

Consultation on the Soundness of the Warwick District Council Local Plan

The Response of Budbrooke Parish Council

The Parish Council believes that the current version of the Local Plan is not properly prepared because it is based on population projections for the District which the ONS has recently significantly revised downwards. Populations of all other local authorities in the subregion, with the exception of Coventry are all lower by similar amounts.

Any extra development required in neighbouring Districts for the extra expected population of Coventry would be shared between the neighbouring Districts and should not greatly affect the reduced requirements for Warwick District. In any case, recent newspaper reports suggest that Coventry have offered land that they own in Warwick District, close to their border which would take up a great deal of their extra requirement and probably in excess of that Warwick District could be expected to provide.

In these circumstances, the figures in the local plan are clearly unsound and the plan should be withdrawn.

Should there be an option of revising the plan, we would suggest that the allocations for dwellings in the non-green belt areas would be sufficient to satisfy the reduced requirements thus removing any “exceptional circumstances” argument needed for building in the green belt. If such an option were possible, the proposals for building in the green belt villages, including Hampton Magna, should be withdrawn.

In addition we believe that the plan is not legally compliant or consistent with National Policy in that it makes no provision for self build housing as required in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Parish Council consider the District Council's responses on the infrastructure of Hampton Magna and the need for it to be strengthened considerably to be inadequate, should the proposed extra housing be built. In this respect the Plan is both not properly prepared or effective.

The Council is especially concerned that no engineering assessments seem to have been made on the electricity supply and sewerage systems. These are historically very fragile in the village as it is little different from the original Budbrooke Barracks system. The village has regular sewage problems and frequent short term electricity blackouts.

Similarly the local traffic situation for traffic leaving Hampton Magna to the A4177 has not been adequately addressed. Whilst a proposal has been made to increase the capacity of Stanks roundabout at the A46 junction, traffic leaving Old Budbrooke Road could still face greater peak time delays than the congestion that exists now, especially because the proposed developments in Hatton and further afield will create a bigger problem to resolve.