



Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan

Newsletter 1, January 2021

Welcome to this first monthly newsletter, designed to keep you in touch with work on the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan. We thank the contributors without whom this publication would not exist.

2020 – Slowed by Covid-19

The Management Group has continued to meet regularly throughout the lockdowns via the medium of Zoom. One of the prime objectives has been to create greater public awareness and undertake a detailed survey of Droitwich residents. The survey has been printed on paper and is available on the website. It has attracted a reasonable response so far.

Completed survey forms are analysed as they are returned, and a database is being built up. Whilst it is too early to form conclusions, amongst the major concerns of residents to date are protection of Green Spaces, facilities for young people and health facilities. To date, almost without exception, people see Droitwich Spa as a good place to live.

The survey is essential to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan accurately reflects the wishes of the town as a whole and not just issues identified by the Management Group. More younger people need to contribute, and we must ensure that the views of all parts of the town are heard.

The costs of the website and survey to date have been covered by donations from the Management Group.

2021 - Activity to Increase

We are restarting work on the topics where a Neighbourhood Plan can have influence, and are priorities for the residents and businesses in the town.

We are keen to secure the input of volunteers. We will be looking for Topic Managers, and people to develop the issues and options, and policies to address them.

To this end requests will periodically be issued to volunteers via email and Facebook. We ask that readers share these requests with their contacts who are not yet involved or have no access to the internet.

Droitwich Spa Town Council

At the full Council meeting held on 12 December 2020, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Sinton, expressed his support and thanks for the work undertaken so far. His proposal to further engage Councillors was accepted. In particular, it was agreed that a working group of Councillors will be set up to facilitate Councillor engagement and authorise on-going plans.

Chairman's View - Mike Lambden

A warm welcome to this first edition of our Newsletter. I hope that local people of all ages and from all parts of the town will contribute to the Resident Survey and the Neighbourhood Plan. It is vital that it is representative of the whole population so as to enable us to shape the town for future generations. This is only possible with your input.



Help Needed!

We are seeking people to contribute to or manage the following topics:

- Business
 - Community Services (includes Health and Education)
 - Environment (includes Green spaces, Air quality)
 - Heritage and Culture (includes Waterways, Tourism)
 - Planning (includes Housing and Infrastructure)
 - Sports, Leisure and Recreation
 - Special Interests (includes Youth, Accessibility, etc)
 - Transport (includes Highways, Paths, Trains, Buses)
- These topic groupings will be refined as work proceeds.

In addition, we are seeking people to help with:

- Data Analysis (e.g. analysing survey forms)
- Project Management
- Communications (Website, Newsletter, Social Media)
- Construction of the Neighbourhood Plan Document

Meeting of Supporters

On the 16th November last year, we held an online video meeting with supporters and volunteers. The discussion covered Community Engagement, the Residents' Survey, Project Organisation, and Content of the Neighbourhood Plan. The discussion helped us to enhance our approach.

Key Focus for January



A key area of focus for January is the refinement of the project schedule (plan summary and financials). To date this work has been led by Peter Hawkins.

While recognising that project plans need to be flexible and are never fixed, we are endeavouring to ensure that the plan and associated cost estimates are as accurate as they can be based on our current level of understanding. This work is essential in order that Droitwich Spa Town Council gain confidence in our approach to the project so that an application can be made for a government grant.