

South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2041
Regulation 16 Consultation
Wychavon District Council Officer Comments
3 August 2026

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 These officer comments are made on behalf of Wychavon District Council (WDC), as the Local Planning Authority, on the Regulation 16 South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan for consideration by the Independent Examiner. The consultation ran from Monday 22 June 2026 until Monday 3 August 2026.
- 1.2 Please also see WDC officer's comments made for the Regulation 14 consultation (Appendix 1). WDC is pleased to see many of the changes and updates that WDC suggested were implemented by the Qualifying Body, South Lenches Parish Town Council, when drafting the Regulation 15 submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.3 WDC is supportive of the Parish Council's preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and of the plan period from 2015 to 2041.
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared during a period of transition in local plan making from the adopted SWDP (2016) to the reviewed SWDP. The latter, referred to as the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in September 2023. The Examination in Public began in March 2025, with the Inspector's final report received in early March and the SWDPR adopted by the South Worcestershire Councils on 26 March 2026.
- 1.5 The Regulation 15 submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan has been drafted to reflect the policies in the newly adopted SWDPR and has been able to consider those strategic policies identified by WDC published on the council's Policy webpage here –
[South Worcestershire Development Plan Review 2021 – 2041 - South Worcestershire Development Plan](#)

2.0 Meeting the Basic Conditions

- 2.1 It is not for WDC to say whether the Regulation 16 version of the Neighbourhood Plan has met the basic conditions; however, the following points are made for consideration as part of the independent examination.

3.0 Having Regard to National Planning Policy

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared against the latest NPPF published in December 2024. As the Neighbourhood Plan was submitted at Regulation 15 prior to the publication of the latest version of the NPPF anticipated towards the end of summer 2026, as part of the transitional arrangements it will still be examined against the policies in the 2024 NPPF.

1.0 South Lenches Design Guide

- 1.1 The preparation of the South Lenches Design Guide is welcomed and reflects WDC's own emphasis on achieving good design outcomes from new development via the district wide Wychavon Design Code SPD that was adopted in June 2026. Once adopted, alongside the Neighbourhood Plan, the Design Guide will carry significant weight as supplementary documents will strengthen relevant Neighbourhood Plan design policies when determining planning applications.

2.0 Table of Contents

Chapter/Section	Comments
Chapter 1: Introduction	This chapter is presented in a clear, concise and logically structured manner. It appropriately identifies the relevant legislative context, sets out the objectives of the plan, and explains the Neighbourhood Plan process, including how it can form part of the overall development plan for the district. There is opportunity in this section to clarify: - In paragraph a, replace 'adoption' with 'adopted'. - Improve paragraph spacing to aid readability and accessibility throughout. - Consistent with Regulation 14 comments, please consider removing reference to Wychavon and the South Worcestershire LDS from paragraph h. - The first reference to the South Lenchies Neighbourhood Plan as "The Plan" currently appears in sub-paragraph c. However, the term "The Plan" is used earlier in sub-paragraph b without first being defined. Please amend the wording so that the first reference defines the term as the "South Lenchies Neighbourhood Plan ("The Plan")", with all subsequent references using "The Plan".
Chapter 2: Local Context	This chapter provides a clear outline about the Neighbourhood Area, describing the socio-economic and environmental profile, as well as the settlement layout and history. The context provided is useful and supported by WDC.
Chapter 3: Profile of the Community Today	The chapter outlines the socio-economic profile of the Neighbourhood Area. The context provided is useful and supported by WDC. Graphs and keys have now been repositioned in alignment with previous Regulation 14 comments; these changes are supported.
Chapter 4: Strategic Context	The revised chapter title is noted and reflects the comments made at Regulation 14 stage. The first sentence under the subtitle 'Development Plan Framework' should be amended to read: "The statutory development plan for South Lenchies is currently the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), which extends the South Worcestershire Development Plan period to 2041."
Chapter 5: Vision and Objectives	This section clearly outlines the visions for South Lenchies up to 2041. Objective 2 still appears to remain in bold text formatting. Please amend this so that it is consistent with the formatting of the other objectives.
Chapter 6: Objectives and Policies Matrix	Introduction: This section outlines the aims of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the associated policies. This table provides a useful point of reference, clearly illustrating how each policy contributes to and supports the plan's objectives. It is a valuable addition that will assist when navigating and applying the plan.
Chapter 7: Policies	Policy 1: South Lenchies Development Boundaries: This policy reflects the principals outlined within SWDPR 20, 23 and 24. Query consistency as title refers to 'Development' boundary but the policy wording refers to them as settlement boundaries. Consider amending policy wording to refer to development boundary to reflect SWDPR 03.

The amendments to the mapping and associated map key have now been made in relation to previous Regulation 14 comments. These changes are supported.

Policy 2: Housing Growth, Infill and Design: This policy is consistent with policies in the SWDPR and is supported by South Lenches (SL) community survey results.

Changes have been made to the Evidence section of this Policy, which are now supported.

Policy 3: Density of Development: This policy is consistent with policy SWDPR 16 in the submitted review. The policy is supported by SL community survey results.

At point 1. iii), the term 'curbing' should be amended to 'kerbing', in accordance with the comments provided at Regulation 14 stage.

Policy 4: Affordable Housing Mix: WDC support the aims for this policy, and the focus on ensuring that there is greater provision for housing that reflects the communities' requirements. The policy is supported by SL community survey results and the housing need survey (carried out by Warwickshire Community Council in 2023). This survey is still considered up-to-date evidence as it is less than five years old.

Policy 5: Market Housing Mix: WDC support the aims for this policy, and the focus on ensuring that there is greater provision for housing that reflects the communities' requirements. The policy is supported by South Lenches community survey results and the housing need survey carried out by Warwickshire Community Council (2023).

Policy 6: Design Guide and Local Character: This policy is aligned with SWDPR policies relating to design, South Lenches Design Guide (Appendix A) and Wychavon Landscape Character Assessment. The policy is supported by SL community survey results.

At point 6, 1(i), 'South Lenches Design Guide' should be capitalised as shown. No further comments are made beyond those provided at the Regulation 14 stage.

Policies requirements relating to design and the design guide are a welcome addition to improving overall design quality from new development across Wychavon as embodied in the SWDPR and the Wychavon Design Code SPD.

Policy 7: Protection of the Historic Environment: This policy is aligned to SWDPR 9 and SWDPR 33. Please note that any designated heritage assets would be protected through their own designation for example listed buildings.

Appendix E has now been included in alignment with the previous Regulation 14 comments, and this inclusion is welcomed.

Policy 8: Small – Scale Sustainable and Renewable Energy: This policy is supported by WDC, and it reflects District Council's objectives in the 2026 Inteligently Green Plan. It is also consistent with SWDPR 37. The policy is supported by community survey results.

Policy 9: High Quality Agricultural Land: WDC note the contents of this policy, and it is consistent with SWDPR 16.

Policy 10: Trees, Hedges and Woodland: The policy is aligned to SWDPR 29. WDC supports the aims of this policy to preserve and enhance the trees, hedges and woodland within the area.

Policy 11: Wildlife and Biodiversity: The policy is aligned to SWDPR 29 and 30 in the SWDPR. WDC supports the aims of this policy to preserve and enhance Biodiversity. Suggest insert at criterion 1 'biodiversity' ahead of net gain.

Policy 12: Public Rights of Way: It is acknowledged that this policy has been rewritten since Regulation 14 stage.

It is noted that some policies may be considered open for interpretation in their current form; for instance, the term 'mitigation' is not expanded upon or clarified at 1. vi. Point v. may also not be considered clear in its current form.

You may wish to consider the following suggestions –

iii) Safeguard movement routes which provide non-vehicular access to natural greenspace-e.g., woodland or fields and any opportunity to enhance these will be supported.

Suggested wording – 'safeguard existing movement routes that lead to areas of natural greenspace, such as woodland or fields, particularly where these pertain to non-vehicular access routes. Opportunities to enhance existing movement routes will be supported.'

iv) ensure new movement routes are appropriate for wheelchair users and those with limited ability for walking.

Suggested wording – 'ensure new movement routes are appropriate for wheelchair users, and to those with limited mobility.'

v) Link to existing networks where planning permission is granted for development

Suggested wording – 'consider opportunities to connect with existing networks approved under extant planning permissions; thus, ensuring a coordinated and well-connected network.'

vi) provide appropriate mitigation where development would impact upon movement routes

Suggested wording – 'should provide appropriate mitigation for any adverse impacts on movement routes. Mitigation may include improvements to route accessibility, and improvements to signage and surfacing'.

Further comments:

If retained in their current form, it is noted that the formatting should be consistent. As each numerical point continues from the preceding sentence, each point should begin with a lower-case letter. In addition, points v) and vi) should end with periods.

Policy 13: Local Green Spaces: The local green spaces identified are supported and justified with appropriate evidence.

The maps have been updated following the Regulation 14 comments. However, in relation to Policies Map 7, the numbers should be labelled '7' and '8' to align with the table directly below the maps. Duplicating the numbers '1' and '2' does not correspond with this table.

Please also note that policy 13. 2. requires a period at the close of the sentence.

Policy 14: Valued Landscape: The key views outlined within this policy are supported and justified WDC supports the aims of this policy to preserve and enhance the landscape character within the neighbourhood area.

Policy 15: Flood Mitigation. The policy is aligned to SWDPR 38 in the emerging SWDP review. WDC supports the aims of this policy to mitigate flooding.

Policy 16: Dark Skies. The contents of this policy have been noted.

	Policy 17: Community Facilities: WDC support this policy and consider that the identified community facilities cover important services and facilities within the neighbourhood area and aligns with SWDPR 47. Policy 18: Business and Employment. This policy is supported and aligns with policy SWDPR 15. Policy 19: Camping and Caravan Sites: The contents of the policy are noted and aligns with policy SWDPR 46. Additional Comments: Document Design: There appear to be luminosity contrast issues where policies are presented in white text on block-colour backgrounds, which may cause eye strain and reading difficulties in terms of accessibility. This could be addressed by using transparent coloured backgrounds and black text.
Chapter 8: Community Aspirations	This section outlines the community aspirations of the Plan; providing local detail at neighbourhood level, appropriate to the area's needs. Although not subject to the examination please consider removing the phrase 'or other locally important issues' from paragraph 121 as a minor amendment. While the NPPF (2024) specifically identifies 'local infrastructure', 'community facilities' and 'design principles' as examples of matters to be addressed through non-strategic policies, the phrase "or other locally important issues" is not explicitly referenced and may be considered as overly broad.
Chapter 9: Conclusion	This section provides an overview of the key issues, priorities, and areas of focus that the Plan seeks to address. Third paragraph has an unnecessary spacing line between: 'development does not harm the parish's heritage, landscape, or traffic conditions. Sustainable' and 'Tourism is promoted through controlled expansion of camping and caravan sites, balancing'. This appears to be a minor layout issue that can be easily rectified.
Appendix A: South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan Design Guide	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies. Page 2 – 'Wychavon Design Code Supplementary Planning Document, Draft Consultation March 2026' has now been adopted as of 24 June 2026. Please amend the wording accordingly. Page 7 – 'Although we call Atch Lench a village, it is not classed as such by the South Worcestershire Development Plan (2016)'. This reference is now dated and should be updated to align with the recently adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan Review. Please also note Annex B: Rural Hierarchy of Settlements (SWDPR 03), where Atch Lench is included in the table titled 'Villages considered to be within the Open Countryside'. For the purposes of the SWDPR, Atch Lench is considered to be a village. Please consider amending or removing the wording accordingly.
Appendix B: Parish Character Assessment	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies.
Appendix C: South Lenches Equalities Impact Assessment	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies. Policies 4 and 5 both appear to target 'younger households, first-time buyers, single-person households, smaller families, and older residents wishing to downsize'. Policy 4 identifies a benefit in relation to 'pregnancy and maternity', whereas Policy 5 identifies a benefit in relation

	to both 'sex' and 'pregnancy and maternity'. If both policies are intended to address the same principles, it may also be appropriate for Policy 4 to identify a positive benefit in relation to the protected characteristic of 'sex' too. Policy 6 – Well-designed spaces can also benefit people with disabilities, particularly where spaces and buildings are designed appropriately in relation to scale, orientation, height and massing. This aligns with the matters that Policy 6 seeks to safeguard. As such, consideration could be given to identifying a positive benefit in relation to the protected characteristic of 'disability'. Policy 10 – Policy 10 states that development should retain trees and hedgerows where possible and, where this cannot be achieved, replacement planting of native species is required as mitigation. It further states that where tree removal is required, replacement planting should be sought using native species of a similar expected final size. For older people, or those with mobility issues connected with disability or otherwise, this may present challenges. While there are clear benefits associated with the retention and inclusion of trees, hedgerows and woodland, the policy may create future maintenance responsibilities for older or disabled residents who may be less able to manage these areas. Therefore, it may also be appropriate to consider whether a negative impact could arise in relation to the protected characteristics of 'age' and 'disability'.
Appendix D: Basic Conditions Assessment	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies.
Appendix E: Heritage Assets	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 Overall, officers consider that the submitted South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 15 version aligns with the policies in the SWDPR, whilst also having regard to the NPPF and setting out locally distinctive policies to determine future planning applications. Although it is acknowledged that it is for the examiner to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and make any recommendations accordingly. WDC welcome the modifications made to the Regulation 15 version of the Neighbourhood Plan, and it is felt that these reflect the comments raised at the Regulation 14 consultation, with the further updates made to the Neighbourhood Plan to reflecting the SWDPR.

South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan 2015 -2041

Regulation 14 Consultation

Wychavon District Council Officer Comments

22 December 2025

3.0 Overview

- 3.1 These officer comments are made on behalf of Wychavon District Council (WDC), as the Local Planning Authority, on the Regulation 14 draft South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan for consideration by the Independent Examiner. The consultation ran from 11 November to 23 December 2025.
- 3.2 The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared during a period of transition in local plan making from the adopted SWDP (2016) to the reviewed SWDP. The replacement Local Plan, referred to as the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in September 2023. The Examination in Public began in March 2025, with most of the hearing sessions being held over March-April 2025. The examination concluded with a final hearing session on 4 September 2025. It is anticipated that the SWDPR will be adopted in March 2026.
- 3.3 The Inspectors published their interim letter (EXAM99) on 7 July and their post hearing letter (EXAM118) on 10 October 2025 determined that the Plan is likely to be capable of being found legally compliant and sound. WDC will be consulting on Main Modifications to the Plan, arising from the hearings, from 6 January 2026, allowing the Inspectors to then issue their final report and subsequent adoption of the SWDPR by late March 2026.
- 3.4 The Inspectors have determined that Annex E, relating to housing numbers for Neighbourhood Areas, of the SWDPR, is unsound and directed that it should be removed from the Plan as a Main Modification. This means the housing supply position in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan area set out in Annex E is no longer relevant. WDC has determined the housing requirement for designated Neighbourhood Areas to be zero, as the total housing requirement for the SWDPR is being met through sites allocated in the Local Plan and this is included as a Main Modification to SWDPR03 The Spatial Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy.
- 3.5 However, it should be stressed that Neighbourhood Plans should be positively prepared and, therefore, the Parish Council could consider allocating a site in accordance with NPPF para 74 and of a size that reflects the requirements in NPPF para 73a. In doing so, the Neighbourhood Plan would also benefit from NPPF para 14 if WDC is unable to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply in the future.
- 3.6 In the event of the Parish Council choosing to allocate a site at this stage it would be necessary to undertake a Call for Sites exercise and ask WDC to update the SEA/HRA screening opinion.
- 3.7 Further to this, the Neighbourhood Plan would also have to retain policies in relation to housing requirements, including the location of residential development, in addition to an allocation to fully benefit from the provisions of NPPF paragraph 14.
- 3.8 The Government published a consultation draft of the NPPF on 16 December 2025, with the consultation period closing on 10 March 2026 [National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK]. There are several changes set out in the NPPF that now have implications for neighbourhood plans. In particular, these include a stronger direction for neighbourhood plans to allocate sites for development to meet the needs of their designated area, along with details of the types of policies that neighbourhood plans should include (PM5.1). In addition, dependent on the timing of the publication of the final

version of the NPPF, submitted neighbourhood plans after that date will be examined against the latest version of the NPPF, alongside the adopted SWDPR.

There are also implications for the identification of housing need for neighbourhood areas with the requirement that Local Planning Authorities provide an indicative figure in cases where the Local Plan figure is zero (H02.5) as is the case with the soon to be adopted SWDPR. In these instances, Local Planning Authorities i.e. WDC will now be required to provide an indicative neighbourhood area housing requirement figure to parish councils. Therefore, the Parish Council will need to have regard to these changes and address them in the Regulation 15 submitted version of the Neighbourhood Plan. WDC officers will be able to discuss this further with the Neighbourhood Plan group.

4.0 Meeting the Basic Conditions

- 4.1 It is not for WDC to say whether the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan has met the Basic Conditions. However, the following points are made for consideration as part of the independent examination.

5.0 Having Regard to National Planning Policy

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with consideration of the latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It should be noted that the Government has published an update to the NPPF on 16 December 2025 for consultation. Consequently, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be amended accordingly, if post publication of the latest NPPF, to reflect any changes to national planning policy prior to the Regulation 15 submission stage later in 2026.

6.0 Being in General Conformity with the Strategic Policies Identified in the SWDP

- 6.1 WDC has identified a list of strategic policies in the adopted SWDP which Neighbourhood Plans should be in conformity. WDC is satisfied that the Qualifying Body has considered these policies in the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, some specific points and observations are raised in the table below for the consideration of the Examiner.
- 6.2 WDC can provide an updated list of strategic policies ahead of the SWDPR adoption. However, given that the strategic policies between the SWDP and SWDPR are broadly similar, then the draft Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan should be broadly in alignment with the SWDPR.
- 6.3 References to SWDPR policies are as they will appear in the adopted SWDPR, as this Neighbourhood Plan will be examined against the new Local Plan.

7.0 Table of Contents

Chapter/Section	Comments
Chapter 1: Introduction	This chapter outlines the Neighbourhood Plan process and how it can form a part of the overall development plan for the district. The document is logically set out, and the contents are clearly signposted. There is opportunity in this section to clarify: - Please amend the Neighborhood Development Plan period to align with the SWDPR plan (2025-2041). - Paragraph a: The reference to LDS and SWLDS is not required. - Paragraph C and D – formatting – an extra line is required here. - Paragraph H – note that an updated NPPF is out for review in December 2025 and this document may need to be referenced in the neighbourhood plans depending on the timescales for the plan to be made. - Also note, paragraph H and I refer to SWDP (2026) and make no reference to the SWDPR. This should be reviewed and amended accordingly. - Paragraph H – reference to Wychavon and South Worcestershire LDS not required.

Chapter 2: Local Context	This chapter provides a clear outline about the Neighbourhood Area, outlining the socio-economic and environmental profile, as well as the settlement layout and history. The context provided is useful and supported by WDC.
Chapter 3: Profile of the Community Today	The chapter outlines the socio-economic profile of the Neighbourhood Area. The context provided is useful and supported by WDC. The graphs and keys should be repositioned and the text made clearer for the reader.
Chapter 4: Local Infrastructure	This section does not make reference to local infrastructure within South Lenches, instead it contains three paragraphs about the SWDP entitled the 'Local Plan'. It may be advisable to either retitle or relocate this section within the document, e.g. the introduction. Also, please note that the SWDPR should be adopted by March 2026 and therefore this section of the report will need to be updated to reflect this information.
Chapter 5: Visions and Objectives	This section clearly outlines the visions for South Lenches up to 2041. Objective 2 (16) appears in bold, suggest this is changed in line with formatting of other objectives.
Chapter 6: Policies Development	Introduction: This section outlines the aims of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the associated policies. Suggest that the formatting is reviewed so that it aligns with the rest of the document. A full stop is also required at the end of the paragraph of point 1 (page18).
Chapter 7: Policies	Policy 1: South Lenches Development Boundaries: This policy reflects the principals outlined within SWDPR 20, 23 and 24. A clearer key should be provided for the map on page 20, and this key should also reference the brown shaded area on the map. Housing Policies: Under the SWDPR the housing requirement for the neighbourhood area is zero (it should be noted that this is a minimum figure) as set out in the Main Modification to SWDPR03. Furthermore, the current NPPF explains that neighbourhood plans should be positively prepared, and to benefit from paragraph 14 of the NPPF, there must, at a minimum, be an allocated site within the neighbourhood plan. Please note however that a revised NPPF is likely to be adopted in the spring of 2026 onwards and the above information may be subject to change as described above. Following review of the latest draft NPPF, WDC officers will be available to discuss any updates that may materially impact the Neighbourhood Plan prior to the Reg 15 submission. Policy 2: Housing Growth, Infill and Design: This policy is consistent with policies in the SWDPR and is supported by South Lenches (SL) community survey results. Query the use of the word 'limited' in policy two. The word 'appropriate' or 'small scale' may be better suited here, or if the originally word retained then a definition would need to be provided if any of these words are chosen. In paragraph two of 'policy evidence' reference is made to South Lenches not making any housing site allocations. Please note that this is not correct or consistent with the

development strategy, especially as Church Lench is a Category 2 settlement. This should be addressed.

Policy 3: Density of Development: This policy is consistent with policy SWDPR 16 in the submitted review. The policy is supported by SL community survey results.

A 'k' should be added to 'erbing' on point 3 of the policy.

Policy 4: Affordable Housing Mix: WDC support the aims for this policy, and the focus on ensuring that there is greater provision for housing that reflects the communities' requirements. The policy is supported by SL community survey results and the housing need survey (carried out by Warwickshire Community Council in 2023).

Suggest the orange text box is formatted to be consistent with other policy texts boxes in the document.

Policy 5: Market Housing Mix: WDC support the aims for this policy, and the focus on ensuring that there is greater provision for housing that reflects the communities' requirements. The policy is supported by SL community survey results and the housing need survey carried out by Warwickshire Community Council (2023).

Policy 6: Design Guide and Local Character: This policy is aligned with SWDPR policies relating to design, South Lench Design Guide (Appendix A) and Wychavon Landscape Character Assessment. The policy is supported by SL community survey results.

Policy 7: Protection of the Historic Environment: This policy is aligned to SWDPR 9 and SWDPR 33. Please note that any designated heritage assets would be protected through their own designation for example listed buildings.

It may be beneficial to provide a list and map of non-designated heritage assets/ locally important sites to accompany the neighbourhood development plan.

Note: extra lines are needed between sites in the orange policy text box.

Policy 8: Small – Scale Sustainable and Renewable Energy: This policy is supported by WDC, and it reflects District Council's objectives in the 2020 Destination Zero strategy. It is also consistent with SWDPR 37. The policy is supported by community survey results.

Policy 9: High Quality Agricultural Land: WDC note the contents of this policy, and it is consistent with SWDPR 16.

A clearer and larger map may perhaps be beneficial to support Policy 9.

Policy 10: Trees, Hedges and Woodland: The policy is aligned to SWDPR 29. WDC supports the aims of this policy to preserve and enhance the trees, hedges and woodland within the area.

Policy 11: Wildlife and Biodiversity: The policy is aligned to SWDPR 29 and 30 in the SWDPR. WDC supports the aims of this policy to preserve and enhance Biodiversity.

Reference to SWDP in the policy wording needs to be updated to SWDPR.

Policy 12: Public Rights of way: The contents of the policy is noted, and the policy wording is supported by SL community survey results.

	The wording of sentence," Such opportunities include where planning permission is granted for development near to the existing networks", included in Policy 12 is questioned and this could be restructured to make the sentence clearer for the reader. Policy 13: Local Green Spaces: The local green spaces identified are supported and justified. As noted in the neighbourhood plan, the map and numbering of the Local Green Spaces will need to be updated as soon as the maps have been updated. Policy 14: Valued Landscape: The key views outlined within this policy are supported and justified WDC supports the aims of this policy to preserve and enhance the landscape character within the neighbourhood area. Policy 15: Flood Mitigation. The policy is aligned to SWDPR 38 in the emerging SWDP review. WDC supports the aims of this policy to mitigate flooding. Note that an 'picture insert' has been included under the policy evidence on page 46 and this will need to be addressed. Policy 16: Dark Skies. The contents of this policy have been noted. Policy 17: Community Facilities: WDC support this policy and consider that the identified community facilities cover important services and facilities within the neighbourhood area and aligns with SWDPR 47. Policy 18: Business and Employment. This policy is supported and aligns with policy SWDPR 15. Policy 19: Camping and Caravan Sites: The contents of the policy is noted and aligns with policy SWDPR 46. Additional Comments: The formatting is different throughout the document; this should be addressed. Also suggest that each section Housing, Environment, Historic and Social in the Policy chapter is formatted differently with its own chapter/ heading so that it is clearer for the reader. Note that the contents page also only shows Housing (page 19) under a separate header, but there are no similar sections for Environment, Historic or Social. It may be advisable to review Harvington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Review for specific details relating to the layout of the document. Note that the policy evidence sections are all considerable in length and wonder if these sections can be reduced at all. Suggest maps included in the neighbourhood plan document are also referenced. Also, no further chapters are provided to bring the document to a conclusion and to summarise it.
Appendix A: South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan Design Guide	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies.

Appendix B: Parish Character Assessment	The evidence base is proportionate to and supportive of the draft policies.
Appendix C: Public Rights of Way	Noted. OS references may be required for these maps.
Appendix D: Wild Corridors	Noted. Suggest the key also includes the area for the Wildlife Corridor. Please note a reference may be required for this map.

5. Conclusion

- 7.1 Overall, WDC considers that the South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14 consultation draft version) aligns with the South Worcestershire Development Plan (2016), as well as the draft policies in the SWDPR, and the 2024 NPPF. Although, it is acknowledged that it is for the Independent Examiner to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and to make any recommendations accordingly. It should be noted that the Government has published a revised draft of the NPPF in December 2025 and it may be that it is the final version of the NPPF that the Neighbourhood Plan will be examined against later in 2026.
- 7.2 It is understood that it is the intention of the Parish Council to adopt the draft South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan against the SWDPR, once adopted in March 2026. Therefore, prior to the Regulation 15 submission stage and Regulation 16 consultation version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan should be updated to reflect the final policy text and numbers of the adopted SWDPR, by referring to the SWDPR Main Modifications consultation document, and also the latest version of the NPPF that pertains at the time.