

Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan 2025-2041

Consultation Statement



Drop-in consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, July 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to accompany the submission of the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Development Plan ('Neighbourhood Plan') to Wychavon District Council (WDC), the local planning authority, and to ensure that the relevant statutory requirements are met.¹ The Statement:

- Contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan;
- Explains how they were consulted;
- Summarises the main issues and concerns raised by those consulted; and
- Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Plan.

Format of the Consultation Statement

1.2 The Statement covers the following stages of Plan preparation, arranged in chronological order:

- The designation of the Neighbourhood Area and formation of a Steering Group (section 2).
- The launch consultation (section 3).
- The community questionnaire survey (section 4).
- The draft Plan consultation under Regulation 14 (section 5).
- The issues and concerns raised in response to the Regulation 14 consultation, and how they were addressed (section 6).

1.3 The following principal consultation methods were used in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Posting of consultation and questionnaire survey documents, supporting technical information and Steering Group minutes online on the Town Council's website at <https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/neighbourhood-development-plan-ndp/>.
- Formation of a Steering Group comprising Town Councillors, representatives from the Droitwich Spa Civic Society, and residents.
- Questionnaire surveys of households and businesses in the Neighbourhood Area using a mix of online (SurveyMonkey) and traditional response methods.
- Consulting consultation bodies and other local consultees by email.
- Posting of material on the Town Council noticeboards and other locations.
- Publicity of consultations via social media and press releases.
- Standing displays during consultation exercises at the Town Council offices/Heritage Centre in St. Richard's House and at the nearby Droitwich Spa Library, both convenient and accessible locations in the town centre.
- Drop-in meetings.
- Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of the 2012 Regulations as amended.

¹ Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 15 (2)

2. DESIGNATING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND ESTABLISHING A STEERING GROUP

2.1 The following steps and actions were undertaken by the Town Council in terms of initiating work on the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Making an application to WDC for designation of the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Area. This was approved on 11 January 2017.
- Setting up a Steering Group to guide development of the draft Plan. The Steering Group first met in August 2022 and initially comprised Town Councillors and volunteers from the local community, being later expanded to include representatives from the Droitwich Spa Civic Society, WDC officers, and other volunteers. Meetings were held regularly during the process of preparing the Plan. The minutes of Steering Group meetings can be viewed on the Town Council website.

2.2 The issues and concerns raised in this initial stage of the plan-making process comprised in summary:

- Organisational and administrative issues in terms of how the Plan would best be prepared and the level and type of financial and professional support required.
- The proper scope of the Neighbourhood Plan in terms of land use and development.
- Its relationship with the review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), the Local Plan for the administrative areas of Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District. The SWDP was adopted in 2016; a Review (SWDPR) was begun in late 2017 and adopted in March 2026. The Neighbourhood Plan was drawn up to reflect the adopted Local Plan and the emerging Review including its evidence base.
- How best to seek community views as a basis for preparing the Plan.

2.3 These issues and concerns were considered and addressed by:

- Successful application to WDC for designation of the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Area.
- Establishing a Steering Group to act as a forum for the development of the Plan.
- Seeking and obtaining advice and support from WDC from the outset and throughout the Plan preparation process, ensuring awareness of the emerging Local Plan as well as providing guidance on procedures to be followed.
- Obtaining grant funding and engaging professional support (a planning consultant was appointed in July 2022).
- Developing a Communication and Consultation Strategy to set out the principles of the approach to community engagement. This was published on the Town Council website at <https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/communication-and-consultation-strategy/>.

3. LAUNCH CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The launch consultation was held during March and April 2023. It sought initial views on living in Droitwich Spa and how the Neighbourhood Plan could be used to benefit the community, as a basis for the proposed questionnaire survey and to inform Plan preparation more generally.
- 3.2 The launch consultation was publicised by means of a letter delivered to all households in the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Area during February and early March 2023 (Appendix 1). The consultation was also publicised on the Town Council website and through posters and local press releases to Standard Group and Worcester News.
- 3.3 The consultation sought views as to how the town should develop and grow in the period up to 2041, with responses invited to seven open questions:

Question 1: What do you like about living in Droitwich?

Question 2: What new community facilities might we want?

Question 3: How can we best support and regenerate the town centre?

Question 4: What infrastructure issues in the town most concern you?

Question 5: What mix of new businesses should we be encouraging?

Question 6: How can we protect and enhance the local environment?

Question 7: What improvements to living and working in Droitwich would you like to see?

- 3.4 Responses could be made online via SurveyMonkey or 'in-person'. Online responses could be submitted by following the link provided in the consultation publicity. In-person responses could be made either at the Neighbourhood Plan launch event or subsequently at St. Richard's House.
- 3.5 The launch event was held in the Community Hall, Heritage Way, Droitwich Spa on Monday 13 March 2023 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The weather was cool and dry. The event was staffed by Town Councillors, Town Council officers, and the planning consultant.
- 3.6 A series of display sheets were prepared to introduce the Neighbourhood Plan, explain what it might contain, and how it was going to be prepared. The display also included the consultation questions. Responses to the questions were captured by means of post-it notes on the relevant sheet.
- 3.7 To expand on and further explain the display, two powerpoint presentations were delivered by the planning consultant. Each presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session. These raised a wide range of topics concerning both the Neighbourhood Plan and other matters pertaining to recent developments in the town.
- 3.8 The launch event was attended by a total of 176 residents. Wychavon District Council was represented at both elected member and officer levels.
- 3.9 Following the launch event, the display was re-located to the Heritage Centre in St. Richard's House. Its availability was publicised on social media (<https://www.facebook.com/DroitwichSpaHC>). As the consultation progressed and to maximise the opportunity to respond, the original closing date of the end of March was extended to 12 April 2023. The extension was publicised through social media and posters.

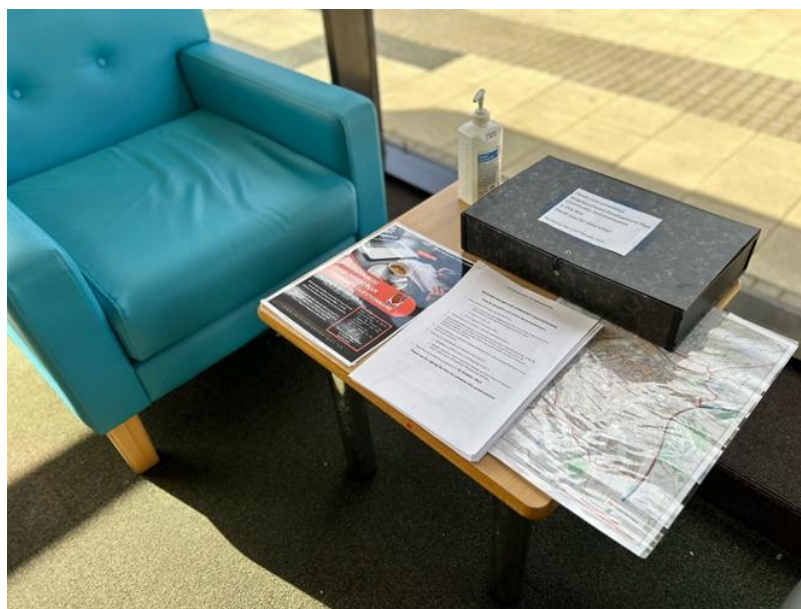
- 3.10 There were 79 responses on average to each of the seven questions posed, with most replies to question 3 on the town centre (86) and fewest to question 7 (improvements to living and working in the town, 73). Some 86% of responses were made online and 14% by hand. Following the close of the consultation, a Results Report was prepared, setting out the comments received and considering the implications for the next stage of work, the community questionnaire survey. The Report was published on the Town Council website at <https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/launch-consultation-march-april-2023-results-report/>.
- 3.11 The launch consultation raised a wide variety of issues and concerns. In summary those relevant to the formulation of neighbourhood planning policies were aspects of new housing provision, infrastructure, community facilities, town centre regeneration including the Netherwich Canal Basin, economic development, and environmental matters. Other matters were raised which fell outside the land use and development scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, such as existing conditions and service levels in respect of health care, education, traffic and transport, business rates, and policing.
- 3.12 These issues and concerns were addressed by the Steering Group in formulating the community questionnaire and in drawing up 'Community Actions' to address issues outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan as far as possible.



Launch consultation display at St. Richards House

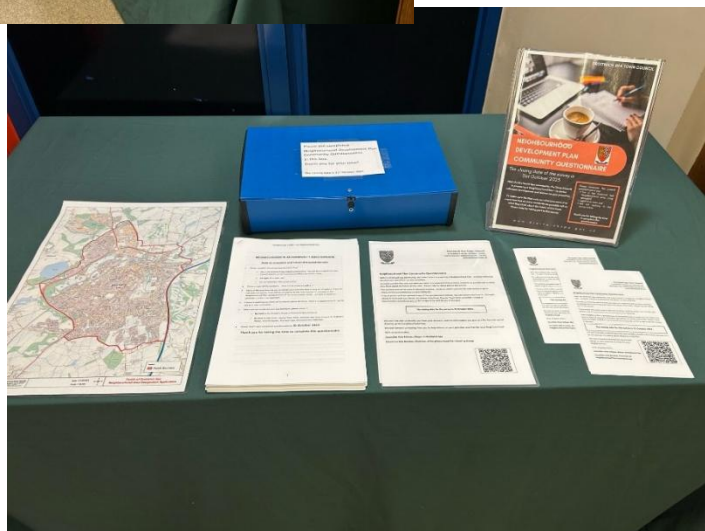
4. COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

- 4.1 A community questionnaire survey was undertaken in October 2023 to explore the issues raised in the launch consultation in more depth and to provide more detailed evidence for potential neighbourhood planning policies. The survey questionnaire was developed by the Steering Group with professional support. Key topics for the survey were identified as: draft Vision and objectives, living in Droitwich Spa, housing, community facilities, town centre, Netherwich canal basin, economic development, environment, Local Green Space, building design and infrastructure.
- 4.2 The survey asked 19 questions on these topics. Responses could be provided either as multiple choices to closed questions or as free-write comments to open questions. There was a further opportunity to add comment on any other matter thought to be relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. The questionnaire concluded with five questions on respondents' gender, age, economic activity, length of residence and use of services.
- 4.3 The survey was publicised by means of a flyer circulated by Royal Mail to all households in the Neighbourhood Area during September 2023. All residents of the Neighbourhood Area aged 16 or over were asked to take part. The survey closing date was 31 October 2023.
- 4.4 Responses could be made online (SurveyMonkey) or by completing a printed questionnaire. These could be collected from St. Richard's House and Droitwich Spa Library or supplied by post on request. Completed questionnaires were returnable to St. Richard's House by hand or post, or by hand to the Library.



Survey documents at Droitwich Spa Library

- 4.5 There were 792 replies to the survey. This represents 3.8% of the survey population, (20,601 residents aged 16 or over, Census 2021). Some 91% of responses were made online and 9% using the printed questionnaire. The returns were professionally analysed and published on the Town Council's website as the Results report (<https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/droitwich-spa-results-report/>) and the Comment listings report (<https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/droitwich-spa-comment-listings/>).
- 4.6 The survey provided a wealth of information for consideration in the subsequent preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Land use and development issues were addressed by the Steering Group and the planning consultant through the formulation of neighbourhood planning policies. As with the launch consultation, a number of non-land use issues were also identified in survey returns which were addressed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan as Community Actions.



Survey documents at St. Richards House

5. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PLAN

Consultation on screening opinion

- 5.1 In January 2024, the Town Council asked WDC for a screening opinion on whether the draft Neighbourhood Plan required a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The resultant SEA screening exercise concluded that the draft Plan will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.² The HRA screening exercise concluded that the draft Plan does not require a full Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. The three statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) were consulted on the draft screening opinion report between 25 November 2024 and 6 January 2025 and all agreed that neither a full SEA nor HRA Appropriate Assessment would be required.

Local Green Space

- 5.2 Land proposed for designation as Local Green Space in the draft Plan is owned by WDC except for Spring Meadow and Copcut Park which are owned by the Town Council. WDC was notified by letter of the proposed designations relevant to their landholdings in January 2025.

The Regulation 14 consultation

- 5.3 The draft Neighbourhood Plan was approved for the purposes of public consultation at the Town Council meeting on 14 April 2025.
- 5.4 Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended. The consultation ran for six weeks and one day from 9 June 2025 to 22 July 2025.
- 5.5 The consultation arrangements were set out in a pre-submission consultation and publicity notice which included details of where the draft Neighbourhood Plan could be inspected and how to make comments. The notice was included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and posted to the Town Council website, along with the draft Plan, a comments form, and supporting documents.
- 5.6 A flyer was delivered to households throughout the Neighbourhood Area at the start of the consultation period. The flyer summarised the draft Plan's Vision, objectives, planning policies, and Community Actions. The flyer also explained the options for giving feedback and invited residents to two drop-in events (a third drop-in event at Droitwich Spa Library was added later).
- 5.7 The consultation was further publicised via posters in town centre noticeboards and at St. Richard's House, Droitwich Spa Library, and the Council for Voluntary Service community centre. Two press releases were issued to local news organisations. Drop-in reminders were posted on the Heritage Centre Facebook page and the consultation was publicised more extensively on social media by a Town Councillor.
- 5.8 Copies of the pre-submission consultation and publicity notice, flyer, comments form, poster and press releases are included at Appendix 1.

² <https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-habitats-regulations-assessment-screening-opinion/>

5.9 Printed copies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan were available for inspection at St. Richard's House and at Droitwich Spa Library. Printed copies could also be provided on request (free of charge). Town Council officers were available to answer telephone queries.

5.10 Three drop-ins were arranged during the consultation period at venues in the west, east and centre of the Neighbourhood Area:

- 18 June, The Cabin, Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, 5.00 – 7.30 pm.
- 25 June, Droitwich Mews Care Home, Mulberry Tree Hill, 5.00 – 7.30 pm.
- 2 July, Droitwich Spa Library, 2.00 – 5.00 pm.

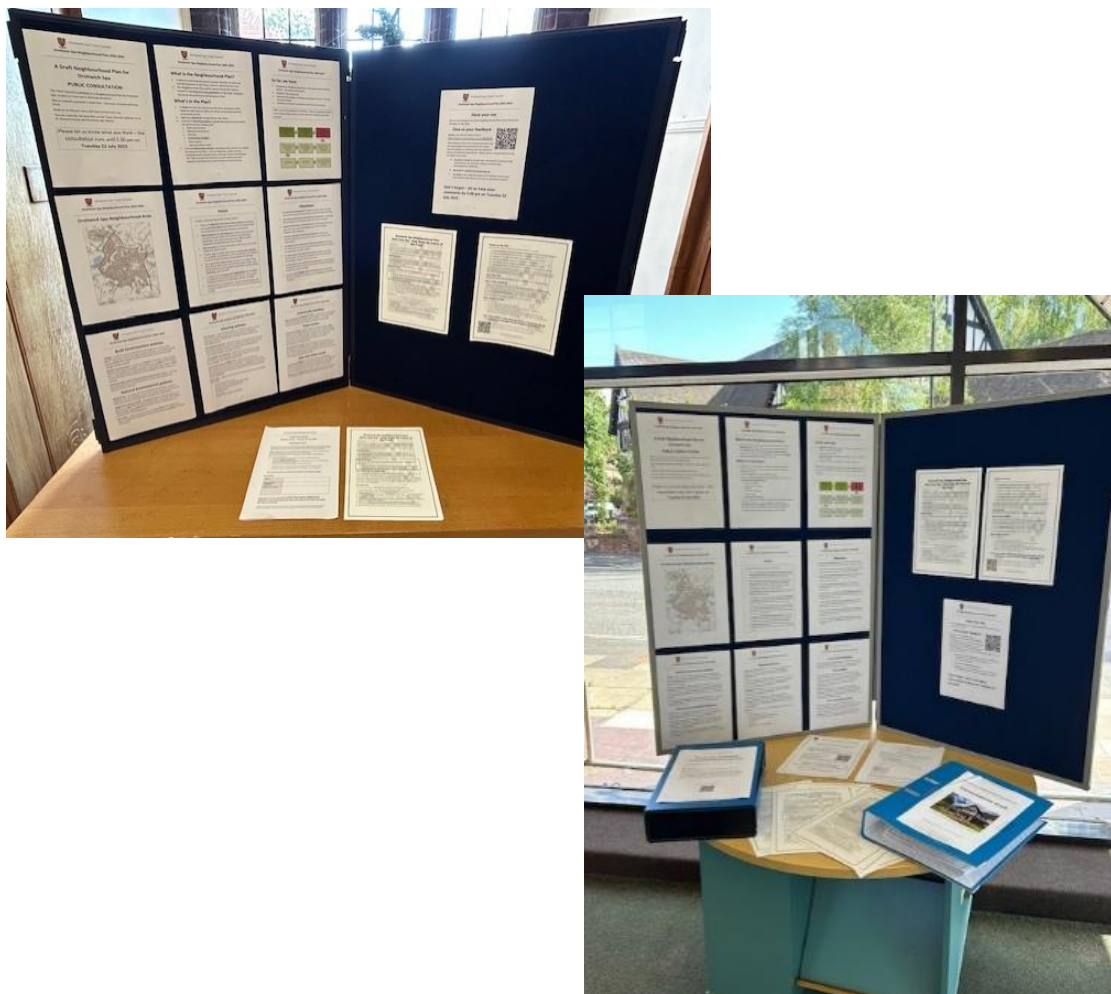
5.11 The two evening drop-ins in June were each attended by approx. 15 residents with the July drop-in at the Library attracting five residents. In these discussions, the draft Plan was generally well-received with positive conversations on many aspects of life in the town including:

- Infrastructure requirements arising from development.
- Green spaces.
- Economic growth (Charter Market, banking hub, events and festivals).
- Tourism (history of the town, heritage assets, Heritage Centre refurbishment).
- Sense of Place (civic pride, municipal planting, Lido, band concerts).
- Future housing and development (acknowledgement of limited site availability within the town boundaries, progressing proposals for The Raven Hotel and land at Union Lane).



Drop-in consultation events

- 5.12 Comments could be made online via SurveyMonkey or returned by hand to collection boxes at St. Richard's House and Droitwich Spa Library. There were associated standing displays at both these venues. Comments could also be made at the drop-in events and by post or email.
- 5.13 A comprehensive list of the consultation bodies specified in Schedule 1 of the 2012 Regulations was provided by WDC, which was added to in respect of local bodies and organisations by the planning consultant and by the Steering Group. The final list of consultees is at Table 1. Consultation was by email or letter, sent by the Town Clerk at the start of the consultation period and explaining where the Plan could be viewed and how and by when to make comments.



Standing displays at St.Richards House and Droitwich Spa Library

Table 1: consultees on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

Local planning authorities, County Council and adjoining parish councils
Wychavon District Council
Adjoining LPAs: Malvern Hills District Council, Bromsgrove/Redditch District Council, Cotswold District Council, Wyre Forest District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stratford upon Avon District Council, Worcestershire County Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Warwickshire County Council, Herefordshire Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Shropshire County Council, Worcester City Council
Neighbouring Parish Councils: Dodderhill PC, Hanbury PC, Saleway PC, Hindlip, Martin Hussingree and Salwarpe PC, Hampton Lovett and Westwood PC.
Other consultation bodies
Coal Authority
Homes England
Natural England
Environment Agency
English Heritage
Historic England
Network Rail
Highways England
Marine Management Organisation
Electronic communications: British Telecom, Airband, CTIL for Vodafone and Telefonica, Virgin, Superfast Worcestershire, Talk Talk, Three
NHS England, NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Planning and Partnership Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust
National Grid, Western Power Distribution, EON UK, Npower, Wales and West Utilities
National Gas Transmission, National Grid UK Gas Distribution, British Gas
Severn Trent Water
Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Citizens Advice
Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Worcestershire Federation of Women Institutes
Churches Together in Worcestershire
Worcester Diocese
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Federation of Small Businesses (Herefordshire and Worcestershire)
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce
Planning Inspectorate
Home Builders Federation
Other consultees
The Crown Estate
CPRE, Worcestershire Branch
Forestry Commission England
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust
Canal and River Trust
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Worcestershire Youth Support
Worcestershire Partnership
Skills Funding Agency
Ancient Monuments Society
Sport England
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
National Farmers Union
Fields in Trust
Community First
Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils
Wychavon District Council (Property and Development) as owners of six of the proposed Local Green Spaces

Local consultees

Schools (High School, Wychbold, Chawson, St Josephs, St Peters, Westlands, Westacre, Witton).

Droitwich Football Club

Saltway Team Ministry

Droitwich Spa and Rural Council for Voluntary Service

Droitwich Spa and District u3a

Womens Institute

Save our Brine Baths

History Society

Horticultural Society

Art Club

Coventry Homes

Droitwich Spa Lido

Friends of Droitwich Spa Lido

Droitwich Cricket Club

Youth Council/Schools pyramid

Droitwich Placeboard

Droitwich Spa Civic Society

6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

Issues and concerns raised

6.1 Responses were received from WDC and 11 other consultation bodies and organisations. Comments were received from 45 members of the community. All the comments are shown in the Response Log at Appendix 2, where a response is provided to each comment and any amendments arising to the draft Neighbourhood Plan are set out.

6.2 The principal issues and concerns which were raised in the consultation may be summarised as follows:

- WDC supported the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, confirming its policies were aligned with the identified strategic policies in the SWDP and relevant policies in the submitted SWDPR, whilst also having regard to the latest NPPF. WDC advised that prior to its submission the draft Neighbourhood Plan should be updated to reflect the outcome of the SWDPR Examination and any changes to national planning policy.
- WDC supported the Neighbourhood Plan's policies with suggestions for some minor re-wording.
- The Canal and River Trust made suggestions for additional wording to Plan policies on design, Netherwich Canal Basin, and walking and cycling.
- The Droitwich Spa Civic Society and community respondents objected to the lack of provision for open spaces, sports, recreation and leisure in the Plan. The response from Sport England provided general comment on this topic.
- The Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd suggested additional detail to be added to the policy on Netherwich Canal Basin.
- The Environment Agency made comments on flood risk and site-specific matters.
- Historic England supported the Plan and the approach taken to the historic environment.
- Other consultation bodies provided general comments relevant to their responsibilities.
- Other community comments addressed: the future of The Raven Hotel; re-instatement of a Brine Baths; Netherwich Canal Basin; Local Green Spaces; sustainable design including renewable energy and provision for wildlife; housing mix, including affordable housing and provision for older people; tourism; regeneration of the town centre; heritage; community facilities and infrastructure, including appropriate provision to serve new development; anti-social behaviour; transport issues, including public transport, walking and cycling, mobility access, and car parking.

Considering and addressing issues and concerns

6.3 All comments were passed to the planning consultant for review and to provide a recommended response, including amendments to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Table 2 provides a summary of the principal amendments to the draft Neighbourhood Plan in plan order. Full details may be found in the Response Log at Appendix 2. The Response Log was considered and agreed by the Steering Group in October 2025 at which time the SWDPR Examination was ongoing. References to SWDPR policies in the Log are to the Regulation 19 submission version of the SWDPR.

Table 2: Schedule summarising principal changes made to the draft Neighbourhood Plan following consultation

Consultee	Change made
WDC	Draft Plan updated to reflect outcome of the SWDPR Examination.
Community comment	Chapter 2: reference added to Droitwich Spa railway station.
Canal and River Trust	Policy SPA1: reference added to landscaping.
Community comment	Policy SPA5: reference added to provision for wildlife.
Droitwich Spa Civic Society	Policy SPA6: Steynors Avenue open space designated as Local Green Space and Table 1 amended to recognise recreational value of Vines Park.
Community comment	Policy SPA6: Table 1 amended to recognise recreational value of Spring Meadow, Copcut Park and Addyes Way.
WDC	Policy SPA7: photographs of the key views added, direction of view indicated on Plan 6 and justifications for each view added to Table 2.
Community comment	Policy SPA8: reference added to design of affordable housing.
Community comment	Policy SPA9: reference added to outdoor amenity space for new housing.
Community comment	Policy SPA11: references added to high quality public realm and public square.
WDC	Policy SPA12: policy deleted.
Canal and River Trust	Policy SPA15: references added to views and amenity.
Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd	Policy SPA15: references added to leisure uses related to the Canal.
Canal and River Trust	Policy SPA17: reference added to wildlife interests.
Community comment	Policy SPA17: reference added to needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility.
Community comment	Policy SPA17: Saltway added to locations identified at para. 9.3.
WDC	Relevant Community Actions referenced against policies.
Community comment	Community Action CA4: reference added to signage.
Community comment	Community Action CA9: reference added to anti-social behaviour.
WDC	Community Action CA11: reference added to designation as Assets of Community Value.
Community comment	Community Action added on emergency services.

APPENDIX 1

Regulation 14 consultation material

Pre-submission consultation and publicity notice

Flyer

Poster

Comments form

Pre-submission consultation and publicity notice

A public consultation on the draft Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Development Plan ('Neighbourhood Plan') held in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended will start at **9.00 a.m. on Monday 9 June 2025** for a period of six weeks and one day ending at **5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22 July 2025**.

Where you can inspect the draft Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan may be inspected:

- on the Droitwich Spa Town Council website at <https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/>.
- at the Town Council offices at St. Richard's House, and at Droitwich Spa Library.
- by emailing ndp@droitwichspa.gov.uk or contacting the Town Council office on 01905 774258 to request a printed copy.

Supporting documents are available on the Town Council website.

How to make comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

Comments must be made in writing and include the name and address of the person making the comments. Please make comments as specific as possible, quoting the relevant policy or paragraph number(s). All comments will be publicly available (personal information will not be published).

Comments can be submitted online on the Town Council website. Alternatively, a form for making comments may be downloaded and printed from the Town Council website or collected from St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library.

Send us your comments:

- online - scan the QR code or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M65BFH3>.
- by email to ndp@droitwichspa.gov.uk.
- by hand to the collection boxes at St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library.
- at one of the following drop-in events:
 - on Wednesday 18 June at The Cabin, Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, WR9 0AA between 5.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
 - on Wednesday 25 June at Droitwich Mews Care Home, Mulberry Tree Hill, WR9 7SS between 5.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
- by post to Neighbourhood Plan Consultation, Droitwich Spa Town Council, St Richard's House, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 8DS.



If you have any questions, please telephone the Town Council office on 01905 774258.

All comments must be received by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22 July 2025. These will be considered by Droitwich Spa Town Council and will help shape the final Neighbourhood Plan.

Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan

Have Your Say – Help Shape the Future of Our Town

Dear Resident,

The Town Council is seeking your views on the draft **Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan**. This plan has been shaped by community feedback, housing studies, and local evidence. Now, we need your input to make sure it reflects the needs and aspirations of our town.

This leaflet gives a short overview of the Plan and explains how you can get involved.

Find Out More

The full Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents are available online at www.droitwichspa.gov.uk. You can also view printed copies at St Richard's House and Droitwich Spa Library. If you would like a copy posted to you, please call 01905 774258 or email ndp@droitwichspa.gov.uk

Drop-In Events

Come along to speak with members of the Steering Group and your Town Councillors, 5:00-7:30pm:

- Wednesday 18 June – The Cabin, Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, WR9 0AA
- Wednesday 25 June – Droitwich Mews Care Home, Mulberry Tree Hill, WR9 7SS

Our Vision for Droitwich Spa

By 2041, Droitwich Spa will have: ✓ A distinctive spa town identity, including the return of brine baths and a regenerated Canal-side. ✓ Well-designed new homes that meet community needs. ✓ Improved indoor and outdoor facilities for all ages. ✓ A revitalised town centre with better public spaces and links to key locations. ✓ A strong local economy in manufacturing, retail, leisure, and tourism. ✓ Better transport and infrastructure supporting walking and cycling.

Key Objectives

The Plan sets out eight main objectives, based on community priorities:

1. Ensure high-quality design that enhances Droitwich Spa's unique character.
2. Protect and celebrate the town's heritage and historic environment.
3. Preserve biodiversity, green spaces, and important local views.
4. Ensure new housing is sustainable, efficient, and meets local needs.
5. Support new and improved community facilities, especially for healthcare, young people, and older residents.
6. Regenerate the town centre, including Union Lane and Netherwich Canal Basin.
7. Promote well-designed employment opportunities, especially in heritage tourism.
8. Ensure infrastructure and transport improvements keep pace with development.

Policies in the Plan

The Draft Plan contains 17 policies to guide development, covering:

- **Built Environment:** High-quality design, conservation areas, and heritage protection.
- **Natural Environment:** Biodiversity, local green spaces, and key views.
- **Housing:** Housing mix, sustainable development, and key housing sites.
- **Community Facilities:** Support for new and expanded facilities.
- **Town Centre:** Enhancing vitality and improving Netherwich Canal Basin.
- **Jobs & Active Travel:** Economic development, walking, and cycling improvements.

In addition, 19 Community Actions have been identified. These cover non-planning matters such as highways, public services, and town centre promotion. The Town Council will work with partners to help achieve these improvements.

Have Your Say

We want your views! The consultation runs from Monday 9 June – Tuesday 22 July

How to Give Feedback

✓ **Online:** Scan the QR code below, or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M65BFH3>
✓ **By Form:** Download from our website or collect from St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library. ✓ **By Post:** Send completed forms to St Richard's House. ✓ **By email:** Email your comments to ndp@droitwichspa.gov.uk ✓ **In Person:** Drop completed forms at collection boxes in St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library, or bring them to a drop-in event.

Deadline: Tuesday 22 July 2025 at 5:00pm – don't miss your chance to have your say!

What Happens Next?

After the consultation:

1. The Plan will be revised based on feedback
2. It will be submitted to Wychavon District Council for further consultation.
3. An independent examination will then take place.
4. A local referendum will be held to gauge community support. If approved, the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory planning framework, guiding future development decisions in Droitwich Spa.

Your voice matters! Help shape the future of Droitwich Spa by sharing your thoughts on the Neighbourhood Plan



SAL SAPIT OMNIA

Scan QR code to complete form



Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has now been published – and we want your views.

Find out more

- **Read the Neighbourhood Plan** online at www.droitwichspa.gov.uk or call in at St Richard's House and Droitwich Spa Library.
- **Come along to a drop-in event** between 5.00 and 7.30 pm:
Wednesday 18 June: The Cabin, Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, WR9 0AA.
Wednesday 25 June: Droitwich Mews Care Home, Mulberry Tree Hill, WR9 7SS.

How to give feedback

- ✓ **Online:** scan the QR code, or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M65BFH3>
- ✓ **By email:** email your comments to ndp@droitwichspa.gov.uk
- ✓ **Use our comment form** - download from our website or collect from St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library. Post your comments to St Richard's House, drop them off at St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library, or bring them to a drop-in event.



**Please let us have your comments by
5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22 July 2025**

We look forward to hearing from you
Droitwich Spa Town Council

Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan

Public Consultation

Monday 9 June – Tuesday 22 July 2025

Comment form

Please use this form to give us your comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan along with your name and address. All comments will be publicly available (personal information will not be published).*

Please make comments as specific as possible, quoting the relevant policy or paragraph number(s).

Additional copies of this form can be collected from St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library, and it can also be downloaded and printed from the Town Council website at <https://www.droitwichspa.gov.uk/>.

Please return completed forms:

- by hand to the collection boxes at St Richard's House or Droitwich Spa Library.
- by email to ndp@droitwichspa.gov.uk.
- by post to Neighbourhood Plan Consultation, Droitwich Spa Town Council, St Richard's House, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 8DS.
- in person, at one of the following drop-in meetings, 5.00 – 7.30 pm:
 - Wednesday 18 June - The Cabin, Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, WR9 0AA
 - Wednesday 25 June - Droitwich Mews Care Home, Mulberry Tree Hill, WR9 7SS.

All comments must be received by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22 July 2025

Your details

Name:	
Organisation (if applicable):	
Address inc. postcode:	

Please give us your comments overleaf. If you need to continue on an additional sheet, please write your name at the top of each sheet and staple the sheets to the form.

* The personal information you provide on this form will be processed in accordance with the Town Council's Data Protection and Privacy Policy. It will be used only for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Comments on specific parts of the Plan Please tell us the relevant policy or paragraph number	
Policy and/or paragraph number	Comments and/or suggested changes
General comments	

Thank you – please return this form by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22 July 2025

Appendix 2

Regulation 14 consultation Response Log

Part 1: Comments from consultation bodies

Part 2: Community comments

Abbreviations

DSDGC: Droitwich Spa Design Guidance and Codes

DSNP: Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation Draft July 2024

HRA: Habitats Regulations Assessment

LGS: Local Green Space

NPPF: National Planning Policy Framework December 2024

SEA: Strategic Environmental Assessment

SHMA: Strategic Housing Market Assessment

SWDP: South Worcestershire Development Plan

SWDPR: South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, Regulation 19 Publication Document, November 2022

WCC: Worcestershire County Council

WDC: Wychavon District Council

Part 1: Comments from consultation bodies/organisations

Organisation	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
Avison Young for National Gas Transmission	DSNP	National Gas Transmission has appointed Avison Young to review and respond to Neighbourhood Plan consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regard to the current consultation on the above document. National Gas Transmission owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use. An assessment has been carried out with respect to National Gas Transmission's assets which include high-pressure gas pipelines and other infrastructure. National Gas Transmission has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	Comment noted.	No change.
Canal and River Trust	DSNP	Thank you for your consultation on the above document. We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Canal & River Trust (the Trust) is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process, and as such we welcome the opportunity to input into planning policy related matters to ensure that our waterways are protected, safeguarded and enhanced within an appropriate policy framework. The Neighbourhood Plan area includes the Droitwich Canals and we note the interest and support given to these important assets, both in the plan and on the ground. These canals are acknowledged as significant green infrastructure, but they also function as blue infrastructure, serving as a catalyst for regeneration; a sustainable travel resource for commuting and leisure; a natural health service acting as blue gyms and supporting physical and healthy outdoor activity; an ecological and biodiversity resource; a tourism, cultural, sport, leisure and recreation resource; a heritage landscape; a contributor to water supply and transfer, drainage and flood management. The canal network forms part of the historic environment, the character, cultural and social focus of the town. The Canal & River Trust have created a document explaining the role our waterways can play in creating successful Neighbourhood Plans. A copy is attached and can also be found here. Please find below the Trust's response to your Regulation 14 Neighbourhood plan document.	Comment noted.	No change.
	Policy SPA1 Design	As there is no standalone landscape policy, it would be good to reference to landscape-led development here, as well as a link to the requirements for new development set out in the	The role of landscape in development is addressed in the	Amend second bullet in para. 4.4 to read:

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		biodiversity policy (or alternatively to add a landscape policy into this section).	DSDGC. Additional text will be provided to make this clear. The DSNP is to be read as a whole, and it is not necessary to cross reference policies within the document.	“Green and public spaces, including the provision of landscaping in new development and links to the town’s existing green infrastructure.”.
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	Whilst the site is on the offside and the basin moorings appear to be leisure moorings there should be some recognition that boaters spend significant amounts of time on their boats and therefore the amenity of the users of moored boats should not be forgotten. While existing views towards the tyres garage are not attractive, it would be good to ensure a betterment of views from the basin and surrounding paths towards the proposed car parking area – through sensitive design and planting. Planting throughout the car park, rather than just at the waterside, should be considered.	Reference to the amenity of users of moored boats and to views into the site from the north to be added to the policy.	Add the following to policy SPA15: Criterion 1: “Views into the site from Vines Park and the Basin moorings should be taken into account”. Criterion 8: “The amenity of users of moored boats should also be considered.”.
	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling	Please add wording to recognise at para. 9.3 that Pedestrian and Cycle access improvements (including vegetation clearance and additional lighting) should not be introduced at the expense of adjacent linear wildlife habitats, such as canal corridors. We welcome the intention to improve connectivity between the station and Vines Park through the new housing allocations. We hope the comments provided are clear and helpful and we look forward to continuing to work with you, and to seek to work together towards a high-quality plan that relates positively with the waterway network.	This suggestion to recognise that active travel improvements should not be to the detriment of nearby linear wildlife habitats/corridors is agreed. The support for improving connectivity between the railway station and Vines Park is welcomed.	Add to para. 9.3: “Whilst these are all supported, improvements to facilitate active travel should not be to the detriment of adjacent linear wildlife habitats, including canal corridors”.
Droitwich Spa Civic Society	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities	Droitwich Spa Civic Society (DSCS) is formally opposing several key aspects of the current draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The Society’s primary concern is the exclusion of current and future provision for Green Spaces, Sports, Recreation, and Leisure. These elements are essential to the health and well-being of any community—especially a Spa Townlike Droitwich Spa. Nationally recommended standards exist for such provisions, and they can and should be included in any NDP. A plan focused solely on housing and commercial development fails to address the needs of a growing population and the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle for residents of all ages. A Neighbourhood Development Plan must reflect the full spectrum of community needs—not just bricks and mortar, but the spaces that support physical and mental well-being.	These matters are not included in the DSNP because they are already addressed in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. SWDPR 45 deals with the provision of open space and outdoor community uses in new development, setting quantity and accessibility standards. SWDPR 46 deals with the contribution to be made by new development towards playing fields and	No change.

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			associated built form. Both policies are supported by suitable assessments which provide locally based and detailed evidence of supply and demand for different forms of open space and playing fields. As such this approach is preferred to the adoption of national standards.	
	Policy SPA6 Local Green Space	Additionally, there is a failure of the NDP to acknowledge the recreational value of Vines Park and to designate Staynors Park as a Local Green Space. This omission potentially exposes these cherished community areas to future development, undermining their role in promoting wellbeing and environmental sustainability.	Agreed. Suitable amendments will be made to recognise these points.	Amend Table 1 to recognise recreational value of Vines Park. Include Staynors Avenue open space as an additional area of LGS.
Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd (NB two sets of comments were submitted on behalf of this organisation by different respondents)	Para. 2.18	Development of Nethwich Basin to include permanent mooring and storage (as at present) for the community boat Pamela May 2. The ideal is to use the current side of the old GDS Works including the slipway.	The Local Plan allocation includes leisure uses which could in principle include Canal-related uses and facilities. Suitable references to be added.	Amend policy SPA15 criterion 4 to read: “make provision for community, heritage, and tourism uses including Canal-related facilities where this can be achieved without detriment to the delivery of the Local Plan allocation for the site including viability”. Add to para. 8.22: “In particular, consideration should be given to providing Canalside facilities for boat users; permanent mooring and storage for the community boat Pamela May 2; continued use of the slipway; and a museum to document the significant part that the Droitwich Canals have played in
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	A museum and facilities for boaters including pump out and rubbish disposal to preserve the canal, it's history and use into the future.		

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				the growth of the town.”.
	DSNP	Develop the Raven Hotel site. Develop the Baxenden site with housing and small commercial units.	Both these suggestions are reflected in DSNP policies (SPA11 and SPA14), policy SPA11 supporting the allocation of the Union Lane for housing in the SWDPR.	No change.
Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd	Key planning issues	Support protecting community facilities and enabling new provision.	This support for the DSNP’s key planning issues is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA4 Droitwich Canals Conservation Area	We support the policy but consider that Netherwich Basin and Vines Park should be included.	Netherwich Basin and Vines Park are in the Droitwich Spa Conservation Area (policy SPA3/Plan 3 refer).	No change.
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	Droitwich Waterways Trust runs a charity trip boat Pamela May from Netherwich Basin. Storage facilities are required to support the operation along with carparking. This provides a valuable community service which would be enhanced by a permanent community building incorporating a museum. Netherwich Basin also features a slipway which is used by the Fire Service for training staff in water rescue and also by maintenance craft such as reed cutters. Our activities support points 3, 4, and 5 in particular but it is difficult to see how 60 houses can also be accommodated on the site as well as the community facilities while also include protecting wildlife, heritage assets and pedestrian routes.	See response to comments by the Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd above.	See amendments proposed in response to comments by the Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd above.
	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities	There are opportunities for using the slipway at Netherwich basin for launching canoes and paddleboats.		
	DSNP	We would welcome further participation in developing more detailed plans for the area.	Comment noted.	No change.
Environment Agency	DSNP	Flood Risk We note that the River Salwarpe (statutory main river) flows in from the Northeast through	Matters of flood risk and the sufficiency of wastewater	No change.

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		central areas of the parish boundary and out to the Southwest. The Elmbridge Brook (statutory main river) then flows along the Western border of the plan boundary where it connects to the River Salwarpe. Based on our indicative Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) we note these two watercourses have associated Flood Zones 3 and 2 (the high and medium risk zones respectively) within the plan area. It should be noted that the Flood Map provides an indication of 'fluvial' flood risk only. You are advised to discuss matters relating to surface water (pluvial) flooding with the drainage team at Wychavon District Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Site Allocations The NDP includes the submission of three policies which contain several site allocations within the development plan boundary. We note that the allocated sites mirror some of those allocated within the South Worcester Development Plan (SWDP) and the forthcoming South Worcester Development Plan Review (SWDPR). We have previously made representations on both the adopted SWDP and forthcoming SWDPR. Water Framework Directive (WFD) We note that the plan area falls within the Salwarpe river operational catchment being divided into three sub catchments, with two of these being considered as having 'poor ecological status' and one having 'moderate ecological status', the aim is to achieve 'good' status by 2027. The Water Framework Directive and the Groundwater Directive set out objectives for groundwater including aiming for good chemical and quantitative status; reverse upwards trends in pollution; and preventing or limiting the entry of certain substances to waterbodies. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must have regard to these objectives and therefore should ensure their decisions help achieve these goals. Dealing with land contamination can help contribute to achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Furthermore, we do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise you ensure conformity with the local plan and refer to guidance within our area neighbourhood plan "pro-forma guidance", I have attached an updated version for your consideration. Notwithstanding the above, for example it is important that these plans offer robust confirmation that development is not impacted by flooding and that there is sufficient wastewater infrastructure in place to accommodate growth.	infrastructure are addressed in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. In addition, criterion 1 of DSNP policy SPA9 requires proposals for new housing to make appropriate provision for all forms of infrastructure which are necessarily and reasonably related to the development. DSNP policies SPA11, SPA12, and SPA15 refer to sites which are allocated in the SWDP or presently proposed (see further response below re SPA12) for allocation/re-allocation in the SWDPR, in order to provide further detail to support their delivery.	
	Policy SPA11 Land north/south of Union Lane	This site allocation under Policy SPA11 is labelled as 'Land North/South of Union Lane'. We have not reviewed any additional assessments associated with this site at this time but note the conclusions made in paragraph 6.22 of the NDP that "The site assessment undertaken for the SWDPR identifies potentially significant issues of land contamination because of former uses including chemical works, coal yard, and railway, with risk assessment and site investigation required as a result. However, the	Land contamination is a factor to be considered in the delivery of this proposed SWDPR allocation. To this end policy SPA11 criterion 5 requires schemes to demonstrate that the site is or can be made	No change.

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		assessment concludes that these are brownfield sites in a sustainable location near to the facilities and services in the town centre and adjacent to the railway station, suitable to be proposed for a mixed-use allocation”. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 187 states that: ‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.’ We note that part of the site is affected by potentially significant issues of land contamination. We would therefore recommend that in discussion with the SWDPR team and their Environmental Health Officer that the sites have been appropriately assessed to ensure that the allocation is deliverable in the context of the previously identified contamination. It would be appropriate to consider this at the planning policy stage to ensure robustness and deliverability of the policy.	suitable for the proposed use, providing appropriate site investigation information and proposals for mitigation and remediation as required. A similar requirement is proposed by a Main Suggested Change (SWDPR 8xii) put forward by the South Worcestershire Councils to the SWDPR Examination. This proposes a new policy for the Union Lane site requiring inter alia a ground survey investigation to establish the extent of any land contamination and an appropriate strategy setting out any necessary mitigation and remediation.	
	Policy SPA12 Criteria for other allocated housing sites	This policy contains six site allocations and is labelled as ‘Criteria for other allocated housing sites.’ We note that four of these allocations are located in Flood Zone 1 with unlikely contamination on site and thus would not require further comment from ourselves, this includes: • ‘Land at Keppers Cottage, Newland Road’ (2.001ha, 34 dwellings). • ‘Boxing Club, Kidderminster Road’ (0.11ha, 10 dwellings). • ‘Oakham Place’ (0.16ha, 6 dwellings). • ‘Acre Lane’ (0.38ha, 20 dwellings). ‘Willow Court, Westwood Road’ contains 10 dwellings. As such, we would consider this proposal as major development. We note that the Northwest corner of the site boundary and the entire road access route onto and off the site falls within Flood Zone 2 of the Elmbridge Brook. We would recommend policies take into account that any built development should be sequentially arranged so that all development is located in Flood Zone 1 and the safe access and egress is considered satisfactory by your local Emergency Planners and Emergency Services in accordance with guiding principles detailed within the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG). If any ground level raising is proposed within the areas of Flood Zone, this will also need to be compensated for appropriately to ensure that there are no third party flood risk impacts as a result of the development.	This support for policy SPA12 is welcomed. However, all the sites listed in the policy apart from Land at Keepers Cottage (which has outline planning permission for residential development, LPA ref W/24/10115/OUT) are to be removed as Local Plan allocation or re-allocations due to concerns over their deliverability and/or sustainability. See footnote 38 to the draft DSNP. Given the above, policy SPA12 is to be deleted.	See amendment proposed in response to WDC comment on this policy.

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		'Land at Mayflower Road' is allocated for 5 dwellings. We note that this site falls entirely on top of a historic landfill that predates any of our records. As there is no land available within the allocation that is not outside of the landfill area, it is important to ensure that the site is appropriate and deliverable at this stage in the planning process. We would also like to reiterate Paragraph 187 of the NPPF as above and would also recommend that you ensure that the Environmental Health Officer at the council has been consulted upon the human health impacts upon developments atop historic landfills.		
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	This policy contains an allocation labelled as 'Netherwich Canal Basin' (0.95ha, mixed use with 60 dwellings). We note this falls almost entirely in Flood Zone 1, neighbouring the southern side of the Droitwich Canal. However, please note that other potential development areas may also be at flood risk given the presence of many 'ordinary watercourses' which are un-modelled based on the scale and nature of the stream and receiving catchment (less than 3km2).	For clarity, policy SPA15 is intended to provide criteria to support the delivery of the SWDP/SWDPR allocation of the site for a mixed-use development.	No change.
Historic England	DSNP	Thank you for the above consultation and invitation to comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Historic England is supportive of both the content of the document and the vision and objectives set out in it and considers that an admirably comprehensive approach is taken to the environment including the historic environment. We commend the commitment in the Plans Policies to support the vitality of the town centre and deliver well-designed development that is sensitive and sympathetic to the historic built character of Droitwich including its archaeology. Also, Policies that afford protection to canal conservation areas, green spaces and key views and that promote biodiversity. The use of Design Codes (AECOM 2023) will no doubt prove invaluable as a context and guide for future development as is shown in the site assessments undertaken for allocated development sites (eg land north/south of Union Lane). We also commend the very comprehensive evidence base which underpins the Plan. Beyond those observations we have no further substantive comments to make.	This support for the DSNP and the approach taken to the historic environment is welcomed.	No change.
Natural England	DSNP	Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made. Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan. However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following	Comment noted. The points as to information on protected species and local data on environmental assets have been previously made by Natural England in their response to WDC's consultation on the SEA/HRA Screening Opinion, the final version of which (March 2025) concludes that neither a full	No change.

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		information. Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further information on protected species and development is included in Natural England's Standing Advice on protected species . Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission standing advice. We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary. Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.	SEA nor HRA are required.	
Network Rail	DSNP	Network Rail is a statutory consultee for any planning applications within 10 metres of relevant railway land (as the Rail Infrastructure Managers for the railway, set out in Article 16 of the Development Management Procedure Order) and for any development likely to result in a material increase in the volume or a material change in the character of traffic using a level crossing over a railway (as the Rail Network Operators, set out in Schedule 4 (J) of the Development Management Procedure Order). Network Rail is also a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure and associated estate. It owns, operates and develops the main rail network. Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure, therefore any proposed development which is in close proximity to the railway line or could potentially affect Network Rail's specific land interests will need to be carefully considered. Network Rail – railway specific advice notice to LPAs/Developers Please note that whilst Network Rail (NR) is submitting responses via the planning application process, it should be born in mind by the LPA/developer that the operational railway presents risks/issues that are different/unique to the risks posed by works taking place adjacent to non-railway undertaker land. Works on this site therefore must be	This general comment is noted.	No change.

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		undertaken with the supervision of NR via the ASPRO (asset protection) team to ensure that the works on site do not impact the safe operation, stability, integrity of the railway & its boundary. The LPA/developer are advised that unauthorised works adjacent to the railway boundary could impact the operation of nationally significant infrastructure & the applicant would be liable for any and all damages & costs caused by any works undertaken in this scenario. Therefore, the developer is requested to ensure that the development meets with NR requirements for works/developments adjacent to the railway boundary which include planning material considerations as well as obligations specific to the railway undertaker. The interface is via a NR BAPA (basic asset protection agreement) – the developer is advised that the works must not commence on site (even if planning permission is granted) until agreed with NR. The applicant will be liable for all costs incurred by NR in facilitating, reviewing this proposal. Asset Protection Comments: Developments in the policy area should be notified to Network Rail to ensure that: (a) Access points / rights of way belonging to Network Rail are not impacted by developments within the area. (b) That any proposal does not impact upon the railway infrastructure / Network Rail land e.g. • Drainage works / water features • Encroachment of land or air-space • Excavation works • Siting of structures/buildings less than 2m from the Network Rail boundary / Party Wall Act issues • Lighting impacting upon train drivers' ability to perceive signals • Landscaping that could impact upon overhead lines or Network Rail boundary treatments • Any piling works • Any scaffolding works • Any public open spaces and proposals where minors and young children may be likely to use a site which could result in trespass upon the railway (which we would remind the council is a criminal offence under s55 British Transport Commission Act 1949) • Any use of crane or plant • Any fencing works • Any demolition works • Any hard standing areas For any proposal adjacent to the railway, Network Rail would request that a developer constructs (at their own expense) a suitable steel palisade trespass proof fence of at least 1.8m in height. All initial proposals and plans should be flagged up to the Network Rail		

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		Town Planning at the following address: Email: TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk Railway Station Consideration should be given in Transport Assessments to the potential for increased footfall at Railway Stations as a result of proposals for residential development / employment areas within the neighbourhood area. Location of the proposal, accessibility and density of the development, trip generation data should be considered in relation to the station. Where proposals are likely to increase footfall and the need for car parking, the council should include developer contributions (either via CIL, S106) to provide funding for enhancements as part of planning decisions. Level Crossings Developments within the neighbourhood area should be accompanied by a TS/TA which includes consideration of the impact of proposals upon any level crossings with mitigation implemented as required. We would encourage the Council to adopt specific policy wording to ensure that the impact of proposed new development (including cumulative impact) on the risk at existing level crossings is assessed by the developer(s), and suitable mitigation incorporated within the development proposals and funded by the developer(s). TS/TAs should be undertaken in conjunction with the local highways authority with advice from Network Rail. Contributions will be sought where proposals impact on level crossings to mitigate the impacts of those developments. Where level crossing closure is the only option, the applicant is advised that closure would be via s257 of the T&CPA, and that closure would be required before the occupation of any dwellings. Network Rail – railway specific advice notice to LPAs/Developers Please note that whilst Network Rail (NR) is submitting responses via the planning application process, it should be born in mind by the LPA/developer that the operational railway presents risks/issues that are different/unique to the risks posed by works taking place adjacent to non-railway undertaker land. Works on this site therefore must be undertaken with the supervision of NR via the ASPRO (asset protection) team to ensure that the works on site do not impact the safe operation, stability, integrity of the railway & its boundary. The LPA/developer are advised that unauthorised works adjacent to the railway boundary could impact the operation of nationally significant infrastructure & the applicant would be liable for any and all damages & costs caused by any works undertaken in this scenario. Therefore, the developer is requested to ensure that the development meets with NR requirements for works/developments adjacent to the railway boundary which include planning material considerations as well as obligations specific to the railway undertaker. The interface is via a NR BAPA (basic asset protection agreement) – the developer is advised that the works must not commence on site (even if planning permission is granted) until agreed with NR. The applicant will be liable for all costs incurred by NR in facilitating, reviewing this proposal.		

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NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire	DSNP Community Action CA15 Communications and broadband	Thank you for notifying NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) of the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Development Plan consultation. NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB has no direct comment on the plan but welcomes the proposals “To promote and support improvements to communications and broadband infrastructure”, which is of benefit to the provision of healthcare into rural communities.	Comment noted. The support for CA15 is welcomed.	No change.
Residents Association Central Ward	Built environment policies	Thank you for this, Droitwich has a lot of potential. I'm hoping you preserve at least the façade of Raven Hotel. Please make provision for the care of local churches ie St Andrews church roof.	DSNP policy SPA14 supports restoration and re-development of The Raven Hotel consistent with conserving and enhancing the historic fabric. The care of local churches is outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.
	Natural environment policies	Our beautiful town. Please ensure that nature is properly taken care of. Overgrowth, the gardens that protect bees, also the study of hay fever connected to nature.	Comment noted. DSNP policy SPA5 makes provision for biodiversity, including in the context of development proposals.	No change.
	Housing policies	Housing/ good solar panels for social housing please. A roof for everyone - I saw a homeless man today – please help them but take into account neighbours safety.	Housing needs are addressed in DSNP policy SPA8 and policy SPA9 encourages housing developments to incorporate renewable energy generation.	No change.
	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities	Transport for the leisure centre please more frequent. Community Hall on Heritage Way refurbished.	Public transport is outside the scope of the DSNP’s planning policies but is addressed by Community Action CA5. Refurbishment of the Community Hall is for the Town Council to consider.	No change.
	Town centre/Jobs and active travel	Town Centre- the old shops on the High Street that need refurbishment. For jobs and travel: Droitwich could develop sites for arts/film production.	A range of measures to boost town centre vitality are supported by policy SPA14 and Community Actions CA9 and CA10, in support	No change.

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			of WDC's Town Centre Investment Prospectus. The development of sites for film production would be a commercial decision.	
	DSNP	1. Could Westwood House become not please open to the public. Good as film location. 2. Better town walks that include the roman and iron age and medieval period. 3. What I'd like to see most is the good care of C of E churches ie St Andrews. 4. Setting up of film studios linked to Hollywood. Development of the film industry here. 5. Greater care of nature and road. Many thanks - look forward to Droitwich culture capital of the world.	Westwood House is privately owned and outside the Neighbourhood Area. Town walks and the care of local churches are outside the scope of the DSNP. Proposals to develop film production facilities are a commercial decision. Policy SPA5 makes provision for biodiversity and several Community Actions deal with highways.	No change.
Sport England	DSNP	Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above neighbourhood plan. Government planning policy, within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), identifies how the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this process. Providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This means that positive planning for sport, protection from the unnecessary loss of sports facilities, along with an integrated approach to providing new housing and employment land with community facilities is important. Therefore, it is essential that the neighbourhood plan reflects and complies with national planning policy for sport as set out in the NPPF with particular reference to Pars 103 and 104. It is also important to be aware of Sport England's statutory consultee role in protecting playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing field land. Sport England's playing fields policy is set out in our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document. https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy Sport England provides guidance on developing planning policy for sport and further information can be found via the link below. Vital to the development and implementation of planning policy is the evidence base on which it is founded.	Policies for open space and recreation covering the Neighbourhood Area are to be found in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. SWDPR 45 deals with the provision of open space and outdoor community uses in new development, setting quantity and accessibility standards. SWDPR 46 deals with the contribution to be made by new development towards playing fields and associated built form, as well as proposals involving the potential loss of playing fields. In accordance with NPPF para. 103, both policies are based on suitable assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities in the form of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities	No change.

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		https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#planning_applications Sport England works with local authorities to ensure their Local Plan is underpinned by robust and up to date evidence. In line with Par 104 of the NPPF, this takes the form of assessments of need and strategies for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. A neighbourhood planning body should look to see if the relevant local authority has prepared a playing pitch strategy or other indoor/outdoor sports facility strategy. If it has then this could provide useful evidence for the neighbourhood plan and save the neighbourhood planning body time and resources gathering their own evidence. It is important that a neighbourhood plan reflects the recommendations and actions set out in any such strategies, including those which may specifically relate to the neighbourhood area, and that any local investment opportunities, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, are utilised to support their delivery. Where such evidence does not already exist then relevant planning policies in a neighbourhood plan should be based on a proportionate assessment of the need for sporting provision in its area. Developed in consultation with the local sporting and wider community any assessment should be used to provide key recommendations and deliverable actions. These should set out what provision is required to ensure the current and future needs of the community for sport can be met and, in turn, be able to support the development and implementation of planning policies. Sport England's guidance on assessing needs may help with such work. http://www.sportengland.org/planningtoolsandguidance If new or improved sports facilities are proposed Sport England recommend you ensure they are fit for purpose and designed in accordance with our design guidance notes. http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/ Any new housing developments will generate additional demand for sport. If existing sports facilities do not have the capacity to absorb the additional demand, then planning policies should look to ensure that new sports facilities, or improvements to existing sports facilities, are secured and delivered. Proposed actions to meet the demand should accord with any approved local plan or neighbourhood plan policy for social infrastructure, along with priorities resulting from any assessment of need, or set out in any playing pitch or other indoor and/or outdoor sports facility strategy that the local authority has in place. In line with the Government's NPPF (including Section 8) and its Planning Practice Guidance (Health and wellbeing section), links below, consideration should also be given to how any new development, especially for new housing, will provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles and create healthy communities. Sport England's Active Design guidance can be used to help with this when developing planning policies and	Strategy (including consideration of housing growth up to 2041) and the South Worcestershire Open Space Assessment. NPPF para 104 deals with the potential loss of open space, sports and recreational facilities to development and as above this is addressed in SWDPR 46. In respect of healthy communities, SWDPR 05 requires developments to maximise opportunities to improve the quality of life and health and wellbeing of current and future residents through the provision of inter alia private, communal and public amenity space; recreational space for all; and connected spaces and places that promote active travel and alternative means of travel.	

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		developing or assessing individual proposals. Active Design, which includes a model planning policy, provides ten principles to help ensure the design and layout of development encourages and promotes participation in sport and physical activity. The guidance, and its accompanying checklist, could also be used at the evidence gathering stage of developing a neighbourhood plan to help undertake an assessment of how the design and layout of the area currently enables people to lead active lifestyles and what could be improved. NPPF Section 8: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities PPG Health and wellbeing section: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing Sport England's Active Design Guidance: https://www.sportengland.org/activedesign (Please note: this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.) If you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact Sport England using the contact details below.		
WDC	DSNP	1. Overview 1.1 These officer comments are made on behalf of Wychavon District Council (WDC), as the Local Planning Authority, on the draft Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Regulation 14 public consultation. The public consultation ran from 9 June to 22 July 2025. 1.2 WDC is supportive of Droitwich Town Council's preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and of the plan period from 2025 to 2041. The end period reflects that of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) reviewed to 2041, although it is noted it differs from the SWDPR which commences from 2021. The comments below relate to specific policies where clarification or changes are recommended. Should Droitwich Spa Town Council wish to query any points raised below, officers would be happy to discuss further ahead of the Regulation 15 submission.	Comment noted. The support for the DSNP plan period of 2025 to 2041, which is co-terminous with the end date of the SWDPR, is welcomed.	No change.
	DSNP	2. General Conformity with the Strategic Local Plan 2.1 It is not for WDC to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions, rather that is the role of the examiner once a final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has reached that stage. However, officers are content that the Neighbourhood Plan content aligns with the identified strategic policies in the SWDP and the relevant policies in the submitted SWDPR. 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared during a period of transition in local plan making from the adopted SWDP (2016), to the reviewed SWDP. The latter, referred to as the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in September 2023. The main examination hearings	The Town Council notes that revisions to draft Neighbourhood Plan policies may be required, reflecting either new Local Plan policies or references, once the SWDPR examination is concluded and prior to submission, to ensure that the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan achieves general conformity with the new	Update as indicated to reflect outcome of the SWDPR Examination.

Organisation	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
		commenced in March and concluded in April 2025, with the aim to adopt the revised SWDP in late 2025. 2.3 The Inspectors published their interim letter (EXAM99) on 7 July 2025 and determined that the Plan is likely to be capable of being found legally compliant and sound. The examination remains open, and a further site-specific hearing day has been set aside in early September. However, WDC will be able to consult on Main Modifications to the Plan in the autumn, allowing the Inspectors to then issue their final report and subsequent adoption of the new SWDP around the turn of the year. 2.4 However, the Inspectors have found that Annex E, relating to housing numbers for Neighbourhood Areas, of the SWDPR is unsound and directed that it should be removed from the Plan as a Main Modification. This means the housing supply position in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan area is no longer relevant. WDC has yet to determine how the housing requirement for neighbourhood areas is to be determined, although further directions to this may be provided in the Inspectors' final examination report. 2.5 The draft Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan within paragraph 1.18 acknowledges the period of transition in terms of the local plan making process. Due to the expected adoption of the SWDPR in late 2025, the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan would therefore be examined against the reviewed local plan. Therefore, whilst the neighbourhood plan has been drafted having regard to the SWDPR, further revisions to Neighbourhood Plan policies may be required, reflecting either new local plan policies or references, once the SWDPR examination is concluded, to ensure that the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan conforms with the new local plan.	local plan.	
	DSNP	3. Regard to the NPPF 3.1 The draft Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan demonstrates that regard has been had to the latest December 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), particularly its focus on sustainable development. The plan effectively balances economic, social and environmental objectives, providing a clear framework for development decisions that supports the emphasis on a plan-led system, which is championed by the NPPF.	The conclusion that the DSNP has had regard to the NPPF (December 2024) is welcomed.	No change.
	DSNP/Design Guidance and Codes	4. Droitwich Spa Design Code and Guidance 4.1 The preparation of the Droitwich Spa Design Code and Guidance is welcomed and reflects WDC's own emphasis on achieving good design outcomes from new development via the district wide design code SPD. In addition, the Droitwich Spa Design Code and Guidance reflects the 2022 Droitwich Town Centre Prospectus and the specific draft development brief that is being prepared by Wychavon covering the Union Lane and Netherwich Basin sites. The latter will be consulted on later in the year. Therefore, once adopted alongside the Neighbourhood Plan, the design code and guidance will carry	This support for the DSDGC is welcomed.	No change.

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		significant weight as supplementary documents and will strengthen relevant Neighbourhood Plan design policies when determining planning applications.		
	Chapter 1 Setting the Scene	5. Table of Officer Comments on Plan Content This chapter outlines the neighbourhood plan process and how they can form a part of the overall planning framework for the district. The document is logically set out, and the contents are clearly signposted.	Comment noted.	No change.
	Chapter 2 Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Area	This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the Neighbourhood Area, and how the town has developed over time in respect of areas including Community, Environment and Economy. There are several minor typos/syntax errors that need correcting within this chapter, these are as follows: 2.9 – “the town’s population has aged somewhat” change to “the town’s population has aged moderately”. 2.16 – “... which run the ...” change to “... which are situated along the ...”. 2.18 – “... present city centre ...” change to “... present town centre ...”.	Comment noted. Typos/syntax errors to be corrected/amended.	Correct/amend as indicated.
	Chapter 3 Vision and Objectives	This paragraph outlines the clear vision for Droitwich Spa by the end of the plan period. It also outlines how the neighbourhood plan policies will achieve this vision. There are a couple of minor typos/syntax errors that need correcting within this chapter, these are as follows: 3.4 – on last bullet point – “improvements by sustainable modes”. change to “improvements by sustainable modes of transport”. 3.6 – removal of dash after “energy” in bullet point 4.	This support for the DSNP’s vision and relationship to its neighbourhood planning policies is welcomed. Typos/syntax errors to be corrected.	Correct as indicated.
	Policy SPA1 Design	This policy is supportive of SWDP and SWDPR policies and local design guidance relating to design and sets out criteria that development proposals should follow to maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of and design quality in Droitwich Spa. There is one minor typo/syntax error that needs correcting within this chapter, these are as follows: 4.5 – change “... as SPD to ...” to “... as an SPD to ...”.	This support for policy SPA1 is welcomed. Typos/syntax error to be corrected.	Correct as indicated.
	Policy SPA2 Historic Environment	This policy is supportive of SWDP and SWDPR policies relating to the historic environment, outlining that development proposals should protect, conserve, and where possible enhance the historic environment of the Neighbourhood Area. The policy also sets out specific criteria that proposals will be assessed against in relation to the impact of proposals on the historic environment of the town.	This support for policy SPA2 is welcomed.	No change.

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	Policy SPA3 Droitwich Spa Conservation Area	This policy is supportive of SWDP and SWDPR policies relating to the historic environment, as well as the WDC Appraisal and Management Plan. It outlines that development proposals should either preserve or enhance the character and/or appearance of the Droitwich Spa Conservation Area.	This support for policy SPA3 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA4 Droitwich Canals Conservation Areas	This policy is supportive of SWDP and SWDPR policies relating to the historic environment, as well as the Canal & Rivers Trust Droitwich Canals Conservation Management Plan. It outlines that development proposals should either preserve or enhance the character and/or appearance of the Droitwich Spa Canals Conservation Areas.	This support for policy SPA4 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA5 Biodiversity	This policy builds on the ethos behind the relevant policy within SWDP 22, and SWDPR 27 in the submitted SWDP review. The policy focuses on the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity within the neighbourhood area and reinforcing national and locally designated natural characteristics. The policy aligns well with the aims of the local plan, and national policy.	This support for policy SPA5 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA6 Local Green Spaces	The Local Green Spaces identified are supported and justified against the selection criteria in Table 1, which provides the evidence base. Plan 5 illustrates the locations of each proposed Local Green Space within the Neighbourhood Plan.	This support for the areas of LGS identified in policy SPA6 and the justification provided is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA7 Key views	The key views outlined within this policy are supported and clearly identified utilising the map and Table 2. To assist decision making further, WDC recommend that photographs of each key view are appended to the neighbourhood plan. A revised map showcasing the directions of each viewpoint would also provide clarity for readers and planning officers when considering development proposals against this policy. The Key Views are also not clearly evidenced. Therefore, it is suggested that Table 2 is updated to include a column justifying the location of each key view.	This support for the key views identified in policy SPA7 is welcomed. As suggested, the direction of view will be indicated on Plan 6, the views will be justified in Table 2, and photographs added.	Amend Plan 6 and Table 2 as indicated and add photographs of each of the key views.
	Neighbourhood Area housing requirement	It should be noted that the Inspectors have found Annex E, relating to housing numbers for Neighbourhood Areas, of the SWDPR to be unsound and directed that it should be removed from the Plan as a Main Modification. This means the housing supply position in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan area is no longer relevant. Further details on an alternative approach may be addressed in the Inspectors final examination report.	This section of the DSNP will be updated pursuant to clarification from WDC as to the Neighbourhood Area's housing requirement.	Update as indicated.
	Policy SPA8 Housing mix	The policy requirements in terms of the mix are supported by the community survey results and refer to the 2021 SHMA update prepared for the SWDPR update.	Comment noted. Further justification for the policy is	No change.

Organisation	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
		The policy also sets out that the proposed mix of any given scheme should consider aspects such as design, character, and density of the surrounding built environment, as well as other site and building-specific factors and viability considerations. It is also noted that the policy is supportive of affordable housing provision, setting out indicative percentage breakdowns for tenure types.	provided by the Housing Needs Assessment undertaken by AECOM as part of DSNP preparation.	
	Policy SPA9 Housing development	This policy is aligned with relevant development management policies in the SWDP and SWDPR and is robustly justified as it references SWDPR evidence base documents.	Comment noted.	No change.
	Policy SPA10 Householder development	This policy is supportive of SWDP and SWDPR policies relating to design.	This support for policy SPA10 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA11 Land north/south of Union Lane	This policy is aligned with relevant development management policies in the SWDP and SWDPR as well as local design guidance/codes. The policy is also consistent with housing allocations set out in the SWDPR, stating further design and planning criteria for positively shaping development on the site. The SWDPR submitted allocation figure of 400 dwellings has been revised downwards as a Main Modification arising from the SWDPR examination hearings to 190 dwellings. In addition, the car park figure is now 105 spaces. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be amended to reflect this.	Policy SPA11 will be updated with changes arising from the SWDPR Examination once these are finalised.	Amend as indicated.
	Policy SPA12 Criteria for other allocated housing sites	This policy is aligned with relevant development management policies in the SWDP and SWDPR, as well as the housing allocations in the SWDPR. The policy expands on design criteria to positively shape development on the detailed allocations.	This support for policy SPA12 is welcomed. However, all the sites listed in the policy apart from Land at Keepers Cottage (which has outline planning permission for residential development, LPA ref W/24/01015/OUT) are to be removed as Local Plan allocation or re-allocations due to concerns over their deliverability and/or sustainability. See footnote 38 to the draft DSNP. If confirmed in the SWDPR Main Modifications, policy SPA12 to be deleted.	Subject to the SWDPR Main Modifications, delete policy SPA12 and supporting text, with consequential changes to policies SPA11/para. 6.21), SPA15/para. 8.17, and para. 9.6.

Organisation	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities	This policy sets out criteria that proposals for new or expanded community facilities will need to adhere to be supported. This criterion covers areas such as site accessibility, residential amenity, and siting and design considerations. The policy encourages proposals that will benefit younger and older age groups. Additionally, it sets out that developer contributions will be sought to mitigate additional demands on service provision that are necessitated by development. This policy is supported, however, the town council could build on their focus of community facilities by allocating a site for a future community facility, such as an Asset of Community Value. Although, this may be more suited to Section 11.	This support for the policy is welcomed. Consideration as to whether to seek the designation of community facilities as Assets of Community Value to be added to Community Action CA11.	Add to CA11: “Where appropriate, to nominate community facilities to Wychavon District Council for designation as Assets of Community Value.”.
	Policy SPA14 Town centre vitality	This policy aligns well with Wychavon’s focus on public realm improvement works within Droitwich Spa. The policy is also robustly justified, having referenced SWDPR and local evidence base documents and covers a range of issues such as public realm improvements, accessibility and safety, amenity, the historic environment, effective use of space, and tourism. Overall, the policy is comprehensive and well-written.	This support for policy SPA14 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	This policy is aligned with relevant development management policies in the SWDP and SWPDR as well as local design guidance/codes. The policy is also consistent with the mixed-use allocation set out in the SWDP and SWDPR, stating further design and planning criteria for positively shaping development on the site.	This support for policy SPA15 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA16 Economic development	This policy is aligned with the local plan, and emerging SWDPR. WDC support the focus of sustainable development, and this also aligns with the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance. WDC also supports the focus of promoting tourism focused on the town’s heritage and environment.	This support for policy SPA16 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	WDC support the aims of this policy in promoting active travel where possible. It aligns well with the relevant policy in the adopted local plan, SWDP 4, and the emerging review, SWDPR 06, and it also aligns with the NPPF aims of promoting sustainable development.	This support for policy SPA17 is welcomed.	No change.
	Chapter 10 Delivering the Neighbourhood Plan	This chapter clearly outlines the role that the Neighbourhood Plan will have in future decision making.	Comment noted.	No change.
	Chapter 11 Community	Whilst it is clearly understood from paragraph 11.3 that the community actions do not constitute to the planning policy aspect of a neighbourhood plan, the Neighbourhood Plan	The suggestion that relevant Community Actions are flagged in	Add references to relevant Community Actions to policy

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	Actions	could refer to specific community actions that are relevant to the policies, by utilising the community action reference, within the reasoned justification under each policy. This will further ensure their relevance in the future.	policy reasoned justification is agreed.	reasoned justification.
	Appendix A Evidence base	It is clear that there is a comprehensive evidence base behind the Neighbourhood Plan, including the latest 2024 NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance. It is noted that the Neighbourhood Plan currently references the SWDPR Regulation 19 document. It is expected that the neighbourhood plan will be updated once the SWDP has been readopted in late 2025.	Comment noted. Appendix A will be updated as required in respect of the SWDPR.	Update as indicated.
	Appendix B Windfall housing completions	The details within this chapter have been taken from the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC) Five Year Housing Land Supply reports. The SWCs are currently undertaking the housing and employment land completions survey and will be providing an updated Five Year Housing Land Supply position in the early autumn. The Regulation 15 version of the Neighbourhood Plan will need to reference the 2024/25 update to the Five-Year Housing Land Supply report to ensure it reflects the latest evidence.	Comment noted. Appendix B will be updated with 2024/25 housing completion date when available.	Update as indicated.
	Plans, figures and tables	Noted.	Comment noted.	No change.
	List of policies	Noted.	Comment noted.	No change.
	DSNP	6. Conclusions Overall, officers consider that the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 version aligns with the adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan (2016) and the policies in the SWDPR, whilst also having regard to the latest NPPF. The Neighbourhood Plan is set out in a logical manner to ensure that it is easy to follow and understand. The Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be updated to reflect the SWDP once readopted later in 2025, and any further possible changes to national planning policy before the Regulation 15 submission stage.	These conclusions are welcomed. The draft DSNP will be updated to reflect the readopted SWDP and to have regard to any changes in national planning policy, prior to the Regulation 15 submission stage.	Update to reflect outcome of the SWDPR Examination and any changes to national planning policy.

Part 2: Community comments

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
Respondent 1 (no name supplied)	DSNP	Unfortunately this is not a plan but a series of aspirations. A plan requires these desires to be prioritised, a time scale set out for each objective, how these aims will be carried out and who will manage the undertaking. The financial considerations need to be set out together with any implications for existing commitments. I am sorry but this is not a plan but an admirable exposition of what will improve Droitwich Spa in the future.	The DSNP provides a set of neighbourhood planning policies to add local detail to the Local Plan, based on proportionate evidence and within the overall framework set by legislation, the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance. Once made, it will guide development in Droitwich Spa up to 2041 as part of the development plan. Planning law requires WDC as the local planning authority to determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.	No change.
Respondent 2 (no name supplied)	Community Action CA5 Public transport provision	Worried about transport, namely the appalling bus service. Tatty late overcrowded. WE need to improve this.	Public transport is outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but is addressed by Community Action CA5.	No change.
	DSNP	Ensure lido revamp has a large enough brine baths. Massive concerns about the Raven Hotel. Local employment in heritage tourism at the lido and possible hotels?	Policy SPA14 addresses the re-instatement of a Brine Baths and supports the restoration and re-development of The Raven Hotel, the links to tourism being acknowledged in both cases. Policy SPA16 seeks to encourage tourism-focussed businesses linked to the town's heritage and historic environment.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	DSNP	This is an impossible task to undertake as you don't have a copy of the 71 page document to refer to. Very disappointed that I can't actually work out how to respond.	Printed copies of the consultation document could be requested from the Town Council offices. Copies were also available to read at the Town Council offices and Droitwich Spa Library, and at three drop-in events.	No change.
Respondent 3 (no name supplied)	DSNP	Too much information and was not accessible to find out what bits we should be reading and feeding back on.	Comment noted. The opportunity was available to discuss the DSNP at three drop-in events.	No change.
Respondent 4	National and local planning policy context	This section is on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) refers to guidance and implementation. The current Government requires the guidance to be adopted. This is not followed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) by ignoring and denying residents section 103 "Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate." Locality say that this can be included in a Neighbourhood Plan. Denying this to residents is a lack of concern for the health and well-being of current and future residents and for a sustainable community. The draft plan does cover Local Green Space protection for existing green spaces but does not cover future quality provision for an increasing population to 2041. This is particularly damning for a Spa Town where Health and Wellbeing should be ~part of the image. Residents have consistently said in surveys they wish the town to retain the Spa Town image. A Neighbourhood Plan should not just be about housing and commercial development but should include Section 103 provisions. Statements have been made that there is no land available and you cannot make planning policy over land you do not own. This is a legally incorrect statement. Locality recommends consultation with landowners but you can make policy on land you do not own. Also NPPF says Brownfield Sites, Grey Belt Land. Green Belt Land can all be used for sport and recreation. Refer to the "Golden Rules" in the NPPF. New Developments must provide or enhance green spaces. More efficient and better quality use of existing spaces could provide more facilities. Including Green Spaces, Sports , Recreation	The DSNP must have regard to national policies as one of the basic conditions if it is to be put to referendum and made. In respect of NPPF para. 103, open space and recreation are not included in the DSNP because they are already addressed in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. SWDPR 45 deals with the provision of open space and outdoor community uses in new development, setting quantity and accessibility standards. SWDPR 46 deals with the contribution to be made by new development towards playing fields and associated built form. In accordance with NPPF para. 103, both policies are supported by suitable assessments providing locally based and detailed evidence of supply and demand for different forms of open space and playing	No change.

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		and Leisure would enable comment on the Sports Centre, Lido, Running Track, Pump Track, Health walk etc. Standards for all these are vital to the town's image and Wychavon. D. C. in the past have provided poor standards for facilities. A statement was made that the Neighbourhood Plan group had no more time or funds for assessing future needs. This work has already been carried out by WDC, as legally required, for the SWDPR and must be provided free of charge for a Neighbourhood Plan. There are readily available national standards from Fields in Trust adopted by, they say, 75% of Local Authorities. Fields in trust control King George V playing fields so this is a natural fit for a Spa Town. Sport England also have standards including advice on indoor sports facilities. Sport England periodically conduct a Healthy Living Survey for which the West Midlands have regularly been bottom. This may be connected to the fact that people want to exercise but are discouraged by a lack of or the standard of facilities and the cost of private provision. Droitwich Spa could make an effort to get out of the bottom and have internationally recognized standards to enhance health, wellbeing and tourism potential. It should be noted Local Green Space designation was challenged by developers in Honeybourne's NDP. Field in Trust can offer a stronger protection in perpetuity. Wychavon District Council voted to make Briar Mill a Sports Hub so future provision should be included in the NDP to provide protection under a change to a unified authority up to 2041. It should be noted in the SWDPR, Green Space, Sports and Leisure is not a Strategic Policy. This means policies in an NDP have legal precedence over the SWDPR (confirmed by Locality). Conformity is only an issue for Strategic Policies in the SWDPR. This is very important for the town and future facilities as within a few years we will have a unified authority and having our own standard as a Spa Town should be important going forward to 2041. Under 3 Vision and Objectives under 3.4 Protecting community facilities and enabling new provision is being denied. Under 3.5 Vision the reference to community facilities is false by excluding forward planning to 2041 for an increasing population. National and local planning policy context 1.10 The description of the SWDP is not truthful and may lead ratepayers and residents to believe it is still current when it is time expired and legally ineffective. People should be informed it is out of date and pending the SWDPR mentioned later.	fields. As such this approach is preferred to the adoption of national standards. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy includes consideration of housing growth up to 2041. The 2016 SWDP is the adopted Local Plan for the area until it is updated on adoption of the present revisions, currently at Examination. The SWDP plan period extends to 2030. It is only its policies for the provision of housing which are currently to be considered out-of-date under NPPF para. 11d because WDC cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.	
	Policy SPA6 Local Green Spaces, Table 1	Why does Vines Park, Spring Meadow, Copcut Park and Addyes Way have no Recreational Value when Droitwich Community Woods does? Why is Staynor's Park not included in Local Green Space? Is it a future development site even though it has childrens' play facilities?	See response to comments by Droitwich Spa Civic Society on this policy above. The recreational value of Spring Meadow, Copcut Park and Addyes Way will also be acknowledged.	See amendments proposed in response to comments by Droitwich Spa Civic Society on this policy, above. In addition, amend Table 1 to recognise recreational value of Spring Meadow, Copcut Park and Addyes Way.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	Policy SPA11 Land north/south of Union Lane	The Design Codes illustrate open spaces, common realm, and green space, particularly as the conservation canal side is approached. A Wychavon D.C. planner advised me that a developer could pay Wychavon to move open space elsewhere. This has happened on other estates where the space, it is perceived, has been moved somewhere less convenient for residents. Can a NDP policy be included preventing the developer from being able to pay to remove facilities from the original approved design? Surely this would be in conformity with the Design Codes, NPPF and the SWDPR but introducing a local policy, which is permitted under a NDP. This should also apply to other sites. Is there an SWDPR traffic movement survey allowing for the movements of cars generated by 400 homes and 250 car park spaces for the station. Also looking at the use of the station by cars from Hampton Lovett, the new Copcutt Extension, a Hanbury Road Development, a Hadzor Development and a Chateau Impney development and other developments up to 2041. Is there a traffic survey for the MS junction 5? I have seen one covering junction 5 and 6 but with little comment on Junction 5 and future traffic.	The DSDGC sets out principles for the development of land at Union Lane including reference to open space and public realm. The design solution for the site will need to take account of these principles in line with policy SPA11 by making provision on-site. For clarity, references to be added to policy SPA11 and the supporting text. Traffic impact assessments for SWDPR Droitwich proposals including land at Union Lane are available in the SWDPR evidence base.	Add new criterion to policy SPA11: “provide high quality public realm approaching the Canalside and a public square in the western corner of land south of Union Lane”. Add bullet points to para. 6.25: “Consideration of a public square in the western corner of Union Lane south. High quality public realm approaching the Canalside, considered a key connection to Vines Park and the surroundings”.
	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities, para. 7.2	The comment that the supply of community services is outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan is not correct. Open Spaces, Sports, Recreation and Leisure facilities should be an integral part of an NDP. It is the town council who are refusing to include these in contravention of the NPPF and Locality Guidance.	The reference in para. 7.2 is to the supply and delivery of community services as distinct from the development of facilities intended to accommodate such provision. Policy SPA13 sets planning criteria for the consideration of development proposals for new or expanded community facilities.	No change.
	Droitwich Spa Design Guidance and Codes	Design Codes Canal Side Figure 170 is entirely unsuitable. It is out of context with the canal conservation area and access to the towpath and waterside for town residents and visitors. It does not conform to any of the design codes but could give developers the idea it is possible to build up to the canal side excluding public access. A developer may argue the photograph is in the design codes, so should be removed.	Policy SPA15 criterion 3 explicitly requires high quality public realm to the Canalside, this being supported by DSDGC site-specific design principles CB11, CB15, CB16. Also see DSDGC area-wide code W1. The images used in this section of the DSDGC are	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
			illustrative of other developments rather than prescriptive, with figs 169 and 171 both showing Canalside public realm.	
	DSNP	Bearing in mind the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) is not yet adopted, but the need for conformity on Strategic Policies. What are differences in the NDP Draft that is of unique additional benefit to the town, at the local level, from what is in the higher level SWDPR? It would have been helpful to point out these additional benefits that justify the expenditure on the plan? The very large potential benefits to townspeople of including planning for present and future Open Green Spaces, Sports, Recreation and Leisure have been denied the community so what benefits are there? There are no design codes for the area of King George V Playing Fields and Briar Mill. Why is this area ignored? There is no mention of reference to Fields in Trust and Sport England for future provision, standards of indoor and outdoor facilities and design. Was Sport England consulted about the changes to the Sports Centre and its suitability to provide for the increasing population of the NDP area up to 2041? It is noted the NDP can only cover the area within the town's boundaries but neighbouring areas, and new estates outside these boundaries, without facilities, will want to use the town's facilities thus swelling their potential use up to 2041. What is the projected population of the town up to 2041 as only the last census is quoted on which to assess the need for future facilities?	The DSNP provides neighbourhood planning policies to add further detail to Local Plan policies whilst avoiding duplication. To this end, open space and recreational provision are not included in the DSNP because they are already addressed in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. The standards and other requirements in these policies are supported by detailed evidence of supply and demand for different forms of open space and playing fields. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy includes consideration of housing growth up to 2041, along with an area-based approach to sport catchments which is not restricted to the town boundaries.	No change.
Respondent 5	Plan 1 Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Area	Should be changed to include the whole of the Impney estate and Impney Drive development. Excluding these but including part of the Impney estate and the Swan Drive development makes no sense at all.	The Neighbourhood Area reflects the Town Council's administrative area.	No change.
	Policies SPA3 Droitwich Spa	With the Raven Hotel sitting within the Droitwich Spa conservation area, the council must ensure this development is a priority. If compulsory purchase is required, then so be it, as	The restoration and re-development of The Raven Hotel	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	Conservation Area and SPA14 Town centre vitality	expenditure on enhancing other areas will be a complete waste of money and resources, with this eyesore remaining in the centre of the town.	for main town centre uses consistent with the conservation and enhancement of the historic fabric is supported in policy SPA14.	
	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	The continued development in and around the town (under the SWDP) and the resulting pressures on the road network, mean that only dedicated cycle ways that link the towns prominent sites together (town centre, railway, doctors, park etc), will encourage people to cycle. As it stands, the haphazard nature of the towns cycle ways and shared road use with increasing volumes of traffic, means the risk is too great for most people.	Policy SPA17 is intended to ensure that development proposals should wherever possible serve to improve cycle access to key destinations. Further, Community Action CA7 supports implementation of Local Transport Plan proposals to create a comprehensive active travel network in the town linking residential areas and key attractors.	No change.
	DSNP	In general, I hope the funding is forthcoming to make these plans come to fruition.	Comment noted.	No change.
Respondent 6	DSNP	The draft Neighbourhood Plan needs to make reference to all relevant policies including those published as part of the SWDP and other nationally recognised environmental and recreational standards. Specific reference has not been made to all green spaces within older, newer and proposed developments to ensure that open spaces are retained and not at some time in the future identified for development, i.e. the open areas on the Wildlife and Yew Tree developments not already listed and those on outlying areas which are likely to come within the remit of Droitwich Spa in the future. It is noted that Droitwich Spa does not have the nationally recommended open space or meet the national standards for recreational purposes.	There is no need to reference all applicable development plan policies and other standards in the DSNP. In respect of amenity open spaces in housing areas, these are protected by adopted and submitted Local Plan policies SWDP 38 and SWDPR 44 and specifically identified on the Local Plan Policy Maps. In respect of standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities by new development, these are also to be found in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies supported by detailed evidence of supply and	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
			demand. Such a locally-based approach is preferred to the application of national standards.	
	Policy SPA9 Housing development	All new developments to include green energy as a necessary requirement, eg solar energy, heat pumps, battery storage etc., together with environmentally friendly initiatives within the build eg swallow bricks.	For renewable energy generation see policy SPA9 criterion 2. For wildlife, an addition is proposed to policy SPA5.	Add new criterion to policy SPA5: "make provision for wildlife including for cavity-nesting birds and bats."
Respondent 7	Policy SPA8 Housing mix	Droitwich needs more true executive type housing (4000-5000 square feet, on minimum of 1/2 acre plots. Lack of enough higher end housing is preventing business expansion/new businesses moving to the area.	The Housing Needs Assessment supporting policy SPA8 acknowledges that whilst the bulk of the requirement over the plan period will be for dwellings with 2 or 3 bedrooms, there is also a requirement for other sizes, recommending that "priority is given to smaller or mid-sized homes but that this is done to a degree that aligns with the wider objectives of the community and does not limit choice or threaten viability" (para. 178). Reflecting this, policy SPA8 is worded flexibly, avoiding being over-prescriptive and allowing for the provision of a range of dwellings of different sizes to meet housing needs.	No change.
	DSNP	The Plan lacks strategic direction to improve Droitwich. We should have a strategic plan to considerable develop tourism. We also need to significantly upgrade the retail environment, from a lower middle positioning to an upper middle positioning.	The DSNP provides for both boosting town centre vitality and encouraging tourism linked to the town's heritage, through its Vision, objectives and policies particularly SPA14 and SPA16.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
Respondent 8	DSNP	I totally support the Daft Neighbourhood Plan. There is a clear need to develop facilities and employment while preserving and making into attractions the many sites of historical interest in Droitwich Spa (Romans, salt production, brine baths, Lido, Pilgrim fathers etc).	This support for the DSNP is welcomed.	No change.
Respondent 9	Community Action CA12 Health care services	Please get another GP in the area. It is needed desperately!	Public health services are outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but are addressed by Community Action CA12.	
Respondent 10	Community Action CA1 Highways-road safety for all users	Speeding around Droitwich needs to be addressed, also parking across junctions, on pavements, on corners of roads and on double yellow lines.	Speeding and other traffic safety issues are outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but are addressed by Community Action CA1.	No change.
	Para. 2.14	Please consider making the main part of the lido park for dogs on leads only. There are too many dogs where owners have no recall and an easy solution would be to make the fields at the back of the park (bordering the Holloway) areas where dogs can be off lead.	Management of Lido Park is the responsibility of WDC and is outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.
	Policy SPA9 Housing development	The numbers of new houses are needed but need to be met with appropriate infrastructure and this has to include schools.	Policy SPA9 and supporting text (para. 6.14) addresses this issue, which was highlighted in earlier DSNP consultations. The infrastructure requirements of housing growth including education are dealt with in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1.	No change.
	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities	Community facilities always seem to centre around sport, which is of course important but not everyone is sporty! Also, in terms of Droitwich being a dementia friendly town can this be expanded to being friendly towards people with neurodiversity and mental illness. Sometimes people are just too overwhelmed by really well meant enthusiasm and crowding of them when they enter spaces.	Policy SPA13 applies to all community facilities including health which would embrace people with neurodiversity and mental illness.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	Policy SPA16 Economic development	Local businesses need to commit to treating young people looking for jobs much better. Currently there is a horrible trend for using them for free trial shifts and then never contacting them again. Businesses are role models to young people and should act as such.	Comment noted.	No change.
	DSNP	Thanks for the opportunity to comment, I found it a little confusing as a process so I hope the comments made are ok.	Comment noted.	No change.
Respondent 11	DSNP	I have studied your plan at length. The glaring omission is accommodation of the extra open green spaces, sports facilities, recreation generally which will obviously be needed as the years go by. The increasing population will need the same excellent facilities the present population have. I believe that there are guides and professional expertise available free of charge to you for this to be included in the plan. It is quite ridiculous to say there is no land available for this, a workable plan is only viable if it is a complete plan. Let's not have a mini HS2 fiasco in Droitwich. With all the advice and guidance freely available to you that would be grossly letting down the future residents of Droitwich and area. I believe an organisation such as 'Fields in Trust' are extremely helpful. Droitwich Civic Society submissions should also be seriously taken on board.	These matters are not included in the DSNP because they are already addressed in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. SWDPR 45 deals with the provision of open space and outdoor community uses in new development, setting quantity and accessibility standards. SWDPR 46 deals with the contribution to be made by new development towards playing fields and associated built form playing fields. Both policies are supported by suitable assessments which provide locally based and detailed evidence of supply and demand for different forms of open space and playing fields. This approach is preferred to the adoption of national standards such as those recommended by Fields in Trust.	No change.
Respondent 12	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	The aims of this Policy are certainly laudable. However, I was somewhat surprised not to see any comment about how it might be relevant to those with limited mobility, including the elderly and the disabled, who might rely on motorised transport. I think it would be reassuring to such persons to show how their transport needs might be practically catered for when this Policy is applied to planning matters.	Agreed. The needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility will be recognised in the policy and supporting text.	Add to policy SPA17: "The needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility should also be taken into account". Add to para. 9.7: "The needs of people with

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
				disabilities and reduced mobility should also be addressed in the design of both development proposals and highway, footway, and route corridor improvements, including in respect of shared use.”.
	DSNP	To an interested resident, but one who is an amateur when it comes to town-planning matters, the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan comes across as an extremely thorough, comprehensive and carefully-considered document which demonstrates very positive intentions for the future of our town. In a general comment about the Community Actions Section 11 covering areas of concern to residents but which extend beyond the remit of the plan, I found it to be particularly encouraging that the content of this section demonstrates a commitment to work with those organisations which do have responsibility, rather than just disregarding such matters. Clearly, a lot of work has gone into the creation of this plan, and it is reassuring to see that considerable thought and care has been taken towards laying the appropriate foundations for a flourishing future for Droitwich. Thank you to all those persons who have contributed to its preparation.	This support for the DSNP is welcomed.	No change.
Respondent 13	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel) Community Action CA7 Walking and cycling	More cycle and paths please and clear signage for these will be very important in promoting active and safe travel. This should be high up on priorities, as aside from helping reduce carbon emissions, this will be hugely beneficial for health and wellbeing and building community connections. Please please please focus on the creation of more cycle and footpaths linking parts of the town. This will make Droitwich so much better for residents, especially children. Imagine Droitwich leading the way for other towns to become cycle-friendly. This would be wonderful for the town's economy and reputation.	Policy SPA17 is intended to ensure that development proposals should wherever possible serve to improve cycle access to key destinations. Further, Community Action CA7 supports implementation of Local Transport Plan proposals to create a comprehensive active travel network in the town linking residential areas and key attractors.	No change.
Respondent 14	DSNP	1. Droitwich needs a vision to decide if it wants to be a cheap and cheerful place like Stourport or Blackpool with colourful art on historic buildings and constant junk food festivals or a more upmarket town like Bewdley, Bath etc or something in between. 2. More street trees could be planted to provide shade, add beauty and help to alleviate effects of climate change. For example, in Stalls Farm Road. 3. There seems to be a need for	The DSNP’s Vision focusses on providing well-designed new development whilst protecting and enhancing the spa town heritage and sense of place.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
		a BMX track. 4. A direct train link to Worcestershire Parkway, if feasible. 5. Don't give in to the vociferous cycling lobby and spend a lot of money on cycle lanes that will be used by only a few.	Street trees are outside the scope of the DSNP. Provision of a BMX track is dependent on appropriate proposals coming forward. Public transport is addressed by Community Action CA5. In line with national and Local Plan policy, policy SPA17 and Community Action CA7 help support improvements to active travel throughout the town, ensuring that development proposals wherever possible improve cycle access to key destinations and supporting implementation of Local Transport Plan proposals to create a comprehensive active travel network in the town linking residential areas and key attractors.	
Respondent 15	Community Action CA4 Highways – other matters	I am not seeing any specific that speaks to accessibility i.e. routes suitable to be shared by mobility scooters, pushchairs etc. which is a current issue for getting around.	See response to comment by Respondent 12 on policy SPA17.	See amendments proposed at comment to policy SPA17 by Respondent 12.
Respondent 16	DSNP	We can not disagree with any section of the Plan. We might argue over the priorities but we believe that you are already doing an excellent job, happy to rely on you.	This support for the DSNP is welcomed.	No change.
Respondent 17	Policy SPA6 Local Green Spaces	There does not seem to be mention of increasing the number of green areas. These are necessary given population growth.	These matters are not included in the DSNP because they are already addressed in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. SWDPR 45 deals with the provision of open space and outdoor community uses in new development, setting quantity	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
			and accessibility standards. SWDPR 46 deals with the contribution to be made by new development towards playing fields and associated built form.	
	Policy SPA14 Town centre vitality	There does not seem to mention of increasing car park spaces, given that population will increase and with more people using the train station.	The SWDPR's Retail and Town Centre Study identifies that Droitwich has good parking provision. WDC's Town Centre Investment Prospectus identifies the large areas of surface car parking as a weakness. Rather than highlighting any requirement for additional parking, the Prospectus refers to the development opportunities offered by several town centre car parks. The availability for development of those car parks operated by WDC would be dependent on a detailed study of car parking capacity and requirements to support any rationalisation of provision. For the railway station, the SWDPR includes provision for additional car parking to serve the railway station in its Union Lane allocation.	No change.
	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	Where pedestrians cross Saltway, walking from the station towards Morrisons car park, is not a safe crossing because drivers turning left into Saltway speed from what is a blind turning.	Saltway to be noted as one of the locations identified at para. 9.3.	Add Saltway to the list of locations/facilities at para 9.3.
	DSNP	Other than my comments, the Plan looks very good.	This support for the DSNP is welcomed.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
Respondent 18	Community Actions CA5 Public transport provision and CA12 Health care services	I consider that a bus service between Droitwich and surrounding villages is necessary and long overdue, but especially with all the extra housing being proposed and developed in the villages. Another Doctors' surgery would also be needed to manage the care needs of all the new residents.	Public transport is outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but is addressed by Community Action CA5.	No change.
Respondent 19 (NB a second set of similar comments were also submitted by this respondent which are not repeated here)	Policy SPA4 Droitwich Canals Conservation Areas	4.18 Navigation on the Barge Canal is now narrowed at the point of entrance to the Netherwich Basin under the Railway Bridge. By a mistake of putting a walkway under the Bridge. Please put a Foot Bridge over the canal by the Railway Bridge so the Barge canal can be a Barge canal as it is supposed to be. Remove the walkway under the Bridge to widen navigation for barges and buttys and Barge Canal! Done. 4.19 Please respect security for moored boats and their owners in the Netherwich Canal Basin. Be alert of children and adults drownings in the Basin. Please keep the locks on the gates! More water taps would be good and lights, also an elson tip out portable box please. Suggest bin cupboard for that. Don't need all those bins.	Proposals for the widening of the Barge Canal are for the Canal and River Trust to consider. On facilities for Canal users at Netherwich Basin, see response to comments by the Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd in Part 1 above.	See amendments proposed in response to comments by the Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Ltd in Part 1 above.
	DSNP	Some mistakes were made when the restoration was made previous to 2011. Year people are living in the dark ages. No loos, lights or lots of water to drink (for boaters/tourists).		
Respondent 20	Objectives	The Key Objectives are absolutely correct. If delivered, quality of life would be significantly improved. Delivery will require commitment from agencies and partners, plus significantly greater levels of government funding. My fear is that the planned reorganisation of local government in Worcestershire will make matters worse. Very best of luck!	This support for the objectives of the DSNP is welcomed.	No change.
Respondent 21	DSNP	Focus for me, protect our natural spaces. Maintain and protect our conservation areas. Stop renters, air bnb, and second home owners avoiding paying council tax. Build on our heritage.	Policy SPA5 provides a comprehensive framework for the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Policies SPA3 and SPA4 address the town's three Conservation Areas, and heritage is an important theme for the plan reflected in the Vision and objectives. The other matters referred to are outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
Respondent 22	DSNP	Tourism is key. The more tourism the better, then our town will be able to support a more vibrant independent centre without needing massive population increases.	Policy SPA16 specifically seeks to encourage tourism-focussed businesses linked to the town's heritage and historic environment.	No change.
Respondent 23	Policy SPA14 Town centre vitality	Improvements to pedestrian - cyclist connectivity to current and future long term parking from the station rather urgent. A long and not easy walk from Saltway parking to the station. Maybe temporary parking on Union Lane brown field sites while we wait for eventual 250 parking spaces?	This issue is recognised by the DSNP. Improvements to connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between the railway station and the town centre are addressed principally in policy SPA14 and policy SPA17, together with Community Actions CA6 and CA7. Delivering temporary car parking at Union Lane is outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.
	DSNP	It's a good plan, emphasising environmental concerns wherever possible, alongside development and economic opportunities. It's vital not to lose sight of the fragility of the planet during adoption and implementation of the plan.	This support for the DSNP is welcomed.	No change.
Respondent 24	Policy SPA3 Droitwich Spa Conservation Area, criterion 9	We do think it is important to bring Droitwich town back to its heritage. The shop fronts look so dated and 70s they need to be in keeping with the traditional black and white buildings that look and appeal to people and visitors coming to the area. Droitwich has so much to offer to all who live and work here and to visitors but it needs a good overhaul to make it more appealing.	This support for the aims of policy SPA3 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy CA1 Highways – road safety for all users	We would like to comment on the hedgerows and pavements. We love to see the trees and flowers but they need to be maintained on a regular basis and to be pruned properly not hacked like they are now. Also the grass is taking over the pavements so that needs attention also the gutters everywhere are full of weeds, we have to dig them out of our gutter all the time because we never see a road sweeper.	Hedge cutting and pavement maintenance are included in Community Action CA1.	No change.
Respondent 25	DSNP	I am concerned about the lack of provision for a range of open spaces, sports facilities and leisure and recreation facilities. These are crucial for the health and wellbeing of a sustainable community. Please amend appropriately.	These matters are not included in the DSNP because they are already addressed in adopted	No change.

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			and submitted Local Plan policies. SWDPR 45 deals with the provision of open space and outdoor community uses in new development, setting quantity and accessibility standards. SWDPR 46 deals with the contribution to be made by new development towards playing fields and associated built form.	
Respondent 26	Policy SPA9 Housing development	You need better roads and infrastructure.	Highways matters and other infrastructure issues linked to existing conditions are outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but are addressed in Community Actions.	No change.
	Chapter 8, Droitwich Spa town centre	It's awful, no inspiration and children will leave the area as soon as they can.	A range of measures to boost town centre vitality are supported by policy SPA14 and Community Actions CA9 and CA10, in support of WDC's Town Centre Investment Prospectus.	No change.
	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	People don't want to cycle due to the sheer volume of traffic, everyone is fed up with it.	Policy SPA17 is intended to ensure that development proposals should give pedestrian and cycle movements priority over other means of travel and wherever possible serve to improve cycle access to key destinations. Further, Community Action CA7 supports implementation of Local Transport Plan proposals to create a comprehensive active travel network in the town	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
			linking residential areas and key attractors.	
	DSNP	The conservatives have been in power here for decades and we can't even get the weeds dealt with on the curbs. Council tax is over 300 a month and yet nothing has improved in 15 years. These ideas are pipe dreams, Droitwich is a flood site due to housing, the roads are now unsafe and pollution is rife. Well done Tories!	Comment noted.	No change.
Respondent 27	DSNP	Maintain the trees as the beautiful feature they are. Fill the empty shops in and around the town centre. Continue to keep Droitwich unique and buzzing with activity. Keep up the good work.	Comment noted. A range of measures to boost town centre vitality are supported by policy SPA14 and Community Actions CA9 and CA10, in support of WDC's Town Centre Investment Prospectus.	No change.
Respondent 28	Chapter 8, Droitwich Spa town centre	You need to do something to regenerate the town centre and high street. So many shops are closing and lying empty.	This is recognised in DSNP policy SPA14 which provides a planning framework to help boost town centre vitality, complementing the wider range of measures set out in WDC's Town Centre Investment Prospectus.	No change.
Respondent 29	Para. 2.18	Can you confirm what future plans for the Raven Hotel. We are desperately short of Hotels in the town centre.	DSNP policy SPA14 supports appropriate proposals for the restoration and re-development of The Raven Hotel for main town centre uses including leisure, tourism and residential, consistent with conserving and enhancing the historic fabric. Policy SPA16 seeks to encourage tourism-focussed businesses linked to the town's heritage and historic environment.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	Key planning issues bullet 1	Can the 'local character' be defined.	The DSDGC defines eight Character Areas in the town, to enable well-designed buildings and spaces that are sensitive and responsive to local context, landscape setting, and character.	No change.
	Key planning issues	Signage is a key area and should be included in this section. Suggest two designs uniquely for: 1 "Drivers" which highlight the route to town centre car parks and 2 "Pedestrians" to highlight the features within the town of interest to tourists. In addition Plaques on buildings of special interest for tourists as currently mounted on the wall 'The Old Cock Inn' in Friar Street.	Road and footpath signage is already referred to in Community Action CA4, which could be added to reflect the suggestions made.	Add to CA4: "Signage should separately address the differing needs of motorists, pedestrians and tourists, and include further provision of wall-mounted plaques to highlight buildings of special interest."
	Policy SPA1 Design, para. 4.4	Signage is a key area and should be included in this section. Suggest two designs uniquely for: 1 "Drivers" which highlight the route to town centre car parks and 2 "Pedestrians" to highlight the features within the town of interest to tourists. In addition Plaques on buildings of special interest for tourists as currently mounted on the wall 'The Old Cock Inn' in Friar Street.		
	Community Action CA1 Highways – road safety for all users	Signage should be added for "Drivers and Pedestrians".	Signage is addressed in Community Action CA4.	No change.
	DSNP	Observation - The plan is very professional and clearly sets out the overall vision of the towns needs through the period. We have so much going for us and most of the areas are covered. Below are my comments. I operate from a Mac computer and have found difficulty using the response form. My apologies. Introduction and comment On the approach by car to Droitwich Spa and within the town itself the signage is badly in need of updating and the new signage in keeping with Local Character of the town. With more emphasis on tourism it is not currently easy to identify key sites within the town. The launch of the Brine bath approval presents an opportunity to progressively introduce completely new signage which would enable the public to find the Tourism Information Centre in St Richards House from where they could then obtain information, which is currently available, enabling them to venture around the town at their convenience. The design of the signage would be unique in following that agreed for the Brine Baths. Although there is repetition in places it is important to include in the plan because the	This support for the DSNP is welcomed. The comments made on signage including wall plaques are acknowledged and a suitable addition to Community Action CA4 is proposed above.	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
		current signage is somewhat dated. The wall plaques are an important addition to the town.		
Respondent 30	DSNP	Just do nothing, minimise expenditure and councillors' pet projects, and let natural evolution and let empowered private enterprise to evolve changes as may be. Nothing the/any council can/will do ever actually achieves it's/their supposed or imagined objectives. Just refer to the white elephant HS2!	Comment noted.	No change.
Respondent 31	DSNP	There is absolutely no mention of crime, anti social behaviour or vandalism, why are these fundamental issues that impact on the Town and the shaping of the future missing? It's all very well talking about shaping the future, when graffiti and ASB is not addressed, yet these are a running theme through every grand plan statement. We see graffiti on street signs, buildings that have not been removed for months. Yet you talk about the towns heritage and historic environment. It's either a missed opportunity or a serious oversight. Public and even road safety is missing, yet these have massive impacts on any future planning. Perhaps we can see mention of the police station being cleaned in the town, as it's filthy and detrimental to the environment.	These are matters outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies. An addition to Community Action CA9 is proposed to recognise these issues and their impact on the town centre's public realm.	Add to CA9: "In addition, to support West Mercia Police and others including property owners in tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and graffiti."
Respondent 32	Policy SPA8 Housing mix	While the draft Plan makes reference to affordable housing, there is a noticeable lack of specific, measurable targets—particularly for social rented homes. As it stands, the provisions appear modest and lack the clarity and commitment needed to ensure delivery meets local needs. Too often, affordable and social housing is treated as a minimal compliance requirement by developers, rather than a core part of building balanced communities. The Neighbourhood Plan is an opportunity to set a stronger local standard and must do more than simply echo national guidance. Importantly, social housing should be treated as equal in value and status to market housing—not as a 'B-grade' alternative. It should be fully integrated within developments, indistinguishable in appearance and quality, and delivered with the same care and standards as any other tenure. I respectfully urge the Council to: Introduce defined targets for the number and tenure split of affordable homes, including social rent. Require that affordable housing is delivered in the early stages of development, not deferred or diluted. Ensure such homes are built to the same high standards of design, durability, and energy efficiency as market homes.	Policy SPA8 is based on a detailed local Housing Needs Assessment which informs the affordable tenure mix required including social rent. The number of affordable homes provided will be dependent on sites coming forward above the size thresholds set in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies. An addition to policy SPA8 is proposed in respect of the design of affordable housing, which would be subject to the same planning policies as market housing.	Add to policy SPA8: "Where a site includes a mix of affordable and market housing, the affordable units should be distributed across the site and be designed to be indistinguishable from the open market units. Proposals that seek to concentrate different types and tenures of homes in separate groups on a site will not be supported."
	Policy SPA9 Housing development	One of the most consistent failings in modern development is the ongoing reliance on vague assurances that infrastructure will be delivered "at some point." This approach has repeatedly resulted in housing developments being occupied before essential services like	Policy SPA9 and supporting text (para. 6.14) addresses this issue, which was highlighted in earlier	No change.

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		roads, drainage, doctors, schools, and utilities are in place—leaving the community to suffer the consequences. This must stop. Infrastructure must be delivered before development begins, or at the very least in strict alignment with the earliest phases of housing. It is no longer acceptable to place blind trust in developers who routinely delay, downscale, or fail to deliver on promises. If infrastructure is not in place as agreed, the Council should: Immediately halt further construction, using all legal and planning powers available. Publicly name and shame non-compliant developers, making their failure to meet obligations visible to the community. Enforce a “No Infrastructure, No Development” policy without exception. Furthermore, developers should be required to: Deposit a substantial financial bond with the Council before any work begins. This bond should only be released after all agreed infrastructure works have been completed to specification. This is about accountability, not obstruction. If developers are serious about contributing to the town, they must be prepared to meet their obligations upfront—not at the community’s expense.	DSNP consultations. The infrastructure requirements of housing growth are dealt with in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1. The suggestions made here as to enforcement and compliance are outside the scope of the Town Council’s powers and would fall instead to WDC as local planning authority to consider.	
	DSNP	Overall, while the draft Neighbourhood Plan is detailed and well-structured, it still reads more like a framework of polite intentions than a tool of firm local control. Droitwich Spa is growing rapidly, and the town needs bold, enforceable planning policy—not just guidance. There is an urgent need for the Plan to: Take a stronger stance on infrastructure and affordable housing delivery. Resist developments that do not clearly serve the interests of existing and future residents. Include clear, enforceable language that removes developer discretion when it comes to essential services and community contributions. Planning policy must shift from reacting to development proposals to actively shaping them based on what the town genuinely needs—not what a developer says is “viable.” I would also encourage the Council to ensure continued transparency and public involvement at all stages of implementation, particularly when decisions are made about land use, developer contributions, and infrastructure phasing.	The DSNP provides a set of neighbourhood planning policies to add local detail to the Local Plan, based on proportionate and robust evidence and within the overall framework set by legislation, the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance. Once made, it will form part of the development plan alongside principally the Local Plan. Planning law requires WDC as the local planning authority to determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF provides for viability to be considered, including in respect of developer contributions, and this cannot be set aside by the DSNP.	No change.

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Respondent 33	Policy SPA9 Housing development	There has been excessive housing development in Droitwich without commensurate supporting facilities ie. doctors, school places, pharmacies in particular. I can see nothing in the Plan summary sheet which specifically addresses these issues.	Policy SPA9 and supporting text (para. 6.14) addresses this issue, which was highlighted in earlier DSNP consultations. The infrastructure requirements of housing growth including education and health are addressed in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1.	No change.
	Objectives	Key Objective 1. The phrase "High Quality Design" is meaningless without more precise qualification ie. of what?	Further detail on design requirements for development proposals is set out in policy SPA1 and the DSDGC.	No change.
	Objectives	Key Objective 4. regarding new housing needs a further dimension. Given that Planning Regulations are lagging behind modern requirements (& therefore allow builders too easy a ride), there needs to be a provision to require new building to conform with current day necessity in terms of nature conservation. ie. preserving the natural environment - trees, green spaces, built-in nesting spaces (swift boxes, sparrow niches, overhangs for Martins, albeit not in every building, that would be excessive). Droitwich is a good place to live. Hopefully the final Plan will enable Droitwich to be even more attractive. Would topping the list of "the most attractive places to live" be too ambitious an objective?	Policy SPA1 requires the retention of natural site features of amenity and biodiversity value in all development, along with new landscaping/open space to provide for wildlife. On nesting places, see response to comment by Respondent 6 on policy SPA9.	See amendment proposed at comment to policy SPA9 by Respondent 6.
Respondent 34	Objectives, bullet 5	No more planning should be granted until community facilities, especially relating to healthcare are actively addressed.	The provision of community facilities/health care are outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but are addressed by Community Actions CA11 and CA12. The infrastructure requirements of housing growth including health are dealt with in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1 and para. 6.14.	No change.
	Neighbourhood Area housing requirement	No more planning should be granted until community facilities, especially relating to healthcare are actively addressed.		

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	Policy SPA9 Housing development, criterion 1	This is not definite enough. Active	The policy is appropriately worded in support of Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	No change.
	Policy SPA9 Housing development, para. 6.14	Again, the issue of community services. The different bodies responsible for making a community function should be talking to one another to make it all work.	The provision of community facilities/health care are outside the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but are addressed by Community Actions CA11 and CA12.	No change.
	Policy SPA13 New or expanded community facilities, para 7.1	Again, the issue of community services. The different bodies responsible for making a community function should be talking to one another to make it all work.		
	DSNP	In this long document there is much mention of cycling and walking but the issue of adequate roads with new developments needs to be better dealt with. The David Wilson development on the bypass did this well but the Yew Tree developers failed and dragged their feet. The traffic light system is still not right and gives rise to long delays on the roundabout nearby. Any developers should be forced to make provision to deal with this if building a sizeable development.	Highway design and delivery is a matter for WDC as local planning authority and WCC as highway authority.	No change.
Respondent 35	Community Action CA7 Walking and cycling	Just wanted to put forward the want for improved paved walks around Droitwich including linking up existing paths. Signposted walks like the Water Tower Walk are also great and would love to see more of those around the town. Also would be great to see Droitwich being host to a Parkrun again. Thanks.	Comment noted. Community Action CA7 supports implementation of Local Transport Plan proposals to create a comprehensive active travel network in the town linking residential areas and key attractors.	No change.
Respondent 36	Chapter 2	There is mention of an age profile of the Neighbourhood Area in 2021 but there is no mention of residents with disabilities. There is a danger that we unwittingly consider older residents to have some health issues or disability, particularly mobility, but residents of all ages with disabilities including physical and/or mental restrictions. These may affect education, work, housing, transport, shopping, leisure and cultural activities and	See response to comment by Respondent 12 on policy SPA17.	See amendments proposed at comment to policy SPA17 by Respondent 12.

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		participation in local life.		
	Para. 2.26	Rail links from Droitwich station are not mentioned. There are road links to the surrounding area, towns and the M5 motorway but they are not without problems. Roads are often busy; congestion occurs at times when people travel to and from work and children are being taken to school or collected. This is much worse when motorway diversions are in place and traffic is directed through and around Droitwich.	Reference to Droitwich Spa railway station to be added.	Add to para. 2.26: "Droitwich Spa railway station is situated to the west of the town centre, with services to a choice of Birmingham stations, Dorridge, Kidderminster, Hereford, Stratford upon Avon, and Worcester".
	Para. 2.27	This does not reflect the dominance of large brands over small, independent traders. There are several empty shops, some of which have been unoccupied for a long time.	The mix of town centre traders and retail unit vacancies are commercial matters outside the scope of the DSNP. Policy SPA14 provides a planning framework to help boost town centre vitality, complementing the wider range of measures set out in WDC's Town Centre Investment Prospectus.	No change.
	Paras. 3.3 and 6.14	It is noted that traffic and highways, transport matters including car parking and public transport and infrastructure including health and education are outside the scope of the Plan, but these issues are important and will affect development so the views of residents should be represented as fully as possible. This also includes the provision of fire and police services.	In recognition of these resident views the DSNP includes a series of Community Actions informed by previous plan consultations. A new Community Action will be added in respect of emergency services.	Add new CA20: "To support emergency services providers (police, fire and rescue, and ambulance) in ensuring the needs of Droitwich Spa residents are met effectively and efficiently."
	Key planning issues bullet 11 Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	Walking and cycling are linked together here and throughout the Plan but they are very different activities and should be addressed separately to adequately meet different needs and safety concerns. Obviously safety is the most important concern and pedestrians are the most vulnerable group of travellers. Children and adults of all ages and abilities may be walking short or long distances, for example, going to shops and businesses within the town centre, walking to and from school or taking longer walks for recreation. During those walks they may encounter potential hazards such as: a) crossing busy roads without a pedestrian crossing, b) vehicles of all sizes driving onto/off pavements and driveways, c) vehicles	Comment noted. Policy SPA17 seeks to encourage access by both foot and cycle from residential areas to key attractors as a matter of principle. The highway design requirements of the two modes are addressed in guidance such as the County	No change.

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		parked on pavements, d) conflict with bicycles, electric bicycles, scooters, electric scooters and mobility scooters, all of which use pavements and pedestrianised areas and may approach from an unseen direction.	Council's Streetscapes Design Guide.	
	Policy SPA1 Design	Item 3 states that 'retaining natural site features of amenity and biodiversity value, such as trees, ponds, and hedgerows, as far as possible'. This is a concern because it sounds vague and developments in the past have removed trees and hedgerows even though new planting cannot replicate the benefits of existing planting for people and wildlife. At my home a hedge was damaged by over-zealous footpath contractors and did not recover. Removal should not occur because of an exaggerated idea of inconvenience. Section 4 talks about 'new tree planting and other landscaping and open space'. This is welcome but it should be noted that any new planting must receive the necessary care to thrive. Section 5 draws attention to the need for 'sufficient off-road vehicle parking'. This is important but it should also be remembered that the road system should accommodate visitors in a number of different vehicles who will need safe access. These will include regular visits by post vans, bin collection and street-cleaning lorries and may also include friends and family members coming by car, taxis, delivery vans, repair vans, large delivery lorries, medical professionals and ambulance staff.	Comment noted. Criterion 3 will guard against undue removal of existing green site features. New landscaping schemes are routinely secured through a planning condition ensuring implementation and maintenance until established. Car parking requirements are to be found in the County Council's Streetscapes Design Guide.	No change.
	Policy SPA6 Local Green Spaces	We are often told that access to green spaces is important but the value to children is not always addressed even though it is known to aid physical and mental development. It is therefore vital that all green spaces are managed with children in mind so that they may benefit from them.	The management of green spaces is outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.
	Policy SPA7 Key views	This is a welcome inclusion. Visual impact is an important part of our town and surrounding area and should be valued.	This support for policy SPA7 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA8 Housing mix	It is important not to assume that everyone over 75 will need specialised accommodation. Sir Chris Whitty made this point in his Annual Report in 2023 and it has been repeated since by representatives of Age UK and the Centre for Ageing Better. As an example, there are a group of people who live near one of my relatives who all live independently in their own homes. Their ages range from 79 to 90. No-one needs carers, some drive, several are keen gardeners, all participate in various activities and spend money in the local economy. Making housing, transport and other parts of the environment more 'elderly friendly' will allow residents to live as independently as possible. This could mean designing homes with gardens for leisure and exercise. Adequate parking should also be included for the resident and any visitors. New residents could be attracted to the area to be closer to family members already living in Droitwich.	This point is agreed. The housing needs of older people encompass both specialist provision and mainstream housing. Indeed, the Housing Needs Assessment supporting policy SPA8 recognises that "people experience ageing differently ... some people live healthy and active lives into advanced old age while others may need support	No change.

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			and care much earlier in their lives. Some will be interested in moving to a suitable home closer to services while for others ageing independently in place will be key to their wellbeing” (para. 188). Reflecting this, policy SPA8 is worded flexibly, avoiding being over-prescriptive.	
	Policy SPA9 Housing development	All these points are important but Items 2 and 3, energy and water conservation and sustainability measures are vital.	This support for policy SPA9 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA11 Land north/south of Union Lane, para. 6.19	It is not clear from this paragraph where the residents of the 400 proposed dwellings are supposed to park. In addition to their parking needs there will be vehicles which need to park for short or long periods in this area. How will this be managed to ensure it is a development which meets the needs of its residents?	The updated proposed SWDPR allocation for Union Lane is for 190 dwellings and provision for 105 car park spaces to serve the railway station. Provision for residents parking would be made in accordance with the standards set out in the Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide as per SWDPR 06.	No change.
	Policy SPA14 Town centre vitality	If there is residential development in the town centre it is important to ensure that occupiers are not disadvantaged by their location. They may need parking provision for themselves, visitors and deliveries. Local night-time activities would need to be compatible with residential use. The former Raven Hotel is an on-going disappointment. It is such a large space in a prominent location that could be a great asset to the town.	As above, provision for residents parking would be made in accordance with the standards set out in the Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide as per SWDPR 06. Policy SPA14 supports restoration and re-development of The Raven Hotel consistent with conserving and enhancing the historic fabric.	No change.
	Para. 8.6	The Fire Station Is this being re-located? If so, where and when? Covercroft Centre and adjacent public surface car park Where would alternative car parking be provided to serve	The sites listed in para. 8.6 are identified in the Town Centre	No change.

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		the town centre and Morrisons' customers? Car parks at Ricketts Lane, St Andrews Road, Norbury House and Droitwich Medical Centre Where would the residents of Norbury House park? Where would people park if visiting Norbury Theatre? Where would people park for events in Vine's Park? Where would members of staff park for the Medical Centre? Where would people park if attending the Medical Centre, especially if other car parks no longer exist?	Investment Prospectus. They have been assessed as suitable for main town centre uses/residential development in preparing the DSNP. They have not been allocated in the DSNP as their availability is not confirmed. Several are WDC public car parks whose availability is dependent on a study of capacity and requirements which would be required to support any rationalisation of provision, as explained at para. 8.8.	
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	Does the proximity to water create any issues for insurance? If so, these should be addressed before development is pursued.	Property insurance is a commercial matter outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.
	DSNP	Personal outdoor space: This is lacking for many residents who live in flats. Are there plans to incorporate balconies in flats in the future? Private outdoor space for flats: There are many flats that do not have access to outdoor space which is exclusive to them. Are there any plans to address this? Small play areas: Are there any plans to incorporate small grassed areas near any development which would create play areas for children? Allotments: These have not been mentioned. Have they been considered and has any thought been given to providing allotments, possibly of different sizes, particularly for residents without any outdoor space or with only a small garden?	Consideration of outdoor amenity space for new housing to be added to policy SPA9. Allotments and children's play areas are provided for in adopted and submitted Local Plan policies SWDP 39 and SWDPR 45.	Add new criterion to policy SPA9: "make appropriate provision for private gardens or in the case of flatted accommodation for access to outdoor amenity space in the form of balconies and/or communal open space".
Respondent 37	Community action CA4 Highways – other matters	While you are spending all this money give a thought to widening Tagwell Road from the Holloway down to the A38. This road is far too narrow and with bigger cars and more lorries is not fit for purpose. There is plenty of verge to the side and I cannot understand why this has not been looked at years ago.	This is a highway matter falling to WCC as highway authority. The Town Council will support WCC in delivering highway measures under Community Actions CA1 to CA4.	No change.
Respondent 38	Policy SPA9 Housing	We can not put more new houses when the schools are over capacity and the dentists and doctors are at creaking point. This is ridiculous now and its not fair for people who already	The provision of community facilities/health care are outside	No change.

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	development	live here. Sort out the issues, then build.	the scope of the DSNP's planning policies but are addressed by Community Actions CA11 and CA12. The infrastructure requirements of housing growth including education and health are dealt with in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1 and para. 6.14.	
Respondent 39	Policy SPA5 Biodiversity Policy SPA9 Housing development	Make room for nature. Make property developers put swift bricks to all new houses and buildings, they do this in other areas and bat boxes.	See response to comment by Respondent 6 on policy SPA9.	See amendment proposed at comment to policy SPA9 by Respondent 6.
	DSNP	I came here 30 years ago, and there are no longer bats, swifts, slow worms, hedgehogs. All you do is build houses.	Comment noted. DSNP policy SPA5 makes provision for biodiversity, including in the context of development proposals.	No change.
Respondent 40	Policy SPA14 Town centre vitality	Return the Brine baths SPA, it was the main tourist attraction in our town.	Policy SPA14 emphasises the desirability of re-instating a Brine Baths to encourage tourism and sustain a sense of place, and policy SPA16 seeks to encourage tourism-focussed businesses linked to the town's heritage and historic environment.	No change.
		To rent the premises is too high that's why the town is empty.	Town centre rents are a commercial matter outside the scope of the DSNP.	No change.
	DSNP	Improve the layout of the museum it looks out of date.	Proposals are underway to expand and update the Heritage	No change.

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			and Information Centre.	
	DSNP	This form was very confused to answer. The return of the Brain Baths SPA is vital otherwise why we are called Droitwich SPA???	A re-instated Brine Baths is acknowledged in the Vision as part of a distinctive spa town sense of place.	No change.
Respondent 41	Para. 4.2	Do not support segmenting the Neighbourhood Area into Character Areas because it is likely to lead to discriminatory decision making with higher standards being applied to some areas than others.	The use of Character Areas in the DSDGC enables design requirements to be provided which are applicable to the relevant area, as well as design codes applicable across the Neighbourhood Area. This helps enable well-designed buildings and spaces that are sensitive and responsive to local context, landscape setting, and character.	No change.
	DSNP	Chawson Farmhouse, Chawson Villa, Butterworth Barn, Chawson Valley Community Barn and the surrounding green space should be designated a Conservation Area.	The designation of Conservation Areas is outside the scope of the DSNP, being undertaken by WDC.	No change.
Respondent 42	Policy SPA4 Droitwich Canals Conservation Areas	Strongly support the key proposals for this area, which will also help in other important endeavours - tourism, local employment, local economy etc.	This support for policy SPA4 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA5 Biodiversity	Biodiversity is a particularly important issue in our view and we consider it imperative to do everything possible to preserve this crucial resource. So very happy to support the proposals. Vines Park and St Peter's Fields is a wonderful and well-managed asset to the town, which is a credit to the local authority. But all the local green spaces are attractive and any endeavours to maintain and improve is welcome.	This support for policy SPA5 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policies SP8 Housing mix and SPA9	Housing is clearly needed and nimbyism is counterproductive. The only comment here is that it is essential to build affordable houses for young people to move into the area to work and contribute to the local economy. Don't just build bigger houses so people just use	Comment noted. Policy SPA8 addresses the suitable type and size of market housing for the	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
	Housing development	Droitwich as a place to commute from. That doesn't help the local community / economy as much. Pleased to see that you are committed to enhancing the necessary infrastructure, energy supply, amenities and schools.	town, identifying a particular requirement for dwellings with 2 and 3 bedrooms, and with affordable housing tenure, both reflecting the plan's Housing Needs Assessment. The support for policy SPA9 is welcomed.	
	Policies SPA14 Town centre vitality and SPA16 Economic development	I can see a lot of good ideas here for town centre regeneration and viability. Fully support particularly points 3 & 6: community / night time activities and reinstating the brine baths. Certainly support plans to boost the local economy and if it can be done by repurposing existing under-used premises, so much the better.	This support for policies SPA14 and SPA16 is welcomed.	No change.
	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	Finally, certainly support plans to make it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists wherever possible.	This support for policy SPA17 is welcomed.	No change.
Respondent 43	Policy SPA9 Housing development	The only comments I would like to make are this. With any developments we need to ensure that community facilities are upgraded in line with expanded population. So the absolute farce at Copcut lights has not been addressed whatsoever and is now worse than ever causing chaos morning and evening. By building hundreds of new homes we need to upgrade roads, shops, doctors, schools to be able to cope with extra demand. We should not be removing any green space in the town, any open space should be developed into green space. In my opinion Droitwich is already too big compared to a few years ago.	The infrastructure requirements of housing growth including education and health are dealt with in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1 and para. 6.14.	No change.
Respondent 44	Policy SPA17 Walking and cycling (active travel)	Appears to be inadequate with no concrete proposals. It also only concentrates on specific areas and makes no mention of enabling active travel across the town to allow residents to transverse all areas of the town easily, safely and conveniently for all households.	Comment noted. Policy SPA17 and Community Action CA7 are intended to help support improvements to active travel throughout the town, ensuring that development proposals wherever possible improve cycle access to key destinations and supporting implementation of Local Transport Plan proposals to	No change.

Respondent	DSNP ref	Comment received	Town Council response	Amendments to draft DSNP
			create a comprehensive active travel network in the town linking residential areas and key attractors.	
Respondent 45	Policy SPA2 Historic environment	When is the Raven Hotel complex going to be refurbished/remodelled, this is critical to the future of the town.	This is dependent on appropriate proposals coming forward.	No change.
	Policy SPA11 Land north/south of Union Lane	I do not support Union Lane site being used for housing, the road infrastructure/local amenities are not sufficient to support the increase in traffic and footfall. The town cannot cope with any more housing, the infrastructure is already at breaking point ie Copcut island.	Land at Union Lane is a proposed housing allocation in the SWDPR, which policy SPA11 supports by providing design principles. The infrastructure requirements of housing growth are dealt with in Local Plan policy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, along with policy SPA9 criterion 1 and para. 6.14.	No change.
	Policy SPA15 Netherwich Canal Basin	I do not support mixed use of the basin, we need to encourage individuals to walk into Droitwich Spa town centre not keep them in a self-contained area.	The policy requires proposals to improve connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between the site and the town centre, towpath, and railway station.	No change.