

KINGS CAPLE PARISH PLAN

Report By: Forward Planning Manager

Wards Affected

Old Gore

Purpose

To consider the Kings Caple Parish Plan for adoption as further planning guidance to 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 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, albeit in interim form, 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 eleventh to be presented to Members for consideration as further planning guidance.

Kings Cagle Parish Plan

The Kings Cagle Parish Plan began in January 2002 and was subject to parish consultation via a Special Parish Plan Day inviting people to nominate topics of importance followed by a questionnaire, which returned 54% of adult questionnaires and 34% of children's questionnaire. An Action Planning Day was also held and this event included feedback on the information gathered and provided the opportunity for any further suggestions. Drafts of this Plan have been to the Council's key contacts for comments to enable a final version which is now placed before Members.

The aim of the document is to identify measures by which the community aim to 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 transport and traffic, landscape and environment, housing, planning and heritage, youth and leisure and community services.

Similarly, the planning issues raised within the Parish Plan were affordable housing for young people and a wish to see any new development designed to reflect the character of the local area as outlined in appendix 1. The planning related elements of this Plan are contained on pages 14 to 16 and these are in conformity with the emerging Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Background paper

Kings Cagle Parish Plan