

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

26 JUNE 2012

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY

**FROM CLLR JUDY ROOKE, CHIPPENHAM LOWDEN AND ROWDEN
DIVISION**

**TO CLLR FLEUR DE RHÉ-PHILLIPE, CABINET MEMBER FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Question 1

The National Planning Policy Framework states as one of the 12 core planning principles which should underpin both plan making and decision taking:

- encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brown field) provided that it is not of high environmental value.

There is a slight reference to brown field sites in Chippenham (Appendix 2 at 1.7) and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment made it clear that there were brown field sites in Chippenham that could accommodate a potential of 545 houses.

So, why isn't the Wiltshire Core Strategy highlighting these brown field sites in Chippenham and encouraging their effective use?

Response

The draft Wiltshire Core Strategy acknowledges the importance of reusing land which has been previously developed. This is in accordance with the NPPF. As Wiltshire is a predominately rural area, there is a lack of brownfield sites and it is therefore necessary to identify greenfield sites in order to achieve the strategy. In the case of Chippenham, paragraph 5.48 identifies that brownfield sites should be reused for employment purposes which will help to improve the self-containment of the town. Langley Park is the largest known available brownfield site at Chippenham. This is identified for mixed use redevelopment in Core Policy 9. The remaining sites identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Study are all smaller sites, none of which are considered to be of strategic importance to merit identification in the Core Strategy. The policies elsewhere in the plan and the requirements set out in the NPPF are sufficient to acknowledge the importance of reusing land. The Chippenham Masterplan which is currently underway may also have regard to some of the sites.

Question 2

At the last extraordinary Council meeting on 7th February 2012 I asked for an indication of the area that Natural England proposed to be used as additional parkland in the South West Chippenham Strategic Site. Helpfully, since then Natural England supplied a map to spatial planning with the area marked and I understood from spatial planning the green space/ country park would be extended to include this area.

However there seems to be some confusion as the proposed changes in Appendix 1, ref 129, says to amend the South West Strategic Site map on p248 to show land within the Rowden Conservation Area currently shown as indicative housing to be green space, with no amended map shown it is difficult to know exactly what is being proposed.

Then in the reasons column (ref 129) it says that the map on p59 as being correct. In my view the map on p59 is not correct as it shows the land indicated by Natural England to be coloured blue as a strategic site and not green space.

Could the Cabinet Member ensure that all the maps showing the South West Strategic site are corrected to show the addition of the area indicated by Natural England as green space/country park?

Response

This matter was raised in a Question to Cabinet on 19 June 2012. It has been agreed to amend the map in line with the concern raised.