

Christian Malford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Progress report for 2016

Dear fellow Parishioners.

Rather like ducks on a rapidly flowing river all appears calm and quiet on the surface but our little legs have been paddling like fury underneath!

After a quiet period whilst the draft plan was being considered by officers at Wiltshire Council, members of the committee met with the Senior Planning Officer and the Conservation Officer for a tour of the village, with particular emphasis on the Historic Environment. Following this visit we were asked to review buildings that were constructed prior to 1915 but were not on Historic England's 'List'. These are known as Undesignated Historic Assets. As a result the NDP now includes a couple of additional pages on the Historic Environment together with a statement relating the need to preserve these undesignated historic assets.

In July Wiltshire Council finally agreed that the NDP was ready to go out to consultation, and this process closed in October with around 40 written responses, the vast majority of which were supportive of both the plan and the principles underlying it.

A further meeting was held in November with Wiltshire Council to review the responses and to agree the scale and scope of changes and/or rebuttals required.

Further meetings were held in November and December 2016 and the final draft is now expected to be completed by the end of January 2017. At this stage it will go out to a second consultation with statutory consultees before being put before the Parishioners in a referendum – probably in the early summer of 2017.

At the end of January, members of the committee will be attending a neighbourhood planning event in the Guild Hall in Bath for Parish and Town Councils across the South West. This event is aimed at parish and town councils at any stage in the process: from those groups just thinking about neighbourhood planning right through to those that have 'made' plans and are thinking about reviewing their plans. It is expected that this event will be useful in developing the final 'polish' to the NDP prior to it being made ready for the referendum.