

Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan Presentation

Picnic in the park 4th May 2014

There were many visitors during the 4th May picnic in the Park at Alvechurch Meadow's Field (The Wiggin). Lots of community residents along with their children and other visitors made the best of a glorious day. There was a variety of stalls on offer together with lots of on field entertainment.

Much interest was shown throughout the day in the Neighbourhood Plan stall, which displayed maps limiting areas for possible development to areas that the recent community questionnaire results pointed to.

The larger maps pointed out sites from Bromsgrove District Council's document, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Several A4 versions of the smaller map, illustrated below, were displayed in loose form on the table for people to use.

There were 38 written comments on posties left in the post box and many more spoken opinions, dealt with by the 6 steering group volunteers who manned the stand throughout the day from 10am to 5pm.

Rather than general comments which we had received from previous presentations these maps and diagrams pointed to 3 specific parts of the village boundary; A, B, and C areas to the North, West and Southern edges of Alvechurch village and this generated better detailed comment.

Most spoken comments were of the opinion that if Green Belt were to be released it should be in those areas that are able to be well contained by natural and physical boundaries. Quite a few other people mentioned they would like to see some improvements to the centre of Alvechurch village through soft landscaping, more seating and some better traffic control especially a crossing from the square to the medical centre.

Many said they thought the parish was good left just as it was with just a small amount of future housing for the young and elderly if there was a proven need for it.

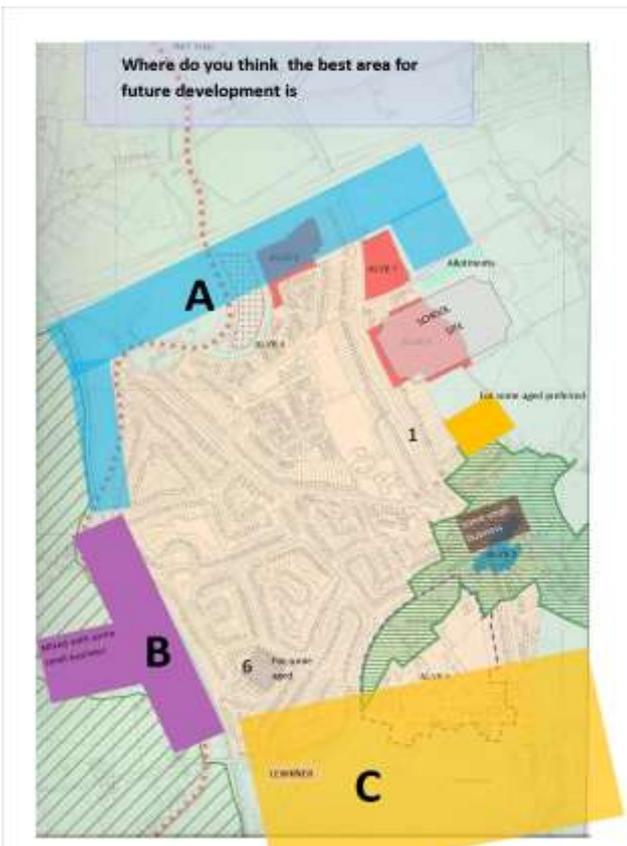
The general consensus was that the motorway to the North offered the best physical attributes that could contain development and would do less damage by releasing just that area of the Green Belt for the Parish's future housing. Many said some small sympathetic canal side development looked possible at the Old Brick Yard site as it had a previous industrial nature but there were reservations on traffic access and egress.

Quite a few visitors wanted to know the specific housing numbers that Alvechurch was expected to take up to 2030, as they thought quite a lot have already been provided for in Alvechurch.

Several people thought it a bad idea to spread development around the other areas of the Parish as it would result in the Green Belt being less effective and would lead to joining up of urban areas eventually.

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38 written comments were as follows;

- B 48 7SB Build near School
- B487AP Crossing on A441 near Westmead Hotel
- B48&7EA It would be good to improve the centre of Alvechurch, particularly The Square, soft planting, benches etc.
- B48 7PX Let's make Village look better, crossing from square to Drs
- B48 7SX Within walking distance of facilities.
- B48 7RY Best near the motorway
- B48 7AD Not in Hopwood
- B48 7SW develop around Alvechurch, Do not disperse community
- B48 7RY Traffic calming through village
- B48 7DJ only around Alvechurch, not in G Belt
- B48 7PS Prefer A, (near motorway) don't join housing to Redditch
- B48 7NQ Build only near motorway, some for elderly, keep village, and don't spread
- B48 7RP Preference to site A (near motorway)
- B48 7QT Don't spread around, keep constrained
- traffic calming measures on Tanyard Lane- Accident waiting to happen
- can we do something to help pedestrians around The Square, I saw a near miss when an elderly person tried to cross by the doctors, there is no safe place to cross The Square.
- We should avoid development along and spoiling Old rectory lane, which remains a quiet walkable route.
- B48 7RY Development should be to south of village
- B48 7RZ Any development to be by motorway as less visually obstructive etc. School provision to be covered too.
- B48 7NG West of Alvechurch.
- A Clarence Don't turn our village into an urban sprawl!
- B48 7NG As a resident of Alvechurch I can walk in any direction out into the countryside.
- People don't all want to live in Birmingham.

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- B48 7EA the island by the Red Lion is irrational
- order of preference... B already on old brickworks
- A motorway prevents further natural spread
- C -
- B 48 7NB I have no problem with housing on Plot A , 1,2,3,4,5
- Plot B- Just the brickworks
- Plot C -behind Nursery
- Mr & Mrs Kenny Rowney Green lane Suggest housing provides for young (affordable) and elderly (Sheltered)
- B48 the Old Brickworks, as it has an industrial use, it would be good if that use continued albeit with new building of workshops/ or sensitive residential development. T Williams
- B48 7PB I am concerned about developing George Road playing field. The increase in traffic and loss of the only playing field in our part of the village would be a real loss. They are small gardens in our area and if the playing field goes children will play in the street! K Smith (George Rd).
- B48 7JX Build on side of station, plot 7,8 & 9
- B48 7RY Please can the Parish Council address the increasing levels of traffic through the village? We are concerned at the increasing number of large lorries using Council Yard on Redditch road-this is a weight restricted road.
- B48 7QN Don't build in Green Belt
- Natural Boundary of Village used please .Keep the Village a village & not an increasingly large Town.
- MORE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
- B48 7PT When villages get too large they lose the community spirit.
- B97 6AD (Redditch) Mixed housing doesn't work out of experience. Having moved in & out of a new build in last 3 years.
- What NO.of Houses? Keep building restrained in one area.
- B48 7NN Area A near motorway....Keep other areas open!!