

WFDC Local Plan

Comments from the Bewdley Civic Society (BCS)

The BCS has over 500 members. Among its aims are:

To support Landscape Conservation Policies that protect the town's identity, historic setting and the attractiveness of the surrounding countryside.
Continue to preserve and enhance the Conservation Area and its listed buildings.

In this context the BCS broadly supports the WFDC Local Plan in terms of its proposed Allocated Sites in Bewdley. (Table 34.0.1)

In particular we welcome section 34.1. The WFDC Local Plan recognises the difficulties caused by the historic street pattern of the town. In particular the BCS would specifically mention Welch Gate, Load Street, the High Street and the historically important Telford bridge. The BCS feels that by allocating almost all of the allocated development sites east of the River Severn the WFDC Local Plan minimises the impact of traffic flow through these sensitive areas.

The WFDC Local Plan also recognises the importance of the topography of the land west of the River Severn. There have been two attempts for large scale development on this landscape and both have been rejected by Government Inspector in 1989 and 2017. Both inspectors concluded that this open landscape is an important aspect of the attractive setting of Bewdley and should not be developed.

Regarding the specific sites allocated:

Bewdley Fire Station (BR/BE/1)

The BCS feels that the development of this site could enhance this Conservation Area in the centre of the town. We support 34.1.2:

Proposals should be sympathetic to its location within the Bewdley Conservation Area and the many listed buildings nearby. It should respect the scale, morphology and materials of the Conservation Area.

Stourport Road Triangle (WA/BE/1)

The BCS gives qualified support for its use for housing and removal from the Green Belt. In particular we welcome 34.2.1.

Catchem's End (WA/BE/3)

The BCS gives qualified support to the development of the Southern End adjoining

All Saints Church.

Regarding the Northern End adjoining the bypass, the BCS has concerns with regard to the impact on this section of Green Belt though it welcomes the measures proposed by the WFDC in policy 34.3 to minimise the impact.

Land south of Habberley Road (WA/BE/5)

The BCS has concerns about the potential impact on the Green Belt. However it would support this development if it could be linked to measures to mitigate the traffic issues at Catchem's End by the construction of a through road to the bypass.

Tony Leach (Chair of Planning Sub-committee BCS)