

Regulation 16 Consultation on the Submitted Hallow Neighbourhood Plan RESPONSE FORM

Under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Hallow Parish Council has submitted the draft Hallow Neighbourhood Plan to Malvern Hills District Council. In accordance with Regulation 16, Malvern Hills District Council would like to invite comments from organisations and individuals on the Neighbourhood Plan.

This consultation runs for six weeks from Friday 15th January to 5:00pm on Friday 26th February 2021.

If you wish to comment on the draft Hallow Neighbourhood Plan **please complete and return this form no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 26th February 2021** to:

Email: policy.plans@malvern hills.gov.uk , or by

Post: Planning Policy, Malvern Hills District Council, Planning Services, The Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3AF.

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Please fill in your details in the boxes below:

Full Name: John Jordan

Organisation (if applicable): Hallow C E Primary School Governing Body

Address (including postcode): Hallow CE Primary School, Main Road, Hallow, WR2 6LD

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Please state which part of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. which section, objective or policy) your representation refers to (please use a separate form for each representation):

General Comment

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Governors of Hallow CE Primary School would wish to applaud the effort and commitment which has been put in by all those who have been involved in the development of this Plan. The Governing Body would wish to fully support the adoption of the Plan as submitted.

It has been a monumental effort to get to this point and the adoption of this Plan will be essential to allowing the village to move forward but at the same time influencing future policy and protecting all that is valued by the local community.

Specific comments have also been submitted in respect of Policies HAL 1, HAL9 and HAL 15

Please use a separate form for each representation.

Future Notification

Please state whether you would like to be notified of the decision on the Neighbourhood Plan proposal:

Yes

No

Signature



Date 12th February 2021

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HAL 1 – Page 36

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

This comment is forwarded on behalf of the Governors of Hallow CE Primary School who are fully supportive of the Hallow Neighbourhood Plan.

Detailed comments are set out on the attached continuation sheets.

Please use a separate form for each representation.

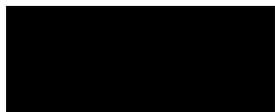
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Comments on behalf of Hallow C E Primary School Governing Body

Policy HAL1 – Page 36

The pressure on all communities to accommodate increased housing provision is already well documented. The Hallow Neighbourhood Development Plan represents a well-considered and evidence led approach to meeting the future demand it is required to accommodate. Policy HAL1 represents an effective way of accommodating future demand.

Naturally, the ability of Hallow CE Primary School to accommodate future pupil numbers is a consideration which has been raised throughout the development of the Plan and the school has endeavoured to provide clarity on its position throughout the process.

Forecasting future pupil numbers is not entirely straightforward and can be influenced by many factors.

Hallow School currently has a Published Admission Number of 29, although it is usual for the school to permit a maximum of 30 pupils in any one year group. The maximum number of pupils at the school at any one time is therefore 210. Over recent years this number has tended to be between 190 and 200.

In overall terms there remains some existing capacity to accommodate additional demand. However, care must be exercised as there is no consistency about the year groups in which any vacancies exist.

To enable future planning of places, information is provided on the number children in the area who will reach school age over the next 4 years. However, again this must be treated with caution as this number is likely to fluctuate.

Regardless of the current level of vacancies, meeting any additional demand will require a careful management of the School's Admission Policy in the first instance. The School's Admissions Policy clearly sets out the preferences for allocating places which are as follows:-

- 1) 'Relevant looked after children' and 'previously looked after children'.
- 2) Those children who live in the catchment area of the school, which is the ecclesiastical parish of Hallow.
- 3) Those children with siblings currently attending Hallow School. In the case of multiple applications from one family into a single year group where only one place remains available, random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide which child should be admitted. This process will be independently verified.
- 4) Those who practice a Christian (Trinitarian) commitment by attending:
 - a. St Philip and St James Church, Hallow
 - b. St Bartholomew's, Grimley or St Martin's in Holt
 - c. Any other C of E Church
 - d. Any other Christian Denomination
- 5) Those who demonstrate a special need for admission (e.g. medical, social or physical circumstances). Appropriate evidence would be required including possible professional referral (e.g. from a local authority).
- 6) Children who reside outside the ecclesiastical parish, who live nearest to the school by the shortest straight line distance.

Historically the school has admitted children from outside of its catchment area (although some of these may also qualify under other criteria). However, admission of children from within catchment is currently given the highest priority currently able to be given. It is likely therefore that as demand from 'within catchment' increases the number of places available under 3-6 above would reduce. This will give the School some scope to meet local need in the future.

Expansion (or re-location) of the school is a question which has been raised through the consultation process on the development of the Plan. However, in the short term this is unlikely. Classes 3 and 4 are small but expanding them would only create a handful of spaces. Governors have previously considered the possibility of bringing the capacity of those classrooms up to 30 and this is something that will continue to be considered. Ultimately, however, this is unlikely to increase capacity significantly and, at a time of shrinking resources, the costs of doing so would need to be set against the benefits accruing.

Re-purchasing the old school house, if it became available, would again offer some additional capacity. However, the costs of this would need to be carefully considered and balanced against the benefits which could accrue.

Extending the existing building would require the identification of more playground space and there is a public footpath which would be affected. Diverting a footpath not a straightforward process.

Ultimately though, affordability is a key consideration. It is unlikely that the school could afford to relocate at this given time. Land availability and costs involved are likely to be prohibitive. Added to this, the school would need to demonstrate that it is unable to meet the demands of the local community over a prolonged period before re-location or significant expansion would get the necessary level of external support.

Suffice to say that in the short term the School and its Governors are likely to be looking towards an effective management of its Admissions criteria as a means of meeting local demand for places.

Clearly if demand from the local community became unmanageable in the future there would be a need to look at other ways of meeting demand. This may involve expansion or re-location.

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HAL 9 – Page 75

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Governors of Hallow C E Primary School support the Biodiversity measures which are encapsulated within Policy HAL9.

In addition to the providing residents of new dwellings with information on the biodiversity features integrated into new housing development Governors will continue to actively consider opportunities for pupils at the school to understand and promote the much appreciated biodiversity of the area in which it is located.

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HAL 15 – Page 102

Please use the space below to make comments on this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The provision and promotion of sustainable forms of transport as set out in Policy HAL15 is wholeheartedly supported by Governors at Hallow CE Primary School.

The School is located on the busy A433 through the village and a large number of pupils access and exit the school onto the narrow footpath alongside this road at various times of the day.

The promotion of alternative (and sustainable) methods of transport will be a key factor in managing on street parking in the vicinity of the school at key times. The overarching principle that new development should seek to reduce reliance on the private car and increase opportunities for active travel (use of public transport, walking and cycling) by incorporating measures that improve facilities, infrastructure and the environment for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and its users is also a welcome principle that will greatly contribute to pupil safety as well as their health and well-being.

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