



## **Notes of a Public Meeting Held Wednesday 27 January 2021 Via Zoom**

**Present: Steering Group Members** Cllr Mervyn Hall (Chair), Cllr Peter Cairns (Vice Chair), Cllr Noel Barrett-Morton, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Susanne Harris, Morgan Jones (Wiltshire Council), Shelley Parker (Town Clerk), Bill Roe (Marlborough College), Deborah Schofield (Transition Marlborough), Guy Singleton (Savernake Parish Council), Sir Nigel Thompson, Deirdre Watson  
Plus Dawn Whitehall (Marlborough Town Council) and 15 members of the public

### **Introduction**

Councillor Hall welcomed everyone, introduced the Steering Group members and gave a short presentation to give an overview of the draft plan content and an explanation of the consultation process.

### **Clarification questions were invited**

Responses included:

- That the number of new dwellings that would need to be built (or were already planned) in order to meet the identified need for 180 additional affordable homes was 413 (or around 11 new houses each year up until 2036)
- That the impact of an increased population on infrastructure such as roads, schools and medical facilities of additional dwellings had been taken into account. The draft plan includes the provision of 60 new, free, parking spaces as well as identifying a site for a new medical centre – but whether this went forward would be a decision for the NHS
- That a Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document and as such does not cover roads and highways. However any planning application for new developments would always be subject to consultation and approval by Wiltshire Council Highways
- The draft plan was not limited to housing – other key areas included the need for additional parking, increased cemetery capacity, expanded medical facilities, additional need for sporting facilities especially outdoor pitches, the protection of heritage and green spaces and the creation of wildlife corridors
- Acknowledging that Marlborough was a hub for villages beyond the borders of the neighbourhood plan area – for shops, sport and leisure facilities
- That a lot of the traffic congestion in the town was due to through traffic. While a traffic management plan was outside the scope of a neighbourhood plan, the need for a traffic management plan to look at improving traffic flows and other options was

already being discussed with Wiltshire Council via the Community Area Transport Group

- Confirmation that protection of SSSI/wildlife corridors and green spaces was included in the plan
- As with traffic, a town centre plan was outside the scope of the neighbourhood plan but would be beneficial for the town
- That the plan did not include any additional, luxury developments for the over 55s
- That Thames Water was a statutory consultee and would be expected to comment if any detrimental impact on the River Kennet aquifers was likely to arise as a result of the proposals

The Chairman urged everyone to take the time to read the plan and supporting documents and submit their comments. There would be another online event on 24 February that all were welcome to attend.

The plan and documents, as well as a video explaining the content of the plan and the consultation process were all available at <https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan> and hard copies of the plan could be provided for people with no access to the online documentation.