

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Full Council meeting 7th September 2020.

Agenda Item No 7:

Report from Hungerford 2036

Current Activities

During August the project team gathered information about each of the HELAA sites relevant to the nine local Site Assessment criteria which had previously been agreed. The information includes details of facts such as pedestrian distances to key services such as the schools, likely landscape and heritage site implications and traffic flow impacts. At the end of August all the information was sent to our consultant for him to make an initial overall assessment. We anticipate a draft response from him during September and are still expecting to be able to share the project team's draft conclusions with the town during the Autumn and gather feedback.

The consultant has also been asked to research and create HELAA-equivalent documentation on the additional 3 sites which were submitted to us after WBC's HELAA exercise had been completed. We have made a request to WBC that once these are produced they will review them so that we can feel confident that all available sites have had the same evaluation.

Government Planning White Paper

Whilst there clearly remains a role for Neighbourhood Plans in the proposed radical shake-up of the country's planning system, the exact nature of that role and indeed the autonomy remaining even at the WBC level is yet to be fully spelt out. (see WBC's Bryan Lyttle briefing previously circulated to HTC). However, in any case the project team's view is that work we are currently undertaking on the most appropriate sites for any future housing developments that may be needed, remains very worthwhile and very likely to be useful within the new planning regime.

Signed: John Downe, Joint Chair H2036, 3/9/2020