

## **Hill and Moor Annual Parish Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - Liz Tucker's report**

First of all, My apologies that I can't be present in person at this meeting!

Planning over the year has been mostly minor household applications: Five additional lodges at The Springs have been approved, also Permission in Principle for up to five bungalows on Church Lane. The application for 4 detached dwellings on the near end of Blacksmiths Lane has been withdrawn but may come back again with an altered plan. The application for up to 31 dwellings on Evesham Road has been on the books now for nearly 4 years, held up over public rights of way issues.

Throckmorton New Town proposal. The Examination in Public last year judged it was not sufficiently prepared for the inspectors to be confident it could be delivered in the newly adopted SWDPR but it should be an “area of search” for the next Local Plan which will start soon. New government rules mean the next plan has to be completed within 30 months of starting. Wychavon has employed consultants to work on the feasibility and detail of their New Town proposal. Ridgeway Park Farm land has been in the control of the Receiver for nearly two years now because of unpaid monies to DEFRA. There is expected to be an auction in June but if unsold it will have to be passed back to the owner.

SWDPR Inspectors raised issues across the SWDPR proposals. Wychavon addressed these in its Main Modifications consultation and document and the Plan was finally adopted at the end of March. We now have the protection of a 5 years land supply - previously the “tilted balance” in favour of more houses led to proposals that did not meet our planning policies still being approved. However this could be short lived as our housing target numbers have been increased significantly and the 5 year land supply will require a 20% addition in June/July.

Wychavon Town has the go ahead. It is supported by Homes England but is not in their official New Town programme.

Local Government Reorganisation: Government requires us to reorganise into large unitary councils. This means that Wychavon District council will disappear April 2028. Worcestershire will either become one unitary council or two new unitary councils, North and South. South is much better for us as the 3 districts already work together in many ways and council tax will not rise as sharply if North is separate. Government will decide which of the two options will go forward. We hope to hear their decision late this summer. Elections for the new shadow council will take place next May, and existing Wychavon Councillors will serve an extra 11 months while the new council or councils set themselves up.

In the mean time Wychavon is working hard to use its resources in ways that support the future sustainability of our communities and organisations. A range of legacy projects is already underway and it is setting up a £400k grants system which will start in June.