

Sustainable Community – Objectives and Policies

Objective 1.a. Promote and support the reduction of the carbon footprint of our community

Policy SC 1 – Biodiversity, trees, hedgerows and water

The Neighbourhood Plan includes considerations regarding the protection, enhancement, and maintenance of wildlife habitat and biodiversity in development proposals. Development proposals should respect the landscape and the way in which it provides a setting to the villages. The key points related to these aspects:

- Development proposals should take into consideration and provide where appropriate mitigating measures against the harmful impact of noise pollution to animal life.
- Where development proposals could affect existing trees woodlands and hedgerows, applications will be supported where existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows are retained where possible and incorporated as placemaking features.
- As appropriate to their location and scale, development proposals should be designed to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity and nature conservation.
- Promote the enhancement, preservation, restoration, and creation of wildlife habitats. Development proposals should include appropriate mitigation measures to offset any potential harm.
- Include naturalized, pollinator-friendly planting in landscaping proposals.
- Commuted sums (financial contributions from developers) can be used to plant new street trees and maintain existing street trees.
- When selecting new or replacement tree species, preference should be given to native, large-canopied, and orchard species.

Policy SC 2 – Standalone Renewable Energy

Proposals for standalone renewable energy developments, including renewable energy storage, will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- The wider benefits of providing energy from renewable sources, including contributions to national carbon reduction objectives and targets, outweigh any adverse impacts on the local environment or amenity.
- Additional social, economic or environmental benefits which benefit the local community over the lifetime of the project are provided.
- Landscape and visual impacts from public rights of way and residential premises can be mitigated through screening with native hedging or trees, where practicable.
- The siting and scale are appropriate to its setting and position in the wider landscape and it does not give rise to unacceptable landscape or visual impact either in isolation or cumulatively with other development.
- Proposals for ground mounted solar photovoltaic development will be expected to demonstrate that closely surrounding agricultural use will continue.
- It does not have an unacceptable impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance.

Policy SC 3 - Sustainable Development

Proposals for achieving carbon neutral developments:

- Development that contributes towards Wiltshire Council's commitment to make the county carbon neutral by 2030 will be encouraged.
- Planning applications which deliver development which achieves high standards of energy efficiency and sustainable construction will be encouraged. New development is encouraged to integrate renewable energy technology wherever possible, above and beyond the current building regulations.
- The use of locally sourced materials where possible.
- New developments will be supported where they are in locations where residents are able to walk safely and cycle reasonable distances to village facilities and services, have easy access to public transport and therefore minimising the use of private vehicles.
- All new residential developments with on plot parking spaces and/or garages are strongly encouraged to provide appropriately located charging technology for charging low emission vehicles, such as electric car charging points.
- New development will be supported where it can be satisfactorily and safely accommodated within the local highway network.
- The retrofit of heritage properties/assets is encouraged to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate, providing it safeguards historic characteristics and development is done with engagement and permission of relevant organisations.
- Developments should not increase flood risk.

Objective 1.b. Protect and enhance our community facilities

Policy SC 4 – Protecting existing facilities

We will protect our locally valued facilities from developments likely to change its use, by registering these as Assets of Community Value.

- Broad Hinton – White Horse Cricket Club
- Broad Hinton – Village Hall
- Broad Hinton – Allotments
- Broad Hinton – The Crown
- Broad Hinton – School Playing Field
- Winterbourne Bassett – The Winterbourne

Plans for any new developments which are adjacent to these facilities must demonstrate how they will be protected from harm during construction. Plans for new development must show how the facilities will be unaffected once the development is completed. Any plans which seek to use land occupied by existing facilities must demonstrate the provision of alternative land and reconstruction of the facility.

All development plans must respect those facilities which are listed buildings or otherwise protected.

Policy SC 4 – Enhancing facilities

Any development plans must demonstrate how community facilities can be enhanced, or new facilities provided.

- Parking for Village Hall and School
- Shop/Café/Hub
- Playground
- Recreation facilities with ancillary facilities

Proposals for developments must include a proportion of investment to enhance existing or fund new facilities via Community Infrastructure Levy or Section 106 contributions.

Any new development plan must include provision for increased parking in the community to relieve existing parking pressure. In addition, where existing facilities are to be enhanced, or new facilities provided, sufficient additional parking must be provided for.

Objective 1.c. Promote healthier lifestyles and enhance community wellbeing

Note that this objective will cut across many policies.