

Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2031

Response to Regulation 16 representations

Introduction

1. The Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was submitted by Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting to Herefordshire Council on 24 September 2018. A consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 was carried out by Herefordshire Council from 4 October to 15 November 2018. A total of 10 representations were received.
2. The NDP was sent for examination on 23 November 2018. As part of this process Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting have been given an opportunity to respond to the representations made. The majority of the representations are in the nature of 'no comment' or 'no further comment', but two raise more substantive matters. The response of Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting to these representations are set out in the schedule overleaf. The opportunity to respond is appreciated.
3. Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting have no comment to make on the other representations.

Schedule of responses by Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting to selected representations to the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 16 consultation

LPCS = Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031 (October 2015)

NDP = Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2031 (July 2018)

| Summary of representation | Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting response |
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| <p>Representation by: Highways England.</p> <p>Policy LBA7 Infrastructure should be amended to acknowledge the need to consider options in respect of the proposed cycle/footway link alongside the A49 trunk road. Additional revised wording is proposed.</p> | <p>The need to consider options in respect of the proposed cycle/footway link is accepted and the revisions proposed by Highways England to this end are supported. The opportunity to engage further with Highways England to consider the potential of the cycle/footway proposal, and the confirmation that Highways England has no concerns otherwise with regards to NDP policies, are also welcomed.</p> <p>Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting would welcome the additional / revised wording proposed by Highways England being recommended by the Examiner as a modification to the NDP.</p> |
| <p>Representation by: Strategic Planning team, Herefordshire Council.</p> <p>Policy LBA 3 Little Birch village and Policy LBA4 Development in Little Birch: the approach to housing delivery on small dispersed plots would make some of the requirements set out in the policy criterion difficult to achieve, such as criteria 7 in policy LBA4.</p> | <p>It is noted that there are no issues of general conformity with the policies of the LPCS in respect of these (or any other) NDP policies.</p> <p>Policies LBA3 and LBA4: the representation cites policy LBA4 criterion 7 as an instance where requirements may be hard to achieve due to the anticipated dispersed pattern of development. This criterion was added to the draft policy on consideration of a Regulation 14 consultation comment from Herefordshire Council (Transportation and Highways). This asked that development should allow for connectivity to community facilities and the wider transport network. Criterion 7 is the resultant amendment. It is recognised that such new or improved connectivity will not always be feasible, and this has been provided for by inclusion of the text “where practicable” in the criterion. In a rural, dispersed settlement such as Little Birch, it is all the more important that opportunities to improve connectivity are maximised as and when they arise; criterion 7 will help ensure explicit consideration of this point at the planning application stage.</p> |

| Summary of representation | Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting response |
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| <p>LBA11 Building design: Criteria 4 and 5 are to a degree covered already in policy LBA10.</p> | <p>The other criterion in policy LBA4 are of a different nature to criterion 7. They do not refer to possible new provisions or contributions by developers; nor will they “difficult to achieve” as a consequence of the approach to housing delivery. Rather, they have been carefully considered so as to positively enable this approach to delivery. In short, they will allow for development whilst safeguarding the character of the village, as this is described in the justification to policy LBA3.</p> <p>Overall, Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting consider the approach to housing delivery which is set out in policies LBA3 and LBA4 to be a practical response to enabling proportionate housing growth in Little Birch whilst respecting the distinctive dispersed settlement pattern.</p> <p>Policy LBA11: policies LBA10 and LBA11 are intended to be complementary. The former addresses general environmental protection and the latter applies more specifically to development proposals and their surroundings. Since such features as trees and hedgerows are important in both contexts and indeed are ubiquitous having regard to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Area, it is appropriate that suitable provisions are made in both policies.</p> |

Dr DJ Nicholson MRTPI · DJN Planning Limited

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For Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting