

CUSOP PARISH PLAN

Report By: Forward Planning Manager

Wards Affected

Golden Valley North

Purpose

To consider land use elements of the Cusop 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.

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, Countryside Agency and Herefordshire Partnership guidance and UDP policy.

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

Cusop Parish Plan

The Cusop Parish Plan was initiated by the Parish Council and subsequently a Parish Plan Steering Group was set up to develop the Parish Plan, which first met in September 2003. The Parish Plan Steering Group carried out two main consultations with the community. An initial three-day Drop in Event in June 2004 helped to define the important issues for the people of Cusop. Following on from this event, every household was sent a summary of the issues raised providing an additional opportunity for those unable to attend the initial event to comment. In May 2005 a parish wide survey took place with two questionnaires designed for both adults (16 and over) and children. The final version of the Parish Plan has been produced following consultations with the Herefordshire Council's key contacts .

The main objectives of the Cusop Parish Plan are to:

- Identify key facilities, services and problems.
- Demonstrate how distinctive features and character can be preserved.
- Identify the residents local concerns and aspirations for the parish
- Assist service providers, statutory bodies and the voluntary sector with the requirements of the parish.

The Plan is based on a series of different themes and '*Meet Cusop's accommodation needs, future planned development*' (pg. 17 & 18) addresses the part of the plan dealing specifically with land use planning issues. This section identifies the main issues surrounding housing need and the views expressed by local people. Its purpose is to show how the policies of the Herefordshire UDP can best be applied to Cusop parish. Whilst the section mainly addresses issues on housing, views on large commercial or storage facilities, office space, workshops, windfarms and individual turbines are also highlighted (pg. 18).

The other part of the plan addressing planning issues is an action plan entitled '*Future Planned Development*' (pg. 27). This section summarises the main issues identified on page 17 & 18. The action plan includes a timescale and the relevant body responsible for the actions identified.

It is primarily these two sections which should be considered for adoption as further planning guidance to the UDP by the Herefordshire Council.

The Housing Development and Planning section of the Cusop Parish Plan conforms to the emerging UDP and 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 Cusop Parish Plan be adopted as further planning guidance as an expression of local distinctiveness and community participation.

Background paper
Cusop Parish Plan

