

Hatton Parish Council

Hatton Parish Council: Response to the Warwick District Council's Revised Development Plan, published June 2013

- A **public meeting** was held at Hatton Village Hall on Thursday July 4th to consider the Revised Plan, its proposals and their implications for the District as a whole, and Hatton Parish in particular.
- This was attended by about **100 local residents**, an exceptional turnout for such a meeting, reflecting the level of concern felt within the community.
- The meeting lasted 90 minutes, and although no formal vote for/against the Revised Plan was taken, **no-one spoke in favour of the proposed scale of development across the District, nor of further development within the Parish.** This concurs with the conclusions of the **Parish Plan** in which 64% were opposed to any further development (10% in favour) and 80% opposed any change to the Green Belt.
- As residents of **Warwick District**, concern was expressed :
 - Change to the character of the District, its openness and the quality of life it affords.
 - Burden on the local infrastructure, particularly the road network, emergency services, Warwick Hospital and schools. There was doubt that the proposed enhancement of infrastructure would be sufficient and would in itself have an adverse impact on the local environment.
 - Erosion of the Green Belt and loss of separation from the south-eastern fringe of the West Midlands conurbation.
- As residents of **Hatton Parish** (particularly Hatton Park) the following concerns were raised:
 - The process by which Hatton Park had been identified as a Secondary Service Village. (see below*)
 - The general concerns listed above would have particular impact on the Parish
 - The community is still in the process of settling after the development of Hatton Park and the KE11V site which increased the Parish population 4 fold, and further large scale construction work would be an unreasonable imposition on local residents.
- The **Specific sites** were then considered:
 - R117/R124 (Hatton Hill) - effectively ribbon development resulting in coalescence of Hatton Park with the 'old' village of Hatton.
 - R114 (Barcheston Drive) - detrimental to the existing bridle path and construction traffic would pass through much of the estate.
 - R115 (Ebrington Close) - The meeting was informed that this site is part of the flood prevention measures and was no longer under consideration.
 - R117, R124, R125, R75, R126 - All these sites are along side the Hatton Flight of the Grand Union Canal which is a valuable recreational amenity, not only to local

residents, but to the wider community, and would be damaged by the resulting urbanisation.

- Two of the **Gypsy and Traveller sites** identified, although not within the Parish, are immediately adjacent, and would affect local residents.
 - Kites Nest Lane: This has been the subject of a long-running planning dispute, with the outcome of a second appeal hearing pending. The District Council and local residents have been opposed on well established grounds, and nothing has happened to alter this position.
 - Oaklands Farm: The meeting was reliably informed that the owner is not willing to sell this property for this purpose, and it would thus have to be the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order. Again, its position alongside the canal makes it unsuitable

***Settlement Hierarchy Report (Draft)**

We note that Hatton Park is rated at 37 points on the basis of services available. The criteria have been reviewed by several residents, and the maximum score reached was 33. This would place Hatton Park in the 'Small and feeder Village' category.

Summary

- Hatton Parish Council does not consider that the case for providing 12,300 new homes has been made
- We have studied the assessment of the evidence presented by Bishops Tachbrook PC, and the District Council's response to it. We acknowledge that the conclusions drawn from such evidence are largely speculative and thus subject to different interpretation. There cannot however be any justification for a Plan based on the maximum figure rather on the more realistic lower figure
- We endorse the views expressed in the document '**Our Future Deserves Better**' issued jointly by Warwick and Whitnash Town Councils, and Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council.
- While we accept limited infill development within the existing village envelopes, we consider that the Green belt should be preserved, in accordance with the NPPF. No compelling case for encroachment has been made.

