**Lapworth Parish Council – on line submissions which remained in draft despite being submitted**

Q**-V3.1: Do you agree that the Vision and Strategic Objectives are appropriate? : Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

Lapworth Parish Council does **NOT** consider the vision and strategic options are appropriate. The first paragraph reads as a list of disparate items included as a result of the previous consultation rather than as a vision to aspire to. In particular, the first paragraph fails to articulate what is special about South Warwickshire or why it needs protecting, conserving and enhancing as a place to live and work.

We consider it is more important to explain that South Warwickshire, known all over the world for its cultural and historic importance, is the green lungs and heart of the Midlands rather than saying it will meet unmet housing need from elsewhere. There needs to be more emphasis on why the area is special – small historic villages surrounded by open farmed countryside with ancient woodland and hedgerows linked by canals, railways, and narrow winding roads leading to larger market towns.

The green belt helps underscore the character, identity and distinctiveness of South Warwickshire. If the Green Belt is to be reviewed, Lapworth Parish Council would like to be involved and consulted.

We would also like to draw attention for more explicit reference to include people of all ages, genders and abilities, eg there is very little about young people or differently abled people included in the document.

We note also that there is a marked disparity in many ways between the very rural areas and the towns of South Warwickshire and we would like to see a strategic commitment made to redress this imbalance wherever possible.

We suggest the following rewording of the vision statement:

South Warwickshire is the cultural heart and green lungs of the Midlands and its distinctive identity and appearance is recognised and cherished across the World.

The vision is to meet South Warwickshire's sustainable development needs to 2050, while responding to the climate emergency. The plan will provide homes and jobs, boost and diversify the local economy, and provide appropriate infrastructure, in suitable locations, at the right time. Five overarching principles will determine how this development is delivered:

* **A climate resilient and Net Zero Carbon South Warwickshire** – adapting our existing buildings and infrastructure to the effects of climate change and mitigating against its causes across while avoiding any further damage that might arise from development
* **A well-designed and beautiful South Warwickshire**– creating spaces where people of all ages and abilities want to be, which complement, respect and reflect the existing beauty, openness and heritage of the area
* **A healthy, safe and inclusive South Warwickshire** – enabling everyone throughout the whole area to enjoy safe and healthy lifestyles with a good quality of life
* **A well-connected South Warwickshire** – ensuring that new and existing development is physically and digitally reflects its position as gateway to the Midlands from the North and South. New development will be designed to be in accessible locations and promote active travel
* **A biodiverse and environmentally resilient South Warwickshire**– strengthening green and blue infrastructure and achieving a net increase in biodiversity across South Warwickshire

**Q-S3.1: Please add any comments you wish to make about the Urban Capacity Study: Issue and Options 2023**

* Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

We note the discussions about utilising public car parks as potential housing sites.

We note that the Arup Urban Capacity study identifies a potential housing supply of around 14,750 dwellings plus windfall 4840 and highlights a need for South Warwickshire over the plan period to be about 30,750 and concludes it is unlikely to be possible to meet current development needs without greenfield development.

It is not absolutely clear to the lay person if these figures include the unmet housing need from elsewhere.. We do not have the technical expertise to comment on the Urban Capacity Study but would like to be fully involved in discussions about specific sites further down the line.

**Q-S3.2: Please select the option which is most appropriate for South Warwickshire : Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

Option b Lapworth Parish Council consider that using Brown field land should take priority over undeveloped land even if it is in an unsustainable location such as by a main road.

**Q-B8.1: Do you agree that the plan should include a policy avoiding development on the best and most versatile agricultural land, unless it can be demonstrated that the harm to agricultural land is clearly outweighed by the benefit of development? : Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

Yes

**Q-C10.1: Please select all options which are appropriate for South Warwickshire: Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

We do not have the expertise to advise on the precise nature of climate change modelling but would note that it would be onerous and unreasonable to require all applications for planning permission eg a small porch or a dropped kerb to have to produce a detailed Climate change risk assessment. We suggest that a threshold approach of 10 or more dwellings like that proposed elsewhere in the document is used.

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

**Q-C11: Please select the option which is most appropriate for South Warwickshire : Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

Lapworth parish Council consider that SDC policy CS4 provides a good base modified to include waterbodies in the WDC area.

**Q-H5: Please select all options which are appropriate for South Warwickshire : Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council** A threshold approach to self-build seems to be the best along the lines of the WDC policy.

Q**-H6: Please select all options which are appropriate for South Warwickshire : Issue and Options 2023**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council.**

 Lapworth Parish Council do not have the expertise to comment on how to best increase the availability of Gypsy. Traveller and Travelling Show People accommodation.

**Q-E11: Please add any comments you wish to make about delivering South Warwickshire's economic needs : Issue and Options 2023**

Lapworth Parish Council note that there seems to be some differences in approach between the two districts; we would like to see identification of opportunities for younger residents as a specific target.

**Q-H1-1: The HEDNA is proposing that we move away from an approach where future household needs are based on the 2014-based household projections towards a trend-based approach. Do you think that the HEDNA evidence provides a reasonable basis for identifyifying future levels of Housing need across**

Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

Lapworth Parish Council does not have the expertise to comment on the HEDNA methodology, but it seems sensible to use the most up to date and accurate figures to assess need.

We would reiterate that we do not believe it is sensible to use a single strategy based on rail to identify future housing location as this is inflexible and likely to be superseded as a sustainable option by innovative EV/hydrogen technologies in the near future. We would also reiterate that brown field locations regardless of their sustainable access status should be a priority for development over green field sites.

Q**-H2-1: What is the best way to significantly increase the supply of affordable housing across South Warwickshire? : Issue and Options 2023**

* Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

Lapworth Parish Council does not have the expertise to answer this question but would note that it is important for developments to offer a mix of dwelling sizes including adapted for disabilities and the elderly rather than just 3- and 4-bedroom executive homes on site and monies for affordable housing elsewhere. Partnerships with developers and Housing Associations may be appropriate here.

**Q-H4-1: Do you agree with the approach of contributing to meeting the Birmingham and Black Country HMA shortfall to** Respondent: **Lapworth Parish Council**

No.

 It is not clear from the Options document how many dwellings South Warwickshire is likely to be expected to accommodate. It is also not clear how SW officers will input into other area’s plans to ensure emphasis is placed on brownfield development rather than on other criteria. There is a lot of brownfield land within Birmingham and the Black Country.

Priority should be given to addressing the needs of South Warwickshire in the first instance and ensuring that this is done in the most appropriate locations rather than just focusing on the need to accommodate unmet need as closely as possible to those areas in a blunt way. We do not agree that simply focussing on rail networks is an appropriate strategy as this is slow, inflexible, subject to a myriad of external pressures will soon be superseded by innovations in sustainable transport allowing a much more dispersed and diverse approach.