

Dear Residents & Business Owners

Many who live and work in the villages of Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine de Barnes consider the parish to be a great place in which to live. You may be one of these, or you may have ideas of how you would like the village to develop in the future. **Now is your time to have a say and influence how our community will look in future years.**

Just over two years ago the Parish Council commenced a process of seeking the views of residents and businesses on a range of aspects of local parish life. This enabled us to commence an update of the first **Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan** which was adopted in **2017**. It was felt that an update was required, not just because of the passage of time which suggested an update was due, but also because in 2019 the parish boundary was changed to embrace the whole of Catherine de Barnes which hadn't been part of the previous consultation exercise. In addition, Solihull Metropolitan Council was in the process of updating its own Local Plan, and it was felt that our Neighbourhood Plan needed to try and move in step. Based on the opinions fed back to us in the surveys we have now produced a suggested draft for a new plan.

Neighbourhood Plans are important as they give guidance to builders, designers, developers, homeowners, and businesses on what sorts of new developments might be acceptable in the parish and give both the parish and the local authority a framework against which to assess any new planning applications. They create an opportunity for local opinion to influence planning decisions. A Neighbourhood Plan can reflect local preferences and expectations so long as these are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021, have regard for any national policies or guidance issued by the Secretary of State, contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and conform with the strategic policies set out in Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Local Plan.

Over the last 18 months a working group has been involved in creating a new plan. The result is a new draft plan which we are now ready to consult on. This Draft Plan can be found at [» Neighbourhood Plan. \(hamptoninarden.org.uk\)](https://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk). **It is very important that as many of you as possible participate in this consultation as it's your opportunity to let us have your views on how you wish to see the parish develop.**

Please use the attached Response Form to tell us what you think. The Parish Council will consider each response and use that input to produce a **Final Submission Draft** which will be submitted for formal **Examination** and **Approval**. When the Draft clears that statutory process, the **Final Plan** will be submitted to parishioners for endorsement in a referendum. It will then be included in Solihull MBC's Plan planning documentation to be used when considering planning applications for the parish.

The deadline for comments on this Pre-Submission Draft is **22 March 2023**.

With Many Thanks

M L Blomer, MBE

Chair, Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council