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**Sent:** 15 November 2013 09:18  
**To:** BDC strategic planning  
**Subject:** Bromsgrove District Plan

Dear Sirs

Apologies for missing the deadline of 11 November but the Dodford with Grafton Parish Council meeting only took place last evening. I would be grateful if you will still accept their comments as below:

Kind regards



The following points are of particular interest to Dodford with Grafton:

- There is to be a comprehensive Green Belt review to be completed before 2023.
- There will be positive management of heritage assets including Conservation Areas.
- There will continue to be 'character appraisals' of Conservation Areas and any developments should preserve or enhance their character and appearance.
- Monitoring indicators will be introduced to check that compliance is taking place. The plan contains a commitment to promote sustainable rural communities.
- Neighbourhood Plans will be produced to ensure that local communities are fully engaged in matters affecting them locally. These plans must accord with key provisions in the District Plan once this has been approved.

Key principles are laid down for planning matters – the Green Belt Review will deal with specific questions relating to new rural developments.

Whilst there are a few references to local community engagement (and this is listed as a key challenge) there is precious little in the draft that tells us how Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) intends to achieve this ie the actual process. Parish Councils hardly get a mention and this is worrying. The only response that the Parish Council would like to make at this stage would be to point out the desirability of seeing some indication of the machinery for engaging the community and reassurance that BDC sees parish councils as playing a prominent part.

There are some interesting facts in the introduction to the plan detail –

20% of Bromsgrove's population is under 18 years of age and 20% is over 65 (this latter figure will rise by 11,500 by year 2030).

Current average house price is £236,000 as against £205,000 for Worcestershire as a whole.

Current average earnings of Bromsgrove residents is £29,000 but only £20,600 if they actually work in the district ie they earn substantially more if commuting.