

Bishopstone Parish Council
Mrs L D Drewett: Clerk

Blunsdon St. Andrew Parish Council
Clerk: Mrs Rachel. J Smith

Wanborough Parish Council
Clerk: Mrs Angela Raymond

Chiseldon Parish Council
Clerk: Mr Dave Thomas

2 Downs Close
Eastbury
Hungerford
West Berkshire RG17 7JW
Tel/Fax: (01488) 71828

Hyde Lodge, Turnpike Road
Blunsdon
Swindon
Wilts SN26 7EA
Tel/Fax: (01793) 705617

15 Springlines
Wanborough
Swindon
SN4 0ES
Tel/Fax: (01793) 791904

2 Saxon Mill
Chisledon
Swindon
SN4 0NP
Tel/Fax: (01793) 740767

Planning Service
Freepost SCE5251
Swindon Borough Council
5th Floor, Wat Tyler House
Beckhampton Street
Swindon, SN1 2JH

Date: 13 February 2013

Subject: Representations to Swindon Borough Local 2026 Plan Pre-Submission Draft

Dear Sir,

The Parish Councils of Bishopstone, Broad Blunsdon, Chiseldon and Wanborough have independently voted in favour of making this joint representation which deals specifically with Policy SD2 of the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. This follows on from our various correspondence on this matter over the last few weeks and seeks to improve clarity over what is intended for our four villages. As it stands we maintain that the Plan is ineffective for the following reasons:-

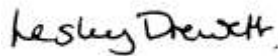
1. The Proposals Map key makes reference to “Rural Settlement Boundary (SD2)” however the wording of Policy SD2 makes no such reference to Rural Settlement Boundaries at all. The intention behind Policy SD2 sub-paragraph c must be that any development outside Swindon is contained within the Rural Settlement Boundaries of the rural settlements until such time as those boundaries are reviewed.
2. The quantum of housing referred to in Table 1 on page 35/36 for “Other Villages” is intended to refer to all villages within the Borough, however Policy SD2 sub-paragraph c specifically refers to the 4 villages of Broad Blunsdon, Chiseldon, Wanborough and Bishopstone. This inconsistency gives the impression that these 4 named villages have to collectively provide for all of the rural village quantum, which cannot be correct.

The wording of the Policy SD2 is thus at odds with the intended requirements of the Local Plan and so, as currently drafted, the Policy and hence the Plan is ineffective and thus unsound.

Taking account of points 1 and 2 above, and in order to make the Plan effective, the wording of Policy SD2 sub-paragraph c (third bullet point) should be amended as follows:-

- **“development within the Rural Settlement Boundaries of the rural settlements as shown on the Proposals Map will be supported where it delivers (at least) the quantum of development identified in the Plan (Table 1 Housing and Employment Land Distribution) and responds positively to address local needs through the Neighbourhood Plan process or further site allocation work as detailed in policy LN1”.**
3. The Housing Trajectory at Appendix 6 on page 247 of the Plan refers to 590 new dwellings being built within “Rural SBC” over the plan period. However Table 1 on page 35/36 refers to 450 new dwellings being built at Highworth, Wroughton and the “Other Villages” over the same period. The apparent discrepancy of 140 is actually made up by the proposed Brownfield development at South Marston (referred to in Table 1).
The Housing Trajectory at Appendix 6 thus needs to be amended to give clarity and effectiveness to the Plan and to ensure that there is no confusion about the number of new dwellings being proposed for the “other villages”.

Yours sincerely,



L D Drewett
Clerk & RFO to Bishopstone Parish Council

Copies:
Phil Smith