



# Neighbourhood Development Plan

## October 2017 Newsletter

For those of you who managed to find time to complete the questionnaires in the summer, thank you. This is an update for everyone to share a summary of the results – see below – and explain next steps. Updates can also be found on the parish council website at: <http://titleygroup-pc.gov.uk/>

Having taken this first sounding of the community's priorities for development, the next step is to invite landowners that could potentially fulfil that to propose locations, a "Call For Sites".

### Progress So Far

- Government/Herefordshire has set target of at least 23 new dwellings by 2031
- The parish council is using the Neighbourhood Development Plan framework as a method of increasing the local community's influence on the siting and type of those developments, rather than it be imposed on us
- The steering group are working hard to make this as inclusive as possible with open sessions and questionnaires, and updated information such as this newsletter so that everyone can contribute

### Outline Timetable for Next Phase

- November/December – Call For Sites
- January – Assessment of landowner responses for compliance with statutory planning requirements and alignment with questionnaire findings
- February/March – Presentation of sites with genuine potential at open public event for further feedback
- March/April – Draft of Neighbourhood Plan including proposed settlement boundary and candidate sites
- Summer – Proposed plan put to community referendum for acceptance

### Questionnaire: Summary of results

The survey was undertaken in July 2017 and achieved a response rate of 61.4%.

#### A Vision for Titley Group

- Most responses were in agreement with the draft vision.
- Comments on community stressed the need for affordable housing to meet local needs, linked to jobs and infrastructure such as broadband.
- For the economy, a balance was needed between large-scale agri-business and the environment.
- Protection and enhancement of the environment was sought, with sustainability considered as an over-arching requirement.

#### Housing

- The preference was for new housing to be provided as single dwellings, followed by smaller schemes each of several dwellings. A larger development of more than 10 houses was not favoured.
- Most respondents wanted to see new housing provided as 2 or 3 bedroom homes, rather than as larger houses.
- Live/work and self-build new homes were supported, as were dwellings with high environmental standards.
- Comments suggested various locations as suitable for new housing, as well as places where housing should not be built, notably Stagg Meadow at Titley. Generally, the preference was for development to be directed to the existing villages of Titley and Staunton-on-Arrow.



- A rural exception housing scheme was supported as a way of providing affordable housing.
- In other comments, there was a recognition that more affordable housing was needed to help meet the needs of those young people and families who wished to stay in the area.

### **Traffic, transport and access**

- Top priority for improvement was road, hedge, ditch and drain maintenance.
- Road safety for all users was also an area for improvement, with support for schemes to “calm” traffic and reduce speed.
- Comments emphasised issues around road maintenance, with many references to potholes. There were concerns also over traffic speeds and the use made of the rural roads by heavy goods vehicles, tractors and farm equipment.

### **Jobs and the local economy**

- Favoured types of employment were agriculture and forestry, closely followed by tourism, leisure and crafts, reflecting the nature of the area. Intensive livestock units and polytunnels were not favoured.
- In providing for jobs, replies supported broadband improvements, home working, live/work premises, extending existing businesses and converting rural buildings.
- There was support for further provision for walkers and to a lesser extent for farm diversification, cyclists and horse riders.
- Comments on employment generally supported small-scale, traditional enterprises such as woodworking, with larger-scale businesses such as intensive livestock units not favoured. Others referred to the role of agriculture in providing jobs.
- Other comments sought to promote the local economy, to provide jobs for young people and to support small businesses.

### **Protecting our environment**

- Almost all wanted to see traffic from new development to be compatible with local roads, to be in keeping with its surroundings and to avoid noise and light pollution.
- The most important ways to protect the local environment were to protect the character of the landscape, followed by protecting local green spaces.
- Many landscape and wildlife features and attributes were identified for protection, notably Wapley Hill, Flintsham and Titley Pools, Eywood Park, Stag Meadow and Mowley Hill.
- Solar panels, provision in new buildings and ground/air source heat pumps were favoured as acceptable ways of generating renewable energy over wind and solar farms, biomass and anaerobic digesters.
- Comments generally re-iterated the opposition to larger-scale forms of energy generation.

### **Community Services**

- Broadband was seen as the most important community service, followed by mobile phone reception and the village halls; the parish churches were the least important.
- Comments on the need for additional leisure and recreational facilities referred to making best and wider use of the village halls, and to other forms of community provision, including the non-worship use of the churches. A requirement for play facilities in various forms was also highlighted.
- Others saw no need for additional facilities, reflecting the likely limited viability and the nearby existing provision in Kington and Presteigne.

### **Information about you**

- Compared to 2011 Census data for the Neighbourhood Area, females were slightly overrepresented in responses.
- Younger age groups up to and including the 25-44's were under-represented in responses against the 2011 Census.
- Most respondents had lived in the Area for 10 years or longer.