

Housing consultation for Local Plan 2024

Question number	Question	Draft response
1	Do you think the housing needs we have identified allow us to deliver flourishing and thriving communities?	<p>Whilst it makes sense for most of the housing to be placed in the towns, villages themselves need new housing, in particular affordable housing, to allow a proper mix of young and old. If there is inadequate housing in a village, the village will grow old without satisfactory replacement of the population.</p> <p>Critical to the development of the towns is that not only is the service infrastructure in place but that the geography allows for proper integration of the new housing into the existing community.</p>
2	Do you consider our aspirations for supporting all of our communities are ambitious enough?	<p>These aspirations are insufficiently clear to be able to comment on them in detail. In general, however, they seem reasonable.</p>
3	Do you support the majority of new homes taking place in Matlock, Ashbourne and Wirksworth, and housing to meet local needs in the smaller villages?	<p>Of course, the majority of housing should go where there is already a sizeable population and where infrastructure already exists. There does however need to be affordable housing in all communities, and this requires new housing everywhere.</p>
4	Which of the sites identified in this leaflet do you consider should be retained in the Local Plan?	<p>This is a poorly worded question, demanding a level of knowledge of the whole District and its housing which is probably only available to the District Council.</p> <p>In Wirksworth, the Middleton Road site should be included in the plan. However, there should be proper provision on this estate for public transport to be able to circulate within it.</p>

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5	Which of the sites identified in this leaflet do you consider should be withdrawn from the Local Plan by the District Council?	<p>There needs to be a thorough review of the proposal to place over 600 houses in the Middle Peak quarry. Building this number of houses in Middle Peak would dramatically change both the demands on services in the town and the town's character.</p> <p>The geography of Wirksworth and the Middle Peak quarry would lead to the principal entry from the new houses being into the lesser of the two principal roads into the north of the town. This would place considerable pressure on roads and junctions in the town. It would be likely to lead to the residents of the new estate not making use of Wirksworth but travelling for preference to Middleton, Ashbourne or Matlock.</p> <p>Traffic and car parking are probably the major issues concerning townspeople at present. The town is desperately short of parking to allow use of the community resources such as shops. 600 more houses in the town represents an increase in the size of the town of about 25%. Such an increase will merely serve to exacerbate the problem unless other changes are planned which would mitigate the situation. Without such measures, the proposed development would not allow the town to continue to flourish.</p> <p>At present, community resources such as schools and shops are very largely in the northern half of the town. The proposed development will extend this division between the northern and southern parts of the town and will drag the centre of focus of the town even further north, making the south of the town much less well served.</p> <p>Before putting such a development in the new plan, there needs to be a proper investigation of the impact it would have on the town and its operation.</p>
6	Are you aware of any other suitable sites the District Council	No. The Neighbourhood Plan for Wirksworth looked in depth at this question and found no sites of significance.

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	could develop for housing?	
7	We are interested in understanding the views of our rural communities. Which village do you live in?	This response comes from Wirksworth Town Council.
8	How many new homes do you consider are needed in your village between now and 2040?	N/A
9	Would you support your Parish Council and your local community working with the District Council to identify a suitable site or sites to meet local housing needs?	The Town Council would be pleased to assist in applying this question to towns.
10	What community infrastructure do you think is missing from your village?	Youth facilities are definitely missing from Wirksworth and local public transport, while present, is very poorly coordinated, resulting in low usage.
11	Would small-scale infill and consolidation in the smaller villages be beneficial?	N/A
12	Are there any other ways the District Council could maintain the sustainability of smaller villages other than through new development proposals?	N/A