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For and on behalf of  
**Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council**

# **ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW POLICY ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION REPORT**

**Prepared by  
DLP Planning Ltd**

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Prepared by:	Kirsten Ward BSc (Hons) MA PhD MRTPI Associate Planner
Checked by:	Alex Roberts BSc (Joint Hons) AssocRTPI Director
Approved by:	Alex Roberts BSc (Joint Hons) AssocRTPI Director
Date: January 2021	Office: Sheffield

### Strategic Planning Research Unit

**V1 Velocity Building**  
Ground Floor  
Tenter Street  
Sheffield  
S1 4BY

**Tel: 01142 289190**

**Broad Quay House (6<sup>th</sup> Floor)**  
Prince Street  
Bristol  
BS1 4DJ

**Tel: 01179 058850**

**4 Abbey Court**  
Fraser Road  
Priory Business Park  
Bedford  
MK44 3WH

**Tel: 01234 832740**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in April 2018. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council ('the Town Council') has since decided to undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it remains effective in meeting the objectives and ambitions of the town and to ensure that it will remain in conformity, once adopted, with the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan Review, particularly in terms of the ability to meet future housing and infrastructure needs within the town.
- 1.2 DLP Planning have been appointed by the Town Council to undertake the first stage (Part A) of the Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Review. Part A of the Neighbourhood Plan Review has been divided into the three steps shown in the following table.

Neighbourhood Plan Review Stages	
<b>Part A</b>	
1	Assessment of existing Neighbourhood Plan policies
2	Stakeholder engagement
3	Neighbourhood Plan Review Scoping Exercise
<b>Part B</b>	
4	Further evidence and plan preparation

- 1.3 This report has been prepared to outline the findings of steps 1 and 2 of Part A and will be used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan Review Scoping Exercise and subsequent Part B plan preparation.
- 1.4 The first part of this report presents an **assessment of existing Neighbourhood Plan policies**, the purpose of which is to analyse how the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have been applied to-date in decision-making by the Local Planning Authority (Wiltshire Council) and in the determination of appeals. As well as taking account of the effectiveness of existing policies, this assessment also considers the extent to which the existing policies remain in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (Wiltshire Core Strategy, 2015). To ensure the future effectiveness of the revised Neighbourhood Plan we have also, where possible, assessed the level of alignment between the existing Neighbourhood Plan policies and the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan Review to identify where these may need to change to ensure it remains in conformity.
- 1.5 The second part of this report presents the findings of an **initial stakeholder engagement exercise** that has been undertaken for the purposes of informing the Neighbourhood Plan Review. This engagement activity took the form of a questionnaire which was distributed to key stakeholder groups and individuals across the town to gauge opinion on whether the scope of the existing adopted Neighbourhood Plan policies remains appropriate and whether the vision and strategic objectives contained within the original Plan continue to be valid and address the needs of local residents and businesses. As part of this engagement exercise we also sought opinion on the scope of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, whether these are still considered appropriate in the current context and what additional or amended policies (or policy themes) may be required.
- 1.6 This report concludes by outlining recommendations on how the findings from the Neighbourhood Plan policy assessment and stakeholder engagement exercise might best be used to shape the Neighbourhood Plan Review and the policy scoping exercise to be undertaken at step 3 of the Part A Review.

## 2.0 ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

2.1 As explained in the previous chapter, this section of the report presents an assessment of the existing Neighbourhood Plan policies in order to review their effectiveness and level of conformity with adopted and emerging national and strategic local planning policies. The findings of this exercise are presented under the following sub-sections:

- a) Review of recent planning and appeal decisions;
- b) Review of conformity with national and local planning policies;
- c) Summary of engagement with Wiltshire Council; and
- d) Conclusions.

### a) Review of Recent Planning and Appeal Decisions

2.2 We have undertaken a review of all planning decision notices for non-householder applications and appeal decisions that have been determined in Royal Wootton Bassett parish since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in order to identify which of these, if any, make reference to specific Neighbourhood Plan policies as being a material consideration in the determination of the application or appeal.

2.3 The following table summarises the planning and appeal decisions that make explicit reference to Neighbourhood Plan policies as being material to the determination of the respective planning permission or planning appeal.

**Table 1. References to Neighbourhood Plan in Planning Application and Appeal Decisions**

Planning Application Reference	Description of Development	Decision	Reference to Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan
17/12099/FUL	Change of use of car showroom and associated facilities (Sui Generis) to a discount foodstore (Class A1)	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2 was relevant to determination of the application.
18/11243/FUL	Retrospective consent for the installation of an ATM installed through a steel security panel.	Refused	Officer report states application is contrary to Policy 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
18/06186/FUL	Erection of new warehouse	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 7, 8, 10 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application.
18/06442/FUL	Residential redevelopment to provide 10 new dwellings	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 6, 7 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application. Town Council objected to application on design, access and flooding grounds and that RWB had met its housing requirement.

Planning Application Reference	Description of Development	Decision	Reference to Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan
			However, planning officer concluded that the proposed development was in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan policies.
18/10617/FUL	Proposed change of use from light industrial B1, B2 and B8 to D2 (Health and Leisure)	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 7 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application.
18/11553/FUL	Refurbishment of Royal Wootton Bassett Police Station including external alterations	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 7 was relevant to determination of the application.
18/09313/FUL	Proposed erection of a new Sixth Form block and glazed walkway	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 1 was relevant to determination of the application.
18/09207/FUL	Installation of two refrigeration condensing units in the service yard to the rear of the Sainsbury's store.	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 7 was relevant to determination of the application.
19/01227/FUL	5 new dwellings	Refused	Officer's report states application is contrary to Policy 7 and Policy 12 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
19/03665/ADV	Retrospective application for new fascia sign	Refused	Officer report states application is contrary to Policy 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
19/05806/FUL	Construction of 4 dwellings	Refused	Officer's report states application is contrary to Policy 7 and Policy 12 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
19/02713/LBC	Replacement of UPVC windows, replacement of damaged lintels and rebuilding of front wall above windows	Refused	Decision notice states application is contrary to Policy 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
19/06947/FUL	Dwelling for disabled person	Refused	Decision notice states application is contrary to Policy 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
19/09404/FUL	Rear single storey	Refused	Decision notice states application is contrary to

Planning Application Reference	Description of Development	Decision	Reference to Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan
	extension		Policy 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
19/03103/FUL	External alterations, a small extension to building and alterations to car park layout and access	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2 is relevant to determination of the application.
19/03279/FUL	Domestic apartment	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 2, 5, 7 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application.
19/03202/FUL	Change of use of land to provide an extension to existing Gypsy / Traveller pitch	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 10 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application.
19/09900/FUL	Change of use of land to residential and erection of swimming pool	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 7 and 10 were relevant to determination of the application.
19/06310/FUL	Erection of stable block	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 was relevant to determination of the application.
19/08201/OUT	Infill development of up to 4 dwellings	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 5 was relevant to determination of the application. Town Council objected to application however planning officer concluded it complied with Neighbourhood Plan.
19/09288/FUL	Construction of residential block of flats	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 5, 6, 7 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application. The report also makes reference to strategic objectives 2.1.3 and 2.1.6. Town Council objected to application on grounds it was contrary to Policy 7, however the planning officer concluded that Policies 5, 6 and 7 support infill development in this location.

<b>Planning Application Reference</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Reference to Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan</b>
20/04244/FUL	Detached workshop	Refused	Decision notice states application is contrary to Policies 7, 10 and 12 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
20/04570/FUL	Construction of 3 dwellings	Refused	Officer's report states application is contrary to Policy 7 and Policy 12 of the Neighbourhood Plan.
20/00027/FUL	Detached dwelling	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 7 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application.
20/00754/FUL	Erection of new timber clad building for new timber heat-treated processing unit.	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policies 7, 10 and 12 were relevant to determination of the application.
20/01002/FUL	Proposed shell prototype structure with grazing roof.	Approved	Officer report states Neighbourhood Plan Policy 7 was relevant to determination of the application.
<b>Planning Appeal Reference</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Reference to Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan</b>
APP/Y3940/W/19/3226817	Changes to ATM machine in conservation area	Dismissed	Inspector's report states development conflicts with Policy 7 of Neighbourhood Plan.
APP/Y3940/W/19/3236701	Erection of detached bungalow	Dismissed	Inspector's report states development is contrary to Policy 7 of Neighbourhood Plan.
APP/Y3940/W/17/3187915	Mixed development of up to 320 dwellings	Dismissed	Inspector's report states Neighbourhood Plan is material consideration but does not form part of development plan as site lies outside Neighbourhood Plan area.

2.4 Not all of the applications and appeals reviewed made reference to the Neighbourhood Plan as a material consideration. Of those that did, the policy most frequently referenced as being relevant to the determination of applications was Policy 7 (Design). Policy 10 (Landscape Setting) and Policy 12 (Road Safety, Traffic and Transport) were also widely referenced. Other policies that received a limited number of references were Policy 1 (Services and Facilities), Policy 2 (Convenience and Comparison Retail), Policy 5 (Infill Development), Policy 6 (High Quality Mixed Use) and Policy 8 (Employment Land).

2.5 The policies listed below were not referenced in any planning or appeal decisions. This is likely due to the nature of applications that have been submitted since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted:

- Policy 3 (Town Park and Row-de-Dow)
- Policy 4 (Integrated Community Facilities)
- Policy 9 (Visitor Accommodation and Facilities)
- Policy 11 (Railway Station)

2.6 Interestingly, there were a number of instances (highlighted orange in Table 1 above) in which the Town Council objected to the application on grounds that it did not comply with the Neighbourhood Plan but was subsequently considered to be in compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan by the Planning Officer. This highlights how the Neighbourhood Plan policies have been interpreted differently by both the Town Council and Wiltshire Council and may indicate that a strengthening of policy wording and supporting justification is required in order to avoid inconsistencies in application of the policies. The discrepancies identified related to Policies 5, 6, 7 and 12.

#### **b) Review of Conformity with National and Local Planning Policy**

2.7 Neighbourhood Plans are required to be prepared in accordance with the 2011 Localism Act and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Neighbourhood Plans are required to comply with the basic conditions, as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. These basic conditions are:

- a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;
- b) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- c) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- d) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
- e) Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.8 The adopted Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan (2017-2026) has six strategic objectives, derived from the overarching vision to *“provide a high quality sustainable environment for all who live, work, visit and study in Royal Wootton Bassett”*, and twelve policies.

2.9 The strategic objectives are to develop and enhance a town which:

- Has a strong, independent Market Town identity and an attractive vibrant town centre
- Provides all the facilities and services its residents require to improve its self-containment
- Provides well planned, good quality housing for all for every life stage, in line with sustainability principles and community views.
- Offers accessible, attractive green spaces for all to enjoy
- Is attractive to investors and employers as a location for growth

- Promotes sustainable transport choices encouraging walking and cycling both within and outside the town.

2.10 The twelve Neighbourhood Plan policies are summarised in the following table.

**Table 2. Summary of Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

Policy Theme	Policy Title	Policy Wording
Services, Facilities and Retailing	Policy 1 – Services and Facilities	The provision of new or improved community services and/or community facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents will be supported.
	Policy 2 – Convenience and Comparison Retail	The development of new and the retention of existing shops in the town centre will be supported, subject to such development respecting the character and appearance of the town centre. The town centre is shown on Plan 2.
	Policy 3 – Town Park and Row-de-Dow	Subject to representing local character and safeguarding nature conservation interests, the provision of a Town Park and the improvement of public rights of way in the areas shown on Plan 5 below and at the adjacent Row-de-Dow footpath, will be supported.
	Policy 4 – Integrated Community Facilities	The provision of integrated community facilities including health, leisure, sport, social services and community meeting space will be supported provided they are within the built-up area of the town and are accessible for users from the Royal Wootton Bassett Academy.
Development and Housing	Policy 5 – Infill Development	Proposals for the development of infill sites within the settlement boundary (as shown on Plan 6) and in close proximity to the services and facilities of the town will be supported.
	Policy 6 – High Quality Mixed Use Development	The redevelopment of brownfield sites for residential use will be supported, provided that such sites are not of high environmental value.
	Policy 7 – Design	Development must respect local character and conserve or enhance heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.
	Policy 8 – Employment Land	Employment development within Royal Wootton Bassett (B1, B2, B8) that respects local character, residential amenity and highway safety, will be supported.
	Policy 9 – Visitor Accommodation and Facilities	Within the built-up area, proposals for visitor accommodation and/or a new theatre will be supported, subject to there being no significant harm to residential amenity or highway safety.
	Policy 10 – Landscape Setting	Development should safeguard the separate identity and locally distinctive character of Royal Wootton Bassett and its unique landscape setting.

Policy Theme	Policy Title	Policy Wording
Transport	Policy 11 – Railway Station	The development of a railway station and supporting infrastructure to serve Royal Wootton Bassett will be supported.
	Policy 12 – Road Safety, Traffic and Transport	Development should not harm highway safety and must ensure that residual cumulative impacts of development are not severe. The promotion of walking, cycling and public transport will be supported.

2.11 This section of the report considers the extent to which each of the strategic objectives and policies within the Neighbourhood Plan complies with basic conditions (a) and (c).

2.12 Each of the following sub-sections begins by providing some context to national and local planning policies, including the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan Review and recent national planning policy changes that were published by the Government in August 2020 as part of their ‘Planning for the Future’ White Paper and ‘Changes to the Current Planning System’ consultations. Where possible, the objectives and policies contained in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan are then assessed against the relevant existing and emerging national and local policies to determine their level of conformity, and whether there are any gaps or inconsistencies that may need to be taken into account in the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

**i) Conformity with National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

2.13 Current national policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was originally published in 2012 and revised in February 2019. The policies contained within the NPPF are supported by National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

2.14 The following table sets out the extent to which the existing Neighbourhood Plan policies and objectives have regard to relevant policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- Achieving sustainable development;
- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes;
- Building a strong, competitive economy;
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres;
- Promoting healthy and safe communities;
- Promoting sustainable transport;
- Supporting high quality communications;
- Making effective use of land;
- Achieving well-designed places;
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change;
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.15 The table also identifies where the wording of the strategic objectives might be slightly revised or clarified.

**Table 3. Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with NPPF**

Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Objective	Relevant NPPF Policy Theme	
2.1.1 Has a strong, independent Market Town identity and an attractive vibrant town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Ensuring the vitality of town centres'</li> </ul>	
2.1.2 Provides all the facilities and services its residents require to improve its self-containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Achieving sustainable development'</li> </ul> <p>If this objective is retained in the Neighbourhood Plan Review, it may be helpful to re-word this objective in the context of 'sustainability' rather than 'self-containment', as the latter appears to suggest that the town is not open to growth beyond the boundaries of the current urban form.</p>	
2.1.3 Provides well planned, good quality housing for all for every life stage, in line with sustainability principles and community views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Delivering a sufficient supply of homes'</li> </ul> <p>If this objective is retained within the Neighbourhood Plan Review, it may provide greater clarity to reword the second part of this objective as follows: "...in line with principles of sustainable development and community needs".</p>	
2.1.4 Offers accessible, attractive green spaces for all to enjoy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment'</li> <li>• 'Achieving well-designed places'</li> </ul> <p>In order to strengthen the achievement of this objective within the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council may wish to consider designating specific sites as 'local green spaces'.</p>	
2.1.5 Is attractive to investors and employers as a location for growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Building a strong, competitive economy'</li> </ul>	
2.1.6 Promotes sustainable transport choices encouraging walking and cycling both within and outside the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Promoting sustainable transport'</li> </ul>	
Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant NPPF Paragraph(s)	Commentary
Policy 1 – Services and Facilities	28, 92, 121(b), 182	The policy is broadly in line with policies contained in the NPPF. However, there may be a need to ensure that new community facilities do not disrupt the amenity of existing uses (such as residential uses) or vice versa (NPPF paragraph 182).
Policy 2 – Convenience and Comparison Retail	85, 121	The policy is broadly in line with the NPPF objective of supporting the vitality of town centres. However, there may be a need to consider whether the policy is sufficiently flexible to allow the town centre to diversify through allowing a suitable mix of alternative uses (NPPF paragraph 85). This is particularly

		important in light of the difficulties currently being faced by the retail sector, particularly in town centres. It will also be necessary to take account of the changes to the Use Classes Order that came into effect in September 2020. This introduced a new Class E (commercial, business and services) which allows changes of uses between uses such as shops, offices, health centres, nurseries, indoor leisure uses and cafes/restaurants without the need for planning permission. The Government is also currently consulting on a further proposed new permitted development right for the change of use from Class E to residential. The outcome of this consultation has not yet been determined.
Policy 3 – Town Park and Row-de-Dow	8, 83, 96 – 100, 170, 174	This policy aligns with the NPPF policies on nature conservation and provision of open space. In reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan the Town Council may wish to consider the potential for allocating this site as a 'local green space', assuming it meets the requirements set out in NPPF paragraphs 99 – 100.
Policy 4 – Integrated Community Facilities	28, 92, 121(b), 182	This policy broadly aligns with policies contained in the NPPF by ensuring that community facilities are provided at the local level.
Policy 5 – Infill Development	84, 118, 122	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land, including encouraging use of previously developed land and sites that are physically well-related to existing settlements. In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider whether there are any particular infill sites they wish to allocate for specific uses with the Neighbourhood Plan.
Policy 6 – High Quality Mixed Use Development	84, 117, 118	This policy aligns with the objectives of the NPPF to make effective use of land through maximising use of 'brownfield' or previously developed land, particularly for the delivery of housing. In reviewing this policy the Town Council may wish to consider whether there is benefit in supporting delivery of other non-residential uses on brownfield sites. The Town Council may wish to allocate specific brownfield sites for particular uses with the Neighbourhood Plan.
Policy 7 – Design	124-127, 185, 197	This policy is broadly in line with the NPPF policies on achieving well-designed places (paragraphs 124 – 127), however it could be more explicit in terms of setting out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable. The policy's reference to heritage assets is also broadly in line with the NPPF's objective of conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
Policy 8 – Employment Land	80 – 82	This policy aligns with the NPPF objective of building a strong, competitive economy. The Town Council may consider whether they wish to allocate any sites for employment development within the Neighbourhood Plan Review. As

		noted in Policy 2 above, it will also be necessary to take account of the recent changes to the Use Classes Order and the introduction of the new Class E (commercial, business and services).
Policy 9 – Visitor Accommodation and Facilities	80 – 82	This policy aligns with the NPPF objective of building a strong, competitive economy.
Policy 10 – Landscape Setting	127	This policy aligns with the NPPF objective of achieving well-designed places by ensuring that developments are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting (paragraph 127c).
Policy 11 – Railway Station	102	This policy is broadly in line with the NPPF objective of promoting sustainable transport. In supporting the development of a railway station, the Town Council may wish to consider how other forms of development will relate to or be served by this railway station.
Policy 12 – Road Safety, Traffic and Transport	102, 104, 110	This policy is broadly in line with the NPPF objective of promoting sustainable transport, however it may benefit from being more explicit in terms of explaining in what circumstances development proposals will be considered acceptable under this policy.

2.16 The above table demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan's strategic objectives are broadly in conformity with the policy themes of the NPPF

**ii) Conformity with Emerging National Policy**

2.17 On 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the Government published its 'Planning for the Future' white paper, which sets out a number of proposed reforms to the current planning system, with the primary objective of cutting red tape, streamlining the system and increasing the delivery of new homes.

2.18 Whilst the detail of the legislative changes required to enact these shifts in policy is not yet known, what is clear is that the Government intends for Neighbourhood Plans to continue to play a key role in the development plan system and that a plan led system will remain. The potential implications of the Government's proposed changes for future neighbourhood plan-making are summarised below. We have not directly assessed the extent to which the policies and objectives contained in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan are in conformity with the emerging national policy changes because the precise detail of these proposed policy changes has not yet been confirmed.

2.19 In addition, the impact of any changes will not be realised immediately, not least because the consultation period only concluded at the end of October 2020. Following this many of the proposed changes may be removed or modified and it is likely that primary and secondary legislation will be required, which will take some time to be made into law – this could take several years. Therefore, the implications of the proposed changes to the planning system identified in the 'Planning for the Future' white paper are unlikely to directly affect the preparation of the Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Review.

2.20 However, the potential impact of the proposed national policy changes upon future iterations of the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The white paper emphasises the role of Neighbourhood Plans in producing design guides and codes to ensure that development reflects local character and preferences about the form and appearance of development;
- The Government has stated that they intend to retain the Neighbourhood Share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (up to 25%) that is currently transferred to parish councils;
- There will be a move towards the use of digital tools, such as 3D visualisations, to help groups when preparing their plans with the aim of making them more accessible and easier to understand;
- It is currently unclear whether under the proposed policy changes neighbourhood plans will still have a role in allocating sites for development and whether they will be able to categorise land under the categories of 'growth', 'renewal' and 'protection'; and
- The policy changes propose to revert the responsibility for preparing development management policies to the national level, which may reduce the role of neighbourhood plans in developing such policies locally.

2.21 Alongside the white paper, the Government also published a further consultation on 'Changes to the current planning system', with a deadline for representations of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. This consultation sets out its policy requirement for First Homes<sup>1</sup>, including that a minimum of 25% of all affordable housing units secured through developer contributions should be First Homes. Should the Town Council wish to allocate sites within the

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<sup>1</sup> First Homes are houses for sale with a minimum discount of 30% off full market value which is then retained in perpetuity through the imposition of restrictive covenants that apply when the property is resold. Local first-time buyers and key workers are prioritised for First Homes.

Neighbourhood Plan for housing, the consultation document states that neighbourhood plans that are submitted for Examination within 6 months of this new policy being enacted will not need to reflect the First Homes policy requirements. In order to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan's future alignment with national policy, we would suggest that any references to delivery of affordable homes within the Neighbourhood Plan Review are reflective of the First Homes policy.

### iii) **Conformity with the Adopted Local Development Plan**

2.22 Paragraph 13 of the NPPF refers to Neighbourhood Development Plans and states that those plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies. Footnote 16 to paragraph 29 also states that Neighbourhood Plans must be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area.

2.23 The Neighbourhood Plan was prepared in the context of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015), which remains the most recently adopted strategic policy document for the local planning authority with which the Neighbourhood Plan Review must be in conformity.

2.24 The Examiner's Report for the Neighbourhood Plan confirms that its policies were in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy. Notably, the Neighbourhood Plan followed the same timescale of the Core Strategy (covering a period 2017 to 2026).

2.25 In relation to the policies for housing development the Examiner noted that the Neighbourhood Plan's policies were generally more restrictive in terms of the approach to development outside of the settlement boundary. However, the Examiner's Report also noted:

*"I am mindful of the supporting text in the Development and Housing Chapter and of Wiltshire Council's comments in respect of Royal Wootton Bassett having already met its indicative housing requirement, as established in the development plan. Taking this information into account, the Policy is in general conformity with the Core Strategy."*

2.26 These conclusions are a result of the housing requirement for Royal Wootton Bassett provided by Core Policy 19 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015). This identifies an overall requirement for the town of 1,070 dwellings of which, at 2014, 583 units were already recorded as complete and 494 units identified on specific permitted sites. This meant that no residual requirement for allocations was identified as necessary for general conformity with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy.

2.27 This is a point repeated by the Examiner in the assessment (and ultimately recommended deletion) of the proposed allocation at Land off Maple Drive, dealt with at Paragraph 118 of the Examiner's Report. Paragraph 132 of the Examiner's Report deals with the overall range of issues identified in relation to the proposed allocation of land for development within the existing Neighbourhood Plan:

*"In summary, the allocation in Policy 10 has not emerged through an identified need to identify land for a certain number of dwellings. There is no substantive evidence to demonstrate that the size of the allocation is appropriate in respect of meeting the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. There is no substantive evidence to demonstrate that it will, necessarily, contribute to the achievement of sustainable development."*

2.28 We note that these issues extend to potential constraints within the natural and historic environment associated with the proposed designation. While the Examiner did not go as far as to state that the process of preparing the plan failed to satisfy relevant obligations in terms of Strategic Environmental Assessment (see Report paragraphs 31 and 32) it was established that the proposed allocation was not supported by clear conclusions in terms of

site capacity and presentation of assessment findings as part of consultation on the draft plan. A key factor associated with this relates to use of evidence from Wiltshire Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the local criteria employed when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. The outcomes of the Examination for the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan demonstrate the importance of robust evidence for site assessment and the identification of any proposed allocations, which will be important considerations if choosing to allocate sites as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

- 2.29 As the Core Strategy (2015) was in place at the time the Neighbourhood Plan was examined, the conformity of the Neighbourhood Plan policies with these strategic policies has already been tested. It will however be necessary for any policies developed through the Neighbourhood Plan Review to remain in conformity with the Core Strategy as this is the most up-to-date development plan for Wiltshire. It will also need to be in conformity with the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan Review. The following table assesses the extent to which policies and objectives contained in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan are in conformity with the Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015).

**Table 4. Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015)**

Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Objective	Relevant Core Strategy Policy	Commentary
2.1.1 Has a strong, independent Market Town identity and an attractive vibrant town centre	Core Policy 1 – Settlement Strategy	This objective aligns with Core Policy 1 which states that the district’s market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) support sustainable patterns of living through their current levels of facilities, services and employment opportunities.
2.1.2 Provides all the facilities and services its residents require to improve its self-containment	Core Policy 1 – Settlement Strategy	This objective aligns with Core Policy 1 which states that market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) have the potential to enhance their services and facilities to promote better levels of self-containment.
2.1.3 Provides well planned, good quality housing for all for every life stage, in line with sustainability principles and community views	Core Policy 1 – Settlement Strategy Core Policy 57 – Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping	This objective aligns with Core Policy 1 which states that market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) have the potential to increase the number of homes in the town in order to promote viable sustainable communities and support sustainable patterns of living. This objective also aligns with Core Policy 57 which requires a high standard of design in all new developments and expects development to create a strong sense of place.
2.1.4 Offers accessible, attractive green spaces for all to enjoy	Core Policy 52 – Green Infrastructure	This objective aligns with Core Policy 52 which states that development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire’s green infrastructure network, by ensuring that suitable links to the network are provided and maintained. New development should also make provision for accessible open space in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards.
2.1.5 Is attractive to investors and employers as a location for growth	Core Policy 1 – Settlement Strategy	This objective aligns with Core Policy 1 which states that market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) have the potential to increase the number of jobs in the town in order to deliver sustainable communities.
2.1.6 Promotes sustainable transport choices encouraging walking and cycling both within and outside the town	Core Policy 1 – Settlement Strategy	This objective aligns with Core Policy 1 which encourages market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) to support sustainable patterns of living through enhanced services and facilities.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Core Strategy Policy)	Commentary
Policy 1 – Services and Facilities	Core Policy 1 – Settlement Strategy Core Policy 3 – Infrastructure Requirements	This policy aligns with Core Policy 1 which encourages market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) to support sustainable patterns of living through enhanced services and facilities.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 3, which requires new development to provide for necessary on-site and off-site infrastructure requirements arising from the proposal e.g. through developer contributions or CIL.
Policy 2 – Convenience and Comparison Retail	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area	This policy aligns with Core Policy 19 which supports additional convenience floorspace and up to 400 sqm comparison retail floorspace in the town.
Policy 3 – Town Park and Row-de-Dow	Core Policy 52 – Green Infrastructure	This objective aligns with Core Policy 52 which states that development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire’s green infrastructure network, by ensuring that suitable links to the network are provided and maintained. As well as providing new green infrastructure, the delivery of a new Town Park and improvements to the Row-de-Dow footpath will also align with the requirements of Core Policy 52 by enhancing and improving linkages between the natural and historic landscapes of Wiltshire.
Policy 4 – Integrated Community Facilities	Core Policy 3 – Infrastructure Requirements	This policy aligns with Core Policy 3, which requires new development to provide for necessary on-site and off-site infrastructure requirements arising from the proposal e.g. through developer contributions or CIL.
Policy 5 – Infill Development	Core Policy 2 – Delivery Strategy Core Policy 57 – Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping	This policy aligns with Core Policy 2 which promotes sustainable development on brownfield sites or previously developed land, and identifies a presumption in favour of sustainable development within the defined settlement boundaries of market towns, including Royal Wootton Bassett.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 57 which requires new development to make efficient use of land whilst taking account of the characteristics of the site and the local context.
Policy 6 – High Quality Mixed Use Development	Core Policy 2 – Delivery Strategy	This policy aligns with Core Policy 2 which promotes sustainable development on brownfield sites or previously developed land.

	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area	This policy also aligns with Core Policy 19, which requires non-strategic growth in Royal Wootton Bassett to deliver homes in a balanced manner that will enable infrastructure issues to be addressed.
Policy 7 – Design	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Core Policy 51 – Landscape Core Policy 57 – Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping Core Policy 58 – Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment	This policy aligns with Core Policy 19 which seeks to protect the distinct character and identity of Royal Wootton Bassett, particularly in the east of the town where there may be unplanned development pressure from Swindon.  This policy aligns with Core Policy 51 which states that proposals should ensure that landscape features of cultural, historic and heritage value are conserved and where possible enhanced through sensitive design.  This policy aligns with Core Policy 57 which requires a high standard of design in all new developments and expects development to create a strong sense of place.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 58 which states that development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.
Policy 8 – Employment Land	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Core Policy 34 – Additional Employment Land	This policy aligns with Core Policy 19 which promotes a mix of employment development alongside housing within Royal Wootton Bassett.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 34 which supports proposals for employment development (use classes B1, B2 or B8) within Market Towns such as Royal Wootton Bassett as long as they are in the right location and support the strategy, role and function of the town.
Policy 9 – Visitor Accommodation and Facilities	Core Policy 36 – Economic Regeneration Core Policy 39 – Tourist Development Core Policy 40 – Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, Guest	This policy aligns with Core Policy 36 which supports the regeneration of brownfield sites where proposed uses help to enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre by introducing a range of active uses that complement the existing town centre.  This policy aligns with Core Policy 39 which supports tourist development of an appropriate scale (including tourist accommodation) within market towns (including Royal Wootton Bassett) subject to a sequential assessment and assessment of transport implications.

	Houses and Conference Facilities	This policy aligns with Core Policy 40 which states that proposals for new hotels, bed and breakfasts, guesthouses or conference facilities will be supported within market towns, including Royal Wootton Bassett, provided it is demonstrated that the proposals will not have a detrimental impact on the vitality of the town centre and will avoid unacceptable traffic generation.
Policy 10 – Landscape Setting	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Core Policy 51 - Landscape	This policy aligns with Core Policy 19 which seeks to protect the distinct character and identity of Royal Wootton Bassett, particularly in the east of the town where there may be unplanned development pressure from Swindon.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 51 which states that development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have a harmful impact upon landscape character.
Policy 11 – Railway Station	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Core Policy 66 – Strategic Transport Network	This policy aligns with Core Policy 19, which supports the development of a Royal Wootton Bassett railway station.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 66 which supports the development of a new railway station at Royal Wootton Bassett.
Policy 12 – Road Safety, Traffic and Transport	Core Policy 19 – Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Core Policy 60 – Sustainable Transport Core Policy 61 – Transport and New Development	This policy aligns with Core Policy 19, which states that developer contributions from future housing growth should help deliver infrastructure, in particular improved pedestrian and cycle links between the town centres of Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade, and a cycle way between Royal Wootton Bassett and Windmill Hill Business Park. This strategic policy also recognises local concerns regarding the impacts of HGV traffic on the local road network.  This policy aligns with Core Policy 60 which seeks to reduce the need to travel by car by promoting sustainable transport alternatives.  This policy also aligns with Core Policy 61 which requires that proposals for new development are capable of being served by safe access to the highway network.

#### iv) Conformity with Emerging Wiltshire Local Plan Review

- 2.30 The timescales for the review of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review are determined by the Council's Local Development Scheme. It is important to note that this has been updated on several occasions, reflecting the extensive nature of the Local Plan Review process, and the most recent version adopted in July 2020 post-dates the engagement with the Developer's Forum relating to alternative development strategies and reflects delays that have arisen due to the impacts of Covid-19.
- 2.31 The current timetable indicates that further "informal engagement of revised scope and emerging strategy" will be undertaken at the end of Quarter 4 of 2020 and into the beginning of Quarter 1 of 2021 with consultation on the "Pre-Submission" draft Local Plan Review due at a similar point in 2021. **Consultation on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review (Regulation 18) is currently being undertaken from 13<sup>th</sup> January until 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.** According to the Local Development Scheme (LDS), adoption of the new Local Plan following Examination is expected in mid-2023.
- 2.32 In terms of the progress that has been made with the Wiltshire Local Plan Review to date, this has so far comprised the following stages:
- Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation undertaken in November – December 2017;
  - Further informal consultation with Town and Parish Councils on scale and distribution of growth undertaken in October 2018; and
  - A further Regulation 18 consultation on the Emerging Spatial Strategy is currently taking place from 13<sup>th</sup> January until 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 2.33 As the Local Plan Review is still at a relatively early stage, the full detail of the proposed strategic policies has not yet been published. However, the documents published in December 2020 as part of the further Regulation 18 consultation (including the Emerging Spatial Strategy, Royal Wootton Bassett Settlement Statement and Royal Wootton Bassett Site Selection Report) provide details of the scale of new development proposed and the preferred locations of growth. We have reviewed these documents, together with other relevant published evidence that underpins the Local Plan Review, and have identified the following points that we recommend are taken into consideration when preparing the Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Review:

#### **Proposed Spatial Strategy and the Role of Royal Wootton Bassett**

- Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) continues to identify Royal Wootton Bassett as a Market Town. One of the key considerations for the Local Plan is to establish the role of the market towns, including Royal Wootton Bassett, in terms of identifying their housing and economic growth needs and how these needs should be supported by appropriate infrastructure provision.
- The Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) states that a set of 'place shaping priorities' will guide how and where development will take place and what the priorities are to manage change in the local environment, and that these will be agreed with relevant Town and Parish Councils. Draft priorities for Royal Wootton Bassett are set out in the Royal Wootton Bassett Settlement Statement. It is recommended that the Town Council continues to engage with the Local Authority in developing these priorities to ensure that they align with the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Housing**

- The SHMAA (2017) identifies Royal Wootton Bassett as forming part of the Swindon Housing Market Area (HMA). As part of the Local Plan review process, a revised local

housing need figure would need to be calculated. Using the Standard Method (updated in December 2020) this identifies a housing requirement of 2,006 dwellings per annum (dpa) or 40,840 over the plan period for Wiltshire. A Local Housing Need Assessment, which takes account of longer term migration and economic forecasts, identifies a higher requirement figure of 45,630. This translates to a housing requirement within the Wiltshire part of the Swindon HMA of between 2,935 and 3,255 dwellings over the plan period.

- The aim of the Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) is to focus growth on brownfield land within the main settlements (including Royal Wootton Bassett). Each of the main settlements will have a target amount of new homes that will need to be planned for within its urban area. Neighbourhood Plans will play a role in managing the use of brownfield land for new uses and for additional homes.
- In terms of identifying other strategic sites for housing, the preferred option outlined in the Emerging Spatial Strategy for the Swindon HMA is to focus growth within Royal Wootton Bassett. The housing requirement for Royal Wootton Bassett is identified as 1,255 dwellings for the period 2016-2036. A number of dwellings have been built in Royal Wootton Bassett in recent years, which means that the residual requirement as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 is 990 dwellings.
- In terms of allocating sites for this housing, the Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) does not select specific sites in Royal Wootton Bassett but instead identifies eight sites considered to be 'reasonable alternatives' or 'preferred sites' recommended for further assessment. The Town Council may wish to identify which (if any) of these to allocate for housing through the Neighbourhood Plan. **However, this is a process which Wiltshire Council may undertake themselves. If the Town Council which to retain this element of plan making, it is important that representations are made to the Local Plan consultation and the Town Council engages with the relevant officers and Members at Wiltshire Council.**
- In delivering housing allocations in Royal Wootton Bassett the Emerging Spatial Strategy notes the importance of ensuring the infrastructure is in place to support the proposed level of growth, including transport infrastructure. This is something that the Town Council may wish to consider when developing policies within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- In addition to the proposed housing allocations, the Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) also identifies a 'brownfield target' for Royal Wootton Bassett of 70 dwellings, which it states will form the basis for the housing requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Local Plan Review does not intend to review settlement boundaries, but may allocate more development on greenfield sites at the edge of some settlements, and the intention is to continue to focus development on principal settlements and market towns (Scope of the Plan – Report of Parish Briefings, 2019) – the Neighbourhood Plan may therefore wish to consider including policies that deal with edge-of-settlement development, including how this relates to the existing built form of the town.
- The SHMAA indicates that Wiltshire has an affordable housing need of 14,376 for the period 2016-2036.

## Employment

- Royal Wootton Bassett is identified as forming part of the Swindon Functional Economic Market Area (FEMAA, 2017). The FEMAA identifies a requirement for 15,030 additional jobs, between 19.2 and 47.9ha additional office space, and 87ha

additional industrial space over the period 2016-2036 within the Swindon FEMA. The Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) forecasts that an additional 26ha of employment land will be required in Wiltshire, of which 6ha will be required in the Wiltshire part of the Swindon FEMA over the plan period.

- According to the Emerging Spatial Strategy, all new employment land within the Swindon HMA is proposed to be focused within Royal Wootton Bassett, particularly retail space within or near to the town centre. Other employment sites are also being promoted adjoining junction 16 of the M4. The Neighbourhood Plan may wish to consider whether policies are required to allocate these employment sites or to support or manage their delivery.

### **Other Considerations**

- The new Local Plan is likely to run until at least 2036 – the Town Council may wish to bear this in mind when setting timeframe for the new Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Local Plan Review is also likely to include greater focus on health and wellbeing (Local Plan Review Consultation Paper, 2017). This may be something to consider when developing the Neighbourhood Plan Review.
- Local Plan Review likely to include clarification and guidance for Town and Parish Councils with respect to Local Green Space Designations (Local Plan Review Consultation Paper, 2017) – Town Council may wish to consider designating Local Green Spaces within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Wiltshire Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019, with an ambition to seek to make the county carbon neutral by 2030. The Town Council may wish to consider how the Neighbourhood Plan might contribute towards achieving this ambition.
- The Local Plan Review (Emerging Spatial Strategy) acknowledges the changing role of town centres, particularly in light of the impacts of Covid-19. The Neighbourhood Plan may wish to consider how policies relating to retail and the town centre can be flexible and responsive to market signals whilst also sustaining a role for the traditional high street.
- The Local Plan Review (Royal Wootton Bassett Settlement Statement) identifies additional infrastructure that may be required to support the proposed housing and employment growth within the town. This includes school places, energy generation infrastructure, improvements to blue-green infrastructure, sports and leisure facilities, GP surgeries, specialist housing for older people, affordable housing, transport infrastructure (including strategic bus routes, traffic impacts in the town centre and High Street, need for increased capacity at M4 Junction 16 and a railway station). The Town Council may wish to consider how the Neighbourhood Plan might respond to these infrastructure requirements.

### **c) Summary of Engagement with Wiltshire Council**

- 2.34 A meeting was held between members of the Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, DLP Planning and Wiltshire Council planning officers on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the timescales for the Local Plan Review together with any emerging strategic policies and priorities, particularly those relating to Royal Wootton Bassett. The Wiltshire Council officers were also asked to reflect on the existing Neighbourhood Plan, including whether and to what extent its policies had been applied in decision-making.
- 2.35 The Marsh Farm appeal decision was referenced as an example in which the Neighbourhood

Plan was identified as a 'material consideration' however because the appeal site lies outside the Neighbourhood Plan area it did not form part of the development plan for the appeal site. Wiltshire Council Officers provided a list of recent planning applications which we have reviewed (see section 2(a) above) in order to understand how the Neighbourhood Plan policies have been applied in practice.

- 2.36 It was agreed that the Town Council and Wiltshire Council would need to work closely together going forwards, particularly as the Neighbourhood Plan Review may come forwards before the Local Plan.
- 2.37 It is recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group continues to engage with Wiltshire Council, particularly when the draft vision, objectives and policy scoping exercise has been undertaken, to ensure that these align with the emerging Local Plan.
- 2.38 It is also recommended that the Town Council Working Group submits a comprehensive response to the forthcoming Regulation 18 consultation, particularly on matters that will be of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan, including the scale and location of proposed strategic housing sites, the proposed 'place shaping priorities' for Royal Wootton Bassett, and the provision of infrastructure to support new development.

#### d) Conclusions

- 2.39 The following table reflects on the findings from the above assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan conformity with adopted and emerging national and local strategic policies by presenting a series of recommendations for how the individual plan policies may be revised, expanded or refined in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan Review.
- 2.40 These recommendations can then be combined with the findings from the initial stakeholder engagement exercise in order to inform the next stage of policy scoping.

**Table 5. Neighbourhood Plan Policy Recommendations**

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Policy Recommendations
Policy 1 – Services and Facilities	<p>In reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan the Town Council may wish to consider whether this policy could be more specific in terms of the type of community facilities they wish to support in particular, in what locations, what 'community facilities' are defined as, and whether they wish to allocate any sites for community use. It may be useful for the policy to caveat certain types of community facilities being developed in certain locations (such as community facilities that produce large amounts of noise being situated close to residential properties). It may also be worth considering how applications involving the loss or repurposing of existing community facilities would be dealt with by the Town Council, and in what circumstances, if any, these types of applications would be considered acceptable.</p> <p>As a general point, it is a bit unclear whether this policy is intended to refer specifically to the provision of health care facilities, and if not, how this policy is differentiated from Policy 4. This may be something to clarify through the review process.</p>
Policy 2 – Convenience and Comparison Retail	<p>In light of the difficulties currently being faced by the retail sector, particularly in town centres, as well as supporting new or retention of existing retail uses, the Town Council may wish to consider how this policy might also support changes of use to other sustainable uses that will not detract from the vitality of the town centre (also taking account of the establishment of a new 'Class E' in the Use Classes Order). In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider whether the town centre boundary currently identified within the Neighbourhood Plan remains appropriate, and what are the key</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Policy Recommendations
	<p>characteristics of the ‘character and appearance of the town centre’ that they wish to reflect in new development. The Council may wish to consider the possibility of developing a Design Code for town centre (and other) development within the town.</p> <p>The Town Council may wish to consider whether there are any vacant sites within the town centre, whether these have been vacant for a while, and what alternative uses may be suited for these sites if they are likely to be less viable for retail use in the future.</p>
<p>Policy 3 – Town Park and Row-de-Dow</p>	<p>In reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council may wish to consider whether to allocate the Town Park and Row-de-Dow site as a ‘local green space’. The policy may benefit from being reworded in order to clarify what is meant by the reference to ‘local character’ and specifically how nature conservation interests at the site are expected to be safeguarded.</p> <p>The Town Council may also wish to consider whether there are any other green spaces within the town that would benefit from designation as ‘local green spaces’ (such as the parks and play areas identified on page 18 of the Plan), and whether an additional policy to protect or enhance these other spaces may be appropriate.</p> <p>If appropriate, the Town Council may also wish to allocate other suitable sites for open space uses, such as community allotments or skate park.</p>
<p>Policy 4 – Integrated Community Facilities</p>	<p>In undertaking the review, should this policy still be required it is recommended that further clarification is provided on what is meant by the term ‘integrated community facilities’. It is also recommended that clarification is provided on how this policy is differentiated from Policy 1 in terms of its overarching objective. The Town Council may wish to consider whether it is appropriate to allocate site (or sites) within the town for the development of community facilities. The policy may also benefit from a definition of ‘accessibility from Royal Wootton Bassett Academy’ in terms of walking or cycling distance.</p>
<p>Policy 5 – Infill Development</p>	<p>The review of recent planning application and appeal decisions revealed some discrepancies in how this policy has been applied by both the Town Council and Wiltshire Council Planning Officers. In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider strengthening the policy wording to ensure that the policy is interpreted and implemented in the way it was originally intended.</p> <p>In reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council may wish to consider whether there are any particular infill sites they wish to allocate for specific uses. This could take account of the proposed ‘brownfield target’ of 70 dwellings identified in the emerging Local Plan Review.</p> <p>It may also be beneficial to specify for what particular uses proposals for infill development will be supported (such as affordable or family housing, or older persons accommodation) or whether it is all uses that will be supported. The Town Council may also wish to review the settlement boundary identified on Plan 6 to ensure that this remains appropriate, particularly in light of any recent or planned developments that may be located on the edge of the settlement.</p>
<p>Policy 6 – High Quality Mixed Use Development</p>	<p>The review of recent planning application and appeal decisions revealed some discrepancies in how this policy has been applied by both the Town Council and Wiltshire Council Planning Officers. In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Policy Recommendations
	<p>strengthening the policy wording to ensure that the policy is interpreted and implemented in the way it was originally intended.</p> <p>In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider whether there is benefit in supporting delivery of other non-residential uses on brownfield sites. If the Town Council wishes to focus redevelopment of brownfield land for residential use, it may be beneficial to identify what particular types of residential development may be preferred (for example, affordable housing, family housing or older persons accommodation). This may require an assessment of local housing need. The Town Council may also wish to allocate specific brownfield sites for particular uses with the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>It is recommended that a revised policy defines what is meant by 'high environmental value', how this is measured, and whether there is any benefit in supporting redevelopment of brownfield sites that are deemed to be of 'high environmental value' in a way that ensures the environmental benefits are retained, such as through incorporating areas of 'high environmental value' into the overall scheme design, or requiring developers to contribute towards off-site environmental enhancements, nature conservation or biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>The title of this policy should be reviewed to ensure that it reflects the overarching objectives of the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 7 – Design</p>	<p>The review of recent planning application and appeal decisions revealed some discrepancies in how this policy has been applied by both the Town Council and Wiltshire Council Planning Officers. In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider strengthening the policy wording to ensure that the policy is interpreted and implemented in the way it was originally intended.</p> <p>This policy could be more explicit in terms of setting out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable in terms of the design of new developments. The Town Council may wish to consider establishing a local design guide or design codes that could then be referred to in the policy wording.</p> <p>In terms of assessing the impact of proposed developments upon heritage assets, it may be worth considering including this as a separate policy. It may also be beneficial for this policy to be more explicit in terms of identifying which heritage assets it applies to (e.g. statutory listed assets or locally identified heritage assets).</p>
<p>Policy 8 – Employment Land</p>	<p>If this policy is retained, it is recommended that greater clarity is provided on the criteria of 'local character, residential amenity and highway safety' to make it clear to applicants how their proposals can comply with the requirements of the policy. The Town Council may also wish to consider whether to allocate any sites for employment development within the Neighbourhood Plan Review, taking account of the proposed Local Plan Review requirement of 6ha to be provided within Royal Wootton Bassett.</p> <p>The implications of the recent changes in permitted development rights, including the new Class E use, should also be taken into account when reviewing this policy.</p>
<p>Policy 9 – Visitor Accommodation and Facilities</p>	<p>In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider whether there are any further criteria that proposals for visitor accommodation should meet, such as access to public transport or</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Policy Recommendations
	minimum car parking standards.
Policy 10 – Landscape Setting	The Town Council may wish to strengthen this policy in the Neighbourhood Plan Review by including greater clarification on how development is expected to safeguard the <i>‘separate identity and locally distinctive character of Royal Wootton Bassett and its unique landscape setting’</i> – what types of development and in what locations are likely to be considered acceptable and unacceptable. The Town Council may also wish to consider introducing a ‘green gap’ or ‘strategic gap’ policy, which seeks to preserve the physical separation between Swindon and Royal Wootton Bassett (although this may be restricted to some extent by the Parish boundary being drawn tightly along the northern boundary of the town).
Policy 11 – Railway Station	In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider how other forms of development will relate to or be served by the railway station, for example through cycle or bus links, and what amount of car parking should be provided.
Policy 12 – Road Safety, Traffic and Transport	<p>The review of recent planning application and appeal decisions revealed some discrepancies in how this policy has been applied by both the Town Council and Wiltshire Council Planning Officers. In reviewing this policy, the Town Council may wish to consider strengthening the policy wording to ensure that the policy is interpreted and implemented in the way it was originally intended.</p> <p>In reviewing this policy, it is recommended that further detail is included, such as around how development proposals will be assessed to ensure that they do not impact highway safety, and also in what ways sustainable transport modes should be supported within new developments. It is also recommended that the policy explains what is meant by the term ‘highway safety’ and how this will be measured (e.g. is the aim of this policy also to reduce congestion?). The Town Council may wish to consider whether to introduce local parking standards for residential and non-residential forms of development.</p>

2.41 When preparing policies in the Neighbourhood Plan Review it is also recommended that the policy wording is clear and robust, in order to maximise the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Plan and ensure that it holds weight in future planning decision-making. For example, a number of the objectives included in the supporting text of the adopted Neighbourhood Plan would benefit from inclusion within the wording of each policy in order to strengthen its usefulness and implementation.

2.42 In addition to the existing policies listed above, the Town Council may wish to consider whether to include additional policies or allocations, such as those relating to:

- Allocation of sites for housing, employment or other uses;
- Allocation of Local Green Spaces;
- The delivery of infrastructure required to support new development;
- The delivery of edge-of-settlement sites (including strategic housing and employment allocations) to ensure that these relate well to the existing built form of the town;
- The changing role of town centres;
- Health and well-being; and
- Mitigating climate change and climate change impacts.

- 2.1 Alongside considering the policy recommendations identified above, revisions or additions to the Neighbourhood Plan policies should also take account of the outcomes of the public engagement exercise (detailed in Section 3 of this report).
- 2.2 It is also recommended that the overarching vision and strategic objectives contained within the Neighbourhood Plan are reviewed, taking account of both the public consultation activity and the emerging 'place-shaping priorities' that are being defined for Royal Wootton Bassett through the Local Plan Review. Should these emerging 'priorities' contradict the vision and objectives that are emerging from the work being undertaken by the Town Council to develop the Neighbourhood Plan, it is recommended that a written response to these draft priorities is submitted to Wiltshire Council as part of the Regulation 18 consultation.

### **3.0 INITIAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE**

- 3.1 An initial stakeholder engagement exercise was undertaken in October 2020 for a period of six weeks. The purpose of this initial public consultation exercise was to gauge opinion amongst the Town Council, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and wider community on whether the scope of the existing adopted Neighbourhood Plan policies remain appropriate and whether the vision and strategic objectives contained within the original Neighbourhood Plan continue to be valid and address the needs of local residents and businesses. As part of this engagement exercise it was also deemed appropriate to seek opinions on the scope of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, whether these are considered appropriate in the current context, and what additional or amended policies (or policy themes) may be required.
- 3.2 The engagement exercise also provided an important opportunity to raise awareness of neighbourhood planning and the plan-making process in general, as well as providing an opportunity for local residents to become more involved in the process by joining the Neighbourhood Plan mailing list, joining the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group or assisting with future engagement exercises / leaflet distributions etc.
- 3.3 This section of the report sets out the approach to engagement that was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group with support from DLP Planning and analyses the results of the consultation activity. This section concludes by summarising the key consultation findings and provides recommendations on how these outcomes might be used to inform future stages of the Neighbourhood Plan review.

#### **a) Approach to Engagement**

- 3.4 The approach to the initial stakeholder engagement exercise was to a large extent informed by the wider context, including restrictions around mass gatherings and social distancing that were in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The consultation exercise that was undertaken demonstrates that successful engagement activities can be undertaken in these circumstances, particularly as many people are getting to grips with accessing new technologies from home.
- 3.5 The chosen method of engagement was a questionnaire which could be completed either online or as a paper copy returned by post, thereby minimising social contact. The questionnaire was accompanied by a leaflet and set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which outlined the purpose and scope of the consultation and the ways in which people could respond. The questionnaire was circulated and advertised widely amongst local residents and businesses and the responses collated.

#### **i) Identification of Stakeholders**

- 3.6 As this was an initial engagement exercise, rather than the statutory Regulation 14 consultation that will be required later in the plan-making process, it was not at this stage deemed necessary or appropriate to engage with the local planning authority or statutory consultees (such as Natural England, Environment Agency etc.). Instead, the focus of this initial consultation was to seek the views of members of the local community, including residents, visitors, landowners and businesses. The questionnaire was therefore distributed as widely as possible across Royal Wootton Bassett with the objective of engaging as many people as possible across all age groups and sectors of society.

#### **ii) Scope of Questionnaire**

- 3.7 A questionnaire was prepared comprising 20 questions, which it was intended would take no more than 15 minutes to complete. A copy of the questionnaire is contained in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.8 The questionnaire included a mixture of both multiple choice and open questions divided into sections themed around:

- **The Neighbourhood Plan and its priorities** – questions relating to respondents' awareness of and familiarity with the existing Neighbourhood Plan and how important the issues dealt with in the current Neighbourhood Plan are to respondents;
- **Your thoughts on Royal Wootton Bassett** – questions asking respondents to consider what they like most and least about the town, how the town has changed since the last Neighbourhood Plan was adopted, and whether it has improved or got worse;
- **Vision for Royal Wootton Bassett** – questions relating to the current Neighbourhood Plan vision, whether this still reflects where respondents want the town to be in the future, and what kind of town they would like Royal Wootton Bassett to become;
- **Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan** – questions relating to the current Neighbourhood Plan objectives, whether these are still relevant or should be changed, and whether any sites should be allocated in the plan for particular uses;
- **Other Comments** – an opportunity for respondents to provide any further comments about what they think should (or shouldn't) be included in the Neighbourhood Plan;
- **About You** – questions relating to respondents' age, relationship to the town and how they first heard about the Neighbourhood Plan Review; and
- **Future Contact** – questions asking whether the respondents would like to be kept informed of future consultations and progress with the Neighbourhood Plan, and whether they would like to be more involved e.g. through joining the Working Group.

3.9 An online version of the questionnaire was prepared using Google Forms and the link was widely shared and advertised, including on a leaflet distributed across the town. A copy of the consultation leaflet is contained in **Appendix 2**. In order to ensure that those without internet access were also able to respond to the questionnaire, a paper version was made available from the Town Council offices and a 'pull-out' questionnaire was distributed in the Royal Wootton Bassett & Lyneham Advertiser, to be returned via post.

3.10 The consultation period for the questionnaire ran for six weeks from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

### iii) Methods of Engagement

3.11 In order to maximise levels of engagement and numbers of questionnaire responses, the consultation questionnaire was shared widely through a comprehensive advertisement campaign consisting of the following:

- Printed leaflet distributed to 7,000 Royal Wootton Bassett residents and businesses;
- Banner advertisement in town centre;
- Window display in Post Office;
- Display boards in Merchant House (later removed due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions);
- Display boards in local businesses, including Sainsburys notice board;
- Email / letters sent to Town Council mailing list and other stakeholder groups including:
  - Town and Wiltshire Councillors
  - Schools
  - Community groups
  - Local businesses and market traders
  - Local transport providers
  - Neighbouring parishes

- Landowners
- Local Business Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- Social media campaign including:
  - Facebook posts (and 'boosted' posts)
  - Posts on Town Council website
  - Twitter posts
  - Posts on Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Matters Board (online)
- Press release sent to local media outlets;
- Broadcast on BBC Wiltshire radio;
- Paid advertisements in Swindon Advertiser, Wiltshire Gazette & Herald, and Royal Wootton Bassett & Swindon Advertiser

3.12 There were also plans to hold a drop-in stall at the Town Hall, but this had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions on social gatherings.

3.13 A review of responses was undertaken part-way through the consultation period which revealed a low number of respondents in younger age categories. A call was put out on social media to try and attract increased respondents in the under-45s age category and questionnaires were hand delivered to local schools.

#### **b) Analysis of Questionnaire Responses**

3.14 During the consultation period a total of 760 responses to the questionnaire were received, including:

- 684 online responses
- 23 paper copy responses
- 53 responses from the Royal Wootton Bassett & Lyneham Advertiser 'pull-out'

3.15 A further five written consultation responses were received, including two from local residents, one from Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Football Club, one from the Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal Trust and one from Savills (on behalf of Oxford University Endowment Management) in respect of:

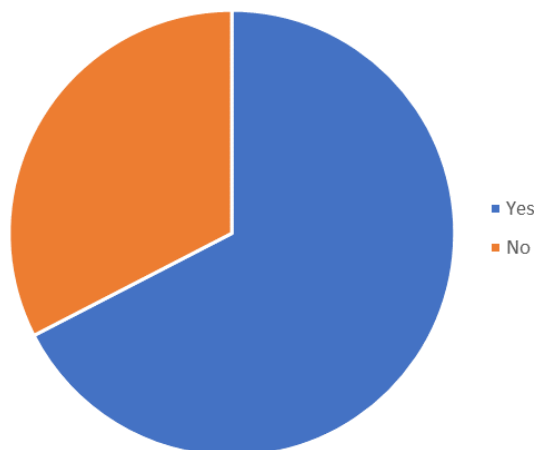
- The future direction of strategic growth to the south of Royal Wootton Bassett
- A Neighbourhood Plan housing and community facility allocation on land at Maple Drive
- A Neighbourhood Plan housing and allotments allocation on land at Whitehill Lane
- A Neighbourhood Plan allocation for a new railway station north of Hunts Mill Road (A3102)

3.16 Below we have presented a summary of responses to each of the consultation questions. Questions pertaining to respondents' personal details, future contact and comments that were not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation have not been summarised. A detailed, anonymised list of responses to the 'free form' comment questions is contained in **Appendix 3**.

3.17 It should be noted that all questions were optional, so the total number of responses for each question may not total 760.

**Question 1: Before receiving this questionnaire, did you know that Royal Wootton Bassett had a Neighbourhood Plan?**

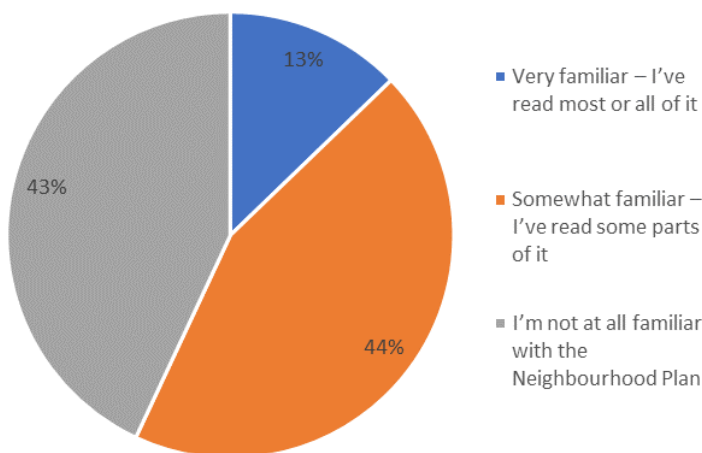
Answer Options	Response Count	%
Yes	503	67%
No	243	33%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skipped Question</b>	<b>14</b>	



3.18 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the majority of respondents (67%) were aware that Royal Wootton Bassett has a Neighbourhood Plan.

**Question 2: If you answered yes to Question 1, how familiar are you with the contents of the adopted Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan?**

Answer Options	Response Count	%
Very familiar – I've read most or all of it	79	13%
Somewhat familiar – I've read some parts of it	273	44%
I'm not at all familiar with the Neighbourhood Plan	266	43%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skipped Question</b>	<b>142</b>	

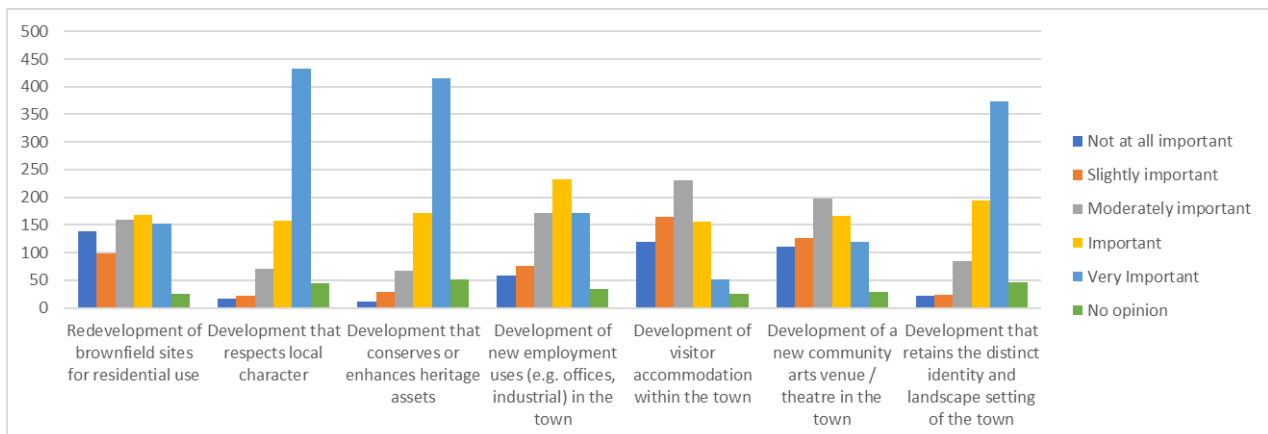
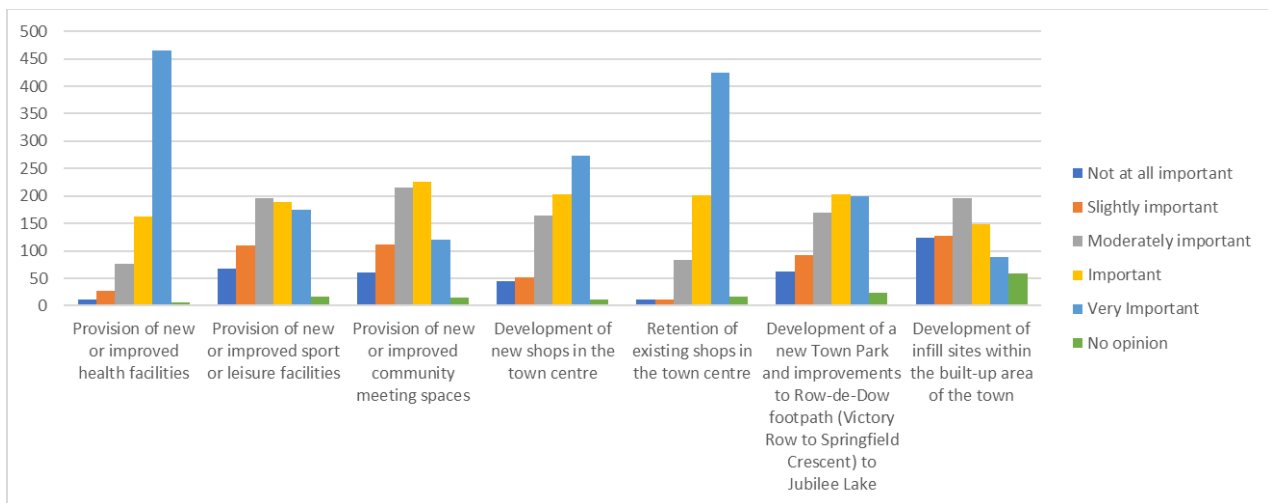


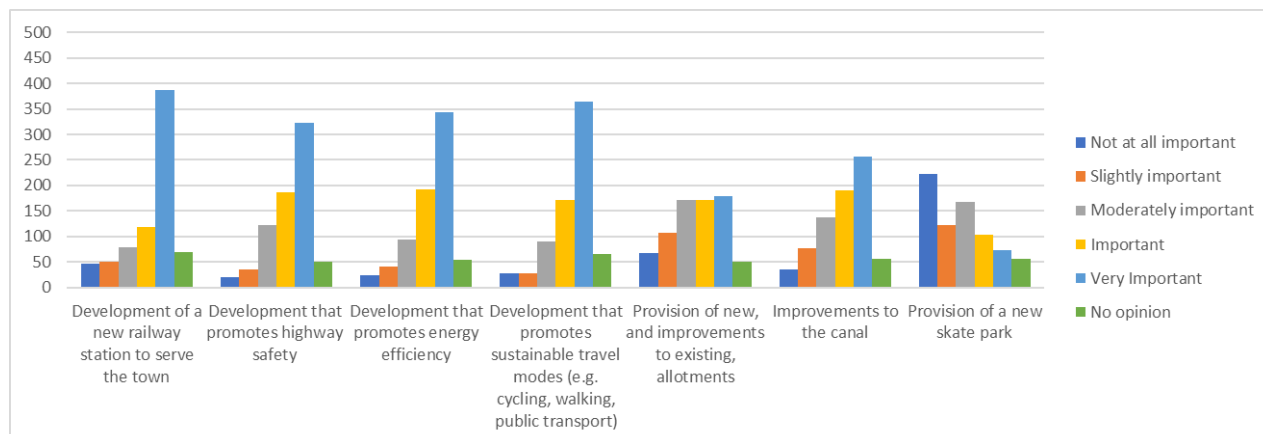
3.19 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that equal proportions of respondents were somewhat familiar (44%) or not at all familiar (43%) with the Neighbourhood Plan. Just 13% of respondents said that they were very familiar with the contents of the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Question 3: How important are the following issues to you?

Answer Options	Not at all important		Slightly important		Moderately important		Important		Very Important		No opinion		Total Responses	Skipped Question
	Response Count	%	Response Count	%	Response Count	%	Response Count	%	Response Count	%	Response Count	%		
Provision of new or improved health facilities	11	1%	27	4%	76	10%	163	22%	466	62%	6	1%	749	11
Provision of new or improved sport or leisure facilities	67	9%	109	14%	196	26%	189	25%	175	23%	16	2%	752	8
Provision of new or improved community meeting spaces	60	8%	111	15%	216	29%	226	30%	120	16%	15	2%	748	12
Development of new shops in the town centre	45	6%	51	7%	164	22%	203	27%	273	36%	12	2%	748	12
Retention of existing shops in the town centre	12	2%	12	2%	84	11%	201	27%	424	57%	17	2%	750	10
Development of a new Town Park and improvements to Row-de-Dow footpath (Victory Row to Springfield Crescent) to Jubilee Lake	62	8%	93	12%	170	23%	203	27%	200	27%	23	3%	751	9
Development of infill sites within the built-up area of the town	124	17%	128	17%	196	26%	148	20%	88	12%	59	8%	743	17
Redevelopment of brownfield sites for residential use	139	19%	98	13%	159	21%	168	23%	153	21%	26	3%	743	17
Development that respects local character	17	2%	22	3%	71	10%	158	21%	433	58%	45	6%	746	14
Development that conserves or enhances heritage assets	12	2%	29	4%	67	9%	172	23%	416	56%	52	7%	748	12
Development of new employment uses (e.g. offices, industrial) in the town	59	8%	76	10%	171	23%	233	31%	172	23%	34	5%	745	15
Development of visitor accommodation within the town	120	16%	164	22%	231	31%	156	21%	52	7%	26	3%	749	11
Development of a new community arts venue / theatre in the town	110	15%	126	17%	198	26%	166	22%	119	16%	29	4%	748	12
Development that retains the distinct identity	21	3%	24	3%	85	11%	194	26%	373	50%	46	6%	743	17

and landscape setting of the town														
Development of a new railway station to serve the town	47	6%	51	7%	79	11%	118	16%	388	52%	69	9%	752	8
Development that promotes highway safety	20	3%	36	5%	123	17%	187	25%	323	44%	50	7%	739	21
Development that promotes energy efficiency	24	3%	40	5%	93	12%	192	26%	343	46%	55	7%	747	13
Development that promotes sustainable travel modes (e.g. cycling, walking, public transport)	28	4%	28	4%	90	12%	172	23%	365	49%	66	9%	749	11
Provision of new, and improvements to existing, allotments	67	9%	107	14%	172	23%	171	23%	179	24%	50	7%	746	14
Improvements to the canal	35	5%	76	10%	138	18%	191	25%	257	34%	56	7%	753	7
Provision of a new skate park	222	30%	123	17%	168	23%	103	14%	73	10%	56	8%	745	15





3.20 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the issue that the largest proportion of residents felt was ‘not at all important’ was provision of a new skate park. There were no other issues that the majority of respondents felt were ‘not at all important’. However, it is important to note that this response may be due to the age profile of respondents, the majority of whom were aged over 45 and therefore less likely to use a skate park facility. In response to question 13 a number of people identified a skate park as something that should be allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.21 Issues that the largest proportions of respondents felt were ‘very important’ (each receiving over 400 responses in this category) included:

- Provision of new or improved health facilities
- Retention of existing shops in the town centre
- Development that respects local character
- Development that conserves or enhances heritage assets

3.22 Other issues that a majority of respondents felt were ‘very important’, but to a lesser extent than the issues listed above, included:

- Development of new shops in the town centre
- Development that retains the distinct identity and landscape setting of the town
- Development of a new railway station to serve the town
- Development that promotes highway safety
- Development that promotes energy efficiency
- Development that promotes sustainable travel
- Provision of new and improvements to existing allotments
- Improvements to the canal

**Question 4: Thinking about what Royal Wootton Bassett is like today, what three things do you like most about the town?**

3.23 In total there were 714 responses to this question. A full list of responses to this question is contained in **Appendix 3**. There were a large number of things people said they liked about the town. The most commonly used words in the responses are shown in the word cloud below.



3.24 The most common reference was to the ‘community feel’, ‘community spirit’ and ‘friendliness’ of the town, followed by the thriving High Street and the range of local shops and facilities. Other things that people said they liked most about the town included:

- Its relatively small ‘market town’ size and character, whilst also having a peaceful ‘village’ feel and good level of walkability
- Access to green spaces within and around the town, including lake, canal and surrounding countryside
- Good links to neighbouring towns and cities via buses and close proximity to motorways
- Wide range of local, independent shops, pubs, restaurants and farmers’ market
- Sociable and vibrant atmosphere, including local events such as Christmas fayre / lights
- Good schools and education facilities
- Good sports, leisure and community facilities, including play areas, library, allotments and museum
- Historic character and heritage assets, particularly in the town centre
- Its distinct separation from Swindon, both physically and in terms of its character and identity
- Lack of over-crowding and not over-developed
- Residents take pride in the town, shown through well maintained public spaces, floral displays etc.
- The town is safe and family-friendly with low rates of crime
- Free and easy parking
- Good quality housing

**Question 5: Thinking about what Royal Wootton Bassett is like today, what three things do you like least about the town?**

3.25 In total there were 726 responses to this question. A full list of responses to this question is contained in **Appendix 3**. The most commonly used words in the responses are shown in the word cloud below.



### Transport infrastructure and accessibility

- Poor state of roads and pavements
- Lack of sustainable travel options e.g. cycling, walking, buses, including lack of access to Swindon via active travel (no pavements / canal towpath).
- Lack of dedicated cycle lanes and cycle parking
- Too much parking on pavements
- Too many HGVs driving along High Street
- Poor public transport
- Lack of railway station and bypass
- Speeding traffic

### Environment

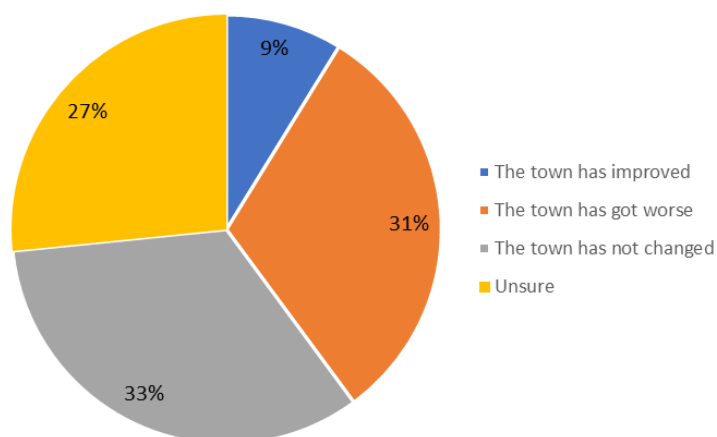
- Poor maintenance of some green spaces
- Lack of outdoor spaces and parks in town centre
- Too much litter and dog poo

### Other issues

- Lack of jobs and employment opportunities
- Antisocial behaviour and crime

### Question 6: On the whole, how do you think Royal Wootton Bassett has changed in the past two years (since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted)?

Answer Options	Response Count	%
The town has improved	66	9%
The town has got worse	234	31%
The town has not changed	252	34%
Unsure	200	27%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skipped Question</b>	<b>8</b>	



3.27 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the majority of respondents believed that the town has either not changed (34%) or has got worse (31%) since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted. Just 9% of respondents feel that the town has improved. The remainder (27%) were unsure whether the town had changed since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted.

### Question 7: If you think the town has improved or got worse, please explain how:

3.28 In total there were 351 responses to this question. A full list of responses to this question is contained in **Appendix 3**. The ways in which people thought the town had improved in the last 3 years included:

- Improved maintenance of public facilities e.g. parks, toilets
- More green initiatives
- Growth of community spirit e.g. more community groups established in response to Covid-19 pandemic
- Development of Ballards Ash sports facilities
- Feeling that town hasn't changed, despite new development
- New shops have opened

3.29 The ways in which people thought the town had worsened in the last 3 years included:

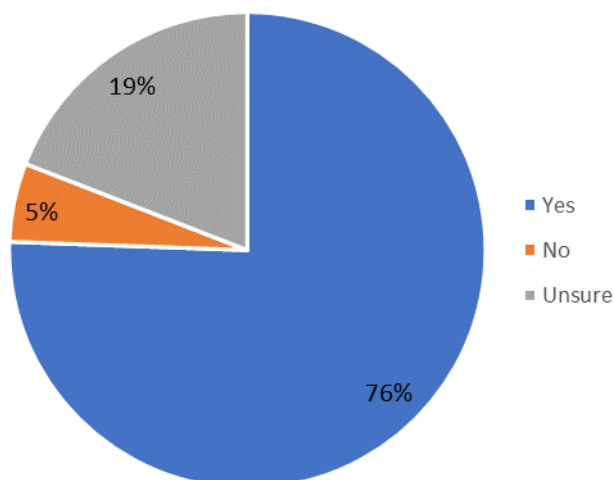
- More vacant units in the town centre
- Increased traffic congestion and speeding
- Services have not kept up with growth - more difficult to get dentist and GP appointments
- More litter
- Increased rates of crime and antisocial behaviour
- Fewer green spaces
- Too much new development – the town has become too big with lack of infrastructure to support it
- Reduced ability of town to resist new large scale developments
- Population of new developments attracting 'wrong type' of people that do not care about the town
- Lack of tourism-related development
- Increasing house prices
- Town is losing its character
- Road surfaces have worsened

The vision for Royal Wootton Bassett set out in the current Neighbourhood Plan is:

*“To provide a high quality sustainable environment for all who live, work, visit and study in Royal Wootton Bassett both now and in the future.”*

Question 8: Does this vision still reflect where you want the town to be in the future?

Answer Options	Response Count	%
Yes	566	76%
No	40	5%
Unsure	143	19%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skipped Question</b>	<b>11</b>	





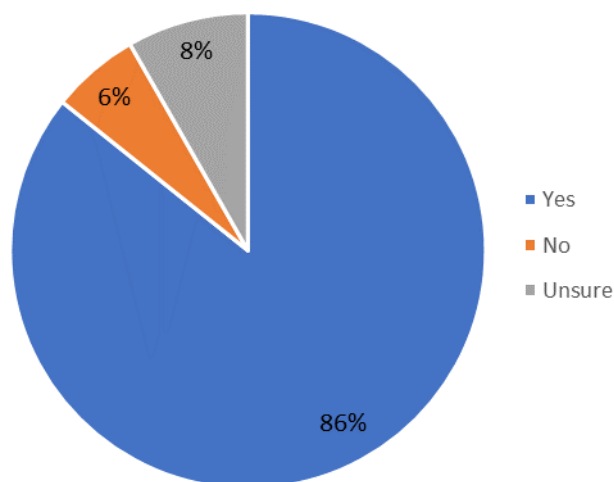
- A town that embraces its heritage whilst embracing multi-culturalism and diversity
- A town that retains its distinct identity and does not become a suburb of Swindon
- A town that retains and enhance its green spaces, such as through a new country park
- A town that promotes creativity and inclusivity

The objectives in the current Neighbourhood Plan are to create a town which:

1. ***Has a strong, independent Market Town identity and an attractive vibrant town centre***
2. ***Provides all the facilities and services its residents require to improve its self-containment***
3. ***Provides well planned, good quality housing for all for every life stage, in line with sustainability principles and community views.***
4. ***Offers accessible, attractive green spaces for all to enjoy***
5. ***Is attractive to investors and employers as a location for growth***
6. ***Promotes sustainable transport choices encouraging walking and cycling both within and outside the town.***

Question 10: Do you agree with these objectives?

Answer Options	Response Count	%
Yes	643	86%
No	45	6%
Unsure	62	8%
<b>Total Responses</b>	750	100%
<b>Skipped Question</b>	10	



3.33 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the vast majority of respondents (86%) agree with the Neighbourhood Plan’s objectives, whilst 8% were unsure and just 6% did not agree with the objectives.

**Question 11: Which of the above objectives (if any) do you think should be changed and how?**

3.34 In total there were 435 responses to this question. A full list of responses to this question is contained in **Appendix 3**. Whilst the majority of people supported the original objectives, the changes that some people said they thought should be made to the plan’s objectives included:

**Objective 1**

- Retaining ‘market town’ identity should not be priority – town should develop its own identity rather than try and compete with other market towns which do it better
- ‘Attractive’ and ‘vibrant’ are too vague – need to be more specific

### **Objective 2**

- Define ‘facilities and services’
- Needs to be focus on leisure and youth facilities
- Unclear what is meant by ‘self containment’
- Town should not be ‘self contained’ – it should welcome the ‘buzz’ of new people and skills. Promoting ‘self containment’ may not be a good thing.
- Ambition for ‘self containment’ is unrealistic when the town is so close to Swindon and residents of Royal Wootton Bassett use many of its services and facilities
- This objective should be the main focus of the plan
- Greater focus on facilities for disabled people

### **Objective 3**

- Need to clarify what is meant by ‘sustainability principles’
- Housing should meet needs of ageing population
- Plan should not be promoting new housing development, especially large scale growth
- More emphasis on green and sustainable development
- Need for more essential services and infrastructure to support new housing, including green spaces and parks
- Housing should be lower density and meet needs of local people including, older people and key workers
- Greater focus on affordable housing
- New housing areas should have wider roads and more parking
- Any new development should be on brownfield sites

### **Objective 4**

- As well as ‘green space’ include ‘provision of formal sports facilities’
- Change to ‘Offers accessible, attractive green spaces, blue corridors and a high quality public realm for all to enjoy’.
- There should also be attractive urban and hard landscaped spaces
- Green spaces should enhance biodiversity

### **Objective 5**

- Need to better define ‘investors and employers’
- Should state that growth should be the ‘right scale and type’ and not adversely affect character of town
- Growth should be sustainable and balanced
- Town should not be promoting more growth as this will overload infrastructure
- Need for investment n tourism rather than commercial development
- By supporting growth this objective contradicts the plan’s other objectives e.g. objective 1 – retaining market town identity
- Need to consider how this objective might be affected by recent changes in planning regulations

### **Objective 6**

- Ensure there are good cycle routes into Swindon e.g. canal link
- Replace ‘Promotes’ with ‘Prioritises’ or ‘Provides’



- Ensuring that housing meets local needs including affordable housing, starter homes, homes for older people
- Enhancing cycle links with Swindon and across the motorway
- Enhancing healthcare and education facilities to support new development
- Promoting enhancements to canal and make this more of a leisure/tourism feature
- Enhancing provision of jobs and employment in the town
- Enhancing leisure and community arts provision
- Creation of 'low traffic' neighbourhoods
- Improvements to existing parks and green spaces
- Facilities for younger people e.g. skate park, climbing wall, sports facilities or youth centre
- Promote development of 'country park' around Brynards Hill and 'linear park' along canal
- Promote residents' health and well-being
- Promote regeneration of High Street and filling empty shops
- Ensure adequate levels of off-street parking and decent sized gardens and green spaces in new developments
- Focus on working within 'Neighbourhood Area Boundary' not 'Settlement Framework Boundary'
- Work with neighbouring areas when developing the plan
- Improve design and energy efficiency of new development
- Encourage lower density development
- Promote redevelopment or reuse of existing empty buildings and sites e.g. The Old Nick, Station Road
- Encourage more green planting, such as trees and shrubs
- Promote installation of electric vehicle charging points in new development

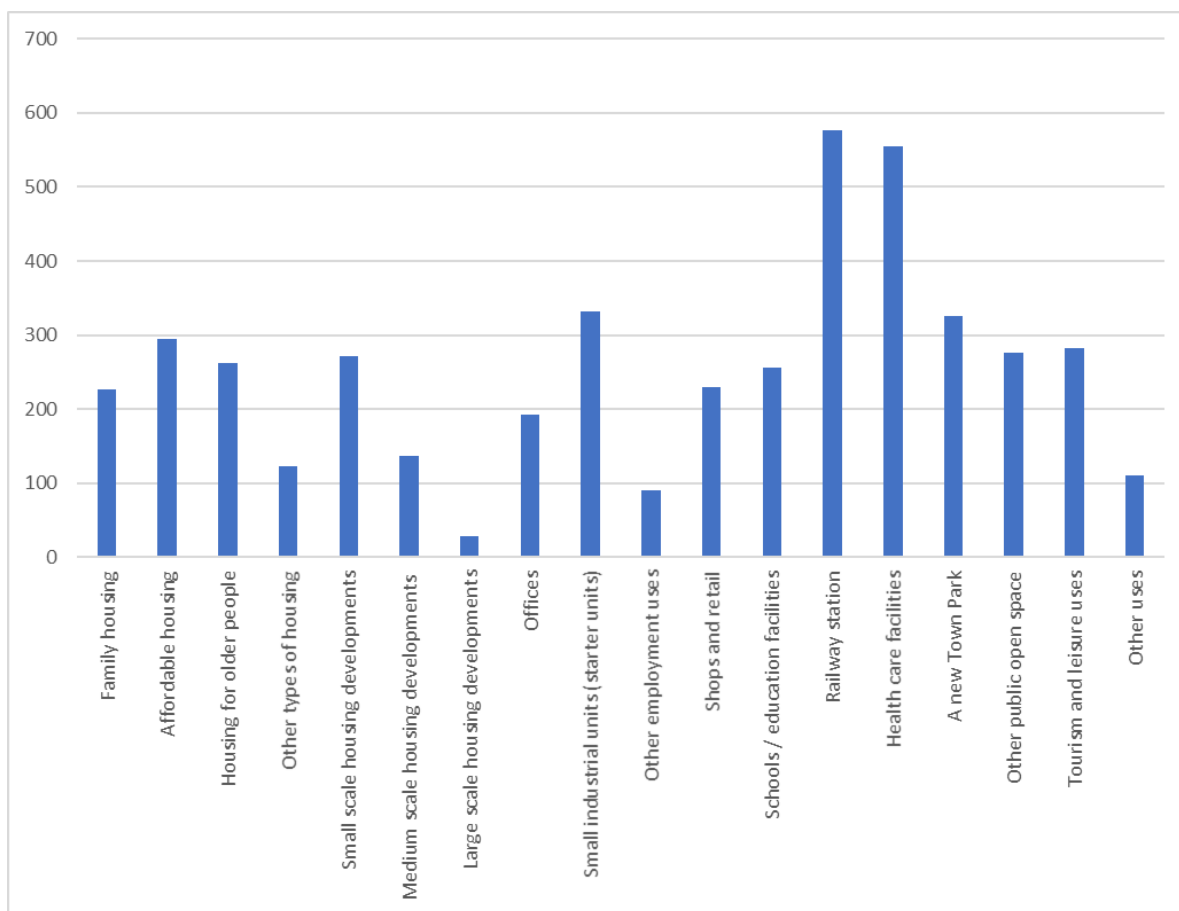
3.37 There were also a number of references made to non-planning related issues, some of which could potentially be included within the Neighbourhood Plan as 'community actions', such as:

- Residential parking restrictions and road markings
- Restriction of HGVs on High Street
- Make parking bays on High Street 45 degrees
- Improve road safety and introduce speed restrictions, especially near schools and in residential areas
- Improve road and pavement surfaces
- Greater access to GP appointments
- Encourage more independent retailers
- Greater policing and increased police presence
- More clubs and meeting places for young people
- Resolve issues of dog poo and litter
- Ensure play equipment is maintained and safe to play on
- Ensure cut grass is collected

- Better recycling facilities and control of waste recycling plant
- More cultural activities and large community events e.g. music festival
- Refurbish existing care homes
- Enhancements to existing leisure centre
- Introduce park and ride shuttle service into Swindon
- Promote inward investment in the town
- Reduce cost of permit parking in residential areas

**Question 13: Do you think the new Neighbourhood Plan should allocate land for any of the following uses?**

Answer Options	Response Count
Family housing	227
Affordable housing	294
Housing for older people	263
Other types of housing	123
Small scale housing developments (less than 10 houses)	272
Medium scale housing developments (10 – 50 houses)	137
Large scale housing developments (over 50 houses)	28
Offices	193
Small industrial units (starter units)	332
Other employment uses	90
Shops and retail	230
Schools / education facilities	256
Railway station	576
Health care facilities	555
A new Town Park	326
Other public open space	276
Tourism and leisure uses	283
Other uses	111



3.38 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the land uses which the greatest number of respondents felt should be allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan were a railway station and healthcare facilities, followed by small industrial units and a new Town Park.

3.39 The smallest number of respondents (28) said they wanted to see land allocated for large scale housing development. Whereas 272 respondents said they would favour land being allocated for small scale housing developments (up to 10 units).

3.40 111 respondents identified that land should be allocated for ‘other uses’ including:

**Housing**

- Homes for first time buyers
- Care homes
- Bungalows for retired people
- Larger family housing with big gardens
- Low carbon / Passivhaus-style housing
- Self-build housing
- Low density housing
- 2-bed starter homes less than £300k
- Affordable rented accommodation
- Accommodation for homeless and vulnerable people
- Housing for disabled people

### **Employment**

- Flexible, co-working spaces
- Live/work units

### **Other Uses**

- Skate park
- Children's play areas
- Renewable energy generation
- Canal extension
- A canal wharf / marina and visitors' centre
- Youth centre / community centre
- Allotments
- Entertainment uses e.g. cinema, bowling alley, restaurants
- Football pitches
- Gym / outdoor gym
- Arts and culture centre / theatre / music venue
- Car parking facilities
- Scout hut
- Secure cycle-parking hub
- Affordable, small-scale retail units / pop-up shops for small businesses
- Community farm
- Market place / square
- Library
- Woodland
- Dog park
- Cycle routes/trails around the town
- Public conveniences
- Bypass / ring road

**Question 14: If you think the Neighbourhood Plan should allocate land for particular uses, which areas or sites do you think should be allocated? Please identify land use type and specific site or area.**

3.41 In total there were 326 responses to this question. A full list of the types of land and locations people suggested should be allocated for particular uses within the Neighbourhood Plan is contained in **Appendix 3**. The most common suggestions included the following:

- A focus on redevelopment of brownfield sites
- Regeneration and expansion of the canal
- Redevelopment of the old council depot on Marlborough Road
- Allocation of land for a new bypass
- Redevelopment of fields next to Sainsburys car park e.g. for leisure uses
- Safeguarding of land for reinstated railway line and station
- Allocation of land for cycle path into Swindon e.g. via linear park along canal
- Redevelopment of the Old Nick e.g. as community hub / arts venue

- Allocation of land at Poets Field or Otter Way for skate park
- Allocation of land for green open spaces and town park e.g. Brynards Hill and Row-de-Dow
- Allocation of Marsh Farm area for small scale housing development
- Allocation of land west of Dunnington Road (Dunnington Farm) and southern edge of Studley Grange Garden Centre
- Allocation of infill sites for small scale housing development
- Allocation of land in Woodshaw and Bincknoll for housing – closer access to M4

3.42 It is recommended that a further detailed review of the list of potential site allocations is undertaken if and when the Working Group decides to allocate land within the Neighbourhood Plan.

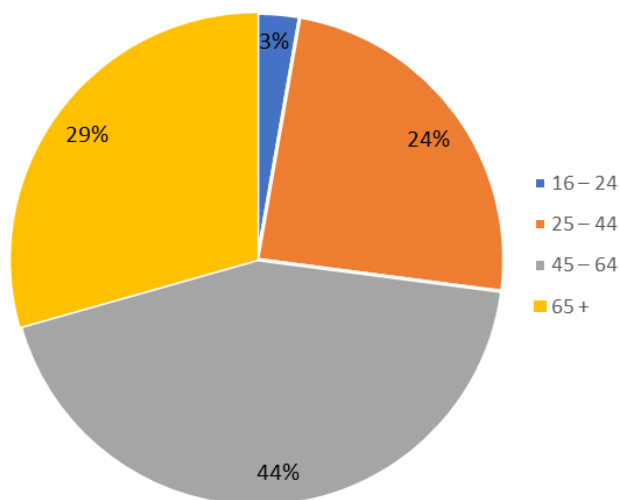
**Question 15: Do you have any other comments about what you think should (or shouldn't) be included in the Neighbourhood Plan?**

3.43 In total there were 249 responses to this question. A full list of responses to this question is contained in **Appendix 3**. The other comments people made related to a range of issues including for example the need to:

- Restrict levels of housing growth and new development (note, some comments also supported need for new housing development)
- Ensure new development meets needs of local residents and is supported by appropriate infrastructure
- Promote sustainability and 'green' development
- Consider how to repurpose old retail units
- Maximise use of new technologies where possible e.g. electric vehicle charging, CCTV
- Promote development of the railway station and bypass (note, some respondents resisted need for bypass)
- Promote traffic management and sustainable transport
- Restrict development of the town beyond the eastern boundary to prevent merging with Swindon
- Encourage development of the canal
- Preserve and enhance green spaces, including allotments
- Enhance standards of design
- Attract small-scale, environmentally friendly start up companies
- Promote inclusivity and embrace a diverse culture
- Promote interaction between all age groups in new developments

**Question 16: What is your age?**

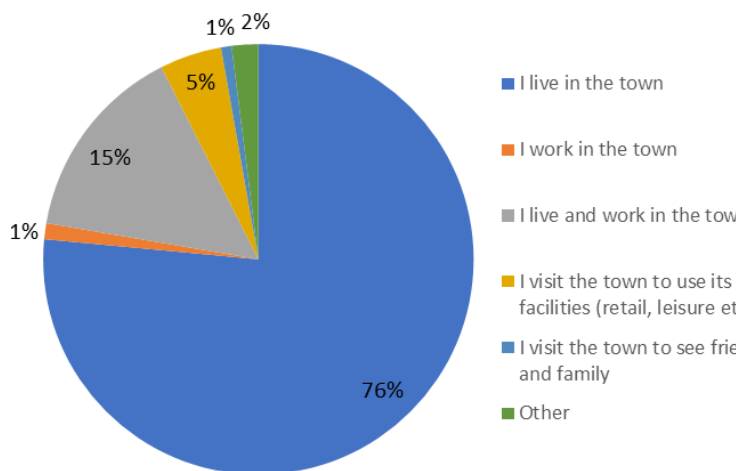
Answer Options	Response Count	%
16 – 24	20	3%
25 – 44	177	23%
45 – 64	317	42%
65 +	214	28%
Prefer not to say	29	4%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skipped Question</b>	<b>3</b>	



3.44 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the majority of respondents to the questionnaire (70%) were aged over 45, whilst around a quarter of respondents (23%) were aged between 25 and 44, and just 3% were aged 16 to 24.

**Question 17: Which of the following best describes your relationship with Royal Wootton Bassett?**

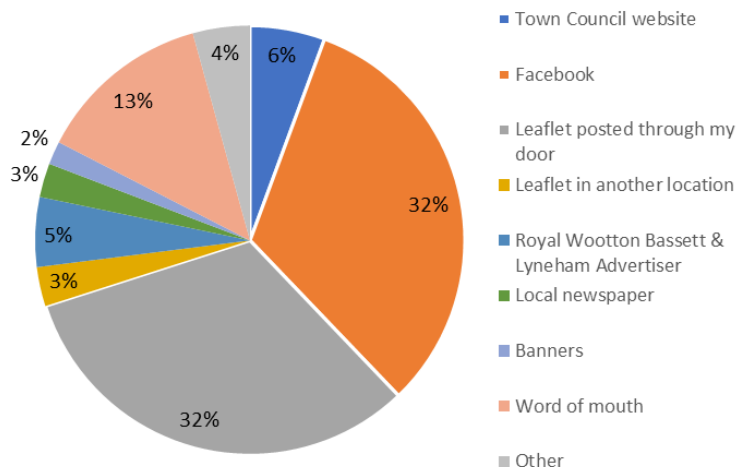
Answer Options	Response Count	%
I live in the town	576	76%
I work in the town	9	1%
I live and work in the town	112	15%
I visit the town to use its facilities (retail, leisure etc.)	35	5%
I visit the town to see friends and family	6	1%
Other	15	2%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skipped Question</b>	<b>7</b>	



3.45 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that the majority of respondents (76%) lived in the town, followed by 15% who said they both lived and worked in the town. A total of 7% of respondents said that they visited the town, whether for work, to use its facilities or to see friends and family.

**Question 18: How did you first hear about the Neighbourhood Plan Review?**

Answer Options	Response Count	%
Town Council website	42	6%
Facebook	240	32%
Leaflet posted through my door	240	32%
Leaflet in another location	22	3%
Royal Wootton Bassett & Lyneham Advertiser	39	5%
Local newspaper	19	3%
Banners	13	2%
Word of mouth	98	13%
Other	32	4%
<b>Total Responses</b>	745	100%
<b>Skipped Question</b>	15	



3.46 Analysis of responses to this question reveals that around a third of respondents (32%) were made aware of the Neighbourhood Plan Review through Facebook, and another third (32%) were made aware through a leaflet posted through their door. The third highest response (13%) was ‘word of mouth’.

**c) Consultation ‘Key Outcomes’ Summary and Recommendations**

3.47 The initial public consultation exercise received a very good rate of response, primarily amongst people who both live and work in Royal Wootton Bassett, but also from other stakeholders including local businesses and those who visit the town for work and to use its facilities. Although most people were aware that Royal Wootton Bassett had a Neighbourhood Plan few described themselves as being ‘very familiar’ with its contents. That did not, however, detract from respondents’ ability to engage with the consultation and give useful and detailed responses to the survey questions.

3.48 In terms of the desire for future development or growth of the town, the responses were mixed with large numbers of respondents resisting the idea of future growth, particularly additional large scale housing developments. Some respondents however supported the idea of moderate or small-scale growth, as long as it is supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure, particularly healthcare and education facilities and transport infrastructure.

3.49 The need for improvements to transport infrastructure and highway safety in the town was a key issue in general, particularly the need to improve congestion in the High Street and town centre, with large numbers of respondents supporting the need for a bypass. A significant proportion of respondents also identified a need for improvements to sustainable transport provision, in particular a need for enhanced cycle paths throughout the town and providing safe and direct cycle links to Swindon. The development of a railway station was also a key concern amongst many respondents.

- 3.50 A large number of responses also identified the need for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider issues relating to sustainable 'green' development, climate change and energy efficiency (including zero carbon developments).
- 3.51 In terms of what people liked about the town, a significant number of responses focused on the town's community feel, historic character and wide range of independent shops as positive characteristics that should be retained and enhanced. There was a key concern that Royal Wootton Bassett should remain physically and characteristically distinct from Swindon and should not become a 'suburb' of Swindon.
- 3.52 Whilst there was broad support for the vision and objectives contained in the original Neighbourhood Plan the public consultation also revealed some useful suggestions for how these objectives might be improved or expanded.
- 3.53 As a next step we will use the responses from the public consultation exercise, together with the findings of the policy review exercise (see section 2 of this report), to inform the development of a draft vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan Review. At a later stage, the results of the public consultation exercise can also be used to inform the development of draft policies and/or site allocations that can be included within the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

## **4.0 NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The outcomes from this initial policy review and analysis of outcomes from the public consultation exercise will be used to inform the preparation of a draft vision and strategic objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan, along with a policy scoping exercise to provide a high level outline of the policies that will be contained in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.2 It is intended that we will discuss initial ideas for the vision, objectives and scope of policies with the Working Group, following which we will prepare a Draft Vision, Objectives and Policy Scoping Report.
- 4.3 It is recommended that the Working Group then reviews and agrees the draft vision, objectives and scope of policies, following which it may be desirable to undertake a further, smaller consultation exercise on the draft vision and objectives to ensure they have the support of the local community before proceeding to develop the draft policies further.
- 4.4 In the immediate term, it is recommended that the Town Council submit a detailed written response to the ongoing Local Plan Review Regulation 18 consultation to ensure that this aligns with the emerging objectives and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan Review, particularly relating to:
- Proposed strategic site allocations within Royal Wootton Bassett and the scale of development proposed;
  - The emerging 'place-shaping priorities' for Royal Wootton Bassett; and
  - The delivery of infrastructure required to support new development in Royal Wootton Bassett.
- 4.5 It is also recommended that the Town Council continues to actively engage with Wiltshire Council planning officers throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. In particular, it is recommended that once the policy scoping exercise has been undertaken and the draft vision and objectives have been prepared, that these are shared with Wiltshire Council officers for their initial review and to ensure that these align with the emerging Local Plan Review.



## **APPENDIX 1            STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

# Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Review



Telephone: (01793) 850222  
[www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk](http://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk)

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

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### We want your views!

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.

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council is reviewing the **Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan** that was adopted in April 2018. Although the current plan is less than three 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 Royal Wootton Bassett 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.

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 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?

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 plan should be adopted through a local referendum.

You can view a copy of the current adopted Neighbourhood Plan here:

<https://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk/mdocs-posts/royal-wootton-bassett-neighbourhood-plan/>

To contribute your views on the new Neighbourhood Plan **please complete the questions below** and return by email to [enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk) or by post to:

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council  
117 High Street  
Royal Wootton Bassett  
Wiltshire  
SN4 7AU

You can also complete an **online** version of the questionnaire which is available here:  
<https://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning/>

Questions will take around 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

**Please return your completed questionnaire by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.**

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

### The Neighbourhood Plan and its Priorities

- Before receiving this questionnaire, did you know that Royal Wootton Bassett had a Neighbourhood Plan?
  - Yes
  - No
- If you answered yes to Question 1, how familiar are you with the contents of the adopted Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan?
  - Very familiar – I've read most or all of it
  - Somewhat familiar – I've read some parts of it
  - I'm not at all familiar with the Neighbourhood Plan
- Below we have listed the issues that are dealt with in the current Neighbourhood Plan. How important are these issues to you? Please select one answer per row.

Issue	Not at all important			Very important			No opinion
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Provision of new or improved health facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of new or improved sport or leisure facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of new or improved community meeting spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of new shops in the town centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retention of existing shops in the town centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of a new Town Park and improvements to Row-de-Dow footpath (Victory Row to Springfield Crescent) to Jubilee Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of infill sites within the built-up area of the town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Redevelopment of brownfield sites for residential use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development that respects local character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development that conserves or enhances heritage assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of new employment uses (e.g. offices, industrial) in the town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continued overleaf...

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

### Question 3 (continued)

Issue	Not at all important			Very important			No opinion
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Development of visitor accommodation within the town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of a new community arts venue / theatre in the town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development that retains the distinct identity and landscape setting of the town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of a new railway station to serve the town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development that promotes highway safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development that promotes energy efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development that promotes sustainable travel modes (e.g. cycling, walking, public transport)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of new, and improvements to existing, allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvements to the canal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of a new skate park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Your Thoughts on Royal Wootton Bassett

4. Thinking about what Royal Wootton Bassett is like today, what three things do you like most about the town?

- 
- 
-

5. Thinking about what Royal Wootton Bassett is like today, what three things do you like least about the town?

- 
- 
-

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

6. On the whole, how do you think Royal Wootton Bassett has changed in the past two years (since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted)?

- The town has improved
- The town has got worse
- The town has not changed
- Unsure

7. If you think the town has improved or got worse, please explain how:

### Vision for Royal Wootton Bassett

The vision for Royal Wootton Bassett set out in the current Neighbourhood Plan is:

["To provide a high quality sustainable environment for all who live, work, visit and study in Royal Wootton Bassett both now and in the future."](#)

8. Does this vision still reflect where you want the town to be in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9. Looking forward 10 years, what kind of town would you like Royal Wootton Bassett to become?

# Community Engagement Questionnaire

## Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

The objectives in the current Neighbourhood Plan are to create a town which:

1. Has a strong, independent Market Town identity and an attractive vibrant town centre
2. Provides all the facilities and services its residents require to improve its self-containment
3. Provides well planned, good quality housing for all for every life stage, in line with sustainability principles and community views.
4. Offers accessible, attractive green spaces for all to enjoy
5. Is attractive to investors and employers as a location for growth
6. Promotes sustainable transport choices encouraging walking and cycling both within and outside the town.

10. Do you agree with these objectives?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

11. Which of the above objectives (if any) do you think should be changed and how?

12. Are there any other issues that you think the new Neighbourhood Plan should deal with?

13. Do you think the new Neighbourhood Plan should allocate land for any of the following uses? (tick all that apply)

- Family housing
- Affordable housing
- Housing for older people
- Other types of housing, please specify:

Continued overleaf...

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

### Question 13 (continued)

- Small scale housing developments (less than 10 houses)
- Medium scale housing developments (10 – 50 houses)
- Large scale housing developments (over 50 houses)

- Offices
- Small industrial units (starter units)
- Other employment uses, please specify:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shops and retail         | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools / education facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railway station          | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care facilities         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A new Town Park          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other public open space        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism and leisure uses |   |

- Other uses, please specify:

- None of the above

14. If you think the Neighbourhood Plan should allocate land for particular uses, which areas or sites do you think should be allocated? Please identify land use type and specific site or area.

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

### Other Comments

15. Do you have any other comments about what you think should (or shouldn't) be included in the Neighbourhood Plan?

### About You

16. What is your age?

- 16 – 24
- 25 – 44
- 45 – 64
- 65 +
- Prefer not to say

17. Which of the following best describes your relationship with Royal Wootton Bassett?

- I live in the town
- I work in the town
- I live and work in the town
- I visit the town to use its facilities (retail, leisure etc.)
- I visit the town to see friends and family
- Other, please specify:

18. How did you first hear about the Neighbourhood Plan Review?

- Town Council website
- Facebook
- Leaflet posted through my door
- Leaflet in another location
- Royal Wootton Bassett & Lyneham Advertiser
- Local newspaper (e.g. Swindon Advertiser, Gazette & Herald)
- Banners – Marlowe Way, Noremarsh Road
- Word of mouth
- Other, please specify:

## Community Engagement Questionnaire

### Future Contact

19. Would you like to be kept informed of progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and future consultations?

If yes, please provide an email address so the Town Council can add you to the Neighbourhood Plan mailing list (you have the option to be removed from the mailing list at any time):

20. Would you like to be more involved in developing the Neighbourhood Plan? (please tick all that apply)

- I would like to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
- I would like to help with distributing flyers and leaflets
- I am a member of a local group and I can help to distribute information and news about the Neighbourhood Plan to group members

If you ticked any of the boxes above, please provide an email address so the Town Council can contact you:

### GDPR Disclaimer

We will never pass on your data to a Third Party and we promise to keep your details safe and secure. 'We' includes Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council and DLP Planning Ltd.

You have the option to be removed from the mailing list at any time by contacting Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council on email [enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk) by post RWBTC, 117 High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 7AU or call 01793 850222.

For further details on how your data is used and stored, please visit the Town Council website <https://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk/mdocs-posts/gdpr/>

**Thank you for taking part in this questionnaire**



**APPENDIX 2            CONSULTATION LEAFLET**



# Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan

## We need your views!

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.

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council is reviewing the **Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan** that was adopted in April 2018. Although the current plan is less than three 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 Royal Wootton Bassett 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.

You can view a copy of the current adopted Neighbourhood Plan here:  
<https://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk/mdocs-posts/royal-wootton-bassett-neighbourhood-plan/>

**To contribute your views on the new Neighbourhood Plan please complete the 10 – 15 minutes online questionnaire from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, available here:**

**<https://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>**

**Responses should be returned by Monday 23rd November.**

**Paper copies can be obtained: call 01793 850222 / 07595 220655 to be advised where to collect.**



## **APPENDIX 3            PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY RESPONSES**

Appendix 3 attached separately

**BEDFORD / SDD / SPRU**

4 Abbey Court, Fraser Road  
Priory Business Park, Bedford. MK44 3WH  
bedford@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
01234 832 740

**BRISTOL / SDD / SPRU**

Broad Quay House (6th Floor)  
Prince Street, Bristol. BS1 4DJ  
bristol@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
01179 058 850

**EAST MIDLANDS / SDD**

1 East Circus Street, Nottingham  
NG1 5AF  
nottingham@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
01158 966 622

**LEEDS**

Princes Exchange  
Princes Square, Leeds. LS1 4HY  
leeds@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
01132 805 808

**LONDON**

107 Clerkenwell Workshops,  
31 Clerkenwell Close, London, EC1R 0AT  
london@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
020 3761 5390

**MILTON KEYNES**

Midsummer Court, 314 Midsummer Boulevard  
Milton Keynes. MK9 2UB  
miltonkeynes@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
01908 440 015

**RUGBY / SDD**

18 Regent Place, Rugby, Warwickshire  
CV21 2PN  
rugby.enquiries@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
01788 562 233

**SHEFFIELD / SDD / SPRU**

Ground Floor, V1 Velocity Village  
Tenter Street, Sheffield. S1 4BY  
sheffield@dlpconsultants.co.uk  
0114 228 9190



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