



Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan

Newsletter 2, February 2021

This monthly newsletter is designed to keep you in touch with work on the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan. Please contact us if there is a topic you would like to know more about, or have any questions for us.

Chairman's View - Mike Lambden

Welcome to this second edition of the newsletter, and thank you for your interest in the Neighbourhood Plan. We were delighted to receive favourable comments after our first edition.



Planning is a very complex subject and it is hard for everyone to understand how it all works. There is a general view that it is all fixed and to a degree that is correct. For us in Droitwich Spa what sets the use of land is the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and this is currently going through an update process. Whilst following this process can make watching paint dry infinitely more interesting for most people, it is a vital engagement point for challenging what may happen in future. When the public consultation commences later this year do have your say. The SWDP sets the overall picture but the Neighbourhood Plan has an essential role within the town boundaries to set the detail and meet local expectations. The Plan can be viewed online at www.swdevelopmentplan.org and a copy should be available at main libraries.

Keep watching for consultations to be announced and we will keep you informed of key points through our newsletter.

Volunteers Wanted

We are very pleased that several people have come forward to work on aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. We still need many more volunteers, The topics where we immediately need help is in driving forward Business, Community Services, and Special Interests (particularly accessibility).

Please email droitwich.neighbourhood.plan@gmail.com or 'phone 07766 415094 to work with us.

Redevelopment of the Raven Hotel Site

Revised plans for the Raven Hotel have been submitted. The plans propose partial demolition of the former Raven Hotel to facilitate the construction of 45 new dwellings; conversion of remaining Raven Hotel buildings to 6 dwellings and associated landscaping, infrastructure and other necessary works. To view the plans on the Wychavon website, go to <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/> enter Reference 20/02623/FUL

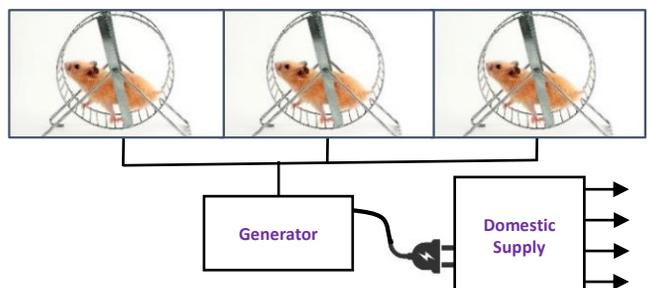
If you wish to comment, add support, or object, click on the words "Make comments on this application" near the top of the screen. Comments must be submitted by the 4th of February 2021.

Working on a typical topic – Issues, Options, & Policies

People working on a specific topic will bring together appropriate information and try make sense of it. The first step is to identify generic "issues" concerned with a planning topic. An "issue" is a problem that needs to be addressed (not a solution that someone thinks is needed). Some issues will be found within survey responses. This information will be reviewed in order to compile a list of the issues, defining the problem. Once the issues are listed, we will need to identify which ones are the most important. The prioritised list will then be examined to determine what evidence exists (or needs to be found) to demonstrate that there really is a problem. Possible solutions ("options") are generated via discussion groups, public consultation, and input from experts. Once we have issues and options, policies need to be developed to address them. These are statements of what should happen in the future. In many cases, future planning decisions will be assessed against these new policies which will form a key part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A very unlikely example

This nonsensical example may help to illustrate the process. In order to comply with the challenge of government requirements that new houses must be carbon neutral, an **issue** could be identifying suitable sources of energy. The **options** could include generating power using donkey driven treadmills or wheels powered by hamsters. The **policy** could be that all new houses must be fitted with a bank of hamster powered wheels to generate electricity. If agreed, and included in the Neighbourhood Plan, the planning authorities would be obliged to take this policy into account. NB this humorous example is probably more specific than may be appropriate in practice.



No hamsters were hurt during the creation of this diagram