

**HDC Local Planning Advisory Panel**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Broughton Astley Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-Submission Draft**

Introduction

Broughton Astley Parish Council has published a draft Neighbourhood Plan for pre-submission consultation and publicity. This community and stakeholder consultation runs for 6 weeks up to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and the document, known as the 'The Big Plan for Broughton Astley' is available to view at: <http://broughtonastley.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/the-big-plan-for-broughton-astle.html> and appended electronically to this report as a pdf document. The requirements for this consultation stage are set out in Part 5, Section 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations which specify that the Draft Plan must be:

- Publicised to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area;
- Brought to the attention of specific consultation bodies (such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, English Heritage and the Highways Agency); and
- Sent to the local planning authority.

The amount of work and consultation that has taken place to date to produce the first draft Neighbourhood Plan in the District is extensive. Overall the Neighbourhood Plan is coherent and well put together, reflecting both the strategic context and concerns within the community. Any issues identified will be addressed through the Council's response.

Key Points

The following comments highlight the key messages coming through in the Plan.

- The plan makes it clear that policies are based firmly on the Core Strategy and clearly sets out how each policy builds on CS16: Broughton Astley. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be compliant with the Local Plan (or Core Strategy);
- It sets out a positive planning framework for the delivery of up to 627 homes in the village over the Plan period across 3 preferred sites. Whilst this is in excess of the minimum provision of 400 dwellings set out in the Core Strategy, Neighbourhood Plans are allowed to put forward development in excess of that identified in approved Core Strategies providing it accords with the overall strategy. Some clarity on why the sites are referred to as 'prioritised' would be helpful (i.e. is the site first in priority order to be developed before the others two?) and could inform a phased approach to ensuring the delivery of housing over the plan period;

- The Plan reflects the local community's desire for additional and improved community services and facilities, shops and employment provision. Taking its lead from the Core Strategy the Plan aims to ensure that all housing sites contribute to improving the village's sustainability through the provision of services and facilities. The opportunity exists for the Plan to specify in more detail what provision is expected in general for the village and how, in particular, the preferred sites can contribute to this provision;
- The plan is committed to maintaining and supporting the village centre shopping and business area (a plan showing the area needs to be included) but recognises that there is limited scope for expansion. More detail on possible improvements to the village car park and to cycle ways across the village would be helpful especially if there is the possibility of collecting S106 monies for their improvement;
- Broughton Astley's only employment site is identified as a key employment area. The policy would benefit from a map showing the area and setting out the specific types of uses that would be acceptable;
- The environment policy identifies existing open spaces which need to be protected (including the disused railway line) and defines an area of separation between Broughton Astley and Sutton in the Elms as proposed in the Core Strategy.
- Reflecting the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework), the plan includes a policy on supporting sustainable development which reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- One issue that needs to be addressed is the capacity of the local road network. The number of dwellings proposed was not looked as a part of the Core Strategy evidence base. County Highways are being consulted currently.

#### Council Response to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Officers across the Council have been asked to return comments on the Neighbourhood Plan to the Strategic Planning Team by 11<sup>th</sup> March in order for a comprehensive response to be compiled. Members of Task Panel are also welcome to submit comments to Lesley Aspinall by that deadline. Given that there is no Task Panel meeting prior to the closing of the consultation period on March 25<sup>th</sup>, it is suggested the response (to be based on the points outlined above) is agreed with the Portfolio Holder before being submitted to the Parish Council as the comments of this Council.

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