

Bredenbury Group Parish Council

I am pleased to write that we have reformed our Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) Steering Group in preparation for renewing our Plan. Our intention is to have this done in time for the 5th anniversary of our current plan in May 2026. By doing that, our policies will still carry weight in local planning matters. We have been joined on the Steering Group by Becca Libby, Jane Piggott and Huw Burton in addition to previous members, Jen Piggott, Hugh Farey, Pete Jones, Vicky Hancock and myself. I am also delighted to advise that Ian Culley, who acted as our specialist consultant on the previous version of our Plan has agreed to support us once more. Ian is a highly experienced planning professional and we benefited greatly from his advice so we are looking forward to working with him again.

We have been asked if NDPs will still be important going forward and you may have read elsewhere that other parish councils have expressed dismay that their wishes have been overruled when commenting on planning applications but in most cases, these have been when the NDP is over five years old or that their plan did not include a settlement boundary. The good news is that our Plan does have and will continue to have this essential feature. In addition, with the exception of the five year issue mentioned previously, we have received confirmation that NDPs will continue to be an essential element of local government.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Annual Parish Meeting on 26th March. At this meeting, we will have shared our road map to the renewal of our NDP but if you missed this, you can reach out to any member of the Steering Group or send an email to Vicky Hancock with any question clerk@bredenburygroup-pc.gov.uk. Please don't forget that another great way to keep informed is to subscribe our Parish Council website www.bredenburygroup-pc.gov.uk.

We know that we will have the opportunity to review and adapt our existing policies as well as considering new ideas which are brought forward. At this stage, while the full extent of the work involved has not been determined, we do know that a lot of the groundwork, including our valuable Characterisation Study is still fit for purpose.

Going forward we will be arranging public consultation sessions in the Village Hall as we did previously. These will allow everyone to see our plans, ask questions and most importantly, provide comments. The NDP process should be inclusive and we aim to give everyone the opportunity to be engaged as we did previously. At the same time, we are not expecting significant local changes as the number of local planning applications within our settlement boundary matches the residual housing target recently published by Herefordshire council. However, we are looking forward to learning about proposed changes to the draft Herefordshire Local Plan 2021-41 resulting from their new housing targets. We will keep track of these changes and be able to reflect them in our renewed plan going forward.

In other news, the long-awaited delivery of our new Speed Limit Indicator (SLID) has taken place. Unlike the previous version which was sent in error, the replacement benefits from a solar panel which is both sustainable and much easier to maintain. We will be arranging to have the new SLID installed as soon as possible which will remind motorists of the correct speed when driving through Bredenbury.

As always - *Our Place, Our Future!*

John Hulse – Chairman, Bredenbury Group Parish Council