

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Full Council meeting 5th October 2020.

Agenda Item No 8:

Report from Hungerford 2036

Current Activities

Based upon the information relevant to the local Site Assessment gathered by the Project Team about each of the HELAA sites, our consultant has made an initial overall assessment which we have reviewed on 1/10/2020.

The consultant is also in the process of researching and creating HELAA-equivalent documentation on the additional 3 sites which were submitted to us after WBC's HELAA exercise had been completed. We have made a request to WBC that once these are produced they will review them so that we can feel confident that all available sites have had the same evaluation. ~~Completion of the~~The HELAA-equivalent work is awaiting inputs from external bodies – primarily the AONB. It is anticipated that from the Hungerford side this will be completed during October and that then our own site assessments can be completed. Our intention at that stage is to request individual site promoters to check the assessments we have created for their own site(s). Once we have their feedback we will be in a position to consult publicly.

At around the same time (end November / early December) we expect to have sight of the consultation draft WBC Local Plan which we understand will contain guidance for Neighbourhood Plan groups on the housing growth numbers for each area. This will provide the essential backdrop for the Hungerford public consultation on potential sites.

Government Planning White Paper

West Berkshire Council have ~~now~~ agreed their consultation input on the White Paper. Their document highlights several key areas which are of particular importance in Hungerford and would make a useful prompt for HTC's consultation input should the Council be minded to submit their own feedback.

As previously stated, in any case the project team's view is that work we are currently undertaking on the most appropriate sites for any future housing developments that may be needed, remains very worthwhile and very likely to be useful within the existing or new planning regime.

Signed: John Downe, Joint Chair H2036, 3/10/2020