

Bredon, Bredon's Norton and Westmancote Parish Council



December 2017, Issue 51

Update on Proposed Development at Mitton Bank

The Parish Council has received notification that developers are preparing a planning application for 500 houses at Mitton Bank between Bredon's Hardwick and Tewkesbury - **this is part of our Parish**. Currently, this area is not allocated for housing in either of the development plans covering our parish – the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and the Bredon Parish Neighbourhood Plan. **We are strongly opposed to the proposals.**

The SWDP is the main, strategic-level plan. Strategic planning is vital for ensuring that most housing is located where it has easy access to jobs, schools, healthcare and shops, while avoiding harm to special places. Where housing is not planned strategically, this can result in huge costs to society in the long run, in terms of chronic road congestion, reduce employment, poorer health and more expensive social care.

The SWDP works by calculating the amount of housing that is needed up to 2030 and allocating land in the best available places. While there is a housing shortage nationally, thanks to the SWDP this is not the case in south Worcestershire. The SWDP has earmarked enough land to meet its 2030 target. In Wychavon, house prices have fallen by 6% in real terms from their peak in 2007 (BBC news, 17/10/2017).

The Bredon Parish Neighbourhood Plan works alongside the SWDP at a local level. Its policies are specifically tailored to our parish. The plan was approved by 9 out of 10 voters in this summer's referendum. It explicitly states that large-scale housing should only be permitted on land which has been allocated under the SWDP.

The parishioners of Bredon have collectively devoted many thousands of hours to helping to shape and write our local plans. It is vital for the future of our communities that these plans are upheld. While housing may be needed at Mitton one day, we emphatically believe that this must be plan-led through the next review of the SWDP. This is the only way of ensuring that crucial issues such as road congestion, affordable local housing, and preserving a rural buffer between Bredon's Hardwick and Tewkesbury are properly addressed. Development should not come about as a result of developers circumventing the plan in order to maximise their profits.

The Parish Council is urgently seeking a fact finding meeting with Wychavon officers to obtain the latest information and to stress key local objections to the Mitton proposals. In the light of this, we will draw up a strategy for opposing any unplanned development in the parish, and share this with parishioners.

We will keep you informed via the Parish magazine and website. It would be very helpful if we could also contact you by email about this very important issue. If you are happy to be kept in touch in this way, please add your address to our mailing list www.bredonpc.org.uk/news-events/join-our-mailing-list/ or send your email address to the Clerk, bredonpc@btconnect.com. All contact details will be kept securely and not shared.

Exterior of Village Hall

As Parishioners have been pointing out, the outside of the Village Hall is in need of some care and attention. The Council is busy getting quotes for new exterior doors and repainting. Hopefully work should start in the New Year.

Dog Mess

Please remember to pick up any dog mess your dog may do, either in the village or whilst walking around the surrounding fields. We have had a number of incidents involving children. The mess can cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness and serious kidney disorders in humans. The Council is investigating getting more dog bins.



Planning Applications

The Parish Council's role is only advisory. For more details, please refer to www.wychavon.gov.uk.

For consideration by Wychavon:

W/17/02170/LB - 2 Hillview Cottages, Watery Lane, Kinsham. Proposed two storey extension to the rear of the property. Parish council has made general comments.

Date of Next Meeting(s):

*Monday 11th December
and*

Monday 8th January
takes place in Bredon Village Hall at 7:15pm