



MARCH 2017

The Steering Group continues to make excellent progress with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (“NDP”) and, with the assistance of our Consultants Kirkwells, we have produced the first formal draft based on the results of the questionnaires, consultations and the input of the Steering Group.

We had a 50% response rate to the business questionnaire and this would be a good opportunity to share the results with you:

1. Businesses who responded to the questionnaire in Yarkhill are either expanding or maintaining a steady state
2. The markets they operate in vary from local and West Midlands to National. None of the respondents indicated that they sell their products outside the U.K.

The key challenges facing local businesses are:

1. Supply chain issues
2. Premises too small
3. Poor Broadband reception
4. Business rates too high
5. Access to transport links

These businesses would be helped by having access to:

1. Adjacent land to expand
2. Superfast Broadband
3. Improved mobile phone reception

The business responses overall illustrated the benefits and disadvantages of operating within a rural area, but the outlook overall appears positive

A critical element of the NDP is the identification and designation of “Settlement Boundaries” that establish where development is expected in line with Herefordshire Council’s Core Strategy. The Steering Group, with the help of the local community, is in the process of establishing these and residents will be invited to express their views in the upcoming consultation events. Kirkwells, our Consultants, will also ensure that boundaries meet the specific criteria set down by Herefordshire Council.

At the beginning of April, we will be seeking the next tranche of the Central Government grant, part of which will pay for the assessment by our Consultants of proposed building



developments notified to the Steering Group. Once this is completed we will of course let all potential developers know the outcome.

We are planning to share our progress with the Parish at the Easter Egg Hunt in the Village Hall in later April and date and time are to be advised. Please come along and give us your views and comments.

The NDP will be going through a number of redrafts through March and April and a fully updated and final draft version will be made available at the formal village Consultation which we hope will take place on the 20 May 2017. This is an important event and milestone for the Parish and the agreed date will be confirmed in the May edition of Yarkhill News, so please only pencil in the 20th.

Following this Consultation, the Plan will be amended to take account of your views after which the final document will be submitted to Herefordshire Council for approval. It will then go to a separate Inspector for ratification. This process takes time, but once approved, Yarkhill Village will be asked to provide its approval or decline of the NDP through a formal Referendum process that will likely take place in February or March 2018. However, this could be brought forward if the formal processes are completed more quickly.

Thank you once again to the Steering Group, the businesses who returned completed questionnaires and local people who have supported this significant initiative through their suggestions and comments.

Meetings of the Steering Group are held in the Village Hall and are open to the public. They are publicised on Village noticeboards and on the website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/yarkhillneighbourhoodplan>

Tom Misselbrook
Chair Yarkhill Parish Council