

South Warwickshire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation

This document is a response from Pillerton Hersey Parish Council on the SWLP Issues and Options consultation.

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Pillerton Hersey Parish Council considers the South Warwickshire Plan. It is evident that there has been due thought and commitment to the development of the plan and the Parish Council acknowledges this.

Vision and Strategic Objectives

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council broadly supports the vision and strategic objectives.

Meeting South Warwickshire's Sustainable Development Needs

Q-S3.2 Use of Brownfield Land for development

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council considers it important to prioritise the development of brownfield sites where it corresponds to the growth strategy. This may be in the form of residential or infrastructure.

Q-S4.1: Growth of existing settlements

The Parish Council agrees that the growth of some of the existing settlements in South Warwickshire should be part of the overall strategy.

The Council particularly notes the importance of local infrastructure to accommodate growth. For example, schools (primary and secondary), access to primary healthcare, shops, etc.

The potential for new settlements

Q-S5.2: Yes, new settlements should be part of the overall strategy.

Q-S5.3: Yes, in response to the climate change emergency, rail corridors should be a preferred approach to identifying potential settlement locations.

Spatial growth options

Q-S7: The parish council have considered the five different growth options:

Option 1: Rail – this is considered an appropriate option.

Option 2: Sustainable travel – Neutral opinion.

Option 3: Economy – this is considered an appropriate option.

Option 4: Sustainable Travel and Economy – this is considered an appropriate option.

Option 5: Dispersed – neutral opinion.

Small scale development outside of the chosen spatial growth option

Q-S8.1: The parish council **AGREES** that, for settlements falling outside the chosen growth strategy, a threshold approach is appropriate, to allow more small-scale developments to come forward.

Q-S8.2: The parish council considers that for sites coming forward as part of this threshold approach, **an appropriate size limit for individual sites is 10 dwellings per site.**

Settlement Boundaries and infill development

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council considers that option S9b is most appropriate for South Warwickshire. This is to, within Part 1 Plan, review which settlements have boundaries defined and which do not, as well as the extent of any such boundaries.

Development strategy

We consider it essential that the building of infrastructure should be implemented before or during development unless it would otherwise represent poor value for money.

There have been instances where the existing policy of what is brownfield has been limited development. A suggestion is that if it looks and feels like a brownfield site then a definition of what a brownfield site it should be reconsidered. For example, industrial livestock farming.

The principle of the 20-minute neighbourhood is good but there may be occasions when it may be better to not apply it if it would impede a small/micro development that proposes other benefits above and beyond existing standards. Similarly, if a sustainable proposal to develop a rural brownfield site is presented, it may not exactly meet the 20-minute neighbourhood principle but is near and has other sustainable design features.

Additional development is needed but there is not a limitless supply of land. It is therefore important to consider intensification, however, this should be both considerate of the local site in question, provide a health, quality environment and appropriate access to other space.

There is an opportunity to use a balanced scorecard approach where points are accumulated to compare sustainable, innovative developments. To support appropriate local development, local planning committees should take into account the inherent flexibilities associated with development proposals.

The development strategy should ensure that existing and future settlements and development have energy security that is affordable for all. Access to clean, sustainable, affordable, secure energy transcends many other issues in the plan. The potential for individual homes, micro-developments, hamlets etc to be self-sufficient is significant. Homes could not only have their own generation but also shared generation and storage (not necessarily on a large scale). These types of features should be prioritised to support energy security.

On the issue of sustainable transport, the parish council considers this could be enhanced if some bridleways were upgraded to promote cycling. This would be particularly appropriate between neighbouring rural communities, particularly to access services. It may be an option to consider support for landowners to include cycling ('green transport') under environmental land management (ELM) schemes.

Delivering South Warwickshire's Economic Needs

Growing the South Warwickshire economy

Q-E1.1: No - Pillerton Hersey Parish Council **DOES NOT** think that the HEDNA evidence provides a reasonable basis for identifying future levels of employment need across South Warwickshire.

A Low carbon economy

Q-E2a: Pillerton Hersey Parish Council considers that South Warwickshire should include a policy which encourages businesses to be low carbon.

Diversifying the economy

Q-E3b: Pillerton Hersey Parish Council considers that it is appropriate to have separate policies for individual sectors.

Sustaining a rural economy

Q-E4.1: A – It is considered appropriate to include a policy that supports diversification.

Q-E4.2: A – It is considered appropriate to include a policy which supports small-scale employment opportunities in rural areas.

Q-E6: A – It is considered appropriate to include a policy which protects South Warwickshire's economic assets.

Q-E7.1: A – It is considered appropriate to include a policy that directs employment to the Core Opportunity Area

Q-E7.2: B – It is considered that there should NOT be a policy that relates to additional economic growth at the major investment sites.

Delivering homes that meet the needs of all our communities

Q-H1-1: No – Pillerton Hersey Parish Council does not think that the HEDNA evidence provides a reasonable basis for identifying future levels of housing need across South Warwickshire.

Q-H1-2: Since the start of 2020, the UK has formally left the EU and the world has experienced a pandemic. These events are unprecedented, and the impact is still being realised. Since the start of the pandemic many aspects of our daily lives, particularly work, have significantly changed. Trend analysis may not be accurate as we now settle into a post-pandemic society that is outside of the EU. The pandemic led some to move to a more rural location, however, this may not continue as the limitations of rural life become more apparent.

Providing the right tenure and type of homes

Q-H2-2: C – It is considered that a more localised approach with separate affordable housing requirements for different localities across South Warwickshire is appropriate.

Q-H3: B – It is considered appropriate to apply Nationally Described Space Standards to developments across South Warwickshire based on locally derived evidence.

Q-H4.3 – It is considered that if the region is required to meet housing shortfalls from outside of South Warwickshire, then it is appropriate to use brownfield sites and new settlement options are appropriate. These should include infrastructure to support new and existing communities.

Q-H5: B – It is considered appropriate that large developments of, say, over 100 homes should provide a proportion of self- and custom-build homes within the overall site.

Q-H6: C – It is considered appropriate to require large developments of over 500 homes to provide a proportion of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople homes on the edge of the overall site.