

Our mission statement is

- To support and strengthen the Hampton Community
- To improve the environment in which we live
- To work for Hampton residents with Hampton residents

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Hampton News

Issue 5

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Final consultation period has started

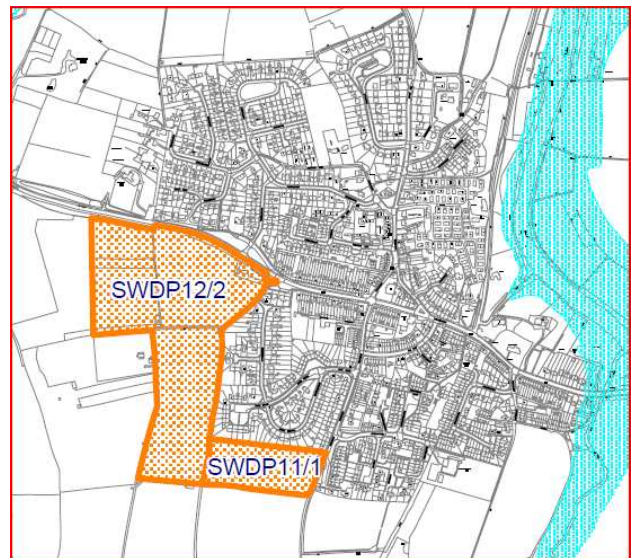
As has been published in the local press lately the final consultation process on the 400+ homes planned for Hampton has now started. The so called 'Preferred Options' paper was published at the end of last month. It can be downloaded from the SWDP website <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org>. It should also be available from the council offices, community contact centres and local libraries. The document sets out the plans for housing development in Worcestershire until 2030, including substantial housing development

The area proposed for development of 463 new homes in Hampton

plans and economic and environmental plans for Evesham. This plan includes more than 900 homes for the Greater Hampton area with 463 planned south of Pershore Road and nearly 500 on Cheltenham Road. For Hampton residents this is the last chance to have a say on the planned new housing developments. Once this 8 week consultation period is over there will no longer be

any opportunity to have a say or any input in the proposed plans. Everyone who has any questions, concerns or worries, no matter how small, should make a comment on the SWDP website, download the comment form and send it to the SWDP team, or should attend one of the many roadshows

This special edition of the Hampton newsletter will be dedicated to the SWDP preferred options paper and the possible impacts it could have for the residents in Hampton. We feel it is important that all Hampton residents should have a chance to have a say in the plans which is why this special edition



planned as part of the consultation process. The roadshow comes to the **Evesham Town Hall on Wednesday 9th of November 2011 from 2:00 till 8:00 p.m.** Please take this final opportunity to air your views and opinions before it is too late.

has been delivered to every resident in Hampton. The following pages will provide you with some information on the preferred options paper and how to make your comments on the plans. **The consultation period ends on the 18th of November 2011.**

The new plan in more detail

The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) has finally been published. It is essentially a reconstituted version of the original SWJCS plan that was introduced by the Labour government in 2008. When the Conservatives came to power they scrapped the SWJCS. Since then the SWDP has been in development and has now been published. There is a need for a comprehensive housing development plan as in the absence of a housing strategy several housing developments have had to be approved by Wychavon due to the lack of a such a strategy. The SWDP will guide housing development for the next 20 years. It is a lengthy and wordy document covering all of South Worcestershire. If you don't fancy reading the entire document then the interesting parts in the document are the Foreword which explains the background to the document, Chapters 2, 3 and 4 as well as Chapter 7 for Evesham.

The SWDP claims that housing growth should be directed towards the four main towns in South Worcestershire namely Worcester, Malvern, Droitwich and Evesham as growth in villages is not considered sustainable. Hampton no longer has

village status since it was moved into the Evesham town boundary in 1933. Although there is still a distinct village feel in Hampton no exceptions

should "be facilitated in such a manner as to deliver high quality design, public open space and integration in the surrounding rural area without compromising the

"... new growth in Evesham is predominantly located outside the current development boundary ..."

"...windfall housing will not impact on the housing figures in the SWDP..."



The SWDP public consultation document

will be made for Hampton. The SWDP document assesses that an additional 7,803 homes are required in Wychavon by 2030. They estimate that 70% of this number is due to the increase in single person households, with the largest proportion of the increase in single person households expected amongst the over 75 year olds. There is also a need for an additional 800 plus affordable homes every year across south Worcestershire. The plan proposes that further growth

landscape or townscape." They state that new growth will mainly be outside the existing town boundary and mainly in greenfield space. Any 'windfall' housing, the developments currently being built or going through the planning process, do not impact the numbers in the SWDP and will not be deducted from the final numbers in the plan. There is very little detail in the SWDP document. This is an outline plan and any detail should be provided in further detailed planning processes and applications.

HRA Chairman's Comments

The South Worcestershire Development Plan proposes to locate 400 homes south of Pershore Road and a further 63 homes at the end of Peewit Road. This is a significant level of development which will have a large impact on the environment and community in which we live. I believe that it is vitally important that the views of Hampton residents are heard and not ignored by the authorities in their pursuit of attaining the housing numbers they require across South Worcestershire. This is why it is so important that as a Hampton resident you should make your views and comments about these proposals in the consultation process. Whether you feel the proposed development for Hampton will be good or bad, now is the time to have your say!

As chairman of Hampton Residents Association a number of residents have raised concerns to me about the proposed development in Hampton. As the authorities only put forward the reasons why we should endorse their proposal, I would like to share with you now some of these concerns.:

* Hampton is geographically isolated from Evesham by the River Isbourne and has its own identity as a village community. Development of this size and nature will significantly erode if not destroy this sense of community and identity.

* There has been significant development in Hampton over recent years (in the region of 200 homes) through infill development (small developments such as John Martin Square) and the Martin Avenue / Bredon Crescent redevelopment.

Hampton has now reached its capacity on housing and further large scale development risks Hampton losing its identity and character, turning it into just a large housing estate .

* Access in and out of Hampton is solely provided via Pershore Road. There is already significant congestion on this road at peak times, sometimes with traffic queuing from beyond the farm shop to the traffic lights at Abbey Bridge. A further 463 homes will add significantly more traffic to this road causing routine congestion problems in Hampton and increased air pollution.

* As part of the current redevelopment of Martin Avenue and Bredon Crescent, traffic lights will be implemented at the junction of Peewit Road and Pershore Road. Although these traffic lights are already planned and are not part of the SWDP, we expect to see increased congestion on Pershore Road from their implementation. This is evidenced by the congestion seen in recent times when temporary traffic lights have been in place on Pershore Road. During these times we have seen traffic diverting down Berryfield and

Evendene Road to bypass the congestion. A further 463 homes will only add to the current problems faced on our local roads.

* Increased traffic volumes from a large housing development raises safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Pershore Road has only one crossing point and at

points along its length the pathway is extremely narrow. The SWDP does suggest a new footbridge between Hampton and Evesham in its proposals. I have enquired of the planning authorities about this footbridge, but have been advised that there are no plans or even a location determined for this bridge. It is in fact just an idea and no more than that. Therefore, I personally question if they would ever build such a costly piece of infrastructure. If not, this would mean that there are serious safety concerns for pedestrians along Pershore Road that have not been addressed in their proposals.

There are more suitable locations around Evesham to accommodate housing growth. Hampton is the most distant location from the bypass. Given the general trend for greater mobility and use of cars, the



Land in Hampton earmarked for 400 homes

most suitable location for development are those which are located with easy access to the major road network. Without extending the Bypass to Hampton these more suitable locations with good access to the by-pass would be around Cheltenham Road and Offenham Road.

(continued on Page 4 overleaf)



Hampton Residents Association

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Working to improve life in Hampton

The Hampton residents association was set up in August 2008 in response to the plans to build 800 new homes in Hampton. It is run by local Hampton people for Hampton residents.

Our mission is to:

- support and strengthen the Hampton community
- Improve the environment in which we live

This newsletter is one way in which we communicate with our residents. We also have a website www.greathampton.co.uk for more up to date information.

Feel free to contact us on any of the contact details provided with ideas, suggestions or for an update.



HRA Chairman's Comments - Continued from P3

* The land by the farm shop has been used for many years by local residents as a place to walk, exercise their dogs and for children to play. It is considered by many as a valuable local amenity and although it is not common land it has been freely used as such for decades.

* Part of the land proposed for development contains traditional fruit orchards which have recently been classified as a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. They should therefore be protected and the land containing these orchards safeguarded from development.

There have also been other concerns

raised to me related to flooding from runoff water from any new development and the ability of the current mains water and sewage services to cope with the increased demand of a new development. However, these types of concerns, although valid, can all be addressed by the developer and utility companies in the detailed design of any development and residents should not be concerned about these issues at this stage in the proposal.

I hope that these concerns raised by some residents may help you consider your own views about the proposed development. I also hope that the SWDP Team will be able to adequately address all

concerns residents raise in the consultation process and if necessary amend their proposed development plan. I again urge you to make your views and comments about the proposed development known to the authorities by participating in the consultation process. Whether you are in favour of the SWDP proposals or not, now is the time to have your say! This is your chance to influence the shape and community of Hampton over the next 20 years. And remember, the consultation period ends on the 18th of November.

Your chairman, Kevin Burgess

How to make your comments on the SWDP

1) Directly on the SWDP website www.swdevelopmentplan.org
2) Attend one of the roadshows to meet the planners, ask questions, and log your comments.

The Evesham road show is being held on Wednesday 9th of November from 2pm till 8pm at the Town Hall. Other road show events are

listed on the SWDP website
3) Complete a comments form, these can be downloaded from the SWDP website or obtained from your local council offices.

All the links to the SWDP website and their planning portal can also be found on our website,

www.greathampton.co.uk

If you are not on the internet or would like some help please feel free to contact your Hampton Residents Association and we will be happy to help you. Our contact details are above.