



BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
150 HIGH STREET, HENLEY IN ARDEN, WARWICKSHIRE, B95 5BS
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16th November 2023

Stratford District Council
Emailed for expediency to **Cllr George Cowcher**
George.Cowcher@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Cowcher
Henley/Beaudesert Neighbourhood Plan 2023
JPC Concerns Regarding Progress

When we met with you and your colleagues in September last, we had a robust but helpful conversation about the progress of the NDP and, we have been very pleased with the actions taken by your team since that meeting. Significant efforts have been made to push forward both the consultation process and the appointment of an examiner essential to move the plan to its completion.

Unfortunately, the dates which have been advised to yourselves and us for the public examination are well into the future beginning, in mid-January and not likely to be completed until April 2024.

This tends to suggest that the referendum and 'Making' of the plan will not be completed before May.

This would mean that the NDP would have taken a year for administrative approval. When we submitted the plan in May we informed residents that a typical processing period would be 6 to 7 months. The situation was reported to our JPC meeting on the sixth of this month, and the lack of progress was a cause for concern. We are facing criticism for misleading estimates but even more serious a drop off of interest and engagement of residents with the whole project.

What makes this even more disappointing is that the NDP makes few radical changes to existing policies or proposals but valuably gives the town legal safeguards against random developments. The JPC therefore asks if you are prepared, with our support, to approach the RICS and the chosen examiner, to ask if this examination can commence in December, rather than January 2024. We realise that this is unusual but the credibility of both the JPC and SDC would certainly be enhanced if we could achieve this. I am certain your assistance would be very well received in the town as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Wendy Andrews – Chair

Ray Evans – Parish Clerk to the JPC

Beaudesert & Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council

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