

Bredenbury Group Parish Council

Since my update last month, we have received a number of comments supporting our approach to renewing our Neighbourhood Plan. As always, thanks to those who made contact for your interest and support. We have also had the opportunity to meet with Ian Culley, our NDP consultant who has kindly agreed to support our NDP renewal. Following that meeting we have written to Herefordshire Council advising them of our intentions.

Herefordshire have confirmed that the weight of our existing Plan will diminish after May 2026 which will be 5 years since the current Plan passed referendum. They have also advised that in March this year, they intend to confirm the timetable for their own Local Plan 2021-41 which was effectively put on hold when the government announced the new, increased housing targets.

It is important for us to understand any changes to this Local Plan as in the case of misalignment or conflict between policies in our NDP and the Local Plan then the latter would prevail. This should not be the case as we are fully aware of the original draft Local Plan and there were no specific conflicts in that version so the most likely changes will be to reflect the new government housing targets. On a positive note, a document shared with us by Herefordshire Council recently appears to suggest that the residual housing target for Bredenbury during the lifetime of the Local Plan is an additional 18 houses. Thankfully, at present we are aware of 18 applications for planning permission within our group of Parishes that are currently under consideration.

We have received some confirmations from volunteers to join our NDP steering group and our intention is to hold our first meeting in early March. However, it is not too late if anyone wishes to volunteer to join the group. If you would like to join us please can you contact our Parish Clerk, Vicky Hancock in the first instance clerk@bredenburygroup-pc.gov.uk.

On Wednesday, 26th March at 6:30pm, we will hold our Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall. Normally, we would invite a guest speaker but this year, we thought it might be useful to hold a broader discussion on our NDP renewal. This will provide a useful opportunity to update everyone as the situation unfolds. As always, everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Recently, we received notice from Alex Gerrard, one of our Parish Councillors for Wacton Parish and also our Lengthsman that he planned to move away from Bredenbury and hence would be tendering his resignation. I would like to offer thanks on behalf of the entire community to Alex for his contributions. As a result, we now have 2 vacancies on our Parish Council – one for Wacton and the other for Bredenbury. If you are interested in either position, please contact Vicky as stated above.

Sadly, many of you will be aware that there was a fire at the Barneby Inn in late January, Thankfully, nobody was hurt but it is clear that we will be without our pub for a few months while repairs and refurbishment are carried out.

Finally, you may have noticed that the pavement alongside the A44 has been cleared from the entrance to Harp Lane to the West Lodge entrance to Bredenbury Court. This is part of a request to have all pavements cleared as far as Grendon Firs so we hope to see more progress in the coming months. We have also reminded Herefordshire Council of our request to reduce the speed limit to 30mph along our stretch of the A44 and have been advised that it is likely that this will be considered in the coming financial year.

As always - *Our Place, Our Future!*

John Hulse – Chairman, Bredenbury Group Parish Council