

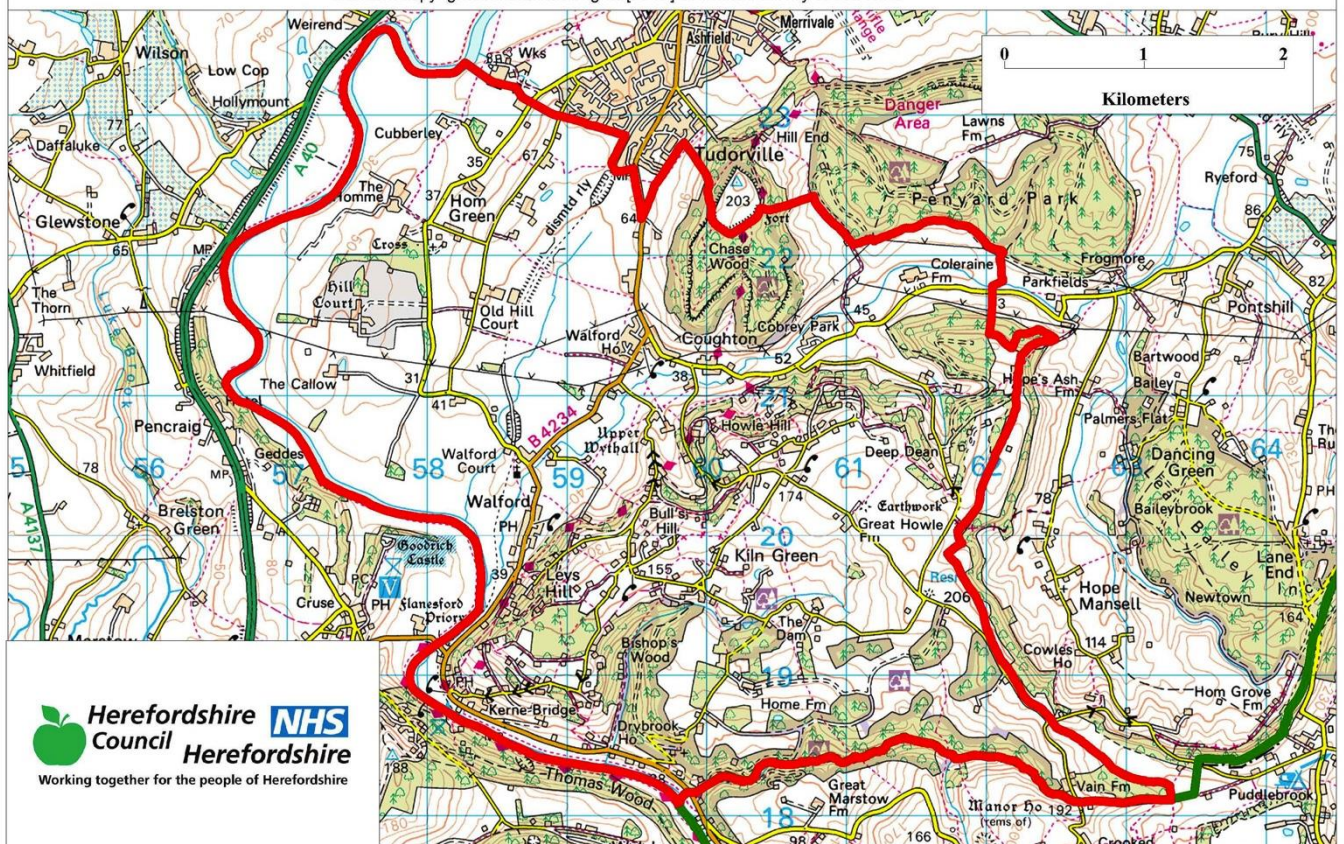
WALFORD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Walford Parish Neighbourhood Area

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NORTH



RESPONSES AND ANALYSIS

We sent out about 1,300 questionnaires and received back 324 completed, a creditable 25% response rate. In order to ensure complete impartiality, we employed Hoople Ltd to analyse the results for us and the result of their analysis has been posted on the Walford Parish Council website and forms the basis of the information in this document. This is only a précis of the information received and the detail will enable the Steering Group to begin the task of formulating the Walford Neighbourhood Plan.

Our thanks go to all those who responded.

Section One – Parish Statement

It is clear that we value our AONB status - the Plan shall include reference to the AONB Management Plan together with robust protection of the rural nature of our environment.

Section Two – Housing

It is necessary to recognise that there is a national housing shortage and that the Herefordshire Council local plan, the Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 is required to address this issue. The response to the questionnaire has broadly accepted that the Walford quota is about right.

Section Three – Business and Tourism

It was no surprise that commercial development should not be encouraged but there is a degree of enthusiasm for some sort of local shop possibly run by volunteers. If the people who suggested this could get in touch we could explore further the viability of such a scheme.

Tourism is clearly our forte and we shall explore the opportunities more fully in the Plan.

Section Four – Roads etc.

This subject is most emotive as we have all witnessed the pothole situation over the last few months. The new Herefordshire Council contractor, Balfour Beatty, has the task of ensuring that the roads are brought up to an acceptable standard within the terms of their contract. A complete and comprehensive Parish survey was undertaken in December 2013 by the Parish Council. All defects and locations were fully documented and passed on to Balfour Beatty for action in January 2014.

Section Five – Utilities

The responses will enable us to formulate a narrative on green (renewable) energy resources.

Summary

You have requested provision of a cycleway and a children's play area. We are pleased to confirm that both these projects are already underway. The Walford Links project is a Parish Council initiative and you can follow the progress at www.walford-pc.org.uk. A children's play area is planned at Walford Village Hall, they have received planning approval and are currently in the fund raising stage.

BT Openreach has been contracted by Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Councils to provide "faster broadband", checkout progress at www.fastershire.com.

If you wish to become involved in any of our activities or just receive updates, contact the Walford Parish Clerk at clerk@walford-pc.org.uk tel. 01989 562476.

Councillor Dave Berry
Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

1. Which of the following describe the essential characteristics of Walford Parish?

	Not important 1	2	3	4	Highly important 5
Area of outstanding natural beauty	6	4	25	58	219
The river Wye	1	8	36	74	188
Footpaths & the Wye Valley walk	7	7	39	83	162
Separation from other surrounding villages by fields, countryside	8	17	45	67	167
Working farms surrounding the parish	13	25	83	85	99
Varied building styles throughout the parish	40	38	82	74	61

2. What do you enjoy/love about living in Walford Parish?

	Not important 1	2	3	4	Highly important 5
Village identity / feeling part of a community	18	52	92	58	72
Village activities / community groups	28	71	98	41	53
Quiet village life	2	18	43	69	171
Easy access to the countryside	2	1	10	82	217
Rural atmosphere	0	1	13	70	222

Comments

70 comments

- Rural tranquillity and being predominately within the AONB is top of the list.
- Concern that there tends to be a lack of community spirit.
- Needs of the farming community is seen as compromising the rural idyll.



1. Herefordshire Council has proposed a target of 31 new homes to be built within Walford Parish between now and 2031 (less than 2 houses per year) Do you consider this?

Too many	62
About right	192
Too few	44
Don't know	19

2. If new homes are to be built during the next 10 – 20 years, what type should they be?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Flats	29	205	18
Bungalows	192	53	20
Family housing	267	17	12
Luxury housing	104	115	36
Self-build	153	68	40
Social rented housing	See a) below	71	147
Intermediate housing	See b) below	106	109
Smaller market housing	See c) below	152	81

- a) Social rented housing is owned by the local authority and private registered providers and will be subject to guideline target rents set by the local authority
 b) Intermediate housing is for sale and rent at a cost above social rent but below market levels such as shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans)
 c) Smaller market housing will be subject to planning restrictions that safeguard occupation for identified local housing needs and will continue to do so in perpetuity

3. If several new homes were to be built should they be?

	Yes	No	Don't know
All on the same site (i.e. small residential development)	43	140	15
Divided between several sites	237	22	6
No preference	46	37	12

4. If several new homes are built as a group should they be?

	Yes	No	Don't know
The same size and occupy the same sized plots	26	156	11
A mixture of sizes and plots	230	17	9
Of a similar style to each other	82	110	11
A mixture of styles	169	53	6
No preference	22	36	14

5. Should new build homes be?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Of modern design and appearance	26	112	12
Designed to match traditional styles	165	40	13
A mixture of modern and traditional styles	163	63	10

6. The Herefordshire Council local plan, the Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 proposes that future housing development at Howle Hill and Bishopswood is limited to small market (private) houses only for existing residents or those with local family links; constraints that would apply for perpetuity.

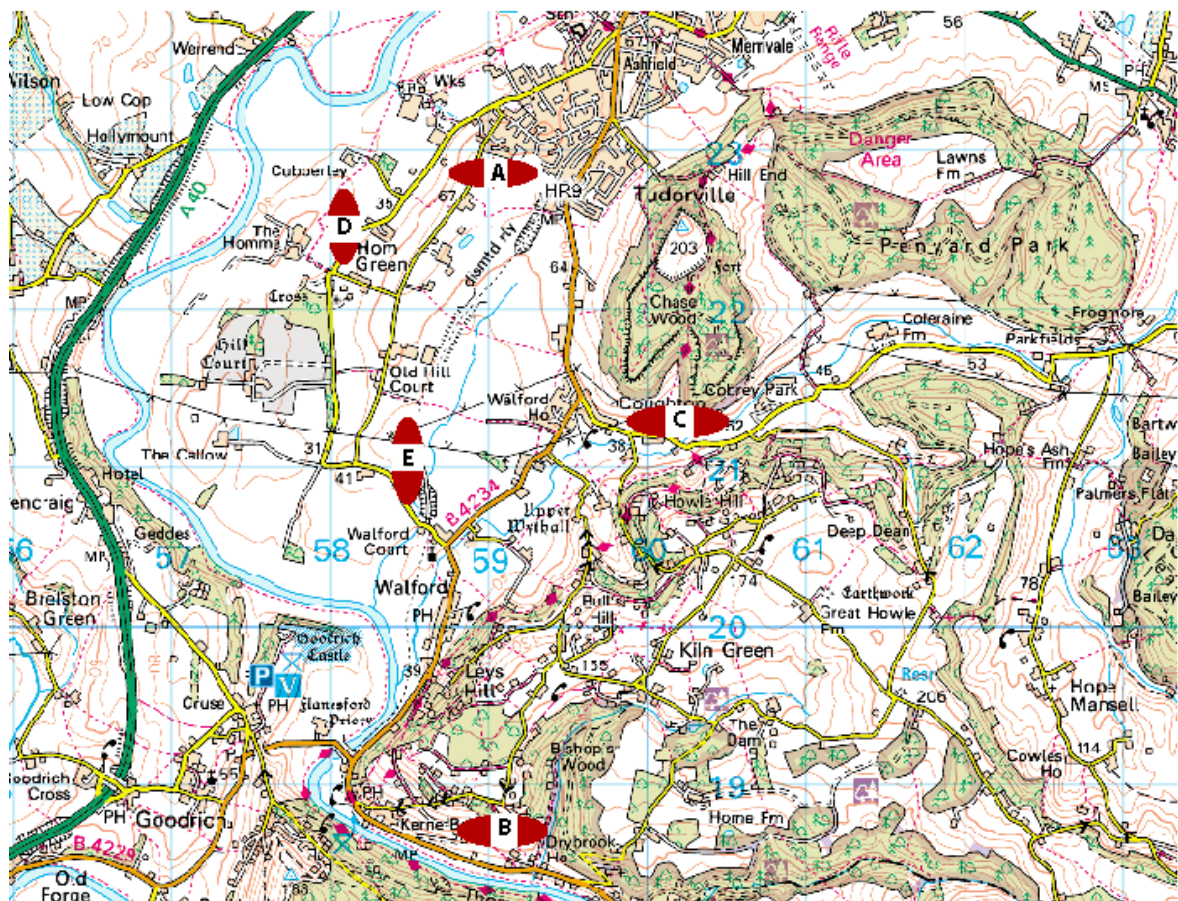
Please tell us whether you:

	Yes	No	Don't know
Support Herefordshire Council's policy limiting new housing at Howle Hill and Bishopswood for local residents for perpetuity	127	120	23
Do not wish to restrict development to local residents only	159	57	18

7. Where in Walford Parish would you prefer additional housing to be?

	Least preferred 1	2	3	4	Most preferred 5
A. Arbour Hill	42	21	51	44	114
B. Bishopswood Stores area	81	49	67	41	43
C. Coughton	92	33	63	44	41
D. Hom Green	63	31	65	53	64
E. Walford Court area	74	41	74	39	46

See below:



8. Can you suggest any alternative sites where you would like to see housing development?

90 Suggestions

- A total of 9 respondents did not want to see any development.
- Create a centre to the village by concentrating development near pub, hall & church
- As requirements are small, individual developments could be considered anywhere

1. Should Walford Parish encourage commercial development?

Yes	105
No	180
Don't know	31

If yes, what sort of businesses would you like to see in Walford Parish?

- Village general store
- Tourism or agriculture related
- Canoe launch

2. Should Walford Parish encourage tourism?

Yes	233
No	57
Don't know	29

If yes, what is required e.g. holiday lets, B & B accommodation, new visitor attractions?

- Preservation of the AONB a top priority
- B & B accommodations and holiday lets should be encouraged
- Walking, canoeing and cycling infrastructure

3. Do you operate a business in Walford Parish? If so what is it?

- Mainly agriculture plus timber business and pub
- Numerous small and sole trader businesses

4. Do you work from home? If so what sector do you work in?**5. What infrastructure improvements would you like to see in the Parish to enhance your performance/productivity?**

- Improved and more reliable broadband and mobile telephone services
- More reliable electricity supply and less power cuts

1. Do you think Parish roads are adequate and safe?

Yes	67
No	242
Don't know	5

If no, what improvements would you like to see?

- Better road maintenance
- More effective means of speed control on the B4234

2. Are the local pavements, footpaths, bridleways and public rights of way adequate and/or sufficiently well maintained?

Yes	105
No	184
Don't know	25

If no, what improvements would you like to see?

- Provision of a pedestrian pathway from Walford Timber to Kerne Bridge
- Provision of a cycleway

Section Five – Utilities

please tick as appropriate

1. Do you support provision of green (renewable) energy resources within the Parish?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Wind turbines	87	198	17
Biomass plants	113	112	63
Air source heat pumps	147	65	67
Ground based solar panels	150	120	23
House roof mounted solar panels	223	64	11
Ground source heat pumps	213	32	43

Have your say on green (renewable) energy resources

- Generally there is support for development of green resources but constrained by the need to be aware of visual impact within the AONB

We would very much appreciate it if you could complete the following demographic questions. This information will demonstrate that we have gained the views of a cross section of the population, but rest assured it will not be used as part of the decision making process for the neighbourhood plan.

1. What is your gender?

Male	152	Female	164
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2. Your age group?

18 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	61 - 75	76 - 90	91+
5	29	122	123	37	0

3. How long have you been resident in Walford Parish?

Less than 10 years	10 – 30 years	More than 30 years
129	139	50

4. Are you?

Working full-time	109
Working part-time	52
Unemployed	1
Disabled	5
Full-time homemaker	20
Retired	137

5. Where do you work?

In Walford Parish	39
From home	57
Within a daily commute	94
Further away than practical for a daily commute	13
Not applicable	123

6. How many children under 18 are in your household?

Age of children	Number of children
Aged 5 and under	19
Aged 6 to 11	14
Aged 12 to 17	33

What other improvements or facilities would you like to see in Walford Parish for the future?
All ideas are welcome - it is your Parish, after all!

- Cycleway
- Local shop
- Children's play area
- Effective road speed restrictions
- Improved broadband & cell phone services