

TO: **PLANNING FORUM** – *Wednesday 9 February 2005*

SUBJECT: **HOUSING ALLOCATION – WARWICK DISTRICT**

FROM: **THE WARWICK SOCIETY**

1. BACKGROUND

The preparation of the current Warwickshire Structure Plan, great care was taken to assess the capacity of the several Districts to absorb sustainably additional housing. During public consultation on the proposed allocations for Warwick District, there was pressure from builders and developers for more housing and from other stakeholders, including the Warwick Society, for less.

The County planners stood by their proposals and these were approved and adopted in the Structure Plan. Taking into account sites already earmarked and planning permissions already granted, there was found to be a net requirement for a further 600 dwellings. Concerned that this would necessitate building on Greenfield sites, the Warwick Society have since been relieved that a sufficient number of Brownfield windfall sites have come forward to satisfy the housing allocation.

What concerns the Warwick Society now is that the numbers of new dwellings built and planned in Warwick District is now higher than that allocated in the Structure Plan? Further, we are aware that the basis of the Housing Policy in the adopted Planning Guidance for the West Midlands is that new housing should be directed to the major urban areas as part of their renaissance and that there should be an end to migration into areas such as Warwick District.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Warwick Society seeks from the Warwick District Council:

- The current statistics of sites already earmarked and planning permissions granted against the Warwick District Council allocation.
- A policy ruling on whether the Structure Plan housing policies constitute a statutory cap on housing numbers in Warwick District.