



A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Burghfield Consultation on our “Vision for Burghfield”

Introduction

Burghfield Parish Council is currently producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the Parish. This is a community document that will help shape the pattern of future development within the Parish. Its starting point is our vision.

In the future Burghfield will be a village with a diverse community who feel safe, happy and enjoy life in our rural neighbourhood. People will have good homes, valued public services and an attractive environment in which to live, learn, play, grow and thrive. Our houses will be our homes, our neighbours will be our friends and our healthy environment will enable us and our local wildlife to flourish.

In order to achieve this vision, our NDP will guide responsible development through the coming years. This guidance will focus on the 5 key areas of environment, housing, highways & transport, the local economy and our community.

Vision for Burghfield

Environment

Protect and preserve environmental assets within Burghfield

- **Retention of open space:** minimise development on greenfield land within the Parish and avoid creeping urbanisation
- **Conservation of our heritage:** preserve and protect sites of biodiversity or architectural value within Burghfield, including the extensive area of lakes and wetland habitats in the lower Kennet Valley
- **Flood mitigation:** plan to minimise the risk of flooding and its impact on local properties.

Housing

Ensure Burghfield has a range of housing stock that meets all local needs and is designed and positioned to enhance the ‘village’ feel

- **Range of housing stock:** provide homes suitable for people of differing incomes at various stages of their lives, including adequate provision of social and other forms of affordable housing
- **Location:** locate new housing development at sites that will result in minimum intrusion into the green space around existing settlements
- **Visual intrusion:** select sites for development that will cause minimal visual intrusion into our attractive countryside in cases where building on greenfield land cannot be avoided
- **Design:** ensure high quality design, appropriate to its location, for all new builds

Highways and Transport

Maintain a highway network that is safe and meets the needs of all users

- **Freedom of access:** ensure the highway network facilitates access to all parts of the community
- **Minimise the need for use of cars:** extend the systems of footpaths and cycle ways

The Local Economy

Employment generation

- Provide the facilities required by a thriving local economy without damaging the village feel



The Local Community

Facilitate a safe and socially inclusive local community

- **A vibrant and attractive village centre:** support investment in local shops and the provision of meeting places for social contact, including the Parish Council's proposed Community Hub as well as a public house in Burghfield Common.



Conclusion

Our country currently does not have enough homes for all the people who need them. People are living longer and many are struggling to afford a home in their local area where they need to live and work. Therefore we cannot stop new homes being built around us, but through the NDP we can make sure our local community has a say in where and how development in Burghfield takes place.

West Berkshire Council's Local Plan Review to 2036 will determine the number of new houses to be built and the NDP will have considerable influence over the location and character of any new development. We can also use it to make sure adequate infrastructure is provided to support new development and that sites of scenic, ecological and historic value are protected. Matters regarding the highways, such as speed limits and the provision of pedestrian crossings, are outside the remit of the NDP but the NDP does cover many other items that you as residents should have a say in.

Production of the NDP will involve extensive public consultation, independent examination and the final document will only be adopted if it is approved in a local referendum. If successful at referendum the NDP will become part of the Development Plan and will form the basis for determining planning applications.

Questionnaire

It is vital that as many people as possible tell us what they think about the future of the area. Please help us by completing this short questionnaire.

1. Are you generally supportive of the draft Vision Statement as presented in this document? Please feel free to give reasons

Yes

No
2. In your opinion, how could the Vision be improved?
3. Could you assist us in the preparation of the NDP? We need expertise in such areas as planning law, ecological and heritage assets in Burghfield etc.

Please use this space to give us your name, phone number and/or email address if you would like to be kept informed of progress, or would like to assist in preparing the NDP