

# Westwood Parish Council [WPC] : Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group [NPSG]

## Neighbourhood Planning Strategy, current version 1.0 7<sup>th</sup> April 14

#	Topic	Slides
<b>NPS1</b>	Our Vision	<b>2</b>
<b>NPS2</b>	Our Strategic Objectives & Desired Outcomes	<b>3 - 5</b>
<b>NPS3</b>	Our Priorities	<b>6</b>
<b>NPS4</b>	Our Key Challenges	<b>7</b>
<b>NPS5</b>	Our Plan	<b>8</b>

**NPS1. Our Vision is :**

By 2026, Westwood Parish will have a stronger, more resilient community based on sustainable development in a few new or recycled locations in the village of Westwood, whilst preserving the Green Belt and the outstanding natural beauty and conservation areas within and around our Parish. Westwood Parish will have become better supported by the necessary infrastructure, with a consequent reduction in the need to travel further than the principal service centres of Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge.

Due to the geographical position of Westwood Parish on the border with Bath & North East Somerset, our proximity to Bath will have been recognised in the delivery of our neighbourhood development plans, without encouraging the Lower Westwood Road [C217] to be used as a pseudo A or B classification road by non-residents as a route to and from Bath.

In all settlements throughout the Parish, namely Westwood and those parts of Avoncliff and Iford within our boundaries, there will have been improved accessibility to local services, with better protection of our rural setting, a greater feeling of security, and an enhanced sense of community and place. We will have contributed in a small way towards tackling climate change with increased use of public transport, and by reducing the volume, speed and size of vehicles passing through our parish. The safety of our residents will have been increased, and the facilities for residents, visitors and other users of our rural highways, pathways and bridleways will have been improved.

It will have been possible to provide a limited number of new or re-developed, affordable homes to meet our local needs, and the re-development of sites for local businesses will have been supported, but all developments will have been subject to exceptional standards of design. With minimal opportunity for increased local employment and further non-residential developments, public transport to areas of employment within Wiltshire will have been provided. Westwood Parish will have safeguarded its important natural and built environments and, where necessary, extended and enhanced our capacity and capability to maintain our green infrastructure, and to improve the lifestyles of its residents.

Collaborative and cooperative partnership working will have been established with our neighbouring Town Councils of Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge, and the Parishes of Winsley and Limpley Stoke in Wiltshire, as well as Freshford in the county of Bath & North East Somerset. This approach will have enabled Westwood and all our partnering communities to plan more effectively, with mutual respect and benefits from a better managed and well coordinated plan for growth and development in our respective areas.

We will have achieved much better social, economic and environmental conditions for ourselves, and for future generations in Westwood Parish and our neighbouring areas.

**NPS2. Our Strategic Objectives & Desired Outcomes are :**

**Strategic Objective 1 :** To provide a secure and safe place to live and work in Westwood Parish. The desired outcomes are :

- 1.1 There will have been a reduction in the volume, size and speed of vehicles passing through our village, thereby increasing safety for all users of our roads, whilst reducing our local carbon footprint. *[suggested measures include the metro counts and Community Speed Watch statistics produced over the period to 2026; the reduction in the number of reported criminal activities; the number of road accidents and any injuries caused]*

**Strategic Objective 2 :** To protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environments in Westwood Parish. The desired outcomes are :

- 2.1 The neighbourhood planning and development policies of Westwood Parish will have been delivered successfully and cost effectively during the period up to 2026. *[suggested measures include the level of conformity evidenced by the number of approvals and rejections against our local policies]*
- 2.2 Any development of new homes or the re-development of existing built environments will have avoided encroachment on the Green Belt, and areas of Conservation and Outstanding Natural Beauty within and around Westwood Parish. *[suggested measures include the extent to which the boundaries in 2026 agree with the current designated areas]*

**Strategic Objective 3 :** To ensure that modern infrastructure is installed and properly maintained throughout Westwood Parish. The desired outcomes are :

- 3.1 All residential and business properties within Westwood Parish will have been enjoying opportunities presented by the latest advancements in mobile and internet technologies. *[suggested measures include the number of properties that want to use mobile and internet technologies are matched with the number that can and do; this does not mean that the Westwood Parish Council will have been responsible for the levels of service provided by mobile and internet service providers]*
- 3.2 All our highways, pathways and bridleways in Westwood Parish will have been routinely maintained to the highest standards possible for a rural environment, including signage and white-lining. *[suggested measures include the number and frequency of reports sent to Wiltshire Council]*
- 3.3 All our water and sewerage networks of pipes and other drainage facilities, such as gullies, but also including the removal of surface water during bad weather, will have been radically improved, if not wholly replaced. *[suggested measures include the number and frequency of reports sent to Wiltshire Council; the amount and severity of flooding, or the damage and costs of floods to property]*

**NPS2. Our Strategic Objectives & Desired Outcomes are :**

**Strategic Objective 4a :** To enable regular and reliable public transport from Westwood Parish to the full range of services provided in Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge.

**Strategic Objective 4b :** To encourage alternative modes of getting around, such as cycling, and walking on safe and properly maintained pavements and on-carriage footpaths.

The desired outcomes are :

- 4.1 A positive contribution will have been made to help areas of social exclusion, especially their access to local facilities in Westwood Parish, and to essential services outside the Parish. *[suggested measures include the increased number and frequency of public transport services provided to and from Westwood Parish to local service centres, including Bath; the provision of disabled access to all local facilities; the provision of a safe network of pathways and foot paths around our Parish]*
- 4.2 A move away from the habitual use of private vehicles will have been achieved, especially for making short journeys, towards greater shared use of affordable public transport. *[suggested measures include Community Speed Watch statistics showing a decline in number of cars using our roads]*

**Strategic Objective 5 :** To provide positive support and contribution to the delivery of the Wilshire Core Strategy, where it is possible and appropriate to do so within the limited scope and capacity of Westwood Parish. The desired outcomes are :

- 5.1 All local developments, if allowed to proceed, will have been approved in line with our community-led development policies in the Westwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan or other similar approach adopted by the Westwood Parish Council. *[suggested measures include the number of breaches either actively stopped from happening, or have been allowed by the Local Authority to proceed knowingly against our neighbourhood policies]*
- 5.2 A minimal number of new homes will have been built to meet local needs, and the features and locations will have been proportionate with the capacity and spatial limitations of the Parish. *[suggested measures include the extent to which any allowed development has been kept within the current Westwood settlement boundaries, or within the future boundary if the community have agreed to such an expansion, and the number which the Local Authority have been allowed to proceed on Green Belt land, or on areas of Conservation or Outstanding Natural Beauty]*
- 5.2 Any new or recycled developments must be of the very highest standard of design and construction, and conforming to the materials and style of surrounding properties. *[suggested measures include the number that conform or not with the neighbourhood policies for design and construction]*

**NPS2. Our Strategic Objectives & Desired Outcomes are :**

**Strategic Objective 5 [continued] :**

- 5.3 As a prerequisite for approval, but without prejudice and commitment to grant permission, all new developments must produce a detailed assessment and plan to show : *[suggested measures are the extent that these conditions are met and delivered by developers]*
- a. The positive impacts on the social, economic and environmental factors affecting Westwood Parish.
  - b. The negative impacts and how these will be addressed.
  - c. The written responses to each concern raised by the community to the Westwood Parish Council, and they will be overcome.
- 5.4 The delivery of our strategy will have provided a positive net contribution to the goals of tackling climate change in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. *[suggested measures include working with our Local Authority to identify mutually beneficial measures to show our gross and net contributions to the delivery of their Core Strategy for addressing climate change]*
- 5.5 Westwood needs to ensure that it provides enough housing :
- a. to cater for clearly defined local needs. Housing requirements must be based on a robust and credible evidence.
  - b. to support our local economy, which we define as :
    - i. firstly, businesses and employment within Westwood Parish.
    - ii. secondly, businesses and employment within neighbouring Town and Parish Council in the county of Wiltshire.
  - c. to improve our self-containment.
  - d. to avoid creating further unsustainable out-commuting flows from Wiltshire.

**NPS3. Our Priorities are :**

1. Enhancing and protecting the quality of our rural setting, specifically the Green Belt and areas of conservation and outstanding natural beauty within and around our community.
2. Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure to our community, especially :
  - a. The maintenance of our roads and pavements.
  - b. The management of surface water and radical improvement of drainage.
  - c. The provision of high speed and reliable internet connection throughout our Parish.
3. Enabling all our local businesses, schools, societies and services to thrive in our community.
4. Increasing the safety of all users of our village roads by installing and enforcing an effective combination of traffic calming measures to reduce the volume, speed and size of vehicles passing through the Parish.
5. Maintaining the condition of our roads, pavements, public footpaths and bridleways to a consistently high standard.
6. Providing cost effective and frequent access by public transport to our local service centres in Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge.

**NPS4. Our Key Challenges are :**

1. Wiltshire Core Strategy :
  - a. Generally, the parish of Westwood has limited opportunity to support the Core Strategy to provide at least 37,000 new homes in Wiltshire in the plan period from 2006 to 2026.
  - b. Specifically, the parish of Westwood has limited opportunity to contribute to the Bradford-on-Avon area target to provide at least 160 new homes in the large villages of Holt, Westwood and Winsley.
2. Security and Safety :
  - a. All village communities are further away from those public services which we need in times of emergency, including the provision of healthcare and dental services.
  - b. Westwood Parish needs to improve its resilience and protection of public and private assets from theft or criminal damage, and other antisocial behaviour and impacts on our community. Each resident needs to own this responsible.
3. Environmental quality :
  - a. A key challenge is how to protect our environment in a way which supports the Wiltshire Core Strategy for positive growth and development, yet preserve the rural setting of Westwood Parish.
4. Infrastructure :
  - a. We need to have modern capabilities to benefit from an increasingly global market and communications network. As with many rural villages in Wiltshire, the internet connection to our homes and businesses is slow, unreliable and, in some case, unavailable.
  - b. We do not want to improve our village roads to an extent that enables them to continue to be used in as pseudo B roads. Rather, we want to maintain our roads at an appropriately high standard for our rural parish, and to reduce the volume and size of vehicles which use them.

**NPS5. Our Plan is :**

The Neighbourhood Planning process comprises Stage 1 [Scoping] and Stage 2 [Delivery]. The first step below is the initial and critical phase of Stage 1, where the next steps will be taken during the subsequent and final phase of Stage 1. Stage 2 is **not** being addressed at this stage.

**Stage 1 Step 1 : 28<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> July 14**

The first step is to define, document and agree the “what” and the “why” we need to produce a Neighbourhood Plan or a similar local planning and development policy document :

- a. our Vision.
- b. our Strategic Objectives and Desired Outcomes.
- c. our Priorities and Key Challenges.

**Stage 1 Step 2 : 7<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> October 14**

The next step will be to produce an executable plan which will describe the “how” and the “when” our Strategy will be delivered. This will typically include :

- a. The realistic and achievable schedule or timeline of activities, including key milestones.
- b. The estimated costs and benefits associated with the delivery of our Strategy.
- c. The measures to be applied to all outcomes. This quantification will determine the successful delivery of our plan.
- d. The resources required, including the grants and other funding which may be available.
- e. The risks to be mitigated, and the issues which need to be managed and resolved.
- f. The governance mechanism for controlling the delivery of our plan, including change management and impact assessments.