

## **Clr Barbara Jones-Williams February 2023**

### **Forth Coming Election**

#### **Voter ID**

During the Elections on Thursday 4 May 2023 voters will be required by law to show an approved form of photographic ID to polling station staff before being issued with a ballot paper. This can be a driving Licence ID, passport, Blue badge or older persons Bus pass, or a Free ID can be obtained by applying for a free Voter Authority Certificate..

#### **Malvern Theatres to receive Levelling Up funding**

Malvern Theatres is set to receive up to £20m in Levelling Up funding to develop it into a world-class cultural facility.

We submitted the application for the money from the Levelling Up Fund Round Two, and the bid was successful.

The aim will be to deliver a world-class cultural facility and transform the visitor economy by attracting 135,000 more attendees and boosting the local economy by £11m annually.

#### **Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill and public consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework**

**(NPPF)** This public consultation commenced 22 Dec 2022 and responses are due by 11.45pm on 02 March 2023

.The south Worcestershire councils intend to respond with a joint response given that we are working on a joint review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The government has published a prospectus and a tracked change version of the proposed NPPF. The consultation is structured around 58 questions and in most cases a yes/no answer is required. Prospectus on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB): Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy -GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) Tracked change NPPF: National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)) The consultation explains that certain changes will be implemented in Spring 2023. More wide-ranging changes to national planning policy are to be consulted upon separately at a later date once the LURB has completed its passage through Parliament and received Royal Assent. The consultation document sets out specific changes that Government proposes to make to the NPPF (subject to consultation).

Following an all members training session these can be summarised as follows:-

- LPAs with an up-to-date local plan will no longer need to continually show a deliverable five-year housing land supply. In this case, "up-to-date" means where the housing requirement is less than five years old

- A four-year rolling land supply requirement for emerging plans

.•Removing buffers from the five-year housing land supply calculations, including the 20 per cent buffer applied by the Housing Delivery Test.

•Authorities would not need to review their green belt boundaries, even if meeting housing need would be impossible without such a review.

•As a result of the changes noted above, there will be less opportunity for speculative planning applications to deliver housing to be supported, which would not otherwise be acceptable, based only on a lack of housing land supply

.•The test of 'soundness' for local plans to be softened so they will no longer be required to be 'justified'. Instead, the examination would assess whether the LPAs proposed target meets need so far as possible, takes into account other policies in the Framework, and will be effective and deliverable

.•Tackle perceived problems of slow build out.

•Encourage authorities to support the role of community-led groups in delivering affordable housing on exception sites.

•Set clearer expectations around planning for older people's housing

.•Promote more beautiful homes.

•Enable gentle densification, for example through the use of mansard roofs in appropriate locations

.•Ensure food security considerations are factored into planning decisions that affect farmland

•Additional provisions to encourage renewable energy development, particularly wind energy where there is local support.

**Barbara**