



Thank you for attending the first of the consultations for the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan.

We hope that the following provides some useful information about the process.

### Why does Whitchurch need a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan is our way out of this never-ending cycle of applications, objections and disappointment. Once adopted a NP becomes the key tool the planning authorities will look to when making decisions on proposed plans within the village, NPs have a legal standing within the planning framework. Having a NP allows village residents to have our voices heard as to where in the village is deemed most appropriate to new housing development, along with what types of housing and the amount that is considered appropriate to the needs of the village in future years.

### Who is involved?

The NP group are all volunteers from the village, none own land that has been offered as sites. Two members of the group are also members of the Parish Council and the NP group reports to the PC on a monthly basis.

### Who is paying for the Neighbourhood Plan?

The volunteer group are working with and supported by an experienced team of consultants who have a wealth of experience in putting NPs together. The cost of the consultants is covered by a grant given by Central Government provided to communities for the purpose of putting together NPs.

### Where can I find out what is going on?

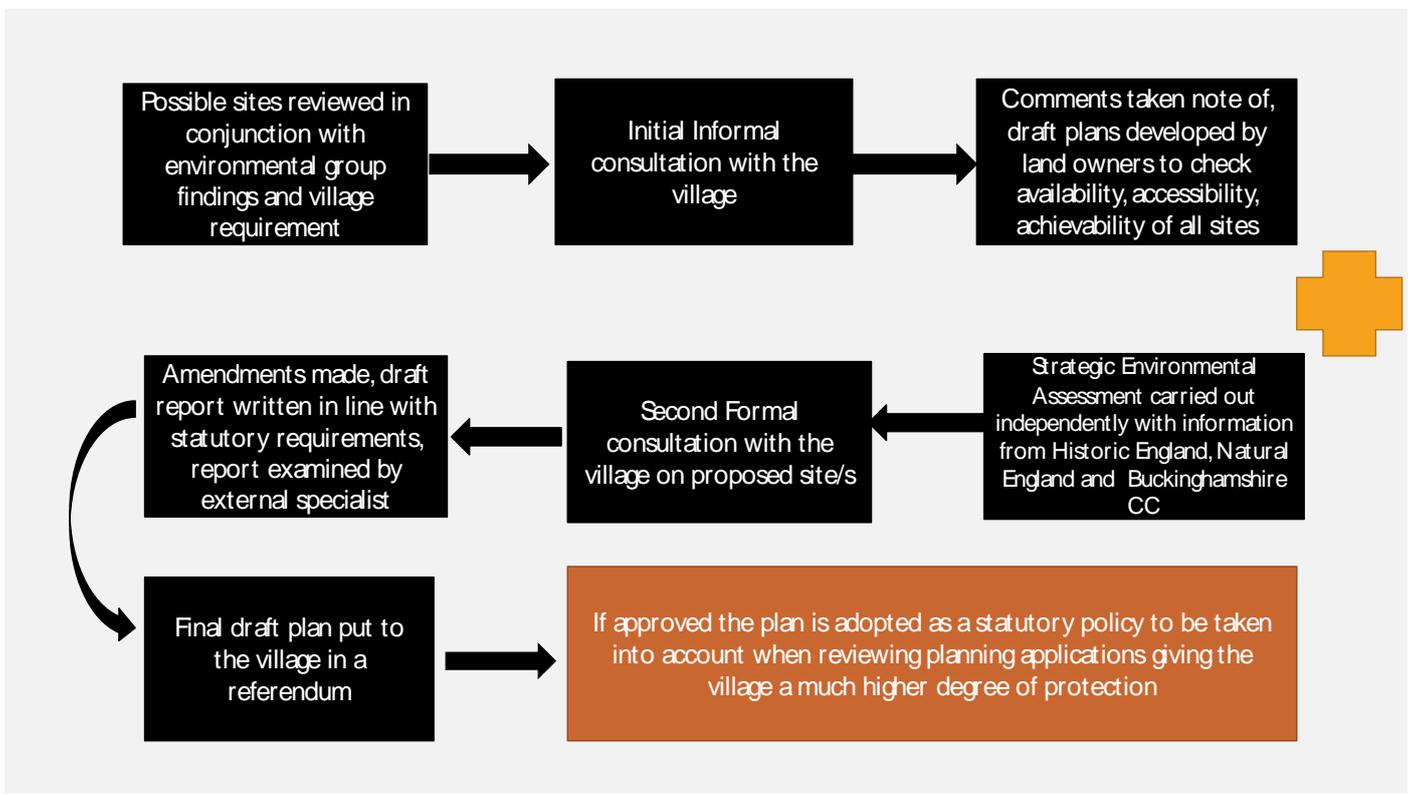
Minutes of the PC meetings are in the Whitchurch News each month, the NP group also regularly publish articles in the Whitchurch News and details can also be found on the village website

<https://www.whitchurch.org/>

### What happens next?

All the comments received during this first consultation will be carefully looked at and used to help evaluate the sites that have been offered up for consideration by landowners. Landowners will also be shortly asked to put forward their development ideas for their land including access points. Evaluation will take into place a wide variety of criteria including suitability, achievability, appropriateness, environmental impact, the historic built environment and very importantly residents' views. Ultimately a much-reduced list of site options or indeed a single option will be presented to the village for consideration.

Finally, the village electorate will be asked to vote in a referendum for the adoption of the sites. For an NP to be formally adopted more than 50% of the village must vote and a majority of those voting must be in favour.



### What happens if a NP is not adopted?

The current state of landowners/developers applying for planning permission on these or other sites will continue and without a NP to guide planners in their decision making it is highly likely that sites will be granted permission. The pressure on towns and villages to have more housing is not going away.

Many other villages around us already have an NP or in the process of developing one. Without a NP Whitchurch becomes particularly vulnerable to development.

A NP is our chance to shape the type and amount of housing in the village to help keep Whitchurch a desirable and thriving place to live.

### Who can I contact?

Please email [info.whitchurchplan@gmail.com](mailto:info.whitchurchplan@gmail.com) with any comments or questions.

Thank you for your engagement with the process.