

Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan

Helping to shape the future of Wallingford



WALLINGFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DRAFT Vision, Objectives and Policy Ideas Consultation Report

Prepared on behalf of Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and
Wallingford Town Council

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Wallingford Town Council (WTC) held a drop-in style public consultation event on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for the emerging Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan (WNP). The event was open to all Wallingford residents, businesses and stakeholders. Attendees were invited to complete a questionnaire. This report details the results of the questionnaire.

2.0 Approach

2.1 The public consultation event took place on Saturday 21st January 2017 between 10am and 4pm in the Regal Centre, Wallingford.

2.2 A set of information boards were on display, outlining progress to date, the overall vision for the plan and the vision, objectives and policy ideas for the following themes, which have been developed by volunteer Working Group members:

- Housing and Development
- Economy and Employment
- Education, Health and Environment
- Leisure, Town Centre and Amenities
- Transport

2.3 Members of the WNP Steering Group, volunteers from the Working Groups, representatives from Nexus Planning and Wallingford Town Council Councillors were available throughout the day to answer questions. Attendees were invited to complete a questionnaire on the direction of the emerging WNP.

3.0 Consultation Findings

3.1 90 questionnaires were completed, most at the event but some were shared after or completed online. A summary of the responses received are set out below.

Q1. Do you have any comments on the proposed vision statement?

We asked responders to comment on the proposed vision statement for the emerging WNP. 14 respondents considered that the vision is appropriate for Wallingford, while a further eight respondents felt that it could be considered a little vague. Six respondents stated that it is important for the vision to seek to retain the character of Wallingford. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 1: Comments on the proposed vision

Comments	No.
Good, fair and logical	14
To many unknowns / vague / generic	8
Important to protect the historic market town structure and character / sustainable development	6
Needs joined up thinking for all services e.g. leisure, schools, GPs	4
Meaningless statement / wishful thinking	3
Large number of homes	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q2. Do you have any comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Housing and Development?

When asked to comment on the vision, objectives and policy ideas for housing and development in Wallingford, 10 respondents stated that there is a need for more housing in Wallingford, including affordable housing and family homes. Eight respondents raised a concern regarding an increase in traffic and congestion resulting from any new development, while a further six considered that focusing development in the south of Wallingford would mitigate any increase in congestion. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 2: Comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Housing and Development.

Comments	No.
More housing including affordable / spacious family homes	10
Concern over increased traffic / congestion and access problems from development	8
Development in south of town could better support increased population in terms of access and congestion	6
Green spaces integrated with new development	4
Agree with vision and objectives	4
Drainage and sewage system must be addressed	4
Explore all infill options / spread out development as proposed sites are too large	3
Support self-build	3
Stagger development to monitor effects over time	3
Safe walkways and cycleways in new developments	3
Infrastructure must be developed in line with future development	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q3. Do you have any comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Transport?

13 respondents mentioned the need for improved public transport facilitating better links to Cholsey, Didcot Parkway and Reading stations. 5 respondents mentioned the need for a northern link bypass to ease congestion, while the same number mentioned existing congestion experienced on routes leading out of town and the need for 'joined up thinking' between new development and transport planning. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 3: Comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Transport.

Comments	No.
Improve public transport / transport links particularly to Cholsey, Didcot and Reading stations.	13
Agree with vision and objectives	5
Northern link bypass required	5
Joined up thinking needed between transport and development / transport planning required	5
Routes out of town often congested & on road parking congestion i.e. Wantage Road, Reading Road and Croft Road	5
Park and ride system	4
Need safe pedestrian / cycleways	3
Need more parking	3
Open the bunk line to Cholsey	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q4. Do you have any comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Economy and Employment?

On the topic of the economy and employment in Wallingford, six respondents stated that the Hithercroft Industrial Estate should be expanded. The need for a business plan to attract investment into Wallingford was mentioned by five respondents. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 4: Comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Economy and Employment.

Comments	No.
Agree with vision and objectives	11
Employment focus on expanding the Hithercroft and additional commercial space	6
Business plan / provision to attract investment in Wallingford to create employment	5
Supermarket needed	4

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q5. Do you have any comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Town Centre, Leisure and Amenities?

Comments received on the Town Centre, Leisure and Amenities proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas included the wish to develop leisure facilities in Wallingford (14 comments) with ideas involving a swimming pool and indoor leisure facilities. An improvement in facilities for young people was a recurrent comment with 12 respondents stating a need for improved children's facilities at the Bull Croft and a further 8 respondents mentioning that provision for teenagers could be improved. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 5: Comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Town Centre, Leisure and Amenities.

Comments	No.
Develop leisure facilities / centre e.g. at the Hithercroft or Wallingford School including swimming pool & indoor facilities	14
Improved children's facilities e.g. at the Bull Croft	12
Provision for teenagers e.g. skate park	8
Agree with vision and objectives	5
Provision for community assets i.e. The Corn Exchange	4
Supermarket / food shop required	4
Better provision of town centre shops	4
Parking issues including parking on Market Place	4
Football pitches and clubhouses required	3
Safe bike park / walk ways / cycle routes	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q6. Do you have any comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Education, Health and Environment?

The most common response regarding the Education, Health and Environment vision, objectives and policy ideas related to sufficient school places being available before new

housing development starts (29 comments), followed by concern of the capacity of health services to cope with a growing population (21 comments). A table of comments is set out below.

Table 6: Comments on the proposed vision, objectives and policy ideas for Education, Health and Environment.

Comments	No.
Provision school places for expanding population & before development starts	29
Provision for health services for expanding population & before development starts	21
Protect the hospital and services	5
Preserve the environment / reduce pollution	5
Parking at GP surgery to be addressed	4
Address school traffic and encourage walking / cycling	3
Agree with vision and objectives	3
Joined up thinking / planning between all schools	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q7. Do you think there is anything is missing from the draft plan or are there any issues that should be explored further?

When asked to consider issues that may not have been included in the emerging WNP, comments included that further detail is required (5 comments) and the need for better youth and leisure facilities in Wallingford (4 comments). A table of comments is set out below.

Table 7: Comments on issues missing from the draft plan.

Comments	No.
More detail	5
More youth and leisure facilities including a park	4
Park and ride	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q8. How can the Town Centre's role as the focal point of Wallingford be improved?

Suggestions included improving the parking offer in Wallingford town centre (7 comments), encouraging the vibrancy of the town centre and holding regular events and an improvement in the evening economy (7 comments). Respondents also stated that businesses should be supported to ensure a low vacancy rate within the town centre (7 comments). A table of comments is set out below.

Table 8: Comments on how the town centres role as the focal point of Wallingford may be improved.

Comments	No.
More / better parking	7
Encourage vibrancy e.g. cafes, music, markets and evening economy	7
Support businesses to keep retail units occupied	7
Pedestrianisation	6
Better access & provision for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport especially from new housing developments	5
Increase support for tourism	4
Bus only town centre	4

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q9. Which health services do you think will be most important for Wallingford by 2032?

Of most importance to respondents when considering health services in Wallingford by 2032 was to ensure that sufficient GP services are available to residents including the ability to park at the surgery (31 comments). The need to ensure that social and community services are also available was made by 15 respondents. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 9: Comments on what health services will be important in Wallingford by 2032.

Comments	No.
Local GP services, with adequate parking	31
Social services / community services / elderly services including nursing and rehab home visits	15
Wallingford hospital / community hospital	10
Minor injuries / first aid	7
Maternity	6
A&E	4
Day services i.e. elderly and disabled adults	4
Children's services	3
Weekend GP / minor injuries service	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q10. Which green and / or recreational spaces and facilities do you see as most important in Wallingford?

The most popular included the Bull Croft (35 comments) and the Kinecroft (34 comments). Other spaces mentioned included the river and the grounds of Wallingford Castle. A table of comments is set out below.

Table 10: Comments on what green and / or recreational spaces and facilities are important in Wallingford.

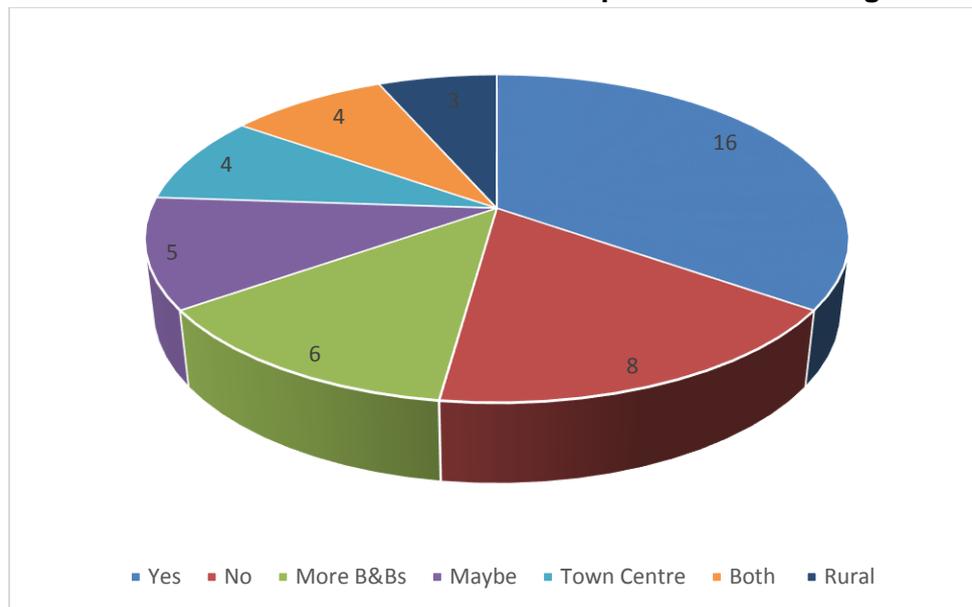
Comments	No.
The Bull Croft	35
The Kinecroft	34
Riverside / river	14
Castle grounds - meadows and gardens	10
All	10
Hithercroft sports park	9
New and improved play equipment in the Bull Croft	6
New developments to retain rural features / green corridors / recreation areas	5
Green gym / outdoor gym	4
The Bull Croft is underutilised needs new / more facilities i.e. café for young people and families	3
Cycling and walking routes	3
Skate park	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q11. Do you think Wallingford would benefit from increased town centre or rural hotel provision?

16 respondents thought an increased hotel offer would be beneficial, a further eight respondents did not support increased hotel provision.

Chart 1: Comments on an increased hotel provision in Wallingford.



Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q12. How can car parking issues in Wallingford be addressed?

The responses included a park and ride scheme (20 comments) a two-storey car park (nine comments) and better management of illegal parking in Wallingford (seven comments). A table of comments is set out below.

Table 11: Comments on car parking issues in Wallingford.

Comments	No.
Park and ride i.e. Witney shuttle bus or green shuttle	20
Two-storey car park - suggestion is green walls to reduce impact	9
Manage illegal parking	7
Increase number of spaces	6
Encourage cycling and walking and using public transport	5
Weekend parking / long stay parking at the Hithercroft	3
Basement parking	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

Q13. How could local people be encouraged to use public transport, walk and cycle as an alternative to cars?

The responses included improving the walking and cycling infrastructure in Wallingford to increase safety (20 comments) and a more frequent bus service (12 comments). A table of comments is set out below.

Table 12: Comments on public transport, walking and cycling as an alternative to cars.

Comments	No.
Better and safer walking and cycling infrastructure e.g. cycle lanes with better links	20
Increase bus services i.e. frequency and more rural areas / surrounding villages	12
Covered bike parking / bike racks in the town centre	6
Education i.e. to change attitudes	3
Promotion / advertising / signage	3
Free / low cost green shuttles throughout the town	3
More bus stops	3
Pedestrianise the town centre	3

Comments made by fewer than two responders have not been included.

4.0 Summary

- 4.1 The consultation exercise showed that the issues addressed by the emerging WNP are broadly representative of local opinion. Questions one to seven, which address the content of the emerging WNP, generally garnered positive responses to the proposals.
- 4.2 Throughout the responses, particularly from question eight onwards, local residents raised a number of “wants”. The preparation of the emerging WNP will need to take note of these, considering which issues can appropriately be addressed in the emerging WNP and which are outside the scope of a neighbourhood plan (such as those requiring allocation of resources). There is potential for Wallingford Town Council to consider some of these issues outside of the emerging WNP in the preparation of any future ancillary strategies.