

Lighthorne Parish Council – November 23

District Councillor Report

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The SWLP website has been updated following the Issues and Options consultation which ran between 9th January and 13th March 2023.

The Consultation Statement has now been published online and summarises the consultation process and presents summarised analysis of the consultation questions.

Officers will utilise the consultation responses to inform the next stage in the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan – the Preferred Options Consultation Document.

Timetable

Following public consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Issues and Options earlier this year, both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have been progressing work on the joint Local Plan. Since the existing timetable for the preparation of the Plan was approved in March 2022 a number of factors are now requiring a revision to this timetable, including:

- A delay to the publication of 2021 Census data resulting in a delay to the production of the Coventry & Warwickshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (C&W HEDNA), a key piece of evidence required to support the Plan;
- Changes to the administrations of both councils and the need to ensure new administrations and members of all parties understand progress to date on the plan and have an opportunity to input in the process; and
- The uncertainty of potential changes to national planning policy and to the planning system, including the process for producing plans.

Following a meeting of the SWLP member Advisory Group on 19th October 2023, a revised timetable is being recommended for approval to the Joint Committee of both councils at a meeting to take place before the end of 2023.

This proposed timetable envisages a Preferred Options consultation in autumn 2024 followed by further stages of consultation and a public examination, with final adoption of the Plan by 2027.

Once a revised timetable is approved by the Joint Committee it will be published on the SWLP website and email notifications will be sent to advise you of this update.

Pensioner Parking Permits

63 Pensioner Parking Permits have been issued which provide up to four hour parking for those registered car owners in the Bridgefoot Car Park run by SDC. The permits cost £50 per annum and you need to apply in person at Elizabeth House with ID and car registration documents.

Upper Lighthorne Community & GP Centre

Progress is glacial but moving albeit extremely slowly. ICB were to be questioned at an SDC Overview & Scrutiny meeting on Friday 3 November but I understand more time was spent dealing with concerns regarding the Ellen Badger Hospital. However, Tony Perks from SDC was following the issues up with

Alison Cartwright of the ICB and has advised that he hopes that the Tandem report will soon be in place which will also allow them to start to move onto more detailed discussions that will give answers to the GP issue ... there are now 24 parishes as part of the lobbying group.

1. The ICB are committed to delivering an onsite medical facility to serve the Upper Lighthorne community.
2. There is a preference that this will be part of a larger community facility that would be delivered in conjunction with the District Council.
3. To allow this possibility to be fully explored, the GP selection process has been extended, but the process will still conclude in time to ensure that no delivery trigger points are missed.
4. The project is on track to meet the delivery timetable set out within the S106 agreement.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is engaged in respect of the S106 agreement for policing and has indicated to me that a community hub at Upper Lighthorne would be the ideal location for the Wellesbourne SNT to be based.

The ICB has confirmed that there are four GP partnerships that have expressed interest, but decline to identify which they are – however it is understood that three of them include practices in Wellesbourne, Kineton and Harbury plus their respective branch surgeries.

Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP had a meeting with the ICB in October and has requested another meeting by the end of November, by which time the ICB should have appeared before an SDC Scrutiny Committee, and Graham Black of Tandem Projects may have completed his Options Feasibility Report for SDC.

Cabinet Meeting – 6th November

A Stratford-on-Avon Community Climate Change Fund of £100k will enable town and parish councils as well as constituted community and charity groups to bid for projects which will incur a cost of up to £10k and meet a specific criteria – further details awaited, but this might provide opportunities for EV charging points in the village?

Wellesbourne Airfield

Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP has received a reply to his letter to the Department of Transport concerning Wellesbourne Airfield which has confirmed that the Government is committed to retaining regional airports and airfields which they see are key in serving local communities and supporting employment and economic growth across the UK. As expected and understood, as Wellesbourne Airfield is a licensed airfield any redesign or changes to the runway needs to comply with the Civil Aviation Authority.

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