



Referendum on 8th March!

The final stage of developing a Neighbourhood Plan is a referendum of all registered electors. The question to be put on 8th March will be:

“Do you want Wiltshire Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Cricklade to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

This leaflet explains what a neighbourhood plan is, the steps we have taken to develop it, and then summarises the vision, objectives and policies.

Please try to find the time to look at the full Plan because it includes maps, graphs and supporting text. To view it please look at our website crickladenp.org.uk or we have hard copies for inspection in the Town Council office. The website also contains all the other documentation and consultation reports that have been published during the process.

If you have any questions then please feel free to contact Deputy Town Clerk Duncan May at duncanmay@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk or on 01793 751394

“make sure that your vote counts on 8th March”



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a new form of planning policy that covers land-use issues in smaller, more localised, areas than existing planning policy. The Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan area is the parish and the Plan covers the period until 2026.

How has the Neighbourhood Plan been developed?

The starting point was the Town Plan of 2012. Since then there has been extensive public consultation . After each round of consultation a report has been published detailing the work undertaken, the feedback received and the conclusions reached. The most recent step has been a detailed analysis of the Draft Plan by an Independent Planning Examiner.

All of the Consultation Reports and the Independent Examiner's Report are available to read on our website crickladenp.org.uk and in the Town Council office.

Who has been responsible for preparing the Neighbourhood Plan?

The 'Qualifying Body' is Cricklade Town Council which established a Working Group consisting of a number of councillors and some community members who had expressed an interest in the subject. They have engaged external consultants for specific tasks where necessary.

What is the benefit of having a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the range of policies that Wiltshire Council will be using to determine planning applications in Cricklade. This will mean that for the first time we have a direct influence on what happens in our community. For this reason we have concentrated on including a range of policies that address issues that residents have told us that are of particular concern such as: flooding and drainage issues, not joining up with Swindon, parking provision etc.

Are there limitations on what can be included in a Neighbourhood Plan?

Yes. It must be in compliance with national planning policy (the National Planning Policy Framework) and also Wiltshire Council planning policy (known as the Core Strategy or Local Plan), and so the work of the Independent Examiner involved ensuring that our Plan does so comply.

Are there any other benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan?

Yes. Developers of new residential property are required to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Wiltshire Council based on the size of the development, although there are exemptions for affordable housing and for self-build. Without a Neighbourhood Plan just 15% of the CIL then comes to Cricklade Town Council to be spent in the town. With a Neighbourhood Plan this increases to 25% ensuring more infrastructure spending here on projects such as car parking and play areas.

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THE VISION

In 2026 Cricklade, the first town on the Thames and the southern gateway to the Cotswolds, will have:

- **Retained its heritage, unique character and pleasant appearance**
- **A strong community that is proud to live in Cricklade**
- **A vibrant and viable High Street**
- **Great community facilities and community spirit**
- **Good open spaces and surrounding countryside**

THE OBJECTIVES

Settlement and Housing Objectives

- Land for housing should be prioritised to meet local needs and in particular those of the young and elderly
- The design and scale of any new housing in Cricklade should be in keeping with the character of the town
- New housing developments should incorporate provision of surrounding open space
- New housing should be within walking distance of the town centre and also be linked to walking and cycle routes into and around the town to create a more sustainable environment and provide healthier life style options
- Any new development should not adversely affect drainage and flooding in the town
- The rural buffer between Cricklade and Swindon must be protected

Traffic and Transport Objectives

- HGV Operators should be encouraged to avoid passing through Cricklade
- The road network should be improved to accommodate the extra traffic generated by any new development
- The provision of public car parking should seek to protect the town centre
- The provision of and improvements to walking and cycle routes should be made

Business Objectives

- The retail offering within the town will be retained and where possible enhanced
- To provide for and enhance existing facilities and support initiatives to attract and retain visitors and tourists to the town
- The town will continue its service centre role to meet the needs and interests of residents and visitors from surrounding villages
- Cricklade will aspire to preserve and generate employment opportunities with a focus on small businesses
- The existing employment footprint should be retained to provide a mix of opportunities that do not increase HGV traffic

Look and Feel Objectives

- The conservation area and historic buildings and assets should continue to be protected and enhanced
- Existing parks, play areas, playing fields and open spaces should be retained and enhanced
- Preserve and enhance the Sustrans 45 national cycleway and the Thames Path National Trail
- additional open space areas to be provided, particularly for equipped play areas, allotments and cemetery space
- All community buildings to be protected and enhanced

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SUMMARY OF POLICIES

| Policy | Policy Name | Objectives of Policy |
|--------|--|---|
| H1 | The Settlement Boundary | To set a framework for development with development outside the boundary not being supported |
| H2 | Visual Separation of Settlements | To maintain the rural buffer around Cricklade, particularly this side of Swindon |
| H3 | Design of New Housing | To ensure the character of the area is protected |
| H4 | Housing Mix on Sites | To promote a concentration of 1,2 & 3 bed homes on new developments |
| H5 | Affordable Housing | To ensure that sites of more than 10 dwellings provide 40% affordable housing |
| H6 | Housing for the Elderly and Disabled | To address the identified local need in terms of provision and design |
| H7 | Residential Car Parking | To ensure new developments provide adequate off-road parking |
| H8 | Foul Water Management, Flood Risk & Surface Water Management | To ensure that new developments do not increase the risk of flooding on the site or surrounding areas |
| TT1 | Traffic Impact | To mitigate the traffic impacts of commercial and industrial development |
| TT2 | Off- Road Routes in Cricklade | To promote improved pedestrian and cycle routes |
| B1 | The Primary Shopping Area | To maintain the vibrancy of the High Street by retaining a minimum proportion of retail premises |
| B2 | The Town Centre Area | To encourage the commercial use of a wider range of premises including for tourism purposes |
| B3 | Police Station Site | To support retail and commercial use when it is sold |
| B4 | Promotion of Business | To support small and medium sized enterprises with particular regard to the visitor economy |
| B5 | The Chelworth Commercial Area | To support business within a clearly defined boundary but not in the surrounding countryside |
| LAF1 | Open Space | To protect a number of defined areas of open space in and around the town |
| LAF2 | Allotments | To promote the supply of additional allotment space |
| LAF3 | Provision of Public Open Space | To promote the provision of open space areas on new housing developments |
| LAF4 | Local Green Space | To provide enhanced protection of five key areas of open space |
| LAF5 | Sustrans Cycleway 45 and Thames Path National Trail | To promote the use of these key leisure assets |
| LAF6 | Cricklade Canal | To support, in principle, the restoration project |
| LAF7 | Swindon and Cricklade Railway | To support, in principle, the restoration project |
| LAF8 | Community Facilities | To protect a list of named community facilities |

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