

Re: Review of The Malmesbury Area Neighbourhood Plan

1) Purpose of the report

To advise Full Council of the results of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Party review of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. To seek agreement to these changes and to agree to declaring same to Wiltshire Council and others and to continue the review process.

2) Background

- a) The working party has been meeting since early 2020 to review the Malmesbury Area Neighbourhood Plan which was made in 2015, but covers the period 2006 to 2026.
- b) The working group has reviewed the effectiveness of the NP policies and concluded that generally it remains robust and appropriate. There are however a small number of changes to the policies, which are generally minor in nature and which will bring it up to date.
- c) It is not proposed to change the plan period and a new revised plan will continue to conform to the Wiltshire Core Strategy until 2026.
- d) The working party intend to carry on with a more extensive review of the plan to a longer time horizon, especially as the results of the Local Plan Review are still awaited and are currently undetermined.
- e) The work of the group is also taking place in a period of some uncertainty for the local community because of several speculative proposals for further housing development. Planning permission has already been granted for new homes contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- f) This revision of the plan would provide certainty in the interim pending Local Plan review to 2036.
- g) A further amendment to housing figures in Policy2 and wording has been made since the last update to the Full Council on 10th June 2021.

3) Amending The Neighbourhood Plan

- a) The working group has reviewed the NP policies and concluded that generally it the relevant and effective. However, there are some small changes to the policies and associated wording in our proposal, which will bring it up to date.
- b) The intention is to advise Wiltshire Council, relevant bodies, organisations and of course residents of the three Councils proposed amendments and in due course, to go to public consultation with our residents. Previous resident support, expressed through a democratic referendum was of overwhelming support of the Neighbourhood Plan.

4) Amendments to the Existing Neighbourhood

- a) Please see attached amended draft Neighbourhood Plan, which show two main amendments described in 4 b), 4 c) and 4 d).
- b) Policy 1: Backbridge was identified as approx. 170 dwellings, however the developer has planned the site to accommodate 201 dwellings, including housing which is suitable for those requiring smaller accommodation and which we understand has also been endorsed in principle by Wiltshire Council, through delegated authority. The policy and references are therefore amended in the Neighbourhood Plan accordingly.
- c) Policy 2: Burton Hill sites were identified as approx. 50 dwellings, however now as two developments, of 29 and 27 dwellings respectively, meaning an increase to 56 dwellings. The policy and references are therefore amended in the Neighbourhood Plan accordingly
- d) Policy 6: Burnham Court assisted living accommodation dwellings. This policy has been successfully completed as Burnham Court was built in 2017. Therefore, the policy and references are removed, amended and noted in the Neighbourhood Plan accordingly.

4) Financial implications and risks

- a) There will be some as yet unknown publicity and other costs associated with the consultation and to amend the Neighbourhood Plan following the review. Some funding will also be sought from Locality in due course.

5) Proposals

- a) That the Council agrees the amendments to the Malmesbury Area Neighbourhood Plan as per the draft reviewed Plan attached to this report.
- b) That the Council delegates authority to the Chair of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to amend wording and prepare documentation in respect of the review and the proposals, as considered appropriate by them, in order to ease the process.
- c) That the Council authorises the Chair of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to instruct the Acting Town Clerk to notify Wiltshire Council and others of these amendments.
- d) That the Council agrees for the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to continue the process and in due course to scope the preparations and costs for a public consultation of the amended Neighbourhood Plan at a date in the future.

Members are requested to agree these proposals.

Cllr. K. Power (Chair JNPWG) 13th July 2021