

Introduction to AECOM Report

AECOM is an international consultancy firm and the appraisal was funded by the Government. Neighbourhood planning presents opportunities for identifying and allocating sites that are suitable for housing, drawing on the knowledge of the local community. The Orcop Neighbourhood Development Plan will cover the period 2011-2031 when we are required to build 26 dwellings, and will need to take account of Hereford Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031.

Aecom were commissioned to undertake an independent site appraisal for Orcop of the sites submitted by land owners, but they have not considered some local aspects which may be encountered. Orcop Hill is designated as the main settlement for development but has an ongoing serious drainage problem. Hence, we will need to conduct investigations to possibly create other settlement areas. Orcop is listed as one of the other settlements where proportionate housing is appropriate.

The dwelling numbers allocated to each site are based on a standard formula used by Aecom but it is the choice of landowners if they want to be included in the Plan for any dwellings, and of course they can apply directly to Hereford Council for Planning Permission independently.

The Aecom conclusions are a starting point, and the Orcop NDP Steering Group will be working with a Consultant and gather information and suggestions from parishioners to complete the Neighbourhood Development Plan within an anticipated 18-24 months. Apart from housing, other aspects will be included such as recreational facilities, transport, landscape and environmental issues, etc.

If you have any questions please contact Orcop Parish Clerk, Mark Hearne (clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org or 01981 251887) who will refer queries to the Steering Group or Parish Council.