

## **Harpole Parish Council**

### **Response to Local Plan Consultation**

Having reviewed the documents Harpole Parish Council have the following comments to make on the proposed plan:

#### **1 – Objection to housing allocation**

Harpole Parish Council objects to the 110 housing allocation:

- Harpole Parish has 1 ½ SUE developments within the parish which will bring approximately 2,350 homes. As such we feel that Harpole has plenty of supply over the period of the plan
- When we asked how the 110 number was calculated, West Northants have not been able to advise. As such, there seems to be a lack of evidence on analysis that this number is needed.
- The last Housing Needs Analysis suggested far fewer houses were needed than 110.
- The housing being built on the SUEs give a good mix of properties and should meet the needs of the parish.

We ask also for clarification on when any new housing numbers is being calculated. Is it from now or when the plan is published?

#### **2 – Clarity on development areas**

Looking at the plans, the boundary for Northampton development covers a large area, and it seems that the urban expansion will be included in Northampton. However, these still fall firmly in the Harpole Parish boundary. Further clarification on the plans of West Northants council and how it is assigning figures would be appreciated.

#### **3 – Infrastructure**

Harpole Parish Council believe that developments should be infrastructure led. The scale of development in rural areas has become unmanageable and there are no confirmed upgrades of routes in the Local Plan. Mitigation of any new development on the existing network should be implemented before occupation starts.

There also seems to be a lack of continuous active travel routes between developments and their nearby villages, or plans for such in a timely manner.

All too often developments seem to be considered in isolation with no reference to other development nearby. This often leads to gaps in infrastructure needs.

We also note that there seems to be a lack of wider infrastructure mentioned in the plan such as:

- Secondary schools
- Healthcare
- libraries

#### **4 – Policy Integration**

It is noted that the Local Plan does not appear to align with other policies recently adopted such as :

- West Northamptonshire Transport Plan
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Climate resilience Policy
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

#### **5 – Village Confines**

Harpole Parish Council have looked at the proposed changes to the Village confines and agree with the proposal.

#### **6 – Length of Consultation**

It is felt that the length of consultation for such a large suite of documents is relatively short compared to the length of time it will have taken West Northants Council to put together. This means that the parish council will have only focussed on areas relevant to us and may not have had time to look at more general areas of the plan.