

## **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: Kate O'Brien

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):

My representation is applicable to multiple sections if that's ok, but primarily Policy H1, H2, H6, H10, H11 and C1

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

I have some concerns about the plan and I've written to the Steering Group (previous consultations) before about my concerns but have been resolutely ignored and even told to set-up my own Steering Group?!

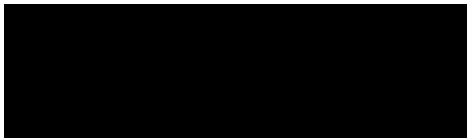
The Plan is heavily biased towards satisfying the needs of only "older generations" and not the needs or wants of anyone below retirement age. As a young family currently renting in Eckington, the plan does not provide the sort of developments we require, if we wanted to stay in the village. We know the school is already struggling to attract pupils and is below the minimum number required to be economically viable. The plan also wants to make the school at the heart of the village and recognises this is key to a thriving community. So why then does the plan simply prioritise those looking to downsize/retire. As a young family we could not afford the housing left by those seeking to downsize and do not think that type of housing is suitable anyway. Therefore, it is a complete fallacy that this plan does anything for us and based upon no evidence whatsoever. There are token gestures for those of us under 65 with no real thought or evidence to back it up. It strikes me as such duplicity cannot be allowed and certainly does not represent the Eckington community. There are further hollow words of support for those of us under retirement age who may be considered for one of three large estates on the edge of the village. Quite simply, living in one of these proposed estates would not attract us at all as it is not in-keeping with village life. It is sheer hypocrisy, when the evidence clearly shows no desire in the village for large estates that is the very thing the plan recommends. Further falsehoods are attempted by trying to suggest the proposals are a number of small estates and therefore not a large development. Surely this is tongue in cheek. I also don't understand why the plan makes such a big deal of the additional green space as mitigation for these large estates. Surely a distraction, we don't need, for these large developments that are not wanted. I also question why one landowner has been given the exclusive large development rights. Such a large windfall to one individual cannot be right or fair. Why doesn't the plan do more to attract small businesses to the village. Having spoken to a few friends I also think suggested policy H-6 is massively unfair for those outside the boundary. Such a blanket ban on any development outside the arbitrary development boundary is wholly inappropriate and disproportionately restrictive. A village should be allowed to grow naturally and policy H-6 prevents this. Couldn't the plan try to emulate the success of Bredon, which has a thriving community and attracts lots of young people, families and businesses. This Eckington plan, seeks to end the village with no credible attempt to attract the young. The assertion that young families can move into houses vacated by the elderly is preposterous and completely baseless. The plan should also include provision for single people who just want a studio flat or one bedroom house. Currently the proposals maximise profits for the developer at the expense of what the village actually needs/wants. I think greater consultation

should be done to ensure this truly is a plan for everyone not just those who wrote it. Imaginative techniques should be used to ensure participation from the demographics the plan suggests it is trying to seek (anyone below 50).

I would also like to point out some procedural irregularities. When I initially submitted my comments as part of the regulation 14 consultation I was asked to provide proof of address and that my comments would be ignored/removed unless I did. Yet other residents in the village had no so such additional requirements to prove their address. Surely either all respondents or none should have had this additional evidential burden. I suspect this abuse of process was an attempt to limit the number of negative comments received by the Steering Group, could this be clarified by Wychavon District Council.

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:



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