

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 12. Number 1

SWINDON LOCAL PLAN 2026

Source: Parish Council

The joint meeting with Swindon Borough Council and Wanborough Parish Council on 14 January was very well attended - a packed village hall in Wanborough and excellent representation from our Parish. The meeting was to allow discussion of the Consultation Draft of the Local Plan.

Why is there a need for a Local Plan? Legislation requires SBC to have a "sound" plan. ("Sound" means: "deliverable, flexible and able to be monitored, when considered against the available alternatives"). Remember that the new (March 2012) National Planning Policy Framework puts in place a presumption in favour of sustainable development; this means that SBC must get a Local Plan in place, by late 2013, in order to be able to prevent developers from selecting potentially unsuitable sites for development, and building without any of the constraints that an approved Local Plan will put in place.

SBC Local Plan envisages an additional 22,000 new homes in Swindon area by 2026. Why 22,000? That is not an easy question to answer but there is a relationship with forecasts from the Office for National Statistics over economic and population growth in the local area. Approximately 8,000 of these new homes are proposed to be in South Marston, the Rowborough area and what are called the "Eastern Villages" by SBC; these are a number of new urban centres in the area south of the A 420 and Gable Cross (Sainsbury's) and east of the A 419. The area proposed for development stretches south to Redlands Farm on the Wanborough Road.

We heard a presentation on the Local Plan from Wanborough Parish Council and some comments from Cllr Dale Heenan, who is SBC Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability; the meeting was then opened up to questions from the floor.

The principal issues for the Eastern Villages seem to be:

1. Flooding
2. Infrastructure
3. Density
4. Redlands

There are also issues for our Parish - see below.

Flooding

There is much local history and knowledge about flooding in the areas proposed for development. We will all have seen recently stories of young people in new homes around the country which are now un-insurable or un-sellable, after the floods of 2012, 2008 and 2007. Are these "hundred year" floods or are they becoming more common? If you have any knowledge of flooding in the areas which are proposed for building, which you can back up with any evidence (e.g. newspaper cuttings, photographs

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Rural Speed Management

Building of the western gateway to Bishopstone has been held up by the exceptionally wet weather and an unexpectedly lengthy lead time for the materials for the actual gateway. We have additionally asked SBC to harden up the verges, as far out as the marker posts, to stop the current mess caused by thoughtless drivers driving over the curbs - these were deliberately designed to be low, to facilitate the passage of large agricultural vehicles.

SBC are estimating a completion date of the whole project by mid-February.

Press Release from Prospect Hospice, 10 January 2013

Headline: Hospice seeks walkers to join annual Walk of Memories

Prospect Hospice is inviting walkers to join its annual Walk of Memories, one of the charity's first fundraising events of 2013, which takes place at 10.30am on Sunday 3 March.

The event, which is an opportunity for people from across the community to raise funds for their local hospice in memory of a loved one, is a gentle five mile sponsored walk setting off from the Four Pillars Hotel at the Cotswold Water Park near South Cerney.

"This event has been a key part of our fundraising calendar for several years now," says Prospect events fundraiser Genevieve Arney. "It's different to many of our events because people walk it at the pace they want, and often bring along friends who share with them memories of a loved one in whose memory they are taking part. And, because the terrain is relatively gentle, it's a walk that the whole family - including the dog - can enjoy together."

Registration for the event is just £8, and can be completed by visiting www.prospect-hospice.net

Local Plan Continued...

etc) please submit this along with your comments before the 21st February.

Infrastructure

A development as large as this requires much "infrastructure"; for example, the following major projects are proposed: a link road to Commonhead roundabout, a "green" bridge over A 419, water/sewerage plants, improvements to White Hart junction, new emergency services, hospital facilities, improvements to the Commonhead roundabout and M4 Junction 15. The Draft Local Plan includes the costings, but they are not all funded for delivery at an early stage of development; the "funding gap" is said at present to be about £350 M.

There has to be concern that failure to provide the necessary infrastructure in a timely way (i.e. at a very early stage) will mean increased "rat running" through rural villages, and further severe pressure on existing roads and local services.

Density

A density of 40 dwellings per hectare is anticipated. This is about the same as at Wychelstowe and North Swindon; is this too high? But a lower density may mean more land would be required unless some of the proposed new housing can be reallocated to other proposed development areas e.g. Tadpole Farm and Kingsdown.

Redlands

The "housing line" has been extended, without any local consultation or discussion by SBC, to include Redlands Farm; many in Wanborough are very concerned that this is too close to the village of Wanborough. SBC stated at the meeting that this could be restricted to "small scale" - 30 to 50 houses was mentioned - but they would have no control over this should a developer decide to appeal. If this extension, which is very close to Wanborough village,

is of concern to you, please write in to express your objection.

Development within Bishopstone and Hinton Parva

The draft Local Plan also envisages further, albeit limited, development within the rural villages, including Bishopstone and potentially Hinton Parva, but it is unclear as to the amount of development that might be expected. There could be a requirement for 100+ new dwellings to be spread across Bishopstone, Wanborough, Chiseldon and Broad Blunsdon. We suggest that we need to ensure that any development stays within our settlement boundaries i.e. does not encroach on to green fields outside the built up area and that the scale of any development is appropriate for the village, and has Parish support. Is this level of development right for us?

What can we all do about this?

The Local Plan is currently in draft form - out for consultation, and comments are required to be with SBC by 21 February. All parishioners are recommended to make their own comments; if you don't make your views known at this stage, you will not be able to do so in future. A proforma reply sheet is included with this Parish Times. You should provide reasoned arguments, with evidence. Anonymous replies will not be accepted. Comments can also be made on-line and the Local Plan can be viewed on SBC website: <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplanning/ep-planning-localdev/Pages/ep-planning-localdev-localplan.aspx>

If you want to find out more about the Local Plan, please speak to any member of the Parish Council, and come to the next Parish Council meeting - to be held at Hinton Parva Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 4th February.

National Trust WORKING PARTY

Saturday 5th January, saw a good village turnout for the National Trust working party at the Coombes in Hinton Parva. The group continued to widen the bridle way for some 150 metres by clearing elder and hawthorn. Walkers and horses can now avoid many of the muddier sections by using the cleared sections. Of particular note, was the quality of the cake provided by the Trust, a moist ginger specimen in copious quantity, delicious !. If you would like to come along to the next 2 hour session, it is at 10am on 2nd Feb. Meet behind the village hall. No experience necessary.

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 17th May 2013 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. Since 2009 we have raised over £20,000 and it has become our flagship community fundraising event. We want to raise £10,000 from this event in 2013 we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk.

Source: SIA

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SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character

and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on

the parish website and may be viewed by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is

clearly signed on the wall of the hall. Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall. Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated. The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history. Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area. Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

Outside Lights

One of the things that makes the Parish so unique and wonderful is the lack of street lighting to blight the villages. Sadly more and more people are now erecting high wattage outside lights and leaving them on permanently. Please consider your neighbours who may not wish their rooms lit throughout the night especially bedrooms where sleep can be seriously disturbed.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's Rural Policy Campaigner said:

'Many lives are affected by light pollution. It can disturb sleep, disfigure the countryside and make the stars at night invisible to huge numbers of people.'

Discrete and considerate outside lighting that only comes on when needed is the best type to mount if lighting is considered necessary.

Everyone is becoming more aware how energy wastage is resulting in the earth's resources being diminished. Every light that is on when no one needs to use the light it casts is adding to this wastage.

So please look at your lighting needs and think of your neighbours as well as the planet and only light when needed.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Police search website.

<http://www.police.uk/>

Parish Website:

parish.bishopstone.net (no www in front)

Meetings for the year

2012/13 Meeting Dates

4 February 2013 HP
4 March 2013 HP
1 April 2013 B
13 May 2013 HP (Changed from 1st Monday due to Bank Holiday).

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
2 Downs Close
Eastbury
Hungerford
RG17 7JW

Phone: 01488 71828
Fax: None
Email: lesley@tynash.com
website: <http://parish.bishopstone.net>

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Nigel Crisp

Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790035.

Mr Andrew Greenhalgh

Old Farm House, West End Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PX. 791469.

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair)

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Dr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

101 new non Emergency Police Number

Police Headquarters
0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services
01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Refurbiz - the Domestic Appliance Re-cycling Charity.

Refurbished appliances at affordable prices with warranty

Replacing your washing machine, dryer, fridge or electric cooker? Please donate your old machines to us so we can refurbish them for families in need. Wiltshire-wide collection and delivery service. Call us on (01380) 720200. Or visit our showroom at Hopton Park, Devizes www.refurbiz.org. Registered Charity Number 1107150.

Committee	Representative (Hinton Parva)	Representative (Bishopstone)
Finance (sub committee)	Ian Thompson (Chair) Julian Cooke	Karolyn Tapper Simon Jenkins
Footpaths & Highways	Julian Cooke	Stuart McGuigan Ian Thomas
Pond & Island Management Committee		Doug Stevens Andrew Greenhalgh
Hinton Village Hall	Ian Thompson	
Bishopstone Village Hall		Karolyn Tapper
Police & Media	Nigel Crisp (Media)	Simon Jenkins (Police)
Hinton Parva Charities	Peter Cooke	
Bishopstone United Charities		Karolyn Tapper Lesley Drewett Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr)
Tree Warden	Julian Cooke	Ian Thomas
Russley Park Liaison	Andrew Greenhalgh	
Responsible Financial Officer		Lesley Drewett

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting: www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councilors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Foxhill Motocross 2012 Calendar

No more racing in 2012 is scheduled.

Planning:

APPLICATIONS

S/12/1782SASM - Erection of a single storey rear extension - The Coombes, Little Hinton Lane, Hinton Parva, Swindon Sarah Smith - 01793 466292 Before 2/1/13

S/12/1585RM - Erection of 1 no dwelling - Land to the North of the Forty's Cottage, High Street, Bishopstone - REVISED PLANS - Rhian Morris - 01793 466285 Before 27/12/12

GRANTED

S/12/0659RM - Erection of a horse walker & provision of lighting to existing ménage (retrospective) - Menehall, Russley Park, Baydon

S/12/1678RO - Erection of a front porch - 5 Poveys Place, Bishopstone

REFUSED

None.

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

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