Launch-Event-Post-It-Notes.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Launch-Event-Post-It-Notes.pdf</a></p> <p>The availability of these upon the Parish Council website was publicised, through the Parish website itself and on Facebook.</p>
	<b>Stakeholder Feedback</b>	<div data-bbox="689 603 1227 1058" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1435 627 2007 1050" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>One purpose of the comments was to inform a subsequent survey of resident's and local businesses.</p>

<b>17</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> June; 3<sup>rd</sup> August; 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017</b>	<p>These meetings focused on drafting the Community, Business and Housing questionnaires, and "Land for Development" (Call for Sites) survey. Arrangements for distribution and collection of questionnaires were made which would utilise volunteers,</p>
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	<b>Steering Group Mtgs.</b>	including members of the Steering Group, who were briefed beforehand. Publicity was also agreed to promote the questionnaires.
<b>18</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Questionnaires</b>	Questionnaire Packs were delivered by volunteers to every household. Every household received the Community Questionnaire, Business Questionnaire, Housing Questionnaire and Call for Sites form within the pack.
<b>19</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Reminders</b>	<p>Residents were given advance warning of the questionnaires and encouraged to complete them. In order to encourage completion of the Community Questionnaire, those returning them were entered into a £50 draw. Facebook was, in particular, used to encourage residents to complete the questionnaires.</p>  <p>The screenshot shows a series of Facebook posts from David Goldsmith, dated from September 8 to October 8, 2017. The posts are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>8 September 2017:</b> "Neighbourhood Development Plan Update. We are currently having the NDP Questionnaires printed and then we will be delivering them to the 423 households within the parish. We will be asking and hoping that every Much Birch parishioner aged 16 and over will complete a community questionnaire.... See more"</li> <li><b>12 September 2017:</b> "Dear Members, In order to achieve a successful Neighbourhood Development Plan we need to get as many NDP Questionnaires completed as we can. However, we are currently short of people to help us deliver and collect questionnaires to the 423 households in the parish. Our provisional plan for delivery of the questionnaires is during week commencing Monday 18th September through to Sunday 24th September. This would entail establishing at each delivery point how many occupants there were aged 16 and over and then leaving them the correct number of questionnaires. With regard to collection we had provisionally considered starting Monday 9th October and completing collection by Sunday 15th October. We will be including a plastic water tight bag for completed questionnaires to be left on the door step for collection. If you feel you are able to help, please can you contact me on goldsmith509@btinternet.com and advise me of your Name, Address and Contact Telephone Number. Thank you!"</li> <li><b>18 September 2017:</b> "Neighbourhood Development Plan Delivery of the NDP questionnaire package has commenced, all packs should be delivered by next Sunday 24th. You will then have two weeks to complete your questionnaires and it is our plan to collect the completed questionnaires during W/c 9th October. Thank you in anticipation."</li> <li><b>25 September 2017:</b> "Neighbourhood Development Plan. The questionnaire packs have now been delivered, if you have not received one please contact one of the Steering Group, contact information can be found on the Parish Web Site, within the "NDP" section. If you require additional copies please follow the directions within the pack. We hope you will find time to complete the questionnaires during the next two weeks. Thank you"</li> <li><b>2 October 2017:</b> "Neighbourhood Development Plan. You now have less than a week to complete your NDP Questionnaires if you have not already done so. Do not forget to complete the back page, you may be the lucky one to win £50.00. Thank you in"</li> <li><b>5 October 2017:</b> "Only a few days left before we start collecting the NDP Questionnaires, if you can find time please to complete the questionnaire before Sunday that would be appreciated. Thank you in"</li> <li><b>8 October 2017:</b> "NDP Questionnaires. Hopefully, you have all completed your questionnaires, because tomorrow we will be starting to collect them. Please can you place your completed questionnaires in the plastic bag supplied, seal it and place it by your front door in order that we can collect it. Thank you in anticipation. 3 comments"</li> </ul>

<b>20</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b>	Volunteers collected completed questionnaires in sealed envelopes.
	<b>Questionnaires</b>	
<b>21</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018</b>	<p>These meetings considered the results of the questionnaires.</p> <p>336 people aged 16 and over completed the Community Questionnaire, giving a return rate of 43%.</p> <p>55 Business Questionnaires were returned and 84 Housing Need Questionnaires. Of those returning the latter 73 returns did no indicate any housing need either now or within the next 5 years.</p> <p>The reports presenting the results can be found at: <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndpdocs.html">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndpdocs.html</a></p> <p>The “Land for Development Survey” (Call for Sites) forms were not published as they contained confidential information. The information was used to inform the housing site assessment work undertaken by the Steering Group and its consultant.</p>
	<b>Steering Group Meetings</b>	
<b>22</b>	<b>January 2017 to November 2018</b>	The Steering Group focussed on drafting a Vision Statement, NDP topics, a set of Objectives and policy directions based significantly upon the Questionnaire results.
	<b>Steering Group Meetings</b>	
<b>23</b>	<b>November 2018 to February 2019</b>	The Steering Group planned and made arrangements for a ‘Drop In’ Consultation Event to feedback upon Community Questionnaire responses, and seek views upon suggested policy directions and criteria to be used as the basis for determining between potential housing sites submitted through the ‘Call for Sites’.
	<b>Steering Group Meetings</b>	
<b>24</b>	<b>February and March 2019</b>	The ‘Drop In’ Consultation Event was publicised by poster, notice in ‘The Birches’ magazine and on Facebook.
	<b>Stakeholder Consultation</b>	

		<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  <p><b>Alison Cook</b> Admin · 25 February</p> <p>Save the date! On Saturday 16th March there is a Neighbourhood Development Plan consultation day at Much Birch Community Hall between 10:00am &amp; 4:00pm. Drop in at any time to find out what has happened since you returned your questionnaires and how the plan is moving forward. More information to follow.</p> <p> 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Like <span style="margin-left: 100px;"> Comment</span></p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Neighbourhood Development Plan – Much Birch Parish</b> <b>CONSULTATION DAY</b></p> <p>There will be a further <b>Consultation Day</b>, to which all are invited, on <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 from 10.00am to 4.00pm</b> when there will be the opportunity to see how things have progressed to date. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome to come along to see how the plan is progressing, to ask any questions plus find out information.</p> <p>Please also see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  <p><b>David Goldsmith</b> 15 March</p> <p>NDP Consultation Day Saturday 16th March</p> <p>Last reminder to all interested parties the second consultation day is being held tomorrow at the Much Birch Community Hall between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.</p> <p>Please come and give us your thoughts... <a href="#">See more</a></p> <p> 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Like <span style="margin-left: 100px;"> Comment</span></p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center;">  <input style="flex-grow: 1; border: none;" type="text" value="Write a comment..."/> <div style="margin-left: 10px; font-size: 18px;">     </div> </p></div> </div> </div>
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<b>25</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Stakeholder Drop-in Event</b>	<p>The event presented draft policies for the areas of Environment, Housing, Economy, Community facilities, Traffic and Transport (based on feedback from the Much Birch Community Survey 2017). These were set out on poster boards with post it facilities for comments/recommendations. Some 44 people attended the drop-in event spending time examining the presentation boards, asking questions and making considered comments.</p> <p>The material presented with analysis of responses to the questions posed can be found at:  <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Consultation-Day---Information-Boards--Conclusions.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Consultation-Day---Information-Boards--Conclusions.pdf</a> .</p> <p>In broad terms the conclusions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for policies presented</li> </ul>
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- Support for Housing Assessment criteria suggested
- Support for approach to Settlement boundaries
- No support for Settlement Boundary around properties near the school
- Choice of possible development options down to 2.

These results gave confidence to the Steering group that the approach being pursued was supported by those attending the event.

The form of presentation can be seen at: <http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/NDP-Consultation-Day---Board-Pictures.pdf>



**David Goldsmith**  
16 March

NDP Consultation Day.  
Thank you to all attendees of the Consultation Day today.  
Your thoughts and comments will be most useful.... See more



Further photographs of the event can be found at: <http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/NDP-Consultation-Day---Attendance-Pictures.pdf>

<b>26</b>	<b>March to August 2019</b>	The Steering Group completed its work upon policy development and site assessment, bearing in mind updated housing figures from Herefordshire Council’s information and the results of the stakeholder consultation event.
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	<b>Steering Group</b>	
<b>27</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> August 2019</b>	The Steering Group considered the draft NDP for submission to the Parish Council for formal approval to proceed to the Regulation 14 pre-consultation stage.
	<b>Steering Group</b>	See: <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Much-Birch-N_D-Plan-steering-group--meeting-29-August--2019.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Much-Birch-N_D-Plan-steering-group--meeting-29-August--2019.pdf</a>
<b>28</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019</b>	The Parish Council gave its formal approval to the plan to proceed to the Regulation 14 consultation stage.
	<b>Parish Council</b>	See <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Minutes_October_2019.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Minutes_October_2019.pdf</a>
<b>29</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>	Regulation 14 consultation period opens and closes.
	<b>Regulation 14 Consultation</b>	<p>A period of 8 weeks was provided because the consultation period included Christmas and the New year. The Draft Plan, Public Consultation Notice, Response Sheet, Environmental Report and Habitats Regulation Report were all published on the NDP website, with a link from the front page. Paper copies were made available at Much Birch Community Hall, Hereford Library; Ross on Wye Library; Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch; Wormelow Tump Public House; Axe &amp; Cleaver Public House; and The Carrot &amp; Wine Shop at Wormelow and available to view during their normal opening hours. The Public Consultation Notice was posted on all public notice boards around the Parish. Publicity about the consultation was also posted on the front of the Parish website at the start of and throughout the consultation period and also on the Parish Facebook page. Loan copies of the NDP were made available. Instructions were provided upon on how to submit representations and a response sheet provided for the purpose with hard copies of this available at deposit locations and for downloading from the website.</p> <p>The publication of the Draft Plan for comment was also publicised during the consultation period in The Birches Parish Magazine in both its January and February editions and in the Wormelow Hundred magazine which also covers Much Birch Parish. (The Archive for The Birches News Letter can be reached at <a href="http://littlebirchparishcouncil.org/category/newsletter/">http://littlebirchparishcouncil.org/category/newsletter/</a> )</p>



## Regulation 14 Public Consultation Notice

In accordance with Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Part 5, 14(a)-(c) notice is hereby given that a formal pre-submission **public consultation** on the **Draft Much Birch Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan** will start at **8.00 am. on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019** for a period of 8 weeks ending at **12.00 am. on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

Much Birch Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan has been developed to help deliver the local community's requirements and aspirations for the plan period up to 2031. The Plan has been created through listening to the views of the residents of the Parish.

The Plan will provide a means of guiding, promoting and enabling balanced and sustainable change and growth within the designated area of Much Birch Parish.

Much Birch Parish Council invites comments on the Draft Plan. All responses received will be considered by the Steering Group and the Parish Council to inform a revised version of the Plan. The revised version of the Plan will then be submitted to Herefordshire Council, as the local planning authority, for examination by an independent examiner.

The Draft Plan may be viewed at <http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndp.html> or be emailed to residents on request to [goldsmith509@btinternet.com](mailto:goldsmith509@btinternet.com). Paper copies are also available to inspect at Much Birch Community Hall, Hereford Library; Ross on Wye Library; Pilgrim Hotel; Wormelov Tump Public House; Axe & Cleaver Public House; and The Carrot & Wine Shop at Wormelov during their normal opening hours. Paper copies of the Plan may also be borrowed on request to [cjgrover@waitrose.com](mailto:cjgrover@waitrose.com) or by telephoning 01981 541130.

Details of Residents' Surveys and the other information that has informed the creation of the Plan can be viewed online at: <http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndp.html>

Representations may be posted or hand delivered to Parish Clerk, Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire, HR2 9NE or scanned and emailed to: [muchbirchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:muchbirchclerk@gmail.com)

**All comments must be received by 12.00am. on Tuesday  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Welcome**

**Much Birch's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is now at the Regulation 14 public consultation stage for a period of 8 weeks ending at 12.00 am. on Tuesday 11th February 2020. Further information may be found at [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndp.html](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndp.html)**

The Parish of Much Birch in Herefordshire is located midway between Hereford and Ross-on-Wye. It extends for about 1.5 miles along the A49, a busy trunk road running from the border with South Wales to North West England and comprises the settlements of Kings Thorn, Much Birch and parts of Wormelov.

It is the intention of this website to keep parishioners up-to-date with current events and issues which are going on in the Parish and to act as

**Recent Updates**

- News - Help develop Violetta Szabo Museum - (07/12/19)
- Minutes from the November PC meeting - (05/12/19)
- News - Latest Ward Cllr's report - (05/12/19)
- News - December newsletter - (22/11/19)

**Join our Group on Facebook...**

**Click here...**

**Tweets by @MuchBirchPC**

Much Birch Parish Retweeted  
**Social Fabric** @SocialFabric3  
"Creating a social space where people feel





The following stakeholders were emailed at the start of the consultation period and provided with the links to the NDP, SEA and HRA together with the date by which responses were to be received and to whom responses should be sent.

1. Herefordshire Council
2. Natural England
3. Historic England
4. English Heritage
5. Highways England
6. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
7. The Environment Agency
8. National Trust
9. Wye Valley NHS Trust
10. National Grid
11. RWE Npower Renewables Limited
12. West Mercia Police
13. Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service
14. Marches Local Enterprise Partnership
15. Sport England
16. 2gether NHS Trust
17. Campaign to Protect Rural England
18. Hereford and Worcester Chamber of Commerce

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. Woodland Trust</li> <li>20. Herefordshire Wildlife Trust</li> <li>21. Stonewater Housing Association</li> <li>22. Western Power Distribution</li> <li>23. Homes and Communities Agency</li> <li>24. Herefordshire Housing</li> <li>25. Coal Authority</li> <li>26. Arriva Trains Wales</li> <li>27. Great Western Trains Co. Limited</li> <li>28. Network Rail (West)</li> <li>29. Ward Councillor</li> <li>30. <u>Much Dewchurch Parish Council</u></li> <li>31. <u>Little Birch and Aconbury Parish Council</u></li> <li>32. <u>Llanwarne and District parish Council</u></li> <li>33. Much Birch Women's Institute</li> <li>34. Rambler's Association</li> <li>35. NFU</li> <li>36. Much Birch Community Hall Committee</li> <li>37. Herefordshire Diocese</li> <li>38. Landowners/agents of submitted sites where details were provided (Agents used in first instance where appropriate).</li> </ul>
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<b>30</b>	<b>Post 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>	Representations were received from the 4 individuals within the local community. There were representations from 9 stakeholder organisations. Summaries of the representations received are summarised in Section 3 below.
	<b>Consideration of Representations</b>	The representations were considered by the NDP Steering Group at its meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Parish Council considered the representations received and changes that should be made to the NDP at its meeting on 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020. Its responses to the representations are shown in Section 3 and the consequential changes made as a result are shown in Section 4. At the meeting, the Parish Council approved the NDP with the changes made and for the revised NDP to be forwarded to Herefordshire Council under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations. The minutes of both meetings can be found on the parish Council's website - <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/</a>

**Section 3 to follow**

## **Section 3**

### **Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan**

#### **Schedule 1**

#### **Schedule of Representations in response to Draft Plan, February 2020**

**Much Birch Parish Council considered these representations made upon the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) following consultation with stakeholders undertaken at the Regulation 14 stage at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The schedule below summarises the issues raised by stakeholders and, where relevant, indicates whether and, if so, how the Parish Council considers they should be addressed in the NDP. Schedule 1 is accompanied by Schedule 2 which lists changes that have been agreed.**

## Schedule 1: Community Representations and Response

Respondent Identification Number	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Suggested Changes Parish Council Consideration (In blue)	Response to representation
C.1 R Wilson	Policy MB8 Policies Maps 2, 3, 4 and 5	Question	Will the boundaries of the Policies Maps be fixed until at least 2031, i.e. will no further land outside of these boundaries be released for building?	No change proposed in relation to this representation
			<b>It is not possible to determine this because the NDP must comply with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy, which is being reviewed at the moment and expected to be rolled forward up to 2041. The Core Strategy in turn must comply with Government planning policies which are currently set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Generally, the older the NDP, the less weight it will be given. It will have the strongest weight for a period of 2 years after adoption provided Herefordshire Council meets a number of criteria in terms of delivering new dwellings.</b>	
C.2 M Johnson	Paragraph 3.4	Comment	Continued problems in heavy rain as water is not always drained from A49.	No change proposed in relation to this representation
			<b>The issue of solving existing storm water drainage on the public highway is not a matter that can be considered directly by the NDP. Policy MB5 addresses the issue of storm water associated with new development.</b>	
	Paragraph 3.6	Comment	Use of ground source heat pumps could be an option for heating some houses in Tump Lane.	See Change No 11
			<b>Any proposals requiring planning permission for ground source heat pumps would fall to be considered by policy MB7. In addition, policy MB13 encourages renewable energy sustainability measures and provides photovoltaic panels as an example. Ground source heat pumps might also be given as an example.</b>	
	Policy MB3	Recommend change and support	Point 4 – we should encourage the development of bits of “unused” land as community woods – populated with fruit-bearing trees that can be accessed by the community and are managed by the community. Affirming Pt. 6.	See Change No 8
		<b>This is a useful suggestion and the planting of trees to mitigate for climate change, enhance biodiversity and for landscape purposes represent benefits that might be policy MB3. This highlights recent Government intentions to seek biodiversity net gains through the planning system (in the Environment Bill) rather than simply seeking no net loss in biodiversity, as indicated in criterion 7. The combination of criteria 7 and 8 to take into account the impending change would be beneficial.</b>		
Section 6	Support and recommend change	Development for local housing – agree with the points raised and agree that housing should be mixed, appropriate and low-carbon. It would be good to use natural materials rather than concrete and brick and to have all houses reach “passive house” standard of minimal energy us.	No change proposed in relation to this representation	
		<b>House design is covered by policy MB12 and sustainable design of buildings by policy MB13. Choice of materials can depend upon a number of factors and it would not be appropriate to be too prescriptive. In addition, currently energy conservation requirements for buildings is largely covered by the Building Regulations and attempts to go beyond these without exceptional reasons have not been possible. This may change in the future and policy MB13 should assist planning officers to achieve higher standards should this become a planning matter. There are a range of sustainable building design standards and it would not be appropriate to promote one form.</b>		
Whole Plan	Comment	Thanks to all those who put in the hard work to put this comprehensive plan together!	No change proposed in	
		<b>Noted with thanks</b>		

Respondent Identification Number	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Suggested Changes Parish Council Consideration (In blue)	Response to representation	
				relation to this representation	
C.3 A Dawson	Whole Plan	Comment	I would agree with much in the document, which has been professionally produced.	No change proposed in relation to this representation	
			<b>Noted with thanks</b>		
	Paragraph 2.4	Recommend change	Mention of the Allied Special Forces Association and the Violette Szabo Trail. The focus given to the Violette Szabo Trail over the Herefordshire Trail feels disproportionate. The ASFA hasn't existed since 2017 so it feels odd to mention them at all. The VST itself is not on any maps whereas the HT is and attracts many visitors to Herefordshire. The VST is not on Herefordshire Council's website whereas the HT is. Many of the waymarkers for the VST are now missing – surely the Plan should focus on the Herefordshire Trail as this is a fully adopted route. Rosemary Rigby's name is in bold in the Plan for some reason.	<b>The highlighting in bold of references to Allied Special Forces Association and the Violette Szabo Trail is an error that will be corrected. Both trails pass through the Parish. The basis of NDPs is to address local concerns that might affect planning decisions and reflect local distinctiveness. The Violette Szabo Trail ends the Violet Szabo Museum which is located within the Parish. The connection and history is worthwhile referring to given its strong local connection.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraphs 3.15 and 9.3	Comment and question	As far as I am aware, the Parish already has access to Superfast Broadband. I certainly have it and I know a number of other residents that do. Has coverage recently been reviewed because this whole section seems to not reflect the current reality? If there is an inequity in access across the Parish, this should be highlighted more clearly.	<b>Paragraph 3.15 represents views expressed from local businesspeople responding to surveys undertaken as part of the NDP's preparation. Policy MB20 which follows paragraph 9.3 reflects the fact that both forms of communication are changing and may continue to do so, requiring additional infrastructure to support them. Although much of this does not require planning applications to be made, there may be occasions where this is the case.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
Section 7 (Policy MB14)	Comment	Although mentioned and implied, active travel options that provide safe access to the school are crucial and should be a particular focus. The Plan cites the need to maintain the rural nature of the parish but then highlights the need to create more off road car parking for the primary school. This can only be achieved by building on the countryside and directly contradicts the Parish's aims. Most of the parents that travel to the primary school with their children will be making short journeys. Therefore active travel measures and improved public transport could negate the need for further car parking. The Plan needs to be bolder about whether it is going to continue to increase bandwidth for cars or start to seriously consider alternative measures. This section makes many of the right noises about active travel and public transport, cites concerns about air quality, speed and volumes of traffic but still talks about more car parking spaces, passing places and other car infrastructure improvements without any real alternatives being explored.	<b>Policy MB14, which it is understood to be the subject of the representation, recognises that there will remain a need to provide for cars within the rural community during the plan period, and this is expected to continue through the transition to battery driven vehicles. Promoting walking to school, especially for those for whom it is a short journey, should obviously be encouraged but the need to solve the problem of on-road parking at the Primary school is not simply an issue about providing for the car but for safety, especially children.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation	
	Paragraph 8.1	Comment	This is a good example of the two points above.		



Respondent Identification Number	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Suggested Changes Parish Council Consideration (In blue)	Response to representation
			<p>'Proposals to enhance existing, replace or provide new or additional community facilities and services within the Parish will be supported where. . .'. The plan cites concerns about noise, fumes etc., suggests proposals would be acceptable if traffic levels are not increased, then talks about adequate off road car parking being in place and finally talks about active travel as an afterthought. If we continue to build car infrastructure like parking, people will continue to use their cars and the first two issues will become a reality.</p> <p><b>The promotion of walking and cycling as an alternative to using the car is an objective that needs to be pursued but there needs to be recognition that provision for car parking at local facilities and services serving rural communities will remain a factor. Such parking will continue to be needed when all vehicles are powered by batteries in order to protect amenity and for safety on the highway.</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraph 8.3 (Policy MB17)	Comment	<p>Use of Section 106 and CIL. Considering that this Plan has no intention of identifying further land for development other than those that have already received planning permission, stating that the Parish will seek contributions from S106 and CIL seems rather pointless. The developments that are cited in the Plan are also so small-scale that they will yield very little in terms of S106 and CIL contributions. The Plan goes on to state that Herefordshire Council intends to introduce a CIL scheme – please can a reference or evidence be provided as I do not believe this to be the case and that it is a future ambition at the very best and certainly not worthy of reference in a serious planning document. This whole section of the document feels like a cut and paste from another parish plan that perhaps has major housing developments in the pipeline.</p> <p><b>Although the NDP does not currently propose any new sites, this is not to say that circumstances are such that additional development may not arise during the plan period, especially as Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy is currently being reviewed. It is understood this may also review the current limit of set under which S106 monies will not be sought. In addition, the proposed housing sites might be delayed such that further planning applications will be made upon their sites. Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy Policy ID1 refers to both S106 and CIL and NDP policy MB17 is consistent with that. Herefordshire Council has not indicated that this policy has been withdrawn or that a CIL scheme is no longer being considered within its consultation response. The opportunity for the Parish to obtain funding for local services should not be missed. Although the policy and its justification is similar to that in other NDPs, this shows that its form has previously met the Basic Conditions requirement. One of the benefits advanced to Parishes for the preparation of NDPs was that they would receive a higher proportion of CIL payments.</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Omission	Comment	<p>There appears to be no mention of climate change and its effects in the Plan. Surely a Plan looking so far ahead should consider this and the effect it will have on the Parish? The plan already feels somewhat dated with its focus on car ownership and parking when this issue is likely to change significantly in future years.</p> <p><b>Although climate change is not explicitly mentioned a number of policies within the NDP address issues related to its mitigation. These include MB1; MB7; MB13 and MB14. Other policies refer to biodiversity measures which are inextricably linked to climate change and ecological emergency. As already referred to the issue of car ownership in a rural area is not a simple one to address and the change will be influenced by the move away from oil based to battery-based vehicles. There will no doubt be many new and innovative measures developed in the short, medium and long term and the approach taken has been to enable these through positively framed policies.</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
C.4 L Hughes	Paragraph 3.4	Comment	Very relevant. We do worry about the standing water problems evident now towards bottom end of Tump Lane, and that's before the housing development.	No change proposed in

Respondent Identification Number	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Suggested Changes Parish Council Consideration (In blue)	Response to representation
			<b>Policy MB5 sets out the policy that would be relevant to addressing storm water flooding arising from development. It is assumed that Herefordshire Council will have considered this matter for the site off Tump Lane that has planning permission. Should any further applications be received on this site after the adoption of this NDP, either because the permission has not been implemented during the required timescale of because of amendments, then policy MB5 would be applicable</b>	relation to this representation
	Paragraph 3.6	Comment	Fully support the promotion of harnessing energy through natural resources. Young families living in area need incentives to use solar panels due to the cost of implementing it and the fact that you have to be planning on remaining at your home for a given time to 'reap the benefits' financially. <b>This community aspiration is effected through NDP policy MB7 and this representation is taken as support for that policy. Any policy on financial incentives are outside of the scope of the NDP</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraph 3.13	Comment	Absolutely yes to the playing field. While the millennium field is a great space, it isn't able to be used as a football/playing field. This would be a welcome addition. The surgery and surrounding parking is not physically big enough to meet the needs of the population currently, so with the planned housing developments, serious thought needs to go into this. I'm unaware of where this responsibility lies? With the developers or the Surgery as an organisation or the local CCG? <b>There are no specific proposals in the NDP to meet the community aspirations described in this paragraph although should they be brought forward, policy MB16 would enable there provision subject to the criteria listed which aim tom provide protection for the environment and safety. Policy MB17 might assist in seeking contributions towards appropriate measures if and when further developments come forward and the relevant funding mechanisms are put in p[lace by Herefordshire Council. Until such a time as the relevant bodies/organisations indicate their ability to deliver such facilities, it is not possible to include specific proposals in the NDP. Consequently, the enabling policy is advanced so that if the situation changes during the plan period, an appropriate response can be given.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraph 3.18	Comment	Very sensible approach to support option one, if the parish has already reached its target then definitely worth stopping at that (going back to the issue of local services like the surgery not being big enough already) <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraph 6.13	Seeks clarification	I find myself confused at the actual total number of houses due to be built in the court farm development... is the total number 34? 18+4+12? If it is 34 then I have massive concerns re parking and also the sustainability of the small lane from the A49 and how that lane will cope with the massive influx of traffic which that number of houses will bring. Also concern re the numbers of patients then joining the surgery at its current physical size.... (Not your issue I know, as this has already been given planning permission but worth noting perhaps) But how then is the total number of new developments in row 5 of 6.17 table only 41? <b>The total number of houses proposed in the two planning applications at Court Farm is 22 although one pair of semi-detached dwellings is to be demolished to be replaced by two pairs of semi-detached dwellings, making a net gain of 20 dwellings. Hence it is not 34 dwellings. It is possible that the figure of 12, which refers to the number of 4 bedroomed dwellings within the 20, has been misinterpreted. The ability for the lane to accommodate the proposed level of development will have been assessed as part of the planning applications. It is understood provision has been made within one of the planning applications to increase parking for the surgery/community hall. The bodies responsible for providing health facilities will have been consulted on the levels of growth across the County and advised should there have been any issues that would suggest a different housing development strategy.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation

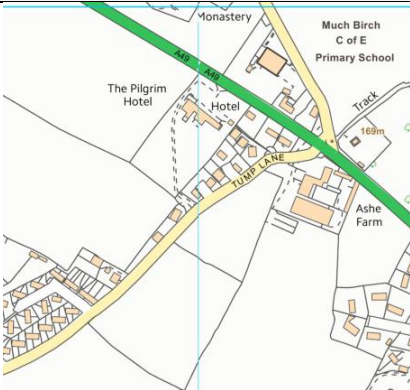
Respondent Identification Number	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Suggested Changes Parish Council Consideration (In blue)	Response to representation
	Whole Plan	Support	<p>An extremely informative and positive plan for which the community should be very grateful for. I will be giving it my full support at referendum.</p> <p><b>Noted with thanks</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation

## Schedule 2: Stakeholder Representations and Response

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
S.1 Herefordshire Council (Statutory Consultee)	General Comment	Comment	<p>Environmental Health section advise: Developments such as hospitals, homes and schools may be considered ‘sensitive’ and as such consideration should be given to risk from contamination notwithstanding any comments. Please note that the above does not constitute a detailed investigation or desk study to consider risk from contamination. Should any information about the former uses of the proposed development areas be available I would recommend they be submitted for consideration as they may change the comments provided. It should be recognised that contamination is a material planning consideration and is referred to within the NPPF. I would recommend applicants and those involved in the parish plan refer to the pertinent parts of the NPPF and be familiar with the requirements and meanings given when considering risk from contamination during development. Finally, it is also worth bearing in mind that the NPPF makes clear that the developer and/or landowner is responsible for securing safe development where a site is affected by contamination.</p> <p><b>Provision to ensure contaminated land is considered in accordance with this advice for housing sites is included within policy MB13. The only proposals for development within the NDP relate to housing sites. Planning applications for non-housing proposals will need to comply with policies within this NDP and also Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Contaminated land is covered in Core Strategy policy SD1.</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraph 3.10	Comment	<p>Roads and Traffic. Sites should assess the impact of the development on the highway.</p> <p><b>This paragraph describes highway related issues identified for the Parish, especially those raised by the local community. The approach to assessing the effects of development proposals on the highway is set out later in the NDP through criteria listed in policy MB15.</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Paragraph 3.12	Comment	<p>Roads and Traffic. Please see Herefordshire design guide for information regarding development.</p> <p><b>Again, this paragraph describes issues considered relevant to the local community and is not a description of measures to address these. Herefordshire Council’s guidance is referred to in policy MB15.</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Objective 3 Traffic and Roads	Recommend change	<p>HC Design guide, Manual for Streets 1 and 2, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). The parish in its options section has stated there is support for a cycling and a cycle route to Ross in 3.10, p11 above, there should therefore be a mention of cyclists in this para: and to reduce the need to travel by car, in order to make roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists within the Parish.</p> <p><b>The suggested change is helpful</b></p>	See Change No 4
	Policy MB1	Recommend change	<p>In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. This policy should clarify what is meant by the most appropriate locations? Specify where, is it in the identified settlements? You should clarify and strengthen this policy, it lacks clarity of where proportionate growth should go it is within or adjacent to the identified settlement boundaries? Where is the otherwise sustainable locations and previously developed land? If you intend for these areas to be developed, I would include these in the settlement boundary. I suggest this policy should be re structured, with paragraphs related to each development type mentioned, so the policy is clear to read and implement. Clearer indication between the</p>	See Change No 5

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
			<p>settlement boundary maps and explanation of the settlement boundaries within this policy. It may help to insert settlement boundary maps below the policy, so it is easy to use when using this as a policy document.</p> <p>Para 3. No mention of supporting developments that include measures that encourage active travel.</p> <p><b>Conformity noted. The lack of clarity about appropriate locations is accepted and a change proposed to cross-refer to policy MB2 which sets out the strategy for this. It is also acknowledged that the policy would benefit from reference to the minimum level of proportional housing growth. Policy MB2 indicates where it is intended that development should be located. Policy MB1 is intended to cover all the elements included in sustainable development and not just housing. The references to development boundary maps is more appropriate where specific policies referring to these occurs. It is understood that Herefordshire Council will produce separate free-standing policies maps for the settlements and parish within its house style at the next formal stage. A reference to active travel would benefit the policy</b></p>	
	Policy MB2	Recommend change	<p>Conformity unclear. There needs to be some clarity here with regard to development outside the settlements. Development outside of settlements- not in or adjacent to any settlement boundary- would need to comply with the criteria of CS policies RA3, and RA4/RA5 where applicable. It needs to be clear what is meant by “their development boundaries” and “otherwise sustainable locations”.</p> <p><b>It is accepted that the policy could be improved to make the distinction clearer between development in accordance with Core Strategy policy RA2 for the named settlements and the exceptions that can take place outside of these under Core Strategy RA3. It is considered that there should be greater flexibility for development on brownfield sites, but again this should be made clearer in accordance with Core Strategy policy RA2(3) and NPPF paragraph 118(c) taking into account that the former refers to development ‘in or adjacent to’ settlements.</b></p>	See Changes No 6 and 7
	Policy MB3	Recommend change	<p>In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Criterion 5- “important views” is quite a subjective term. Have these key views been specifically defined, with some evidence that they are demonstrably special to residents? Para 2-Landscape settings of the settlements...is this talking about the natural landscape surrounding the parish or the built landscape, i.e historic settlement pattern? Point 5-Protecting important views. Views should be identifiable and measurable, it would help to specify where and what views are important, have these important been listed and mapped?</p> <p><b>Conformity Noted. The policy sets out those requirements that developers and the LPA should consider when devising/assessing development proposals. In relation to point 2, landscape setting incorporates all aspects of the landscape including the natural elements, any historic qualities and built form. These are defined largely within paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4. However, given the response, further explanation may benefit the NDP. In relation to point 5, views have not been identified and the policy requirement is for this to be done by those promoting development as part of the assessment process informing their proposals. This not an unusual requirement.</b></p>	See Change No 9
	Policy MB4	Comment	<p>In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB5		In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy	

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
			<b>Noted</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB6	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB7	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB8	Recommend change	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. The site in Wormelow - why is this section of development not included within a boundary? It is a clear cluster of development. This policy could be worded more clearly, to suggest what happens to land outside the settlement boundary. Change development boundary to settlement boundary.  <b>Conformity noted. Paragraph 6.8 describes how the settlement boundary for Wormelow was defined. The area including the former Council estate was never previously shown within a settlement boundary for Wormelow (see the report on meeting housing need at <a href="http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Meeting-Housing-Need-and-Site-Assessment-Report-3rd-Oct.pdf">http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/pdfs/Meeting-Housing-Need-and-Site-Assessment-Report-3rd-Oct.pdf</a> ).</b>  <b>The ‘cluster’ suggested for inclusion as part of the Wormelow development boundary existed, albeit without the area now granted planning permission, when the previous settlement boundary for that village was defined. It was specifically excluded. Rather than a connection to Wormelow, it adjoins a concentration of development at the northern end of Tump Lane where you also find the Pilgrim Hotel and Much Birch Primary School (see map below). To define a boundary in this vicinity would need to consider the built-up frontage along both Tump Lane and on the A49 as a consequence. This would create the potential for further significant ribbon development along Tump Lane or even development in depth, which would need to consider safety at the cross roads junction with the trunk road and significantly alter the character of the Lane and settlement pattern. There are a number of similar areas within the Parish and the approach suggested would set an unfortunate precedent for even further sprawling ribbon development with consequent loss of character for and definition between settlements. Residents were specifically asked whether to define a settlement boundary for the ‘cluster’ and area extending up to the Primary school at the consultation event in March 2019 and 97% of those attending opposed this.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comment</b> <b>Parish Council Consideration (in blue)</b></p>	Response to representation
			<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eastern End of Tump Lane showing connection between the ‘Cluster’ and development around the cross-roads on the A49.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">© Crown copyright and database rights (2017) Ordnance Survey (100054755)</p> <p><b>The term development boundary is used because only a portion of the settlement is defined within this, the remaining part being outside of the Parish and cannot be covered within this NDP. Similarly the settlement of Kings Thorn has traditionally been divided into two areas and also extends into a neighbouring parish while the settlement of Much Birch is divided into two parts. Hence to use the term settlement boundary would be incorrect. Core Strategy paragraph 4.8.23 indicates that reasonable alternatives to settlement boundaries can be used. Other adopted NDPs use the term ‘development boundary’.</b></p>	
	Policy MB9	Recommend change	<p>In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy.</p> <p>Site reference No 1 (Land at former Mushroom Farm, The Cleaver) Regarding former agricultural building conversions Environmental Health section would add the following: Some farm buildings may be used for the storage of potentially contaminative substances (oils, herbicides, pesticides) or for the maintenance and repair of vehicles and machinery. As such it is possible that unforeseen contamination may be present on the site. Consideration should be given to the possibility of encountering contamination on the site as a result of its former uses and specialist advice be sought should any be encountered during the development. Regarding sites with a historic agricultural use, I would also mention that agricultural practices such as uncontrolled burial of wastes or excessive pesticide or herbicide application may be thought of as potentially contaminative and any development should consider this.</p> <p>Site reference No 2 – Environmental Health section does have some concerns in terms of noise, dust, odours or general nuisance to residential occupants with regard to the proposal for the settlement area in Figure 2 (presume Map 2 - site at Court farm) at Much Birch as it proposes to bring the dwelling houses closer to the intensive poultry sites and the amenity</p>	In relation to comments on site 3 see Change No 6. No change proposed in relation to the other representations

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comment</b> <b>Parish Council Consideration (in blue)</b></p>	Response to representation
			<p>of these future occupants could be adversely impacted. We would recommend that this site is given further assessment and consideration from this perspective. Regarding former agricultural building conversions, would add the following: Some farm buildings may be used for the storage of potentially contaminative substances (oils, herbicides, pesticides) or for the maintenance and repair of vehicles and machinery. As such it is possible that unforeseen contamination may be present on the site. Consideration should be given to the possibility of encountering contamination on the site as a result of its former uses and specialist advice be sought should any be encountered during the development. Regarding sites with a historic agricultural use, I would also mention that agricultural practices such as uncontrolled burial of wastes or excessive pesticide or herbicide application may be thought of as potentially contaminative and any development should consider this.</p> <p>Site reference No 3 - The site in Wormelow - why is this section of development not included within a boundary? It is a clear cluster of development. This policy could be worded more clearly, to suggest what happens to land outside the settlement boundary. Change development boundary to settlement boundary.</p> <p><b>Conformity noted. In relation to land at former Mushroom Farm, The Cleaver (site 1), this already has planning permission so the matter will have been considered. Should a further application be made upon this site, contaminated land would again need to be considered in accordance with policy MB13(5). In relation to site 2, again this has received planning permission so the issues raised will have been considered and development been found acceptable in terms of residential amenity and effects of pollution. Similarly, the issue of contaminated land will have been considered. Policies MB12 (7) and MB13(5) will be relevant to ensure appropriate mitigation measures and utilised. Site 3 is not in Wormelow but a location outside of the settlement. There are other locations similar to this both within the Parish and elsewhere in the County. Residents opposed the designation of further development boundaries when asked during a consultation event. Within this Parish these include concentrations of dwellings further to the east along Tump Lane including the village school and Pilgrim Hotel; and at Bigglestone. To continue to expand boundaries as suggested would set an unfortunate precedent for extensive ribbon development and the loss of character for settlements within the Parish. There are examples of locations throughout the County that have been considered sustainable locations for new dwellings within the terms of the NPPF but not defined as settlements.</b></p> <p><b>The term development boundary is used because only a portion of the settlement is defined within this, the remaining part being outside of the Parish and cannot be covered within this NDP. Similarly, the settlement of Kings Thorn has traditionally been divided into two areas and also extends into a neighbouring parish while the settlement of Much Birch is divided into two parts. Hence to use the term settlement boundary would be incorrect. Core Strategy paragraph 4.8.23 indicates that reasonable alternatives to settlement boundaries can be used. Other adopted NDPs use the term 'development boundary'.</b></p> <p><b>A change has been proposed to policy MB2 to cover development outside of development boundaries.</b></p>	
	Policy MB10	Comment	<p>In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b></p>	No change proposed in relation to this representation



Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
	Policy MB11	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB12	Recommends change	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Criterion 1- Are there any particular locally distinctive features or characteristics defined, or can be referred to in a Village Design Statement? <b>Conformity noted. There are few dominant architectural design features that have been identified while there is variation between and within particular parts of the settlements. Scale and mass are particularly relevant. The policy contains a range of elements that are considered most relevant.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB13	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Para 3. eg: shared use facilities support all measures that encourage active travel. <b>Conformity noted. The comment about shared facilities is noted and to a certain extent the proximity of the Parish church, surgery, community hall, Primary School and Pilgrim Hotel help to centralise many of those facilities that the Parish is able to support. The policy aims to enhance connectivity, especially for those experiencing access difficulties.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Section 7 Title	Recommends change	Sustainable Transport also included public buses. This should say 'Promoting Active Travel' <b>The section does not only cover Active Travel which is why the wider term is used.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB14	Recommends change	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Not a conformity issue as such, but some of these criteria may be difficult to enforce through a land use development plan. Some of the criteria mentioned within this policy Some of the criteria mentioned within these two policies will be hard to implement in the NDP, as these are not land use and fall under highways legislation.  Why just single out A49 to Ross-on-Wye? Hereford is nearer, and there are nearer local shops at Wormelow and Tram Inn. There are also alternatives to Ross other than via the A49. This could be more usefully written as: " <u>seeking additional footpaths and cycle routes to local amenities and employment centres, including along the A49</u> "; This should be rewritten to say 'promoting more attractive and better integrated walking, cycling and <del>the use of public/community transport use</del> ' There is a community transport scheme covering this area. <b>Conformity Noted. The measures indicated in this policy for discussion with Herefordshire Council, Highways England and developers are similar to those included in other NDPs and found to meet the Basic Conditions. They are also similar in nature but more specific to those listed in Core Strategy Policy SS4. It is noted that comments from the Council's Transportation and Highways Section recognise their importance. The advice from that section in relation to walking and cycling links are helpful although it should be noted that the link to Ross is a specific ambition of the Parish Council and informed the NDP (see NDP paragraph 3.10). Hence changes that reflect this advice but retain the Parish Council's expressed aspiration are proposed.</b>	See Changes Nos 12 and 13
	Policy MB15	Recommends change	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Some of the criteria mentioned within this policy will be hard to implement in the NDP, as these are not land use and fall under highways legislation. <b>Conformity noted. It is accepted that the policy cannot address speed of vehicles, which is a matter for highways legislation.</b>	See Change No 14
	Paragraph 7.6	Comment	Sites should assess the impact of the development on the highways network. Depending on the size of the development.	

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
			<b>The paragraph is the supporting statement for policy MB15 which contains the detailed highway policy criteria against which development should be assessed.</b>	No change proposed in relation to this representation
	Policy MB16	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
	Policy MB17	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
	Policy MB18	Recommends change	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Suggest minor re-wording on criterion 8- "Not Generate traffic within the capacity of the local highway network, that adversely affects the amenity..."  This should include domestic and businesses. Businesses should look to provide changing facilities, lockers and safe cycle storage. Worth reiterating here that new business should include measures that encourage active travel (as per MB16 para 4).  <b>Conformity noted. The suggested change to criterion 8 attempts to remove the double negative but in itself could cause some confusion. However, the reference to 'within the capacity of the local highway network is unnecessary. The reference to 'include domestic and business' is uncertain. The policy cannot refer to changing facilities and lockers but might usefully refer to encouraging active travel.</b>	See Change No 15
	Policy MB19	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
	Policy MB20	Comment	In General Conformity with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy <b>Noted</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S2 Welsh Water Dwr Cymru (Statutory Consultee)	Whole plan	Support and comment	DCWW are supportive of the aims, objectives and policies set out. Only part of the Parish Council area is served by the public sewerage system namely the settlements of Much Birch and Wormelow, with the remainder of the Parish Council area requiring private sewage treatment.  <b>Noted with thanks</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
	Policy MB9	Comment	With regard to the three particular proposed allocations as outlined in the Plan we note that each currently has extant planning consent with only one of the three sites proposing to connect to the public sewerage network, namely 'Land off Tump Lane'. As you will be aware, as part of the planning consultation process, we raised no concern with regard to the disposal of public sewerage from this site.  <b>Noted with thanks</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S3 Historic England	Whole Plan	Support	Historic England has no adverse comments to make upon the draft plan which we feel takes a suitably proportionate approach to the main historic environment issues pertaining to Much Birch. We are pleased to note that the Plan evidence base is generally well informed by reference to the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record including the Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment and we are supportive of both the content of the document and the	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
(Statutory Consultee)			vision and objectives set out in it. We commend the general emphasis given to the maintenance of local distinctiveness and the conservation of landscape character, building upon the findings of the Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment and also the recognition afforded to locally important heritage assets. The commitment to support well designed locally distinctive development that is sympathetic to the character of the area including its rural landscape character, views and green spaces is equally commendable. The recognition of the importance of Historic Farmsteads being sustainably and sensitively converted and of the need to take account of archaeological remains is also welcomed. <b>Noted with thanks</b>	
S4 Natural England (Statutory Consultee)	NDP, SEA and HRA	N/A	No comments received. <b>Assume NE has no objections to the NDP and its supporting SEA and HRA.</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S.5 Environment Agency (Statutory Consultee)	Whole Plan	Comment	As part of the adopted Herefordshire Council Core Strategy updates were made to both the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Strategy (WCS). This evidence base ensured that the proposed development in Hereford City, and other strategic sites (Market Towns), was viable and achievable. The updated evidence base did not extend to Rural Parishes at the NP level so it is important that these subsequent plans offer robust confirmation that development is not impacted by flooding and that there is sufficient waste water infrastructure in place to accommodate growth for the duration of the plan period.  It should be noted that the Flood Map provides an indication of 'fluvial' flood risk only. You are advised to discuss matters relating to surface water (pluvial) flooding with your drainage team as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). <b>Comments noted. The advice does not affect the identification of the sites proposed as housing allocations, which have themselves been subject to individual advice through planning applications. Subsequent planning applications for sites amounting to infill development would be subject to policies within this NDP (particularly policy MB5) and Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (particularly SD3 and SD4). Herefordshire Council, who is understood to be the LLFA, was consulted on the draft NDP, and has not commented on this matter. Grateful for the advice that all the sites are located outside of SPZ1. This arose from a precautionary interpretation of the broad definition of the areas presented on the Environment Agency's website.</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
	Policy MB9	Comment	In the absence of specific sites allocated within areas of fluvial flooding, offer no bespoke comment at this time. It is noted that you have utilised our guidance and pro-forma which should assist you moving forward with your Plan. <b>Noted with thanks</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S.6 Highways Agency (Statutory Consultee)	Section 6: Housing	Comment	In relation to the Much Birch NDP, Highways England's principal interest is in safeguarding the A49 which routes through the plan area. It is also acknowledged Much Birch NDP identified that c. 72 dwellings had either already been built or granted planning permission within the plan period. Therefore, the minimum level of proportional housing growth within the area has already been met and exceeded. Nonetheless, small sites of up to four dwellings might come forward as infill within the defined development boundaries. This is deemed reasonable as the traffic impact generated by development of this scale (max four dwellings) on the A49 will be minimal. However, other aspects such as access	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	Comment Parish Council Consideration (in blue)	Response to representation
			junction designs, road safety and other environmental impacts should also be considered. We would request that Highways England be consulted at the pre-application stage for each development proposal. <b>Advice noted. Herefordshire Council will be responsible for consulting Highways England upon any planning application that affects the aspects referred to in the representation.</b>	
	Policy MB14	Support	Consider the policy statement ' <i>Much Birch Parish Council, on behalf of the local community, will work with Herefordshire Council, Highways England and developers to bring forward improvements to benefit pedestrian and cycle safety, endeavour to ensure safer access to local amenities, increase transport choices and reduce the impact of vehicles resulting from development upon its residents</i> ' to be a suitable approach in addressing highway issues. <b>Noted with thanks</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
	Policy MB15	Support	Consider the policy statement ' <i>new accesses on the A49 should be avoided</i> ' and that ' <i>proposals should not lead to a significant increase in speed or volume of traffic travelling on roads that do not have sufficient capacity</i> ' to be a suitable approach in addressing highway issues. <b>Noted with thanks</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S.7 English Heritage	Whole Plan	No Comment	Directed to Historic England <b>Noted with thanks. Historic England was consulted as a statutory consultee.</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S.8 Coal Authority	Whole Plan	Comment	Confirms that we have no specific comments to make on it. <b>Noted with thanks</b>	No change proposed as a consequence of this representation
S.9 National Farmers' Union	Whole Plan	Recommends change	(Relevant extracts) Any form of Neighbourhood Plan must adequately (address) the issues and opportunities for farming. Our vision for the area is:  <i>"Much Birch is a sustainable rural community that is underpinned by an innovative rural economy, and thriving farming and food industry, which is profitable and supports viable livelihoods, underpins sustainable and healthier communities and enhances the environmental assets that are vital to the counties prosperity."</i>  We would see some of the key priorities for farms to include (not in order of priority): 1. The ability for the next generation to take on management of farms and to support this through the provision of affordable housing to allow succession. 2. Develop farming enterprises that can meet the challenges of food security through modernising and becoming more efficient 3. Diversifying farming enterprises to meet new opportunities such as, inter alia, business units or tourism. 4. Developing renewable energy which meets the needs of the farm and are appropriate to the location and renewable resources available. 5. Access to high speed broadband and mobile phone coverage.	See Change No 10 in relation to renewable Energy. No changes proposed in relation to other matters which are considered to be covered to the extent that a NDP is able to do so.

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comment</b> <b>Parish Council Consideration (in blue)</b></p>	Response to representation
			<p>Farmers have had to consider the resources available to them and look at new ways of developing their businesses so that they can grow and remain competitive. This might include the need for modern agricultural buildings either to meet regulations or to change the use of existing buildings in order to respond to changing market demand.</p> <p>Much Birch neighbourhood plan has the opportunity to help support farms diversify and create new employment and income opportunities for the area. These will range from the provision of business units through to farm shops.</p> <p>Some of our members will be looking to erect wind turbines for electricity to be used on farm at a very small scale. We ask that you consider the issue of scale and how you can support our farmers.</p> <p>Succession within farming businesses is often critical to their ongoing sustainability. This will often require the need for additional housing to enable the next generation to take over the farming enterprise and to allow the current generation to take a less involved role. We ask that the neighbourhood plan supports farms to build new housing.</p> <p>To help guide any work we have developed some principles which we believe will help Much Birch shape any activity in the area. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security is a crucial issue for now and the future and any actions must ensure that we do not compromise our ability to feed ourselves</li> <li>• We should look to increase farm productivity and decrease impact on the environment.</li> <li>• The achievement of sustainable development in rural areas through the integration of environmental, social and economic objectives.</li> <li>• Meet the needs of a diverse rural population and ensure equality of opportunity.</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance the areas natural asset base.</li> <li>• Farmers and landowners should always be consulted and listened to with regard to developing the area.</li> <li>• Support sustainable growth in the rural economy.</li> <li>• Sustainable farming will support the wider community.</li> <li>• Not one system of farming is the answer and all should be supported for maximum benefit to society and the environment</li> <li>• Encourage links between rural areas and urban centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advice upon the aims that the NFU would like to see in the NDP is appreciated and the vision for farming, diversification and rural enterprise is supported. The key priorities advocated are also noted:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Affordable housing for succession – the NDP must comply with national and Core Strategy policy and these set out the exceptions for housing in rural areas. The NDP acknowledges these as a consequence of a proposed change requested by Herefordshire Council. Policy MB11 includes those who work or who are coming to work within the Parish as a local housing need qualifying for residence within any affordable housing scheme.</b></li> <li><b>2. Rural enterprises and diversification – Policy MB18 cover development that supports these activities subject to a limited number of criteria which are considered appropriate to a rural area. Much agricultural development is granted planning permission through development orders while that required for modern agricultural practices</b></li> </ol>	

Stakeholder	Section/ Policy Number	Support/ Object/ Comment/Recommend change/etc.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comment</b> Parish Council Consideration (in blue)</p>	Response to representation
			<p>would in most instances be judged against environmental and highway policies. Policy MB18 supports the development of business units of an appropriate scale and the conversion of rural buildings to a range of business and tourism uses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Renewable energy – this is covered by policy MB7 although reference to serving the needs of local businesses might be included. The issue of scale is considered within this policy and specific reference is made to wind turbines.</li> <li>4. Broadband and mobile phone coverage – this is covered by policy MB20</li> </ol> <p>Nothing within the NDP explicitly restricts any form of farming or seeks to reduce its efficiency. Provisions seek to safeguard the environment in line with national and County policy. The NDP seeks to accommodate development for housing, other social facilities and business flexibly but in ways that protect the Parish’s natural assets. Consultation arrangements on the NDP have been extensive. Herefordshire Council is responsible for consultations on individual planning applications.</p>	

## **Section 4**

### **Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan**

#### **Schedule 2**

**Schedule of Changes made in response to comments received upon the Regulation 14 Draft Plan and matters arising since the commencement of the consultation period.**

**February 2020**

**(NB minor typographical and grammatical changes are not listed)**

## Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan Changes to Draft Plan Following Regulation 14

Change Ref No	Draft Plan Section/reference	Proposed Change	Reason
1	Plan Title page	Amend to read ' <b>Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011– 2031 <u>Submission Draft – (with the appropriate date when approved by the Parish Council)</u></b>	To indicate the period covered by the plan.
2	Footer	Amend to read: ' <b>Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011 - 2031 <u>Submission Draft – (with the appropriate date when approved by the Parish Council)</u></b> '	To reflect the updated version.
3	Figure 1 page 5	Replace figure with one that shows the stage the plan will have reached when next published	To update the figure.
4	Paragraph 4.2 (objective 3)	Amend to read:  To address community concerns about the amount and speed of traffic; to ensure traffic generated by development can be accommodated successfully; to promote measures to support sustainable transport; and to reduce the need to travel by car, in order to make roads safer for pedestrians, <u>cyclists</u> and motorists within the Parish.	In response to advice from Herefordshire Council
5	Policy MB1	Amend to read:  <b>Positive measures that promote sustainable development within Much Birch Parish will be supported where they meet the objectives and policies set out in this NDP. Where development proposals are advanced, they should address the following high-level priorities that are considered essential by the local community for maintaining sustainable development within the Parish:</b>  1. <b>The highest priority will be given to protecting and enhancing the landscape, natural environment and cultural heritage of the Parish, enabling its quiet enjoyment, having regard to the quality of life of those who live and work within them.</b>  2. <b>New housing shall meet the needs of the community through providing <u>a minimum of 57 dwellings within the plan period</u>; a range of accommodation in locations defined in <u>policy MB2</u>; affordable housing where it has reasonable access to a range of services and facilities <u>and</u> in scale with the area concerned; promoting energy efficiency and good design; and ensuring high standards of residential <u>amenity</u>.</b>	In response to advice and concerns by Herefordshire Council



		<p>3. New development should have safe access; its adverse effects on the highway network minimised; and pedestrian safety and that of other road users ensured. Improvements or other measures will be sought, <u>especially those that encourage active travel.</u></p> <p>4. Community facilities and services should be retained and enhanced where possible including through measures that will assist their viability and contributions so that pressures resulting from growth are accommodated satisfactorily.</p> <p>5. Local employment opportunities through diversification, tourism, working from home, and activities that reflect a rural scale will be supported.</p> <p>Benefits will be sought in relation to the priorities set out in this policy where compensatory or mitigation measures are needed as part of any proposal.</p>	
6	Policy MB2	<p>Amend to read:</p> <p><b>The historical settlements of Much Birch, King’s Thorn, Wormelow and The Cleaver will be the focus for housing during the Plan period <u>through defining development boundaries and allocating housing sites. Outside of these boundaries, housing development should comply with Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy policy RA3 although new dwellings may be permitted on previously developed land, i.e. brownfield sites, adjacent to these boundaries.</u> Community facilities within the Parish will also be located in <u>or adjacent to</u> these settlements where a need is identified. Small scale employment opportunities will continue to be supported both within and outside of the settlements provided they are of an appropriate scale and especially where they use ‘Brownfield’ sites. The conversion of rural buildings will also contribute to meeting the employment and housing requirements.</b></p>	In response to advice and concerns by Herefordshire Council
7	Paragraph 4.9	<p>Amend to read:</p> <p>The approach to accommodating sustainable development within Much Birch Parish reflects Herefordshire Core Strategy Policies RA1 to RA6, and in particular Policy RA2. The emphasis provided through Policy RA2 is to promote housing within those settlements defined within tables 4.14 and 4.15 of the Core Strategy which for Much Birch Parish comprise Much Birch village, King’s Thorn, Wormelow and The Cleaver. <u>Policies MB8 and MB9 define development boundaries and allocate housing sites respectively.</u> The majority of residents within the Parish support the defining of boundaries for its settlement (64% in favour and 19% opposed) and these will identify those areas considered to be within or adjacent to the main built-up areas of these settlements.</p>	To add further advice in support of the change above.

8	Policy MB3	Combine criteria 7 and 8 into one and renumber no 9  <b>7. Ensuring there is a net gain in biodiversity, and the loss of any wildlife features, where absolutely necessary, shall be offset through full compensatory measures. These might include bird and bat boxes, new hedgerow planting, tree and orchard planting and wildflower meadows, among others.</b>	To reflect changes that will require net gains.
9	Paragraph 5.3	Add a new sentence after the first sentence of the paragraph:  <u>Proposals for development in the vicinity of the Parish's settlements should be informed by an assessment of their impact upon the natural and historic landscape, and their features including vegetation, topography and built-form.</u>	To clarify landscape setting of settlements following representations by Herefordshire Council
10	Policy MB7	Amend second paragraph to read:  <b>Small scale renewable or low carbon energy proposals that will benefit the community or the needs of local businesses will also be encouraged but they should ensure:</b>	To respond to positively to representations by the NFU
11	Policy MB13	Amend criterion 1 to read:  <b>1. utilising physical sustainability measures associated with buildings that include orientation of buildings, the provision of energy and water conservation measures, storage for bicycles and for waste including provision for recycling, broadband infrastructure, and renewable energy infrastructure such as ground source heat pumps or photovoltaic panels where these do not detract from any historic fabric or settings;</b>	To respond to positively to representations
12	Policy MB14	Amend criteria 6 and 9 to read:  <b>6. seeking additional footpaths and cycleways to local amenities, service and centres of employment including along the A49 to Ross-on-Wye;</b>  <b>9. promoting more attractive and better integrated walking, cycling and public/community transport use.</b>	To respond to positively to representations by Herefordshire Council
13	Paragraph 7.5	Add new sentence at end of paragraph:  <u>There is, however, a community transport scheme covering this area.</u>	To respond to positively to representations by

			Herefordshire Council
14	Policy MB15	In criterion 4, delete 'speed of'	This is not something that can be covered by a NDP but a matter falling under the Highways Act as advised by Herefordshire Council
15	Policy MB18	Amend criterion 8 to read:  <b>8. <u>Not generate traffic that adversely affect the amenity of residents or require the loss of important landscape features.</u></b>  Add new criterion 9:  <b><u>9. Include measures that encourage active travel.</u></b>	To respond to positively to representations by Herefordshire Council
16	Maps 2 to 5	Replace all policies maps with those prepared by Herefordshire Council in its house style	To be consistent with Herefordshire Core Strategy Policies map and policies maps in other NDPs