

## *Burghill Neighbourhood Development Plan*

### *Recent News*

*July 2017*

The Updated Site Assessment Report has now been available in the public domain for comments for just over two months. Comments have been submitted to The Parish Clerk who has collated the information and soon it will be sent to Kirkwells, our independent town planning consultants. Kirkwells will consider whether the Site Assessment Report will need changes arising from the contents of these submissions.

The Site Assessment Report will be used to prepare a fresh version of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which hopefully can be considered by the Parish Council at its next meeting on the 12 July 2017. Pending the approval of the PC, the new NDP will be submitted to Herefordshire Council for the next stages in its official consultation process. Once this stage has been reached, the Steering Group's work will have been completed and its activities will be discontinued. You can be assured that throughout this lengthy process your parish council has complied with the relevant guidance in preparing the NDP. Furthermore, your parish council will act with due diligence when considering the views and comments made during any of the consultation or comment periods.

In recent weeks many of you within the parish will have received through the post an anonymous flyer. This was **not** produced by your parish council or by the steering group. Neither does the anonymous flyer represent the views of the parish council nor those of the steering group. As the flyer was anonymous and contained material of a critical nature to the NDP process and PC members, legal advice was sought from The Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

The advice given by HALC to the PC meeting was that anonymous submissions and content should neither be received nor used by a parish council. One of the main reasons for ignoring such anonymous material is that it could be intended to promote personal interest and undermine the council's democratic process. This could have the result of securing personal and monetary advantage for the unknown authors of the document. The HALC representative was of the opinion that the NDP should be allowed to go forward through its due processes to Referendum, when all members of the parish would be able to express their views by voting for or against it in line with the normal referendum procedure.

If parishioners would like further information about any of the above matters then please contact the following:

Mark Ellis (PC Chairman) 760230  
Alan Stokes (PC Vice Chairman) 760731  
Paulette Scholes, Parish Clerk 07801958673