



Steering committee members Duncan May, John Coole, Bob Jones and Mark Clarke

Picture: DAVE COX

# Town given chance to shape its future

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CRICKLADE people have a chance to shape their town's future before the latest consultation on their draft neighbourhood plan closes in the New Year.

The plan, drawn up by a steering group of town councillors and volunteers, is intended to form a blueprint for the Saxon town's development up to 2026.

Housing, employment, infrastructure and transport are all covered by the document which will eventually become part of Wiltshire's core planning policy if it passes examination by a planning inspector and wins backing from residents in a referendum.

Cricklade Town Council chairman Mark Clarke, who also leads the steering committee, said: "The

## Draft neighbourhood plan is out for public consultation

idea of this consultation is for people to raise things that they are not happy with so we can consider that and change the draft plan if appropriate."

Under the Wiltshire Core Strategy, most of the new homes demanded up to 2026 are in Royal Wootton Bassett. But 385 have to be shared between Cricklade and several villages including Purton and Lyneham.

So far 272 have been built, leaving 113 to be found, although planning permission has already been granted for 24 houses at Stone's Farm and 70 on a site south of The Forty. The GreenSquare Housing Association redevelopment of Cul-

verhay will also provide an extra 44 homes.

"On the face of it we have enough in the pipeline that will meet our needs," said Mr Clarke. "What we are looking to do is influence the design and layout of housing as once it is built it is there forever."

A housing needs survey four years ago showed an overwhelming demand from people in housing for low cost two-bedroom homes. The plan calls for developers to reflect the local need for one, two or three-bed homes when submitting planning applications.

It also says new affordable housing should be offered first to people within the town so older people

looking to downsize from larger homes, or young families needing space, have an opportunity to move, but stay within the community.

Flooding has caused problems in areas of the town, but if the plan is adopted developers will have to show their buildings will not increase the risk of flooding.

Under the plan commercial developments will not be allowed if they are likely to increase the amount of HGV traffic through the town centre with its medieval street layout and listed buildings, unless the effects are mitigated.

Part of the plan was to encourage new businesses to relocate to the area that did not need lorries.

The plan can be viewed online at [cricklade.np.org.uk](http://cricklade.np.org.uk). Copies are also available at the town council offices in Oclwells. The consultation deadline is January 6.