

Neighbourhood Plan – Kinver  
05/03/23 by Email

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Kinver Neighbourhood Plan.

Whilst I can agree with much that is in the plan, it doesn't do much to alleviate the big issue that additional house building is creating for existing residents of Kinver.

When we moved to Kinver in 1986, we had a Doctor's surgery, High Street car parking, several shops and some employment opportunities. The population was about 5,500. (2021 Census 7,093).

It was very easy to get an appointment to see the GP, usually within a day of contacting the surgery and the surgery was within walking distance to visit.

Car parking was available on the High Street, there was a small car park just below the Library, on the High Street and also behind some of the buildings, as are still available now – albeit limited in the case of The White Hart.

There were 2 supermarkets and several small shops where it was possible to satisfy daily needs for produce and items needed on a daily basis.

There were 2 places to buy petrol and diesel and get a vehicle repaired. A Police Station, Ambulance Station and there was also banking facilities.

What do we have now, over 30 years later:-

1. GP surgery that it is almost impossible to get an appointment at when contacted and if you can get an appointment, this is probably going to have to be in Kingswinford, several miles journey from Kinver.
2. The fuel stations, car repairs, a lot of shops gone, including one supermarket, most of the car parking facilities around the High Street have gone. The Ambulance Station, Police Station and Banks are gone, mainly as the result of external arrangements and pressures.
3. At least 25% more residents, congested roads with cars parked dangerously at times, almost impossible to park on the High Street - and indeed travel along at times due to the chicane that has been created, which has also meant that coaches now travel into/out of Kinver from the other end, along quite unsuitable country lanes, causing more strain on the road surfaces.

The loss of shops, car parking, fuels stations, car repairs could be as a result of not being used by local people – too much demand, too little choice/variety perhaps. But why is much of the space they occupied now residential housing? Bringing in more demand on the limited facilities and resources available?

Things do change in villages, all part of progression and change for the better, but I cannot see that much has changed for the better in Kinver.

We need more employment and facilities for local people, not more people to further reduce what is available.

I applaud the current efforts to bring in more people to use the facilities in Kinver – but not at the expense of preventing local people to enjoy what was a local and very quiet village, we just don't have the space to be accommodating and be a 'village'. More space being used for house building

means less space for people to enjoy and be part of a 'village'. Besides, where is it intended that people travelling to Kinver to enjoy it should park their vehicles, without which, they would not be able to get to Kinver?

I hope that this submission is included in it's entirety in the Comments and that confirmation will be sent to me in due course that it has been.

Kind regards

P Farrier