

WHITCHURCH NP



Zoom update April 7<sup>th</sup> 2021

# AGENDA

- What is a Neighbourhood Plan
- Why should Whitchurch have an NP
- What is the process
- Who is involved
- When will residents get their say
- How can residents get involved
- What about the Community Plan

## WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

**Neighbourhood planning** is a new way for communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gives you the power to produce a **plan** with real legal weight that directs development in your **local** area. It helps you: choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built.

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## WHY SHOULD WHITCHURCH HAVE A NP?

- There will be ongoing developmental pressure across the UK to find land for house building
- Irrespective of what housing has been built in Whitchurch – above agreed ‘quotas’ there will be pressure to build more
- Without a formal plan with legal authority each planning application will be dealt with on its own merits
- The basis for approving or denying planning consent are very clear and do not cover many of the issues frequently raised in objections and thus are not taken into account
- The village can only remain in control with the adoption of a NP

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

- NP group has been approved by the PC to work on the NP following a detailed survey of residents in the spring of 2019
- The boundary of the NP area has been set and agreed
- We now have funding in place and have appointed a consultancy group to guide the group of volunteers through the process
- Development Group – call for sites 0.2 hectare and above adjacent to the current built environment
- Environment Group – collating all relevant information about the built and green environment of the village

- Once we know what sites might be available we can look at these in the wider context of the village and propose certain site/s as being most appropriate for consideration
- The proposal goes to the village for consultation
- Amendments are made based on feedback
- A draft report is written and submitted for approval (ensuring that statutory obligations have been fulfilled)
- Final draft is put to the village in a referendum
- If approved by residents it is then adopted as a statutory policy to be taken into account when reviewing planning applications

## WHO IS INVOLVED?

- The NP group are all volunteers
- The NP reports to the PC each month
- The PC is the holder of the grant funding
- Consultants – experts in the process and in writing the plan such that it will meet the requirements of the county planning department

# HOW IS THE NP COMMUNICATING

## Currently

- Through the monthly PC meetings
- Via the Whitchurch News
- On the village website

## Future

- Face to face meetings in the village hall
- xxxxxx



## WHEN WILL RESIDENTS GET THEIR SAY?

- At consultation stage when there are some ideas to share
- At approval stage when the village will be asked to vote on the final proposal

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- Join the NP group to help the development, environmental or communication teams
- Attend PC meetings
- Give feedback to the group by email

# COMMUNITY PLAN

- The 2019 survey asked for feedback on wider aspects of village life – beyond further housing development
- These topics fall under the umbrella of a Community Plan
- CPs are not legal documents but provide a useful framework for the PC and for village groups in understanding various aspects of life in Whitchurch and where attention should be focused
- The findings of the NP environmental group will be instrumental in this report which is in its early stages of being written