

# **Oliver's Battery Parish Council Response to Strategic Issues and Priorities consultation**

About You

**1. Can we publish your response on the website?**

**Yes, you can publish my response in full**

2. Title:

**3. First name:**

**David**

**4. Last name:**

**Kirkby**

**5. Age:**

**Prefer not to say**

**6. Are you responding as a member of the public or as a representative of an organisation?**

**Representative of an organisation (go to Q9)**

9. Organisation name (Representative of an organisation):

Organisation name:

**Oliver's Battery Parish Council**

10. Address of organisation (Representative of an organisation):

**6 Austen Avenue, Oliver's Battery, Winchester**

11. Postcode of organisation (Representative of an organisation):

**SO22 4HP**

12. Email address (Representative of an organisation):

**cllr.kirkby@oliversbattery.info**

13. Job title at organisation (Representative of an organisation):

**Vice Chair**

**14. Have you ever responded to a local plan consultation before? (Members of the public and representative of an organisation).**

**No**

15. If not, what is the main reason? (Members of the public and representative of an organisation).

**I didn't hear about the consultations**

16. Finally, to help us improve access to future consultations, please tell us where you first heard about this consultation: (Members of the public and representative of an organisation).

**Winchester City Council website**

# **Oliver's Battery Parish Council Response to Strategic Issues and Priorities consultation**

## **Vision for the district in 2038**

***Question 1. Is the vision in the current Local Plan still appropriate for inclusion in the new Local Plan?***

**No**

***What, if anything needs to be changed?***

The vision was drafted some years ago and the challenges facing the District are significantly different today, for example the impact of COVID on how we shop, work and enjoy the countryside and how we need to address climate change.

The local plan needs to deliver in accordance with the new vision and sustainable development consistent with the NPPF. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and a new vision is needed to guide the new local plan, reflecting the new challenges which WCC faces as the local planning authority.

***Question 2. Are there any elements of the Winchester Town Forum's Winchester 2030 document that could be used to help inform a vision for the Local Plan (which covers the whole of the district outside of the SNDP)?***

The Local Plan should be informed not just by the findings of the Winchester Town Forum's Vision but the work of a wide range of organisations, including parish councils, to avoid the risk of the Local Plan becoming excessively Winchester centric.

For example, the "City made by Walking" theme in the Town Forum's document does not provide the focus needed for "peripheral" parts of the Winchester Town. Oliver's Battery residents, for example, find it difficult to walk to and from town to access services and employment. Rather, they rely on buses and cars.

## **Sustainable Development Objectives**

***Question 1. Do you agree with the sustainable environmental development objectives? Please tick all that apply.***

***8 objectives with 3 questions each:***

- Agree with the objective?***
- Agree that the objective reflects the key issues that are facing the district?***
- Agree that the objective supports the fundamental aim of the Local Plan to achieve carbon neutrality?***

***Agree with all 8 objectives [the PC can't provide informed responses to the other two options as they require a detailed understanding of the issues].***

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*If you disagree with the sustainable environmental development objectives, please explain why:*

N/A

**Question 2. Do you agree with the sustainable economic development objectives? Please tick all that apply.**

*8 objectives with 3 questions each as above*

**Agree with all 8 objectives [the PC can't provide informed responses to the other two options as they require a detailed understanding of the issues].**

*If you disagree with the sustainable economic development objectives, please explain why:*

N/A

**Question 3. Do you agree with the sustainable social development objectives? Please tick all that apply.**

*7 objectives with 3 questions each as above*

**Agree with all 7 objectives [the PC can't provide informed responses to the other two options as they require a detailed understanding of the issues].**

*If you disagree with the sustainable social development objectives, please explain why:*

N/A

**Question 4. Do you have any other comments about the sustainable development objectives?**

**Because the overarching objective of a carbon neutral District by 2030 is very ambitious, WCC should focus on and monitor closely the achievability of this objective. Otherwise, the new Local Plan will be seriously undermined.**

**The objectives of the Local Plan should be SMART.**

### **ISSUE 1: Carbon Neutrality**

**Question 1. If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?**

### **Overview and Key Issues**

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The new Local Plan needs to address climate change in a way that supports and complements the delivery of sustainable development.

The objective of a carbon neutral District by 2030 is unlikely to be achievable via the Local Plan, given that there are significant sources of carbon emissions within the District over which the local plan has no control. To place achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 as the overarching objective may lead to decisions which undermine the delivery of the other elements of sustainable development, for example supporting rural communities by allowing some development to meet local housing, social and community needs.

The cost of achieving a carbon neutral development is not insignificant and would need to be factored into the overall cost of delivering a scheme and the higher costs would impact on delivery of open space, affordable housing and contribution to infrastructure.

Policy should include:

Addressing the impact of climate change in a realistic and proportional way and in a realistic timescale.

Ensuring that protecting the local environment is properly considered.

Increasing resilience to climate change impacts.

Providing for sustainable transport solutions.

Promoting low carbon design approaches to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

Engaging with appropriate partners to identify relevant local approaches.

Using local risk assessments to identify those climate risks the planning system can address.

Using local studies to provide a more detailed assessment of local vulnerability to climate impacts and the effects of extreme weather events.

Using sustainability appraisals to test different spatial options.

Basing any local requirements for a building's sustainability on robust and credible evidence and viability.

Imposing reasonable requirements for a proportion of energy used in development in their area to be energy from renewable sources and/or to be low carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development.

*Question 2. Are the possible Local Policy approaches ambitious enough and how would you rank them in order of priority?*

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	Too ambitious	About right	Not ambitious enough
Use the carbon opportunity mapping and money from the carbon offsetting fund to support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings that are located in the red or amber zone	✓		
Include climate intervention areas to target areas of the district that need improvement	✓		
Introduce a Local Plan policy that has higher requirements than the current Building Regulations	✓		
Require developers as part of the planning application process to consider the whole life carbon footprint of a building		✓	
Require developers to consider the impact of overheating		✓	
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) / Rain water gardens		✓	
Increased water efficiency standards by using less water, storing rainwater and using it for grey water recycling		✓	
Integrate the ability for people to grow their own food on larger development proposals		✓	

**Question 3. Please rank the top 3 possible Local Policy approaches in order of priority:**

	Score 1 - 3
Use the carbon opportunity mapping and money from the carbon offsetting fund to support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings that are located in the red or amber zone	<b>1</b>
Include climate intervention areas to target areas of the district that need improvement	<b>2</b>
Introduce a Local Plan policy that has higher requirements than the current Building Regulations	
Require developers as part of the planning application process to consider the whole life carbon footprint of a building	
Require developers to consider the impact of overheating	
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) / Rain water gardens	<b>3</b>
Increased water efficiency standards by using less water, storing rainwater and using it for grey water recycling	
Integrate the ability for people to grow their own food on larger development proposals	

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**Question 4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A carbon offsetting fund should be used as a last resort**

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

**Strongly agree**

**If you agree with the establishment of a carbon offsetting fund, how should this money be used?**

**A carbon offsetting fund should not be established**

### **ISSUE 2: Biodiversity and the Natural Environment**

**Question 1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

**Where biodiversity net gain cannot be provided on-site, it should be allowable to offset this by enhancing biodiversity off site**

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

**Strongly disagree**

The key here is that biodiversity net gain cannot be provided on-site. Who determines whether it cannot be provided on-site? It cannot be developers who systematically avoid providing required and agreed affordable housing and facilities after development is underway. If biodiversity net gain cannot be provided on-site, the development is not suitable for the site and should not receive planning permission.

**We should allocate land specifically for open space or for biodiversity net gain, to provide opportunities for off-site mitigation of the effects of new development**

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

**Strongly disagree**

For developments where it really is impossible to put in biodiversity net gain on-site, then it would be useful to have a well thought out area local to the development which will deliver the maximum gain.

However, if land is specifically allocated for off-site mitigation, it will be difficult to resist developers insisting that biodiversity net gain cannot be provided on-site, as WCC have already conceded the principle and it is only about the quantity.

**Question 2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Current development management policies for the protection of the countryside are adequate**

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

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Strongly disagree

*If you disagree with the previous statement, please explain your reasons and your view on what new policy measures should be adopted.*

To comment on the effectiveness of existing policies in the absence of any monitoring reports is difficult.

Option 2 in Homes for All states "The SHELAA shows that there are concentrations of potential sites ... to the south-west of the town", namely in Compton, Oliver's Battery and Hursley Parishes.

The Countryside policy MTRA4 and Settlement Gap policy (CP18) did not prevent even a small development for example Texas, Texas Drive, Oliver's Battery Winchester SO22 4HT (17/02190/FUL), and consequently will not prevent larger development, for example a "large allocation" as in Option 2 or a strategic allocation as in Option 3, if WCC include these sites in their Strategic Options.

More robust measures are required, so that WCC and planning appeal inspectors have a strong basis to resist inappropriate development in the countryside.

Local Green Spaces need to be identified and protected, recognising the importance of settlement gaps, landscape character, local distinctiveness and Valued Landscapes.

A Green Belt offers the highest level of protection and Test Valley BC now also support a Green Belt in South Hampshire.

*Question 3. Do you think a new Green Belt is needed in the south or north of the district?*

Yes

Winchester needs protection, to the south-west of the city, beyond the suburbs. Royaldown has brought this issue into sharp focus for us all. Winchester is still a city where it is quick and easy to access beautiful countryside, for leisure, for recreation and wellbeing.

The large scale loss of countryside must not happen to Winchester, once capital of England, historic and beautiful city.

A Green Belt, incorporating land west of the SDNP, taking in land in Compton, Oliver's Battery and Hursley, allowing space around settlements for the demonstrable needs for future growth.

*If so, what changes in circumstances make this 'exceptional measure' necessary:*

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Pressure for development from the south is intense, as is argued in the CPRE paper - 'Planning for a Green Belt for South Hampshire'. The document 'A Green Belt for South Hampshire' was submitted to WCC by Oliver's Battery PC in September 2020 (<https://www.oliversbattery.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OBPC-Green-Belt-Submission.pdf>).

Test Valley BC has supported a Green Belt at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. WCC should follow suit.

Having a Green Belt in South Winchester district would be entirely consistent with the 5 purposes set out in the NPPF, as follows:

- check the unrestricted sprawl of urban areas of Fareham and Eastleigh along Winchester District's southern boundary
- to prevent neighbouring settlements merging into one another, such as Compton, Shawford, Hursley and Oliver's Battery
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- to preserve the setting and special character of the historic city of Winchester
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging re-use of previously developed (brownfield) land.

### **How would a Green Belt designation contribute to achieving sustainable development in the district and adjoining areas?**

A Green Belt designation would effectively prevent large speculative developments such as Royaldown, which, contrary to its own publicity, will be car based and consequently negate any other potential contributions to sustainable development.

A Green Belt would ensure a focus on previously developed (brownfield) land, which is significantly more sustainable than development on greenfield sites, for the re-development and re-invigoration of the centre of Winchester, in particular, with the aim of including more housing, for older and younger people, together with developments of WCC affordable rented properties. Re-peopleing the centre of the city would be a sustainable way forward, as would looking again at Bushfield Camp, a brownfield site, where low-rise innovative affordable housing could be built, within the immediate boundaries of the city, with transport links and shops close to hand.

Recognising the importance of the green landscapes around the historic city of Winchester would be an innovative, sustainable approach for WCC to take - good for residents, good for business and good for tourism.

A new Local Plan enables a forward thinking authority to make a positive re-evaluation of the notion that valuing and protecting the land is not at odds with sustainable development, quite the contrary.

### **ISSUE 3: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment**

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*Question 1: Is there any need for any additional heritage policies over and above those that are already included in the existing Local Plan?*

No

The current policy CP20 seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment and support new development that recognises and protects the District's distinctive landscape and heritage assets. There is a need to educate younger generations about the importance of conserving the historic environment but this is outside the remit of the Local Plan.

*Question 2: Do you have any suggestions for how the Local Plan can be used to support energy efficient improvements to Listed Buildings?*

No

The energy efficiency aspects of a building should be addressed through Building Regulations rather than the Local Plan.

### ISSUE 4: Homes for All

*Question 1: What are your views on the alternative possible options towards accommodating development in the district? Please score these options in order of preference with 1 being your most preferred approach and 4 being the worst approach:*

<i>Options</i>	<i>Score</i>
<i>1: A development strategy based on the approach in the existing Local Plan of distributing development to a sustainable hierarchy of settlements</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>2: To focus development on Winchester itself and other larger and more sustainable settlements</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>3: A strategy that includes one or more completely new strategic allocations or new settlements</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>4: A strategy of dispersing development around the district largely in proportion to the size of existing settlements</i>	<b>2</b>

*Please explain why you have ranked the options in this order:*

Although the four options have been scored as requested, there is another approach (see response to next question) which is more sustainable than the four options identified. If it were possible to do so, it would have been score 1 as the preferred option.

Option 1 is scored as 1, as distributing development to a sustainable hierarchy of settlements is an important component for sustainable development and recognises that the South Hampshire Urban spatial area should receive an allocation in keeping with this approach. However, only Bishops Waltham and New Alresford and 6 of the other larger settlements will receive an allocation.

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Option 2 is scored as 3, as it is not appropriate to focus development on Winchester itself with one or two large sites (including the countryside in Oliver's Battery, Hursley and Compton), as needed development elsewhere will be restricted which could lead to smaller rural communities and facilities suffering and the current issues of congestion and poor air quality in Winchester will be made worse.

Option 3 is scored as 4, as the risks to delivery of focussing on one location include slower build out rates (as with Barton Farm) opening the door to WCC having to accept ad-hoc, unplanned development elsewhere. Promised delivery of affordable housing and facilities is invariably drastically cut as houses are being built (as happened with North Whiteley). Welbourne Garden Village is another example, which was included in the Fareham BC Local Plan adopted in June 2015 and not one house has been built yet and Fareham BC had to accept dropping of the affordable housing proportion. This option would be harmful to the viability and sustainability of the existing settlements. The requirement for a large amount of greenfield land will have adverse impact in relation to landscape character as well as biodiversity and flood risk.

Option 4 is scored as 2, as this option promotes more dispersed development. Winchester Town's allocation is the same as Option 1 but West of Waterlooville and North Whiteley would receive only a few. The rural element of growth could help prevent the stagnation of rural services and go some way to dealing with rural deprivation.

### *Have we identified all of the possible approaches – are there any missing that we have not considered?*

There is a 5<sup>th</sup> Option which provides a realistic and stronger alternative to Options 1 to 4 and better responds to WCC's objectives, and minimises the amount of greenfield land that might be required.

Use an Urban Opportunities Study to identify all previously developed (brownfield) sites, under-utilised land and buildings, regeneration and reallocation to other uses.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Option uses a sustainable hierarchy of settlements, for example Winchester Town, North Whiteley and West of Waterlooville (which are close to the larger centres along the south coast) and includes locations to meet local needs of market towns and smaller villages across the District, all in the following sequence:

- all sustainable previously developed land (brownfield) sites, for example Sir John Moore Barracks, however identified
- change of proposed development type at Bushfield Camp to include housing
- regeneration of Winchester Town centre to reflect the post-Covid reality, such as Silver Hill, Station Approach, and re-purposing existing vacant floorspace, for example Debenhams, including new homes to bring new life, while maintaining sufficient town centre parking

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- balance only from greenfield sites

On this basis option 5 is the preferred option. Regarding options 1 to 4, option 3 is the least preferred option and option 2 the second least preferred option (as noted in the question above).

*Question 2: We must try to meet all housing needs but, if this is not viable, which needs are the most pressing? Please score in order (1 being the most important and 4 being the least)*

<b>Pressing needs</b>	<b>Score</b>
<i>Affordable rented housing (at least 20% below market rents)</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Starter homes (shared ownership, equity loans, low cost homes for sale)</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Discounted market sales (sold at least 20% below market values)</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Other affordable home ownership (see Glossary for definitions)</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Housing for young people</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Older people's accommodation</i>	<b>3</b>

*Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Policies on student housing and houses in multiple ownership in Winchester need to ... make more provision for students in terms of purpose built accommodation (Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

**Strongly agree**

*... control new student accommodation more within existing residential neighbourhoods in Winchester?*

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

**Strongly agree**

*Question 4: Where specialised types of housing for self-build are required, should these be provided on ...*

**As part of larger housing allocation sites**

*Question 5: Where specialised types of housing for elderly are required, should these be provided on ...*

**As part of larger housing allocation sites**

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*Question 6: Where specialised types of housing for gypsies and Travellers are required, should these be provided on ...*

Separate sites

## ISSUE 5: Creating a Vibrant Economy

*Question 1: What types of economic development do we need to consider?*

*Please add industries and professions that should be supported throughout the district.*

The economic policies of the local plan should be informed by a more up to date evidence base.

A cohesive strategy between local government, the academic institutions and the right industry forums and incubators is pivotal to lead to a vibrant economy.

An ecosystem of resources and grants is required to attract businesses and to push people to create creative, artistic and economic value in Applied Computer Science for the green economy, for healthcare and for public services (social, waste, water, pollution, energy, transport, mobility, recycling).

Delivery and production and post production of digital content and media, where possible applied to driving and sharing knowledge on the future public services challenges.

Sustainable Outdoor & Wellbeing.

Hardware and Software Development for industrial automation.

Computer Science and Applied Mathematics and Statistics to the Green Economy.

Stronger and more creative plans with the local universities and colleges and with the local big businesses (e.g. IBM, Waitrose, Arquiva, etc). Local innovative farming including hydroponics in brown lands or old indoor areas (e.g. Chesil Area Tunnels and underground areas not used anymore).

Applied robotics and Industrial Automation in collaboration with Southampton Universities and the local leading high tech industries.

*Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The town centre policies should be flexible in order to reflect changes that are taking place to the retail and leisure sector, people's shopping habits and the decline in the number of office based jobs that are located in town centres.*

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

Agree

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*If you agree with the above statement, please specify how the policies could incorporate the changes in use:*

Digital talents and digital content need to be boosted first. Places are just the final step. Businesses and Investors need qualified ecosystems, an easy pool of talents and the right infrastructures.

Policies should not just focus on the town centre but also support and create places like Moorside Road where a lot of economic activities are based.

Private investment will come if there are accessible operational, engineering and highly specialised talents available.

Greater flexibility should apply to the other larger settlements across the district and not just Winchester Town. The Winchester district as a whole must grow and support additional digital and sometimes nomad remote workers and provide remote working spaces and facilities. The Winchester district must become the first choice for the talents leaving London.

WCC must monitor the “health” of the digital infrastructure to support businesses in Winchester. For “health” we mean infrastructure and services capacity, quality, support to cyber safety and security and fair competitive access to digital resources for start-ups to thrive.

*Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The Local Plan should be more encouraging and supportive of the use of vacant upper floors in town centres above shops for other uses?*

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

**Strongly Agree**

*If you agree with the above statement, what uses would be acceptable?*

A mixed use solution would help breath life back into town centres, including residential and help local businesses.

However, businesses need incentives to invest in Winchester. An example of incentive is for WCC to keep Winchester as a great place to live (Green Belt) to welcome and keep talents. Support is essential to keep and improve the quality of higher education to create and attract the right ecosystem of talents start-ups can have access to. Continuous interactions between the private sector, WCC, HCC and the local higher education institutions is pivotal to achieve this (e.g. the nursing school at the hospital).

*Question 4: Should the rural employment policies in the Local Plan be less restrictive allowing for a wider range of employment options in the rural areas and provide a wider range of uses?*

*(Yes No Don't know)*

**Yes**

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### ***How does this fit with moving towards carbon neutrality?***

A wider range of employment options will facilitate clusters of small businesses with symbiotic relationships working at the same location.

The links between the academic world, private sector and local government need to be developed to help facilitate continuous interaction. Innovative incubators where the academic world can provide the resources to the business one to monitor and drive the local, national and global carbon neutrality challenges.

The carbon neutrality objectives can drive the agenda and prioritisation of the ventures and initiatives.

### ***What measures would support people working in rural areas?***

A growth strategy that addresses rural deprivation by providing and enhancing work opportunities near settlements with a range of existing facilities, so people can use active travel to move between home, work, shopping and leisure facilities.

### ***Question 5: How can the Local Plan support home working and move towards a green economy?***

Facilitate use of electric vehicles by providing charging points in car parks.

Always promote previously developed (brownfield) sites first as they are more sustainable than greenfield.

Identify under-utilised land and buildings, promote regeneration and reallocation to other uses as they are more sustainable.

Educate to use less energy not only to use sustainable energy.

Support better energy efficiency for homes and buildings by driving energy efficiency renovations.

Ensure the digital infrastructure is fit for purpose and is not acting as a constraint on economic activity.

## **ISSUE 6: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Travel**

### ***Question 1: Are the current local plan policies for promotion of sustainable and active forms of transport ambitious enough?***

No

There should be more emphasis on the bus. Talking about walking and cycling is only applicable to people within about a mile of the Winchester city centre. And ignores people who have young children and are elderly or have a disability.

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For people in the suburbs of Winchester (such as Oliver's Battery, Badger Farm, Harestock and the further areas of Weeke) bus travel should be the focus of travel if we are to reduce reliance on the private car.

There should be a direct bus link from the train station to Winnall, which is a major employment centre.

Transport planning needs to favour the bus, for example bus lanes, giving it a competitive advantage over the car.

The bus services to Tesco in Winnall should be on a par with those to Sainsburys in Badger Farm.

**Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Development should be concentrated in locations which already have cycling, walking and public transport opportunities**

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

Agree, where the existing transport infrastructure can accommodate the additional people and vehicle movements. For instance, we support the redevelopment of the Sir John Moore Barracks site, reusing and retaining existing structures and infrastructure, easily accessible to existing bus routes. New development should be in locations where there is a genuine choice of modes of travel. Large greenfield developments do not already have cycling, walking and public transport opportunities.

**Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Provision should be made for additional Park and Ride facilities in the district**

*(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)*

Agree

***If you agree, where would you like to see additional Park and Ride facilities in the district?***

Decisions on any necessary additional park and ride should follow an analysis of need in line with new ways of living, working and shopping post Covid, the proposed strategies of redevelopment of previously developed (brownfield) sites and town centres. If required:

- there could be a useful addition to P&R on the east of the city (Bar End area) by incorporating the “temporary” HCC free staff parking into the publicly available parking
- the park and ride facility to the north of Winchester, which is part of the Kings Barton development, should be brought forward
- extending the current park and ride provisions at the existing sites (including electric vehicle charging) would be more sustainable than all new sites.

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**Question 4: Neighbourhoods that are using accessible to services and facilities within 15 minutes (using sustainable modes of transport such as buses walking or cycling) should be created**

(Strongly agree/ agree/ neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/ strongly disagree)

**Agree in principle but see below.**

***If you agree with the above statement, please tell us a bit your thoughts about 15 minutes neighbourhoods:***

This concept was proposed by Winchester Town Forum which relies on rather a small sample of people. It is not appropriate for the majority of the district's population which lives outside Winchester Town. Winchester Town has an ageing population and is pretty hilly for walking and cycling and this concept is not suitable for the "suburbs", for example Oliver's Battery.

### **ISSUE 7: Living Well**

**Question 1: Do you think current Local Plan and national policies around the provision of open space are adequate for protecting health and well-being and reducing inequality?**

(Yes, No, Don't know)

**No**

The existing standards of provision for formal and informal open space should be reviewed.

**Question 2: Do you have any suggestions for how we can plan positively to create Multigenerational neighbourhoods and communities where social isolation is reduced and opportunities for independent mobility are promoted?**

Planning needs to reintroduce housing into the centre of Winchester. Current major projects, like Station Approach and Saxongate need to be reviewed, providing more flats with balconies for older people and younger people starting out. More properties to rent in the centre also. Fewer shops and offices. Plan for green spaces in the city as opportunities arise i.e. River Park Leisure Centre site.

Issues of living well, reducing isolation, promoting social interaction, open greenspaces, resilient communities need to be dealt with not only when planning large new developments, but also in looking at built out, established neighbourhoods. Here the strength lies in the people.

The pandemic has generated a new, stronger community spirit, which has helped reduced social isolation. New, multigenerational neighbourhoods and communities do not need to be created to address social isolation,

With an aging population, a fresh look at sustainable public transport is vital. Not all needs can be satisfied by improving cycling and walking opportunities.

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Particularly in Winchester itself, which is quite hilly. Circular bus routes need planning also, linking the suburbs with the various doctors' surgeries.

Public transport needs to support communities, rather than running for profit from private companies. Community initiatives like Dial a Ride, community minibuses, taxi tokens etc, can be encouraged.

15 minute city - a vision for Winchester. Current thinking suggests that this model began in Paris; it may work in cities like London, Edinburgh, Glasgow Birmingham and Manchester. There is as yet little evidence that it would be appropriate to a small historic city such as Winchester.

Instead, lessons can be learned from existing good practice in Transition Towns, which could be applied both to Winchester itself and to the larger settlements across the districts.

### ISSUE 8: Low Carbon Infrastructure and Local Plan Viability

*Question 1: Are there any the key low carbon infrastructure issues that we need to be aware of?*

Re-use and adaptation of existing infrastructure should be the starting point for development as it is much more sustainable.

WCC should monitor the health and availability of the digital infrastructure so that it does not act as a constraint on progression.

*Question 2: Are there any other options available to the Council to address low carbon energy or other infrastructure?*

Centre new development around existing infrastructure.

The impact of new infrastructure on the environment for new development should be an integral part of assessing its merits.

The provision of infrastructure to serve new development should be phased to support the development of the new and existing communities.

### ISSUE 9: Ensuring Delivery and Success of the Local Plan

*Question 1: Do you have any suggestions or any good examples of a successful monitoring framework?*

No

*Question 2: Would you like to suggest any indicators we could use in the Local Plan to help us monitor whether we are on track to achieve net zero carbon in the district by 2030?*

No

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### **General comments**

*If you would like to make any general comments about local plan strategic issues and priorities, please do so in the space provided below:*

**The opportunities offered by the pandemic work and shopping habits should be seized, by rejuvenating town centres, facilitating working hubs and supporting homeworking, including accelerated broadband rollout, to help maximise recovery for all parts of the district.**

**The biggest mistake WCC can make as we emerge from the pandemic is to go back to the old normal.**

**Say Yes to Option 5 (No to Options 2 and 3).**

**South-West Winchester needs a Green Belt.**