



Marlborough

Area Neighbourhood Plan

PRESS RELEASE

14th June 2016

Launch of the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan

Marlborough, Mildenhall, Preshute and Savernake are working together towards producing a Marlborough Neighbourhood Area Plan. Leaflets are being delivered to all households in the area letting everyone know that on Saturday, 18th June between 10am – 4pm, local residents and businesses, traders and voluntary groups are invited to an Open Day to learn more about what this plan can deliver and, really importantly, pass on their views about the issues that it needs to address.

What is it? The Neighbourhood Planning process provides a statutory right for local people to influence development and growth in their area. Within parameters, they are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, influence future plans for transport and car parking as well as medical and educational provision, open spaces and sports facilities. Also have an input on the design of any new buildings and what infrastructure should be provided. It involves plenty of consultation but, once a plan is published, it becomes part of the planning system for helping to determine planning applications.

How would our own plan fit in with all the other rules about planning? The Wiltshire Core Strategy was adopted in January 2015 and is a plan for future development across the whole county and guides decisions alongside the National Planning Policy Framework on whether or not planning applications can be granted. Our Neighbourhood Plan would work within this but, is able to go one step further with its own policies set at a very local level addressing those local issues.

Who is working on this on our behalf? The Steering Group is made up of representatives from all four parishes who meet regularly and work to a project plan and through dedicated Working Groups. External funding has been awarded and will help to fund work around, for example, an up to date Housing Needs Survey and Analysis. As the area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB), it is likely too that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment will be needed, a form of screening to look how the Plan may affect the environment and ensure that it matches up with European regulations too.

Chairman of the Steering Group, Councillor Mervyn Hall said: “This is a real opportunity for those in Marlborough, Mildenhall, Preshute and Savernake to come along to the Open Day to tell us what they feel needs to be addressed and learn more from us about what can and, of course, what can’t be covered by the Plan. We hope as many people as possible will come along on Saturday and give us their views.”

The Open Day will run from 10pm – 4pm in the Court Room of the Town Hall with free refreshments on offer.

More information at www.manp.co.uk and at

 [Marlborough-Area-Neighbourhood-Plan](https://www.facebook.com/Marlborough-Area-Neighbourhood-Plan)