

Hagley Neighbourhood Plan

March 2019 Public Consultation

Points raised, Comments, Suggestions and Feedback

Movement Group

Tuesday 26.03.2019 and Saturday 30.03.2019

Attendance 26 and 18 respectively

1. Roads and traffic

- (a) A456 Kidderminster bound at A456/B4187/Western Rd junction
 - Now 2 lanes
 - Encourages speeding
 - Compromises pedestrian safety
 - However has made it safer for a small number of residents on Worcester Rd to turn into their driveways.
- (b) A456 Birmingham bound at A456/B4187/Summervale Rd junction
 - Slip road length to B4187 inadequate
- (c) Increasing use of rat runs to avoid choke points
- (d) Speeding traffic
- (e) New bypass – will it actually help the problems?
- (f) Discussion on the previous bypass that was proposed, now this cannot happen
- (g) New housing is very closely linked to new roads so also needs to be considered together from the beginning, not the end of the process.
- (h) If pollution is increasing – what can be done? This needs to be considered.
- (i) In Hagley, we are now consistently below the air quality management area action plan levels, so improvements under this will no longer be made – now we are only monitoring. This needs to be looked at in more detail, particularly around congestion and use of average data to suggest it is now below the level for action.
- (j) Hagley Hall visitor centre is agreed but there is no access currently agreed.

Suggestions

Request return A456/B4187 junction back to previous design.

? changes based on flawed data.

- (a) Is it possible to confine traffic to main through routes?
- (b) Request reduce speed limit through village to 20 mph and also around the school environment (Worcester Rd, Park Lane and Station Rd/ Brake Lane)
- (c) Church street is very dangerous for traffic and parking and needs to be looked at
- (d) The Summervale filter lane is causing lots of problems
- (e) Lots of suggestions to look at traffic lights on A456 to see if any could be removed.
- (f) Suggestion of double yellow lines at the top of Middlefield Lane. Cllr King confirmed these are going in soon.

2. Parking

- (a) Illegal parking
 - overnight stays, especially Friday nights & cars not removed following morning
 - Pavement parking causing damage and obstructions
- (b) Parking is agreed to be a problem around the village

Suggestions

Rather than spend money increasing the number of spaces, enforce the current parking restrictions. That would increase throughput and release spaces.

- (a) Ticket pavement parkers
(Note from Councillor King that it is not illegal to park on a pavement unless it causes an obstruction but it is illegal to drive on a pavement)
- (b) All future businesses should include parking in their planning, currently BDC do not insist on this but could be included in our neighbourhood plan.
- (c) Schools coming out time is always very busy, so individuals avoid the high street at these times – If possible, could be recommended – also highlights the importance of working with the school to decrease parking/traffic.

3. Footways

- (a) Overgrowth of hedges and vegetation on footway surface restricts footway
Note there is a current HPC mechanism for dealing with overhanging hedges.
- (b) Uneven paths and potholes – safety hazard
- (c) Pavement parking damaging surface and restricting space for walking
- (d) Many keen to see the results of the walking audit – notified them it will be available online soon.

Suggestions

- (a) Pathway across the park to the railway station needs improving by widening the path and better lighting.
- (b) Pavements would benefit from occasional cleaning as grit, waste and water all accumulate.
- (c) Near Park road by the island. Needs looking at as no changes in 30+ years. In addition, have asked for double yellow lines here to prevent pavement parking.
- (d) Hawthorn coppice also noted as very bad.

4. Public Transport

- (a) Improved rail service needed through Hagley – discussion that this is planned, particularly to London, this is likely to have a knock on impact on housing.
- (b) Bus service is inadequate and environment at bus stops is very unwelcoming
- (c) There appears to be no over-arching transport policy
- (d) Bus service is causing problems for individuals who have no other options except for the bus
- (e) Public consultation on the buses coming soon – need to encourage people to respond to this.
- (f) The Dial-a-ride bus is used but not able to be used by some for hospital trips and doctors outside of Hagley.
- (g) Ring and ride – is there the potential that this takes people away from regular bus services?
- (h) Further study on the use of both the regular bus service and the dial a ride to compare.

Suggestions

- (a) Rail service needs more carriages and more trains that stop at Hagley
- (b) More parking required at stations along the route
- (c) Improved timetabling so that there aren't a number of consecutive trains within a short space of time followed by a longer gap before the next train to Hagley.
- (d) Improve/install more bus shelters and other changes to make environment more user friendly.
- (e) We require an integrated transport policy.
- (f) Individuals at this session (last session) would be happy to pay for the bus if it kept it running (all currently have bus passes)

5. **Others**

- (a) Poor access around the village for wheelchair users, mobility scooters, those with limited mobility and those with pushchairs.
- (b) Very few facilities for cyclists
- (c) Blocked drains restrict movement as floods when heavy rain

Suggestions

- (a) Install more dropped curbs etc. to improve access
- (b) Village environment should encourage and promote walking and cycling
- (c) Close B4187 to through traffic
- (d) Note – blocked drains have been reported to STW

Note that there was a general feeling that issues raised by the public with WCC and BDC often go unanswered and are ignored. Suggestions were made that direct action by public may be needed e.g. blocking roads to get WCC/BDC to listen

Housing Group

Scene Setting

1. The graph showing the population and housing growth from 2001 to the predicted figures for 2030 was explained. The main growth will be in the over 65 age group.
2. The conclusion was that there are about enough existing and allowed houses in Hagley to meet the indigenous demand.
3. Nevertheless, with Bromsgrove's need to find housing land and the current review of the Green Belt, it is likely that there will be pressure to exclude land from the Green Belt around Hagley for housing purposes.

Wednesday 27.03.2019

Attendance 29

Housing Demand

Type of Housing required (if there is to be more)

1. Housing required for retired couples – but not little boxes
2. Schools attract new families and should be catered for – look at the Cala Site profile and the census data.
3. Schools also keep house prices high.
4. Some people want to live in the village to be close to elderly relatives
5. There is a need for rented and shared ownership accommodation

Saturday 30.03.2019

Attendance 18

Housing Demand

1. National shortage of houses to provide families with suitable accommodation.
2. Need to provide adequate community facilities (e.g. doctors) before the housing is occupied. Can wait 2.5 weeks before seeing a doctor in Hagley.
3. Need for additional 'downsizing' properties e.g. bungalows, with easy access to the village facilities (four people all considered this desirable)
4. High cost of houses preventing young people from remaining in the village.
5. Sanderson's Court (Sheltered Housing) too expensive for residents to downsize to. St. Saviour's Court is more affordable.
6. Many of the recently built houses have been taken by 'incomer families' who wish their children to go to the schools.
7. Should have new 'Council Houses' for local residents.
8. Cala development does include various forms of affordable housing
9. Walking distance to the village facilities is important to older people.
10. More intensive use could be made of the land there is eg re-site playing fields and use for bungalows.

History, Character and Environment

Wednesday 27.03.2019

Attendance 10

Green Belt

1. The green belt was considered one of the biggest draws to Hagley and in some cases the main reason for moving to Hagley. Residents have moved to the area for its countryside landscape.
2. Residents feel the green belt offered them opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking running, freedom for children and pets to play.
3. Air pollution is a big problem in Birmingham. Moving out to the country side for cleaner air and better lifestyle. Residents have emphasised the impact of air pollution on them and their families; in one instance, moving to Hagley has greatly improved the quality of life of the person and their family both physically and mentally.
4. Fears that a bypass will cut through the green belt and damage the environment, and the views of the landscape
5. Provide access for vehicles
6. Possible removal of allotments (generally well protected)
7. View from the brook
8. Effect on wildlife
9. Preserve setting for listed buildings
10. Flooding risk with additional builds - need to quantify and assess

Suggestions and comments

- Is there a case for building at high density on a small GB area to leave more GB intact?
- Archaeology dig required ?
- How to assess the wildlife and other environment issues? Perhaps employ someone or a company?
- Green belt around Hagley must be protected, particularly areas between Hagley and Stourbridge (Worcester road). The fields off Stakenbrige lane which currently give an open aspect to the west from Pinewoods avenue.

Hagley village

1. Fears of Hagley blending into Stourbridge or becoming crowded like Stourbridge
2. Lighting is an issue raised with residents having problems with insufficient street lights in specific areas of the village.
3. Littering on the streets is a common issue raised.
4. There is a general lack of maintenance of the high street with no floral or greenery around to make it more attractive.
5. Better management of trees and hedges around the village.
6. There is a lot of privacy that the trees and hedges provide along with reduction of noise pollution. Cutting down of trees for development purposes is a concern. Too many signs around the village creating a visual chaos and taking away from the green and serene aspect to Hagley that residents have moved for.
7. Trees are removed quickly, sometimes at a weekend or holiday, and no one has chance to stop it. There are not enough Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and only a few are made each year [by Bromsgrove]
8. The Green Belt (GB) gap between Hagley and Pedmore is very narrow and should be protected
9. Trees and hedges give privacy. Help towards reducing pollution
10. Grass verges are untidy and not needed and used as parking.

Suggestions and comments

- To take ownership of the village and promote volunteer activities to make Hagley more presentable. Examples of actives to undertake - litter picking, gardening, clubs that involve kids in the village.
- Keep Hagley as a village and do not expand to town size.
- Make Hagley more accessible from all sides with better pathways, footpaths, wheelchair, scooter friendly.
- Planting more trees to make up the deficit.
- Some support for making safe footpath routes between various areas. They should be well lit. Link up recreation routes around the village
- Suggestion to tarmac over the grass verges; example south road.
- Make the hughstreet one way then parking is available on a slant. This will increase spaces.
- Make Hagley more environmentally friendly transport wise - cycle lanes are welcome. Worthwhile investing making people healthier and hopefully ease traffic congestion.

Fear of Crime

Tuesday 26.03.2019

Attendance 14

1. Police and policing is the largest issue for Hagley residents
2. Lack of police on patrol and lack of visibility
3. No full time police in the area
4. Response times are poor
5. The ANPR system doesn't resolve crime in Hagley
6. Drugs are a big issue with drugs in schools being the biggest concern
7. The neighbourhood watch doesn't work, many not aware of how it works or how to participate.
8. New officers have been appointed but will take at least 2-3yrs before they are on patrol. They are based in Bromsgrove so doesn't solve problems in Hagley.
9. Disgruntled that residents are paying for services (council tax) they aren't getting.
10. Concern about the rise in crime, especially burglaries in the village. Newfield road and middle field road being the most effected.
11. Concerns about antisocial behaviour around the nature reserve and Hagley park.
12. Can cameras be installed around the nature reserve to help?
13. Surveillance in Hagley is limited and controlled by Bromsgrove.
14. There is no dialogue with the police. The children of the community are missing out as they never see an officer around to speak to or interact with.
15. Where is the resident PCSO?

Suggestions and comments

- Can we have more than one neighbourhood watch in an area?
- Social media is an option but not everyone has access and there is no link with the police to help with issues raised on social media platforms.
- Police should visit the schools and make their presence known.

Infrastructure

Hagley park and community centre -

1. Residents are disgruntled by the changing rooms not being finished
2. Suggestions for clubs for kids
3. football clubs for younger kids
4. 12-15 yr olds have limited options for entertainment and is a possible cause for antisocial behaviour?
5. Gym facilities in Haybridge high school are exceptional but they should be made available to teenagers and residents outside school hours such over holiday times with extended hours. The gym is not advertised.
6. Community centre is well known but may choose not to attend events that are happening there. Residents use the community centre for younger children and their activities.

Doctors surgery

1. Doctors are excellent
2. Waiting times are too long
3. Not enough doctors to fulfil needs
4. Impact of Cala homes on the surgery is being felt. Although Cala has paid for the surgery to be extended there are no funds to recruit more doctors.

Other Comments and feedback

- Green belt protection must be balanced alongside other needs such as those for a bypass which is of paramount importance to resolve traffic congestion and pollution to make Hagley safer and healthier place for our children.
- Middlefield Lane is increasingly used as a 'rat' run to avoid Park Road congestion, with cars and commercial vehicles driving at excessive speeds. The road narrows half way up in a blind curve; with pavement ceasing on one side; pavement on other side not renewed (only half the road was updated several years ago); and street lighting dim or absent. Parking at the top near Birmingham Road is congested to single lane due to staff at Cotton Tails Nursery (former police station) using road for parking during day hours. We consider there is a serious risk of an accident waiting to happen.
- What is the status of renewing of remaining pavement? Whose responsibility is street lighting and speed limiters?
- Concern that there are no banks in the village, makes it harder for older residents to gain access to banking facilities. The Post Office needs to be better accessible
- A new larger supermarket is not welcome with residents feeling it will split the village.
- Pubs and restaurants have been given positive feedback however antisocial behaviour from the Station Inn is not well welcome.