



## **WOMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021** at 7pm.

This meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Gravel Hill, Wombourne, WV5 9HA.

#### **Present -**

Councillors: Mark Evans, Dan Kinsey (Vice-Chairman), Claire McIlvenna, Alan Peace (Chairman), Martin Perry, Mary Roberts.

Non-Committee Councillors – N/A

Clerk: Rachael Wright

Member of the public: 1 member of the public

Councillor Alan Peace welcomed the member of the public and thanked her for taking the time to attend.

#### **25/21 – Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Vince Merrick and John Pike.

#### **26/21 – Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **27/21 – Approval of last Committee Meeting Minutes from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Members approved the minutes as being a true records of the meeting.

#### **28/21 – Matters arising from the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

None.

#### **29/21 – Local Plan**

The Chairman explained the Parish Council's response to the consultation on the Local Plan now exceeded 60 pages. All Members had received a copy along the agenda and therefore suggested that any comments or questions were raised and dealt with at the meeting. All Members felt the response was an accurate representation of the concerns of the Council and many residents.

For the purposes of the member of the public in attendance, the Chairman provided the following summary of the report:

*The Parish Council have grave concerns about some of the sites allocated in our Village, and the infrastructure to support them.*

*Wombourne has been subject to consistent development each year for over 40 years, and there is understandable concern that the continuation of such housing expansion is destroying local ecology, impacting the very nature of the village itself and undermining already strained infrastructure, whether roads, schools, dental and GP practices. It will be important to establish the consequences of any proposed development on all of these factors.*

*There are understandably widespread concerns for our green space surrounding the village which forms so much of its character. Where homes are required, South Staffordshire Council’s own avowed position to utilise ‘Brownfield first’ must be honoured. Wombourne possesses the largest piece of Brownfield to be considered in this review, and we will be making the case for this to be the prime option for housing alongside other Brownfield where it can be identified. This is supposed to be an ‘infrastructure-led’ approach, and much concern is placed on the stretched nature of services and crumbling infrastructure that currently exists. This review must specify the infrastructure proposed in order to demonstrate the sustainability of any proposed future housing that will ensure it improves the lives of residents, rather than simply maintaining the status quo or making things worse.*

*The Parish Council appreciates South Staffordshire Council have a duty to co-operate with the West Midlands area, however we have concerns over the outdated study used. This indicates the requirement for additional housing to contribute towards the unmet needs of the GBHMA of 4,000 homes. We strongly feel this should be re-visited to re-assess the need.*

*The current Black Country Core Strategy documents, (2011) identify where the majority of the development needs of the Black Country will be accommodated up to 2026.*

- *Our Greenbelt is being placed at significant risk for the convenience of the Black Country authorities which helps to protect a greater proportion of their Greenbelt. This is unfair and unreasonable. The Black Country, if in such dire need, needs to sacrifice its own Greenbelt before we sacrifice ours.*

*Access into and out of the village is an issue, filter lanes coming in or out of the village need to be improved. This applies to developments on land of Poolhouse Road and Billy Buns Lane / Gilbert Lane especially.*

*The Parish Council are also concerned about the increased air pollution due to the increased volume of traffic coming into and out of the village.*

*Half of the village does not have access to public transport currently. Wombourne Parish Council would urge South Staffordshire Council to seek to ensure that there is a bus service which would service all areas of the village.*

Councillor Dan Kinsey proposed the response be adopted for consideration and approval by Full Council, Councillor Mary Roberts seconded the proposal, and all Members were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the response to the consultation on the Local Plan be put forward for approval by Full Council.

Councillor Mark Evans asked for his thanks to be recorded to all Members of the working group who gave up several evenings and one weekend to formulate the response to the consultation on the Local Plan. The Chairman also asked for thanks to be recorded for the Clerk’s efforts in preparing the response.

**The meeting closed at 7.16pm.**

**Signed:** ..... **Dated:** .....