

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Full Council meeting 2nd December 2019.

Agenda Item No X: (Any other reports)

Report from Hungerford 2036

Current Activities

H2036 Project Team agreed process post-HELAA publication for site evaluation and assessments using previously agreed site criteria. (see Site Assessment Process below)

WBC Local Plan to 2036 Progress

WBC are expecting to publish a revised timetable for their 2036 Local Plan Review 01/20

HELAA publication in a planned "Shortened version" has been delayed from November to January (associated with election purdah) and this will now be the "full" HELAA report.

Although H2036 has had good support from Planning Policy, it appears that the resources at WBC to progress their Plan development work are extremely stretched and **we wonder what steps are being taken by WBC to address this.**

Next steps

The HELAA publication will include WBC's initial assessments for all sites put forward to them over the last 2 years in their "call for sites" and will cover Suitability, Availability, Achievability but will not express any preferences or priorities between sites - that will be a task for the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan.

When HELAA published it is important for that we try to avoid instant judgements about sites or their promoters - for example expressing negative views that site X is there or that promoter Y has done something inappropriate.

We must stick to the process and the objective criteria and trust in those to arrive at a reasoned, prioritised assessment of sites that have been put forward. At this stage it is an objective process to identify which sites have the best potential outcome against Hungerford's criteria

Later we will get to what homes numbers we are looking at to deliver over the next 16 years.

At that point we will be looking to recruit some additional H2036 members, including at least one other Town Councillor with the aim of maximising diversity in the team and relevant expertise and experience.

Site Assessment Process – following HELAA publication 1Q2020

1. Take the viable (ie those not ruled out on fundamental issues) HELAA sites and ask the relevant site promoters to explain how they would deliver against the NP's objectives. Write to them immediately on publication of the HELAA and invite their response by a set date (dependent on HELAA publication date.)
2. Following the feedback from the site promoters, assess the sites against the agreed Hungerford2036 objectives and criteria.
3. Seek public comments on any special considerations of the sites which have come through the HELAA process.
4. Then send the respective site assessment to its promoter and ask for any factual responses.
5. At that point present the sites to the community in a public event. This should have sieved down the long list to a shorter list, probably of the most sustainable sites and then a list of other sites which maybe are sustainable in simple terms but do not deliver well against the NP's objectives.
6. Encourage and collect public consultation input on the sites at the public event and as a follow-up to it.

Signed: John Downe, Joint Chair H2036, 29/11/2019