

Aldbourne Neighbourhood Plan

DROP-IN EVENT ONE SUMMARY REPORT

This is the Summary Report from all the notes recorded at the drop-in, plus a few general reflections. The Full Report, with every single comment noted, together with further information, is available on our website:

aldbourne-pc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan

GENERAL COMMENTS

- This was the a 'drop-in' event held for the Aldbourne Neighbourhood Plan – your Plan!
- Between 10.30 and 16.00 on 30th March, people were invited to 'drop-in' to St Michael's Primary School.
- The aim of the event was to start to raise awareness of the Plan and to begin gathering evidence and information on what people felt should be the scope, or focus of the Plan.
- It was one of the first warm and sunny days of spring, so we were really pleased that around **70** people called in!
- Not only that but people spent on average around 45 minutes at the event, clearly enjoying all the really interesting, challenging and creative things to do and chat about through the day.
- Mapping postal addresses after the event suggests that people came from almost all parts of the village – also really good.
- Even better, some of those who came were also interested in being involved in next stage work on evidence collection for the Plan (see over).
- A lot of information was captured that is already helping to shape the content and direction of the Plan. Below are some of the headline comments from those who came along.

KEY POINTS

- Parking, traffic and safety for pedestrians are key issues in the village.
- Traffic on Castle Street was highlighted as a particular issue and some people raised the idea of a new road between Castle Street and West Street to address this.
- The importance of engaging with young families and young people in the process of preparing the Plan was stressed.
- A number of green spaces in and around the village were considered important to preserve. NB. Neighbourhood Plans can 'designate' such areas as 'Local Green Spaces' to protect them from future development. There are some rigorous national criteria that must be met for any designation, together with a consultation process.
- An initial long list of 19 areas were suggested for Local Green Spaces in Aldbourne. These will now be tested, sifted and consulted on to establish if there are any that potentially meet the criteria.
- The character and landscape setting of the village were highlighted as important reasons why people love living in Aldbourne.
- People also commented that any development should not intrude on the skyline.

- *There is currently a requirement for a small amount of additional housing across the whole Marlborough Community Area – 34 houses, but there is no current requirement for Aldbourne to deliver any housing.*
- *There was a lot of interest in the land that is known to be potentially available for housing in the Parish (through submission to Wiltshire). The emphasis on looking at this land at the drop-in event was that these were just initial indications of areas that could be considered for development in Aldbourne although some would not meet the AONB criteria.*
- *As part of the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, this potentially available land needs to be considered, with local views, appropriateness of location and the need for development used to inform a decision on approaching development at the local level.*
- *There was broad agreement that there is a need for some housing to address the needs of older people, together with properties for local people to downsizing to and affordable homes for younger people.*

AND WHAT NEXT?

Now the all-important evidence collection begins in earnest!

This can be an opportunity for anyone to get involved ...

.... if you love walking in the landscape around, perhaps you could help to identify key views that a policy in the Plan could protect

.... or if you are interested in how locally identified housing needs could be addressed in a sensitive and locally appropriate way.

Interested? If so, get in touch with the Steering Group (see top of first page).

Over the coming months, people in Aldbourne, from the very young to the elderly, can all contribute in some way to shaping a Neighbourhood Plan* that adds an Aldbourne layer of detail and planning policies to the Wiltshire wide Plan. We'll keep you updated regularly through the Parish Council website, Facebook and posters as we progress this work.

(Neighbourhood Plans are generally made up of both planning policies and projects. The policies are restricted to what can be addressed through planning law, for example highways issues are outside the remit of a planning policy. Find out more about Neighbourhood Plans and what they can and can't address at: <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org>)*

And finally, thanks to those who were able to come along and to any taking the time to read this summary. We really appreciate your time and input in the Plan which we are hoping can play a strong and positive role in the future of our parish.

**Aldbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
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