

12 EARDISLEY GROUP PARISH PLAN**Report By: Forward Planning Manager****Wards Affected**

Castle Ward

Purpose

To consider the Eardisley Group Parish Plan for adoption as further planning guidance to supplement the emerging 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. Parish Plans form one of the four initiatives of the Vital Village programme. They 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 supplementary planning guidance.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has recently come into force. It introduces a new system of development plans, which at local level will require Local Planning Authorities to replace UDP's (or local plans) with Local Development Frameworks (LDF's). Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) will supplement policies and proposals in the LDF's and provide additional guidance to applicants and developers. Herefordshire Council is in the final stages of the production of the UDP. The next step will be to prepare a LDF in accordance with the requirements of the new Act. 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 Parish 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.

Given the publication of the Revised Deposit Draft UDP, it is now more appropriate to consider, wherever possible, Parish Plans as further planning guidance against the emerging UDP rather than existing local plans, where they are broadly consistent with the UDP policies and to adopt them as such. The adoption of Parish Plans as further planning guidance will confirm their status in the Council's overall planning policy framework and is in line with Government and Countryside Agency guidance and UDP policy.

This Parish Plan is the eighth to be presented to Members for consideration as further planning guidance.

Eardisley Group Parish Plan

The Eardisley Group Parish Plan was initiated by the Parish Council at a 'Planning for Real®' event in May 2003. A Parish Plan Committee was subsequently set up to manage the process of producing the Plan, which included the circulation of questionnaires and the gathering of other relevant local information. The final version has been produced without prior consultation or discussions with the Council's key contacts.

The purposes of the Eardisley Group Parish Plan are:

- To guide the Eardisley Group Parish Council in influencing Herefordshire Council's planning for the area, in line with the views of the people who live in the three local parishes;
- To support the people in the parishes in undertaking local initiatives for the benefit of the community;
- To help to preserve the unique character of the villages (Eardisley, Whitney-on-Wye and Winforton with Willersley) and of the countryside surrounding them; and
- To help make the parishes even better places to live in, now and for the future.

The planning elements of the Plan can be found primarily in the sections entitled "Housing" and "Village Buildings and Leisure Facilities". The main issue being that it is desirable that new houses should not be built within the next five years. However, where new residential development is to be considered the preference would be for small or some medium sized houses for local people, which are to be sensitively designed and not located on greenfield sites. Other issues raised include the lack of adequate community and leisure facilities in Eardisley and the need for additional leisure opportunities for young people.

On the whole the planning elements of the Parish Plan conform with the emerging Unitary Development Plan and it contains sufficient detail to be used as a material consideration in planning decisions and issues.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT It be recommended to the Cabinet Member (Environment) that the planning elements of the Eardisley Group Parish Plan be adopted

as further planning guidance as an expression of local distinctiveness and community participation.

Background paper

Eardisley Group Parish Plan