

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Plan (BENP)

The BENP aims to:

- To set out a clear vision and strategic plan for sustainable growth of the plan area which reflects the views of the whole community;
- To set out policies which can be taken into account when Swindon Borough Council is making planning decisions, negotiating developer contributions or deciding how to allocate funding derived from other sources such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the new Homes Bonus.

This BENP applies to an area equivalent to the present boundaries of the Blunsdon Parish east of the A419.

The Vision Statement for the BENP is that:

'Blunsdon will continue to be a tranquil village with a strong community spirit with a diverse population. It will value its unique rural setting on the Mid Vale ridge and its historic heritage while improving communication links with Swindon and the wider area.'

The Plan has Four Themes to which there are set Objectives:

1. A Place people want to live

- To maintain the village feel of Blunsdon by managing development on the scale envisaged in the Local Plan 2026. In practical terms this will be limited to small scale developments over the plan period.
- To maintain areas of separation to protect the unique identity of Blunsdon and prevent coalescence with adjacent existing and proposed urban areas.
- To ensure the urban development of Kingsdown NC5 provides benefits to the parish of Blunsdon such as new sustainable links and rights of way and environmental enhancements.
- To ensure the objectives above are achieved we will seek collaborative solutions.

2. Pride in our Heritage

- To protect and enhance the heritage and historic sites within the BENP area for the benefit of present and future residents and the community.
- To ensure developments and alterations are sympathetic and appropriate
- To recognise and promote the area's heritage and history
- To register and protect Assets of Community Value within the BENP area.
- To protect valued views in and out of the village.

3. Supporting the Community

- To preserve, improve and enhance the green infrastructure and environmental assets within the BENP area
- Provide habitats that support and improve the biodiversity of the area
- To preserve special views from the hilltop village
- To reduce light pollution to minimise risks to health, hazards to road users and to encourage the presence of nocturnal wildlife.

4. Conserving Nature and the Environment

- To preserve, improve and enhance the green infrastructure and environmental assets within the BENP area
- Provide habitats that support and improve the biodiversity of the area
- To preserve special views from the hilltop village
- To reduce light pollution to minimise risks to health, hazards to road users and to encourage the presence of nocturnal wildlife.

These objectives are further defined by the 13 Policies detailing:

1. Allocation of sites for housing

- The housing policies plan for a maximum of 20 dwellings distributed over three sites all to the North of the B4019 (Broadbush). The policy proposes the construction of types of dwellings for families and more senior residents.

2. Housing developments on non-allocated sites

3. Areas of non-coalescence

- The Policy on non-coalescence proposes non-developed areas surrounding the village core, extending the area of non-coalescence between Kingsdown NC5 and Broadbush.

4. Early Community Engagement with Developers

- The Policy on early engagement plans to improve infrastructure with funds supplied by developers

5. Preserving the design and character of Blunsdon Village

- A detailed Village Design Statement provides design principles for the layout of new developments and descriptions of construction details that all new builds and alterations should follow.

6. Road Safety, traffic congestion and pollution

- The Parish Council is already engaged in creating traffic schemes to help improve road safety and to deal with the significant impact the increase in traffic has on the Village

7. Protection of Community Facilities and locally important assets

- Having already 'rescued' the Methodist Church and Hall, and registered the Heart in Hand as an Asset of Community Value, the Parish Council will continue to protect recognised Community Assets

8. Employment

- Support those that provide and are engaged in employment

9. Funding for Community projects

- The Parish Council will continue to negotiate developer contributions to enhance the Parish

10. Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Sports Facilities

- Enhancing biodiversity and improving green space for public use

11. Preservation of Views of local importance

- Blunsdon's position placed above the beautiful Thames Valley plain on the Midvale Ridge (NCA109) affords wonderful views in and out of the area which must be preserved for the benefit of future generations

12. Protection of Trees and Hedgerows

- Ensuring the well-established vegetation, that is one of the key attributes of the area's character, is always preserved and enhanced

13. Dark Skies

- Sustaining the low levels of light pollution that characterises the area

This Executive Summary shows the main substance of the BENP. Secondary documents and appendices contain the large volume of information and factual data which provides the evidence base for the Vision, Objectives and Policies listed in the BENP.

The Plan will also be published and available for download, on both the BENP and Parish Council websites. Residents are asked to read this Draft BENP and to return comments for its improvement on the form that was distributed with **May's Village Magazine** or can be downloaded from either the BENP or Parish Council web sites. Your comments should be submitted before 15th June 2019.