What's so special about Warndon Parish?









Come along and tell us what matters to you

Warndon Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

Public Meeting / launch
1st March 2017

Agenda

- Welcome and overview of meeting
- Presentation: Neighbourhood Plan
  - What is it?
  - What might it mean for the parish?
  - What's the process?
- Q&A / thoughts / suggestions / ideas
- Volunteering opportunities!
- Close of meeting
- Opportunity for informal discussions

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- A means by which a community can have greater influence on future use and development of land in its local area
- Localism Act 2011: government initiative; grant available
- Warndon Parish Council is the “responsible body” for producing the Plan
- The Plan can cover **social, economic, environmental and heritage** issues
- Once finalised, it will become part of the Statutory Development Plan for the area – the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

What will it look like?

- Usually 50 to 120 pages
- Depends on local context / priorities
- Tends to contain:
  - Background / vision / objectives
  - Policies / proposals / actions
  - Evidence to support the above
- How long to produce? Probably two years

Conditions / constraints

- Must comply with European and national legislation
- Must be in accordance with national policy and be in general conformity with existing strategic local planning policy – the SWDP
- Must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- Must provide evidence to support any policies / proposals
- A Neighbourhood Plan can't be a NIMBY's Charter!

What might it mean for the parish?

- Greater say in the future development / protection of key areas of the parish – whether housing, businesses, open land or historic features
- Opportunities to influence new developments before the event, rather than in response to Planning Applications – when there is limited time to react
- Development design constraints, appropriate to the parish
- Policies that help to deal with some problem issues:
  - traffic congestion in some key areas
  - car parking, particularly near the hospital

What else...?

- An opportunity to review the provision of social facilities within the parish, such as: schools, places of worship, leisure, health and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres
- Restrictions on certain types of development (or change of use), if we can demonstrate that there are too many of them
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets, such as archeological remains
- Promotion of renewable energy projects, where appropriate
- Protection of the “Green Network” and “rural” aspects of the parish – which were key aspects of the design concept for the layout of the “Villages” back in the 1990s. (Environmental heritage?)

Anything else...?

- "**Assets of Community Value**": Not part of a Neighbourhood Plan, but might be an opportunity for an important feature / facility / building / piece of land to be "saved" by the community for the community
- "**Community Infrastructure Levy**": In simple terms the Parish Council would receive 25% of this "fund" if it has a Neighbourhood Plan, rather than the 15% it would get without it. For certain types of development, that could be a significant sum...
- "**Local Green Space**": This one is potentially quite important within the parish...

What is “Local Green Space”?

- It is a formal Planning designation which can be given to areas of land which are important to a community. Evidence is required to demonstrate how and why it is important to the community, but...
- ...it has **legal weight**, and in terms of Planning considerations, it is **broadly equivalent to Green Belt***
- “**Local Green Space” can only be formally designated in** a Local Plan (eg SWDP), or **a Neighbourhood Plan**

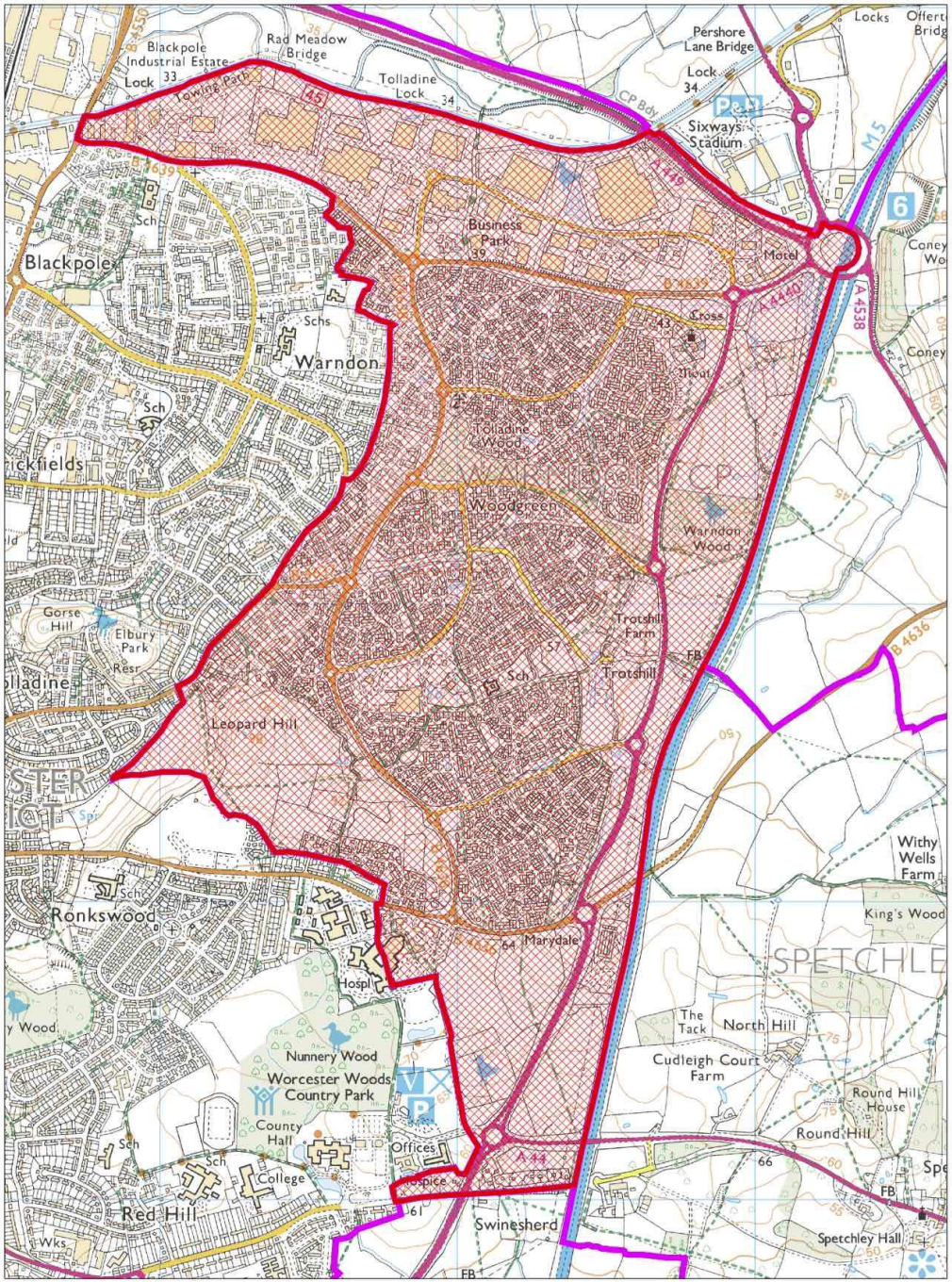
* Green Belt, green network, green space, open green space: they all have different meanings, in Planning terms – which can be very confusing...

The process

- Area designation
- Public engagement
- Project preparation
- Consultation / survey
- Evidence gathering
- Plan development
- Publication / submission / examination
- Referendum

Area Designation

- The “area” is the parish of Warndon
- Formally agreed by Worcester City Council in November
- Unanimously carried – all party support



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Public engagement

- Annual meeting in May 2016
- Articles in the parish Newsletter
- Flyer / invitation to this meeting
- Presence at last year's parish and church fêtes
- We plan to:
  - Produce a new, improved Parish Council website
  - Use other “social media” means to engage residents and to keep in touch...
  - ...in addition to more traditional methods

Project preparation

- Gather volunteers
- Gather initial thoughts / ideas / suggestions
- Agree scope / vision / objectives / timetable
- Set up a Steering Group and other working groups, as required
- Develop website / social media facilities
- Apply for grant - £9,000 is available from the Government

Evidence gathering

- Surveys of parish residents and businesses
- The South Worcestershire Development Plan
- The City Council will provide much of the information that we require
  - They will also provide guidance / assistance as we go along
- Other public bodies – County Council, Highways, Health, etc
- Environmental and Heritage bodies, as appropriate
- Etc, etc

Developing the Plan

- Consultation / residents surveys / evidence gathering
- Making sense of the data / discussion / consideration
- Drafting and redrafting policies and proposals
- Repeat the above steps until we're finished!

Submitting the Plan

- Once the Parish Council is happy with it...
- Submit to the City Council
- Six weeks consultation
- Examiner appointed by the City Council in agreement with the Parish Council

Examiner's Report

- Examiner may suggest changes in order to ensure that the Plan is "compliant"
- City Council will decide whether the Plan can progress to referendum

Referendum

- All those on electoral role in the parish area can vote
- 50% + 1 of turn-out need to vote in favour
- City Council need to formally ‘make’ the Plan following a positive referendum

Costs / Funding

- Grant of up to £9,000 is available from the Government – for the Parish Council
- In addition, Worcester City Council qualifies for Grant to meet their costs of providing support – including the costs of the Independent Examiner and the Referendum

Volunteers – skills required

- Enthusiasm / interest / local knowledge
- Research / evidence gathering
- Management / organisational / administrative
- Planning related skills / background knowledge
- IT / mapping / print design / web design
- Environmental and heritage knowledge / skills
- Where we have insufficient of the above skills, we may need to buy in consultants

So, what do you think?

Any initial thoughts?

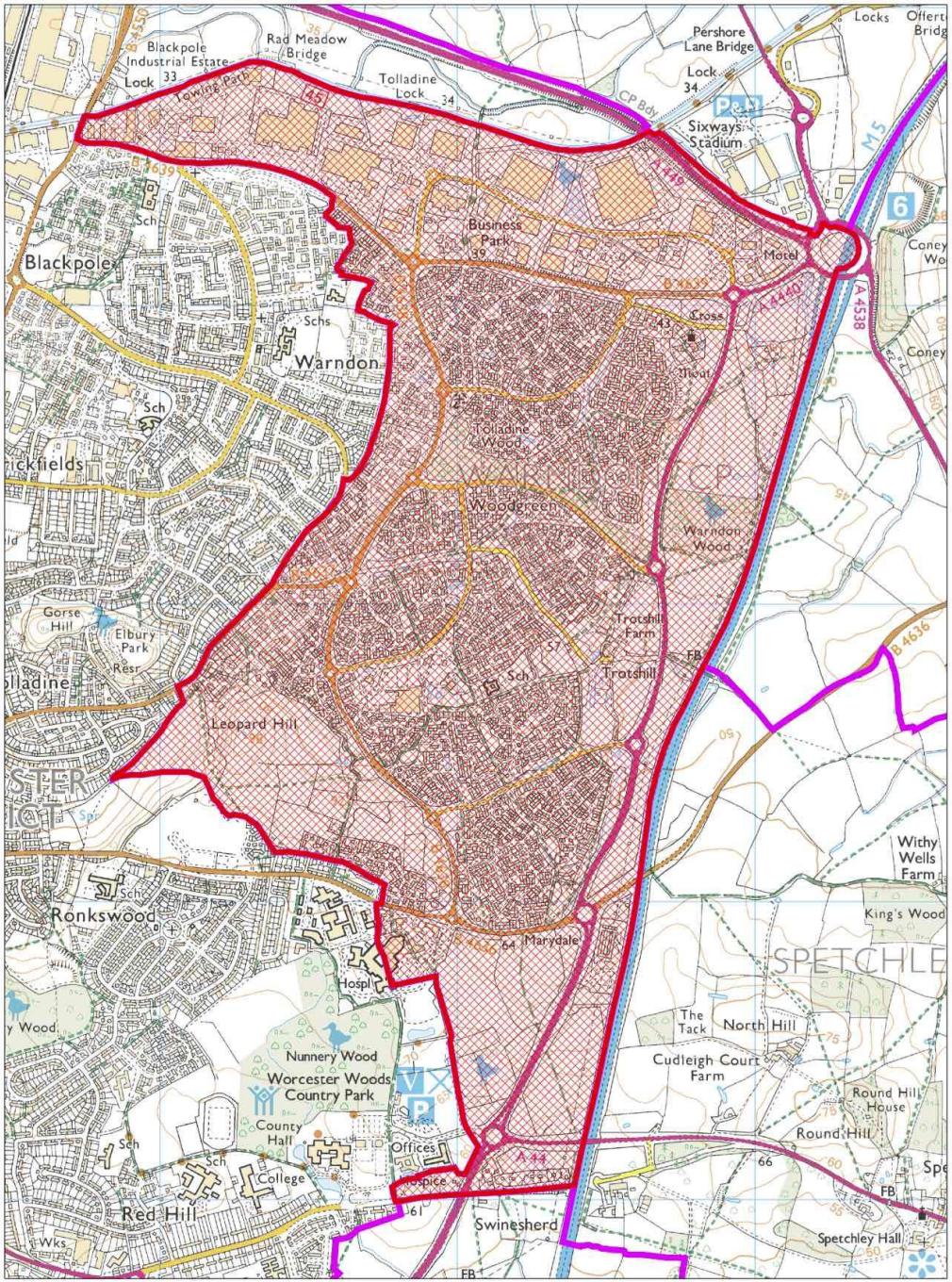
Questions?

Suggestions?

Ideas?

...and finally...

Would you like to help?



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