

## **Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan - Update**

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank all those who attended the initial consultation event at the Memorial Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> September and for the many useful comments made. These will help with the next stage in development of the plan for the parish.

The prospect of further development was seen as adding to some of the problems that already exist as well as presenting new challenges in integrating such development into the existing village infrastructure. Seven major issues were identified. There was a high level of support for protecting the Green Belt, which is seen as an important feature of the area. The provision of safe cycle routes and footpaths, mostly as components of the Green Belt, was also deemed vital as part of a healthy environment by providing recreational opportunities for all.

One problem that would need careful consideration in any future development is the risk of increased flooding, largely as a result of increased runoff. People thought it essential that effective surface water drainage measures and adequate sewage capacity be put in place to counter these risks.

Sturminster Marshall village already experiences problems with traffic movements and with parking: these will only become more serious as development takes place. A number of solutions were put forward including; traffic calming, parking restrictions, provision of more car parking spaces and the construction of a new road from the industrial estate to Roundhouse Roundabout.

It was thought that development itself should be balanced to provide a range of housing types to include social housing, shared ownership and owner-occupied homes. A need was also seen to have a higher proportion of affordable houses and to cater for the more elderly members of the population by building homes to meet their needs, including some sheltered housing.

Development will give an opportunity to expand the facilities that will be needed to cope with the increase in population. In particular it was felt that a return of a doctor's surgery was vital and that it could also expand its scope to incorporate other health or social services.

There will be further opportunities for everyone to put forward their views and contribute as we develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

*More detailed results of the consultation and issues raised can be found below.*

*The feedback received from the consultation event has been collated and whilst some of the comments and suggestions fall outside the remit of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan process they have been recorded for completeness.*

## **ISSUES RAISED BY CONSULTATION EVENT**

A number of concerns expressed were pertinent to different topics identified by the Steering Group. In the following tables, the subjects are arranged in the following order: Environment, Amenities, Traffic and Transport, Employment, Youth and Recreation, and Housing and Development. The first five of these may have issues that might need addressing irrespective of whether further housing development takes place or not. Scale and patterns of development will, however, have implications for all aspects of parish environment and infrastructure.

Common issues will be raised as they first occur and figures will be combined over all topics but registered under the initial heading. This does mean that there may be some double accounting if the same individual has raised the same issue by placing post-its on different boards.

One person asked that we incorporate responses to EDDC Local Plan Consultation into Neighbourhood Plan.

### **• Environment**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>No of comments</b>
No more development	4
Protect the Green Belt and other open spaces	18
Avoid flood plain and ensure proper drainage to avoid flooding	26
Allocate land either side of Dullar Lane for development	1
Can sewage system cope?	1
Expand footpath/cycle ways and manage them	30
Plant more trees	4
Better wheelchair access to Trailway	1
Retain and maintain Bartons Ground	4
Keep Churchill Close as open space	2
Preserve older structures	2
Any development to retain rural character and be good quality	2
Provide open spaces in any new development	4

On footpaths: one comment was that private farmland is not there for recreation, whilst another asked for consultation with landowners to improve accessibility and biodiversity. More specifically on management, there was a request to ensure that the part of Moor Lane leading to White Mill road was kept passable.

One person was dissatisfied with the management of Walnut Tree Field and Market Place.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amenities</b></li> </ul>
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Stars on the sheet asking which amenities people used gave the following results:

- School 20
- Memorial Hall 20
- Old School 23
- Shops 21
- Church 15
- Pubs 22
- Recreation Ground 13
- Golf Club 9
- Footpaths 9

Issue	No of comments
Need for doctors' surgery/health centre/social hub	22
School enlargement or replacement	5
Improved public transport (especially to Wimborne)	17
Ensure current amenities are maintained	4
Provide allotments	3
Community energy scheme	2
New parking provision at selected spots	3
Street lighting	1
River swimming spot	1
Additional shops (baker, butcher)	1
Community orchard in Walnut Tree Field	1
New public house or social club	1
Skate park	5
Tennis courts	3

If a new build surgery or health centre is not possible, suggested locations were the Memorial Hall or the Churchill Arms.

It was suggested that the skate park should require low capital expenditure and that it should be sited away from houses. It was said that tennis courts in Poole and Bournemouth were underused.

One person said that although the village has good amenities, others were accessible only if people were personally mobile or could use bus services

## • Traffic and Transport

Some comments referred to the current situation, but most were based on future development taking place. A number of suggestions made provide different solutions for the same problem. There was a general feeling that some form of traffic management and overcoming parking problems were the major issues that would only be exacerbated by major development (including that in Blandford).

Issue	No of comments
Traffic calming needed	14
Parking is a problem and restrictions needed in selected areas	13
Risks from large lorries (especially in Station Road and by school)	7
New road from industrial estate/Arch Ground to Roundhouse roundabout	21
Risks to White Mill Bridge from heavy lorries	3
Right of way problems on White Mill Bridge	1
Zebra crossing at school needed	1
Congestion/accidents on A350 and A31 will worsen with development	4
Need better signposting to amenities	1
Speeding as a problem	8
Walk to school scheme	1
Complaint about condition of roundabout at Station Road/Railway Drive	1
Too many illegal signs in and around village	1
More lighting	2
No street lighting	4
Traffic control on A350	1
Roundabout at A350/Station Road	2
Roundabout A350/Newton Road	1
Roundabout A31 Henbury	2
Traffic lights at Baillie Cross	1
Traffic lights at Jubilee Cross	1
Better warning signs for quarry traffic	1
Poor condition of Newton Road & Kings Street	3
More police patrols	1

One suggestion was that a new roundabout on the A31 could serve an industrial estate spur road and Henbury Gardens.

## • Employment

Few comments on employment but main response was in relation to increased traffic flows if industrial estate were to be expanded and need for spur road.

Issue	No of comments
Screening or landscaping of existing	1
Noise already a problem	1
Expansion would increase traffic flows	3
Encourage smaller units	3
Underuse of existing units	2
How much work for residents and would they want them?	3
Do not let expansion be at expense of village	1

## • Youth & Recreation

A wide range of suggested additional facilities suggested by those filling in post-its, but mainly just a single respondent for each. Some of the suggestions fall outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan and are more appropriately dealt with by individual initiatives (eg canoe club). Others may be impractical, eg, based on past experience, a shelter as a meeting place.

The school and social media were suggested ways of involving young people more.

It was suggested that a deal could be brokered with developers to provide funds for extra facilities. Another suggestion was to ensure facilities were built before houses.

Issue	No of comments
Youth Club	7
Facilities (unspecified) indoor and outdoor	3
Scooter track & wishing well	1
Extra giant playground	1
Canoe club	1
Pokemon trading club	1
BMX track	1
Mountain bike trail	1
Woodland trails/activity trails/village walks	3
Water park	1
Youth cricket club and nets	2
Bigger park	1
Animals and big trees	2
Informal space to meet eg shelter	2
Hotel	1
Better range of activities and play equipment for toddlers	1
Risk factors associated with youngsters congregating at Memorial Hall?	1

One person highlighted that parents do not get involved in running clubs etc for their children.

• **Housing and Development**

Issue	No of comments
Development should be in small groups not large estates	6
Buffer zones around developments	1
Include amenity spaces	1
Do not create “ghetto” by concentrating social housing	1
Ensure adequate parking spaces are provided	3
Range of house types needed (social/low cost etc)	5
Need smaller, affordable, houses (not £450,000 + ones)	11
Build or retain more bungalows	3
Avoid bungalows (inefficient use of space)	1
Housing for elderly (including sheltered)	7
Houses to be eco-friendly	6
Build on Churchill Arms site	1
Lakeside eco-homes	1
Community Land trust needed	1
Build shared ownership	1
Support self-build	1
Added traffic problems (non-specific)	11
No further industrial development	3
Pollution and noise seen as problems already	3
More units would mean more jobs and more traffic	3
Do we need more (some units already empty)?	1

Comments on village character included two saying build less but, on the positive side, one person thought that planning policy should already do this whilst another said that public consultation was needed at all stages.

One question asked was how the Neighbourhood Plan will accommodate need for housing for the elderly population as houses being built at present are for families and are expensive.

An important question asked was whether the allocation of 250 homes reflects housing needs for parish, whilst another was, “what happens if landowners do not agree to sell?”