

BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL



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2nd March 2023.

Attention of:

Cllr Tony Jefferson, Leader Strategic Leadership Portfolio SDC

Cllr Daren Pemberton, Deputy Leader Place Portfolio SDC

Mr. John Careford, Head of Development SDC

Cc:

Mr David Buckland, Chief Executive {Head of Paid Service} SDC

Delivered by hand for expediency.

Dear Sirs,

**South Warwickshire Local Plan  
Issues and Options Consultation  
Henley and Beaudesert JPC response**

The Beaudesert & Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council [JPC] has today submitted its response to the SWLP Issues and Options consultation.

Given the obvious restraints created by a short timescale, the JPC have tried to make their response as comprehensive as possible, despite having very limited time to organise public meetings, the JPC took great delight from welcoming approximately 200 residents to the planning meeting held on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of February last. The meeting followed a mailing campaign to **all households in the settlement** asking for their issues and opinions.

Over 150 or so written/email responses were collected, just under 10% of those polled. A huge majority raised acute concern about the proposition of doubling the number of dwellings in Beaudesert and Henley, without evidence to suggest how such an increase would be underpinned by an adequate infrastructure plan.

The Issues and Opinions questionnaire you will know, created more problems than it solved and was complicated by raising issues which were impossible for a small Parish Council to comment on with any confidence, evidenced by a number of negative responses in our submission.

Both the mailing campaign and the public meeting which followed, had six major points at its core, they are:

- The JPC needs to work collaboratively with the SWLP cabinet.
- The local plan should recognise the importance of localism and the need for decisions to be responsive to town and village communities.
- The range of future housing options is between 500 to 2000 homes, the proposed expansion needs to be proportionate to the existing settlement boundaries.

- The joint parishes need modest sustainable growth. the specific sites to provide this growth should be determined in our neighbourhood plan.
- The development options make infrastructure assumptions with no sustainable evidence of the local authorities' ability to deliver.
- The plan states a need for 50% of the homes to be affordable. The town has a major problem with affordability with no indication in the plan how this aspiration can be satisfied.

In summary, at the end of the meeting, the JPC proposed two bite sized resolutions, the following minutes were recorded:

*M5.2 That the assembled endorse the approach being taken by the JPC in relation to the South Warwickshire Local plan and the Henley and Beaudesert neighbourhood plan.*

*RESOLVED: The assembled voted by a show of hands and were unanimous bar one, in endorsing the proposal numbered M5.2 above.*

*M5.3 That the assembled agrees that the town needs modest and sustainable growth in keeping with the character of the existing settlement. This growth is supported subject to the Local Authorities providing substantial improvements to the infrastructure of the town in advance. The specific sites providing this growth should be determined locally in an approved Neighbourhood Development Plan.*

*RESOLVED: The assembled voted by a show of hands and were unanimous in agreeing the proposal numbered M5.3 above.*

Finally, the JPC have taken some comfort from our colleagues CPRE, who have a vastly wider pool of resources than are available to the JPC. They have highlighted salient observations in their response to SWLP, in particular on Windfalls, Affordability Uplifts, and In-migration issues. We are presently studying their findings in preparation for the upcoming preferred options stage of the consultation process.

Notwithstanding the disappointment with the level of interaction at many levels within this consultation to date, the JPC believe that better joint communication can be achieved in future and would ask that an early meeting takes place between the Council and senior members and officers involved in developing the plan, where a coherent timetable of events can be established.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Wendy Andrews

Ray Evans

**Chair of the JPC**

**Parish Clerk and RFO to the JPC**

**Enc: SWLP Issues and Options Questionnaire Document**