

Report 1 Addendum

Malmesbury Town Council – Community Welfare Support

From the announcement of Lockdown 3 consideration has been given to additional welfare support that might be required across the community and where Malmesbury Town Council can play a useful role.

The challenges and requirements presented by Lockdown 3 differ from those of Lockdown 1. For example:

- The higher transmission rate of the new variant virus and the extra risks to be managed in volunteer-based activities
- Changes to essential work definitions, bubble and other support arrangements and that nurseries remain open.
- The help required to deliver vaccines and other medical services being led by the NHS
- The additional activity being led by the Community Health team based at the Health Centre
- The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub succeeded our local Partnership helpline as the posted location for residents to raise immediate welfare concerns since August 2020. Its operations have been expanded to 6 days a week
- The developments in service provision by pharmacies and food retailers, and
- Changes to essential work definitions, bubble and other support arrangements and that nurseries remain open.

Taking account of the above an update was posted communications have taken place with the Malmesbury Health Centre, the Wiltshire Council Communities Team, Heals, and a Community Group was held on the 12th January 2021.

The current situation is as follows:

1. We have been advised the Health Centre does not currently need any additional volunteers to support the vaccination programme. The priority needs identified by the Health Centre are to increase befriending support, particularly for the isolated elderly and support for those below the poverty line.
2. We have received confirmation from the Wiltshire Community team the Wiltshire Well-being Hub is working well. It is only taking a very low number of calls from across the county and there has also not been a significant increase in calls during the November or current lock-downs.
3. Food supplies for individuals who are self-isolating are underpinned by the service provided locally by the Co-Op, which is offering a phone order and phone pay service with free next day delivery. This has good capacity at present.
4. We have updated information about COVID support on the Malmesbury Town Council website.
5. On our call with community groups on Tuesday we discussed the additional befriending that would be helpful to the elderly and across our community. There are currently 3 active groups operating in and around Malmesbury and all have offered some immediate capacity to take on referrals from the Health Centre and to increase their capacity as well if required. This has been communicated to the Health Centre Community team and direct links strengthened. There will no doubt be other ideas coming forward to reduce social isolation and we will continue to respond positively to supporting these to the best of our ability.

6. Support for those below the poverty line continues to be led by our local charity Heals and we are, of course, in close contact with Heals through our previous Partnership work. Heals has an expanded team in comparison to a year ago and are maintaining their close contact with the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community as well as taking on or helping signpost new referrals. They also act as a point of entry to the local foodbank, which has also expanded its operations.
7. We are continuing to work closely with Malmesbury Town Team to provide all possible support to our local businesses.
8. The current challenging situation is changing daily and new needs will no doubt arise or become apparent. All parties we are in contact with have been asked to let us know if they are identifying other needs within the community Malmesbury Town Council can practically help with.

Proposal:

To receive and note the above update and to keep the developing COVID 19 situation under review, with appropriate interim steps being taken by Malmesbury Town Council officers and councillors as appropriate.

Report 4: Agenda Item 10. To receive an update on planning and related matters in relation to the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan and consider proposed next steps.

1.0 Purpose:

To update Council on planning developments in relation to the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan since the report presented at the meeting and resolutions agreed at Council in November 2020.

2.0 Background:

In November 2020 Council agreed the following in relation to Agenda item 12: **To receive an update on recent planning and related matters in relation to the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan including Filands, Whychurch Farm, Aldi and Park Road applications and consider proposed next steps.**

To note the report. To take all reasonable steps to work directly and in alliance with other councils in Wiltshire to ensure the maximum possible support for Neighbourhood Planning in Wiltshire through the actions of Wiltshire Council and by seeking appropriate changes to the NPPF and planning law by government. To continue to seek the support of our MP and all Wiltshire MP's to press for changes to the NPPF. To continue to robustly challenge planning applications that are contrary to the housing needs identified in the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan. In respect of Aldi: Supermarket 18/06980, to seek to clarify the situation concerning the CiL payment and the process followed in this and the decision making concerning the Town Teams106 submission in the light of the new information that has now been made available following Wiltshire Council's delayed release of information.

3.0 Developments since November 2020 Council:

1. Wiltshire Council has confirmed (Dec 2020) that it has not achieved a 5 year land supply for housing for planning decision making purposes for the year ahead. Made Neighbourhood Plans in Wiltshire – including the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan - that are more than two years old continue to be exposed.
2. Given the above Wiltshire Council has issued Briefing Note 20-37 on how it intends to manage development proposals. However Briefing Note 20-20 issued in June 2020 remains the relevant policy document on how Wiltshire Council intends to recover its five-year housing supply. The current Wiltshire Council policy on considering speculative planning applications in made Neighbourhood Plan areas remains to:
 - Continue supporting Neighbourhood Plans, identifying any suitable sites for housing within these.
 - Grant permission for speculative applications where there are no major policy obstacles (which would not be possible to defend at appeal).

This means the message to developers appears to be that the policy of Wiltshire Council is that little will be put in the way of speculative applications in areas with Neighbourhood Plans and it will hardly ever object to them. To date we have not yet seen any evidence to the contrary. In particular there is no evidence that – as written in 20-37 'The views of the local community, particularly those of Town and Parish councils will be important in considering potential benefits and impacts of proposals when planning applications are determined.'

4.0. Wiltshire Local Plan

Consultation has opened on the delayed iteration of the Wiltshire Local Plan. This will determine the Wiltshire level housing strategy to 2036. If the plan is agreed as proposed Malmesbury may be required to take 24 more houses over and above approvals already given. However, views are also being sought on the merits of considering a number of sites put forward by land owners for future development.

Given the formation and operation of the Wiltshire Local Plan is severely compromised by Wiltshire Council's continuing lack of a 5 year land supply for housing combined with the operation of recent changes in the NPPF it is vital we and as many residents as possible fully participate in this consultation process. The Wiltshire Council information meeting about the Local Plan and Malmesbury is on Thursday 21st January at 7:00pm.

5.0 Work with other Wiltshire Town and Parish Councils to protect the future of Neighbourhood Planning

The 30+ Town and Parish councils working together with the common objective of protecting Neighbourhood Planning in Wiltshire have continued to meet, share information and take action together. A further useful briefing with the Wiltshire Council strategic planning team took place in early December.

It is expected the group will make a public update on the lack of progress made by Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire MP's on the requests for support made in August 2020 and outline a programme for future action in February. Malmesbury Town Council continues to be well represented in this group, with Cllr's Ritchie and Power on the steering group, Cllr Ritchie chairing the main group and Cllrs Grant and Exton (P) attending main meetings.

6.0 Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan Review

A meeting of the Review Steering Group to consider the best steps for the review of the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan in view of all the information currently available has been scheduled for Monday 18th January. Any material developments relevant to this agenda item will be reported verbally.

7.0 Malmesbury Planning Applications:

7.1 Filands South: 71 houses 19/11569 and Whychurch Farm: 68 houses. 20/05470/106. We have been advised that the Filands site has been acquired by Bloor Homes, who now wish to link it with a development including the Whychurch Farm site 20/05470/106, which is currently allocated for education use. This is although the Whychurch Farm application - to rescind the s106 agreement that this site is for educational use and which we have strongly opposed - is still to be determined. However, it is likely public consultation will be started by the developer in w/c 25th January. It is also likely that this proposal will include a minimal land offering for a nursery site.

7.2 Aldi: Supermarket 18/06980: It has been confirmed that the CiL payment related to this development will be allocated exclusively to the Parish. Malmesbury Town Team is continuing to consider the information received concerning the process followed and decision making concerning the Town Team s106 submission in the light of the new information that has now been made available following Wiltshire Council's delayed release of information and this will be discussed further by P&E in due course.

8.0 Proposal:

To receive and note the above report and the work continuing based on Council's resolution on Agenda Item 12 at Full Council in November 2020 and previous resolutions.

Cllr Campbell Ritchie

18th January 2021