

At the Full Council meeting of WC at County Hall on 15th October 2024 it was agreed for the draft Local Plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

The votes were 80 for, 1 against, 1 abstain so a very clear majority.

The hope is to get the draft Plan examined, amended as required and adopted by WC by the end of 2025. An ambitious target which WC appear to be sticking with.

CTC were supportive of the draft LP when we considered it in November 2023 because it included a housing minimum of 52 compared to 236 in the previous draft.

However Wiltshire Councillors are fully aware that central government are in the process of increasing the target for new housing by 81% by means of revising the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) but by submitting the draft LP now then it will be possible to benefit from transitional provisions meaning that the figures in the draft LP will be used until *another* Local Plan is prepared.

We are aware that that the Stones Farm (Newland Homes) site is going to appeal, based on the lack of a five year housing land supply. Now that the draft LP is approved to be submitted then it should carry some limited weight in the appeal inspector's decision. More appeals might therefore be forthcoming if any of the other housing schemes are refused by WC.

WC received over 10,000 submissions which are summarised in their Consultation Statement. The key ones relevant to Cricklade are summarised in the tables below and contain information that we were not previously aware of.

Recommendation: members to NOTE

15th October 2024

Housing Requirement section (pages 580 & 581)

Key Issues Raised	Respondents
Housing requirement: Support the reduction in the requirement for Cricklade when compared with the numbers. consulted on in the previous consultation.	Cricklade Town Council
North Meadow Special Area of Conservation: Development at Cricklade should be carefully managed through the review of the neighbourhood plan to ensure that North Meadow SAC can be protected from further damaging speculative development.	Cricklade Court Leet Charity
Settlement hierarchy: Due to the availability of services and facilities and transport links, Cricklade should be reclassified as a Market Town. There are no other Market Towns to the north of the M4 in the Swindon HMA.	Hannick Homes
Neighbourhood planning: There is a lack of certainty that an updated neighbourhood plan will be prepared to plan for the housing needs that have been identified.	Bloor Homes
Settlement opportunities: Cricklade has sufficient services, facilities and land capacity to support a greater number of homes; the reduction in the number is unjustified	Mac Mic Group Bellway Homes Hannick Homes
Proximity to higher order settlements: The low level of housing doesn't reflect the settlement's proximity to. Cirencester, Swindon, Cheltenham and Gloucester and their employment opportunities and higher order facilities, which can be shared with residents of Cricklade using sustainable modes of transport.	Bellway Homes
Past rates of delivery: Insufficient justification to reduce past delivery rates from 12 homes per annum to 4 dwellings per annum, which does not settlement sustainability, and could lead to stagnation.	Bloor Homes
Healthcare capacity: Object to the assessment that concludes there are "NHS capacity constraints" - there is insufficient evidence to support this.	Bellway Homes
Omission site promoted: Land north of Malmesbury Road, 350 homes.	Mac Mic Group
Omission site promoted: Land at Godby's Farm.	Bellway Homes
Omission site promoted: Land at Horsey Down.	Bloor Homes
Omission site promoted: Land at The Forty.	Hannick Homes
Page 467 Strategy for the Swindon Housing Market Area Omission site promoted: Land at Seven Bridges A419	Barratt David Wilson

Notes: a) Mac Mic Group mentioned above is Mactaggart & Mickel who, in a July 2022 press release, state that they have reached agreement with the landowner to promote 30 acres to the west of Cricklade but the exact location is not disclosed. We were not aware of this.

b) The 'Land at Godby's Farm' is the field opposite, i.e. adjacent to Hitchings.

Other sections

Page 291 Policy 2 Delivery Strategy	There is a lack of employment allocations in Cricklade	Conlon
Page 603 Policy 64 Additional Employment Land	Allocate employment land at Chelworth Industrial Estate	SW Group Logistics
Page 638 Policy 74 Movement of Goods	Cricklade: Criteria iv. of the policy is inadequate to deal with the problems of HGV movements through Cricklade. The Core Strategy reference at paragraph 5.102 should be replicated.	Cricklade Town Council