

Winchester District Local Plan Part 2

Regulation 18 Consultation Statement – Part 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Consultation Statement

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement accompanies the first draft of the Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations (LPP2). It sets out what consultation and engagement has been undertaken to date and how it has influenced the content of the draft plan. It is therefore a ‘part 1’ consultation statement. Following consultation on the draft plan this statement will need to be supplemented to include how people and bodies are notified, who is notified and how their responses influence the formal publication plan that will be published for representations prior to submission for independent examination.

Legislative Requirements

- 1.2 The preparation of LPP2 must comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Regulation 18 represents the first statutory stage in preparing a local plan. It specifies the requirements for who must be notified of the preparation of the plan, that they must be invited to comment on its content and that their comments must be taken into account. The purpose of this Statement is to set out how the City Council has also carried out early, meaningful and pro-active engagement with local communities, businesses and other organisations in the preparation of the LPP2, as advised by the NPPF (paragraph 155).

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Preparation of a local plan

18.—(1) A local planning authority must—

- (a) notify each of the bodies or persons specified in paragraph (2) of the subject of a local plan which the local planning authority propose to prepare, and
- (b) invite each of them to make representations to the local planning authority about what a local plan with that subject ought to contain.

(2) The bodies or persons referred to in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) such of the specific consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider may have an interest in the subject of the proposed local plan;
- (b) such of the general consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider appropriate; and
- (c) such residents or other persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area from which the local planning authority consider it appropriate to invite representations.

(3) In preparing the local plan, the local planning authority must take into account any representation made to them in response to invitations under paragraph (1).

2.0 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Earlier Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation during the preparation of the Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy (LPP1) was documented in the consultation statement that accompanied the LPP1 through to its examination. Active community engagement can be traced back to the Council's award-winning 'Blueprint' exercise in 2010¹. This engagement toolkit was designed in-house and focused around the government's Localism agenda. It was aimed at helping communities tell the Council what they think their communities need now and in the future by asking them to consider the needs of different people and how they may be supported or encouraged into the community.
- 2.2 The *Blueprint* consultation ran between October and December 2010. Encouraged by the City Council, many parish councils and local groups took the lead in organising their own *Blueprint* events and co-ordinating responses. The outcome was an important influence on the content of the LPP1 and more information is available on a dedicated website at www.community-blueprint.co.uk.
- 2.3 The Council's approach of participative engagement has continued beyond the adoption of LPP1 by encouraging communities to be actively involved in the LPP2 process. This reflects the level of community support for the concept of neighbourhood planning and enables communities, with Council guidance, to undertake the necessary research and local engagement, to identify the issues and discuss options. As a result, none of the communities is undertaking its own Neighbourhood Development Plan, except Denmead Parish Council which has been engaged in this process since its successful application for neighbourhood plan 'Front Runner' status in 2011.

Notification of Commencement of LPP2

- 2.4 The LPP2 commenced in December 2012 following a decision by the Council's Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee on 17 December 2012. A Notice of Commencement (Appendix 1) was published in accordance with the regulations, on the Council's website (Appendix 2), and circulated to all persons and bodies on the Council's Local Plan Consultation Database (Appendix 3). Those on the mailing list for the Local Plan eNewsletter had already been given advance warning and notice of the report to the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee in the December edition. A press release was also issued.

¹ RTPI Planning Awards 2011: 'Planning Process' category

Working with the Parish Councils and other Organisations

- 2.5 From the start of 2013, Winchester City Council officers have worked with the Parish Councils in assessing the potential sites for allocation to meet development needs and in developing policies for the market towns and larger villages. As well as arranging specific and individual meetings at various times, to which Parish representatives were invited, officers have also attended Parish Council meetings including those of their steering or working groups to advise and receive feedback. The approach for Winchester Town involved some Parish Councils on the periphery but also other organisations as most of the town is un-parished.
- 2.6 During January 2013, City Council officers held meetings with the parish councils representing the settlements which were identified in LPP1 for growth (LPP1 policy MTRA2), to determine the specific development needs of the market towns and larger villages, following the development parameters established by the relevant policies in LPP1. Data sheets/ profiles, site assessment checklists and other technical guidance were provided to analyse local development needs and to evaluate site options with the Parish Councils being asked to supplement the information from their local knowledge. The exercise has not just been about housing however: it has also sought to determine amounts and locations (if required) for other forms of development and open space.
- 2.7 Parish Councils were also encouraged to carry out consultation to ascertain the views of their local communities on, or preferences for, development options. WCC officers offered help with the community engagement and attended many of the Parish Council's consultation meetings, events and exhibitions.
- 2.8 In September 2013, a series of meetings (workshops) were held with the parish councils (or neighbourhood planning steering groups where they were set up), the purpose of which was mainly two-fold –
- (i) to pull together evidence and findings of research undertaken by the City Council and local communities; and
 - (ii) to determine the spatial development strategy for the settlement, including sites to be allocated for development.
- 2.9 Discussions between Council officers and Parish representatives included the merits of suitable and available sites that have been promoted through the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and 'Call for Sites'. Key inputs included the latest information on net housing requirements and technical assessments, such as open space, landscape sensitivity and transport accessibility and other background reports and assessments. The results of previous community consultation and feedback also had an important influence on deciding site preferences. In general there was agreement in principle between the Parish representatives and City Council officers on a shortlist of preferred sites or alternative options to accommodate each settlement's development needs, including the residual net housing requirement.

- 2.10 The workshops also discussed the suitability and/or availability of land in each parish for permanent sites for travellers' pitches. The Hampshire Travellers' Accommodation Assessment (2013)² identified the need to provide for around 30-35 pitches in Winchester District over the Local Plan period (to 2031). The parish councils recognised this requirement and acknowledged that, in some cases, traveller sites already existed in their area. The workshops sought to suggest or identify specific new (or expanded) sites to accommodate the identified need and sites were identified for travellers in, or close to, some of the settlements.
- 2.11 In late 2013/early 2014, parish councils consulted with their communities on the results of the workshops in terms of the preferred sites / options. Officers (both with and on behalf of parish councils) contacted the owners/promoters of the preferred sites to discuss further details of their proposals, including the delivery of associated community benefits required by LPP1, e.g. open space, affordable housing, transport accessibility and Code for Sustainable Homes standards. Officers also continued to liaise with the Denmead Neighbourhood Forum on its Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.12 In addition to the Parish Councils and their local communities engagement with key public bodies, neighbouring authorities, service and utility providers has also taken place in the preparation of the draft LPP2. This has included liaison with various agencies to gain further understanding of the implications of potential allocations on highways and other services and on environmental issues, so as to include mitigation in policy criteria. In addition to information being sought at the data collection stage by both WCC and the Parish Councils, letters were sent to a range of bodies requesting their comments on the emerging draft site allocations. These bodies included the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England, the water companies and Hampshire County Council. Liaison with the South Downs National Park Authority and other neighbouring planning authorities has taken place, as set out in the Duty to Co-operate Statement, which also forms part of the evidence base to the Plan.
- 2.13 Meetings and correspondence has taken place between WCC officers and officers of Hampshire County Council representing various services including the education authority, the highway authority and the countryside service. Liaison with Children's Services officers provided further information on the latest position regarding schools and requirements to increase capacity arising from the proposed housing allocations. Meetings with transport officers discussed the access options and requirements of the sites. Suggestions were also received about where proposals could assist with access improvements and routes for cycling and footpaths.
- 2.14 Portsmouth Water and Southern Water provided some site specific comments, including clarification of the situation at Wickham regarding waste

² www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/evidence-base/housing/travellers-accommodation-assessment-hampshire-2013/

water and flooding issues. English Heritage confirmed the Historic Environment Assessments and made some specific amendments and comments regarding historic features associated with some site allocations. The Environment Agency referred to the need for buffer zones to sites where land in flood zone 3 adjoins, e.g. at The Lakes, Swanmore. Natural England made general comments and site specific comments including reference to public rights of way, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, soil quality and wildlife that may be affected by the proposed site allocations. Comments were also received from the National Health Service regarding GP services in Winchester.

Summary of Community Consultations on LPP2

2.15 The parish councils for the market towns and larger villages have undertaken at least one round of consultation or other form of community involvement, usually in conjunction with the City Council, to establish parishioner's views. This includes Denmead, through its Neighbourhood Plan procedures, and Winchester Town which has been subject to a different process due to being largely un-parished. The table below lists the consultation events and dates and the following section sets out a summary of the process and outcome for each settlement. Separate reports have been produced by the Parish Councils or the City Council and been published on their websites. A list of these can be found in the references section at the back of this report.

Table: Summary of Community Consultations on LPP2

Settlement	Events and dates
Bishop's Waltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Survey, July 2013 • "Design Bishop's Waltham" Event, 17 July 2013 • Bishops Waltham Development Plan consultation with exhibitions, 24 Jan – 7 March 2014
Colden Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community workshop, 9 February 2013 • Community Engagement Event, 21 July 2013 • Community drop-in event, 29 September 2013 • Development Strategy Consultation, Oct - Nov 2013
Denmead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation One ('Likes and Dislikes' questionnaire), 2012 • Consultation Two ('Drop-in' surveys), February 2013 • Consultation Three (Options for allocations), August 2013 • Draft Neighbourhood Plan Consultation, 10 March – 21 April 2014
Kings Worthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation on shortlisted sites, November 2013, December 2013 and January 2014
New Alresford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Meeting – awareness of LPP2, 23 Jan 2013 • Public Exhibition and Meeting – findings of 'Needs Groups' studies, 25 April 2013 • Public Meeting with exhibition boards on New Alresford Development Strategy, 7 January 2014 • Public Meeting, 27 May 2014

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition of Alternatives, June 2014 • Public Meeting, 18 July 2014
Swanmore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Development Questionnaire, April 2013 • Public Consultation on Swanmore Development Strategy including exhibitions, 24 January to 7 March 2014
Waltham Chase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' Survey, July 2013 • Consultation on Housing Development in Waltham Chase – proposed settlement boundary and preferred development sites, November 2013 – 10 January 2014
Wickham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community event, 27 June 2013 • Consultation on Wickham Development Strategy, including exhibition, 17 January – 28 February 2014
Winchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting for invited representatives of various organisations, 23 January 2013 • Display stand at Winchester Business Conference, Intec, on 14 February 2013 • Meeting with Vision for Winchester Group – 6 January 2014 • 24th Feb 2014 7.30 p.m. at St Barnabas Church Hall (meeting focusing on St Barnabas Ward and Harestock). • 24th Feb 2014 7.30 p.m. at St Marks Church, Oliver's Battery (meeting focusing on Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Parishes). • 27th Feb 2014 3.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. at Stanmore Primary School (drop-in session focusing on St Luke Ward). • 1st March 2014 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Winchester Library / Discovery Centre (drop in session focused on St Bartholomew Ward) • Meeting with City of Winchester Trust – 3 March 2014 • 4th March 2014 7.30 p.m. Westgate School (meeting focused on St Paul Ward). • 5th March 2014 7.30 pm at St Faith's Parish Hall, Back Street, St Cross (meeting focused on St Michael Ward) • 10th March 2014 6.30 pm at Winnall Community Centre (drop-in session from 6.30 pm focused on Winnall part of St John and All Saints Ward) • 13th March 2014 6.00pm at All Saints Church Hall, St Catherine's Road (drop-in session from 6.00 pm followed by presentation at 7.00 pm focused on Highcliffe part of St John and All Saints Ward) • Meeting with Winchester Business Improvement District and Winchester Chamber of Commerce – 18 March 2014

3. Settlement Specific Summaries

Bishops Waltham

3.1 In early 2012 Bishops Waltham Parish Council (BWPC) resolved to work with WCC on the production of LPP2 while keeping its options open to prepare its own Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council established a Steering Group in May 2012 to lead on the preparation of the plan. Public awareness and engagements events, including a community day and a “Design Bishop’s Waltham” event, were held so that, by the end of 2012, residents of the parish had started to become involved in the preparation of the plan, and together with parish councillors had been invited to join a number of Focus Groups.

3.2 The three Focus Groups were launched in January 2013 covering the topics of housing, employment, community and social infrastructure. They were advised by an Advisory Group of “experts” and overseen by the Steering Group. Their initial tasks included data gathering and starting on the site sieving process of the SHLAA sites. The intention was for the work programme during 2013 to follow a 3 stage process:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Stage 1 - Scoping | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review all guidance |
| Stage 2 - Requirements Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess existing plans and strategies• Assess quantum of new development• Identify possible sites |
| Stage 3 - Options Generation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider alternative options• Reassess boundaries• Identify features for protection |

3.3 Meanwhile engagement with landowners, agents and developers commenced to advise them of the process, and with neighbouring Parish Councils to liaise on issues that crossed parish boundaries.

3.4 The Focus Groups, led by the Steering Group, worked their way through the development requirements templates provided by WCC to gather information and evidence on matters such as the capacity of existing facilities and the needs of local businesses to expand, for submission to WCC. They also completed an initial site sieving on the submitted SHLAA sites, considering them against the list of constraints. The nature of the focus groups changed during the summer as work progressed, with a Stage 3 Focus Group being formed to concentrate on site prioritisation and a Publicity Group to implement a programme of community consultation.

3.5 The Steering Group led the production of a questionnaire for circulation to households throughout the parish at the beginning of July 2013 for completion by 15th July. The Community Survey elicited a total of 456 responses. The results provided information on households anticipated housing needs in the next 10 years and where within Bishops Waltham they would prefer to live. This provided information on the size of dwellings required and indicated a preference for smaller town centre dwellings for older, retired residents and edge of town

dwellings for larger family homes. There was a near unanimous support for Bishops Waltham to retain its “market town” image.

- 3.6A second “Design Bishops Waltham” drop-in event was arranged for 17th July at the village hall and widely advertised. Using the requirements for LPP2 and locally assessed needs for Bishops Waltham including the results of the Community Survey, participants were asked “where should the new developments (500 homes, industry, offices, retail, services, open spaces, leisure facilities and car parking) be?” Over 40 designs for siting the developments were prepared by the 164 participants.
- 3.7A Vision Statement was agreed for all development and work continued by the Focus Groups on site assessments and sieving and summarising the outcome of the Stage 2 reports and assembling conclusions into a draft master document. All the non-development issues were extracted into a Forward Plan for 2014-18 for action by the Parish Council.
- 3.8The next key stage was the parish council workshop with officers from various disciplines within WCC held on 20th September. The outcome of the transport, landscape and other technical assessments by WCC officers was available and the meeting was attended by parish councillors and WCC councillors. The parish council presented the outcome of their work to date, including their assessed needs and also the desires of the community based on the outcome of the community engagement to date.
- 3.9Following their work on the SHLAA sites, together with the outcome from the Design Bishops Waltham event, the parish council had prioritised the sites and it was acknowledged that those under priority 1 would be more than sufficient to meet the outstanding dwelling requirement of 360 from the total 500, taking account of completions and commitments. This meant that taking account of criteria such as good accessibility to the town centre, proximity to the SDNP boundary and the vision for Bishops Waltham the north eastern sites were rejected from the emerging development strategy. A further consideration for site selection and the strategy was the wish to limit the numbers to around 100 dwellings per development, as expressed by the public consultation.
- 3.10 The merits of the sites were debated and the most suitable sites, those directly adjoining the existing settlement boundary with good/adequate transport accessibility and least/moderately sensitive in landscape terms were grouped into options for further consideration by the Steering Group. The options involved groups of sites making up either 4 or 5 areas along the south west side of Bishop’s Waltham with 3 or 4 for housing and one area for employment and traveller pitches.
- 3.11 Meanwhile engagement with the landowners/developers took place. During November a series of individual meetings were held between WCC officers and the landowners/developers and their agents, with representatives from the Steering Group in attendance. WCC officers explained the overall numbers needed and outcome of the technical assessments and the community consultation to date. They indicated the general requirements expected of sites for such as open space, contribution to school provision, affordable housing, the

code for sustainable homes, servicing and the potential for links to the Botley to Bishops Waltham old railway line trail. Some developers responded with their own site proposals and concept masterplan options.

- 3.12 Following the landowner/developer reactions the Steering Group gave further consideration to the site and strategy options, bearing in mind the need to balance the desire for smaller sites with the scale of development necessary to maximise the infrastructure and facilities provided by the sites.
- 3.13 The Parish Council at its meeting on 14 January 2014 approved the publication of the proposed development strategy for community consultation. The consultation took place from 24 January to 7 March 2014 with exhibitions on the 9th, 13th and 15th February. The exhibition boards explained the scope and aims of the Bishops Waltham Development Plan, including the vision “All new developments to be situated as close as possible to the town centre or existing developments in order to maintain the social ambience and vitality of Bishop’s Waltham, a medieval market town within natural boundaries surrounded by farmed lands.”
- 3.14 The exhibition explained the background to the proposals for comment, including redrawing the Primary Shopping Area Boundary to include additional retail, the need to allow existing employers to move to larger premises and for starter business units. It also set out the strategy to spread development over 5 areas with several points of access to spread the impact (reflecting the community’s preference) with sites to accommodate 380 dwellings outside the existing settlement boundary.
- 3.15 The Steering Group analysed the 543 responses to the consultation received via questionnaires delivered to every household and available on WCC’s website. The reaction to the proposed housing sites gave most support to the Albany Farm and Coppice Hill sites, with Martin Street and The Vineyard receiving lower levels of support. Albany Farm attracted the most positive comments while The Vineyard attracted the most negative comments. Respondents were also asked for their top 3 reasons for supporting or objecting to the sites. They were also asked for their top 5 preferences for additional facilities or services they would like to see in Bishops Waltham.
- 3.16 The Steering Group submitted the Bishops Waltham Development Plan to the Parish Council meeting on 15th April 2014 together with the results of the community consultation. Following a subsequent decision (8 July 2014) regarding land at Priory Park, the quantum of development on some sites was adjusted, but the overall development strategy remains unchanged. The Steering Group considers that the proposals have the broad support of the residents and the Parish Council has accepted the Plan for submission to WCC.

Colden Common

- 3.17 An initial meeting was held with representatives of the Parish Council and local community, including City councillors, on 14 January 2013. WCC officers set out the work programme and the process to be used to identify sites for

allocation in the plan. The parameters for the site selection process, including level of involvement of the Parish Council and the ways of communicating and engaging with the wider community were discussed. At this stage the initial site assessment checklist was introduced with a request for the Parish Council to complete this by the end of May 2013.

3.18 Volunteers were recruited by the Parish Council to form a Community Engagement Group which adopted the name “Commonview”. The aims of Commonview are set out on the Parish Council’s website, as follows:

To work on behalf of residents and the parish council with employees of WCC to deliver the 250 housing target within the allotted timeframe and legal criteria and to ensure:-

- The views of residents of Colden Common are considered and have a prominent hearing at decision making level
- Residents are kept informed and where possible consulted at strategic stages of the procedure
- The VDS principles are adhered to
- The type of housing provided is sustainable and meets the needs of local residents
- To conserve and where possible enhance our rural village environment
- To protect significant local views
- To protect and where possible enhance the rural street scene
- To ensure the addition of sufficient community and social infrastructure and open space for the current and future needs of Colden Common
- To allow for sufficient local work place provision.

3.19 This led to a first consultation workshop which was run by Commonview, assisted by WCC officers on 9 February 2013. A total of 110 villagers attended the two sessions on the day, each of which comprised three exercises. Attendees were first asked to identify the priorities from the recently adopted Village Design Statement³ considered most important across the village to be applied to new development. They were then asked to consider three hypothetical resident types, using the Blueprint⁴ approach, to determine the needs within the village. This resulted in specific types of housing being suggested. Finally participants were asked to consider the outputs from the first two exercises to identify which of the potential development sites (from the SHLAA), within and adjoining the village, would be most and least suitable to meet those needs.

3.20 The outcome was summarised in a report presented to the Parish Council meeting on 6 March 2013 and made public to all residents. Regular reports of progress were made to the monthly Parish Council meetings, as noted in the minutes.

3.21 The Site Sieving exercise was explained at the Parish Assembly on 29 May. In response to an invitation issued for volunteers to join the Community

³ Adopted by Winchester City Council on 17 December 2012

⁴ Community Engagement Toolkit designed by WCC. See also <http://www.community-blueprint.co.uk/>

Engagement Group, to assist in considering the pros and cons of the various site options, more people came forward.

- 3.22 A meeting was held on 18 June 2013 between the Community Engagement Group, developers and landowners at which the Group set out what villagers have said they wanted for the future of Colden Common and the importance of keeping the rural aspects.
- 3.23 A public event was then held on 21 July for developers to set out their plans and for people to have the opportunity to record their views. Over 500 people attended and 279 questionnaires were completed by a range of residents around the village. Residents were asked whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with a number of statements concerning the impacts of each of the sites.
- 3.24 The questions concerned the following aspects of importance taken from the Village Design Statement and the previous community consultation on 9 February: local views and rural identity, trees and hedgerows, parish footpath network, integration and access to amenities. Residents were asked which sites should not be developed and which they would choose to achieve the 250 homes being built in the village.
- 3.25 Analysis of the responses resulted in the sites being ranked, indicating those most suitable and favoured for development. The results are summarised in a report prepared by Commonview.
- 3.26 A technical workshop took place on 10 September 2013 between Commonview and WCC officers. Sites were considered against the evidence and findings of the subject based assessments and in the light of the outstanding numbers of dwellings needed and the capacities of the sites to accommodate them. The shortlist of sites indicated that a development strategy centred along Main Road was emerging, based on the location of the most suitable sites according to their attributes and public preferences.
- 3.27 The emerging development strategy was prepared as a written report, including the outcome of the earlier community engagement, setting out the reasons for the sites being selected or discounted. The development strategy was made available to the community at a drop-in event on 29 September then endorsed by the Parish Council at its meeting on 2 October 2013 and forwarded to WCC with a statement of the Parish Council's support.
- 3.28 The development strategy was further made available to the community for written comments until 17 November, extended to 30 November to allow for comments on a developer's concept plan on a site that was not one of the preferred sites.
- 3.29 A summary of the comments received from that consultation, including comments received from developers and their agents, was reported to the Parish Council at its meeting on 3 March 2014 with an amendment proposed to the development Strategy. That amendment was to remove a less favoured site due

to further work and liaison with agents for the Sandyfields site which indicated that the Sandyfields site could accommodate a higher number of dwellings.

- 3.30 Following discussions and further representations made at the meeting the Parish Council endorsed the amended Colden Common Village Development Strategy with the proviso that the required number of homes can be accommodated on the identified sites. The revised strategy was then forwarded to WCC for consideration in the preparation of the LPP2.

Denmead

- 3.31 Prior to the launch of the LPP2 Denmead Parish Council applied to be a “front runner” in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. The Denmead Neighbourhood Plan area was accepted by WCC in July 2012 and the Denmead Neighbourhood Forum (DNF) established as a working party of the Parish Council to undertake the work of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, led by a Steering Group. The Steering Group is a group of parish councillors, the county and district ward councillor, representatives of the Denmead Village Association, members of the public and a business representative.
- 3.32 During the summer of 2012 community engagement began with local people being invited to express their likes and dislikes about the village via a postcard sized questionnaire. A total of 436 cards were completed. Alongside this the Steering Group scoped the various work streams that would be needed including topic based evidence gathering and Development Placement to support the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Sub groups were set up to undertake this work. Other forms of engagement included meeting with parents and children at the local school.
- 3.33 In February 2013 drop in sessions formed a second round of community engagement where questions were posted on the walls of the old Nat West Bank. Residents were asked to indicate their preferences with sticky dots regarding the types of housing needed in the village and where they should be built. This revealed that the large majority (78.6%) were in favour of lots of small sites, compared with those wanting several sites of up to 50 dwellings (17.6%) or 2-3 large sites (3.8%).
- 3.34 Using funding and other assistance received from the Government, consultants URS were commissioned to prepare a baseline data report, the Oikos Place Analysis. This report (April 2013) gathers and analyses data and information to understand the interactions between Natural Capital (the land and its ecosystems including landscape, open space, flood risk), Social Capital (the people – residents and their characteristics) and Economic Capital (primarily infrastructure and services).
- 3.35 The summaries draw some conclusions regarding the most suitable locations for future development, based on the analysis:

- The most suitable development sites from a flood and groundwater perspective appear to be to the north east of the current village service centre.
- Natural and development related population growth which will impact on the current school capacity and the need to plan for a good balance of health services, community based welfare services, and physical facilities for a future sizeable post-retirement population.
- There is very little industrial/commercial land available for existing successful businesses to expand or new ones to set-up.
- In the last 15 years some 436 new homes have been built in the parish. In the next 15 years the housing target is less than half of this.
- The rate and location of growth has resulted in the village service centre ending up on the edge of the village which, coupled with a poor rural bus, results in many casual car journeys and parking issues.

3.36 Meanwhile the analysis of the SHLAA sites was on-going by the Steering Group using supporting documentation and guidance provided by WCC officers, alongside the other work streams. This included engagement with the development industry to hear their proposals and exchange information on what would be sought from developers.

3.37 Engagement with the business community through a Business Breakfast was undertaken and further consultation with the village community via three open exhibitions or the website took place during August 2013. Residents were presented with 5 options for accommodating the remaining requirement from the 250 dwellings (taking account of existing completions and commitments) ranging from the whole 160 on a single site through splits of smaller numbers on 2, 4, 5 and 10 sites and asked to rank them. The resident's consultation was promoted through leaflets to every household, on posters, websites and by email to subscribers of the DNP newsletter. Responses numbered 187 and, although no option received over 50% of the votes, option 5 to spread the development in the largest number of small sites was again the greatest preference.

3.38 During September 2013 the Steering Group held its own workshop to undertake and discuss a comparative analysis of the sites based on work already undertaken by the Development Placement Working Group. At the Drop-In sessions and the Junior School parents' evenings respondents were also asked to indicate with a mark on a map where they thought the best place for development might be. The results indicated the greatest number preferring the site at Kidmere (Carpenters Field) and secondly land between Inhams Lane and Hawthorne Road. This outcome was borne in mind by the Steering Group. Taking various factors and site attributes into account including site capacities, drainage, proximity to the village centre, the need to accommodate older persons and open space, highway access, nature conservation designations and landscape setting, a shortlist of possible sites was agreed for discussion at the parish workshop with WCC.

3.39 The workshop between Denmead parish councillors and WCC councillors and officers began with a review of the evidence to date, including the 3 public consultations, and drew out the issues and desires needing to be addressed in

the Neighbourhood Plan and in the allocation of sites. The latest estimate of housing provision made by WCC was a remaining requirement for 128 dwellings, due mainly to the level of outstanding permissions.

- 3.40 The sites were discussed with the pros and cons being noted. The Steering Group indicated that it had developed a strategy which is to:
- Rebalance development to the north of the village;
 - Define Forest Road as the southern the boundary and development should not occur south of this road; and
 - Focus development on a shortlist of sites the largest being east of Inhams Lane; site 367; and site 2455.
- 3.41 Discussion compared the benefits of fewer larger sites in achieving the associated necessary infrastructure improvements and new open space in terms of development viability with the need to gain acceptability of the Neighbourhood Plan's strategy by the parishioners through a referendum.
- 3.42 The working groups continued their various work streams through the autumn to the end of 2013, reporting into the Steering Group meetings, including further consideration of potential sites. An independent adviser, Neil Homer of rCOH (a professional consulting team specialising in community focused settlement planning) was appointed to advise and to help prepare the draft Neighbourhood Plan. By the end of the year it was agreed that site selection would use the Working Group's criteria. Sites outside the existing settlement boundary would need to meet 3 prerequisites:
- Proximity to existing village services - assessed as excellent or good in the transport assessment;
 - Landscape sensitivity - assessed as least sensitive on its impact on the landscape; and
 - Minimising flood risk - outside of flood zone 2 or 3.
- 3.43 Taking account of those criteria, by January 2014 the emerging strategy for the allocation of sites centred around land to the east of Kidmere (SHLAA site 367) meeting most of the housing needs, with the addition of the adjoining small site (313) and site 2469 with the Baptist Church site also included. Alongside this policies for inclusion in the draft Neighbourhood Plan were being prepared for consideration by the Steering Group and subsequent consultation. Exchanges with statutory consultees, site owners and other organisations were also on-going.
- 3.44 On 5 March 2014 the Parish Council received a briefing from Neil Homer on the process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan and a summary of the content of the Plan. The Parish Council considered the Plan and resolved unanimously to approve the process by which the Pre Submission Neighbourhood Plan had been developed and to approve its release to allow a six week consultation with residents.
- 3.45 The consultation took place from 10 March to 21 April and included five public meetings with exhibitions.

- 3.46 Some refinements were made to the Plan following the comments received from the public consultation and also from information received from the owners / developers of the preferred allocations and statutory bodies / service providers. These were considered by the Steering Group prior to the submission version of the Plan being considered by the Parish Council.
- 3.47 The Steering Group advised that concerns raised at the public consultation had been addressed and Parish Councillors considered the Plan to be good and easily understandable. It was unanimously resolved that the Plan should be submitted to WCC. The Steering Group made some minor amendments to the Plan to correct errors, add graphics and photos and arranged for a Health Check of the Plan prior to submitting it to WCC in early September 2014.

Kings Worthy

- 3.48 A sub-group of parish councillors was formed from Kings Worthy Parish Council (KWPC), and including a representative from Headbourne Worthy Parish Council, to liaise with WCC planning and other officers to work on the requirements for Kings Worthy for LPP2. Regular exchanges and meetings took place through the spring and summer of 2013, as noted in the KWPC minutes. At that stage the Parish Councils agreed that rather than identifying sites outside the village envelope or allowing building of affordable housing on rural exception sites they wanted new properties to be built within the village envelope so far as possible, as they did not want to extend the settlement boundary further than necessary to meet the local plan requirements.
- 3.49 A comparative assessment of the sites submitted through the SHLAA and Call for Sites process was undertaken, as set out in the methodology above, with all the supporting documents being available for discussion at the site allocation workshop. The data and evidence base also took account of the Village Design Statement (Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy VDS adopted February 2007). All KW parish councillors were invited to the workshop, in addition to the sub-group, which took place on 25 September 2013. The workshop consolidated and agreed the evidence base, confirmed the capacity of sites within the settlement boundary and using the evidence worked through the site assessments.
- 3.50 The analysis of housing completions and commitments (outstanding planning permissions), together with an assessment of windfall potential, concluded a remaining need for 22 dwellings, out of the 250 requirement, to be found on additional site(s). Due to the sizes and capacities of the sites outside the settlement boundary this led to a strategy seeking to allocate one site for between 25 – 50 dwellings.
- 3.51 From the analysis of the available sites, 3 sites were identified to be taken forward to the next stage. Lovedon Lane forms a clear settlement edge and 2 of the sites lie beyond it: Site 2510 Down Farm, Lovedon Lane is more remote from facilities and services and poorly related to the pattern of development; site 364 Land off Lovedon Lane is also most sensitive in landscape terms. Site 500 Land at Woodlands Farm is sensitive in landscape terms and also is very large, with constraints including a Scheduled Ancient Monument, part at risk of flooding and protected trees.

3.52 KWPC arranged for public consultation on the 3 shortlisted sites to include exhibitions during November 2013, with the promoters of the shortlisted sites invited to present proposals for their sites in accordance with a set of common 'ground rules'. WCC planning officers and landowners were in attendance in addition to parish councillors. The exhibition material included display boards provided by the landowners/developers showing their proposals and the attributes of their sites. Meanwhile it was acknowledged by KWPC that that ongoing work with the WCC planning team on LPP2, including the public consultation, would be the most suitable means to deal with proposals regarding future housing development, rather than preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

3.53 To ensure everyone had sufficient opportunity to comment the exhibitions were repeated in December 2013 and again in January 2014 with the material being available throughout on WCC's website. People were invited to complete a questionnaire which included asking their opinion on the importance of a number of assessment criteria and how well they thought each site meets the criteria:

Is the site adjacent to the existing settlement boundary and well related to the pattern of development?
Are there physical constraints on the site e.g. is it in a flood zone?
Are there national or local policy designations on the site e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments?
Is the site close to Kings Worthy's facilities & services?
Is there good access onto the site?
What will be the impact of development on the landscape of the site and the surrounding area?
Would the development maintain the generally open and undeveloped nature of the Kings Worthy/Abbots Worthy gap?

3.54 Following the final deadline for responses of 10 January 2014, a total of 138 responses were received. Further meetings between the sub-group and WCC officers were then held to consider the responses and undertake the final analysis of the sites. A report of the public consultation, its outcome including summaries of the comments made and the basis for final site selection recommendations was prepared. The report indicated what is important locally to the existing community and revealed the Land off Lovedon Lane site (365) scored the best against all questionnaire criteria except for proximity to services. When all comments were taken into account, including those made on the previously rejected sites, the Land off Lovedon Lane site (365) remains the preferred site to be included in the draft LPP2.

3.55 The report provides a summary of how this site meets the criteria and confirms that the conclusion of the public consultation does not indicate any significant conflict with the evidence from the detailed technical assessments. As a result WCC officers and the KWPC sub-group concluded it would be appropriate to allocate this site subject to the outcome of further discussions with the landowner and agent regarding the whole site in the face of the lack of open space provision within the settlement and concerns regarding the future of the remaining settlement gap between Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy.

3.56 Subsequently Parish Council representatives and WCC officers met with the developer and agents to discuss site issues including possible layout and the recreation provision in more detail. As a result a report was produced setting out the sub-group's recommendation to go ahead with a revised proposal for the Lovedon Lane site (site 365) as the Parish Council's choice. This involved developing part of the existing Eversley Park recreation ground to achieve a larger number of dwellings in order to secure open space use of the rest of site 365, thus securing the retention of the Kings Worthy – Abbots Worthy gap. Councillors were unanimous in their agreement with this proposal and the Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 28 April 2014 to inform WCC that it supported the choice of the Lovedon Lane site (site 365).

New Alresford

3.57 By the time the initial meeting was held between WCC officers and members of the New Alresford Town Council (NATC) the NATC had already established a Town Plan Working Party (TPWP). The TPWP had been undertaking work on the preparation of a town plan and had carried out public consultation, including public meetings, on this during 2012. NATC agreed to suspend preparation of the Town Plan and allocated responsibilities for input to the LPP2 on various topics, research and communication to town councillors to take forward through the Working Party.

3.58 The Town Council organised a public meeting for 23 January 2013 to raise awareness of the work being undertaken on the LPP2 and how people could get involved with the working party, rather than to discuss proposed options. The meeting, which included a presentation setting out the context for the LPP2 and the requirements of LPP1 for New Alresford, was reported in the Alresford and Itchen Valley Forum community magazine. An invitation was extended by the Town Council for any interested residents to be involved in a series of 'Needs Groups' that were proposed.

3.59 Work on preparing the evidence base on the needs of New Alresford, its population and business was carried out by a series of Needs Assessment Groups through research and meetings held from February through to April 2013. The Needs Groups included members of the public who had volunteered to help following the public meeting. The leaders of each group made reports on progress to the Town Council who agreed that the findings would be presented at a public meeting at the end of April.

3.60 On 25th April 2013 a public exhibition and meeting was held by the Town Council to present and review the findings of the Needs Groups' studies prior to the submission of the needs assessment documents for approval by the Town Council. The summary paper and the reports produced by each group on the topics of Infrastructure (including education, health and welfare services, transport and parking, community facilities), Housing, Recreation and Open Space, Employment and Local Economy were published on the Town Council's website.

3.61 Although generally happy with the LPP2 needs document, the Town Council deferred approval for submission to WCC at its meeting on 9 May for two issues to be considered further – the requirement for one bedroom properties being too

high, and the need for a burial ground. The Town Council at its meeting in on 13th June 2013 approved the LPP2 needs submission to WCC and resolved to disband the LPP2 Working Party.

3.62 The next key event was the workshop between WCC officers and the NATC held on 27th September. The site sieving and topic specific assessments and constraints information, together with other evidence including the NATC's Needs Report and the results of the Older Persons survey (also undertaken by NATC) formed the basis for discussions.

3.63 The housing completions and commitments data was considered and the remaining requirement of housing numbers to be accommodated was agreed. The Transport Assessment indicated that sites 1927 and 2553 have access issues that may affect their deliverability. The landscape assessment indicated that part of sites 1927, 2553 and the whole of 2408 as most sensitive. It was noted that site 278 was no longer available for inclusion in the SHLAA.

3.64 Sites proposed to be allocated were:

- 277 (Sun Lane): Approximately 320 dwellings; employment at the south of the site (replacement for existing employment land at The Dean); Gypsy and Travellers site; possibly parking. The central area of the site (graded as 'most sensitive' in the landscape assessment) to be open space.
- 276 (Land to rear of 58 -72 The Dean): Amend settlement boundary to the end of the gardens.
- 2552 & 2553 (the Dean): Approximately 70-80 dwellings, possibly sheltered accommodation.

3.65 During November and December 2013 meetings with the developers and their agents, including representatives of the NATC as well as WCC officers, were held for the sites that were proposed to be taken forward. WCC officers presented the process and outcome to date and the preferred approach for the allocation of the site at Sun Lane to include housing, open space and employment, allowing for the relocation of employment from The Dean site to enable redevelopment for housing.

3.66 On the 17 December a meeting was held for the Needs Groups at which WCC officers gave a presentation of the outcome of work to date, to enable consideration of the proposed sites. The presentation explained that following the needs assessment and requirements of the LPP1 that the Sun Lane site is the best to deliver the total range of needs, that spreading the development around smaller sites would not deliver all the needs including open space and employment, and that development of The Dean site would be dependent on the relocation of employment. There was discussion and further refinement of the proposals in advance of the launch of public consultation in January 2014.

3.67 A presentation of the proposed strategy was given to a Public Meeting on 7th January 2014 attended by 181 persons. The meeting, which also included a discussion session, had been arranged and publicised in advance by the NATC, including the distribution of leaflets. The public meeting was preceded by an exhibition which explained in more detail the information summarised in the

presentation – the findings of the needs assessments, the locations and merits of all the sites considered, the nature of the technical assessments of the sites and the reasons behind the proposed strategy for the Sun Lane site, including the new access from the A31 to the employment area. The exhibition boards were also made available to view via WCC and NATC's websites and the public were given 6 weeks to comment, until 21 February 2014.

- 3.68 The NATC submitted its own comments on the LPP2 proposals. Their comments were also published on the NATC website and in the Alresford and Itchen Valley Forum (monthly local community magazine), March 2014 edition.
- 3.69 The analysis of the responses from the January-February public consultation was undertaken by WCC and published in June 2014. The document summarised the concerns and issues raised by the 236 respondents. The document also responded to the comments stating that, "The alternative sites that are potentially available and suitable could not accommodate all the necessary housing, so a substantial proportion would still need to be at Sun Lane. An alternative 'dispersed' option would also not be able to secure new land for business growth or some other local needs that could be achieved at Sun Lane and The Dean."
- 3.70 Meanwhile, following the comments made at the Annual town meeting on 27 March, the NATC at its meeting on 10 April 2014 agreed to convene and advertise a public meeting for late May early June in order that all SHLAA site options can be reviewed on an equal footing. The NATC also resolved for the Town Council to reconsider alternative sites should the Sun Lane site be found impracticable.
- 3.71 Arrangements were made by the NATC for the Public Meeting to be held on 27 May 2014 including various forms of publicity - leaflet distribution, banners, and the website and Facebook pages were updated. Afterwards a note of the meeting was prepared and published on the NATC website. The meeting challenged the overall level of housing development set in the LPP1 for reasons of infrastructure sustainability and made observations on the criteria used to assess the needs. The members of the public attending overwhelmingly felt that the suitability of the Sun Lane site had been pre-determined by WCC and objected for a number of reasons including the access to the site from the A31, the proposal for an industrial site that would erode town centre businesses and the proposal for a traveller's site was inappropriate.
- 3.72 The NATC at its meeting on 12 June considered that the objective of the public meeting – to review alternatives to the Sun Lane site – had not been met. The NATC therefore resolved to approve the cost of leaflets for distribution, a banner and the for a 2 day exhibition on 27/28 June at the Community Centre, a press release in that month's Forum, and Facebook updates. The Town Council also resolved to hold a Public Meeting at the Perins Sports Hall, in order for "the public to understand the alternative to having development on Sun Lane and The Dean and have the opportunity to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives".

- 3.73 The updated NATC web pages set out the Town Council's analysis of the alternatives, the current proposals and how they were arrived at. The exhibition material is also published on the website, setting out what the impact would be of spreading the development around a number of sites, which would still need to include a part of the Sun Lane site, and comparing the multi-site proposals with the Sun Lane proposal. A questionnaire was prepared and anyone wishing to respond was given until 22 July 2014 to make their submission to the Town Council.
- 3.74 The further Public Meeting held on 18 July 2014 took the form of a question and answer session, with attendance by the WCC Head of Strategic Planning. The meeting notes, published on the NATC website, cover the procedures undertaken to date, including the site selection, and what would happen if the Town Council and the public did not agree to the proposals. Issues discussed also included the size of the housing allocation, traffic, the industrial site and flooding.
- 3.75 Following the recent public meeting and after reviewing all the comments received, the Town Council agreed at a special meeting held on 29 July, to endorse the resolution passed in February 2014 in favour of the Sun Lane site (site No. 277) and to campaign for a number of features associated with the development as the Local Plan 2 progresses. The Town Council also agreed to work with residents on an alternative draft plan.

Swanmore

- 3.76 An initial meeting with the Parish Council representatives in January 2013 discussed the scope of the evidence needed to determine housing requirements and other development needs including employment and community facilities. The process of site sieving and the need for involvement of the community and developers was also discussed. WCC provided the templates for needs and the site assessments, also assistance with information held by the City Council, and asked Swanmore Parish Council fill them in.
- 3.77 In April 2013, the Parish Council sent out a Future Development Questionnaire to the local community via the Parish Newsletter to ask for local opinions on possible locations for development. Specific sites were not referred to: instead the questionnaire included a map divided into segments and respondents were invited to put a tick in up to 3 segments where development would be most appropriate. A total of 377 responses were received and the results were published on the Parish Council's website.
- 3.78 A workshop was held in September 2013 between WCC officers and the Swanmore Parish Council to explain the outcome of the initial site sieve process and the additional information being provided on the assessments of the sites (transport, historic environment, landscape, etc). The transport assessment had two aspects: distance to existing services and the potential for obtaining physical access to the sites. The landscape assessments took account of whether a site was located in a settlement gap, or surrounded by other development. There is an existing shortfall for most types of open space against the standards. The Parish Council's survey work on needs and infrastructure had also been

incorporated into the templates and the key issues raised by this work were discussed.

- 3.79 The outstanding amount of housing development needing to be accommodated was agreed as just over 200 dwellings. Estimates of capacities of sites, based on the SHLAA, were provided to the Parish Council.
- 3.80 The residents' preferences for the broad locations for development, in response to the Parish Council's questionnaire, were also discussed. The results as summarised in the quadrant diagram, when compared with the available sites, indicated a local preference for the area of site 2458, followed by the area around sites 2505, 2464 and 340.
- 3.81 The constraints and merits including the potential capacities of the sites were then discussed. An update was provided on the latest position and capacity of the land adjoining Swanmore College of Technology for inclusion in the plan through a land swap allowing development of the area within the existing settlement boundary.
- 3.82 Discussion also included sites within the SDNP for liaison with the SDNP Authority. The SDNP was represented at the workshop and its officer considered that there would need to be no better alternate sites outside the SDNP before sites within the SDNP could be considered for allocation. Mapping therefore showed the sites that were not expected to be taken forward to the next stage, due to being located within the SDNP, or below the minimum size threshold, although assessments were provided for most of them. This included site 2458, which although in a location preferred by the community lies within the SDNP.
- 3.83 Comparing other sites on the basis of their known constraints and public preferences found the more suitable sites to be between The Lakes and the current settlement boundary (excluding the area of a SINC) to meet the remaining requirement. A strategy thus emerged for concentrating development to the south and south west of the village.
- 3.84 The Parish Council was given time to consider the sites and strategy and to prepare for public consultation. Meanwhile discussions with landowners and their agents were on-going to ascertain the availability of sites and their owners' intentions. The views of the SDNP landscape officer were also sought with regard to potential sites in the National Park and these confirmed objections to the impact of developing site 2458 and other land in that 'quadrant'.
- 3.85 The resolution to progress to public consultation was agreed at the Full Parish Council meeting in January 2014: "that the public consultation for the Winchester District Local Plan Part 2 (Swanmore) begin on 24th January for a period of 6 weeks and that a public exhibition be arranged for 24th/25th January 2014 in the village hall. The exhibition will be available in the parish council office for the remainder of the 6 week consultation period."
- 3.86 Public consultation took place from 24 January to 7 March 2014 and included exhibitions in the village hall, and was a joint event staffed by WCC officers and SPC councillors. The exhibition material, published on WCC's

website, set out the development strategy and proposals, including potential site allocations and their options. It explained the basis for the proposed strategy options that had been derived from the outcome of the first consultation and the analysis of sites from the various technical studies. It also explained that the land between Dodds Lane and Droxford Road, one of the areas most favoured by residents at the previous consultation, lies within the South Downs National Park, and was not supported by the SDNP officers, so the site cannot therefore be included in Winchester's LPP2.

3.87 The resultant strategy for the development of land along the south western boundary of the village, north of The Lakes and including the land swap with Swanmore College of Technology involving relocation of the playing fields, was put forward with two options shown for the land between the new playing fields and the existing village boundary (showing no development or a small amount of housing with open space). The public were invited to comment on these and to send their responses to the Parish Council.

3.88 SPC prepared an analysis of the consultation responses, published a summary in the May 2014 parish newsletter and provided the results to WCC. Overall, residents supported the proposed location of the new housing developments. Strong support was received for limited housing behind the new school playing fields providing that the land locked area behind the existing housing is made available to the community as open space (Option 1).

3.89 Following a recommendation from the Planning and Highways Committee on 17 June, the full Parish Council on 1st July 2014 agreed, "That the results from the Swanmore Public Consultation on the Winchester District Local Plan Part 2 be accepted by Swanmore Parish Council."

Waltham Chase

3.90 A steering group with a committee was formed to work on the composition of The Parish Plan and The Village Design Statement for the three villages that comprise the Parish; Shedfield, Shirrell Heath and Waltham Chase. The Shedfield Parish Plans website, in conjunction with the Parish Magazine, includes reports on the outcome of residents surveys that extend back to 2012.

3.91 Following an initial meeting to introduce the LPP2 in January 2013 with representatives from the Shedfield Parish Council, initial work was undertaken on completing a draft of the templates for housing and infrastructure. A meeting was held in April 2013 to consider this information where the need to update the open space assessment was also discussed and the need for information on the needs of businesses in the area for new premises or expansion. A further meeting was held in June 2013.

3.92 The workshop held on 16 September 2013 with parish council representatives considered the outcome of resident's survey that was circulated with the Parish Magazine in July. The key findings included a preference for small development on the edge of the settlement boundary and against development in the north east towards Swanmore. Taking account of this and the various assessments including transport, landscape and open space a development

strategy emerged to spread the development around the settlement of sites adjoining the settlement boundary.

3.93 The Parish magazine circulated in November 2013 included the preparation of the LPP2 with a map showing the proposed re boundary to include the preferred development sites. This was for note setting out the main points of discussion and the outcome of a workshop, published on the Shedfield Parish Council website, with the community encouraged to comment on the proposed changes by early 2014.

3.94 The Shedfield PC Planning Committee minutes of the meeting in early 2014 refer to the community comments received being provided to the City Council Strategic Planning. The minutes of the 17 February meeting refer to due process having been taken to consider available site development under the guidance of Strategic Planners, Winchester.

Wickham

3.95 Wickham Parish Council agreed during 2012 to investigate the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and set up a Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPSG) in February 2013 to engage with the community in the preparation of the LPP2. The NPSG made reports to the Parish Council at every meeting on progress with the strategy and sites for Wickham in the LPP2 and the minutes of the NPSG are published on the parish website.

3.96 Following the initial meeting between WCC officers and Wickham Councillors in January 2013 the NPSG reviewed the profile document for Wickham and commenced work on filling in the evidence base for the plan covering housing, employment and jobs, community and infrastructure. To do this the NPSG approached various stakeholders for information. These included estate agents, the Community Land Trust, affordable housing providers, infrastructure and service providers, schools, health services. In March 2013 the NPSG held a meeting on 16 April 2013 for invited representative associations, societies and groups. The feedback from these events was used to produce topic based reports.

3.97 The NPSG was provided with a revised site assessment taking into account the experience of other parish groups in undertaking the site selection process. A Community Event was held on 27 June 2013 and the exhibition and drop-in session included one on the basic principles for sites outside the settlement boundary, although not site-specific information at this stage.

3.98 The event presented the conclusions from the evidence gathering process and invited comments. An overarching principle was that development should be managed to maintain and if possible enhance the compact nature of the settlement and its surrounding countryside and rural environment. For sites outside the settlement boundary this means that priority should be given to sites adjoining the settlement boundary and that the total number of dwellings should be accommodated within the settlement for a number of reasons. Information also referred to the community