

CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Newsletter and Results of Questionnaire 2

Stephen Eades Cedar Lodge Allington Chippenham Wiltshire SN14 6LW

Email stephen.marinet@btinternet.com Telephone 01249 653972

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Dear Parish Residents,

We have now recorded and analysed the results of Questionnaire 2 which was sent out this summer to all Parish residents to consult on the Vision and Strategic Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

We wish to thank all those who sent in their comments, over 40% of Parish residents, and to inform you now of the detailed results along with the Steering Group's conclusions.

Broadly speaking, there is very strong support within the Parish as a whole for the NP's Vision and Strategic Objectives. This means that the draft we have prepared can now be written up in a finalised form for submission to the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council and if content with our proposals and the manner in which we have arrived at them, will allow the Plan to be submitted for independent examination and scrutiny by an appointed Planning Inspector. If and when the Planning Inspector is content and any required revisions to the NP have been made, then the Neighbourhood Plan will be referred back to the Parish as a whole for a Referendum to determine whether it is acceptable and should be adopted.

At this moment in time we feel it is important that Parish residents see the outcome of Questionnaire 2. We have recorded this in a format which provides the percentage voting result for each policy (approval/disapproval/abstention), a summary of the comments made both in support and against each policy, and finally the broad conclusions of the NP Steering Group in the light of the voting percentages and comments received.

No further comment is required from you at this stage. We thank everyone once again for their involvement and expression of views, and we hope you find the attached summary to be of interest.

Stephen Eades
Secretary - NP Steering Group

NP Questionnaire Returns Analysis - August 2020

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

HE-1: To conserve and enhance the distinctive characteristics of the historic rural landscape.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
49	3	2	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council should establish a 'Working Group' of interested parishioners to document and promote the Historic features of the parish. We need to maintain the historic and heritage features, to catalogue these in the NP, and to use them as a 'source of history' for children. The parish contains a rich list of heritage assets and it is imperative to conserve them. Farming needs to be aware so that it conserves these heritage features. Historic features and buildings need to encourage 'open' access, and seeds of the plants and trees in these places need to be available for wider cultivation in the parish. No expansion of Chippenham beyond A350 so that historic landscape and features are conserved, with 'protection orders' widely employed. Footpaths and the rural landscape are an asset to Chippenham, and so the Parish's rural landscape and access to it needs to be conserved. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 'planning' is predisposed to development and this is an unacceptable default position. The NP is regarded as one of these 'planning' exercises and so it's 'Objectives' are untrustworthy and cannot be voted for.

HE-2: To conserve and enhance Allington Conservation Area and adjoining land.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
49	3	2	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the A350 remains the boundary between the town and the rural area and so also offering protection to the Roman site. As farmland in the parish is often medium to poor quality there is a powerful incentive for landowners to sell for development – this is the challenge in keeping the area rural. New uses for sports and recreation are to be seen as alternative uses. Maintaining the Conservation Area is essential. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

HE-3: To facilitate the protection of the Parish's heritage assets.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
49	3	2	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was strong support for protecting Heritage Assets. Heritage Assets should be identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

NP Steering Group comments on The Historic Environment questionnaire replies:

HE-1. To conserve and enhance the distinctive characteristics of the historic rural landscape.

The Steering Group endorses the proposal that the Parish Council should create a 'Working Group' of interested parishioners to promote the historic features of the parish and to make recommendations to the Parish Council in that regard.

The Steering Group believes that the rural and historic character of the parish are an important asset which should be opened up to the public by means of its footpaths and other opportunities for walking.

HE-2. To conserve and enhance Allington Conservation Area and adjoining land.

The Steering Group endorses the belief that it is essential to maintain the existing, clearly defined boundary between the town of Chippenham and the Parish, particularly protecting the Parish's rural nature.

HE-3. To facilitate the protection of the Parish's heritage assets.

The Steering Group supports a strong, clear definition of the Parish's heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Plan document.

Steering Group response to the expressed belief that "All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support".

All planning policy, to which this Neighbourhood Plan seeks to become a part, starts from the position that "permission" should be granted to any application to develop unless there are "material" planning policy/objections against. So the default position in planning is that applications to develop should be approved, unless . This default position is further supported by the Government's National Planning Policy Guidance. Therefore in preparing and adopting a local Neighbourhood Plan for our Parish we are seeking to establish the planning principles which we believe, collectively as local residents and endorsed by a Parish Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan, should be the basis upon which local planning applications within our NP area ought to be determined.

An adopted Neighbourhood Plan therefore provides local residents with the best tool available to influence local planning decisions.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

NE-1: To conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape characteristics of the natural environment *in* and around the settlements.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
49	3	2	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Parish Council based Working Group, recruited from parishioners, should be formed to record and monitor particular features of the natural environment, both landscape and biological biodiversity, with the brief to make recommendations to the Parish Council. • More appreciation needs to be shown towards farmers who get no outside help yet continually look after the landscape and its diverse rural character. • Movement away from livestock farming, towards arable, horticultural and energy generation, will impact on the landscape. • Farmers can do much to improve the natural environment. Tree planting should be encouraged where viable on poor land. • The need to conserve the present and rural character of our distinctive natural landscape is strongly supported. • Preserving this distinctive natural environment is important for Chippenham residents. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

NE-2: To conserve and enhance green infrastructure.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
50	3	1	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Parish Council based Working Group, recruited from parishioners, should be formed to record and monitor particular features of the natural environment, both landscape and biological biodiversity, with the brief to make recommendations to the Parish Council. • All footpaths need to be kept clear. Clarity is required over the responsibility for the upkeep of Public Rights of Way? Is it Wiltshire Council, the Parish Council or landowners or a mixture of all three? • There is strong support for Fowlswick Lane to be made safer for walkers and cyclists; it was suggested that all cyclists be told to wear reflective gear. • There is strong support for 'Rights of Way' to be joined up providing safe routes for walkers on roads and where necessary in consultation with landowners creating viable through routes between them. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

NE-3: To improve sustainability and resilience to climate change.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
50	3	1	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed, but how can this be achieved for 'Listed' properties? • Drainage needs to be upgraded to deal with increased rainfall. • Increase tree planting, create lakes and ponds and improve stream clearance. This will all have the added benefit of increasing biodiversity. • Installation by landowners of solar and wind energy generation should be seen as inevitable. • Encourage through use the development of local businesses to reduce our carbon footprints. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support. • There is doubt that this objective is realistic.

NE-4: To conserve and enhance biodiversity.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
51	3	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly supported. • The variety of animal and plant life needs protection. • Increase tree planting, create lakes and ponds and improve stream clearance. This will all have the added benefit of increasing biodiversity. • Form a local Biodiversity Group. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

NP Steering Group comments on The Natural Environment questionnaire replies:

NE-1. To conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape characteristics of the natural environment in and around the settlements.

The Steering Group endorses the creation by the Parish Council of a 'Working Group' composed of interested parishioners, reporting to the Parish Council with recommendations on how to preserve and enhance the rural landscape of the Parish, and that this Working Group should consult closely with farmers and landowners and, preferably, have them clearly represented on the Working Group.

NE-2. To conserve and enhance green infrastructure.

The Steering Group would like this 'Working Group', if established, to take on a special brief to consider the maintenance and development of footpaths in the Parish and to make recommendations to the Parish Council.

NE-3. To improve sustainability and resilience to climate change.

The Steering Group believes that planning and management decisions which improve the sustainability and resilience of the Parish to climate change are a sound aspiration.

NE-4. To conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Steering Group would like to see the Parish Council's 'Working Group' on the Natural Environment, if created, to take a lead in studying and then making recommendations to the Parish Council on the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-1: To conserve and enhance distinctive landscape characteristics of the built environment.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
51	3	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, as long as it does not restrict appropriate or sympathetic alterations. • Must preserve the farmhouses and outbuildings and Sheldon/Bolehyde Manors. • should not stop new development having its own distinctive characteristics. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

BE-2: To encourage sustainable construction.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
49	3	2	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, but there is a need to define 'sustainable construction'. • Yes, but how would this be done? • Yes, so long as there is not a continual erosion of the natural habitat for farming. • Sustainable energy should be incorporated within new construction. • Yes, but do not encourage new construction as a general rule. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support. • There is already enough housing development on the our Chippenham Without side of the A350, so new development should be only focused on expanding local businesses.

BE-3: To retain the distinct character of the settlements of Allington, Sheldon and Lanhill.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
51	3	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong desire that there should be no more mega-proposals (e.g. The Range) and that the key is maintaining the A350 as the development boundary between the Parish and Chippenham • here is strong support, near unanimous, for maintaining the distinct boundaries between the three settlements of the Parish. • Any construction must be sympathetic to local style and not just a generic design. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

NP Steering Group comments on The Built Environment questionnaire replies:

BE-1. To conserve and enhance distinctive landscape characteristics of the built environment.

The Steering Group that it is important to preserve the farmhouse and outbuildings of the Manors in the Parish and of the farms more generally in the Parish, wherever this is possible. The Steering Group believes that whilst preserving the distinctive character and setting of the existing buildings in the Parish it remains essential that this should not be a block on new development which needs to be allowed to express its own distinctive character.

BE-2. To encourage sustainable construction.

The Steering Group believes that planners need to come forward with a clear definition of 'sustainable construction' and that within its parameters it should not lead to unreasonable erosion of natural habitat within the Parish, that it should encourage renewable energy generation within the fabric or immediate context of the building.

The Steering Group endorses the belief that 'sustainable construction' is not a carte blanche for new construction within the Parish as construction as a whole needs to be justified in the full context of the Parish' s Neighbourhood Plan

BE-3. To retain the distinct character of the settlements of Allington, Sheldon and Lanhill.

The Steering Group strongly supports the identification of Lanhill as a settlement of the Parish.

THE ECONOMY

E-1: To improve infrastructure and network provisions to support sustainable working environments.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
50	4	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is near unanimous concern that broadband provision is exceptionally poor and mobile phone reception often similarly so. The remedying of this deficiency is an urgent imperative! • Improvement in infrastructure is desirable, but there must be no new or widening of the roads. • Greater attention needs to be given to the maintenance and upkeep of the roads, drains and verges which need looking after. • Yes, but improvement must preserve the rural character of the Parish. • Yes, and this should involve greater support for the sale of local farm produce. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support. • Local infrastructure is fine, there is no need to improve it. • A feeling that Sheldon Corner is over-run with HGVs linked to Sheldon Business Park, with these HGVs often operating out of hours.

E-2: To improve infrastructure and network provisions to support sustainable working environments.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
51	3	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is very strong support for the development of small, rural and local businesses. • Yes, but this must not involve an expansion of Sheldon Business Park. • Farming in particular needs support, which includes such things as the development of Air B&B and intensive poultry farming. • Yes, but reduce traffic to the Rugby Club by opening a link via the A350. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

E-3: Support investment in sustainable farming.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
51	3	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, however Brexit will change the profitability of farming and new thinking will be required. • Yes, but people outside of farming have difficulty in understanding farming's problems and the need for farming to continue. • Yes, very important and there is a view that 'organic' should be the default definition of 'sustainable'. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

E-4: To support community facilities.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
42	8	4	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, very important as local communities depend on such facilities. • A community centre will have local support but funding will be a tall order and so the recommendation is to delay. • A need for litter bins to be placed along the lanes. • A need to create allotments. • There is a need for the pro-active maintenance of footpaths, marked, mapped and with kissing gates installed. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support. • The question is too ambiguous. • There is no need for a village hall. • Community facilities are not an immediate concern. • There are no community facilities at present to support. • The Parish is not large enough to sustain such projects, and should rely on nearby local facilities. Do not try to reinvent the wheel. • It is possible that the Rugby and Cricket Clubs could provide, as an annex perhaps, premises for community facilities.

NP Steering Group comments on The Economy questionnaire replies:

E-1. To improve infrastructure and network provisions to support sustainable working environments.

The Steering Group endorses the need for fibre broadband throughout the entire Parish.

The Steering Group endorses the need for good maintenance of the Parish's roads, drains and verges whilst believing that it would be counter-productive to the Neighbourhood Plan's overall objectives to support road widening.

The Steering Group believes that an overall definition of a sustainable economy should embrace the ability to work from home.

The Steering Group strongly believes that heavy goods Vehicles (HGVs) need to be subject to strict planning controls in those parts of the Parish where their use can, if controlled or excessive, lead to damage of the environment and nuisance to residents.

E-2. To improve infrastructure and network provisions to support sustainable working environments.

The Steering Group expresses strong support for the development of small, rural and local businesses.

The Steering Group recognises the strong need and freedom for farming to develop, whilst indicating that this development must be consistent with the overall objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group would be apprehensive about supporting a new link to the A350 in the immediate vicinity of the Rugby club as this could easily open the door, so to speak, to greater access to the Parish and its wider development.

E-3. Support investment in sustainable farming.

The Steering Group recognises that the development of farming exists within a wider economic context, e.g. exit from the European Union, and must therefore have freedom to adapt.

The Steering Group would like to see a strong respect for the natural world as an essential part of farming's adaption in the future.

E-4. To support community facilities.

The Steering Group supports the maintenance and ongoing development of community facilities, recognising that new facilities need to justify their ability to be maintained satisfactorily and to be sensibly located.

HOUSING

H-1: To support housing where a genuine need has been demonstrated for new dwellings within the Neighbourhood Plan Area to ensure sustainable growth.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
46	8	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, with provision focused on young families. • Yes, but applications need to be genuine. • Yes, but development must be sympathetic with the local features. • Farming should increase its use of manual labour and so there should be housing provision for this specific need, along with housing provision for temporary and seasonal labour in farming. • It is important not to regard new housing as a 'bad thing' as new houses are required to meet community needs and which should in turn be supported by new infrastructure. • Yes, and such housing must be made available to those living outside the community or working in rural occupations. • Yes, but such housing should be small scale and not large scale; also, there should be no Chippenham overspill. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support. • There is a danger that 'sustainable development' implies population growth and Chippenham has its own new housing and infrastructure to meet its needs. Therefore, no housing development in our area. • No, as there exists a number of empty houses in our parish, at least 4 on the present count. • No, the only development should be extensions to existing houses. • There is no demand for new housing.

H-2: To ensure that new dwellings are adaptable and sustainable for the future to enable residents to remain in their homes as long as possible.

YES	NO	Abstain	Comment
51	3	0	<p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be in harmony with current materials and appearance. • Yes, but it must not suppress innovative development. • Locals should have 1st refusal on rented accommodation. • Yes, but will this actually be taken notice of? • Yes, and specifically increase the capacity of buildings to accommodate office space to enable working from home. • Yes, it should be recognised that the role of the extended family may expand in the future. • Should also be adaptable for younger generations to use and not just older generations. • Yes, provided 'sustainable standards' do not make homes unaffordable or prevent innovation. <p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning is predisposed to development, so this Neighbourhood Plan cannot be given any support.

NP Steering Group comments on The Historic Environment questionnaire replies:

H-1. To support housing where a genuine need has been demonstrated for new dwellings within the Neighbourhood Plan Area to ensure sustainable growth.

The Steering Group believes that new housing needs to be defined by local need based on the Parish's needs as they presently exist and express themselves. The Steering Group would not support overspill of housing from Chippenham.

H-2. To ensure that new dwellings are adaptable and sustainable for the future to enable residents to remain in their homes as long as possible.

The Steering Group endorses the belief that dwellings which are adaptable and sustainable for the future should be seen in the context of all generations that live in them, and that the needs of young families needs to be specifically recognised.

BIODIVERSITY

Please provide comments on proposals to improve biodiversity within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. If you would like to see biodiversity improvements, please provide suggestions as to the type of enhancements you would like to encourage, i.e. additional tree planting, increased roosting boxes for birds.

Comment	No Comment	Detail of Comment
32	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very strong support for more tree planting. • Farm buildings should remain 'natural' thereby facilitating bat and owl roosting environments. • Very strong support for the conservation of existing trees, hedgerows and woods. In the case of verges, there should be very limited mowing with no use of herbicide or insecticide. Farmers should, generally, limit their use of herbicides and insecticides. • A suggestion that there should be a culling of crows to assist the buzzard population. • New buildings should also include the planting of new trees within their curtilage. • Encourage the development of organic farming as this facilitates an increase in biodiversity. • New dense coppice planting, along with the creation of wet areas and ponds/dew ponds. • If there is more habitat diversity, then there will be increased biodiversity. This can be accomplished by less mono-culture in farming. • Bee hives. • Swift boxes. • Tree planting should be focused on native species. • There should be a Parish Council supported 'working group' made up of interested parishioners whose brief should be biodiversity and also the protection of the historic and rural landscape.

NP Steering Group comments on Biodiversity questionnaire replies:

The Steering Groups strongly supports the belief that proposals to improve biodiversity in the Parish need to occupy a central place in the Neighbourhood Plan, within the context of the Plan's other objectives, and that the best way to advance this development of an improvement in biodiversity is through the establishment of a 'Working Group' of interested parishioners reporting to and making recommendations to the Parish Council.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please provide any additional comments here.

Comment	No Comment	Detail of Comment
19	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Residents community group for Parish News should be established. • Thanks to the NP Steering Group for their persistent hard work to date. • The Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan need to be simplified, and there is a need for greater ambition towards preserving the character and beauty of our parish and region. Plans need to be pro-active. • Litter bins should be provided in seating areas. • Lanhill signs need to be created, with a 50mph restriction through Lanhill. • Strong and wide support for the Neighbourhood Plan. • Maintain the footpaths and the ditches, restore the lane banks, reduce the traffic speed. • The A350 boundary and its maintenance is the main concern. • Support Allington lane (C180) for walkers and bikers. • Good internet connection very important. • Need to preserve the character of the NP area, but do not trap it in a time-loop. The NP must be forward looking for future generations. • No specific mention of a Village Hall was disappointing.

NP Steering Group comments on Additional Comments replies:

The Steering Group believes that, upon the initiative and under the direction of interested parishioners, it would be of value and benefit to all the settlements and communities within the Parish if a parish-wide newsletter, either paper or electronic (e.g. Facebook), were to be established.