

Response to Mr Matheson – 11 March 2022

Thank you very much for your email outlining your proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan policies and your suggestions for 19 very specific policies. We found this very useful and have used your suggestions to change and refine the Neighbourhood Plan. We attach a separate document outlining our revised policy structure but want to make some key responses to your suggestions to give context to our revisions.

We wish to retain our overall structure of our Vision which outlines five themes:

- Housing
- Business, Employment and Enterprise
- The Environment – both natural and built
- Community
- Sport, Leisure and Recreation

This forms the basis of everything that follows and identifies the key areas which are important in the Long Itchington neighbourhood area. Our sections of Housing, Built Environment, Employment & Business, Natural Environment, Community and Sport, Leisure & Recreation stem from this and from the survey we conducted, and we feel that it is very important to retain this structure. We accept that we need to provide more local flavour and evidence for our policies in addition to the survey data.

To this end, we are suggesting that there is **a clear statement regarding the BUAB** demonstrating that it is identical to that proposed by SDC; we will also clarify the position of Model Village. We do not see the need to embody this in a specific policy or, indeed, to have a separate section “D” but will refer to it throughout the NP document and in policies as and when appropriate. We note that this is a position many “made” local plans have adopted quite effectively. And we assume that the key issue which you raise is to ensure that our BUAB is in line with that of Stratford’s as proposed in their draft SAP. And that we give a clear explanation of the reasoning behind the BUAB.

With regard to **“Community” and “Sport, Leisure and Recreation” sections**, we would prefer to keep two separate sections as we see them as distinct entities. For Long Itchington, “Community” is perceived as all the clubs and societies which meet in the various community hubs across the area, this includes the Community Centre, but perhaps unique to Long Itchington, also in other buildings – pubs, church, chapel, for example. “Sport, leisure and recreation” for our area refers to outdoor pursuits which are sometimes led by organisations, but which also encompass individual pursuits and enjoyment of the outdoors by families. We see these as two very distinct areas requiring two separate policy sections.

As well as addressing your earlier comments in emails regarding making policies more positive and reducing the number of references to higher level policies we intend to reduce the number of policies to 19.

We feel this new policy structure addresses your key points.