

Report of the Open Event on 10-11 January 2015

Marden Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015-2031

The Open Event was held on two days to get residents' views on 2 specific issues. As previous consultations had elicited a low response, it was important that this event was well attended. To this end the Steering Group hand-delivered a flyer to almost every household in the parish.

The turnout over the 2 days totalled 216 individuals out of 1090 on the 2014 electoral register, a response rate of 19.8%. 141 households were represented out of 611 households on the most recent list available, 23.0% response.

There were 198 response forms returned by people who attended the event, and of these 137 not only answered the questions but also made comments. Therefore the Steering Group believe that this consultation provided good community engagement. Of the 198 response forms returned, not everyone answered the first question about the Vision, Objectives and Policies. 5 residents did not rank the sites at all, 2 stating there should be no development. In some cases only some of the sites were ranked and therefore the rest of the sites were ranked equally for accurate statistical analysis – for example if only 3 sites were ranked 1, 2 and 3, the other 2 sites were both ranked 4. In a few cases, residents had ranked 2-3 sites equally and these scores were used in the analysis.

The responses to the questions are shown below, with further analysis given later.

Do you feel the Vision, Objectives and Policies of the current draft Neighbourhood Development Plan are sufficient to meet the needs of the Parish to 2031? Please circle your choice

Yes – **162** (81.8% of those who answered the question)

No – **18** (9.0% of those who answered the question)

How do you rank the sites for housing development within or adjacent to the settlement boundary so that Marden Parish can best achieve the Vision and Objectives in the Neighbourhood Development Plan? Please rank the 5 sites in your order of preference. 1 for your 1st choice, 5 for your 5th choice

Lowest total is the most preferred site

Site 11 (Land by New House Farm) – total 436

Site 13 (Rose Villa) – total 488

Site 15 (Campsite by The Volunteer) – total 603

Site 16 (S&A site) – total 640

Site 17 (Land opposite Brook Farm) – total 642

An analysis of all the comments that were made was undertaken and a number of specific and recurring topics were identified. In relation to question 1, most of those who answered 'no' (about the Vision, Objectives and Policies being sufficient to meet the needs of the Parish) made comments about keeping development numbers to the 40 indicated in Herefordshire Council's emerging Core Strategy document or stated they did not want any development. The rest of the comments were made in response to the question ranking the sites or as general comments.

The topics and total number of comments for each topic are given below:

Themes	Total
Concern about roads and/or traffic	23
Negative views on roads/traffic relating to Site 11	3
Negative views on roads/traffic relating to Site 13	4
Negative views on roads/traffic relating to Site 15	8
Negative views on roads/traffic relating to Site 16	9
Negative views on roads/traffic relating to Site 17	10
Wish for only 40 houses or no development	11
Wish for reduced number of houses or none on Site 11	12
Wish for reduced number of houses or none on Site 13	9
Wish for reduced number of houses or none on Site 15	18
Wish for reduced number of houses or none on Site 16	21
Wish for reduced number of houses or none on Site 17	26
Prefer development on smaller sites	15
Prefer brownfield site or infill development	4
Wish for affordable housing/starter or family homes	10
Wish for warden/sheltered housing or housing for elderly	5
Need for surgery and dental services in Marden	14
Need for or concern about other services - broadband/sewerage/water/drainage	10
Concerns about school capacity	6
Need/wish for a village centre/green	10
No need/wish for a village centre	3
Need/wish for new community centre/hall/facilities	12
More street lighting required	4
No more street lighting required	2
Need for more public transport	7
Need for more footpaths/cycleways	8
Need for a village pub	7
Need for a cricket pitch/football ground	8
More/better retail facilities required	3

All of the data have been considered by the Steering Group when recommending the allocation of sites for development in the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. The final decision will be made by the Parish Council who have to adopt the Plan so that it can be submitted for the first formal consultation, under Regulation 14 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Steering Group for the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan
January 2015