

Planning Policy (subgroup)

1. Purpose and Scope

The Planning Subgroup is established by Weston under Penyard Parish Council to consider and advise on planning and development matters affecting the parish. It must follow prevailing legislation in all of its deliberations.

Its purpose is to:

- Review planning applications and related consultations received by the Council.
- Formulate recommendations for consideration by the Council.
- Monitor national and local planning policy and developments affecting the parish.
- Represent parish interests in consultations on local, district, or county planning matters

The Subgroup has no delegated decision-making powers unless explicitly authorised by the Council in accordance with Standing Orders.

2. Membership

The Subgroup shall consist of two to six members, appointed annually. Membership shall include at least two parish councillors; non-councillor residents may be co-opted in an advisory capacity.

The Chair of the Subgroup shall be appointed by the members at the first meeting following the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The quorum shall be three members, at least two of whom must be councillors.

3. Meetings and Reporting

Meetings shall be convened as required to meet planning consultation deadlines. Recommendations shall be reported to the next full Council meeting for approval. In cases of urgency (e.g., short consultation periods), the Clerk may, in consultation with the Chair of the Council and Chair of the Subgroup, call an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to review the recommendations of the Subgroup in respect of any planning application as appropriate.

Section 7 shows the decision flow for the subgroup.

4. Areas of Responsibility

The Subgroup may:

- Review and comment on planning applications, appeals, and enforcement matters.
- Consider the impact of planning policies, housing allocations, local plans and advise and inform the Council accordingly.

- Engage with Herefordshire County Council (The Local Planning Authority).
- Promote design quality and protection of rural character.
- Support sustainable development and the preservation of the natural and built environment.
- Contribute to Neighbourhood Planning where applicable.

5. Conduct and Interests

Members must adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct.

Any member with a disclosable pecuniary or other interest in an application shall declare it and withdraw from discussion.

All correspondence with external bodies shall be issued by or through the Clerk.

6. Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed every two years or sooner if required to reflect changes in legislation or Council policy.

7. Flowchart of process

