



Revised Development Strategy Response Form 2013

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Ref:
Rep. Ref.

Please use this form if you wish to support or object to the Local Plan - Revised Development Strategy.

If you are commenting on multiple sections of the document you will need to complete a separate copy of Part B of this form for each representation.

This form may be photocopied or, alternatively, extra forms can be obtained from the Council's offices or places where the plan has been made available (see back page). You can also respond online using the LDF Consultation System, visit: www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan

Part A - Personal Details

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Would you like to be made aware o	of future consultations on	the new Local Pl	an? $1/Y_{\text{Yes}}$	No			
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Part B - Commenting on the Revised Development Strategy

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Warwick District Local Plan

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Thickthorn Kenilworth

1) These submissions are made on behalf of Kenilworth Rugby FC; Kenilworth

Wardens C&FC; The Hibberd Family and the McDaid Trustees who have been

promoting the release of this land for mixed use development throughout the

emerging Local Plan process. These parties consider that there are exceptional

circumstances that now justify the release of this area of land from the Green Belt -

principally for reasons relating to the need to accommodate new development in a

sustainable location. It is submitted that this area of land would achieve a sustainable

pattern of development that is capable of being well connected to the centre of

Kenilworth and able to provide facilities for both the existing and future residents of

the town. The concept of the allocation providing a mix use of housing and

employment development is supported. There is clearly a need for employment land

to be located where it has presence to the surrounding highway network. As such the

identified broad location to the south east of the site is supported.

2) It is acknowledged that in order for the site to be fully developed the existing sports

clubs need to relocate. Both Clubs see the proposals in the Local Plan as a welcome

opportunity to secure modern and expanded playing facilities to meet the demands of

a growing participation in the sports played and increasing requirement for modern

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spectator facilities. The Thickthorn allocation is not a 'threat' to the survival of the two Clubs, but rather a desired opportunity to relocate in close proximity to the urban edge of Kenilworth where both Clubs can expand their facilities to the overall benefit

of the community. Extensive discussions have been held with the Local Planning

Authority on a relocation strategy that suits the future needs of both Clubs.

3) It is noted that it is suggested that no development shall take place on the sports

grounds until 'both clubs have successfully moved'. There is a concern as to the

meaning of 'successfully moved' and no reason why development should not

commence on one of the Club grounds in advance of the other relocating. It is

submitted that for the purposes of the text in the Local Plan, the Written Statement

should simply record that a relocation strategy is required prior to built development

taking place on either of the two sports grounds. Such an arrangement would then

allow for say some items of infrastructure (but 'development' within the meaning of

Section 55 of the Act) to be installed - which may not interfere with the playing

facilities - before relocation, or for example some form of phased relocation - with

the particular club sharing other facilities in the interim period prior to full

relocation. The fundamental issue is to ensure that these existing facilities are not

lost, but relocated into enhanced playing and clubhouse facilities.

4) Preparation of a Master Plan is underway taking on-board strategic considerations

raised by the Highway Authority (HA) It is understood that the HA has a clear

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preference for a primary school to be situated in the centre of the allocation, possibly alongside some other local facilities so that there is maximum opportunity to access these facilities other than by short car journeys. It is considered that the precise

location of the primary school should be a matter that is determined by the master

plan process in conjunction with extensive local community engagement. As such

the 'starred' siting of a primary school at this stage in the local plan process is

considered inappropriate if it is suggesting the location is to be pre-determined by the

'Thickthorn Map' in the Local Plan.

5) The principles of the Infrastructure Requirements are acknowledged and accord with

the understanding from the assessments that have been undertaken to date. In the

context of Green Infrastructure it is submitted that the precise dimension of the

'buffer' is determined by detailed environmental analysis rather than being pre-

determined at this stage in the plan-making process. The Local Plan can properly

record that a 'buffer' will be required around the Ancient Woodland to mitigate the

impact of 'activity' from the new resident population.

6) As provided for in the policy there will be large areas of open space and possibly

other community requirements to meet the needs of the future resident population.

The extent of and disposition of these uses should be determined through an

analytical assessment of the opportunities and constraints with the benefit of

stakeholder and public consultation. This process will lead to the preparation of a

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Master Plan that will establish the spatial planning principles for this site. For the

purposes of this stage in the Local Plan process it is considered sufficient to identify

the extent of the allocation, and the broad disposition of the employment land which

has locational demands for siting in close proximity to the principal highway

network. Paragraph 5.4.3 states:

'It has been estimated that 45% of the site should be for open space, community

facilities, primary school, grey and green infrastructure.'

The source of this 'estimate' is not known. However, it is considered to be

unjustified if this 'estimate' is interpreted as a development plan policy requirement.

The site should be used efficiently for the provision of high quality housing and

employment development. The amount of land that is required to be set aside of the

features identified above should be determined through the master plan process. A

development plan should not be used as a means to predetermine the precise extent

to which a site may accommodate new development in the absence of a robust

evidence base. The required evidence base will be established within the Master

Plan.

7) In conclusion the allocation at Thickthorn Kenilworth is supported. It is considered

that new development can be brought forward promptly on this site following its

release from the Green Belt in response to the provisions of a comprehensive master

plan. The site has the benefit of access points to the Leamington Road and

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Glasshouse Lane to enable housing development to commence in at least two

locations thereby assisting in the delivery of new housing early in the plan period.

The provision of a highway link through the site would then provide some relief to

the movement of traffic around St Johns. The Transport Assessment has established

that some additional housing could be accessed from Glasshouse Lane before the

link through the site is competed. This is clearly a matter for detailed discussion with

the HA, and may include provision for all heavy construction traffic to access the site

from Leamington Road.

8) The allocation anticipates the Thickthorn site coming forward with a comprehensive

masterplan across the whole but with flexibility to allow for the possibility of

phasing early development of smaller part or parts to facilitate front funding of the

bigger scheme and subject to the smaller part or parts being acceptable in their own

right.

Further discussions with the LPA are welcomed on the delivery strategy for this

allocation.

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