

**WOOTTON BASSETT AND CRICKLADE COMMUNITY AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLANNING MEETING**

31 OCTOBER 2011

Following presentation (copy attached), a round table and open forum discussion took place. During the discussion a number of points were made and issues raised that would inform the next meeting. It was agreed that this would be held during December.

Neighbourhood Planning within the Community Area:

- How would voting for a Neighbourhood Plan work - concerns raised that village communities could in effect be making decisions that would impact on a town and vice versa, if there is only one plan
- A parish could opt out of the Neighbourhood Plan process at Community Area Level, but Wiltshire Council, as Local Planning Authority, would be able to say 'no' to an individual plan for that Parish at a later date
- Perception that a neighbourhood should be a small area not a whole community area
- Community regarded as the town and its surrounding villages (parishes), therefore is the Area Board too big? Do we need to look at community hubs based on the towns?
- If this community area is too big with only some *overarching* issues, could it be developed on two distinct areas (north and south of the M4)
- One reason for acting at a community area level is the relationship with Swindon and the ability to plan positively for how growth should take place in the area (i.e. at villages and towns, not west of Swindon), so planning for growth holistically would allow communities to defend against impromptu growth
- There is some confusion between community, neighbourhood and parish plans - the wider community will certainly be confused. Community plans are aspirational and could contain anything whilst a Neighbourhood Plan is focused on local planning policy only and provides a mechanism to deliver specific development. A Neighbourhood Plan could help deliver actions arising from a Community Plan.
- A Neighbourhood Plan could be just a specific piece of planning policy or could identify sites across a number of small settlements.
- In a perfect world a Community Plan would inform the Neighbourhood Plan but it was recognised that you would need to break into the cycle somewhere and steps could be taken to have shared consultation activities so not to duplicate.

Issues within the Community Area that could be addressed with a Plan:

- Swindon's sprawl is a problem, does it need to consider a rural buffer policy?
- Need to create jobs locally and support retail
- Different issues north and south of M4
- Need for a railway station in Wootton Bassett and public transport across community area
- Future of RAF Lyneham?
- Purton is almost as big as Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett and has "border issues" with Swindon.
- Different role and functions of villages and whether clusters or focal villages should be identified

Establishing the Way Forward:

- If this is a pilot, should we not move forward and see how the process develops?
Working on the basis of the bid and moving forward as one area.
- As we move forward, could set up working groups to consider various issues such as affordable housing.
- Consider whether appropriate to scope out issues at Community Area level and then divide into smaller areas if appropriate grouping
- General consensus that the potential differences of approach were not seen as being incompatible with moving forward at the community area level - initial consultation around issues could be used for both.
- The group agreed to define what is common across this area in terms of the core issues for this 'Neighbourhood'
- We should try to plan for 2 or 3 issues that are common across the area.
- The funding (£20k) is ring fenced to deliver the area wide NP
- No reason why *more* local work couldn't follow to, for example, identify sites across the area that are suitable for development.
- A Neighbourhood Plan could be used to identify what new local community infrastructure is required
- Group recognised that we shouldn't wait until the Community Plan was agreed to start a Neighbourhood Plan given the pressures for change that exist
- Suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan could be broad brush and reviewed following completion of the community plans develop
- Concerns were raised that this approach might lead to difficulty in securing community involvement for a second Neighbourhood Plan
- Group discussed the support required and recognised that either a consultant or local talent could be used to move the project forward. Wiltshire Council will provide on going advice and support.

Action Points:

- In order to ascertain whether the group understands what the common planning policy issues are for the area, representatives of the parishes agreed to identify with their own parish councils the key issues from their perspective.
- To facilitate these discussions, the following would be circulated:
 - (i) Notes of the meeting
 - (ii) Guidance note for Town/Parish Councils
 - (iii) Presentation
 - (iv) Community Area Strategy for Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area (see page 115, Core strategy Consultation Document (June 2011))
http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire_core_strategy_consultation_document_june_2011.pdf
- Next meeting of this group 14th December 2011, Purton Village Hall

10 November 2011