



# worcestershire county council

Ask for: Natasha Friend

To: Head of Planning, Wychavon District Council

Date: 9 April 2021

From: Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Manager

Subject: **Ombersley and Doverdale Neighbourhood Development Plan –  
Consultation Draft Regulation 16**

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Strategic  
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## **Introduction**

Worcestershire County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above consultation. The following officer-only response is from our Historic Environment, Sustainability, Transport Policy and the Public Health Directorate . Other Worcestershire County Council teams may choose to make their own response.

If you would like to discuss any of these comments please do not hesitate to contact Natasha Friend ( [REDACTED] ) in the first instance.

## **Historic Environment**

The draft Plan – supported by the Design Guidance - presents good understanding of built heritage, local character and distinctiveness, all of which are interwoven throughout the plan vision, objectives and policies. We are pleased to see that the steering group has made reference to the Worcestershire Farmsteads Characterisation Project, following Historic England's recommendation. To further strengthen the evidence base, the group could contact the County Historic Environment Record for a map showing the distribution of traditional farmsteads across the parish.

## **Sustainability**

TOAD9 – Design

Improving the energy efficiency standards of new homes will help to support achievement of national net zero carbon targets and reduce the risk of fuel poverty for new residents. It would be encouraging to see recognition of the issue of fuel poverty within the Plan. The latest figures show that 10% of households in Worcestershire are considered to be fuel poor, meaning they have high energy costs but a low household income.

Would suggest that the Design Guide which sits alongside the Plan is also updated. An updated version of the Design Guide could include climate change adaptation features, such as wider gutters/outdoor shading/green roofs etc.

## **Transport Policy**

For a Transport Policy perspective, we make the following comments:

- All development should adhere to the guidelines set out in the Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide
- All new residential sites should be accessible by walking / cycling and have pedestrian links with key facilities and amenities.

- All new community facilities should be accessible by walking / cycling and have pedestrian links from key residential areas
- All new residential sites over 6 dwellings must provide a Travel Information Pack promoting sustainable modes of travel. (see Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide for details)
- All new residential sites over 50 dwellings must also produce a Travel Plan and provide personalised travel planning (see Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide for details)
- All new employment sites should include cycle parking (see Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide for details)
- All new employment sites that require a Transport Statement must also produce a Travel Plan (see Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide for details)

## **Public Health response**

We note that Health and wellbeing is implicit within the plan, but it could be further enhanced by reference to the requirement in the NPF to promote healthy communities and importance of enhancing health and wellbeing. More could be made of the benefits of active travel, green infrastructure, community facilities etc.

The plan should also include a link to the Planning for Health SPD for South Worcestershire.