



**CLERK'S REPORT NO. 2022- 094**  
**UPDATE ON THE JPC'S STANCE ON THE SDC/WDC CONSULTATION PROGRAMME STYLED**  
**'THE SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN'**

Dear Residents,

The JPC have requested that I use this communication to update you on the progress to date concerning the consultation documentation and sessions convened by the SDC and WDC in their preliminary outreaching to South Warwickshire local parish councils.

All the information you need on this subject can be found here –

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/the-south-warwickshire-local-plan.cfm>

You might imagine that the JPC were concerned that direct knowledge of the movement and progress of this rather important potential change in the policies governing new housing and infrastructure, had been hardly discernible at a public level and prompted the JPC to raise this shortfall with District and County Councillors at two of their Ordinary Meetings just passed.

We were given a firm undertaking by both Councillors, that efforts would be made to flag up such communications in future, and we hope that such transparency will prevail in the timescale indicated before the next stage in the process, which closes early in the new year.

Representations were made to the SDC-WDC Joint Executive Committee, at their meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December last, by Cllr Richard Clark, JPC, and his efforts prompted the JEC to extend their consultation period by 2 weeks, which is still a relatively short time for local parishes to react.

In essence, the potential changes in legislation on green belt accessibility, should be of concern to those settlements deemed suitable for accommodating additional housing and infrastructure as they may compromise the powers contained in the only legal tool available to communities - the Neighbourhood Development Plan [NDP].

Henley's NDP, had advanced to Regulation 15 in the adoption process with SDC, and the forgoing considerations raised a need to amend it with some pace, in order for it to be effective when challenging unsolicited and rogue planning applications. The JPC quickly sort to appoint an independent planning consultant, tasked with amending the NDP and to take a view and advise them on stakeholders who may come into play, well in time to challenge where necessary, far more decisive stages in the process.

The JPC passionately believes that the power of planning decisions affecting the community, *must be in the hands* of the community, and a sound NDP ensures they have the legal power to have a say in the future of the town and surrounds.

Please come along to the Ordinary and Planning Meetings now posted on the JPC website <https://www.henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NOTICE-OF-JPC-MEETINGS-2023-1.pdfso> so you may join with the JPC in having the right to control the future of Henley's development, or take a moment to visit the JPC website for updates – [www.henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk](http://www.henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk)

**Ray Evans**

**Parish Clerk & Proper Officer - Date: 15th December 2022**