



Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

MINI GUIDE

June 2021



MELKSHAM
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN





What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Melksham Neighbourhood Plan covers both the area of Melksham Town and the surrounding Parish of Melksham Without.



It addresses a range of issues, including climate change, rural housing needs, the town centre, business, transport and movement, green space and community facilities as well as landscape and biodiversity.

The Plan will be used when decisions are made by Wiltshire Council on proposed new developments.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains planning policies which have been tested through consultation and examination.

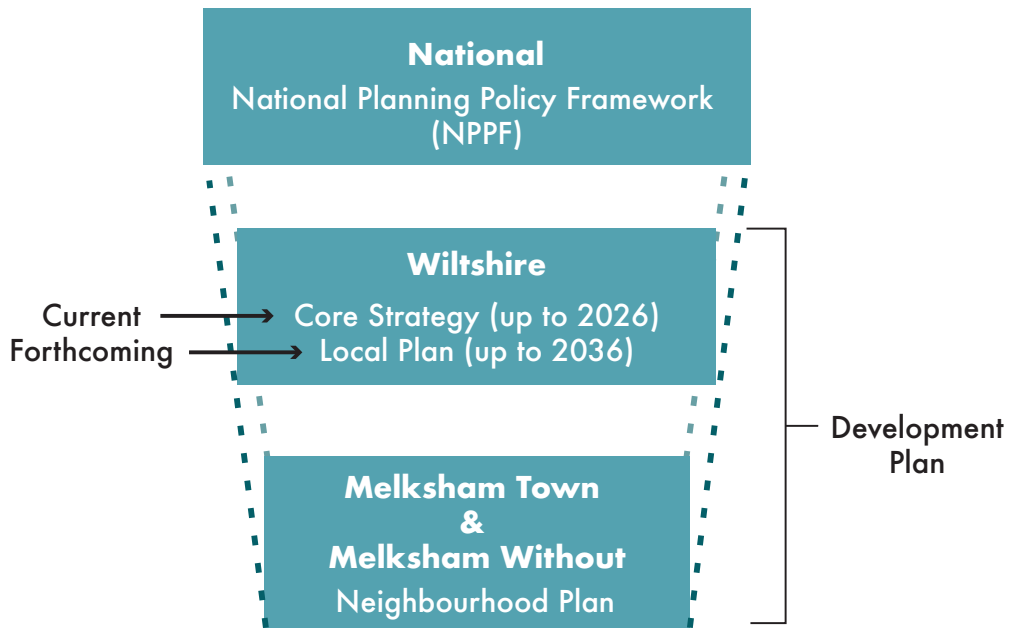
“The Neighbourhood Plan will provide the foundations for Melksham to grow sustainably for the benefit of those that live and work here.”





The Neighbourhood Plan works alongside existing legislation and policy by providing developers and assessors with criteria that must be met, and detail on what the local community wants and expects from development in their area.

These locally developed policies will guide and inform future change in the town and the rural areas.



This mini guide gives an overview of the Joint Melksham Plan, and the 19 planning policies that are presented in five sections through the Plan.

The full Plan can be found at: melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org





Policy Section 1: Sustainable Development and Climate Change

“The Neighbourhood Plan should encourage renewable energy production in ways that will deliver community benefits”

- 1. Sustainable Design and Construction**
- 2. Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation**
- 3. Flood Risk and Natural Flood Management**
- 4. Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Charging**

The first four policies of the Neighbourhood Plan set the context for development that are forward looking and proactively address the challenges of climate change - a key challenge for us locally is an increased risk of flooding and this is a significant issue in Whitley and Shaw.



Policy Section 2: Housing and Infrastructure

“It’s vital that the Neighbourhood Plan supports diverse development that suits the needs of the community...which delivers real benefits for the local area”

- 5. Community Engagement**
- 6. Housing in Defined Settlements**
- 7. Housing Allocation at Middle Farm, Corsham Road, Whitley**
- 8. Infrastructure Phasing and Priorities**

This section reinforces the role of local people in future development, sets out where development will happen in the Plan period, including an allocation for housing and play provision in Whitley. The importance of making sure that necessary services and facilities, such as healthcare, education, green spaces and transport infrastructure, must be considered alongside housing, keeping pace with the needs of the community, is also reinforced in policy.





Policy Section 3: Shopping, working and getting around

"The Neighbourhood Plan aims to create a positive environment to encourage retail investment into Melksham delivering diversity and choice and making the town more self reliant"

- 9. **Town Centre**
- 10. **Employment Sites**
- 11. **Sustainable Transport and Active Travel**

In the rapidly shifting context for high streets and market towns, we want to enable our town to evolve positively in response to change, challenges and opportunities. Retention and increase of local jobs is also addressed through a policy on employment sites. Alongside this is a policy to extend accessible, safe and attractive ways for people to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to places where we work, learn, play, shop and relax.



Policy Section 4: Community Well-being and Nature

"I like wild areas - they are great for playing hide and seek in. I also enjoy playing with my brother and friends since none of us have big enough gardens to play in"

- 12. **Green Infrastructure**
- 13. **Biodiversity**
- 14. **Open Spaces**
- 15. **Community Facilities**

The role of nature and open spaces in the well-being and health of community is reinforced through policies in this section which seek to protect and enhance local assets. The importance of the role of our community facilities and services is also underpinned with policy that sets out criteria to protect these.





Policy Section 5: Natural and Built Environment

“We have the beautiful river Avon, meandering through the town with its riverside walks, stretching along fields through King George V Park and onto the wildlife reserve at Conigre Mead”

- 16. Trees and Hedgerows**
- 17. Landscape Character**
- 18. Locally Distinctive, High Quality Design**
- 19. Local Heritage**

We have much to be proud of in terms of our heritage and natural environments both within the town and in our rural areas. Policies in this section identify key features and set out clear criteria for respecting and enhancing the role of our built and natural heritage and environment.

Priority Statements

In addition to the planning policies included within the Neighbourhood Plan there are also some priorities identified.

Priority statements illustrate the commitment of the two Councils to bring their influence to bear on matters outside the remit and scope of this Neighbourhood Plan either because they are strategic in nature or address issues beyond this Neighbourhood Plan time period.





MELKSHAM

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Photographs by Linda DeSantiz. Aerial Photograph by Catherine Fallon Operations

Related information and the Plan evidence base can be found on the website: melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org

Questions and further information can also be directed at Melksham Without Parish Council or Melksham Town Council

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The qualifying body has received technical support during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan from [Place Studio](#), a Bristol based planning and design consultancy that specialises in engagement and community led planning.

This miniguide was created by Place Studio
www.placestudio.com





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