

# Neighbourhood *Plan*

## Neighbourhood Planning and Site Assessments

The Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document that sits alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Cotswold District Council Local Plan. It is about identifying future developments and land use that are needed to address social and economic issues that have been identified through evidence gathering and community engagement.

### It is a Plan by the Community for the Community

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) had identified 14 sites for consideration. The sites were selected either because the landowners had submitted their site to Cotswold District Council for assessment as a development site, or because members of the NPSG used their local knowledge to propose a site.

Three of the original sites were rejected for further consideration by the NPSG as it was felt that they were too small to be viable. The remaining 11 sites were evaluated using a site assessment template provided by Cotswold District Council. The site assessments were undertaken by members of the NPSG and volunteer residents. The site assessments, which you can find on this website, give the views and findings of groups from within our community site by site. This is the first step in a process for evaluating which sites will best meet our needs as a community taking account of the social, environmental and economic impact of each possible site and its associated development.

In March 2020, a community consultation took place in Stow and the Swells. It took two forms – a household survey questionnaire and three public drop in days – two in Stow and one in Lower Swell.

The household survey gave the community the opportunity to say what they wanted future developments to look like and which of the criteria in the site assessments are most important to them - the results were as follows:

- No significant adverse impact on existing protected green space
- Ability to walk to local services and facilities
- Not close to or including the Conservation Area
- Safe and readily available vehicle and pedestrian site access

Other key criteria that the survey showed should be used in considering whether a site is suitable for development were:-

- The views of the local community
- Preservation of key views
- Protection of listed buildings

The purpose of the drop-in days was to:-

- Draw to the attention of the community the ten sites in Stow and one in the Swells that might be used for development
- Record the community's views, priorities and preferences in relation to the possible

## development sites

The NPSG will now consider all information provided by the community alongside the initial site assessments. That will help us to consider options for development to meet the needs of Stow and the Swells through to 2031. We need to discover whether the sites would be made available for the developments that the community needs. It will also be necessary for an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken. Once we have developed a preferred plan of land use there will be further community consultation.

*A statement on behalf of Stow on the Wold and Swells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

*May 2020*