

Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council  
Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation Statement

Report

November 2019

Produced by



## Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been prepared in order to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 Section 15(2). Part 5 of the regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:

1. ! Details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan;
2. ! An explanation of how they were consulted;
3. ! Summaries of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
4. ! Descriptions of how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. !

## Aims

The aims of the Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were:

1. ! To involve as many of the community as possible throughout all consultation stages of the Plan development, to ensure that the Plan was informed by the views of local people and other stakeholders from the start of the neighbourhood planning process;
2. ! To ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process where decisions needed to be made;
3. ! To engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of approaches and communication and consultation techniques; and !
4. ! To ensure that results of consultation were fed back to local people and available to read (using both hard copy and soft copy, which could be viewed on the Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Neighbourhood Plan website) as soon as possible after the consultation event.

## Background to the Plan

The rural Parish of Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh in Buckinghamshire includes the settlements of Smoky Row, Clanking, Marsh, Kimblewick, Little Kimble and Great Kimble.

Wycombe District Council sought to authorise the building of 160 new homes in the Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish area over the next 20 years, in the new Local Plan, under the proposed Policy RUR6. In January 2017 the Parish Council arranged a public Parish meeting where representatives of Wycombe District Council discussed the requirement for the new homes in the local community. The Parish Council has the right to develop its own Neighbourhood Development Plan in order to have some say as to how the community should progress Policy RUR6. At the January 2017 meeting, which was very well attended, a vote was held as to whether the Parish Council should develop a local plan; attendees voting overwhelmingly in favour of this approach.

A Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was established, comprising Parish councillors and volunteers from the Parish community. The Working Group took responsibility to progress the Neighbourhood Plan, consulting closely with the local community, Wycombe District Council and other relevant bodies. The Working Group made recommendations to the Parish Council on all formal decisions and publications and the Parish Council provided approval or direction as required.

Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council applied to Wycombe District Council to create a neighbourhood area for the whole Parish, which was the first step towards creating a neighbourhood plan. The consultation period on the proposed area ran from Friday 8 September 2017 until Monday 23 October 2017.

## Communication with the Parish during the drafting of the Plan production timetable

The following events were held to inform residents about the work on the Plan. Regular Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meetings have taken place since inception of the group, which have been open to members of the public. Regular updates and reminders were also published in the Parish Newsletter.

The Working Group adopted both traditional and digital channels of communication. A dedicated website was established at outset and updated at key points as the Neighbourhood Plan progressed: <https://www.kimbleplan.org>. Links were available from this website and the Wycombe District Council and Bucks County Council websites. Traditional communication channels included postage, the monthly Parish Newsletter, and Parish noticeboards which were kept updated. Copies of the survey forms were available in key community locations, namely The Kimble Stewart Hall, Swan Public House, and Parish schools and churches.

### 2017

- January - A public Parish meeting was held at The Kimble Stewart Hall which confirmed that the Parish Council should develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
- March - The Parish Council asked for volunteers and a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was established and a website set up.
- September - Launch of local residents' neighbourhood survey via the Parish Newsletter ending 14 September.
- September - Consultation period on the proposed neighbourhood area ran from Friday 8 September until Monday 23 October 2017.
- Ongoing - The Neighbourhood Plan process was mentioned in every Parish Newsletter in 2017.

### 2018

- January - The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group invited landowners to submit possible residential development sites for consideration in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- February - A drop-in session organised to see the detailed results of the Neighbourhood Plan Survey and meet members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. **See appendix 2 for the local poster.**
- June - A Neighbourhood Plan consultation event at the Kimble Stewart Hall and launch of stage 1 local consultation, run for 6 weeks ending August 2018.

### 2019

- January - Draft Neighbourhood Plan informally submitted to Wycombe District Council for informal review and comment.
- May - Annual Parish Meeting and launch of further stage 2 period of consultation, running for 6 weeks ending June 2019.
- November - Parish Council Meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan. All supporting documents approved by the Parish Council and now submitted to Wycombe District Council.

## Neighbourhood Plan Survey

In September 2017, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group prepared a survey sent to all Parishioners to establish how people would like to see the Parish evolve. A questionnaire was produced internally and distributed within the Parish Newsletter which ran until October 2017. The survey deadline was 14 October 2017, although those surveys that were received after the deadline were accepted. Replies were received through prepaid envelopes, scanned email submissions and just emailed comments.

A hard copy of the survey was distributed to each household with the Parish Newsletter, which had clear instructions as to its purpose and importance. It encouraged Parishioners to engage within the timescales allowed for its completion. **See appendix 1 for a copy of the survey.** The Parish Newsletter was delivered to 473 homes within the Parish in October 2017 and posters were erected within the Parish to encourage engagement and feedback.

In October 2017, 116 households responded to the Neighbourhood Plan survey – approximately 23% of the Parish. **See appendix 3 for detailed analysis of survey responses,** however, the key findings are discussed below.

**Question 1, where should new houses be built?** Nearly 76% of respondents thought the new housing should be built in small clusters; fewer than 8% thought they should be in one main location.

**Question 2, over what period should new homes be built?** More than half the respondents thought the housing should be built over 20 years, and, cumulatively, 81% thought they should be built over 10 or more years.

**Question 3, where should the houses be built?** Nearly 64% of respondents thought the housing should be built in several locations and a further 10% thought they should be built in locations not listed in the questionnaire.

**Question 4, what types of housing should be built?** Over half of respondents wanted mixed housing with some new starter homes.

**Question 5, should housing be designed in keeping with nearby housing?** Nearly 76% agreed.

**Question 6, what density should housing be?** 84% of respondents thought the housing should be in clusters or low density.

**Question 7, is 160 houses in the Parish a good number?** The respondents were fairly equally divided over whether 160 additional houses over 20 years was about right (49%) or too many (48%).

**Question 8, what do people like about the village?** Nearly 78% of respondents thought the countryside was the most liked thing about the Parish, some also specified wildlife. 47% liked the peace and quiet. 42% listed community spirit, 31% the environment, 27% the footpaths and 16% the commuter links.

**Question 9, what don't people like about the village?** Badly maintained roads (45%), followed closely by traffic (43%) and no shop or other facilities (41%).

**Question 10, what main improvements would you like to see in the Parish?** Traffic management (36%), followed by walkways/cycle paths (32%), increase in school places (28%), more amenities (27%).

**Question 11, what main safety and conservation factors should be taken into account?** Over half of respondents were concerned that road safety should be taken account of in the Neighbourhood Plan. Additionally, 39% cited inadequate speed limits and 32% traffic calming measures. 39% wanted the preservation of specific spaces to be considered and 27% wanted specific views to be preserved. During this process the website was kept updated and updates were periodically put in the Parish Newsletter.

## Call for sites and consultation event 1

In February 2018, 29 sites were submitted in the call for sites process. These sites were assessed by the Parish Council and their planning advisor for development potential, in accordance with planning policies as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The initial 29 sites were reduced to a short list of 10 possible sites, as they were considered to meet policy RUR6 of the Wycombe District Council Local Plan.

A consultation event was organised in June 2018 to provide residents with information on each of the 10 stage 1 sites, background to the Neighbourhood Plan, and explain the future process. This public consultation event was held at The Kimble Stewart Hall, Station Road, Little Kimble, HP17 0XN on 24 June 2018. Every effort was made to engage all residents and stakeholders in the area, a newsletter invite card was sent to all local properties within the Parish.

***See appendix 4 for the invite newsletter sent to all local properties within the Parish***

A total of 143 people attended the public consultation event which was organised by public affairs agency Local Dialogue. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and Parish councillors attended the consultation event, which ran between 11:00 and 17:00. Representatives for each of the 10 shortlisted sites attended the event to answer questions from attendees and materials were prepared to provide background information on each site and the process. The consultation materials were made available to be viewed on the website [www.kimbleplan.org](http://www.kimbleplan.org).

***See appendix 5 for the information presented at the consultation event***

Feedback forms were given to all attendees. The Parish Clerk was given a supply of forms and a copy of the form was put on the Parish website. In excess of 140 feedback forms were received during the feedback process, which ended on 9 July 2018. Materials were also made available in The Kimble Stewart Hall, The Swan, and Parish churches.

***See appendix 6 for the feedback form used at the consultation event***

The feedback forms asked a number of questions, around the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and the 10 shortlisted possible sites. Residents were also asked to rank their top three and the bottom three sites and reasons why, when considering the appropriateness of the site for sustainable residential development.

The majority of feedback received was returned on completed survey forms. Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council has listened to residents and stakeholders and all feedback received throughout the consultation process has been properly considered.

***See appendix 7 for the detailed feedback analysis from the public consultation and appendix 8 for the actual feedback. The website remained up to date.***

## Annual Parish meeting and consultation event 2

After extensive work by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group during summer 2018, the draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted in January 2019 to Wycombe District Council for informal review and comment.

Once this stage was completed, a further period of consultation was launched at the annual Parish meeting at 8pm on 8 May 2019 at The Kimble Stewart Hall. The consultation sought the views of residents on the pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan (stage 2). Every effort was made to engage all residents and

stakeholders in the area. A newsletter invite card was sent to all local properties within the Parish, an advert was placed in the Parish Newsletter and posters were displayed in the local area.

***See appendix 9 for the newsletter and materials published to advertise the annual Parish meeting***

The annual Parish meeting and stage 2 consultation event was well attended. This included members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and Parish councillors. Materials were prepared to provide background information on each site and the process. The consultation materials were also available to be viewed on the website [www.kimbleplan.org](http://www.kimbleplan.org).

A number of supporting documents were made available at the annual Parish meeting for review, as part of this Neighbourhood Plan process, as detailed below:

- The pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v11 - May 2019;
- Local Dialogue Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council Consultation Report - July 2018;
- AECOM Habitats Regulations Assessment - April 2019;
- AECOM Sustainability Assessment - April 2019;
- O'Neill Homer Final site assessment report - April 2019.

All of these documents were available from the Parish Clerk or [www.kimbleplan.org](http://www.kimbleplan.org). Materials were also made available in The Kimble Stewart Hall, The Swan and Parish churches.

***See appendix 10 for the information presented at the annual Parish meeting***

Feedback forms were also given to all attendees and a supply of forms was held by the Parish Clerk and a copy of the form was put on the Parish website. Materials were also made available in The Kimble Stewart Hall, The Swan and Parish churches. 69 feedback forms and pieces of feedback were received during the feedback process.

***See appendix 11 for the feedback form used at the consultation event***

This period of consultation ran for six weeks ending on 20 June 2019. The majority of feedback received, which is detailed in **appendix 13**, was returned on completed survey forms. These forms asked for a response to a number of questions as to whether the respondents support specific planning matters in the context of housing and development and whether they supported the five shortlisted sites.

No analysis has been undertaken in compiling this report or separate weighting given to whether any respondents specifically objected to a site adjoining or close to their own property and instead 'preferred' others some distance away. The majority of responses were from properties near to or adjoining the various sites and relatively few responses were received from areas such as Marsh and Kimblewick.

***See appendix 12 for the detailed feedback analysis from the annual Parish meeting consultation and appendix 13 for the actual feedback***

## Conclusion

Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council has carried out a full and thorough public consultation on their pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan. Every effort has been made to engage all residents and stakeholders.

A number of public consultation and engagement exercises were undertaken and those who took interest in the process had the opportunity to provide feedback in person, on the phone, via post and email.

Key local stakeholders, businesses, site owners/promoters and residents had the chance to meet the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and Parish councillors on numerous occasions throughout the process. This included the initial stage 1 public consultation in June 2018 and the annual Parish meeting / stage 2 public consultation in May 2019.

Feedback has been received throughout the process as to whether respondents support specific planning matters in the context of housing and development and whether they supported the proposed shortlisted sites.

Following the second round of consultation on the preferred five sites at Stage 2, overall, **58% of respondents supported the Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish Council pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan. More people supported the eight different policies in the context of planning for housing growth than opposed those policies. More people also supported the inclusion of the five selected sites than opposed the five selected.**

The data shows a number of overwhelmingly supportive comments. Often those in support are less inclined to leave a comment as they are generally content with what is proposed.