

## Hungerford Town Council

### **Public Report**

#### **Report to:**

Full Council meeting 3rd February 2020.

#### **Agenda Item No X: (Any other reports or part of E&P report)**

Report from Hungerford 2036

#### **Current Activities**

Awaiting HELAA publication by West Berks Council

#### **WBC Local Plan to 2036 Progress**

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

HELAA publication on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 detailing any sites that were promoted by owners / agents in WBC 's call for sites.

WBC are running a briefing for Parish / Town Councils on 13<sup>th</sup> February re their 2036 Local Plan Review timetable and the HELAA.

#### **Next steps – this is as previously described to HTC FC December 2019**

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 the HELAA is published it is important 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 agreed 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.

We have a proposal from a very experienced planning consultant which the Hungerford 2036 Project will discuss with a view to contracting his support starting during February.

**Site Assessment Process** – following HELAA publication January 2020

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. (see details here <http://www.hungerford2036.info//NPLibrary/Site%20Assessment%20Criteria%20Published.pdf>)
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, 30/1/2020