

Puriton Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation Statement



Puriton Parish Council

August 2023

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Preface

Our Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by Puriton Parish Council, as the ‘qualifying body’ with overall responsibility for the preparation, consultation, and submission of the Neighbourhood Plan. The development of the plan and management of the process has been marshalled by a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group comprised of members of our community and Parish Councillors, advised by planning consultants Stuart Todd Associates Ltd.

This Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Puriton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to conform to the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should:

- Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- Explain how they were consulted.
- Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted
- Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

This Consultation Statement summarises all statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken with the community in developing the Puriton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The aims of the Puriton Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were to:

- ‘front-load’ the consultation, so that the Plan could be informed by the views of local people and other stakeholders from the earliest stage.
- ensure that consultation events and drop-in sessions enabled people ‘have their say’ and get feedback on the emerging plan at key points in the process and when decisions were required.
- engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of events and communication techniques; and,
- ensure that the results of consultation and updates on the neighbourhood plan were provided for local people as soon as possible after consultation events through the most appropriate and widely read media.

This Consultation Statement and the supporting appendices are considered to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

Community Consultation Statement

Puriton Parish Council was keen to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan was a community-led document. The Puriton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established from community volunteers with Parish Council representation and the widest range of people and groups have tried to be engaged.

Consultation on the plan was undertaken by the Steering Group working to a programme that was prepared, with some guidance from our consultants Stuart Todd Associates Ltd¹.

Regular updates about the Plan's development and progress were given at parish council meetings by parish councillors sitting on the neighbourhood plan steering group.

1. Summary of Main Consultation Events and Survey

Consultation events and surveys took place at the following stages in the neighbourhood planning process. These are set out with more detail later in this Statement alongside other key parts of the ongoing consultation and communication process as the plan was developed.

Puriton Neighbourhood Plan – Main Consultation Events and Surveys		
Event	Dates	Purpose
Open Day at the Village Hall	25 th Feb 2017	To ask residents to vote on whether they want a Neighbourhood Plan to be created, and to ask for volunteers for the Steering Group
Party in the Park	8 th Aug 2017	Set up map and photographs to get information and perspective from villagers regarding their village, and to raise the profile of the Neighbourhood plan steering group to see if any others would like to join
Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire (Survey)	w/c 5 th Nov 2018 – 24 th Dec 2018	Gather feedback from residents to inform the Parish Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. This feedback will form the vision, aims and objectives of the Plan
Neighbourhood Plan Pop Up Event: Public walk in day and feedback exhibition	17 th November 2018	Encourage completion of the questionnaire and ensure engagement with the community remained as high as possible
Public consultation: Hog roast to discuss the results of the questionnaire with the residents	2nd June 2019	Feedback on the questionnaire results, gathering further information about what was important to the residents and initial verbal discussions about the vision and aim of the Plan

1. <https://www.stuarttoddassociates.co.uk/>

Puriton Neighbourhood Plan – Main Consultation Events and Surveys		
Event	Dates	Purpose
Call For Sites	3 rd June 2019 – 29 th July 2019	To ask any local landowners to bring forward sites for consideration in the Plan

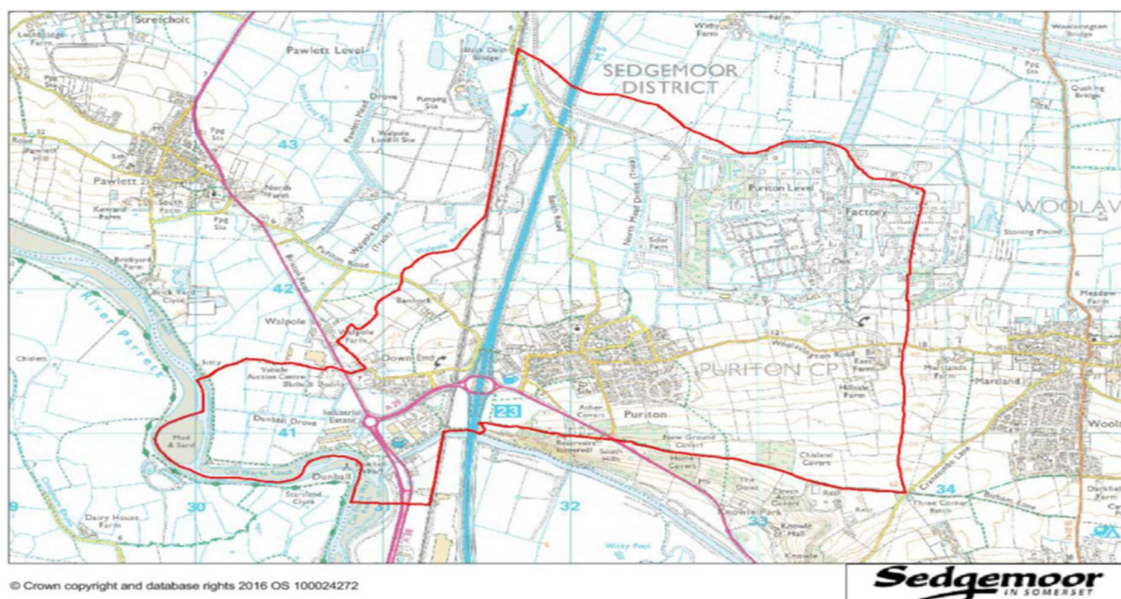
2. Background to Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan

Puriton Parish Council agreed to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan in November 2016, after which the application to designate the Neighbourhood Area was submitted to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC). A community steering group was established in the weeks and months that followed by recruiting willing members of the Parish Council community at large². The Neighbourhood Area was designated by SDC on 2nd Feb 2017 following consultation during which no comments were received by the local authority.

The level of consultation that has been undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan goes beyond that required by legislation as the Parish Council and its Steering Group³ has continuously sought to work with the local community to make the Plan, as much as possible, reflect their views and wishes.

In preparing the Puriton Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has consistently ensured that residents and other stakeholders including local authorities, interest groups, landowners, businesses and statutory bodies have been consulted and that their comments have been noted and where appropriate incorporated into the Plan as it evolved.

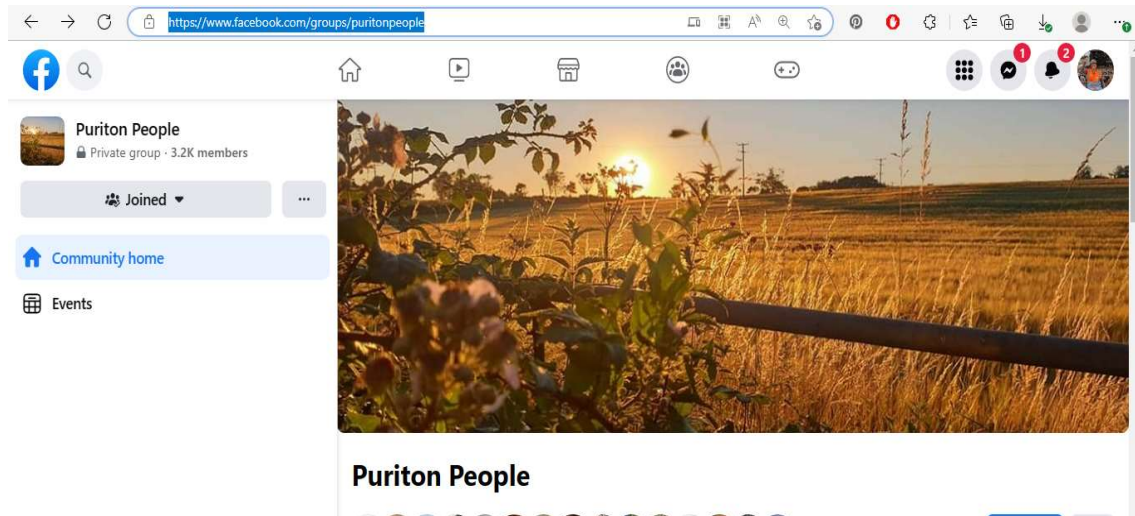
In order to make available information, some minutes and notices, and update residents and stakeholders on the progress of the Plan an early decision was taken to use Facebook and provide updates on the Parish Council website⁴ so that as much information as possible could be made easily accessible online and an easy method of feedback could be established.



² [\(2\) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DROP IN SESSION | Facebook](#)

³ [https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/#Evidence/Additional information/Puriton Engagement Strategy](https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/#Evidence/Additional%20information/Puriton%20Engagement%20Strategy)

⁴ See [Neighbourhood Plan – Puriton Parish Council](#) and [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#)



A Facebook Puriton People group which was already in existence was updated with relevant events and information, to try to reach as many members of the community which use social media as possible⁵. These can be seen by searching the page with Neighbourhood plan.

3. Summary of Consultation Approach to Engage the Community

A number of key community consultation stages were identified at the outset and set as key milestones.⁶ A plan for when and how to consult the community was discussed at steering group meetings. The process to be followed for consulting the community was discussed and set out as part of the overall project and management plan during steering group meetings. This was done to enable each consultation stage to be properly planned for and to ensure that the community at large understood when and why they were being consulted. Notes of steering group meetings are available to view on the Parish Council website under Neighbourhood Plan⁷. Our planning consultants Stuart Todd Associates Ltd produced a Project Plan to help assist with timeline deadlines and other guidance⁸.

There was a desire by the steering group for the process' outputs to remain proportionate to the tasks while meeting requirements set out in the Regulations and following good practice. It was also keen to avoid consultation fatigue amongst the community and to make key stages of consultation worthwhile to help move the process forward.

The basis of our approach to consultation with the community was to follow several important principles:

- Publicising as widely as possible
- Utilising a variety of methods
- Applying the right method to the task and the required outcomes
- Providing appropriate levels of assistance, explanation and interpretation

⁵ See [\(2\) Puriton People | Facebook](#)

⁶ Including information gathering at Party in the Park Aug 17, Questionnaires both online and paper in /Nov 18. Questionnaire feedback to residents June 19. Call for sites June & July 19. Summary presented to Parish Council June 22. Consultation feedback 6 weeks Oct-Dec 22.

⁷ [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#) Neighbourhood Plan/Minutes

⁸ <https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZm18T7ZHhipSJDf3zuEiGD5nSAcF8cXz9By>

- Maximising access and opportunity
- Encouraging reaction and feedback
- Reporting back on what was said and how it has been interpreted

Aside from programmed and organised consultation ‘events’ during key stages of the process, the Steering Group has been keen to facilitate a continuous two-way dialogue with the community at large. This has been achieved by:

Communication Methods:	Brief Description:
Website	Regular updates, meeting minutes, documents made available on Parish Council website Neighbourhood Plan section ⁹
Social Media	Posts on Puriton People Facebook
All residents	Residents and businesses given regular updates in the Parish newsletter ¹⁰ delivered to every household in the Parish (May 2019, August 2019, December 2019, October 2020, October 2021, March 2022, June 2022, September 2022 and December 2022)
Parish Noticeboards	Notices and bulletins
Signs and banners	Signs and banners advertising consultation events
Posters	In local shop, the village hall, bus stop
Parish Council	Regular reports of progress to parish councillors

The meeting minutes have been available online since June 2017 and can be found at: [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#) under Neighbourhood Plan Archived.

4. Equality and Inclusivity

We recognise that the foundation of a good neighbourhood plan is an effective and inclusive programme of consultation and engagement. Our aim was to reach everyone with a stake in the future of the area including people living or working here, those who deliver services to the local communities and people who have influence over the future of the area. We wanted to communicate and listen to everybody with a view, regardless of gender, ethnicity, colour, disability, religion, family responsibility, age, occupation, marital status, or sexual orientation. We listed the many local community and voluntary groups that are active within the parish and agreed how best to consult them during the process.

⁹ See [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#)

¹⁰ <https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/> Newsletter

5. Launch and Events

The Neighbourhood Planning session held on 25th Feb 2017 was a resounding success in that approx. 85 residents joined the Parish Council at the village hall to discuss the prospect of creating a Plan for the parish. A paper ballot was held and of those 68 who voted ALL voted that Puriton should have a neighbourhood plan. 13 residents signed up to say they would be willing to form a steering group to take forward the process.

Community Events and Questionnaire (Survey)

The ongoing events and community questionnaire served the dual purpose of consultation on the Parish Plan review and the neighbourhood plan. The joint parish plan and neighbourhood plan event format and content and the questionnaire was developed by the Puriton Parish Plan Committee and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to ask key questions about a wide range of issues and themes which could be of relevance to both the parish plan and neighbourhood plan.

How did we consult?

After the initial agreement from residents on 25th Feb 2017 to submit a Neighbourhood Plan, we decided to 'launch' the neighbourhood plan process at the Party In The Park on 8th August 2017. The focus of this was on:

- raising awareness and informing the community about the process and timetable
- what a neighbourhood plan is and can achieve
- ask about some of the key planning and development issues that residents feel could be addressed in the Plan
- ask the community to get involved in producing the Plan

Reminders about the event was posted on the Facebook page.

The next step was to create and distribute the questionnaire, ensuring it was widely available, easy to access and return. This was hand delivered to every home and business w/c 5th Nov 2018, paper copies made available and an online version created and linked on Puriton People.

On 17th November 2018, a 'Pop Up Event' was held at the Village Hall to raise awareness of the questionnaire which also asked a range of parish plan related questions such as:

- asking about some of the key planning and development issues that residents feel could be addressed in the Plan
- asking questions to help fill gaps in our understanding of key local issues and problems
- asking about people's aspirations for their themselves and their neighbourhood

366 residents attended this event and printed copies of the questionnaire were available to complete (56 completed questionnaires returned) or take home. A copy of the questionnaire/survey was hand delivered by the steering group to each household in the Parish (with a freepost envelope), an online version created using Google Docs and reminders were posted on the Facebook page. They could

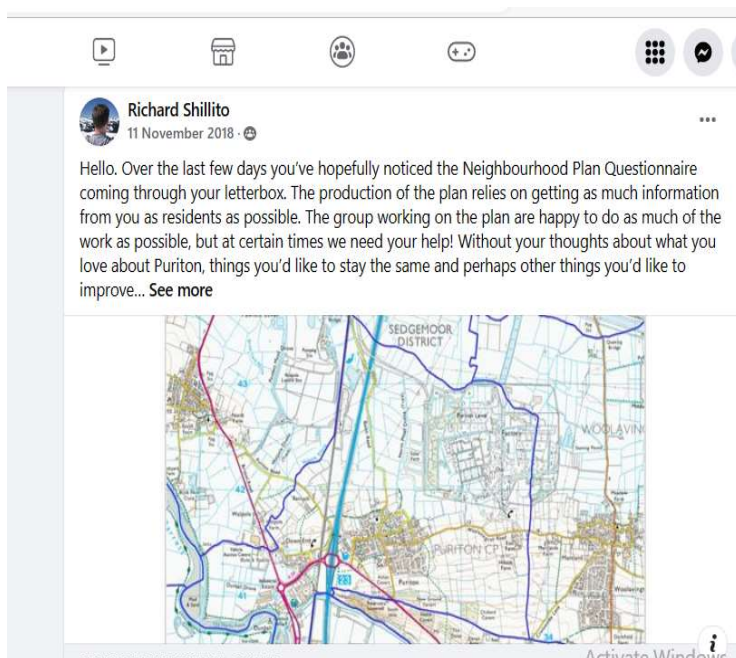
also be dropped off in collection boxes at the Post Office and Butchers and feedback was accepted to 24th Dec 2018.

Puriton Neighbourhood Plan: Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire	
Date(s)	Delivered w/c 5 th November 2018
Delivery Method(s)	Distributed to all residents and business premises. Copies also available in the Post Office and shop.
No. of questionnaires available	c.2,500
No. of completed questionnaires returned	366 (c.18% response rate)
Return Options	Butchers, Post Office, freepost envelope or online version

Who was consulted?

Everyone that lives or works in the Parish had the option to attend the events. These events were publicised in on Facebook, on a large banner outside the Village Hall and posters and leaflets in key locations in the Parish such as the Post Office, shop and parish noticeboards.

An article announcing the events was published and distributed to every household and business premises in the Parish in the local parish magazine.



How were the issues and concerns responded to?

A fuller report of this consultation has been available online since June 2019 along with other updates and the Parish Plan Recommendations when finalised and can be found at: [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#) Questionnaire Results. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the report on the survey and consultation events. The results of the consultation events and the feedback from the questionnaire was discussed at length by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who, from the responses determined the initial key planning issues appropriate for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. All other issues were then taken on by the Parish Council for review and inclusion in the Parish Plan.

The messages from the community that came out of the survey and accompanying comments were a key aspect of the process to develop a set of draft aims and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Housing Needs Survey

It was decided that a local housing needs survey was required in order to determine the level of housing requirements that currently existed in the parish. Our local housing needs requirements could not be derived from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment used by SDC.

How did we consult?

We commissioned a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)¹¹ from Locality to inform our emerging Neighbourhood Plan. There were two research questions (RQs) for the HNA to answer. The RQs serve to direct their research into the key neighbourhood-level issues and provide the structure for the study.

RQ 1: What Affordable Housing (social housing, affordable rented, shared ownership, intermediate rented) and other market tenures should be planned for in the housing mix over the Neighbourhood Plan period?

RQ 2: What type (terrace, semi, bungalows, flats and detached) and size (number of habitable rooms) of housing is appropriate for the Plan area over the Neighbourhood Plan period?

What did they say?

This Neighbourhood Plan housing needs assessment aims to provide Puriton with evidence on a range of housing trends and issues from a range of relevant sources. This HNA recommends that the neighbourhood planners should, as a next step, discuss the contents and conclusions with Sedgemoor District Council with a view to agreeing and formulating draft housing policies, bearing the following in mind:

- All Neighbourhood Planning Basic Conditions, but in particular the following: Condition A, namely that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State; Condition D, that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development; and Condition E, which is the need for the Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan;
- The views of Sedgemoor – in particular in relation to the quantity of housing that should be planned for;
- The views of local residents
- The views of other relevant local stakeholders, including housing developers
- The numerous supply-side considerations, including local environmental constraints, the location and characteristics of suitable land, and any capacity work carried out by Sedgemoor, including but not limited to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
- The recommendations and findings of this study
- The impact of the Government's Stand

¹¹ [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#) Neighbourhood Plan/Evidence/Design Code and HNA

7. Vision, Aims and Objectives Consultation

The Puriton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook work to analyse and interpret the information we gathered and what we had been told through various surveys and consultation events. We used all this evidence to prepare a set of draft aims for the Neighbourhood Plan. These aims were then used to develop draft objectives and an overall vision statement.

Questionnaire results feedback: identifying themes for the vision and aims of the plan	
Date	2 nd June 2019
Location(s)	The Village Hall
Attendance (Nos.)	270

We held a community consultation which presented the results of the questionnaire, for the public to consider, the key neighbourhood planning and development issues and opportunities presented to us to date. The consultation also set out the key emerging themes from residents and all the information gathered was used to create the draft vision, aims and objectives now contained within the Plan.

The consultation ran from 12pm to 4pm. The whole Parish was made aware of the consultation event by posters on local noticeboards, an article in the Parish Magazine, on the Parish Council website and on Facebook.

Copy of the poster displayed across the Parish
([https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/neighbourhood plan/evidence](https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/neighbourhood%20plan/evidence))

In the run-up to the event, reminders were posted on the Facebook page.

Puriton Neighbourhood Planning Group Event

Hog Roast – Sunday 2 June 12 – 4pm
Village Hall

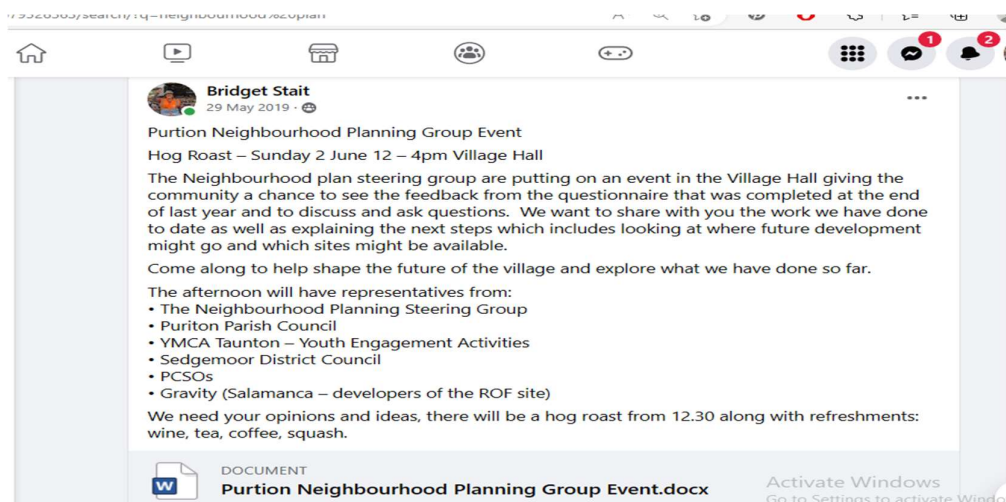
The Neighbourhood plan steering group are putting on an event in the Village Hall giving the community a chance to see the feedback from the questionnaire that was completed at the end of last year and to discuss and ask questions. We want to share with you the work we have done to date as well as explaining the next steps which includes looking at where future development might go and which sites might be available.

Come along to help shape the future of the village and explore what we have done so far.

The afternoon will have representatives from:

- The Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group
- Puriton Parish Council
- YMCA Taunton – Youth Engagement Activities
- Sedgemoor District Council
- PCSOs
- Gravity (Salamanca – developers of the ROF site)

We need your opinions and ideas, there will be a hog roast from 12.30 along with refreshments: wine, tea, coffee, squash.



Residents took the opportunity to view the information displayed, leave comments and were given a chance to see the feedback from the questionnaire that was completed at the end of last year and to discuss and ask questions. We shared the work done to date as well as explaining the next steps which includes looking at where future development might go, and which sites might be available and to explore what we have done so far.



What did they say?

Overall, people were very positive about what was shown. The feedback we received was generally consistent with the answers provided to the Community Questionnaire and initial feedback to the launch event¹². Many of the draft aims and objectives we offered received endorsement from those that attended, especially relating to:

- Protecting and enhancing the historic and built environment
- Parking provision in the village
- The scale and design of future development in the parish

A full discussion took place at the steering group meeting on the 13th Aug 2019 where the draft vision was agreed <https://puritonparishcouncil.org/?mdocs-file=3788>

8. Call For Sites

As part of the public consultation on 2nd June 2019, we advertised that a Call For Sites would be made from 3rd June – 29th July 2019.

¹² [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#) Neighbourhood plan/Evidence/Additional Information/Community Day 02.06.19

Call For Sites – Land Availability Site Submission

Who: Puriton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

What: Puriton Parish Call for Sites

Why: Puriton is classified as a Tier 2 settlement in the Sedgemoor Local Plan. This means that Puriton has to accept an element of Sedgemoor's growth, not just meet the needs of the community. This doesn't amount to a huge amount of new development within the Parish, but there will be some.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, we have decided to carry out a Call for Sites for the parish. By knowing what sites might come forward in years to come, we can then review the sites and include the best ones within the Neighbourhood Plan. Development is set by Sedgemoor District Council as the Local Planning Authority. By doing this process we are not encouraging more development, but trying to influence where development goes.

How: Landowners or their agents to complete the Site Submission Form

Where: Please return the form together with a map which clearly identifies the boundary of the site to: **Puriton Parish Council Clerk, 17 Sealey Close, Draycott, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3UA.**

Electronic copies are available at:

<http://www.puritonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood-Plan.aspx>

Return electronic copies to puritonnp@gmail.com

When: The Call for Sites is open for 8 weeks: 3rd June – 29th July 2019

Queries: Please send any queries to puritonnp@gmail.com

Landowners were asked to complete and submit a Land Availability Site Submission Form¹³ and return it to the Parish Clerk.

It was advertised on Facebook on 1st June 2019 with a reminder posted during the eight week period.

Posters (example here) were posted on village noticeboards and in the businesses within the Parish for the full duration of the period, and it was also advertised on the Puriton Parish Council website.

We made printed copies of the form available at public events at the Clyst Room on both the 6th and 7th June in the evening.



Richard Shillito

June 5, 2019 · 🌐

Hello. If you didn't manage to make it to the village hall on Sunday, a member of the Neighbourhood Plan group will be in the Clyst Room (church hall) today, Thursday and Friday between 7 and 8pm. We'll have our displays on the questionnaire replies and the call for sites, and will try to answer any queries you have. If you'd like to chat about being more involved with the Neighbourhood Plan, we can have a chat about that too.

9. Regulation 14 (Pre-submission Stage) Consultation

Neighbourhood Plan regulations require that a statutory consultation period of a minimum of 6 weeks is undertaken by the qualifying body (the Parish Council) on the final draft plan prior to its submission to the Local Planning Authority in advance of their statutory Regulation 16 consultation.

Who was Consulted?

The Regulation 14 consultation is specific about organisations and stakeholders that should be consulted. The legislation requires that prior to submitting the Plan to the local planning authority the qualifying body (the Parish Council) must:

- publicise it in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work, or carry on business in the neighbourhood area;
- consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development

¹³ [Documents – Puriton Parish Council](#) Neighbourhood plan/Evidence/Additional Information

plan; and (See Appendix 3 for the full list of statutory consultees which was provided by Sedgemoor District Council).

- send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.

All the residents and businesses within the parish were consulted together with the required statutory and strategic bodies. A copy of the plan was also sent to the Local Planning Authority, Sedgemoor District Council, although its officers had previously provided comments to help shape the policies of the Plan as they were drafted.

How were they Consulted?

Flyers and posters were placed in all shops and notice boards throughout Puriton, a copy of the poster was included in the Sept 2022 Puriton Newsletter (distributed to every household), a copy included on the Puriton Parish Council website and advertisements were put on Facebook. This directed people to an online copy of the plan, but hard copies could be viewed at various locations in the parish and individual copies could be requested.

Comments could be left at drop-off points in the parish or submitted online. Members of the community were encouraged to contact a member of the steering group if they wanted a paper copy of the full Plan.

A link to the plan and notification was also sent by email to the landowners of areas identified as Local Green Spaces on 3rd Oct 2022, two weeks before the draft consultation period commenced. All local bodies and statutory organisations¹⁴ were notified with details of the period of consultation and confirmation of when responses were required.

In advance of the formal commencement of the consultation period, the key content of the Plan was presented to the Parish Council on 14th February 2022 during which any members of the public could ask questions and discuss the Plan.



¹⁴ <https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/#> Neighbourhood Plan/Evidence/Additional Information

What did the Consultees say?

A total of 25 written responses were received and a summary of the responses are set out at Appendix 3 and is available to view on our website ¹⁵.

10. Summary of Consultation Approach to Statutory and Strategic Consultees

With the help of our consultant and Sedgemoor District Council, we prepared a contact list of all bodies and organisations that serve or provide services to the parish for use during the development of the Plan and during the later stage of the pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation.

The aims of the Puriton Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were to:

- ‘front-load’ the consultation, so that the Plan could be informed by the views of those with an interest in the parish from the earliest stage
- to ensure the neighbourhood planning process was informed by the views and intentions of statutory bodies and stakeholders
- to take fully into account those views and intentions
- meet the requirements of Regulation 14

11. SEA and HRA

Sedgemoor District Council were contacted and a request made for a screening opinion with regard to the need or not for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and / or Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken.

Screening Opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Somerset Council considers that the Puriton NDP is not a “plan or programme” of a type described at Regulation 5(2), 5(3) or 5(4) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It therefore does not require SEA.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Natural England responded to the request for feedback during the Reg 14 draft consultation and commented that while there are no nationally or internationally designated sites within the plan area, they welcomed the importance given to the protection of the natural environment within Puriton Parish. This was well reflected through the Neighbourhood Plan, and specifically in Policies BNE3, BNE4 and BNE5 (and accompanying maps) and did not request the steering group complete a formal HRA.

¹⁵ <https://puritonparishcouncil.org/documents/> Neighbourhood Plan/Evidence/Additional Information/Summary of draft plan consultation responses FINAL

12. Conclusions

The level of community consultation and engagement undertaken during the production of the Puriton Neighbourhood Plan has been varied and extensive. It has reached a wide range of the local population through a variety of methods and mediums. A wide variety of groups and different sections of the community have participated or commented on the emerging draft Neighbourhood Plan during the process.

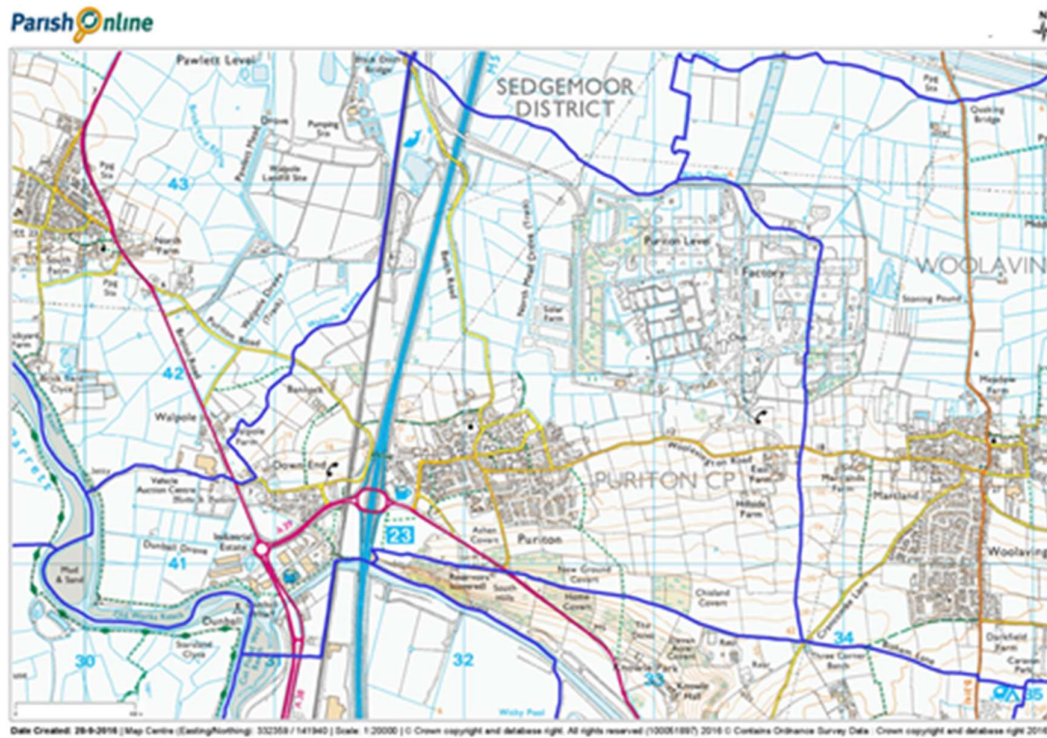
The views, comments and suggestions received at each stage of the Neighbourhood Plan have been fully considered and have helped to guide and shape the form of the Plan so that it not only reflects what local people wish to see happen for their area but takes account of how we can share future planning and delivery with outside bodies and organisations so as to realise our aims and objectives.

In preparing the Puriton Neighbourhood Plan we have made strenuous efforts to establish and maintain a dialogue with those bodies and organisations covered by Schedule 1 of the Regulations and those other bodies and organisations we have identified as having an interest in our parish.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Image of the designated parish area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan.



Appendix 2

Regulation 14 Consultation

Organisation	Category	Sub Category
Civil Aviation Authority	General Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Local Enterprise Partnership	General Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Local Nature Partnership	General Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Office of Rail and Road	General Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce	General Consultation Body	Represent business
Federation of small businesses	General Consultation Body	Represent business
Home Builders Federation	General Consultation Body	Represent business
Somerset Chamber of Commerce	General Consultation Body	Represent business
Children with Disabilities Service - Somerset	General Consultation Body	Represent disabled persons
Compass disability	General Consultation Body	Represent disabled persons
Somerset Care	General Consultation Body	Represent disabled persons
Somerset Community Care Matters	General Consultation Body	Represent disabled persons
Friends Family and Travellers	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
Gypsy Liaison Officer - Somerset	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
Somerset Diverse Communities	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
Somerset Equalities Officer Group	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
Somerset Multicultural Association	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
The Traveller Movement	General Consultation Body	Represent racial/ethnic/national groups
Somerset Churches Together	General Consultation Body	Represent religious groups
Age UK Somerset	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Allotment Society	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Ancient Monument Society	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Bridgwater and District Civic Society	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Bridgwater Heritage Group	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
British Horse Society Somerset	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Building Research Establishment	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Campaign to Protect Rural England	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
CAMRA	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Canal & River Trust	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Community Council of Somerset	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Council for British Archaeology	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Fields in Trust	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Georgian Group	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Health Watch Somerset	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Inland Waterways Association	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body

National Trust	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Open Spaces Society	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
RSPB	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Sedgemoor Bridleways Association	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Sedgemoor Ramblers	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP)	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Badgers Group	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Building Preservation Trust	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Gay Health	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Playing Fields Association	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
South West Heritage Trust	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Sustrans	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Twentieth Century Society	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Woodland Trust	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Young Somerset	General Consultation Body	Voluntary Body
Avon and Somerset Police	General Consultation Body	
Buses of Somerset	General Consultation Body	
Design Council	General Consultation Body	
Forestry Commission	General Consultation Body	
Homes in Sedgemoor	General Consultation Body	
NFU	General Consultation Body	
Somerset Drainage Board Consortium	General Consultation Body	
Somerset Environmental Records Centre	General Consultation Body	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	General Consultation Body	
Sports England	General Consultation Body	
The Road Haulage Association	General Consultation Body	
Visit Somerset	General Consultation Body	
CTIL (on behalf of Vodafone and Telefonica (O2))	Specific Consultation Body	Communications Act 2003
EE Ltd	Specific Consultation Body	Communications Act 2003
MBNL (on behalf of EE and Three)	Specific Consultation Body	Communications Act 2003
Mobile Uk (mobile operators association)	Specific Consultation Body	Communications Act 2003
Openreach	Specific Consultation Body	Communications Act 2003
Somerset County Council - County Ecologist	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Education	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Estates Team	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - General Enquiries	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Highways Development Management	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Lead Local Flood Authority	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Minerals and Waste Planning	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Public Health	Specific Consultation Body	County Council
Somerset County Council - Transport Policy	Specific Consultation Body	County Council

Environment Agency	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Highways England	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Historic England	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Homes England	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Natural England	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
NHS England	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
NHS England - Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Regulator of Social Housing	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group	Specific Consultation Body	Duty to Cooperate Body
National Grid	Specific Consultation Body	Electricity transmission/distribution licence
Western Power	Specific Consultation Body	Electricity transmission/distribution licence
Wales and West Utilities	Specific Consultation Body	Licence to convey gas
Sedgemoor District Council - planning policy	Specific Consultation Body	Local Planning Authority
Parish Council - Bawdrip CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - Bridgwater Without CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - Chilton Trinity CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - East Huntspill CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - Pawlett CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - Wembdon CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - West Huntspill CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Parish Council - Woolavington CP	Specific Consultation Body	Parish Council
Wessex Water	Specific Consultation Body	Sewerage/water undertaker
Network Rail	Specific Consultation Body	
Portfolio Holder	Ward Councillor	
Ward Councillor - Puriton and Woolavington	Ward Councillor	
Ward Councillor -Puriton and Woolavington	Ward Councillor	
Paul Lowndes	Gravity	
SDC	District Council	

Appendix 3

Pre-submission (Regulation 14) Consultation: Summary of Representations, Parish Council responses and Proposed Changes to the Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan

Ref	Responder	Site or Area of interest	Brief Details of response	Date	Post consultation consideration	Accepted	Justification
1	Owner of allotment land	Allotment Land	Objects to being registered as green space	19.10.22	Further contact made with the owner to ask for clarification on the comments. Feedback was that should Puriton allotments cease to be, he doesn't want any restrictions on what the land can be used for (e.g. livestock, crop growing, or building)	Yes	The allotments are designated in the Local Plan as Informal Outdoor Space, policy D33. See policy map to the right. Policy D33 states: Protection of Existing Public Recreational Outdoor Space, Development which would result in the loss of or negatively impact on formal or informal recreational outdoor space will not be permitted unless: a. A replacement facility of equivalent sports and/or recreation benefit is made available; or b. The proposed development provides sports and/or recreation facilities of greater benefit than the long-term recreational value of the open space that would be lost; or c. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the land to be surplus to requirements. We feel this gives adequate protection to the land as identified by the residents via the questionnaire.
2	Avon and Somerset Police	Consider crime and disorder at planning stage	Make reference to 'secured by design' in policy BNE1	11.11.22	Policy reviewed and feedback incorporated	Yes	Policy BNE1 to align with NPPF (July 2021) paragraphs 92, 97 & 130, and Policy D2 of Sedgemoor Local Plan
3	Somerset Badger Group	Protected species	Consider protected species including badgers at planning stage	13.11.22	Feedback accepted	Yes	Appropriate for the request to be incorporated into the Puriton NP.
4	Historic England	Need to consider an SEA	Recommendation to use their guidance on SEAs on their website	26.11.22	Followed up with Andrew Reading of SDC to request screening opinion. The NP will hopefully be able to rely on the 'higher level' SEA environmental report already done as part of the Local Plan.	Yes	Appropriate for the request to be incorporated into the Puriton NP.

5	SCC Minerals and Waste	Minor changes to wording and referencing new Unitary Council from April 2023	Suggestion to reflect that development comprises the Sedgemoor Local Plan, the Somerset Mineral Plan, the Waste Core Strategy Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. Also reference the Mineral and Waste Plans in the Introductory section before para 1.1. and that also note name of Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, rather than Somerset County Council from April 2023. Within Chapter 6, reference is made to Dunball Wharf but note that it is currently non-operational.	16.11.22	Feedback accepted	Yes	Appropriate for the requests to be incorporated into the Puriton NP
6	National Grid	Infrastructure ownership confirmed	Map and accompanying letter of their network confirming assets and process to consider for any planning applications	01.11.22	Feedback accepted	Yes	No changes needed as this will be considered as part of any future planning applications
7	Sport England	Improving access to areas for physical activity	Request that the NP reflects and complies with national planning policy for sport as set out in the NPPF with particular reference to Paras 98 and 99.	01.11.22	Feedback accepted	Yes	No changes needed to draft policies
8	Wessex Water	Efficient use of water policy and SUD's	Comments on Policy H5, BNE1 and BNE2.	30.11.22	Feedback accepted	Yes	No changes needed to draft policies

9	Public Health Somerset	School parking	Concerns about identifying an area for dedicated school parking. Suggestion to restrict vehicle access to those streets at the relevant times instead.	07.11.22	Policy retained as evidence from questionnaire demonstrated throughout that parking and traffic an issue around school drop off/pick up times.	No	Fedback concerns raised to Puriton Parish Council who will work with local stakeholders to address issues, and increase options for walking and cycling to school.
10	Owner of Former Quarry	Former quarry footpaths	We have no objections in principle to the Former Quarry being designated as a Local Green Space. Clarity needed in maps of the public footpath running across this land.	14.10.22	Agreement that the map is to be amended.	Yes	No objections to the LGS designation has been noted in the response from the landowner
11	Pegasus Group - Land by school	Report on school neighbouring land, housing site	Want the area marked in the draft plan, reserved for future school development, allocated in the NP for housing and they'll consider offering a small parcel for the school in the planning application.	05.12.2022	Puriton doesn't need to allocate additional sites as per SDC note in evidence #18. NPSG representatives to have meeting with Education authority to discuss further, and obtain guidance on LEA views. This site did not come forward in the call for sites so it was not considered, but are now proposing houses on this land and offering the school half a hectare of land for their use.	No	After meeting with the LEA, the NPSG has agreed to amend policy wording to make it more flexible for range of school land uses on-site, and to extend the safeguarded area to accommodate a net area of around 1.5ha This is to protect land should proposals for the new school at Gravity not happen and / or should the school need additional classrooms and / or playing field space whether or not the new school goes ahead.

12	Greenslade Taylor Hunt re: Downend Fields.	Downend field	The land is in private ownership, acknowledgement that a public right of way runs across the land, the right to a view is not a material planning consideration, BNE5 does not demonstrate how the land holds local importance, and there is strong potential for development of the land.	05.12.2022	Each point considered and discussed with the consultant.	No	Land is in private ownership: this bears no relevance as to whether a piece of land can be assigned as LGS in a NP. Right to a view: the NP does not have to consider material planning matters as this will be undertaken when a planning application is made Land does not hold local importance: evidence gathered from NP questionnaire in 2019 identifies Downend fields as an area of green space which the residents would like to see protected (Sect 4: Q26) Opportunity to develop land: not a valid consideration for LGS policy creation within the NP
13	National Highways	Reference to Policy B16 'Transport' of the adopted Sedgemoor Local Plan	Satisfied that the proposed Plan policies are in accordance with the overarching adopted Local Plan and have no specific comments to make.	05.12.2022	Feedback accepted	Yes	No changes needed to draft policies
14	Local Education Authority	Safeguarding land for school	Response welcomed the safeguarding land, and suggested additional land be safeguarded for future school expansion as a contingency for the Gravity site development. Change wording of Policy LFA3 to allow greater flexibility of use for school "...or other needs as identified for education purposes"		This supports the aspiration to safeguard the land around Puriton Primary School. Changes to wording as suggested accepted.	Yes	Appropriate for the request to be incorporated into the Puriton NP. See #11.

15	Flooding and Water Management	Importance of flood risk and existing flood defence systems in place	Suggest changes to policy BNE2, HTA1, HTA2, LFA1, BNE1, BNE5. Important that any proposals are sensitive to flood risk and the existing flood defence systems within the Parish. This may include a review of the detailed flood risk and flood defence information from the Environment Agency, or details of surface water flooding from the LLFA for each site where a planning application is made.		These validity of these suggestions have been accepted and the NP policies to be amended to incorporate the suggested intent.	Yes	Appropriate for the request to be incorporated into the Puriton NP.
16	Network Rail	Comments regarding level crossings and the planning process	General comments re: consulting with Network Rail when considering a planning application near Huntspill (UWCT) MLN1, or Dunball (Public Footpath Crossing) MLN1		This is covered under policies and deliberations to be made by SDC if an application is made.	No	There is nothing relevant to these comments in the Puriton neighbourhood Plan.
17	Gravity	Gravity Campus area	Range of concerns inc (but not limited to) the impact of the LDO, the 37 Club, locally valued views and suggested changes to wording		SDC have responded to the comprehensive feedback given by Stantec on behalf of Gravity, and we have accepted their guidance and suggested amendments.	Yes	SDC have reviewed the responses from Gravity, and we have adopted all their suggestions into the NP.
18	Principal Planning SDC	Review of full draft NP	Plan is well thought and constructed. Amendments suggested for consideration.		All comments have been reviewed and the guidance accepted into the NP.	Yes	We've accepted all the comments and feedback and these have been included into the NP.

19	Pegasus Group - Land behind Puriton Park	Object to land behind Puriton Park being designated as Local Green Space	Objection based mainly on no evidence to the following points: a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves, b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.		Formal notification of the draft consultation was sent on 3rd Oct 2022 to SDC, as we believed they owned this parcel of land. SDC did not notify us of this error and the draft consultation went ahead. The receipt of this objection demonstrates that an appropriate process has been followed and the error made caused no detriment to the landowners. Reviewed data from questionnaire: 5% identified this space as important to them for exercise (70%), wildlife & nature (90%), dog walking (60%), countryside views (90%), foraging (45%) and recreation & play (40%). There is some public access at the eastern corner and is used by residents as a utility green space. General comments from the questionnaire included: "No building between new bypass and village and this should be protected green space with trees to reduce noise and pollution", "When the new bypass road is built to the south of the village it would be good to protect the area between Puriton Park/Cypress Drive and the new road from housing development" and "Maintain a green corridor around the village". The Design Code also	No	Evidence from the residents is robust enough to retain this parcel of land under the LGS policy.
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					recommends (pg 25) "EN. Environment. Protect the area between Puriton Park/Cypress Drive and the new road from housing development"		
20	Greenslade Taylor Hunt	Springhead Farm	Object to Springhead Farm orchard being considered as being a biodiverse area and ask it be removed from the policy section.	05.12.2022	Searched the Magic Maps, SERC information and Design Codes document but could not find this site referenced. We can only find it mentioned twice in the questionnaire results.	Yes	The NPSG welcomes the comments made and it was useful that the respondent has signposted Local Plan policy D20. A full review of responses and other evidence has been helpful to reaffirm that all other sites proposed under this policy are worthy of protection. We have added, as a result, additional reference to the source of the areas identified on the revised map. Removed from this policy.
21	Savills re. Knowle Estate	Puriton woods	Two of the proposed LGS's indicated in the Draft NP. There is limited public access to the sites (one PRoW), and recent inspections have reported that the sites do not present characteristics which would result in rich biodiversity. Development opportunities for both sites is likely to be limited and small in scale, and the proposed designation is not necessary, being covered adequately by either controls, and would be overly-onerous in preventing development. The designation of both of these sites as a LGS does not align with the intended purposes of this particular planning tool.	05.12.2022	Public right of way, enjoyment of PRoW would be diminished if developed. Development potential is limited. We're concerned about the counter comments; one saying the development is likely to be limited followed by another saying the policy is overly onerous to development. The importance of this land (the woods) came through strongly in the questionnaire so it's very important to the local community.	No	Very robust evidence drawn from the questionnaire with 25% of respondents quoting this area as needing designation as a LGS. Of these 71% use it for exercise, 79% use it for dog walking and to be near wildlife and nature, 77% appreciate the countryside views, 48% use it for recreation and play with 45% forage there (respondents could make multiple selections).

22	Environment Agency	Consider impact on flood risk	Suggestion for the NP to have more detail on SUDs, reference impact of Climate Change, and consider the opportunity to deliver multi functional benefits		Feedback accepted	Yes	Appropriate for the request to be incorporated into the Puriton NP.
23	Canals and Rivers Trust	Canals within boundary	No canals within the Parish boundary so no comments	25.11.22	No action needed	Yes	No feedback given
24	SDC	Planning	Additional comments re: Gravity feedback		Considered as reference at #17	Yes	See #17
25	Natural England	Natural environment within the Parish and reflected in the NP policies	Welcome the importance given to the protection of the natural environment within Puriton Parish – this is well reflected through the Neighbourhood Plan, and specifically in Policies BNE3, BNE4 and BNE5 (and accompanying maps) relating to locally valued landscapes and views; areas of biodiversity, geodiversity and habitats, and local green space, which should help to ensure these important assets are protected as part of future development.		No action needed	Yes	No changes to be made

