

Adopted Local Plan - Public Services

Public Services

Objective: To provide the necessary physical, social and technological infrastructure and services to ensure a high quality of life for the people of Salisbury District.

Community Facilities

13.1

Health facilities in the plan area are provided by the Wiltshire Health Authority. In addition to hospitals in Salisbury and Odstock, there are full time surgeries in Salisbury, Wilton, Amesbury, Durrington, Downton, Whiteparish, Mere and Tisbury which offer a range of services including health visitors, district nurses and dispensing facilities.

13.2

A number of other settlements have smaller health clinics or part time surgeries. The Local Planning Authority is sympathetic to the needs of villages requiring better health facilities and encouragement will be given to the establishment of permanent health facilities (including dental facilities) in the villages. Proposals for veterinary surgeries will receive similar consideration.

Policy PS1

13.3

Wiltshire County Council Social Services Department provides help and support to the elderly, to children and families and the physically and mentally handicapped. Nursing homes for the elderly are registered by Salisbury Health Authority. Increasing emphasis in recent years has been placed on day and home care whenever possible, and in integrating small groups of physically or mentally handicapped into the community by providing accommodation in flats or houses where they can live in a family atmosphere. However, some residential care homes are still necessary, particularly for the elderly. The Local Plan policies PS2 and C23 make provision for change of use of appropriate existing buildings to residential care units within settlements or, in certain instances, in the countryside. Forthcoming changes in the provision of continuing care for the elderly as proposed in the White Paper "Caring for People", may affect this situation.

Policy PS2

Facilities and Services within Smaller Settlements

13.4

The Council recognises the importance of maintaining and improving the provision of meeting and other facilities for the use of all sections of the

community, including minority groups. In view of the many changes that have taken place in consumer trends in retailing and entertainment it has been difficult for the traditional village facilities, such as the pub, the post office or the corner shop, to maintain their viability. However, where such facilities do still exist, they can contribute towards the sustainability of these settlements by offering an alternative to making longer car journeys for basic requirements as well as contributing to the social life of the people living there. Therefore, this Local Plan contains policies to prevent the loss of such facilities except where it can be proven that the facility is unviable and unlikely to become viable in the foreseeable future. The applicant, in these cases will be expected to submit a statement of the efforts that have been made to make the business in question viable.

Policy PS3

Education

13.5

Sites for new schools at Landford and Shrewton which are identified on the Proposals Map, will be safeguarded from other forms of development. Wiltshire County Council presently has no proposals to declare these proposed sites surplus to requirements. If, however, it is found that any of these sites is not required for a school, the Local Planning Authority will discuss alternative uses for the land with the Education Authority, although there are various constraints on both sites and built development is unlikely to be acceptable.

Policy PS4

13.6

Wiltshire County Council is responsible for the provision of education in the plan area. Many settlements contain a primary school or a middle school and secondary schools are located in Salisbury, Laverstock, Amesbury, Durrington, and Downton. There are also a number of privately run pre school nurseries, primary and secondary schools in the area. Where a proposed residential development will take the school over its current capacity, the Local Planning Authority will seek contributions from developers for new education facilities to serve the development. For example, a new school site will be required at Old Sarum to service the new housing proposed in policy H2D. New education facilities required by the Local Education Authority will normally be permitted on suitable sites either within or adjoining settlements and required to be implemented concurrently with the developments they are intended to serve.

Policy PS5

13.7

Playgroups, day nurseries and child minding facilities play an important role in pre school development of children. The Local Planning Authority has adopted a guideline whereby planning permission is required when part of a house is used as a day nursery for 7 or more children, for childminding of 7 children or more, and for establishing a playgroup for any number of children. Due to the benefits these services provide, proposals to use part or all of a dwelling will be allowed subject to a number considerations. However, purpose built industrial premises will not be appropriate for nurseries or playgroups due to the poor environment they provide for children: for example, lack of outdoor playspace and noise/pollution from neighbouring industrial premises. In addition, such proposals would lead incrementally to a loss of industrial floorspace which is contrary to the employment policies of this Local Plan.

Policy PS6

Public Utilities

13.8

The provision of water supply, drainage, electricity gas and telephone services in the plan area is the responsibility of a number of different public utility authorities and private companies. Matters pertaining to water, sewerage and drainage are addressed in Chapter 2. Gas is available in only a limited number of villages and a few villages are also without mains drainage.

Telecommunications

13.9

Telecommunications are an essential and beneficial element of modern day life and the national economy. Much of the telephone network within the District is long established. New communication technology is now spreading rapidly, required to meet the growing demand in the area for better communications at work and home, in business and in public services. In considering proposals for new telecommunications development, the Local Planning Authority will take into account the impact of the proposal on the environment and residential amenity protecting as far as possible, the appearance of buildings, settlements and the countryside from unsightly telecommunications equipment. This is particularly important in the New Forest Heritage Area, the Stonehenge World Heritage site and its setting, the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Conservation Area. In most cases early

consultation with the Local Planning Authority is encouraged to identify potential problems in respect of new telecommunications development.

Policy PS7

Renewable Energy

13.10

The Department of Trade and Industry in co-ordination with Southern Electric are currently undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the potential for the deployment of renewable energy resources in the region covered by Southern Electric. This includes Salisbury District. The study considers a number of alternative forms of renewable technology, but it is unlikely that all will be appropriate in Salisbury District. It is hoped that the study will provide further information which can be incorporated into the Salisbury District Local Plan or its review, at an appropriate point in the Local Plan programme.

13.11

The District Council supports the Government's commitment to encourage the development of renewable energy sources wherever they are acceptable in terms of impact on the environment. In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 22, particular care will be taken when assessing any proposal which comes forward within the New Forest Heritage Area, the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or other protected areas. It is also important that any proposal respects the characteristics of the existing landform and features of the landscape, and does not have a detrimental effect on the amenities of local residents. Prospective developers of such schemes are strongly advised to discuss their proposal at an early stage with the Local Planning Authority.

Policy PS8

13.12

Wind turbines in particular can be dominant features in the landscape and proposals for wind farm development will be assessed against their prominence and the visual intrusion on the landscape. The siting of turbines below ridge tops can assist in this aspect. The Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988 now include wind generators as Schedule 2 developments. Indicative criteria issued by the Government suggest that a wind generator development might well require environmental assessment if it is located within (or is likely to have significant environmental effects on) the New Forest, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or a Site of Special Scientific Interest;

or if the total installed capacity of the development would exceed 5 megawatts. Prospective developers of renewable energy schemes are strongly advised to discuss their proposal at an early stage with the Local Planning Authority.

Cemeteries

13.13

Salisbury

Cemetery facilities in Salisbury are located at two principal sites: Bishopdown and Devizes Road. These two sites have limited space available which is likely to be exhausted within the timeframe of the Local Plan. Neither site has room for further expansion and therefore the need to identify a new site has arisen. Approximately 12 hectares of land at Fugglestone Red are therefore allocated for a new cemetery.

Policy PS9

13.14

Amesbury

Due to the need for additional burial space in Amesbury, approximately 1 hectare of land will be provided for a new cemetery on land adjacent to the new housing development proposed at Boscombe Down. The exact position of the cemetery will be determined in association with the master plan which is being prepared for the site.

Policy PS10