

Walford Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan

Purpose, aims and objectives

Purpose

The Walford Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will allow the parish to establish general planning policies for the future development and use of land within its designated neighbourhood area. This will enable the Parish Council and the residents to shape and influence where that development will go and what it will look like. It may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, design, heritage and transport). The NDP is intended to complement the strategy and policies within the Herefordshire Local Plan in the instances that those would affect Walford.

Aims

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. There are two main parts to neighbourhood planning: neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders (including community right to build orders). The idea behind localism is that decision making be passed to a more local level, from national or local government to local communities. Parish and town councils or neighbourhood forums (in unparished areas) can produce neighbourhood plans for their local areas, putting in place a strategy and policies for the future development of the area. The aim of the Walford Parish Council is to put in place an approved Neighbourhood Development Plan within a 2 to 3 year period by thorough consultation with local parish and county stakeholders, especially parish residents and via the standard approval and examination procedures as laid out by local and national government, and by a final referendum of the local residents. The plan will then become adopted by WPC and HCC as a statutory document with equal weight in decision making to the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

Objectives

(Taken from the Chairman's Annual Report for 2017-18)

To uphold an active, vibrant, thriving and caring parish where an excellent quality of life is available to all, where people are respected and valued and where there are homes, businesses and facilities to meet the

Walford Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan

needs of a sustainable rural community. In furthering this Plan, Walford Parish Council will work with interested parties and stakeholders to ensure wherever possible that any work or development activity within the parish will:

- Protect the general, natural and historic environment, habitats and open spaces and, in particular, the parish's primary asset of being within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – thus continuing its strive towards being an area free of chemical, airborne, noise or light pollution.
- Support sufficient, sensitive, balanced and proportionate housing to meet the needs of local people, which is of sustainable mixed types, in keeping with our local character, suitably located and built in manageable numbers and density; thereby ensuring a consistency of design that respects, enhances and retains the rural character of our parish.
- Maintain, support and sustain the limited local facilities including; village halls, school, public houses, sport and leisure spaces.
- Provide opportunities for informal outdoor recreation and tourism by enhancing its outstanding natural environment and green infrastructure assets for the benefit of local residents and visitors from further afield.
- Safeguard and promote the development of environmentally focused agriculture as a business and ensures that the quality and quantity of agricultural land provision is given due weight, when development is considered, in order to preserve the distinctive rural landscape of Walford parish.
- Underpin local businesses and employment suitable and appropriate for a rural area within an AONB.
- Co-ordinate with the relevant external parties to continue the active rollout of high-quality super-fast broadband network services and mobile telephone coverage for those parishioners and local businesses wishing to use it.
- Maintain roads, footpaths, right of ways, cycle-ways, pavements, and other parts of the parish infrastructure in order to meet the needs of the community and ensure that they remain safe and in good condition.
- Control the future development of our parish; in particular, ensuring that the boundaries are fully respected and any future

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amendments will have been made with due care, consideration and consultation.