



## PRESS RELEASE

24 March 2023

### The Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan is 'MADE'

On Thursday, 23 March 2023, nine years of dedicated hard work by volunteer members of the community were rewarded by a resounding vote YES to the question:

**"Do you want Wiltshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Marlborough to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"**

Put simply, this means that residents agree that the policies about land use within the Plan, concerning housing development and the need for more affordable homes, lack of parking space, protection of green spaces, protection of buildings used as community assets, building design, history and heritage will add significant weight when planning applications or development proposals are considered by Planning Officers – planning power at the most local level, focusing on the things that are important to those who live and work in the area.

Chair of the Steering Group, Councillor Mervyn Hall, who has been on the long journey right through from inception to realisation of the Plan, was accompanied by Marlborough Town Councillor and Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough East, Caroline Thomas and Town Clerk Richard Spencer-Williams to observe the count in the Town Hall after the polls closed at 10pm.

A delighted Mervyn said "The adoption of the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan is a very important step forward in ensuring that the views of our community are taken into account when decisions are taken on planning applications. The Plan will provide for developments to meet the needs of the community and provide vital protections to our environment and heritage.

It has taken a long time to produce and I would like to thank the members of the MANP Steering Group, past and present, for their many hours of work and dedication that has made this possible."

Town Councillors and Steering Group Members are entirely voluntary roles and are not paid. And while everyone deserves a rest from the hard work and time to celebrate, the work doesn't stop here – current legislation means that Neighbourhood Plans must be reviewed and updated every two years.

Marlborough Town Councillors are enormously grateful to Mervyn and all Steering Group Members, past and present, for their dedicated hard work on behalf of the community. I took over the role of Secretary to the group when Shelley Parker, the former Town Clerk, moved on from Marlborough in 2021, and we owe Shelley a special mention too.

There were 939 votes 'yes', 163 votes 'no' and 5 rejected papers.  
The electorate was 6,940 with 1,107 ballot papers issued.  
The turnout was 15.95%.

Official notice at <https://elections.wiltshire.gov.uk/Home/Division/8349> and attached as a PDF.

*Richard Spencer-Williams*

Richard Spencer Williams, PSLCC  
Town Clerk

# DECLARATION OF RESULT

## Referendum on the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan

on

Thursday 23 March 2023

### For the electoral area in the parishes of: Marlborough, Mildenhall and Savernake

I, Caroline Rudland, being the Deputy Counting Officer at the **Referendum on the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan**, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded at the said Referendum is as follows:

Question	Number of Votes		
	Yes	No	*
Do you want Wiltshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Marlborough Neighbourhood Area to help it decide <u>planning applications in the neighbourhood area?</u>	939	163	CARRIED

\* If the proposal has been carried the word 'Carried' appears against the Question.

\* If the proposal has not been carried the word 'Failed' appears against the Question.

\* If the proposal has no majority, enter the words 'No Majority' appears against the question.

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of ballot papers
A want of official mark	
B voting for and against the same question	
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	
D unmarked or void for uncertainty	5
E rejected in part	
Total	5

Electorate: 6940

Ballot Papers Issued: 1107

Turnout: 15.95%

And I do hereby declare that result of the question asked has been

carried in favour of making the order.

Dated : Thursday 23 March 2023

Caroline Rudland  
Deputy Counting Officer

Printed and published by the Counting Officer, Electoral Services, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire,  
BA14 8JN

## What is it and why have it?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document with legal status that is used as part of the planning application process for new developments or changes to existing buildings. The Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan has been put together over the past 6 years following consultation with local people, and has been developed and refined to reflect local views. It aims to offer a balance between the needs of our community and of the environment we live in by including policies to:

**Support** the provision of more affordable housing  
**Protect** our natural environment, landscapes in the surrounding area, open spaces within our communities  
**Protect** against speculative and unwanted developments  
**Preserve or improve** community infrastructure:  
| parking | medical centre |  
| cemetery capacity | sports pitches |  
**Protect** our heritage: listed buildings, historical sites, buildings of special interest

The Plan has had a long process of consultation, drafting and refining, following the stages required by law

**It is now in its final form  
and Wiltshire Council put it to a  
REFERENDUM on  
THURSDAY 23 MARCH**

**This was your chance to have your  
say, and to approve the document  
which will help to make  
YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
the place you want to live in**

For the Plan to be adopted it requires a majority vote in favour.

If this is not achieved the community will have less control about how land is used, and be more at risk from unwanted development: it covers the years up to 2036

You can read the full Plan, supporting documents, FAQs, other information and find out about attending in-person or online meetings at [marlborough-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://marlborough-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan)



**Marlborough**  
Area Neighbourhood Plan

## Where?

[The Area](#) covered by the Plan – the parishes of Marlborough (including Manton), Mildenhall and Savernake

## Who?

[Meet the team](#) – the Steering Group: the people who volunteered their time to make it happen

### Steering Group Members

#### COUNCILLOR MERVYN HALL - CHAIRMAN

Originally from Leicester, Mervyn has lived in Marlborough since 2003 having previously lived in Surrey, Berkshire and Essex. He has been married to Cath since 1976 and has three grown up sons and seven grandchildren, all of whom live locally in Marlborough, Swindon and Highworth.

Mervyn's principal qualifications are Chartered Engineer with a degree in Electronic Engineering and a postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies. He has worked in a variety of posts for Philips, Mars, Siemens, British Aerospace and QinetiQ and is now retired. His interests include History (Secretary of Marlborough History Society and Trustee of The Merchant's House), Bridge (Secretary of Marlborough Duplicate Bridge Club) and he enjoys playing tennis and badminton.

Mervyn has been a Marlborough Town Councillor since 2013 and held the posts of Deputy Mayor for 2016/17, Town Mayor for 2017/18, Deputy Mayor for 2018/19 and Town Mayor for 2019/20.



#### RICHARD SPENCER-WILLIAMS - SECRETARY

Richard is Marlborough's Town Clerk and heads up a small, busy team at the Town Council. Work includes the management of assets such as the Town Hall and commercial and residential properties, running events (the Christmas Lights Switch-on, Remembrance Parades, Civil War Re-enactment, Royal visits, etc.), looking after open spaces, playgrounds, cemeteries and gardens, the day to day running of the Council offices and, most importantly, helping visitors and residents.

As Secretary, Richard doesn't vote on Steering Group decisions.



### COUNCILLOR NOEL BARRETT-MORTON

Noel is from Ulster and was elected to Marlborough Town Council in October 2011. He was Marlborough's Town Mayor in 2016/17 and his civic duties took him to all parts of Wiltshire during his Mayoral Year.

Noel has had a long and successful career firstly in stockbroking in the City of London and then in Civil Aviation as a pilot with British Eagle and then British Airways. He also owned a Financial Services Company Eden Financial and was Chairman of a property development company. He is now mainly retired and lives in the centre of the Town.



### STEWART DOBSON

Stewart was born in Marlborough and educated at the Grammar School. He was the owner and Managing Director of a Ford Dealership, later in a specialist capacity for Audi Motor Company, and a non-executive Director of a Housing Association.

He was first elected to Marlborough Borough Council in 1971 and continued to represent Marlborough without a break at different tiers of local Government until May 2021. He was Mayor of Marlborough in 1986/87 and again in 1999/00. As a Wiltshire Unitary Councillor he sat as Chairman of the Area Board. He has been a Governor of all the schools in Marlborough, a Trustee of the Merchants House, and Chairman of Kennet Community Transport. After representing Marlborough as a Wiltshire Councillor for many years, Stewart stepped down from his councillor roles in 2021.

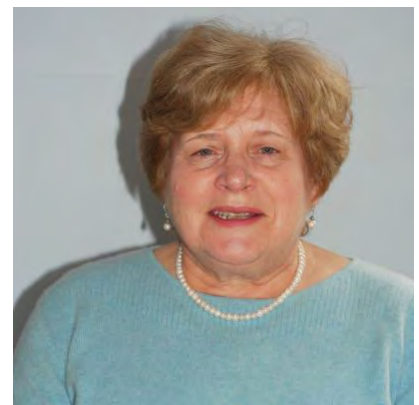
Married with four children and three step children, he currently has eleven grandchildren.



### SUSANNE HARRIS

Susanne was born in Savernake Hospital, spent her school days in Marlborough and was employed in further education as a special needs lecturer. She has lived most of her life in Marlborough apart from a few years when first married as, yes; there was no affordable housing in Marlborough for first time buyers.

Susanne is a member of the Marlborough and District Dyslexia Association, a local charity, and a committee member and the helpline officer. She brings to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group her local knowledge, experience, great love of Marlborough and its surrounding area and her skills in researching. She is particularly interested in developing a balanced housing policy with affordable housing for local people and also maintaining and improving, where possible, the built and natural environment.



## GUY SINGLETON

Guy grew up in Chepstow before moving to Salisbury when he was 19, he went to what is now the Royal Agricultural University (then a College) and after graduating moved to Cadley in 1982 and worked for many years managing The Crown Estates' Wiltshire Holdings, working for Carter Jonas, in 2011 left to become a self employed Land Agent and Planning Consultant. He is married to Suzie and they both have a strong interest in Classic Cars.



Guy became a Savernake Parish Councillor in 2014 and is currently the Chairman of the Parish Council.

## CAROLINE THOMAS

Caroline became a Marlborough Town Councillor in May 2021 and is also a Wiltshire Councillor for the Marlborough East ward. Caroline lives in Marlborough. Whilst out of scope for the Neighbourhood Plan, she is very aware that traffic and road safety issues remain a high priority. She is also very committed to improving the lot of young people, particularly considering the impact Covid lock downs had on mental health and social skills.



## SIR NIGEL THOMPSON, KCMG, CBE

Sir Nigel Thompson KCMG, CBE, is former Chairman of Mildenhall Parish Council and has lived at Stitchcombe since 1972. He is a retired Civil and Structural Engineer, having being Deputy Chairman of Arup, where he was responsible for the design and construction of many buildings and civil engineering projects throughout the world. He led a British Government/Private Sector Task Force for the Reconstruction of Kosovo following the war in the Balkans in 1999. Between 2003 and 2008 he was the National Chairman of CPRE and is a former President of Action for the River Kennet.



Nigel is married to Nicky and they have three children. The youngest, Phoebe, lives and works in Marlborough.

## DEIRDRE WATSON

Deirdre moved to Wiltshire from Essex in 2014, having previously worked as a civil servant, in-house lawyer and company secretary. Her work gave her experience in the public, private and not for profit sectors, in locations including Oxfordshire, Washington DC, Essex and London.

She lives in Mildenhall, and is involved in various local community organisations.



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## Former members

### COUNCILLOR JUSTIN COOK - VICE CHAIR

Justin was Vice Chair with Mervyn Hall right at the start of the process, and was actively involved until he left the Town Council and handed over the reigns to Peter Cairns.

In addition to his work on the Neighbourhood Plan, Justin was passionate about providing opportunities for young people and worked closely with Councillor and Mayor Lisa Farrell to ensure the Town Council did all it could to provide youth and sporting facilities for the town's young people.



### COUNCILLOR PETER CAIRNS - VICE CHAIR

Peter stepped down from the Town Council and the Steering Group in May 2021 but his contributions are greatly appreciated for getting the plan from conception to a draft plan on paper - thank you Peter.

Peter was born on 14 January 1956 in Newcastle upon Tyne. A love of Engineering and Astronomy led him to study Astrophysics at the University of Leicester. He has spent most of his working career practicing the dark arts of Radio Frequency engineering, either on aircraft, spacecraft or mobile phones. He started his career in Filton, Bristol, before venturing to various engineering sites around Europe in Toulouse, Antwerp & Friedrichshafen.

He moved to Marlborough in 1996 to work on mobile phone technology in Basingstoke & Swindon before spending 3 years in New Zealand studying for a Geophysics MSc at Victoria University in Wellington, they even gave him his own volcano to play with! Peter then returned to the UK in 2006 to continue his previous career in spacecraft engineering in Portsmouth. After leaving Portsmouth in 2014 Peter returned to Marlborough, deciding to find out more about local affairs, and becoming an independent councillor for the West Ward in 2017.

He's still trying to establish a telescope in the back garden, but, unfortunately travels & the garden are winning.



## SHELLEY PARKER

Shelley was Town Clerk until March 2021, and a hard working secretary to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group from its inception. No voting rights were associated with Shelley's role.



Other past members include William Roe, Deborah Schofield, Peter Morgan and Sam Page

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## What does it cover?

The Neighbourhood Plan is community-led so local people have a real input and influence on land use in their area. The Steering Group held roadshows in 2016 and 2017 in Marlborough and adjacent parishes, and the feedback steered local priorities. Those initial consultations provided a clear direction of what was important to address in the Neighbourhood Plan. Following detailed work, another series of informal public consultations & exhibitions were held during the summer of 2019 in Marlborough, Mildenhall & Manton. This included surveys and an online [questionnaire](#) (paper and online formats). A report on this consultation which analyses comments and findings can be found here: [MANP Informal Consultation Report](#)

The key points were:

### Housing

- Lack of affordable housing for sale and for rent, specifically for younger people or those looking to downsize, including more social housing
- More variety in the range of sizes of homes, including smaller family homes
- Less retirement complexes

### Amenities

- Lack of parking for residents
- Additional GP services and improved GP facilities, including parking provision
- A replacement Preshute Primary School
- Improvement of local sports facilities

- Additional cemetery provision
- Lack of comprehensive planning, specifically in delivering infrastructure

### Countryside and Recreation

- Open spaces are valued and should be protected from harmful development
- Existing green spaces need to be maintained and improved
- Improved access to the countryside through enhancing the existing network of rights of ways, footpaths and cycle ways and new public open spaces



### Business and Employment

- An increase in high density employment locations
- Promotion of tourism
- Increased parking for visitors and workers
- Support for rural diversification and use of rural buildings

### Design, Conservation and Heritage

- Protecting local Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, specifically the Rivers Kennet and Og and their associated water meadows

The initial consultations were followed by studies to back up these findings, including a [Housing Needs Analysis](#), [Car Parking Study](#) and [Town Centre Benchmarking](#). A call for sites was made asking landowners to put forward potential sites to meet community need – affordable housing, more car parking, improved health facilities, a replacement for Preshute School, recreation land and a new cemetery.

Before finalising the draft Plan and its policies and moving onto the final statutory stages of the process, the Steering Group wanted comments on what was being proposed to make sure the views of the community were captured. So, in July and August 2019, a set of informal consultations were held in Manton, Mildenhall & Marlborough. These started on 12 July 2019 and

ran to 12 August 2019. The consultations included exhibitions of the current status of the Neighbourhood Plan work & the associated studies. Read the report here: [MANP Informal Consultation Report](#)

## Timeline

### 2014

Background investigations, feasibility, visit Malmesbury to talk about their Neighbourhood Plan (the first in Wiltshire)

### 2015

May: the first formal Steering Group meeting was convened. Invitations were sent to neighbouring parishes – Ogbourne St Andrew, Preshute, Mildenhall, Savernake; organisations (schools, medical partnership, chamber of commerce, interest groups e.g. Transition Marlborough) Scoping, membership, next steps. Read the [minutes](#) here

### 2016

Public consultations at open days – confirmation of parishes (“the Designated Area”) – Marlborough, Mildenhall, Savernake and Preshute

### 2017-2019: Detailed work begins...

- Open evenings, public meetings (housing needs, parking needs)
- Survey posted to all households
- Consultations and survey results published in reports:
  - [Housing needs analysis](#)
  - [Parking](#)
  - [Benchmarking Report](#)
- [Call for sites](#)
- More open events in Manton, Marlborough, Mildenhall and at Area Board meetings and [online survey](#)

### 2020

- [Preshute Parish withdraws](#)



**Marlborough**  
Area Neighbourhood Plan

12 July 2019  
Press Release

**Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan – Informal Consultation**

**Do you live in the parishes of Marlborough and Manton, Mildenhall, Preshute or Savernake?**

**Are you concerned about the Marlborough area's lack of affordable housing, inadequate parking and insufficient leisure and community facilities?**

If so, now is your opportunity to find out how the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is proposing to address these and other issues that were raised by the community during our initial consultation period.

We would like to tell you about our proposed policies which aim to influence land use for the benefit of the whole community. Your views in relation to the draft policies will be very welcome and may be given at any of the following events where presentations will be on display and questionnaires available too. Members of the Steering Group will be on hand to discuss any aspects of the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan:

**Manton Village Hall - Wednesday 17 July: 6pm - 8pm**

**Marlborough Town Hall - Saturday 20 July: 10am – 3pm**

**Marlborough Area Board - Tuesday 23 July: 6pm – 7pm**

**Mildenhall Village Hall - Wednesday 24 July: 6pm – 8pm**

Just a reminder .....  
**What a Neighbourhood Plan cannot do**  
*Propose less growth than that planned for in Wiltshire Council's Local Plan or prevent development from taking place. It does not influence highways or transport links.*

**What a Neighbourhood Plan can do**  
*Shape and direct future development and land use.*

This consultation is also available online at [www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

For further information, please contact Shelley Parker, Town Clerk, Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 1AA Email: [townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk) Telephone: 01672 512487

- [Consultation](#) to recreate Designated Area for the plan
- Neighbourhood Area [Confirmed](#)
- [Consultation](#) (Regulation 14)

## 2021

- Drop in events planned, but had to go online because of lockdown rules
- Draft Plan submitted to Wiltshire Council – (Regulation 15) to check that the correct procedures have been followed, and that all required documents have been submitted. Wiltshire Council then arrange for an independent examiner to check that the plan meets the basic conditions
- [Consultation](#) (Regulation 16)

## 2022

- More drop in/online events
- Referendum scheduled for August then postponed – delayed by [legal challenge](#), cleared in October
- December – failed application for judicial review

## 2023

- Drop in and online events
- Referendum 23 March 2023

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## The Neighbourhood Planning Process Explained

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-neighbourhood-process>