

18 APR 2019

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Eckington Submitted Neighbourhood Plan Consultation**RESPONSE FORM**

Under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Eckington Parish Council has submitted its Neighbourhood Plan to Wychavon District Council. In accordance with Regulation 16, Wychavon District Council would like to invite comments from individuals and organisations on the submitted Neighbourhood Plan.

This consultation runs from Friday 15 March to 5pm Monday 29 April 2019.

All comments will be made publicly available and identifiable by name and organisation (where applicable). The personal information you provide on this form will be held and processed in accordance with the requirements of Data Protection Legislation. More information on how we will hold your data can be found at:

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/privacy-policy>

Please fill in your details in the boxes below:

Full Name: Alex Workman

Organisation (if applicable):

Address (including postcode):



Telephone number:



Email address:



Please state which part of the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. which section, objective or policy) your representation refers to (please use a separate form for each representation):

Policy H1, H2 and objective 1

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

I have tried to engage in this process, but like others, have become disillusioned that the SG continues to ignore representations that differ to their view.

This can be seen in the drop off in participation with the consultation events. My profession is criminal law and the abuse of statistics, which have been manipulated by the steering Group to sell their agenda is extremely unfortunate. The original survey in 2015 clearly showed large developments were not appropriate and not what was wanted in the village. The sample sizes have rapidly decreased to the point where they can no longer be relied upon to justify objective H1 and H2

My wife and I have two young children (less than 2 years old) and would love to move to the village. This plan in its current state does not support that idea, in fact it seeks to turn Eckington into a retirement village! You've made it clear Eckington already has an above average age for a village in Wychavon. This plan simply seeks to exacerbate this problem not improve it. Why does the plan focus on retirement homes and downsizing? We don't not want (could not afford) to move into the large houses vacated by those downsizing and it's insulting you've made that assumption. You've declared those seeking to downsize don't want the costs associated with the upkeep of these large old houses...why on earth do you think a young family would want them instead?! We also don't want to live on the outskirts of the village in a large estate next to the main road. Why can't you replicate the success of other villages of having small developments/infill housing which is much more in-keeping with the village feel. This would also mean the whole village benefits not just one individual (how this individual has managed to get this into the plan is quite shocking.... unless members of the steering Group will also benefit?). I would expect as a minimum conflict of interest be addressed and plan updated to better reflect the evidence collected in 2015 survey.

Please use a separate form for each representation.

Please state whether you would like to be notified of the Council's decision on the Neighbourhood Plan proposal:

Yes

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No

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Please email this form to policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk or post it to Planning Policy, Wychavon District Council, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT.

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H6

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Apologies if I keep repeating this, but I along with other residents have made clear objections against this policy and as with everything else I've been given a stiff ignoring.

There are several examples in the plan, of which this is one, where the SG write a rule and in the next breath go onto to say why they are exempt from that rule. The two large developments recommended in the plan are outside the development boundary yet have full back of the steering Group. Yet anyone else who lives outside the development boundary is specifically prevented from even limited development. The Hypocrisy is so blatant as to immediately call into question it's legitimacy. We absolutely want to control development (not stop it completely) but again as I keep banging on, the original and most comprehensive evidence overwhelmingly rejected large developments in favour of small/limited developments.

This current policy is arbitrary and unfair and should be deleted or revised. A more flexible approach could easily be adopted here which allows small scale developments/infill housing. If not, I fear legal challenge is a certainty.

Another example is H5.... one rule for the neighbourhood plan, a totally different and overly restrictive rule for the rest of us.

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PLANNING SERVICES

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Policy H10 and H11

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Again, previous comments on this have been ignored...and again the statistics used to support the proposals don't add up. As other residents have pointed, and I've now checked, the statics and evidence used is flawed. Claiming 94% residents supported these locations is worthy of use in a North Korean election. Only 95 residents registered to vote of which 69 "supporting" the plans...how does that equate to 94%? More importantly the original 2015 (where 369 residents responded and the most for any consultation) found overwhelming in favour for small one or two house developments/infill housing, and specifically rejected large estates.

Because the process has been dragged out, perhaps deliberately, knowing that interest would wane and residents would become apathetic to the consultations. This has allowed the Steering Group to slip in these large developments and remove rights from elsewhere whilst the village became disillusioned with the process. Updated evidence needs to be collected and revalidated, with a response rate similar to the original and comprehensive 2015 survey, to be relied upon. Anything below this could be seen as undermining the process and calls into question the weight these statistics really add. The Steering Group had a responsibility to ensure sufficient voter turnout, and when numbers dropped off they should have revaluated how they collected the evidence and come up with new ideas to get sufficient resident turnout.

The Housing Needs survey is another classic example where only 21 people responded! The steering group should have taken action to increase response rates and drive more definitive results. At the moments such low numbers "endorsing" such critical elements of the plan is no better than circumstantial. Again, as other residents have pointed out why wasn't more done to canvas the views of anyone below 50.

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