

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out the vision and policies to guide future development at the local level. It allows local residents to shape the places in which they live and work by influencing where future development will go and what it will look like.

## **What are the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan?**

As well as the above, where development takes place in areas with a Neighbourhood Plan, the local town/parish council will receive 25% CIL receipts to fund infrastructure to support the growth in the town.

## **Why does the current Neighbourhood Plan need to be updated?**

The current plan was adopted in April 2018 and although less than 3 years old, changes being considered in Wiltshire's housing requirements to plan for the period to 2036 and forthcoming policy changes in the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan means that now is an appropriate time to review the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it remains up-to-date and effective. By reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan we want to make sure it continues to meet the needs of our town and is a useful tool for the local planning authority when they are making decisions on planning applications in our local area.

## **What area will the Neighbourhood Plan cover?**

The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the Royal Wootton Bassett Parish area, Page 8 of the existing plan.

## **What is the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and what issues will it cover?**

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out the vision and objectives for what type of town we want Royal Wootton Bassett to become over the next 10 years or so. It will contain a series of policies that the local authority will use when making decisions on planning applications. The current development plan contains policies relating to issues such as housing, employment, transport, retail, services/facilities and open space. We are consulting local residents on what issues the new Neighbourhood Plan should cover and what policies it should include.

### **How does the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the Wiltshire Council Local Plan?**

The Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside the Wiltshire Local Plan to form part of the development plan for the area – these will set out the policies that are used when determining planning applications. It is not necessary that the local council has an approved up-to-date Local Plan in place before a community embarks on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Wiltshire Council currently has an emerging Local Plan in preparation. We will need to work together with Wiltshire Council in developing the Neighbourhood Plan to make sure it aligns with the strategic policies contained in the Local Plan.

### **How can I contribute to the new Neighbourhood Plan?**

We are working to undertake the first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan review by engaging with the local community and residents to get your views on:

- The vision and objectives in the current Neighbourhood Plan – do these still reflect where we want the town to be in 10-15 years' time?
- What do you like most about the town – what should stay the same or be maintained?
- What do you like least about the town – what could be changed or improved?

To contribute your views on the Neighbourhood Plan, please complete our Community Engagement Questionnaire by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020. The questionnaire will take around 10 – 15 minutes to complete. An online version is available and for those without access to this version, paper copies can be obtained by calling 01793 850222 to be advised where to collect.

### **What happens next?**

Once the public consultation period has ended your responses will be used to inform a draft version of the new Neighbourhood Plan. This draft Neighbourhood Plan will then be published for public consultation before being submitted to the local planning authority to be examined by an independent planning inspector. Local residents will then be asked to vote on whether the final Neighbourhood Plan should be adopted through a local referendum.

### **Further information or more questions?**

If you have further questions or would like more information on the Neighbourhood Plan review, then please contact the Town Council, either by email

[enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk) or call 01793 850222.