

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

Community Consultation 17-30 September 2020

On new Sites to allocate and the Vision, Objectives and Policies – amended and new

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

The Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was adopted (made) by Herefordshire Council to be part of planning policy in Marden Parish in October 2016. Since then the NDP has been used by Herefordshire Council Planning Department to determine planning applications in the parish. It has been generally successful in ensuring that any new development is where parishioners want it to be in conformity with the NDP.

When the NDP was adopted, the proportional growth required by Herefordshire was allocation for 60 dwellings (the proportional target was 104, with 44 already achieved either built or approved). In fact, allocation for 95 dwellings was made in the NDP, 35 more than the minimum required. Of the 95, the New House Farm site of 90 houses is waiting for Reserved Matters approval and the Rose Villa site of 5 houses has not been put forward as an application for new dwellings, though an application for conversion of the current farm buildings to 3 dwellings was refused. Since the NDP was adopted, approval has been granted for another 13 windfall dwellings – conversions or new sites within the settlement boundaries. Therefore, currently the parish is 48 dwellings above the proportional growth required in Herefordshire's 2015 Core Strategy

However, the NDP only gave 2 years legal protection in relation to the two main policies relating to where development should be allowed, M1 and M2, and in addition Herefordshire does not currently have a 5-year supply of housing land. Therefore, the parish is at risk of housing being permitted where the community does not want development.

As a result, earlier in 2020 the parish council decided to undertake an interim review of the NDP with a view to: allocating a small number of new houses to regain the 2 year legal protection once the reviewed NDP is adopted; and amending or adding some new policies in line with suggestions from the Planning Department. A Review Group was set up to undertake the work, made up of Councillors and Parishioners – if you're interested in joining the Review Group, please contact the Parish Clerk, new members are welcome.

Herefordshire Council has also started a review of its planning policy, the Core Strategy, though this is unlikely to be completed until 2023 at the very earliest. Therefore, the parish council recognises that a further review of the NDP is likely to be required once the Core Strategy is adopted, particularly if the parish is required to allocate land for more large scale development to meet government guidelines. Some new policies suggested by the Planning Department will need extensive consideration and consultation and will also be considered at the later review.

Furthermore, the recent government White Paper 'Planning for the future' which was published in August 2020 will have a significant effect on Herefordshire, with the term Core Strategy being replaced by 'Local Plan' and on NDPs, which could cover a smaller area. The White Paper has indicated that housing growth requirement will be nationally determined and binding on local planning authorities. And Local Plans will focus on identifying land under 3 categories: a. Growth areas – where outline approval for development would be automatic; b. Renewal areas – suitable for some development where there would be a presumption in favour of development; c. Protected areas where development is restricted – areas such as Green belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas, Local Wildlife Sites, areas of significant flood risk and important areas of green space. Currently the White Paper has considerable opposition, so the final outcome and its effect on Marden is unknown.

Please see the last page and give your response to this important Community Consultation. We need your views. Thank you. To ensure that those who live, work or do business in the parish are able to comment, please complete the questions about your interest in the parish, your address and how many parishioners on the electoral register the response is for (if a residential response). Your response cannot be included if not completed fully. These data will only be used to check response eligibility and will be anonymised in the consultation report. If there is more than one view in your household, the Response Sheet can also be downloaded from the website at <https://www.mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/marden-neighbourhood-development-plan/>.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

New housing

To be able to allocate houses to update the legal protection of the NDP, a Call for Sites process was undertaken in August, with the aim of being able to allocate sites for 5 houses in total, with a maximum of 3 houses on any individual site.

14 sites were submitted to the Call for Sites and these were independently assessed against agreed criteria by Kirkwells Planning Consultants, who are working with the Review Group and the parish council to undertake the review. 10 sites were submitted during the time period, 4 were submitted within the following 6 days. The full report of the assessment is available on the website at <https://www.mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/marden-neighbourhood-development-plan/>. The submitted sites are shown on the maps below. Of the 14 sites: 4 sites are adjacent to the settlement boundary (SB) for Marden village (Sites 1, 2, 3, 12) ; 2 sites are away from and not adjacent to the Marden SB (Sites 4, 5); 5 sites in Burmarsh, 1 of which is marginally adjacent to the SB and 3 not adjacent to the SB (Sites 6, 7, 8, 13, 14); 3 sites in Litmarsh, 2 adjacent to the SB, 1 not adjacent to the SB (Sites 9, 10, 11).

The consultant's report recommended the following sites would be suitable for allocation and this consultation is to gain Community support for the parish council to allocate the 3 sites that were assessed as most suitable, for 8 houses in total:

Site 2 – Land at rear of Rose Villa, Marden – north part of site only for 3 houses



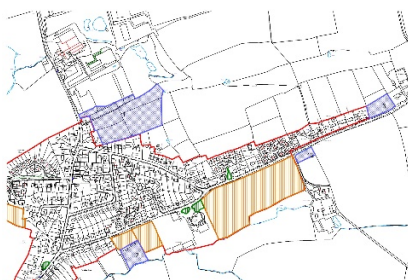
Site 3 – Land adjacent Old School House, Marden – current valid application on the site – for 4 houses



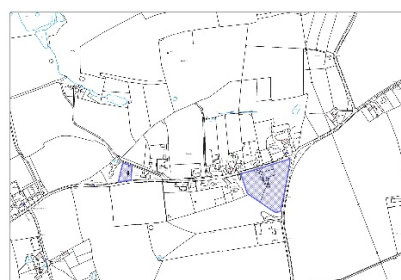
Site 9 – Land adjacent to Broxash, Litmarsh – for 1 house



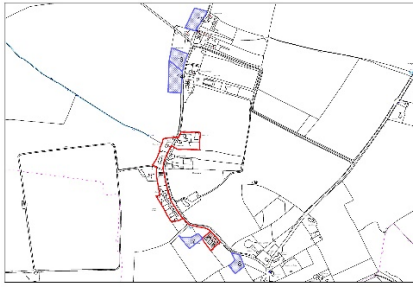
Map of submitted sites adjacent to the Marden SB



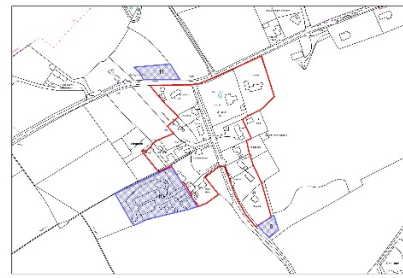
Map of submitted sites not adjacent to the Marden SB



Map of submitted sites in Burmarsh



Map of submitted sites in Litmarsh



Amended and new Vision, Objectives and Policies

The text for the amended and new items is given below. Additions and amendments are shown in **RED**. For simplicity text that has been removed is not shown, however the current NDP can be found for comparison at <https://www.mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/marden-neighbourhood-development-plan/>

Vision

By 2031 Marden will have grown proportionally and will remain a rural parish and village. It will continue to have a strong sense of identity and have a vibrant village centre. The smaller surrounding hamlets and the countryside will have been protected from over-development.

Marden will have a mix of open market and affordable housing, of high quality, sustainable homes satisfying all needs and age ranges. The nature and scale of housing and commercial development will have enhanced our rural appearance, feel and identity and protected the countryside. Necessary services – retail, service, school, community, sport & leisure, a dedicated multi-use community centre, public transport etc. – will be provided and supported locally. There will be opportunities for working from home as well as locally, in activities that positively **promote** our natural environment. Continuing agricultural and other business activities in the parish will also enhance our natural and built environment. Access to the countryside will be improved and **encouraged** to support exercise, health and wider wellbeing.

Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE 1 – To deliver a vibrant village centre through a level of housing growth that is proportionate to the size and scale of Marden village and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural **and historic** character.

Policy M1 (Marden 1) – Scale and Type of New Housing Development in Marden village

In order to retain the rural character of Marden village over the plan period, proposals for new housing development will only be permitted within the Settlement Boundary or on allocated sites, as shown on the Marden Village Policies Map, in accordance with the Herefordshire Core Strategy and where it meets all the following criteria:

- (a) Designed to be an integrated addition to the village, well connected to the existing village settlement and community facilities;
- (b) Does not lead to the loss of protected open space, shops or other local facilities;
- (c) The density of any scheme should be consistent and compatible with the existing and prevailing density and reflect the locally distinctive character of the locality in which the new development is proposed so that the village feel is retained;
- (d) Ensures appropriate and safe access can be achieved;
- (e) Provides appropriate residential amenity for future occupiers including consideration of any adjacent noise generating agricultural, industrial or commercial activities;
- (f) Is of high quality design and is in keeping with the immediate surroundings, environment and rural landscape;

- (g) Demonstrates a contribution to the delivery of an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes including affordable housing, to meet the needs of all sectors of the community;
- (h) Reflects the scale and function of the village of Marden;
- (i) Ensures that any likely significant effect on the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC), including the River Lugg sub-catchment area, is avoided or adequately mitigated; and
- (j) Where a Transport Assessment is submitted in support of a planning application, this quantifies in detail the likely impact on the road and rail network.

In addition, the use of a brownfield site within the Settlement Boundary or conversion/replacement of an existing building or the use of an infill site will be strongly encouraged.

OBJECTIVE 2 – To ensure that housing development in the surrounding hamlets of Litmarsh, Burmarsh, The Vault and other hamlets is controlled appropriately.

Policy M2 – Scale and Type of New Housing Development in designated hamlets

In order to retain the rural character of the three settlements, proposals for new housing within Litmarsh, Burmarsh and The Vault, will be considered in accordance with the Herefordshire Core Strategy subject to the following criteria:

- (a) Within the settlement boundary as shown on the Policies Maps for each settlement;
- (b) Maintains an appropriate density in context with the immediate surrounding area;
- (c) Ensures appropriate and safe access can be achieved;
- (d) Provides appropriate residential amenity for future occupiers including consideration of any adjacent noise generating agricultural, industrial or commercial activities;
- (e) Is of high quality design and is in keeping with the immediate surroundings, environment and rural landscape;
- (f) Demonstrates a contribution to the delivery of an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes including affordable housing, to meet the needs of all sectors of the community;
- (g) Reflects the scale and function of the settlement; and
- (h) Ensures that any likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC, including the River Lugg sub-catchment area, is avoided or adequately mitigated.

In addition, the use of a brownfield site within the Settlement Boundary or conversion/replacement of an existing building or the use of an infill site will be strongly encouraged.

OBJECTIVE 3 – To ensure all new development is governed by best practices and by national and local environmental and climate change policies current at the time of development and is designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish while promoting a heterogeneous appearance, without impacting on highway safety.

Policy M3 – General Design Principles

As described in the Vision, Marden Parish is a rural area with a special character. Development will be considered which would make a positive contribution to that character and be of good design and quality. In seeking to protect and enhance the identity of the parish, all development proposals are expected to comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) Maintain the historic pattern of development by respecting the layout associated with historic plots in the immediate area;

- (b) Ensure the suitability of the overall design and appearance of the proposal (including size, scale, density, layout, access considerations) in relation to surrounding buildings, spaces and other key features in the street scene. Originality and innovation in design is encouraged;
- (c) The arrangement of front gardens, walls, or hedges should maintain and enhance the existing character of the immediate locality. Where a new boundary treatment is proposed it should reflect other boundary treatments in the immediate vicinity;
- (d) Use, and where appropriate re-use, local and traditional materials;
- (e) Respect the pattern and use of spaces and use landscape design principles and landscaping where appropriate;
- (f) Ensure movement to, within, around, and through the development is satisfactory;
- (g) New residential development must include provision for adequate parking spaces including garages and for cycle storage and storage for waste and recycling bins. In new developments, every dwelling will provide 2 parking spaces within its curtilage or within the development; and
- (h) Use Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Policy M4 – Extensions and development within residential curtilages, including ancillary accommodation and annexes

Alterations and extensions, including roof extensions and the erection of buildings and structures within the curtilage of dwellings, should be high quality in their construction and design in accordance with Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy Policy SP5. The Parish Council will support extensions and modifications to existing residential properties where:

- (a) The extension is subordinate to the existing building, to allow the form of the original building to be clearly understood;
- (b) The design respects the architectural characteristics, scale and detailing of the host building and its setting. High quality matching or complementary materials should be used, appropriately and sensitively in relation to the context. This would not preclude proposals that are innovative or contemporary where these are of an exceptional design quality;
- (c) The proposal will not have a detrimental impact on the amenity reasonably expected to be enjoyed by the occupants of neighbouring properties through overlooking, lack of privacy or reduction of outlook or daylight;
- (d) The proposal does not lead to an unacceptable loss of parking, both in curtilage or on street and does not create a danger to pedestrians, cyclist or vehicles;
- (e) Where practical, development proposals affecting existing buildings should also comply with M3 (g) above; and
- (f) The proposal does not lead to an unacceptable loss of useable private amenity space.

OBJECTIVE 4 – To ensure that new housing is provided in a suitable range of tenures, types, sizes, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can continue to live in the parish in a suitable home, whilst families are attracted to the area and local housing needs are met.

Policy M5 – Ensuring an appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of houses

- (a) All proposals for new housing development shall demonstrate, following consultation with the parish council, how they contribute to maintaining a mix of tenures, types and size of dwelling in the parish in accordance with the housing needs of the parish;
- (b) Sites including affordable housing and low cost market housing should integrate (mixed throughout, not in blocks) with open market housing across a site. Development that leads to concentrations of different types and tenures of homes in separate groups on a site will be discouraged;

- (c) Proposals for small houses or bungalows with small gardens (2-3 bedroom) will be strongly encouraged, in preference to houses with 4-5 bedrooms.

OBJECTIVE 5 – To ensure that Marden parish has the appropriate local and community facilities to support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities and infrastructure by creating a focal point for the parish.

Policy M6 – Protection/extension of Local Community Facilities

Large housing developments (defined as 10 or more houses or area of 0.5 hectares or more) are expected to make a proportionate contribution to the provision of community facilities subject to viability testing. Any new or expanded facilities should be, wherever possible, located in or adjacent to the settlement boundary or close to existing facilities or in an otherwise convenient and suitable location.

There will be a presumption in favour of the re-use of local community facilities for community and health type uses. The change of use of existing facilities to other uses will not be permitted unless the following can be demonstrated:

- (a) The proposal includes alternative provision, on a site within the locality, of equivalent or enhanced facilities. Such sites should be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and have adequate car parking; or
- (b) Satisfactory evidence is produced that there is no longer a need for the facility or that it is no longer viable or fit for purpose and where appropriate has been vacant and marketed for community use without success in line with Core Strategy Policy SC1.

OBJECTIVE 6 – To support the retention and development of local businesses and services including homeworking that contribute to the quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages, including support for suitable diversification and use of new technology. This includes support for sensitively sited and designed improved broadband and mobile phone services and renewable energy technologies.

Policy M7 – New local employment opportunities

The development of new local employment opportunities will be considered providing that they:

- (a) Do not have a detrimental impact on surrounding residential amenity;
- (b) Do not lead to the loss of open space or green infrastructure;
- (c) Are located close to existing highways and do not have an unacceptable impact on traffic and consideration is given to the impact of heavy goods traffic through the village or designated settlement;
- (d) Ensure that any likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC, including the River Lugg sub-catchment area, is avoided or adequately mitigated.

Development, unless on allocated sites, that would result in the loss of commercial activity or employment land/space will only be considered acceptable in exceptional circumstances where the applicant can demonstrate that the current use is no longer viable and that there is no market interest having marketed for at least 6 months the employment land/space.

Development proposals that would result in the creation of small scale employment opportunities in residential properties or other non-commercial premises will be supported where they have no unacceptable impacts on the amenity of neighbours and the wider community such as noise, fumes, vibration and odours, transport system, traffic flows, parking or infrastructure.

Development for homeworking will be supported when it:

- (e) would involve alterations or extensions to an existing dwelling which are not significant; or

- (f) it would be part of a proposal for a dwelling house that re-uses or brings back into use an existing building, where such development would not have an adverse impact on residential amenity, heritage or landscape character.

Policy M8 – Supporting enhancing and protecting existing local employment

Insofar as planning permission is required, existing sources of local employment will be protected from change from business to residential use.

Redevelopment or change of use of existing employment premises will only be permitted when:

- (a) The employment premises have been empty for six months or more and during that time actively marketed without securing a viable alternative employment use;
- (b) Equivalent, or better, provision is made, elsewhere within the settlement boundary, to replace the proposed loss of local employment space.

Development that would lead to the expansion or improvement of existing business premises will be permitted when it:

- (c) Is suitable in terms of size, layout, access, parking, design and landscaping;
- (d) Does not harm the amenity of nearby occupiers;
- (e) Does not harm the character, appearance or environment of the site and its surroundings;
- (f) Has adequate access, or potential access, by a choice of transport modes;
- (g) Retains and enhances any built and natural features/areas that contribute to the amenity or biodiversity of the area;
- (h) Includes mechanisms to improve environmental performance to that of current best practice standards **and national and local policies**; and
- (i) Ensures that any likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC, **including the River Lugg sub-catchment area**, is avoided or adequately mitigated.

Policy M9 – Supporting Development of Communications Infrastructure

Improvement and development of new mobile telecommunication infrastructure will be supported provided that:

- (a) The design and placement seeks to minimise impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area; and**
- (b) The design and siting does not have an unacceptable effect on the parish historical features and buildings, visually sensitive landscape or views.**

Improvements to broadband infrastructure will be supported. Any new development within the Parish should be served by a superfast broadband (fibre optic) connection unless it can be demonstrated through consultation with the NGA Network providers that this would not be possible, practical or economically viable. In such circumstances, suitable ducting should be provided within the site and to the property to facilitate future installation.

OBJECTIVE 7 – To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (e.g. green spaces and landscapes, natural environment designations) and taking account of constraints **and ensuring the dark skies of the parish are protected.**

Policy M10 – Protection of Local Green Spaces

The local green spaces listed below and shown on the Marden Village Policies Map and the enlarged map on Page x, are protected from development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

- 1) Land round war memorial;

- 2) Pond;
- 3) Area at top of Rudge Grove;
- 4) Areas where flagpoles and notice boards are sited;
- 5) Area of grass in front of hedge opposite Post Office and along length of hedge;
- 6) Recreation Ground.

Any new development which impacts adversely on the openness, biodiversity or geodiversity of these sites will not be supported.

Policy M11 – Landscape Character

All development proposals will have to show regard to the distinctive landscape character of the Herefordshire Lowlands Character Area by:

- (a) In any case of exceptional development outside the designated settlement boundaries, retaining the development form of scattered hamlets and farmsteads within the wide setting of the area;
- (b) Using appropriate local building materials;
- (c) Retaining existing field patterns and boundaries, including low hedgerows and tree cover;
- (d) Protecting and enhancing areas of woodland;
- (e) Encouraging country stewardship and similar schemes to enhance the biodiversity and natural and historic environments.

Policy M12 – Flood Risk and Surface Water Run-off

- (a) All development should be preferentially located within Flood Zone 1. Where this is not possible, we would expect proposals to demonstrate that they are safe and will not increase flood risk to third parties. This is in accordance with the sequential and exception tests set out in national policy. Proposals must have regard to Herefordshire's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Flood risk betterment should be provided whenever possible;
- (b) New development should be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on the development site and to minimise runoff. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be implemented wherever possible;
- (c) The design of new buildings and infrastructure should take account of existing topography to manage the flow of water along specific flow routes away from property and into appropriate storage facilities;
- (d) Water attenuation facilities such as lagoons, ponds and swales should be provided within development sites;
- (e) Opportunities, where appropriate, should help to conserve and enhance watercourses and riverside habitats. Where necessary, this should be through management and mitigation measures for the improvement and/or enhancement of water quality and habitat of any aquatic environment in or adjoining the development site. New development must ensure that any likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC, including the River Lugg sub-catchment area, is avoided or adequately mitigated;
- (f) Sustainable design of buildings which support rain water harvesting are supported. Storage of rain water for non-drinking water purposes such as watering gardens and flushing toilets is encouraged;
- (g) Driveways and parking areas should use porous materials where possible, in line with current planning requirements;
- (h) The protection, management, and planning for the preservation of existing, and delivery of new green infrastructure is supported in accordance with Herefordshire Core Strategy Policy LD3, to maximise the retention of surface water on sites.

Policy M13 – Public Rights of Way/Connectivity

Proposals for the enhancement and improvement of the Public Rights of Way within the parish will be supported.

Proposals for improved linkages and accessibility within Marden and to the areas beyond will be supported.

All new proposals for additional dwellings should take every available opportunity to include the following enhancements to maximise accessibility to residents:

- (a) Enhanced public access and appropriate signage from residential areas;
- (b) New footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways linking to existing and new networks.

In the event that a Public Right of Way crosses a proposed development site, the proposal will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that either the current course of the Right of Way can be retained or that any diversion would not result in any adverse impact on this public amenity or safety of the general public.

Policy M14 – Dark Skies

To minimise light pollution and to maintain the views of night time skies in the parish, unless it is a requirement of a statutory body all new roads built as part of a development must not feature street lighting.

All planning proposals that include external lighting and significant openings that would allow internal lighting to be seen externally will have to demonstrate the following:

- (a) An assessment of the need for lighting has been undertaken. Applicants will be required to assess the need for lighting, whether the benefits of the lighting outweigh any harm caused and any alternative measures available; and
- (b) The nature of the proposed lighting is appropriate for its use and location. The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) has provided guidance on acceptable levels of illumination for specific areas. It is recognised that many traditional buildings may have 'significant openings' where visibility of internal lighting will be a natural consequence.

(left blank)

RESPONSE TO THIS COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Please complete this response sheet and send it to: Marden Parish Clerk, 7 John Davies Place, Westcroft, Leominster, HR6 8JD. Or scan/photograph your answers and email the Parish Clerk at parish.clerk@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk or complete the consultation on the website at <https://www.mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/marden-neighbourhood-development-plan/>

Many thanks.

Question 1

Which site(s) do you think should be allocated? *Please tick the site(s)*

Site 2 – Land to rear of Rose Villa, Marden – north part of site for 3 houses

Site 3 – Land adjacent to Old School House, Marden – for 4 houses

Site 9 – Land adjacent Broxash, Litmarsh – for 1 house

Question 2

Do you agree with the Vision? *Please tick your response*

Yes

No

Question 3

Do you agree with the updated Objectives? *Please tick your response*

Yes

No

Question 4

Do you agree with the Policies? *Please tick your response*

Yes

No

If you have answered 'No' to questions 2, 3 or 4, please give details below, ensuring that you give Vision/Objectives /policy number for each comment.

To ensure that those who live, work or do business in the parish are able to comment, please complete the questions below. Your response will not be included if not completed fully. These data are only to check response eligibility and will not be used in the consultation report but will be anonymised. If there is more than one view in your household, the Response Sheet can also be downloaded from the website at <https://www.mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/marden-neighbourhood-development-plan/>.

Do you live, work or do business in the parish? *Please tick as relevant*

Live

Work

Do business

If you live in the parish what is your address? *House number and road and postcode or house name and postcode*

.....

How many people on the electoral register is this response for?

Thank you for completing this Community Consultation response. We appreciate your time and consideration.