

NDP Steering Group progress report to Orcop Parish Council Meeting 18 September 2019

We have £4700 as Grant for the year to March and are thus able to appoint David Nicholson who attended the previous NDP meeting, as our new Consultant. He works from Hereford. We also seek guidance from Hereford Council NDP department who are very helpful, and Stephanie Kitto has attended our meetings here.

The **Aecom sites assessment report** will be publicly available shortly with a link to a website. It is not fully comprehensive and there are shortcomings and possibly some inaccuracies, but there will be an explanatory paragraph as an overview of the report to try and obviate any misinterpretations. Also we will have a paper copy available at different events with a Steering Group member to answer questions. It is lengthy to read, and thus one suggestion is possibly to lend it out for a couple of days at a time to people so that it can be passed around for residents who do not have the internet.

We have sent out letters with the details of their Aecom assessment to the **land owners** who submitted sites for building. We will be contacting them in due course to clarify the comments and verify their information on the forms, and plans for the future.

We will be asking advice from Stephanie Kitto as to how to establish **new settlement areas for building** as Orcop Hill, which is the main settlement area in the Aecom report, has ongoing land drainage problems. This will be a challenging task and we may have to pay for a survey to be carried out to confirm evidence of the problems.

At the moment the Steering Group are working hard on devising a **Questionnaire** to be issued to every household to find out what people's opinions and visions are. The NDP is a joint effort with the parishioners and we want as many to be involved to produce beneficial objectives for the future. We hope residents will want to answer the questions. This will be guidance for us in developing the NDP for housing primarily, as well as other aspects, recreational facilities, green agenda, landscaping, broadband, and in fact anything people consider important to maintain or add to the village.

We have been researching and evaluating several other parishes' questionnaires to help with ideas for topics relevant to Orcop, and the general format. The questionnaire is **the** priority task at the moment. David Nicholson has limited time available for 6 months but we are confident of being able to distribute the questionnaire in the coming weeks with some guidance from him as required.

He will then help with analysing the information in February/March 2020.

The new Steering Group was only formed recently but regular discussions have taken place to agree and progress specific topics. The next public meeting is likely to be in November. [An NDP update will be given at the Parish Council Meeting on 20 November]