

Lydney Neighbourhood Plan Review

Stage One Report | May 2022

place

Introduction

Lydney Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2024 is formally a 'made' part of the statutory Forest of Dean Local Development Plan. Its policies should be used by planning officers when determining planning applications in the Lydney Neighbourhood Area. However it is now approaching the end of its planned life. All plans should be kept up to date to maintain their relevance and planning weight or strength. Lydney Town Council has therefore resolved to progress a review and updating of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Place Studio has been appointed to assist Lydney Town Council undertaking stage 1 of the review of the made Neighbourhood Plan. Place Studio specialise in community-led planning and have worked with a number of communities in the South West on Neighbourhood Plans and their review.

The initial stage will review the existing plan's policies and evidence bases, its performance in delivering plan vision and policy objectives and set an initial agenda for progressing the full review (within stage 2).

It will provide;

- 1 Existing Plan Policy and Evidence Assessment*
- 2 Existing Plan Performance Review
- 3 Forest of Dean Strategic Policy and Local Plan Review Context
- 4 Lydney's Current and Future Issues and Priorities; Stakeholder Engagement
- 5 Potential New National Agendas
- 6 Stage 2 Review Process, Resources and Programming.

* For the stage 1 review, a Locality Technical Support application for a tailored review of existing neighbourhood plan policy and evidence can be applied for. This desktop analysis undertaken by consultants AECOM can provide a part of the baseline stage 1 report evidence.

Why Undertake a Neighbourhood Plan Review?

To remain a relevant document, it's important to ensure the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan remains up-to-date. Lydney's Neighbourhood Plan is approaching the end of its initial plan period. A review presents the opportunity to refresh the made plan to seamlessly extend its life beyond 2014.

Five key factors should inform Lydney Neighbourhood Plan review:

- The current effectiveness of made policies in delivering the community's aspirations
- Changes in national legislation and policy that are the foundation of local policy
- Changes in District Local Plan policy, which the Neighbourhood Plan must be in broad conformity with*
- Changes in Lydney's local circumstances that need new planning policy approaches
- New community priorities and opinions that may alter key issues and aspirations.

*Forest of Dean Council is currently producing a new Local Plan that will replace the existing adopted Core Strategy, which is now running out of date.

Review Approach and Process

The review of a neighbourhood plan needs to follow a similar process and stages as the making of a new neighbourhood plan. In effect, the neighbourhood plan is being re-made. To help ensure this is undertaken soundly to deliver a re-made plan, we recommend Lydney uses Locality's neighbourhood plan making framework. Stage 1 of the review reflects the initial "Getting Started and Early Stage Activities" part of this.

The review process will be likely to be of a significance that will require a new independent examination. The Examiner will decide if the updated plan will then require a new referendum before it can be remade. If the updated plan contains new policy areas that change its scope and nature, this will be likely.

Information Box

Neighbourhood Plan Review Stages

Stage 1

Getting Started

- Organisation
- Inception
- Resources

Early Stage Activities

- Initial Engagement
- Baseline Review Analysis Report
- Setting Priorities
- Programming and Resource Plan

Stage 2

- Organisation & Resources
- Evidence Gathering
- Community Engagement
- Updated Policy and Supporting Text Drafting
- Updated Draft Plan Production
- Formal Reg 14 Consultation
- Post Reg 14 Draft Plan Revisions
- Submission to FoDDC

Formal Stages Facilitated by FoDDC

- Formal Reg 16 Consultation
- Examination
- (Potential Revisions)
- Referendum
- Making

Establishing a Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group

The Town Council is legally the responsible (or qualifying) body for the Neighbourhood Plan. It established a Steering Group of councillors and local people who led the process of preparing the current Plan. The Town Council should confirm a new Steering Group to undertake the review of the Plan. Further volunteers from within the community may be recruited to the Steering Group following an initial round of stakeholder and community engagement which is part of Stage 1.

Lydney Town Council has already created a Town Centre Improvement Sub-Committee that has overseen the initial “Lydney Forward” engagement related to the town centre. There is potential for this group to extend its terms of reference to form the core of a new NDP review Steering Group.

PART 2

Baseline Review Analysis; Process and Summary Findings

2.1 Existing NDP Policy and Evidence Healthcheck; (Technical Support AECOM)

This detailed technical assessment of the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan existing policies and evidence base provides the Steering Group with a baseline assessment of where existing policies are up to date and still supported by robust evidence through to where policies are now wholly or partially out of date and where there is a need for updated specific local evidence. This can be a major component to inform the priorities for refreshing the existing plan. In addition, further policies may be identified to address new priorities.

This work will be undertaken during April and June by Locality consultant AECOM, using a standard and robust methodology.

A summary of its findings will be an addendum to this report.

The full AECOM report will form Appendix A of this report once completed.

Summary of Findings; To follow as a separate document once the work has been undertaken by AECOM.

2.2 Review of Development Decisions

A review of selected planning decisions made by Forest of Dean Council in the time since the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan was made, provides further insight into how much the plan has been referenced and how effective the plan’s policies have been in resolving planning applications. Lydney Town Council provided Place Studio with a selection of 8 decisions which were reviewed for their reference to the NDP and the use and weight of NDP policies in resolving the decision.

Of the applications reviewed it can be seen that generally the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan is being used effectively by the Local Authority when assessing planning applications. However, a significant proportion of current NDP policies closely reflect policies within the Forest of Dean Core Strategy/Allocations DPD. There is scope to add further local specificity to policies to help ensure they are applied where the community need is greatest.

There is evidence to suggest that site and design quality related policies could be strengthened and made more effective if supported by design guidance or coding that would potentially give the Lydney NDP the ability to better coordinate development.

The environmental policies LYD ENV 1 and LYD ENV 2 have been successful in supporting development that is located within Lydney's settlement boundary and securing development that does not negatively impact biodiversity. Changes to national environmental legislation may enable these policies to be bolstered.

Due to the age of some policies it will be necessary to assess the continued relevance of their objectives with the use of up to date evidence. For example a housing needs assessment may enable an updated plan to refresh housing priorities relating to homes for older people and potentially extend priorities to address wider identified needs, including the size and types of housing and affordable housing.

A full report of the review of development management decisions is Appendix B of this report.

2.3 Forest of Dean Policy Context and Local Plan Review

Forest of Dean Core Strategy

Forest of Dean District Council is the Local Planning authority that produces the Local Plan that covers Lydney. The current adopted local plan strategic policy framework for Lydney is the Forest of Dean Core Strategy 2012 -2026 and the FoDDC Allocations DPD, adopted in 2018. Until there is a new adopted local plan, this remains the policy framework that the NDP must be in general conformity with.

The adopted policy framework does not provide an up to date five years supply of developable housing sites. As a result paragraph 11 of the NPPF considers the housing allocations strategy for FoDDC to be out of date, replacing it with a National presumption in favour of sustainable development. This effectively reduces the weight that will be given to the Local Plan in resolving particularly the location of housing proposals.

The current NDP is related to the current Core Strategy. The Core Strategy sets the spatial vision and framework for Lydney "a town on the Severn". Lydney is seen as the town with the greatest growth potential which is reflected in a significantly more ambitious growth strategy than the other forest towns.

This includes identifying sites for 1650 new homes and 20 hectares of employment space to the east of Lydney. The delivery period for this is predicted to be until 2027. All significant housing development at Lydney will be expected to provide 40% of homes as affordable units to meet identified needs. Housing sites now largely have planning consent and are in the delivery pipeline. However, there has been loss of employment at Lydney. The Core Strategy also identifies expansion of Lydney's comparison and convenience retail offer and promotion of its tourism economy, linked to Lydney Harbour.

Sites Allocation Development Plan Document

The adopted sites Allocation Development Plan Document is also part of the existing policy framework. It has embraced evidence and strategy work that was being produced for a Lydney Area Action Plan, which was stopped and transferred in 2013. As a result, the ADPD identifies nine key issues for Lydney and contains 15 Lydney specific policies. This includes allocation of land for 1900 new homes (c65% focused to the east of Lydney) and 30 hectares of employment land, 2/3 of which are associated with strategic eastern growth.

Emerging New Local Plan

FoDDC is currently working towards replacing these documents with a single new Local Plan to extend policies up until 2041. This is at a relatively early state in production. Issues and options consultation took place in 2019. Considering the detail that the existing FoDDC policy framework has at Lydney, it may be the case that the FoDDC will be able to continue a similarly refined and detailed policy framework for Lydney within the Local Plan. Dialogue will be required to help ensure the right balance is struck between Local Plan and NDP to avoid duplication and potential divergence.

A draft plan strategy is scheduled for Regulation 18 public consultation in Autumn 2022. Consultation on a pre-submission plan is scheduled for Spring 2023 with examination in the following Autumn. Adoption may then follow in the Spring of 2024. It is not until the plan has been examined that its policy framework can be considered to have wholly attained certainty and significant weight. This is the first time when Lydney's NDP might be able to "hook" its policies to the new Local Plan policy (through the basic conditions statement).

Gloucester County Council

Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for Minerals and Waste Planning, Strategic Flood Management Strategy and the Transport and Highways Planning and Management where this affects the Forest of Dean and Lydney.

Local Flood Risk Management

Under 2010 legislation GCC has new responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). This means it leads flood risk management across the county from surface water runoff, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. In addition GCC has a responsibility for managing flood risk from the highway network and planning for emergencies. The Gloucestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how GCC will aim to manage flood risk in partnership across Gloucestershire over the next 10 years.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan sets the strategic transport vision to 2041.

"A resilient transport network that enables sustainable economic growth by providing travel choices for all, making Gloucestershire a better place to live, work and visit"

The LTP details the overarching and mode policies that support the six spatial Connecting Places Strategies, including for the Forest of Dean, where Lydney is identified as a rail interchange hub.

The county aims to protect the environment by reducing transport carbon emissions and adapting to climate change, maximising investment in a sustainable transport network, Integrated with new development.

GCC states that whenever transport issues are being considered in Gloucestershire the developer, highways engineer or other design and delivery agent should screen the made Neighbourhood Plans affecting the area in question to obtain useful background data, a local perspective on traffic and transport issues and, often, careful consideration of possible solutions - including locally supported small schemes.

Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy

The Waste Core Strategy explains how the County Council and its partners will address the issue of planning for waste management in Gloucestershire in the period 2012 to 2027. It provides a policy

framework to guide decisions on planning applications for waste management developments. The County Council is now preparing a new countywide Waste Local Plan.

Coordinating Neighbourhood Plan Review with adopted Core Strategy and Emerging Local Plan Policy

The review process is likely to take at least 18 months to reach a referendum. To achieve a seamless transition between the end of the life of the current Neighbourhood Plan and new updated plan, work needs to commence on the review during 2022. Because of the early stages in preparation of the Forest of Dean Local Plan to 2041, it is likely that the review of Lydney's NDP will resolve an updated set of policies and be in a position to be submitted to FoDDC for examination in advance of the Local Plan being adopted.

In these circumstances, it may be necessary to align NDP policies to the Core Strategy (as it's the adopted strategic framework). This creates some potential issues with the ongoing weight of the NDP after the Local Plan has been adopted, as the NDP will not be directly "hooked" to it. To maximise its effectiveness, updated policies should be informed by emerging new strategic evidence. Criteria policies like design quality, policies supporting regeneration of specific parts of Lydney and specifically local policies are more likely to be capable of remaining in general conformity with new Local Plan policies. Policies to allocate land for housing in advance of a strategic framework are more sensitive.

The prioritised policies to be included within the updated NDP are to be resolved through consideration of this initial review report and stakeholder and community feedback. However, Forest of Dean Council Planning Policy Officers have advised the Town Council to progress the NDP review to deliver an up to date local policy framework. They have offered to provide support to address issues through ongoing dialogue as the NDP review progresses.

A full note of initial dialogue with FoDDC Planning Policy Officers is Appendix C of this report.

Gloucestershire County Council Transport Plan and Local Flood Management Strategies are more up to date and can provide a solid strategic foundation upon which to link related updated local water management policy and sustainable transport policies.

2.4 Stakeholder Workshop Feedback

Introduction and Approach

Stage 1 of the NDP review included early engagement with Members of Lydney Town Council, invited partner organisations and local stakeholders identified by the Town Council who represent the community, local businesses and service providers.

This has been cross-referenced with/supplemented by stakeholders who were invited to and were involved in Lydney Forward engagement events.

The aim of initial engagement is to;

- Launch the Review of Lydney's Neighbourhood Plan within the Community
- Inform Stakeholders of the existing NDP and the Review Purpose, Objectives and Process



- Engage Stakeholders in starting to refresh, update and add priority themes, issues and ideas
- Seek volunteers to be further involved in supporting or informing the NDP review

Initial engagement has been organised as an invited “drop-in” style event. This enables stakeholders a broader time within which to visit the event at Lydney Community Hall scheduled between 3pm and 7pm on 20 April 2022. It also provides a more inclusive approach that enables stakeholders to engage in a way that they prefer, either through DIY input into a number of interactive activities and/or through direct dialogue with representatives of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Feedback Summary

The workshop consisted of a number of stations. In addition to information stations there were two main activity stations.

The first activity sought to identify topics and themes that remain a priority for the updated NP. It divided the topic areas contained within the existing Lydney Neighbourhood Plan into topic activity sheets. Attendees were asked to rank and give their opinions on the importance of priorities within these topic areas. This process involved a number of stations with tick boxes for identifying important priorities.

The second activity asked attendees to identify Lydney’s valued assets and areas in which Lydney should be improved through annotating a map or comment sheet with free text answers using post-it notes. This activity began to identify the priorities for protection and enhancement within the updated NP.

A full record of Workshop arrangements and verbatim feedback forms Appendix D of this report. The following section is a summary of the findings within each of the topic areas.

Activity 1 and 2 Feedback Summary

Environment and Heritage

Top three priorities:

1. Enhancement of the River Lyd green corridor for local wildlife, biodiversity and community leisure
2. Protecting Lydney’s distinct character and heritage
3. Ensuring new development does not make local flood issues worse

There was strong support within the Environment and Heritage category for protecting The River Lyd and its related green and blue infrastructure. Discussion on the day revealed that many felt that the river was an underutilised asset within the town and as evidenced by the voting results there is a strong desire to enhance the Lyd’s green corridor and surrounding areas. Results from stations three and four also identified the River Lyd corridor as underutilised with several comments highlighting a desire to see the river made more accessible. Suggestions included a river walk and areas of rewilding to improve biodiversity.

Lydney’s distinct character and heritage were also identified as important to the workshop attendees. Voting at station two identified this as the second most important priority. Lydney has seen significant growth in recent years with more housing development already in the pipeline. Concern that this could erode the character of the town was common amongst attendees. Comments from

stations three and four also identified that there was a sense that recent development had been uncontrolled to the detriment of local character.

Lydney has been subject to several incidents of flooding in recent years and this is reflected in the voting results from station two. It is clear that attendees felt that new development should take care to avoid exacerbating the issue.

Living in Lydney

Top three priorities:

1. Balancing housing growth with community facilities
2. Affordable homes for local people
3. Creating mixed use neighbourhoods with employment space

Within the *“Living in Lydney”* category there was a clear concern that Lydney’s housing growth was outpacing the capacity of local facilities and infrastructure. This was echoed across the various stations and throughout discussion on the day. When viewing the top three priorities in this category, the results present a clear picture that the attendees felt it is important to ensure housing is delivered alongside employment and facilities to support it. The results also show there is a perception amongst attendees that a lack of affordability risks fragmenting the local community and there is a clear desire to avoid this.

The sentiment is summed up well by a post-it note left on the *“living in Lydney”* station 2 board simply stating *“when it comes to housing, infrastructure is the most important thing”*.

Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education

Top three priorities:

1. Improving community healthcare and wellbeing facilities
2. Providing post-16 education and training in Lydney
3. Protecting and improving Lydney’s open spaces and recreational areas

In line with the conclusions of the *“Living in Lydney”* section of this report it is clear from the results of the *“Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education”* section that infrastructure and community facilities within Lydney are very important to the respondents. Improving healthcare and wellbeing facilities in Lydney is the top voted priority at station two with the health centres and hospital also being identified as both the most valued facilities and also the facilities that needed to be worked on at stations three and four.

“Providing post-16 education and training” is the second most popular priority and one respondent went so far as to identify a potential site for this on the map at station four.

“Protecting and improving Lydney’s open spaces and recreational areas” is the third most important priority within this topic area and this is also reflected within the later station three responses, Bathurst Park and the recreational fields are mentioned specifically many times as the most valued open spaces to respondents. Protection and enhancement of these spaces was also highlighted by post-it notes on the large map during the event.

Working in Lydney

Top three priorities:

1. Increased employment opportunities in line with population growth
2. Supporting entrepreneurs with start-up space
3. Protecting Lydney's existing employment spaces

The *"Working in Lydney"* table from station two showed that there was a desire amongst respondents to balance new housing growth with the necessary supporting employment opportunities. This echoes the previous sections of this report that shows there is a desire for Lydney's employment and infrastructure to grow at a pace that matches the growth of housing development in the area. Within the map element of stations three and four some attendees identified potential locations for employment development.

"Supporting entrepreneurs with start-up space" is a priority that was also identified during the Lydney Forward consultation stages in 2021. The desire for affordable business premises was also identified with the lack of affordable business premises noted as one of the issues that need work.

Getting Around

Top three priorities:

1. Making public transport accessible for everyone
2. Developments to integrate with the surrounding highway and minimise congestion

There were 3 priorities that were tied for 3rd place within the getting around category and they are as follows:

- Improving connections to Lydney railway station
- Ensuring Lydney's communities are connected to public transport
- Development layout to ensure safety for all highway users flow of traffic within the proposal itself and within the wider highway network.

With regards to *"Getting Around"* votes across the board were fairly even. Making public transport accessible to everyone was voted to be the most important but this was by a slim margin and many of the other priorities also received a lot of votes, this can be seen in the three way tie for the third most important priority. This highlights a general dissatisfaction with getting around in Lydney with a number of issues requiring resolution.

Within the responses the most important priorities were focussed around two main themes. Ensuring public transport is available and accessible to everyone is clearly the most important priority for respondents to this engagement. Access to rail and bus services are highlighted as important priorities and responses also highlighted the rail and bus services as cherished assets with potential for enhancement.

Traffic issues are identified as the other main theme in the responses and this echoes past engagement. It can be seen here that there is a desire to avoid exacerbating this by ensuring developments are well integrated into the wider road network.

Lydney Forward (Town Centre Improvement)

Top three priorities:

1. Improving the town centre shopping offer
2. A new town centre space
3. Reducing traffic and pollution

The Lydney Forward objectives were drawn from the 2021 town centre initiative and focus on ways to improve and revitalise the town centre in the face of COVID-19 recovery and the wider trend of declining high streets. There is a strong desire within Lydney to improve the town centre shopping offer and to create a town centre that people want to visit and spend time in.

This is reflected within the results of the station two votes which show a desire to improve the town centre public realm experience by firstly giving the local community a space to meet and hold events and secondly by improving the environment through a reduction in traffic and improved air quality.

Lydney Harbour

Top three priorities:

1. Protection and enhancement of Lydney Harbour's special heritage and character
2. Enhancing harbour tourist and visitor economy
3. Promoting harbour area employment

Results from the station two voting show a strong support of protecting and enhancing the Harbour and its special heritage and character, while enhancing the visitor and tourism offer. It is also recognised that the harbour has a key role to play in the employment opportunities within the local area.

New Topics and Themes

Top three priorities:

1. Local Green and Renewable Energy Production
2. Climate Change and Achieving Net Zero Carbon
3. Staycations and Local Tourism

New topics and themes cover issues that have arisen or become more prominent in the years since the previous neighbourhood plan was made. A variety of different areas were included within this topic area and it is clear from the votes received that climate and carbon zero Lydney is a very important priority for the respondents. There is a clear support for local renewables and an appetite to explore ways to reduce Lydney's carbon emissions.

Tourism and staycations are recognised as another area in which Lydney has potential to enhance and co-ordinate its offer. It is clear that Lydney has much to offer in these areas, the harbour, Taurus crafts and Dean Forest Railway are just a few local facilities that create a draw for visitors. As is mentioned in the current neighbourhood plan there remains a desire to bolster this with improved evening activities.

Overall

The final table for station two asked attendees to choose their top three most important topic areas. The top three were:

1. Living in Lydney
2. Getting Around Lydney

There were two topic areas tied for third most important as follows:

- Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education
- Lydney Forward (Town Centre)

These results from this launch consultation show a range of priorities that are supported by attendees with a number of topic areas receiving strong support. Top priorities for attendees were primarily focussed around ensuring delivery of the appropriate infrastructure and employment to support the recently and soon to be delivered housing.

Results also show strong support for delivering an improved town centre experience that is welcoming and accessible to all. With a clear focus on delivering reductions in car usage and improvements to Lydney's carbon footprint.

PART 3

Review Stage 2; Project Planning, Programme, Resources and Activities

There are three main aspects to consider: programming, resources and activities. These are summarised below.

3.1 Programming

- **Project Planning**
Neighbourhood planning is no small undertaking and requires effective management of time and resources. Project planning is essential to ensure efficient use of resources and attention to all necessary procedures that results in a successful NDP review. Depending on in-house Town Council as well as Steering Group resources, consultants can assist with preparing a project plan and reviewing progress.
- **Timescale**
A realistic timescale for the NDP review must be established and kept under review as the project progresses. It is likely that the process to referendum will require between 18 months and two years. About twelve months of this is required for post-submission procedures to referendum.

It should be noted that Forest of Dean Council has advised that the new Local Plan is at a relatively early stage in preparation. An emerging strategy is scheduled for Reg 18 and Pre-submission Plan consultation (Reg 19) scheduled for in Spring 2023, with Examination following in the Autumn. Adoption may not be until early in 2024.

The implications of the NDP review preceding the Local Plan Examination are discussed above. It would be advantageous to the updated NDP's strength and longevity to be able to "hook" to new Local Plan policies (rather than the existing Core Strategy. Coordinated Local Plan and NDP review programming may enable the NDP to achieve the optimum outcome.

The initial illustrative programme (Appendix E) suggests a potential slightly extended NDP review programme that may enable the updated Neighbourhood Plan to be submitted and then examined once the new Local Plan policies have been set and examined. This may form the basis for further dialogue with FoDDC.

3.2 Resources

- **Funding**

Basic Grant Support

The qualifying body can apply for a basic grant of up to £10,000 from Locality to cover professional fees and local costs / expenses to support the review of the NDP. It has applied for a portion of this already to cover Stage 1 work. Completion of the review may require more funding than the basic allowance, depending on the significance of changes. But as Lydney is a strategically significant town, the Town Council should be prepared for a greater resource demand. Place Studio have submitted an estimate of consultant support for Stage 2 of the review to assist budget planning and grant applications.

The 2022-23 grant support package has recently been announced by Locality, which will enable an application for support funding for stage 2 of the review to be made after April.

Additional Grant Support

Locality provide further grant support of up to £8,000 which is available for groups that meet certain criteria. This includes either progressing site allocations or preparing Design Guides and Codes or Master Plans. More information about the grant available and application process can be found in the Locality Neighbourhood Planning Grant & Technical Support Guidance Notes¹.

Options for Lydney

For Lydney, extending housing policy and potentially progressing site allocations may be a route the Steering Group concludes would be supported by the community and respond best to meeting particular local housing needs. Grant support may cover necessary additional work for a limited sites allocation process.

Lydney continues to be the focus of housing growth, which will extend into the new Local Plan period and may be extended further by it. This may be considered to have adequately address local needs (See Housing Needs Assessment below).

¹

[https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/neighbourhood-planning-grant-technical-support-guidance-not es/](https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/neighbourhood-planning-grant-technical-support-guidance-notes/)

Examination of development management decisions has suggested that progression of local character assessment, design guidance or coding may strengthen the effectiveness of the NDP and improve quality of design and wellbeing. Grants support may be harnessed for this. Design codes and site master planning can also be supported by the Technical Support programme (see below).

The existing Neighbourhood Plan identifies improvement of the town centre as a priority. The work of the Lydney Forward initiative suggests it will remain so. Lydney Forward identified that production of a town centre master plan as a priority project. Further dialogue with Locality can explore the potential of grant/technical support to enable this to be undertaken as part of the NDP review process.

- **Technical Support**

Consider what technical support is available and apply to Locality for the relevant packages. AECOM provide a range of NDP support packages through Locality. Harnessing this resource enables grant monies and other resources to be spent on other activities. There is no limit to the number of support packages applied for. More information is available in the Locality Neighbourhood Planning Grant & Technical Support Guidance Notes².

Options for Lydney

Existing NDP Policy Healthcheck Review

This package has been advised to support the Stage 1 review. It provides a baseline assessment of the robustness and conformity of the current NDP and identifies opportunities for Stage 2 review policy and evidence updating priorities.

Housing Needs Assessment

Forest of Dean Council will produce a housing needs assessment for the district. This may provide adequate evidence of local needs within Lydney. However, a locally specific HNA may provide the Steering Group with a more refined and distinct picture of local needs. This can enable the NDP's policies and potential allocations to address particular housing needs soundly and in greater detail.

Design Guidance and Master Planning

The need and potential for these packages have been expressed above and may enable financial support to be focused on alternative policy or place priorities.

- **Professional Support**

Professional consultants can support the Steering Group in the NDP review process. Depending on the Steering Group and wider community skills and capacities, it can also provide assistance in overall project management and shaping and delivery of a community engagement strategy.

Place Studio can directly provide experienced and chartered neighbourhood planning support and town planning support, qualified expertise in urban design and green infrastructure and award-winning approaches to community and stakeholder engagement. We also network with other trusted experts to be able to offer chartered heritage and landscape support where required.

²

[https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/neighbourhood-planning-grant-technical-support-guidance-not es/](https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/neighbourhood-planning-grant-technical-support-guidance-notes/)

If the Steering Group agrees, Place Studio can provide a quotation to set out anticipated overall costs for the NDP review, including a detailed breakdown to support the qualifying bodies' application for grant funding.

Support from the Town Council officers is also vital and should also be considered going forward taking into account workloads, project responsibilities etc.

- **Volunteers**

Consider the capacity of the Steering Group to play a role in the review work. Harnessing skills held and capacity to employ them can play a major role, harnessing local expertise and interests. Often, Steering Groups and local people organise into Working Groups to focus on particular topics to spread the load and to ensure people work on the topics which truly interest them.

Consider harnessing local knowledge by working with others in the community, for example a local ramblers group may be well placed to undertake local heritage evidence collection. This has the added benefit of engaging local people in the Plan and building a sense of local ownership of the document.

- **Forest of Dean Council**

Forest of Dean Council has a duty to assist the Steering Group. Jennifer Jones is your link officer. The simultaneous review of the Local Plan presents challenges but also opportunities to collaborate in producing and sharing policy evidence and policy responsibility. FoDDC has requested that Lydney Town Council keep FoDDC informed and consulted as the review moves forward.

3.3 Stage 2 Activities

Activities may be informed by the Locality Neighbourhood Planning “roadmap” as well as toolkits associated with evidence gathering tasks that will be a primary component of updating and adding policies.

- **Securing Resources**

An initial task (following establishing a Steering Group) will be to secure resources and appoint /commission the support packages needed to commence and inform stage 2 of the review.

Establishing Topic Working Groups

Policy updating can continue to reflect the broad policy areas of the existing plan, supplemented by new topics that are now recognised local priorities. The Steering Group should nominate topic update leaders and small working groups to progress areas of NP updating.

- **Project Coordination and Management Planning**

The Steering Group will be responsible for agreeing and management of the review programme and for signing off outputs from working groups. It will also be responsible for ensuring the community has been appropriately engaged, there is consistency and soundness of approach and that the updated plan meets all basic conditions (through production of a consultation statement and basic condition statement).

- **Community engagement and Communication**

Engagement and communication should be woven into the NDP review process and is integral to its success. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the reasons for NDP review are clearly expressed and to avoid consultation fatigue in the wider community, especially as stages of consultation on the FoDDC Local Plan will over-lap with NDP engagement stages.

A community engagement strategy should be planned at the outset of the review process, to include engagement woven into evidence gathering activities as well as consultation on emerging draft content at appropriate points.

Lydney Town Council already harnesses social media and its own community newsletter to keep local people informed and engaged. This should continue to support communications about the NDP review throughout its process.

The Steering Group has commissioned the production of a new NDP review website. This platform will be ready to “go-live” at the commencement of Stage 2 of the review. It will combine information about the existing plan, its review and the Steering Group leading it. It will also provide a platform for interactive engagement to enable the community to add evidence and opinions as well as being the host site for the more formal Regulation 14 draft plan consultation. (This summary report and associated appendices as well as all further evidence bases should be placed on the new website and shared with the community.)

In addition to online engagement, the removal of Covid 19 social distancing rules now enables Steering Group to undertake face to face informal community consultations. On-street and Bathurst Park Lydney Forward events have proven successful in engaging the community and may form part of this agenda. Outreach engagement with harder to reach groups including children and older people may also be woven into early engagement, through linking in with existing club and societies and local schools. Proposals to do this can be developed as an early stage two planning task.

- **Evidence Collection**

Initial work on the review has identified a lack of locally specific evidence to support the policies, so this will be a key aspect of work in the next stage. Professional consultants can support the Steering Group to collect robust evidence that will add local detail to the reviewed policies. Locality³, Place Studio and numerous other organisations have now produced guidance and toolkits to help NDP groups work effectively and efficiently through evidence collection. The made NDP is already supported by evidence, and so professional consultants may be particularly helpful at this stage to identify the additional evidence gathering activities that would be useful at this stage.

- **Policy Drafting**

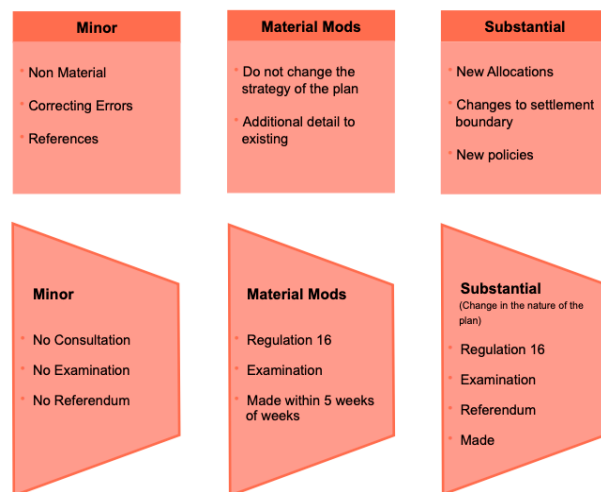
Initial work on the review has identified the need to update a number of policies due to contextual changes and updates to the national and local policy framework. It has also identified areas for potential new planning policies. Evidence collection will inform drafting of updated and/or new planning policies. This technical aspect of plan drafting is where professional consultants can make a big difference; turning the local knowledge and evidence into robust and effective planning policies.

³ <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/>

Review – regulations and process of bringing the reviewed Plan into force

There are three options for the level of review to a Neighbourhood Plan, which are summarised in the diagram shown right.

Findings from AECOM's and Place Studio's analysis, and discussions during the Stakeholder Workshop suggest that the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan review could be material or substantial. It is likely to be substantial if the Steering Group wishes to progress to include new planning policies in the reviewed NDP. It should be noted that it is the reviewed NDP's Examiner who decides whether a referendum should be held on the NDP. This is another reason that it is important that community consultation is integral to the review process.



The level of review to embark on is subject to overall resources available to the Steering Group and the ambitions of the group.

Above: Options for Reviewing NDPs - Herefordshire Council 2020⁴

Appendix A: AECOM NDP Policy and Evidence Healthcheck

To come as a separate document.

Appendix B: Development Management Performance Review

Introduction

This report is a review of planning decisions made within the neighbourhood plan area and within the lifetime of the current Neighbourhood Plan to illustrate the made plan's policies' performance within the development management process. The Lydney Neighbourhood Plan was made on 1 March 2016. Therefore since its inception there have been six years of planning applications submitted.

Lydney Town Council were asked to provide a range of 8 of the most important planning decisions made in Lydney in recent years. Place Studio have then reviewed these planning applications where possible. The results of this can be seen in the table on the following page.

⁴ <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/20860/review-of-made-adopted-neighbourhood-development-plans>

Summary

A brief overall summary of the performance of the policies is provided below. The full list of applications and comments are available in the table on the following pages.

- Generally the neighbourhood plan can be seen to be used by the Local Authority when assessing planning applications.
- The environmental policies LYD ENV 1 and LYD ENV 2 have generally been successful in ensuring development is located within the settlement boundary and does not negatively impact biodiversity.
- LYD TRAN 1 has in most cases been used effectively when assessing development's integration with the existing transport network.
- There is some potential to strengthen or focus LYD TRAN 1 with use of a masterplan or site specific diagrams if there are some sites or areas within the neighbourhood area that might benefit from a cohesive and efficient transport infrastructure layout.
- LYD GEN 1 has been successful in ensuring appropriate consideration is being given to drainage and wastewater across multiple applications.
- LYD HOUS 1 has been effective in communicating a need for housing for the elderly however it was unsuccessful bringing forward development on the site which was referred to in the policy. It may be appropriate going forward to reassess the type of development that is being promoted for the site in LYD HOUS1. Technical support packages are available to support this work.

Development Management Performance Table:

The table below lists planning decisions made during the lifetime of the made neighbourhood plan. These have been identified as the most significant by Lydney Town Council. The table notes if the Lydney NDP policies have been referenced by Forest of Dean District Council's Development Management team in delegated or Committee reports and provides comment on the weight afforded to them. Where no decision has been made, this review does not pass comment. The results of this review of resolved planning decisions can identify where existing policies may need strengthening or making more user-friendly within the development management process.

Planning Application Reference Number	Description of Development	Decision	Reference to Lydney Neighbourhood Plan	Comments
P0688/19/OUT	A hybrid planning application comprising of all existing structures and their demolition and mixed use development and associated infrastructure and works comprising of fish processing building (20,600m2 B2 use), Building consisting of an eel farm (8,000m2 of B2 use), plus 1,300m2 restaurant/cafe (A3 use) and 700m2 visitor centre (D1 use). Energy centre (800m2 B2 use), storage building (500m2 ancillary to B2 use), Amenity building for HGV drivers (150m2 ancillary to B2 use), Generator building/substations (500m2 ancillary to B2 use), staff accommodation consisting of 3 No. 3 bed dwelling houses, 8 No. 1 bed apartments, 4 No. 2 bed apartments and 18 shared units of accommodation for seasonal staff. New pedestrian, cycle and vehicular accesses onto	No decision as of 17/02/2022 (Extension granted until 29 April 2022)	N/A	No decision. Potential to revisit if a decision is received within the appropriate time frame.

	Harbour road and a network of internal routes. 2 No water treatment lagoons, parking areas for visitors, staff and HGVs. Landscaping and planting and associated development and works. Utilities infrastructure including water supply, foul and surface water sewers and underground tanks, electrical supply (including substations), telecommunications equipment, on site renewable energy and associated works. Outline application (all reserved matters for approval other than external appearance) for the erection of a building containing up to 2,500m2 of A1,A2,A3,A4 and A5 uses. (Revised description.) Pine End Works & Land To The North Harbour Road Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 4ER			
P0745/18/OUT	Outline application for mixed use development comprising up to 320 residential dwellings, neighbourhood centre, employment land, associated infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping. Demolition of existing buildings. Creation of a new vehicular access from Lydney by-pass.	Approved	LYD TRAN 1 LYD TRAN 2 LYD TRAN 3 LYD GEN1 LYD ENV 2	No officers report
P0859/21/FUL	Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a 66-bed care home for older people (Use Class C2) with associated access, landscaping and parking. Fairtide Centre Naas Lane Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 5AT	Approved	LYDHOUS1 - Housing for Elderly People	LYDHOUS1 identified the need for housing for elderly people, however it also identified a specific site - which is not the site this application relates to. It might therefore be necessary to review the current need for housing and reassess what development would be

			<p>LYD ENV 1 - Location of New Development</p> <p>LYD ENV 2 - Protecting the Natural Environment</p> <p>LYD GEN 1 - Water Management</p> <p>LYD TRAN 1 - Improvements to the Highway Infrastructure</p>	<p>appropriate on the site promoted by LYDHOUS1. An application for technical support in the form of a housing needs assessment could be appropriate here to identify the current requirements for housing on this site and others within the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>LYD ENV 2 is mentioned specifically in the decision notice planning conditions and is referenced in a number of conditions aimed at reducing harm to biodiversity.</p> <p>LYD GEN 1 has been noted in combination with local plan policies to ensure delivery of a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) to ensure surface runoff is managed appropriately.</p> <p>Note: The officers report was not made available for this application. This analysis of the use of the NDP is the decision process has been produced using the decision notice and planning conditions and may therefore be incomplete.</p>
P1975/19/ FUL	Construction of a new access off the A48. Land Between Rodley Manor Way And Naas Lane Lydney Gloucestershire	Approved	<p>LYD ENV 1</p> <p>LYD ENV 2</p> <p>LYD GEN 1</p> <p>LYD TRAN 1</p>	<p>Relevant NDP policies are listed in the Policy Context section of the Committee Report.</p> <p>LYD TRAN 1 has been mentioned in reference to this application. The proposed development provides access to a significant development and therefore the officer deemed that the proposal did satisfy the requirements of LYD TRAN 1. There are some concerns that when looking at the larger context of development to the east of Lydney a more elegant solution might have been able to provide access to the adjacent Hurst Farm</p>

				<p>employment site allocation.</p> <p>It could therefore be appropriate in the plan review to enhance LYD TRAN 1 to include reference to any specific sites or new issues that might be highlighted as a result of engagement.</p> <p>Further to this there is also potential for the review of the plan to include design guidance or coding that produce site specific deliverables and criteria to strengthen the NDPs ability to influence the form of development on sites allocated within the Local Plan.</p> <p>LYD ENV 2 has been referenced with regards to ensuring protection of environment and biodiversity.</p> <p>Note: LTC perception that this is a missed opportunity for the NP to have required delivery of access to Hurst Farm employment site</p>
P1056/20/FUL	Erection of a Class A1 food store, associated parking, landscaping and ancillary works. Demolition of existing buildings. Lydney Car Centre Newerne Street Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 5RF	Approved	N/A	No officer report
P1061/20/PIP	Permission in principle for the erection of 6 flats. Land Off Swan Road Lydney Gloucestershire	Approved		<p>NDP listed in Policy context but no specific policies referenced in the officers report despite being relevant in certain areas (ie. LYD ENV 1, LYD CEN 1).</p> <p>Note: LTC viewed this as overdevelopment of the site, potential to explore policy regarding overdevelopment.</p>

P0011/20/ FUL	Environmental improvement works (remediation) to include proposed limited site excavation, off-site disposal of contaminated shallow soils and the addition of imported capping materials up to 300mm in depth.	Approved	LYD ENV 1	This application is related to work to bring a contaminated site back into use. LYD ENV 1 is mentioned in the officers report regarding this development. Supporting development within the settlement boundary.
P0690/19/ OUT	Outline application for the erection of six private affordable market dwellings with associated landscaping, parking and works. Construction of new vehicular access. Demolition of existing dwelling. School House Naas Lane Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 5AT	Approved	ENV 1 - Location of new development ENV 2 - Protecting the natural environment GEN 1 - Wastewater TRAN 1 - Improvements to the highway infrastructure	Site is located within the settlement boundary and therefore supported by LYD ENV 1 which is noted in the officers report. LYD TRAN 1 has been referenced when assessing the proposal for provisions of accessibility to the wider transport network.

Appendix C: FoDDC Planning Policy Officers Record of Initial Dialogue

Meeting Note

Forest of Dean Council Planning Service, Lydney Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Place Studio Ltd.

23 March 2022

Zoom Attendance

- Cllrs Harley, Saunders and Stockham Lydney Town Council
- Lydney Town Clerk
- Nigel Gibbons Forward Plan Manager, FoDC
- Anna Welsh and Jennifer Jones FoDC Planning Policy
- James Essery and Vaughan Thompson Place Studio

The meeting was the first opportunity to discuss the launch programme and content for the review of Lydney Neighbourhood Plan in the context of the existing Forest of Dean Core Strategy and the progression of a new Local Plan for the district.

In principle FoDC were supportive of the review of the LNP, recognising the current made plan to be towards the end of its life and requiring updating to remain an effective local planning policy document.

The existing District policy framework for Lydney consists of core policies within the Core Strategy 2012-26 and more detailed policies within a 2018 District Sites and Allocations document. Detailed policies for Lydney were initially developed to be within an area action plan for Lydney.

The existing strategic policy framework has allocated significant amounts of housing led growth on the east side of Lydney. These provide capacity for ongoing delivery beyond the lifetime of the current Core Strategy. There has been good progress made in securing planning consents to deliver housing allocations. However, there has not been progress in securing consents to deliver employment allocations within the neighbourhood area.

The programme for the development of the new Local Plan to 2041 is at an early stage. There is no crystallised strategy for Lydney. It is not likely that the new Local Plan will have reached examination or adoption in advance of the examination or making of the updated Lydney Neighbourhood Plan. This presents conformity challenges for the neighbourhood plan, which will be likely to need to be “hooked” to the current Core Strategy and Allocations DPD policies. Where these policies are closely linked to ongoing sustainable development principles contained in national policy guidance and updated district and local evidence, there is a lower risk that reviewed NP policies would become outdated by the new Local Plan. However, risk may be higher should the NP choose to allocate land towards meeting a housing target figure as this has not yet been established and could alter in the period prior to Local Plan adoption. Further explanation of the Local Plan review process are contained within the body of the summary report (Local Plan Context).

FoDC officers committed to ongoing dialogue with the neighbourhood plan Steering Group in its role in supporting the plan’s development and management of formal procedures. Jennifer Jones will be the initial contact, although she would not necessarily be formally the FoDC “link officer”

Appendix D: Record of Workshop arrangements and feedback

LYDNEY CONSULTATION: INVITED STAKEHOLDER DROP-IN EVENT

An invited stakeholder drop-in event was held at the Lydney Community Hall, on 20th April 2022 between 3-7pm.

The session was attended and facilitated by Vaughan Thompson and James Essery from Place Studio, along with a number of Town Councillors.

Prior to the event, Lydney Town Council sent email invites to known stakeholders.

The event was an informal drop-in session to launch the Neighbourhood Plan Review Process, allowing attendees to stay / engage as appropriate for them. It was structured around 6 key 'Stations' for attendees to move around, set up as follows:

- Welcome and introduction
- Updating Plan Priorities
- What should be treasured and protected in Lydney?
- What needs attention and/or improving?
- Next Steps
- Get Involved

Copies of the display boards and material from the event are available on request.

There were around 20 attendees at the event.

The following pages will show the verbatim responses from the engagement event.

Station One: Welcome and Introduction

The welcome and introduction station provided attendees with a short introduction to the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan and process of a neighbourhood plan review. This station also included a sign in sheet.

Station Two: Updating Plan Priorities

Station two contained a number of tables that separated the existing Neighbourhood Plan priorities into their relevant topic areas and asked attendees to mark three priorities that were the most important to them going forward into the new plan period. Included alongside this were some new priorities developed from the town centre initiative Lydney Forward which was run throughout summer 2021 (a full report and summary of the Lydney Forward initiative is available from Lydney Town Council). In addition to this were some new topic areas and themes were developed from

wider contextual changes both at the district and national level that have occurred since the first Neighbourhood Plan was drafted.

Attendees were also given the opportunity to add any priorities which they felt were important but not represented in Neighbourhood Plan 1.

This enables us to understand which priorities are still relevant to the local community. The process also contributes to developing an understanding of which objectives were successful and which need further attention. The tables are shown below.

2.1 Environment and Heritage

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for environment and heritage
Protecting Lydney's distinct character and heritage	9
Ensuring Lydney's growth does not merge with neighbouring villages	0
Protection and enhancement of Lydney's local built heritage	2
Protecting and enhancing Lydney's habitats and biodiversity	4
Enhancement of the River Lyd green corridor for local wildlife, biodiversity and community leisure	10
Creating green walking, cycling and wildlife corridors	2
Ensuring new development does not make local flood issues worse	6
Protecting the biodiversity and environment of the River Severn	4

2.2 Living in Lydney (Housing)

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for Living in Lydney (Housing)
Meeting the housing needs for Lydney's older and disabled people	5
Affordable homes for local people	7
Balancing housing growth with community facilities	11
Creating mixed use neighbourhoods with employment space	6

Ensuring new residential developments are in keeping with the character of their surroundings	1
Ensuring new homes are energy efficiency and contribute to carbon zero ambitions	5
New homes development should be served by a superfast Broadband	1
Add anything missing below	
Infrastructure is the most important thing	1

2.3 Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education
Improving community healthcare and wellbeing facilities	10
Building a Lydney Health and Wellbeing Hub	5
Increasing primary and secondary school place capacity	6
Protecting and improving Lydney's open spaces and recreational areas	7
Providing post-16 education and training in Lydney	9
Identifying additional land for use for burials and interments	3

2.4 Working in Lydney

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for Working in Lydney
Protecting Lydney's existing employment spaces	7
Increased employment opportunities in line with population growth	12
Supporting entrepreneurs with start up space	10
Improving access to Lydney Harbour Industrial Estate	4
Creating a new Lydney co-working and business support hub	5

2.5 Getting Around

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for Getting Around
Development layout to ensure safety for all highway users flow of traffic within the proposal itself and within the wider highway network.	5
Developments to integrate with the surrounding highway and minimise congestion.	6
Protection and improvement of Lydney's public rights of way network	4
Promoting health and wellbeing with safe and green cycle and walking routes	4
Ensuring Lydney's communities are connected to public transport	5
Making public transport accessible for everyone	8
Improving Lydney bus station	1
Improving connections to Lydney railway station	5
Supporting Lydney's heritage railway	0

2.6 Lydney Forward

This station also included a brief summary of the Lydney Forward initiative

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for Lydney Town Centre
Protection of existing town centre shops and services	3
Improving the town centre shopping offer	8
Protecting and conserving town centre heritage	0
Supporting Lydney's evening economy	6
Enhancing town centre shopfronts and building quality	3
Reducing traffic and pollution	7

Improving town centre public realm and safety	1
Improving links to the River Lyd and Bathurst Park	2
A new town centre space	7
More town centre greenery	3

2.7 Lydney Harbour

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 priorities for Lydney Harbour
Protection and enhancement of Lydney Harbours special heritage and character	12
Protection of harbour and River Severn wildlife and biodiversity	6
Enhancing harbour tourist and visitor economy	11
Promoting harbour area employment	10
Add anything missing below	
Get rid of illegally sited caravans	1
Move boats that are abandoned	1

2.8 New Topics and Themes

Existing Neighbourhood Plan Priorities	Tick your Top 3 new priorities and themes
Climate Change and Achieving Net Zero Carbon	8
Local Green and Renewable Energy Production	10
Impacts of Severn Bridge Toll Removal on Local Housing	3
Staycations and Local Tourism	7
Electric cars	3
E-bikes and micro-scooters	0
Internet Shopping and High Street Vitality	1
Covid 19 Impacts and town centre recovery	1

Destination Lydney Harbour Regeneration	3
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2.9 Overall

For the final table in station one participants were asked to choose their top three categories from the above priority topic areas.

Topic areas	Choose your top three
Environment and Heritage	4
Living in Lydney	8
Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education	5
Working in Lydney	4
Getting Around Lydney	6
Lydney Forward (Town Centre)	5
Lydney Harbour	1

Station Three and Four: Likes and Dislikes

Station Three and Four asked attendees to look at a large map of Lydney and highlight or note down the things within Lydney that they felt should be either treasured and protected, or needed attention/improvement. Attendees were given the opportunity to fill in their answer on tables provided or by sticking post-it notes onto the map.

The verbatim notes from the tables will be shown here first, then following that the responses in post-it note form will also be shown.

What are the things that you value most?
<p><i>Lydney's Natural Environment and Open Spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Severn • River Lyd x2 • Bathurst Park x2 • Recreational field inc. Lake • Pidcocks Canal • Centurion Road Dog Exercise Area

<p><i>Community facilities and places to live in Lydney</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Centres and Hospital
<p><i>Places for Working and Shopping</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good local shops ● Diverse shops ● Free Parking x2
<p><i>Lydney's Connections</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Railway Station ● Bus Station

<p>What are the things that we need to work on?</p>
<p><i>Lydney's Natural Environment and Open Spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● River Lyd to Severn - Access and biodiversity ● River walk Lyd to Harbour ● Designation of rewilding areas ● Rodley road etc. area of town (east) - more parking, less overgrown grass! ● Fire engines cannot get down most roads because of cars parked on both sides.
<p><i>Community facilities and places to live in Lydney</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hospitals ● Health Centres ● No more uncontrolled development ● More allotments, community orchards and planting
<p><i>Places for Working and Shopping</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investment in Lydney Town Centre shops etc. ● Pine End Works ● JD Norman site near Oakdale (mcdonalds or kfc) ● Leisure ● Tourism

- Shopping
- Affordable premises for startup and community businesses

Lydney's Connections

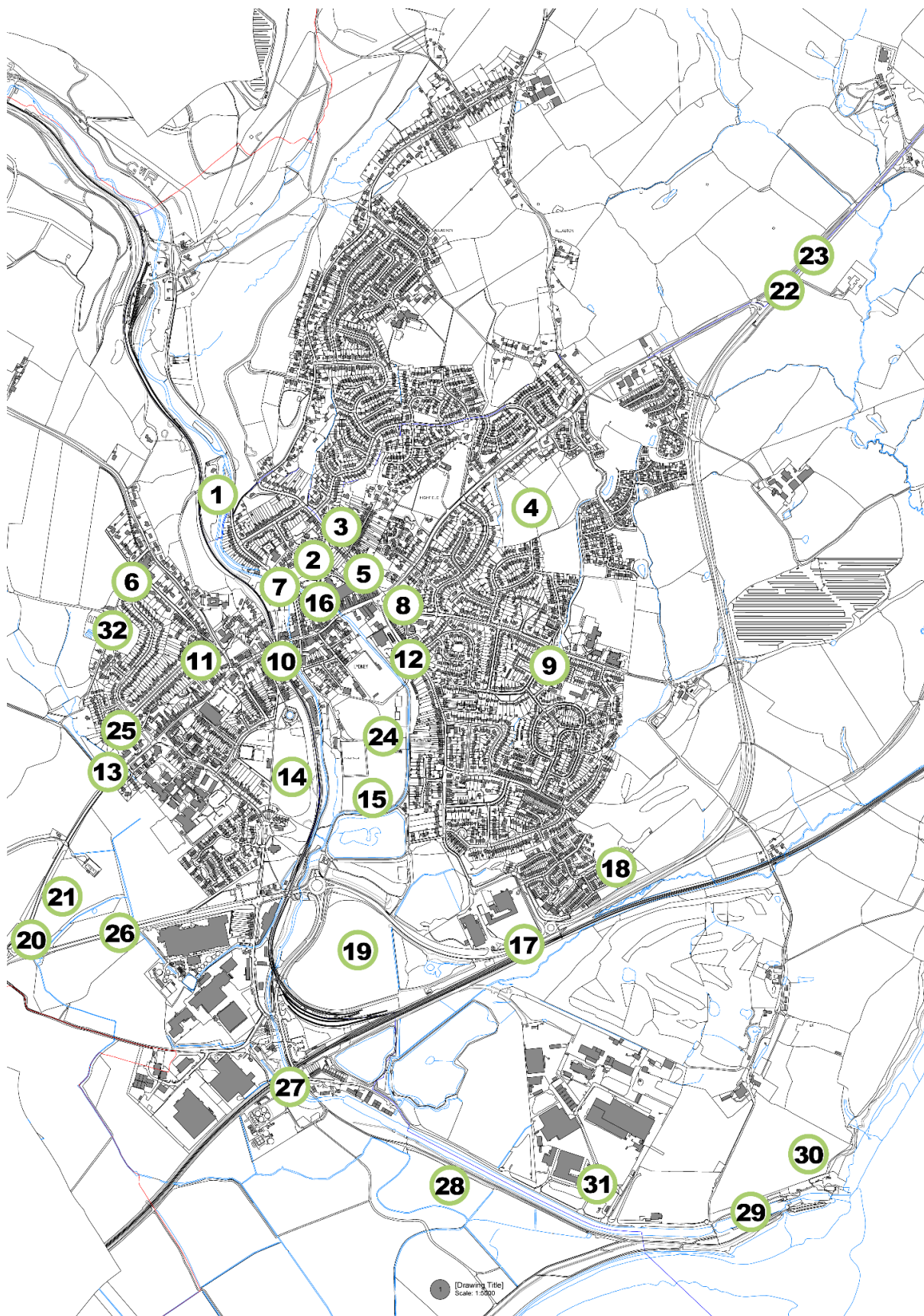
- More connections at Lydney Railway Station
- Transport hub - integrating bus/train/cycle/ev charging/connections to Lydney and The Forest
- 20mph speed limit
- Cycle Lanes
- Too much traffic!
- Taxi rank

Map based post it notes verbatim:

Below is a list of verbatim responses received in post-it note form on the map at station three and four. The task for this stage was to identify things that are valued in Lydney and things that need improvement. Throughout the exercise many attendees also used this map as an opportunity to express some of their ideas for improvement to the town. Each answer below has a number which corresponds to a number on the map on the following page.

1. Baptist Chapel empty and at risk
2. Newerne Street overflow car park - opportunity to develop?
3. Car Parking Survey
4. Town Centre - Upper floor uses - Explore
5. McDonalds at doctors surgery
6. Car Park at rear of Cavendish Building - opportunity to develop?
7. Co-Op entrance diverted to rear of car park to forest road. Pedestrianise front and more plants and trees
8. Sevenbanks surgery to be developed as old peoples living
9. Eliminate unkempt grass areas and replace with parking. Ambulances unable to drive down most roads.
10. Move fire station out on bypass and sell current location to waitrose
11. Move ambulance depot to bypass and replace with 6th form centre
12. Line of riverside restaurants
13. Traffic calming on high street like a french village street - to high pollution
14. Sensory area in bathurst park
15. Cafe, toilets and wine bar at the lake
16. Purchase Newerne street car park from F.O.D.D.C.
17. New vertical farm is a huge asset
18. Oakdale needs increased access to town and better facilities at lake to support it, cafe restaurant etc.

19. Potential for nature reserve
20. Park and Ride at Taurus Crafts
21. Valued Facilities Taurus Crafts, Bathurst Lido, Leisure Centre
22. Town Gateway
23. Traffic lights at junction too fast
24. Protect and enhance park
25. Employment possibilities at police station
26. Increased burial spaces
27. New path and cycleway link to harbour
28. New road / path on industrial site, watersports on Lyd, increase tourism
29. Car parking problems
30. Protect field from development - public footpath, views, historic setting
31. Smokery development is huge asset (£50m investment)
32. Potential site - withdrawn planning app



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Station Five: Next Steps

Station five contained a brief explanation of what would be happening next with the neighbourhood plan review. The station had information about the context within which the Neighbourhood Plan is being developed for example the Forest of Dean District Local Plan Review that will be taking place alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. It also contained information about the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and next steps that the town council will be undertaking.

Station Six: Get Involved

Station six thanked the attendees for their time and provided attendees with an opportunity to express interest to be on the steering group or one of the topic groups helping to progress the evidence building and plan drafting.

Summary of Feedback

Environment and Heritage

Top three priorities:

4. Enhancement of the River Lyd green corridor for local wildlife, biodiversity and community leisure
5. Protecting Lydney's distinct character and heritage
6. Ensuring new development does not make local flood issues worse

There was strong support within the Environment and Heritage category for protecting The River Lyd and its related green and blue infrastructure. Discussion on the day revealed that many felt that the river was an underutilised asset within the town and as evidenced by the voting results there is a strong desire to enhance the Lyd's green corridor and surrounding areas. Results from stations three and four also identified the River Lyd corridor as underutilised with several comments highlighting a desire to see the river made more accessible. Suggestions included a river walk and areas of rewilding to improve biodiversity.

Lydney's distinct character and heritage were also identified as important to the workshop attendees. Voting at station two identified this as the second most important priority. Lydney has seen significant growth in recent years with more housing development to come. Concern that this could erode the character of the town was common amongst the attendees. Comments from stations three and four also identified that there was a sense that recent development had been uncontrolled to the detriment of local character.

Lydney has been subject to several incidents of flooding in recent years and this is reflected in the voting results from station two. It is clear that attendees felt that new development should take care to avoid exacerbating the issue.

Living in Lydney

Top three priorities:

4. Balancing housing growth with community facilities
5. Affordable homes for local people
6. Creating mixed use neighbourhoods with employment space

Within the *“Living in Lydney”* category there was a clear concern that Lydney’s housing growth was outpacing the capacity of local facilities and infrastructure. This was echoed across the various stations and throughout discussion on the day. When viewing the top three priorities in this category, the results present a clear picture that the attendees felt it is important to ensure housing is delivered alongside employment and facilities to support it. The results also show that a lack of affordability risks fragmenting the local community and there is a clear desire to avoid this.

The sentiment is summed up well by a post-it note left on the *“living in Lydney”* station 2 board simply stating *“when it comes to housing, infrastructure is the most important thing”*.

Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education

Top three priorities:

4. Improving community healthcare and wellbeing facilities
5. Providing post-16 education and training in Lydney
6. Protecting and improving Lydney’s open spaces and recreational areas

In line with the conclusions of the *“Living in Lydney”* section of this report it is clear from the results of the *“Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education”* section that infrastructure and community facilities within Lydney are very important to the respondents. Improving healthcare and wellbeing facilities in Lydney is the top voted priority at station two with the health centres and hospital also being identified as both the most valued facilities and also the facilities that needed to be worked on at stations three and four.

“Providing post-16 education and training” is the second most popular priority and one respondent went so far as to identify a potential site for this on the map at station four.

“Protecting and improving Lydney’s open spaces and recreational areas” is the third most important priority within this topic area and this is also reflected within the later station three responses, Bathurst Park and the recreational fields are mentioned specifically many times as the most valued open spaces to respondents. Protection and enhancement of these spaces was also highlighted by post-it notes on the large map during the event.

Working in Lydney

Top three priorities:

4. Increased employment opportunities in line with population growth
5. Supporting entrepreneurs with start-up space
6. Protecting Lydney’s existing employment spaces

The *“Working in Lydney”* table from station two showed that there was a desire amongst respondents to balance new housing growth with the necessary supporting employment opportunities. This echoes the previous sections of this report that shows there is a desire for Lydney’s employment and infrastructure to grow at a pace that matches the growth of housing development in the area. Within the map element of stations three and four some attendees

identified potential locations for employment development.

“Supporting entrepreneurs with start-up space” is a priority that was also identified during the Lydney Forward consultation stages in 2021. The desire for affordable business premises was also identified within the station 3 and 4 tables with the lack of affordable business premises noted as one of the issues that need work.

Getting Around

Top three priorities:

3. Making public transport accessible for everyone
4. Developments to integrate with the surrounding highway and minimise congestion

There were 3 priorities that were tied for 3rd place within the getting around category and they are as follows:

- Improving connections to Lydney railway station
- Ensuring Lydney’s communities are connected to public transport
- Development layout to ensure safety for all highway users flow of traffic within the proposal itself and within the wider highway network.

With regards to *“Getting Around”* votes across the board were fairly even. Making public transport accessible to everyone was voted to be the most important but this was by a slim margin and many of the other priorities also received a lot of votes, this can be seen in the three way tie for the third most important priority. This highlights a general dissatisfaction with getting around in Lydney with a number of issues requiring resolution.

Within the responses the most important priorities were focussed around two main themes. Ensuring public transport is available and accessible to everyone is clearly the most important priority for respondents to this engagement. Access to rail and bus services is highlighted as important priorities and responses to stations 3 and 4 also highlighted the rail and bus services as cherished assets with potential for enhancement.

Traffic issues are identified as the other main theme in the responses and this echoes past engagement. It can be seen here that there is a desire to avoid exacerbating this by ensuring developments are well integrated into the wider road network.

Lydney Forward

Top three priorities:

4. Improving the town centre shopping offer
5. A new town centre space
6. Reducing traffic and pollution

The Lydney Forward objectives were drawn from the 2021 town centre initiative and focus on ways to improve and revitalise the town centre in the face of COVID-19 recovery and the wider trend of declining high streets. There is a strong desire within Lydney to improve the town centre shopping offer and to create a town centre that people want to visit and spend time in.

This is reflected within the results of the station two votes which show a desire to improve the town centre public realm experience by firstly giving the local community a space to meet and hold events and secondly by improving the environment through a reduction in traffic and improved air quality.

Lydney Harbour

Top three priorities:

4. Protection and enhancement of Lydney Harbour's special heritage and character
5. Enhancing harbour tourist and visitor economy
6. Promoting harbour area employment

Results from the station two voting show a strong support of protecting and enhancing the Harbour and its special heritage and character, while enhancing the visitor and tourism offer. It is also recognised that the harbour has a key role to play in the employment opportunities within the local area.

New Topics and Themes

Top three priorities:

4. Local Green and Renewable Energy Production
5. Climate Change and Achieving Net Zero Carbon
6. Staycations and Local Tourism

New topics and themes cover issues that have arisen or become more prominent in the years since the previous neighbourhood plan was made. A variety of different areas were included within this topic area and it is clear from the votes received that climate and carbon zero Lydney is a very important priority for the respondents. There is a clear support for local renewables and an appetite to explore ways to reduce Lydney's carbon emissions.

Tourism and staycations are recognised as another area in which Lydney has potential to enhance and co-ordinate its offer. It is clear that Lydney has much to offer in these areas, the harbour, Taurus crafts and Dean Forest Railway are just a few local facilities that create a draw for tourists. As is mentioned in the current neighbourhood plan there remains a desire to bolster this with improved evening activities.

Overall

The final table for station two asked attendees to choose their top three most important topic areas. The top three were:

3. Living in Lydney
4. Getting Around Lydney

There were two topic areas tied for third most important as follows:

- Lydney Community, Health, Wellbeing and Education
- Lydney Forward (Town Centre)

These results from this launch consultation show a range of priorities that are supported by attendees with a number of topic areas receiving strong support. Top priorities for attendees were primarily focussed around ensuring delivery of the appropriate infrastructure and employment to support the recently and soon to be delivered housing.

Results also show strong support for delivering an improved town centre experience that is welcoming and accessible to all. With a clear focus on delivering reductions in car usage and improvements to Lydney's carbon footprint.

Appendix E: Initial Illustrative Programme

