

## The SMBC Local Plan and KDBH Neighbourhood Plan –

### What are they and how do they differ?

**KDBH Neighbourhood Plan referendum** - The second consultation is a legally binding referendum on whether the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath community wants to endorse the Neighbourhood Plan. The KDBH Neighbourhood Plan has been developed by the Neighbourhood Forum over the last 3 years. The Neighbourhood Plan does not dictate whether or where houses get built but rather it seeks to define the factors which must be considered if and when developments are adopted in the Local Plan ("Neighbourhood Planning can help to ensure that new development is sympathetic to the surrounding area and meets the needs of the local community. The Government is very clear that it will not be possible to use Neighbourhood Plans to stop development.) The referendum on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March** is asking whether the community supports and endorses the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan which seek to influence things like housing nature and design, infrastructure, traffic and transport, education and community facilities. A yes vote means that these policies have to be adopted by the local planning authority. You can see the plan here <https://www.kdbh-np.org/>. You are being asked on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019** whether you support the plan or not. The lead people within NF have committed a lot of time, effort and resources to pull a comprehensive and well-considered plan together so it is worth taking a look at it and then voting accordingly.

**SMBC Local Plan consultation** - A Supplementary Consultation by Solihull Council on the latest Local Plan (which outlines areas earmarked for possible housing development) which we can comment on up to the **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**. Under national legislation, SMBC has to build 13,037 new homes between now and 2035 (881 homes per year). The Draft Local Plan sets out the options for doing this, including identifying potential sites for development. Various assessments (including by the neighbourhood forum) have led the council to conclude that our local community is "well placed to accommodate growth in excess of just its own needs". Hence the current local plan allocates approximately 1,000 homes on two sites, one on Hampton Road (300 homes) and one within the Arden Triangle bounded by Station Road, Grove Road and Warwick Road which includes the Arden Academy site. We can expect around 1,000 new homes to be built in Knowle. This statutory obligation for SMBC to provide new homes has led to the possibility (amongst other things) to relocate and rebuild Arden Academy. The question is, how can the community best benefit from this? A new-build Arden is one possibility that arises from the expected scale of development. SMBC's current consultation seeks views on these proposals across the borough <https://solihull.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>.