



Full Council 14th June 2022

Report on monitoring the first year of the Belper Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2022
Submitted by Cllr Harris

1.0 Background Information;

The NP was “made” in June 2021 and will be formally reviewed in 2026. The annual monitoring report is to enable information and data to be tracked and progress to be recorded so that a benchmark for the 2028 report is available and updated annually.

1.1 Housing numbers and economic development.

1.2 There has been significant increase in building since June 2021. After many years of almost no new building in Belper, despite planning permissions being granted on a number of sites, a number of existing permissions are being developed and new ones have been granted. There have also been a small number of applications for change of use for business, retail, and hospitality purposes. Happily all these developments, bar one, have been on brownfield sites in conformity with the primary aim of the NP, to encourage development of brownfield in preference to greenfield sites.

See Appendix 1a and 1b.

1.3 One of the benefits of the extensive consultations undertaken in drawing up the NP was that it gave local people opportunity to identify issues of concern and areas for action that could not be directly included in the report under the NP regulations. See para 7 and Appendix A of the NP. The intention is that local groups or volunteers will progress these projects under the aegis of the NP and BTC will decide on the best way of taking the issue forward. We have an offer to progress the drafting of a “pattern book” See Appendix 2. We will be exploring opportunities to engage with the community to initiate other projects.

1.4 Use of the NP in considering planning applications. As AVBC has not delivered a new Local Plan since 2006 the NP is the most current planning document relating to Belper. The committee has used it by referencing relevant sections of the NP when commenting on applications. The sections most commonly used have been those referring to Energy efficiency and renewable energy [NPP12]; Increasing use of renewable energy {NPP15} and Increasing the use of Electric Vehicles {NPP17}. Occasionally applications have been questioned or rejected referencing the particular Landscape Character {NPP’s 3 to 9}. Reference has also been made of the DVMWHS management plan regarding some applications.



1.5 The NP made minor reference to issues of Accessibility. However since then BTC has agreed its own Accessibility Strategy and where appropriate applicants have been referred to the document.

1.6 Preparing for the next NP4B.

Monitoring of “windfall” numbers will continue as will consideration of potential brownfield sites.

Monitoring of increasing numbers of holiday and second homes which may impede the housing offer to local and permanent residents. We will also be monitoring the ongoing housing needs identified for residents over 50.

Ongoing concerns about the town’s heritage assets whether the continuing impasse about the North and East Mills or continued threats to the buffer zone.

2.0 Legislation

Legislative Implications.

The NP conforms to the 2019 version of the NPPF. The group continues to monitor changes to the NPPF relevant to Neighbourhood Plans.

3.0 Accessibility/Financial Implications

There are no current Accessibility or Financial implications to the report.

4.0 Recommendation

That the report be approved and accepted in full.