Droitwich Spa Town Council

Report of the Chairman of Planning Committee 2025/2026

The Droitwich Spa Town Council maintains an advisory position for consultations, within the town development boundary, which are submitted to Wychavon District Council - the Local Planning Authority. The Town Council always endeavours to give a fair and balanced consideration for all applications with due attention towards the opinions and needs of the town residents.

We do this through our Town Planning Committee which consists of eight members including the Mayor Chris Bowden and myself.

A great deal of guidance comes from the Officers of the Town Council, in interpreting and tracking the planning applications which helps ensure that the Committee makes informed decisions and recommendations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Vice-Chairman, Bob Brookes and Elected Members of the Planning Committee for their contributions, support and knowledge in the past year.

The planning committee has met **10** times since the last Town Meeting and has considered **55** applications. Of these **48** were recommended for approval, **5** were recommended for refusal and 2 for comment only.

Other Planning Committee responsibilities **-** Road Traffic Orders received and reviewed / presented through the Committee during the period totalled = **99**

In addition to the above the Planning Committee have received the following: -

Residents Questions in Open Session before Planning Meeting (Feb 2026)
Applicants presentation in Open Session before Planning Meeting (Oct 2025)
Considered Street Naming for WDC - new development (Jan 2026)

VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs)

The Town Council continues to maintain various VAS throughout the Community. For sustainability the approach is maintained to consider solar powered devices where new signs are being introduced. These are environmentally more efficient and require less direct interventions and maintenance. Some older style battery powered devices remain in use, and these are also sometimes necessary to be deployed in new locations that are unsuitable for solar. Unfortunately, vandalism and damage to the signs is a constant factor with associated costs.

The Town Council is grateful to County Council Local Ward Members - Councillors Richard Morris, Dan Birch and Seb James for their collaborative work and support in

taking these measures forward towards speed awareness and helping to improve road safety in the Community. Special thanks are also conveyed to Highways Officer – Barry Barnes.

Neighbourhood Plan (NDP)

To accord with the regular Full Council updates from Councillor Brookes and also the updated information on the Town Council website. The NDP has been successfully progressed to final draft stage in early 2025 and then through the Regulation 14 statutory public consultation during June & July. This included three public consultations drop in events. The feedback has been very positive. The responses have been fully interpreted through our professional consultant Dr David Nicholson and the Steering Group in October 2025. A final amended version of the NDP has been produced by the Consultant and is currently held in abeyance whilst the wider SWDP Review is being finalised. It is important that the timescales align with the most up to date Local Regional Plan and it is intended that the documents then match with validity towards the forecast next review dates, which are likely to be 2041. The outlook is that the NDP will be submitted to WDC for the final stages of consideration process later in the Spring - as soon as the SWDPR is completed and has been adopted.

The Town Council is pleased with the progress made towards delivering the NDP since resurrection of the project in August 2022. An adopted NDP will be a distinct advantage for the Town - and benefits include enabling local Community input and influence for Planning matters as the Local Government Reform and Unitary proposals move forward from 2027/ 2028 - as well as overall future proofing.

The Town Council expresses appreciation to the Consultant, the Steering Group and Lead WDC Planning Officers – (Andy Ford and Ernie Edwards) for their contributions and support in taking this strategic project forward.

Councillor Sue Brazier
Chairman of the Planning Committee