

Appendix 1 – The NDP process and key dates for the Withington Group NDP

When Neighbourhood Development Plans were first introduced in the Localism Act 2011 the then Government Minister of State for Decentralisation, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, described them thus¹:

“Instead of local people being told what to do, the Government thinks that local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live. The Act introduces a new right for communities to draw up a neighbourhood plan.

“Neighbourhood planning will allow communities, both residents, employees and business, to come together through a local parish council or neighbourhood forum and say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go – and what they should look like.

“These plans can be very simple and concise, or go into considerable detail where people want. Local communities will be able to use neighbourhood planning to grant full or outline planning permission in areas where they most want to see new homes and businesses, making it easier and quicker for development to go ahead.

“Provided a neighbourhood development plan or order is in line with national planning policy, with the strategic vision for the wider area set by the local authority, and with other legal requirements, local people will be able to vote on it in a referendum. If the plan is approved by a majority of those who vote, then the local authority will bring it into force.”

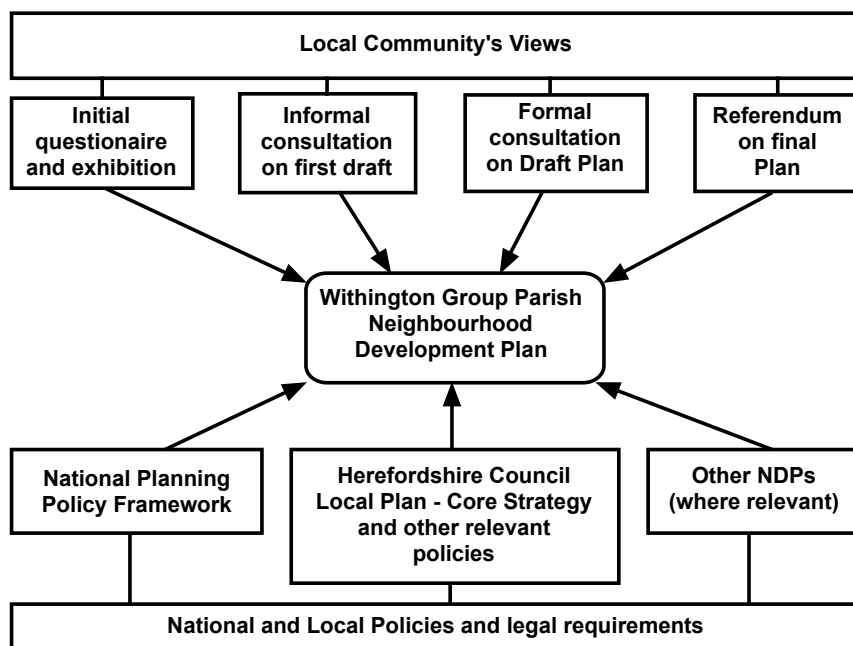
The process for making an NDP thus has to meet various tests of compliance with national planning policy, in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (the “**Framework**”) and Herefordshire Council’s own Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031 (the “**Core Strategy**”) which was adopted in October 2015.

There is no need for this NDP to replicate the policies in the Framework and the Core Strategy which will apply anyway – but there is a need to interpret them meaningfully where specific local issues are involved, and to do so in the light of what the Community have said through the consultation process. The Community also, and very importantly, have the final say in a Referendum which must take place before the NDP can be adopted.

Note that the local community has several points in the process at which they can have a direct influence, from the initial consultation, through the plan preparation stage, and then at the final approval stage of the Referendum.

Supporting documents will be needed at the formal submission stage to demonstrate that there has been adequate consultation and that the NDP is compliant with relevant national and local policies. (The latter includes consideration of any other NDPs nearby which may touch on similar issues) Thus the overall pattern of community involvement can be expressed in a diagram thus:

¹ “A plain English guide to the Localism Act” published by the Department of Communities and Local Government, November 2012



The process itself involves a series of stages including Examination by an Independent Examiner who will need to assess the NDP before it goes forward to the Referendum. These various stages are set out in the table below.

Action/Event	Responsible body	Date done/anticipated
Application for Designation as NDP body	Withington Group Parish Council	21st May 2013
Designation agreed, NDP area established	Herefordshire Council	12th July 2013
Initial consultation with Community – Open Days, public meetings, questionnaire	Local Community with Withington Group Parish Council	January 2014 to July 2014
Initial Draft of NDP	Withington Group Parish Council	January 2018
Informal consultation with Local Community	Local Community with Withington Group Parish Council	February 2018
Draft “Regulation 14” NDP	Withington Group Parish Council	March 2018
Formal consultations	Statutory Consultees and Local Community	
NDP Revised in response to consultation	Withington Group Parish Council	
“Regulation 16” NDP formally submitted to Herefordshire Council	Withington Group Parish Council	
Examination by Independent Examiner	(organised by) Herefordshire Council	
Referendum	Local Community	
Adoption	Herefordshire Council	