

## **Barby & Onley Annual Parish Meeting – Ward councillor's report April 2025**

In its fourth year as a new unitary council West Northants Council has been focusing on updating its strategic planning and highways policies. A new Local Transport Plan has been adopted in March after public consultation. Every highway authority has to produce this Plan by law and this Local Plan gives the highest priority to enabling active travel for people of all abilities, with the aim providing the infrastructure to make walking and cycling the first choice for short trips.

Similarly each planning authority has to produce a development plan and last year the Council consulted on a new draft Local Plan. This will bring the existing plans of the West Northants Core Strategy, the Northampton, Daventry and South Northants Local Plans into one document.

The draft Plan sets out a vision and objectives for our area, its ambitions for new development and commitment to dealing with climate change. The timetable for completing the Plan has had to be changed owing to the changes in planning policy announced by government in December and there will be further consultation this October, with submission for public examination expected in October 2026.

This evening your Parish Council will be considering its response to the recently opened Rugby Local Plan consultation. Onley Park residents once again face the prospect of the inclusion of a 105 hectare potential site at Lodge Farm along the A45. A smaller site here for 1,500 dwellings was taken through the Local Plan previously but lost its allocation during the examination process. The developer St Modwen Homes has now come back with a proposal for a larger site delivering up to 2,500 homes, part of which is on the north side of the A45 next to Onley Park. Details of the Hillmorton sites are in the link [Local Plan review - Preferred Options public consultation document - Rugby Borough Council](#)

Two preferred sites at Hillmorton for up to 530 dwelling are also causing considerable concern to local residents of Kilsby and Barby, as traffic volume along Hillmorton into Rugby town centre already causes congestion.

In the last 12 months the Neighbourhood Plan Review has been before an examiner and will go to Referendum on 1<sup>st</sup> May. When passed it will help guide any future developments or growth within the Parish. The planning approval given to the application for 3 4 bedroom homes and 1 3 bedroom home at Toft Hill last September, contrary to the Neighbourhood Development Plan was a huge disappointment to your Parish Council and to many residents. I had called in the application to be heard by the planning committee and made representations at the meeting. With an entirely up to date Neighbourhood Plan it's to be hoped that future planning applications that do not comply with the policies of the Plan will not be granted permission.

Over the last 12 months I have regularly chased the planning service for updates on the two outstanding Barby Sporting Club applications. It is entirely unacceptable that the application to extend the Club's hours is now in its fourth year of being undetermined and your community and Kilsby village continue to live with the uncertainty as to the outcome of these proposals.

While planning and highways have been the most regular issues for my casework over the last year I have also assisted residents with a variety of queries from chasing delays in processing council tax reduction claims to helping community relations between neighbours and a children's home provider. I have also set up a climate group for parish councillors in

the ward who have responsibility or interest in promoting more sustainable living in their villages to provide mutual support and so that good ideas can be shared.

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

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