Wiltshire Council Neighbourhood Area Application Form

Economy and Regeneration
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesa Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN
neighbourhood.planning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Publication of applications on the Wiltshire Council website
Please note that the information provided on this application form may be published on the Authority's website. If you require any further clarification, please email neighbourhood.planning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please complete using block capitals and black ink

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Parish Clerk details</th>
<th>2. Additional contact details (if different from parish clerk)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title, First name</td>
<td>Title, First name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs, Sarah</td>
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<td>Last name</td>
<td>Last name</td>
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<td>Wood</td>
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<td>Unit, House number, House suffix</td>
<td>Unit, House number, House suffix</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>House name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address 1 Cliff Road</td>
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<td>Town Sherston</td>
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<td>Wiltshire</td>
<td>County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sn16 OLN</td>
<td>Postcode</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk">clerk@sherston.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Position in relation to the Neighbourhood Area application</td>
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</table>
3. Relevant body:

Please confirm that you are the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in your area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Act and section 5C of the 2012 Regulations.

Yes: ☑
No: ☐

**Sherston Parish Council**

Name of relevant body: .................................................................

Note: In areas covered by a town or parish council the town or parish council is the relevant body. For applications covering more than one town or parish council area a lead or ‘named’ body should be nominated for the purposes of administering the neighbourhood area application. Please provide details of the lead or ‘named’ parish above, and also provide further details of the other parishes covered in section 4 below.

4. Applications covering more than one parish area:

Does your application cover more than one parish area?

Yes: ☐
No: ☑

If yes, please list all the parish areas covered by the area application:

Note: An application which covers more than one parish area will only be validated where each parish concerned has given their consent to be included in the application. Please provide evidence of this consent by including signed consent forms with your application (consent forms are available online at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning).

5. Name of Neighbourhood Area

Please give a name by which your neighbourhood area will be formally known.

**Sherston Neighbourhood Area**..............................................
6. Extent of area

Please attach an OS plan showing the extent of the proposed neighbourhood area and indicate below the relationship of the proposed area to parish boundaries.

Proposed area covers the whole of a single parish boundary area:  **YES**

Proposed area covers part of a single parish boundary area:  

Proposed area covers multiple parish boundary areas:  

Where the proposed area covers multiple parish boundary areas, please specify below as to whether each of the parishes is included in whole or in part within the proposed area:

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7. Reasons for considering the area appropriate

Please describe below why you consider this area is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area and indicate whether you are intending to prepare a neighbourhood development plan and/or a neighbourhood development order (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

The proposed plan will focus on identifying and allocating non strategic development sites across the proposed designation and providing a locally distinctive policy framework to complement that provided by the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. The proposed plan has also secured funding from CLG to help support the Sherston Neighbourhood Plan. Further information regarding its Front Runner status can be found within the attached documentation.

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8. Declaration

I hereby apply to designate a neighbourhood area as described on this form and the accompanying plan.

Signed:  

Name:  **J.W. MATTHEWS**

Position:  **CHAIRMAN**  **SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Date:  **8/11/12**

Note: In the case of applications covering more than one parish area signed consent forms are required from each parish concerned.

Please note that if your application is validated we will need the assistance of the relevant town and/or parish councils to appropriately publicise the application, including by displaying notices on town/parish council notice boards.
SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY
8th NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM, IN SHERSTON VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT:
Chairman  Mr J Matthews (JM)
Vice-Chairman                Mr M Rea (MR)
Councillors  Mrs M Jolliffe (MJ)          Mrs C Liddington (CL)
                                      Mr S Magee (SM)       Mr J Hillier (JH)
                                      Mr T Weedon (TW)      Mr D Hibbard (DH)
                                      Mr T Moody (TM)
Parish Clerk                      Mrs S Wood (SW)

There were no members of the public present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>494. To note apologies for absence</td>
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<td>495. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.</td>
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<td>496. Members of the public are invited to address the council on agenda items.</td>
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<td>497. Planning - Schedules received and new applications</td>
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<td>497.1 Amended plans - N/12/03350/FUL. Change of pitch to the rear roof including three dormers. 16 Cliff Road. The Parish Council had no objections to this application.</td>
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<tr>
<td>498. Update on Neighbourhood Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>498.1 The Parish Council have been asked to designate the parish of Sherston as a Neighbourhood area. This is a legal formality required by the government. The Parish Council all declared to designate the parish of Sherston as Neighbourhood Area. The form will be signed and sent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correspondence

499.1 Court Street
A resident from Court Street has written to the Parish Council regarding the forthcoming High Street Improvements. They were unable to make the recent Highways meeting.

The resident stated that they are acting on behalf of several residents who live on the back stretch of Court Street and in the interests of pedestrians who walk along the street from the Rattlebone to the Recreation Ground. They would like to see this stretch of road considered for improvement as well as the High Street due to concerns about the speed of the traffic and the safety of pedestrians and home owners.

The Parish Council understand that this part of Court Street can be dangerous. Unfortunately the scheme is only intended for the High Street and it is too late for any additions at this stage due to the criteria of the original scheme and the budget. The Parish Council would encourage the residents to raise their concerns as an Area Board Issue. Details will be sent to them.

499.2 Sherston PCC – Sherston Cemetery
Mrs Helen Price, Secretary to the PCC for the parish of Sherston, notified the Parish Council that the church will be closing the churchyard within the next 5 years as there will be no more space.

The Parish Council thank the PCC for giving the update on the matter and the information will play a key part in the compilation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

499.3. Sherston PCC – road markings outside the Church
In the past, the church has asked for ‘keep clear’ markings outside the church to allow space for funerals and weddings. This is a Highways matter and at the recent Highways meeting Mrs Price, Secretary to the PCC asked Mr Rose if this was possible. Mr Rose informed her that this can be done at the same time as the High Street improvements, if not before. Mr Rose asked the PCC to formally write to the Parish Council with exact details for the requirements which can then be forwarded to him. Mrs Price has written and the letter has been forwarded to Mr Rose at Highways.

499.4 ROSPA Playground Inspection 2012
ROSPA have carried out its annual safety check on the playground and the playground has passed and no remedial action is required this year.

499.5 Carer Support Wiltshire Donation Request
One in ten residents in every parish in Wiltshire is likely to be a carer according to the above charity. Carer Support Wiltshire is an independent charity who provides free information, advice and emotional support to carers in Wiltshire. It is asking the Parish Council for a donation or grant. The Parish Council would like to speak to carers in the parish who have heard of the charity.

ACTION – Clerk SW to research for next meeting.

LATE

499.6 Wiltshire Council – Introduction of Community Teams
Highways have written to the Parish Council with the new programme that indicates the dates the community team will be in the parish.

499.7 Road Safety Week
Mr Chivers is asking Parish Councils in Wiltshire to sign an online petition asking for 20mph limits in residential areas. Currently a 20mph speed limit is not enforced by police.

499.8 Wiltshire Council – Safe Drive, Stay Alive Road show
Wiltshire Council are inviting parents, grandparents, and the general public to attend a hard hitting road safety presentation at Malmesbury School on Tuesday 11th December. The minimum age is 15. Poster to be put up on the notice board.
500. Update on Defibrillator Fund
PC informed the Parish Council that the total of the funds raised is £5,738.11. PC asked the Parish Council to formally approve the payment of £5,275 to enable the 3 defibrillators and cabinets to be ordered. The Parish Council agreed to the payment subject to confirmation that exact site locations have been agreed.
ACTION – Clerk SW to inform PC.

501. Finance – To agree payments in accordance with the budget as listed in the financial summary

501.1 SOSCIC request
SOSCIC have asked the Parish Council for a contribution towards updating its website. The Parish Council will not provide a contribution as the website that SOSCIC use is paid for by the Parish Council.

501.2 Elizabeth Hodges Educational Foundation.
The foundation has given the Parish Council £90 toward educational purposes for the youth in Sherston. CL suggested the amount goes to the brownies this year
ACTION - CL will talk to the group and advise Clerk SW on the outcome.

501.3 Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sherston Parish Council</th>
<th>£</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Data as at 8/11/2012</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bank account balances at the report date:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Account</td>
<td>4,141.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit</td>
<td>29,208.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,349.69</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payments for approval at this meeting:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Wood - Clerks Salary and expenses October</td>
<td>447.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>PWLB Loan - Old School</td>
<td>5,990.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P Cooper - Village Tidy - Oct/nov 8 hours</td>
<td>57.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPC - November Cliffhanger print</td>
<td>605.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherston Post Office and Stores - Special postage</td>
<td>6.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSPA - Playground safety inspection</td>
<td>97.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Heartbeat - purchase of 3 defibrillators</td>
<td>5,275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartmell Community Bus hire - xmas trips</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compass Graphic Design - web maintenance</td>
<td>82.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherston Village Hall - Hall Hire</td>
<td>80.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherston Village Hall - jubilee cakes</td>
<td>56.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priory – payroll services</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total payments for approval today</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,810.07</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funds received and allocated but not yet agreed for payment:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cliffhanger profit from launch to 31/03/2012*</td>
<td>6,735.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grove Wood (donation)</td>
<td>115.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of 'Heroes All' books since 2005</td>
<td>2,574.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defibrillator Donations from launch to 01.11.2012</td>
<td>5,738.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total future allocations</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,163.09</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Receipts this month</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cliffhanger receipts</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Hodges Trust - Donation towards Educational Purposes</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>190.00</strong></td>
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</table>

The above payments were approved by the Parish Council, except payment for the new defibrillators. As noted in Item 500 - this is on hold until all information required has been received.
501.4 NALC Precepts Update
NALC have sent all councils an executive summary regarding precepts. Informing councils that no precept should be formally approved until after the publication of the draft report and when the tax base figures have been issued by the billing authorities in the beginning of December.

502. To discuss the budget for 2013/14.
SM circulated a budget assumptions document for 2013/14 looking at forecast for expenditure and income. MR mentioned that although there is nothing outstanding for next years’ budget, the entrance to the recreation is in need of renovation so money should be put aside for this. At the December meeting the draft budget will be finalised and a decision regarding the precept can then be made.

503. To discuss the grass cutting contract for next year.
Problems experienced this year due to the heavy rain fall has led to a suggestion to increase the grass cuts from two weeks to every ten days, to ensure the grass stays short throughout the season. The current cost per season is £1,080 which is 12 cuts from April to September. If the cuts are increased to 20 cuts per season it would be £1,800 per season. The Parish Council agreed to increase the cuts next season on the proviso that if it is a dry summer, the contractor will revert to 12 cuts at the reduced price.

ACTION – Clerk SW to inform AW Services.

504. Update on the Andy Bus and Wiltshire Meeting held on 10th October
No update since last Parish Council meeting.

505 Environment, Parish Lands and General Services Report October 2012

505.1 Recreation Ground – New play equipment - consultation with Scouts, Cubs, and Brownies has now taken place. SW to report Meeting with the Mark Doyle Fund to discuss new play equipment has taken place. The proposed equipment has been presented to the Scouts, Explorers and Brownies by way of consultation and the feedback very positive. Once feedback analysed a decision will be made on which pieces of equipment will be chosen and put to the Parish Council.

505.2 Sports field conifers – Tennis Club agreed to pay 50% of cost. Awaiting start date from contractor.

505.3 Parish lands – Solicitors still to be instructed on new leases now Old School legalities are complete.

505.4 Community Speed Watch – New volunteers are awaiting training.

505.5 Grove Wood - Interpretation boards being designed plus information leaflet at a very low cost of £80. Nick Holland has kindly offered to design the boards at cost price. SW suggested that the donation given to the Wood could pay for the boards.

ACTION – Clerk SW to write to donator.

505.6 Footpaths – Work proceeding re booklet reprint. It was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting that 100 books would be printed at the cost of £400 to be sold at the increased price of £5.99. Next meeting of the Footpath group is Wednesday 14th November at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

505.7 Allotments – Inspection required.

505.8 Highways
High Street – MR circulated the amended plans for the Highways proposed improvements. The Parish Council happy with the plans except that the agreed bollards had not been included, MR to mention to Mr Rose. Materials will have to be chosen and Mr Rose will be asked if he can attend the December Parish Council meeting with examples of the stone.
505.9 Easton Square - Response from Westlea pending for remedial work to the large sycamore tree.

505.10 Jubilee – The parish has been granted a tree from the Woodland trust to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee – one of only 60 for the whole country. Thanks are due to Irene Johnston our tree warden for achieving this. The Scouts have kindly agreed to be in charge of the mechanics of choosing and planting the tree on the Recreation ground hopefully before the end of the year.

505.11 Defibrillator – Previously discussed.

505.12 Dog fouling – TW reported that there have been more incidents on Court Street yet again. SW to talk to WC about a possible solution.

505.13 Xmas Lights
CL informed the Parish Council that the High Street Christmas lights need to be PAT tested by an electrician and asked MR where to buy the xmas tree.
ACTION – MR to give CL details regarding tree and get electricians to test lights.

506. Issues for Highways and the Parish Team
The path behind numbers 5 and 6 The Tarters is almost impassable and has been reported to Highways and the Ivy on the wall near Anthony Close needs attention as does the grit bin. Vegetation at the bottom of Brook Hill also needs attention.
ACTION – Clerk SW to inform the Parish Team.

507. Update from Highways regarding signage in the village.
Wiltshire Council has informed the Parish Council that illegal signage on the public highway in Sherston needs to be removed. They are to talk to the shop owners concerned and have given the Parish Council the following options to consider:
1. Sponsor existing bin or new bin. Signs can be erected on the bin
2. Sponsoring of flower beds by shop owners
3. Parish Council to log as a CAB issue. A sign review would then take place
4. Advertising on private property, such as the pub

JM reported that the Parish Council 100% support local businesses and will support whatever the local shops would like to do, especially Tucks and Hortico who both need signage due to their location.
ACTION - JM will talk to both shops about the matter.

508. Public Question Time.
None.

509. Time and Date of next meeting
The next Parish Council meeting will be on 13th December 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The minutes were taken by Sarah Wood, Clerk to Sherston Parish Council.
1. Introduction

1.1 Wiltshire Council is fully supportive of the aims of the Localism Bill to deliver a more collaborative and community led approach to plan making. The council has established 18 Community Areas to take decision making to the heart of local communities and is already following a collaborative approach to developing the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The council has recently secured funding from CLG for two Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner projects, one at the Community Area level and a site specific proposal.

1.2 As one of the largest unitary authorities in the UK, the Council wishes to undertake two additional Front Runner projects to learn from the different geographies that Wiltshire offers and consider the practicalities and resource implications of undertaking neighbourhood plans at these levels. This project will allow the Council to consider the implications of preparing a village based plan. A second application is also being submitted for a town based plan.

1.3 It is proposed that a Development Plan Document (DPD) is prepared for Sherston Parish and agreement has been reached between the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Sherston Parish Council to undertake the project. Sherston Parish Council has initiated this application and is enthusiastic to lead the work with technical support to be provided by Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council meeting on 28 June 2011 unanimously agreed the application to the Area Board for Sherston to be proposed as Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner. A statement of support from Sherston Parish Council is included in Appendix 1.

1.4 The Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June 2011) establishes a framework to help facilitate the development of neighbourhood plans across Wiltshire. In particular, these plans will identify and allocate small (non-strategic) development sites, thus ensuring that proposals for development at a local scale are truly led by the community. Neighbourhood planning may also offer an opportunity to address other area specific challenges and these could also be considered by the proposal. Background information about Wiltshire is presented in Appendix 2.

2. Proposal: Sherston Parish DPD

2.1 Overview of proposal

2.1.1 Wiltshire Council proposes to prepare a DPD for the Sherston Parish (Figure 1). The DPD would be designed to fulfil the function of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), as proposed by the Localism Bill and a voluntary referendum will also be undertaken.

2.1.2 The project will be driven by a steering group, to be based around the concept of a neighbourhood forum and this will be led by Sherston Parish Council. A preliminary membership for this steering group is outlined in Appendix 3, although this will be confirmed once the project commences.

2.1.3 Although Wiltshire Council will provide technical assistance to the steering group, the project has thus far, and will continue to be led by the community.
2.1.4 The DPD will focus on identifying and allocating non strategic development sites across the plan area and providing a locally distinctive policy framework to complement that provided by the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. The timescales will be compatible with that of the Wiltshire Core Strategy to ensure that conformity can be achieved.

Figure 1: Map of the Sherston DPD Area.
2.2 **Spatial portrait**

2.2.1 Sherston parish is located to the west of Malmesbury, which is itself located to the west of Swindon and just north of the M4 corridor. The area is predominately rural in character and has a high quality environment being located within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The parish includes not only the village of Sherston but also the hamlets of Pinkney and Willesley.

2.2.2 There is a relatively high level of out commuting from the parish, particularly to Bath, Bristol, Chippenham, Malmesbury and Swindon, and the area has some dormitory functions. However Sherston village provides a hub of services to a number of neighbouring parishes including Easton Grey, Norton, Foxley, Luckington, Alderton and Sopworth, as well as Didmarton and Westonbirt in Gloucestershire. Sherston also has an unusually high level of local businesses. **Additional key characteristics for the parish are set out in Appendix 4.**

2.2.3 Levels of housing growth for the wider community area will be identified through the Wiltshire Core Strategy. However, the responses to earlier consultation events run by the council indicate that there is some local appetite for additional housing growth and it is important that this is community led. As discussed above, the Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June 2011) establishes a framework to facilitate the delivery of neighbourhood plans across Wiltshire. In particular these plans will identify and allocate non-strategic development sites.

2.2.4 In addition to identifying development sites across the parish, the proposed DPD will also set a policy framework to ensure appropriate local planning issues are addressed, thus ensuring that solutions are identified and driven by the local community. In this way, the DPD will complement the strategic policy framework provided by the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. Examples of local issues that may be appropriate to address through the planning system include:

- Identify the need for additional housing especially affordable homes for existing residents and those with strong local connections.
- Identifying a suitable site for a new GP surgery.
- Provide support for community based low-carbon and renewable energy projects.
- Completion of the second stage of development of the Old School building to provide further community facilities.
- Meeting the future expansion needs of Sherston primary school as well as the provision of a new pre-school facility.
- Redevelopment of Anthony Close to provide a high standard of accommodation for the elderly and disabled.
- Opportunities to provide a new vicarage and additional burial land.
- A site for new allotments to meet local demand.
- Provision of improved kitchen, toilet and lobby facilities for the village hall.
- Improvements to the sports field to include an all weather multi use area, lighting, up dated pavilion and exercise trail.
- Provision of high speed broadband to the entire parish.
- The need for increased local business opportunities and location.
- Enhanced play equipment for the Recreation Ground particularly for 11 to 18 year olds.
- Continued development of the community wood and possible provision of a community orchard.
2.3 Deliverability and timescale

2.3.1 The project is ready to commence immediately and the steering group is already in the process of being set up. A dedicated project officer will be assigned to the project from the LPA. This officer will not be a formal member of the steering group, but will instead act as an advisor. They will be able to provide technical assistance throughout the lifetime of the project. They will also act as a point of contact for Wiltshire Council and be able to involve other officers from across the authority with particular expertise as required.

2.3.2 At this stage, it is unclear when the Localism Act and accompanying regulations, will come into force. As such, a formal examination may be necessary if the later stages of the plan cannot be undertaken in line with the new planning regulations, which will be required through the emerging Bill. On this basis, a formal Examination in Public (EIP) may be necessary and this may take several months to complete. However, a voluntary referendum will be undertaken once the report into the EIP is received. An indicative timetable has been outlined below. However, the precise timetable would be directed by the steering group and be dependent on specific project requirements.

2.3.3 The steering group will meet monthly throughout the project and additional meetings will be held where necessary. In addition to the formal public consultation set out within the timetable, additional consultation will also be undertaken to reflect the requirements of the steering group.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task 1: Scoping and visioning</td>
<td>September - December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 2: Detailed analysis</td>
<td>January - June 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 3: Draft document</td>
<td>July - August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 4: Public consultation</td>
<td>September - October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 5: EIP</td>
<td>Early 2013*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task 6: Voluntary referendum</td>
<td>Spring 2013*</td>
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</tbody>
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*Indicative timings

2.3.4 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be prepared alongside the development of the DPD, along with any other specialist requirements such as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A HRA screening report would be undertaken on a precautionary basis. Wiltshire Council has dedicated specialist SA and HRA officers who will be able to complete any necessary work to support the project.
Dear Georgina,

At a full meeting of Sherston Parish Council on Tuesday the 28th of June, Wiltshire Council’s Draft Proposal to apply to Central Government on its behalf for a grant for Sherston to become a Neighbourhood Front Runner was discussed.

It agreed with Wiltshire Council’s proposal for Sherston and to support the bid wholeheartedly. If successful the Parish Council will lead the necessary steering group and progress the development of the Neighbourhood Plan through all its stages to a local referendum.

This was put to the vote and passed unanimously and is recorded as minute number 241.2.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Wood
Clerk to Sherston Parish Council
APPENDIX 2: Background Information on Wiltshire Council

Overview of Wiltshire

Wiltshire is one of the largest unitary authority areas in England, covering approximately 3255 square kilometres and is generally rural in character. The county has an outstanding landscape and an exceptionally rich historic environment and includes the World Heritage Site of Avebury and Stonehenge.

Wiltshire has a higher percentage of employers in manufacturing than the south west region or in the UK and has a prominent military presence. The county has relatively high levels of out-commuting, particularly to the neighbouring cities of Bristol and Bath to the west, Swindon to the east and Southampton to the south. It has excellent rail connectivity and also benefits from the M4 which runs through the north of the county.

Community Areas

Wiltshire has established 18 Community Area Boards which represent a new way of working and are already highly compatible with the spirit of the Localism Bill. The Community Areas provide a way of bringing decision making into the heart of the community to help address local issues. They are a formal part of Wiltshire Council and include other local service providers and stakeholders such as the NHS, police, town and parish councils and community partnerships. The emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy is being prepared around the geographies of the Community Areas.

Wiltshire’s Local Planning Authority

The Wiltshire Local Planning Authority (LPA) has successfully delivered 4 of an envisaged 8 DPD’s including the Wiltshire and Swindon’s Waste and Minerals Core Strategies. An Examination in Public (EIP) is currently under way and three further DPDs are planned for submission early in 2012. A draft of the Wiltshire Core Strategy has been published for consultation in June this year and will be submitted to the Secretary of State in 2012.

The authority strongly supports the drive of the Localism Bill to create a culture shift in the planning system and move towards a more collaborative approach to plan making. A collaborative approach to developing the Wiltshire Core Strategy has already been adopted with an ongoing dialogue established with both town and parish councils.

Town/ Neighbourhood Planning in Wiltshire

The Wiltshire LPA has gained considerable experience of working with local communities to develop plans for their own areas. Warminster Town Council has recently prepared a town plan and other work is under way in Westbury, with further projects about to commence in Calne and Melksham. This work closely matches that envisaged by the Localism Bill, is truly community led, with technical support being provided by the LPA, and is helping to inform the preparation of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy.
APPENDIX 3: Proposed steering group membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Number of Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sherston Parish Council</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malmesbury Area Board</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative from local schools</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative from local churches</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative from local surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative from local businesses</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Club</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative for local social housing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other community representatives to be confirmed</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiltshire Council - Local Planning Authority (Advisor)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4: Key characteristic for Sherston Parish Area

Area
The proposed DPD would cover the area of the Sherston parish area (Figure 1). This area covers 1,712 hectares and is predominately rural/ and semi rural in nature.

Geographical location
The Sherston parish area is located to the west of Swindon (Figure 1). It lies within the north of Wiltshire, which is located to the north and east of the south west of England.

Type of local planning authority
Wiltshire Council is a relatively new unitary authority which was formed following local government re-organisation in April 2009.

The strength and experience of the parish council/ community group
The Sherston parish area consists of one large village, as defined by the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy (June 2011) and the hamlets of Pinkney and Willesley. Sherston Parish Council will lead the work with support from representatives from other community organisations. The proposed steering group membership is outlined by Appendix 3. Sherston Parish Council has shown commitment and drive to initiate this proposal and there is considerable local support for developing a neighbourhood style plan.

Sherston parish has embraced significant change within recent years including a new primary school, some 80 additional dwellings (a 15 % increase in the housing stock) to include 14 affordable units, the acquisition in April 2011 of the Old School building for commercial and community use as well as the leasing of a community wood and provision of a skate board park. The Parish Council has been at the forefront of these developments which has included a high level of consultation with all residents through public meetings, exhibitions and referenda. The council has also been prepared to be included in many local initiatives such as reduced street lighting and community payback schemes. They have initiated work with Wiltshire Council to consider addressing rural housing needs.

Income levels across the community
Income level data is currently not available for individual Community Areas within Wiltshire. However, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) provides data for the former Wiltshire district council areas. Sherston is located within the former North Wiltshire District Council area. Income levels for this area are below average for the UK, but are above average for the south west (Figure 2).
Figure 2: Gross annual pay for all employees for the former North Wiltshire District Council area, the South West and England.