

**Core Strategy Second Issues and Options Consultation**  
**Community Team Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> June 07**

Present: Nick Cardnell, Shelly Parker, Mirander Gilmore, Edwina Lee, James Moody, Lesley Taylor, Victoria Welsh

**Community Plans**

CPT – How have Community Plans been incorporated into the Core Strategy?

Action: To Find Out

CPT – Community Community Area Plans Not up to date, how can they be incorporated in to the Core Strategy in the future.

Action: To Find Out

**Education**

Discussion centred on how far should primary and secondary education needs influence the location of development?

MG – Indicated that the building of new schools should not be done through a Private Finance Initiative. Evidence for this opinion was based on existing school education facilities that prevented public access. It was recommended that greater working with the education providers (Option 3) was a better course of action.

**Health**

Doctors dentists, GPs, Hospitals, people willing to travel further for quality,

CPT – What contact details do you have for the Primary Care Trust?

Action: Nicholas Gillard & Tony Barron

Action: CPT – To provide additional relevant contacts if appropriate.

**Leisure & Open Space**

CPT – It was regarded by the CPT that the open spaces provided in North Wiltshire had been ineffective at providing quality spaces for older children. It was felt that open spaces were geared towards young children through the provision of play equipment. It was suggested that developer agreements could be more specific at maintaining existing equipment and providing spaces for young adults could be improved.

CPT – The Play Space Strategy should be feed into the Core Strategy.

## **Transport**

CPT – The Core Strategy lists sustainable settlements as having access to public transport. The Strategy indicates that the list of settlements all have access to public transport and are sustainable settlements. Information from those who use the public transport system in the villages indicates that all these villages have a bus stop the quality of the services is often not frequent enough to function sustainable. For example services that don't run to the core working hours. This was noted to effect not only workers but school children also. It was suggested that public transport needs to be drilled down to a more detailed layer to fully understand the transport picture.

## **Towns & Retail**

CPT – Noticed that Cricklade was not listed as Tier 2 settlement. What does this mean for Cricklade?

SPT – The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) identifies Wootton Bassett, Cricklade, Lyneham and Purton as largely dormitory. The RSS indicates that these settlements should not receive housing growth above local needs. For Cricklade this means that it will be treated as a Tier 3 settlements and will not experience any more significant growth.

CPT – Noticed that Calne appeared as a Tier 2 settlement in all the Options presented. Is this wise considering its traffic congestion and poor retailing centre?

SPT – Calne has been identified as the best location for new growth as the town has good opportunities to increase its self-containment. There has been significant developer interest in the eastside of Calne as reflected on page 120 of the Core Strategy. A significant development of Calne seems likely. Funding generating from an expansion could be used to development the town centre and road network.

CPT – Investment should not only be put into the road network but used to improve the retail centre which is at best, poor.

## **Affordable Housing**

CPT – What are the effects of the Core Strategy on affordable housing provision? Why are villages and towns treated differently? How can we get more affordable homes?

SPT – The Core Strategy presents several options for the provision of affordable homes. This Housing Needs Assessment indicates that the district requires 780 affordable homes a year. Affordable housing is a big issue unfortunately simply increasing the affordable housing thresholds presented in policy is not the magic solution. As increasing the threshold puts of developer interest and reduces the number of affordable homes being provided. A middle ground must therefore be found that maximises provision.

The Local Plan 2011 currently treats villages and towns differently because of the differences in levels of provision and sizes of sites. Towns have more housing development/land and proportionately less need to rural areas. Towns are therefore

able to absorb lower thresholds. Where need is higher in the villages with less development coming through a high threshold has traditionally been set.

### **Section 106 Agreements**

CPT - How are section 106 agreements defined?

SPT – The approach set out in the Core Strategy is set out in Generic Development Control Policy DC2. This lists the types of infrastructure required.

#### **MOD land**

MOD – Lyneham

Ensure we get a response

### **Consultation**

CPT - Who else has been consulted?

SPT – We have so far consulted general environmental groups, Council teams and Members.

Action: Developers Forum 4<sup>th</sup> July, local Schools.  
Area Committees?

CPT - What Happens Next?

SPT - The responses to the Issues and Options document will be compiled into a 'Preferred Options' document in November 07, with submission in April 08 and Adoption April 09.

CPT - What weight does the Core Strategy have?

SPT - Current the adopted planning policy is the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011. This will be replaced by the Core Strategy in 2009 on adoption. However the Core Strategy does go beyond the Local Plan in some respects and although not adopted can influence Planning Officers on their decisions. For example Gypsy and Traveller Study.

CPT – How do members influence decisions?

SPT – Members can clearly influence planning decisions however all Planning Officers and Inspectors should respect the Core Strategy position.

CPT – Where does the RSS fit into the Core Strategy?

SPT – The RSS is the Regional Planning guidance produced by the Regional Assembly and effects the Core Strategy in a top down manner. The LDF is a suite of documents produced by the Council and replaces the Local Plan. The North Wiltshire LDF is made up of the Core Strategy, Allocations DPD, Annual Monitoring Report

(AMR), Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Local Development Scheme (LDS). There are also a number of SPDs.

Action: CPT to forward any Core Strategy notes and responses to Nick Cardnell.