

TARRINGTON PARISH PLAN

Report By: Forward Planning Manager

Wards Affected

Backbury Ward

Purpose

To consider the Tarrington Parish Plan for adoption as further planning guidance to the adopted Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Background

The Government's White Paper 'Our Countryside, the Future' (2000) proposed that all rural communities should develop 'Town, Village and Parish Plans' to identify key facilities and services, to set out the problems that need to be tackled and to demonstrate how distinctive character and features could be preserved. The Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) currently supports Parish Plans through the Rural Social and Community programme. The programme aims to develop the capacity of the rural voluntary and community and parish council sectors to help shape the communities that they serve and includes the former Countryside Agency's Vital Villages Parish Plans grant scheme. Parish Plans should address the needs of the entire community and everyone in the parish should have an opportunity to take part in its preparation. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to adopt the planning components of Parish Plans as further planning guidance.

Herefordshire Council has now adopted its UDP and is preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF) in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. During this transitional period (UDP to LDF), Parish Plans are to be adopted as further planning guidance to the UDP, since old style supplementary planning guidance (SPG) can no longer be formally adopted. The further planning guidance should, however, be afforded the same weight by both the Herefordshire Council and the Government's Planning Inspectors since it will be produced in the same way as former SPG.

Adoption by Herefordshire Council

Parish Plans will not have any statutory powers. They will however be a definitive statement about local character and issues. For a Parish Plan to be adopted as further planning guidance, it must be consistent with planning policy and prepared in wide consultation with the community and interested parties. Only elements of Plans relevant to land use and development can be adopted as further planning guidance.

Adoption will enable the Parish Council and local community to draw the attention of the Local Planning Authority and others to its context whenever it is pertinent to planning decisions within the village/parish. The Parish Plan will be used as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and be of assistance at their earlier compilation and pre-application stages.

The adoption of Parish Plans as further planning guidance will confirm their status in the Council's overall planning policy framework alongside the UDP. This is also consistent with the former Countryside Agency guidance which still applies.

This Parish Plan is the fourteenth to be presented to the Council for consideration as further planning guidance.

Tarrington Parish Plan

The Tarrington Parish Plan began early 2005 with a public meeting agreeing that work should start on a Parish Plan with a Steering Committee set up with regular monthly meetings. The Steering Committee then organised a 'Planning for Tarrington' event which asked parishioners to identify what were the major issues that needed to be addressed in the Parish. 125 adults and young people attended this event expressing in total 248 separate issues.

Following on from this, a questionnaire based on the 248 issues identified was drafted with the assistance of the Council's Research Team. Questionnaires for adults and a tailor made one for young people were hand delivered to every household in the Parish during December 2005. The same questionnaires were again collected by volunteers. These efforts resulted in an 80% response rate from adults and a 90% response rate from young people. This assisted the preparation of a draft Plan which was made available for comment. Amendments were made and a final version of the Plan agreed. The Council have now been requested to adopt the planning elements of this final Plan.

A particular aim of the document is to identify measures by which the community can improve and enhance the quality of the built environment and to provide a mechanism to inform and influence the decisions of statutory bodies about community priorities and local needs.

Key recommendations are included within the Parish Plan on traffic and transport, environment, planning, community facilities, health, youth and crime and safety.

The status of Tarrington as a main village within the UDP is acknowledged in the introductory paragraph of the Parish Plan on page 22. As such development in principle is allowed within the settlement boundary provided other UDP policies are met. The Parish Plan does however make clear that the majority of parishioners are opposed to further development. It therefore seeks to discourage further development especially executive homes and infill out of character with surrounding development. The Parish Plan confirms that if new housing is to occur then it is to be within the settlement boundary, single or small scale, preferably 'brownfield'/conversion, using materials in keeping with rural nature of the parish. New housing should also take into account those who have expressed an interest in some form of low cost housing. The planning related elements of this Plan are contained on page 11 and 22 – 24.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT It be recommended to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) that the planning elements of the Tarrington Parish Plan be adopted as further planning guidance as an expression of local distinctiveness and community participation.

Background paper
Tarrington Parish Plan