

Cllr Barbara Jones -Williams Broadwas and Cotheridge

Dear Chairman and Members,

I have a planning meeting at Malvern this Wednesday evening, so might not make it back in time.

However, I am pleased to see that you are working fast towards a NHP Action plan.

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Highways survey/results, it appears they are signalling that they are not going to take any action, which is very disappointing, but there is a reason for all the accidents that keeps accruing on the A44, especially Cotheridge, a local resident's observation that overtaking is one of the main causes, I really don't think we should drop our concerns because of WCC Highways conclusion...

Government planning reforms

I thought you might be interested to see the present governments proposed planning reforms and as to why they see fit to increase the SWDPr proposed housing numbers by a whopping 65% for MHDC resulting in an overall 80% for the SWDPr plan,

Councils respond to increased housing target

Proposed planning reforms may mean the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) needs to be updated immediately after being adopted to meet increased government housing targets.

The Government's proposed method for calculating housing need would mean 2,152 homes a year will need to be built across Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon districts by 2041. But the current housing methodology, produced under the existing National Planning Policy Framework, plans for only 1,193 homes a year – an annual shortfall of 959.

The SWDPR is currently at the examination stage where it is being independently scrutinised by the Planning Inspectorate. Planners are currently updating the evidence base and transport modelling before public examination of the plan can take place next year. The three councils hope to be able to adopt the plan by the end of 2025.

But while the Government has confirmed the Plan can continue through the examination phase, because of the potentially significant shortfall between the current and future housing targets, planners may be required to start work on a new review immediately after it is approved.

· The table below shows the current annual housing targets for each council area and the proposed new figure under the Government's planned reforms.

	Current annual housing need	Proposed annual housing need	Difference	Percentage increase
Malvern Hills	368	609	241	65%
Wychavon	486	959	473	97%
Worcester	339	584	245	72%

SWCs Total	1,193	2,152	959	80%
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Residents' Survey 2024 launching on Sunday

Our Annual Residents' Survey will be launching on Sunday, 1 September, and we want to spread the word far and wide. We want residents' views on a variety of different topics, including what they think of their local area and the services we provide, and their priorities for the district. The survey will run until the deadline at midnight on 29 September 2024. A £75 voucher for a local, independent restaurant or shop could be won (terms and conditions apply). The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete but progress can be saved so it can be completed in stages.

If you need to contact me for anything, please do not hesitate to do so.

Have a good evening

Cllr Barbara Jones-Williams