

Sedgeberrow Submitted Neighbourhood Plan Consultation



RESPONSE FORM

Under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Sedgeberrow 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 Monday 18 July to 5pm on Monday 5 September 2022.

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: Philip David Jones

Organisation (if applicable):

Address (including postcode):

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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):

The Process Comments

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

Please see my comments on the Process appended to the bottom of the form below.

Thank you.

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

No

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.

The Process Comments.

Page 10 Dateline January 2019.

As previously mentioned in the comments for para 1.1.3, there was no more than 70 in attendance and not the 90 as quoted. There were no minutes of this meeting and certainly no record of a vote or show of hands. Hence no "clear mandate". The offer or suggestion of Springfield Nurseries as the site to be considered was very much presented as a preferred option over the existing site on Winchcombe Road. Those local to that part of Main Street were somewhat suspicious that this was being driven by persons in the Parish Council who's interests were questionable.

Page 10 Dateline Autumn 2019.

Again, a lot of emphasis on the indication "by parishioners the 'village meeting' held in January 2019. As witnessed and commented, there was no vote and no record of any decision. The main view expressed was that of the Chair of the Parish Council.

Page 12 Dateline June 2020

Good Councillors Guide to Neighbourhood Planning gives guidance on the correct use of MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

"A MOU does not attempt to influence the future content of a neighbourhood development plan or order, but recognises the crucial support role of an LPA and the importance of neighbourhood planning, local planning (and in London GLA planning) working well together, especially in terms of timing, understanding the policies and roles of the different tiers of planning and ultimately ensuring neighbourhood plan conformity with higher level plans.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is designed to clarify expectations and the working relationships between key parties involved in the preparation of neighbourhood development plan or order. It aims to put working relationships on the best possible footing from the start. An MOU is both a practical and an aspirational document that sets out how key parties will work together where a neighbourhood, town or parish makes a commitment to prepare a neighbourhood plan for its area".

The Sedgeberrow Parish Council MOU letter signed by the chair in Jun 2020 stated

"Following public consultation undertaken by the Parish Council in Sedgeberrow, the Parish Council requested in October 2019 that the proposed SWDPR allocation be replaced by an alternative site".

This is inaccurate. There is no record of the public consultation to which this applies. The meeting held on 07 Jan 2019 has no record and a vote was not held as per comment for para 1.1.3 above.

This is misleading and disingenuous.

The Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap - a step by step guide 2018 edition warns on avoiding tokenism: "The purpose of undertaking community engagement is to inform the content of the plan. If the outcomes have already been determined, then community engagement is tokenistic. In effect it is a public relations exercise. This leads to scepticism and disillusionment". This process has effectively resulted in this with many in the village. Many see the agenda as "the answer is Springfield Nurseries, what is the question?"

Page 13 Dateline November 2020

The options survey has been challenged as being unduly biased. As a result several parish members submitted FOI requests seeking clarification on the provenance of the information. These FOI requests have been ignored stating that the planning consultants have this information and the PC does not own it. The fact must be that the planning consultants are paid and therefore retained by the PC who therefore must own the data.

Councillor Sue Morris Comments on survey document 25/10/2020

"This is being shared with the PC for sign off (by email). Surely it is more than that? Most of the PC have not had a chance to view any of this previously - we may therefore want some changes prior to publication. Not sure that we will all want to sign it off as it stands so please don't spend the money on printing the questionnaire until we have said we are happy with the contents". This highlights the lack of democratic process for key decisions. Actions such as agreeing the survey document were presented by email as a 'fait accompli' with very little opportunity for discussion or comment. Poor time management resulted in undue pressures on councillors to comply.