

Wickham Parish Council

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Dear Sirs

WCC LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation. The future of Wickham and its surroundings is of great importance to the community and is reflected in our response to the questionnaire which is summarised below:

Wickham Parish Council strongly supports the South East Plan Policy BE5 for Small Rural Towns, believing this is where its function lies which is both distinct and separate from that of the PUSH urban area.

The Parish Council believes the City Council should embrace the direction of the SE Plan Panel policy recommendations for the role of Small Rural Towns when developing its 'Preferred Options':

Policy BE5: The Role of Small Rural Towns ('Market' Towns)

Local planning authorities should encourage and initiate schemes and proposals that help strengthen the viability of small rural towns, recognising their social, economic and cultural importance to wider rural areas and the region as a whole. Local planning authorities, through their Local Development Documents and other means, should:

- I. Support and reinforce the role of small rural towns as local hubs for employment, retailing and community facilities and services
- II. Encourage community led local assessments of need and action planning
- III. Provide for sufficient housing development (especially for affordable housing) to meet identified needs in small rural towns where this would reinforce and develop the distinctive character and role of the town.
- IV. Protect and enhance the character and appearance of individual small rural towns
- V. Develop public transport networks which meet the needs of both the market towns and their surrounding rural area.

Wickham Parish Council supports the provision of an additional 150 houses outside the current village envelope to the north of the village centre, over the next 20 years to reinforce and enhance its role as a sustainable 'key hub'.

Following a study of the social and demographic structure of the community and a survey of housing stock within Wickham, the Parish Council believes that an additional 150 houses maximum could be accommodated outside the current village envelope over the next 20 years to support and reinforce its role as a sustainable 'key hub' without damaging the existing vibrant community and built environment.

The need to regularly review the needs and opportunities for the village is anticipated.

The preferred location of these houses is to the north of the village centre; proposals on other boundaries would not be supported due to pressures from the North Fareham SDA and the need to maintain a green gap to the south; and the special landscape quality of the east and west.

The perceived need is for 3 and 4 bedroom detached family houses to address a current deficit in this type of dwelling.

Options to extend beyond a key hub role would not be sustainable in view of the close proximity to the North Fareham SDA and the strong desire of the community to maintain a separate identity.

Wickham Parish Council supports the provision of affordable housing for local people together with measures to redress the current higher percentage of social rented accommodation in Wickham compared with other key hubs and Winchester District.

The Parish Council has identified and quantified the need for affordable housing for local people, but requests that WCC recognises that there is a currently a far higher percentage of social rented accommodation in Wickham compared with other key hubs and Winchester District.

In order not to exacerbate the current pockets of social deprivation in the village by providing for Winchester City Council's wider social housing need, and to enhance social sustainability, further affordable housing provision should be for local people and remain for local people in perpetuity.

Wickham Parish Council strongly supports the provision of significant green gaps between the settlements of Knowle and Wickham and the North Fareham SDA.

The North Fareham SDA presents challenges to the future integrity, character and appearance of the settlements of Knowle and Wickham. The need for significant

green gaps between the settlements and the SDA is of vital importance to protect their distinct identities and reinforce sense of place.

The need to secure green gaps and the supported retention of the Meon Strategic Gap may preclude any additional housing within WCC's boundaries at Knowle.

Wickham Parish Council supports measures to address the shortfall in recreation space within settlements with current Local Plan standards as a minimum requirement.

The Parish Council supports continuing measures to address the current shortfall in recreation space within settlements and considers the current Local Plan standards should be considered as a minimum requirement with policies developed to increase provision where possible.

Wickham Parish Council supports the retention of existing employment land within the village envelope unless proven to be no longer economically viable.

There is minimal scope for additional business premises but applications to reduce existing employment land within the existing village envelope should be discouraged without robust evidence that the space is no longer justified for employment purposes.

Wickham Parish Council requests early and urgent support for measures to reduce the impact of traffic growth on Wickham and its rural surroundings.

Minimising the impact of traffic growth on Wickham and the rural surrounds is of major concern to the community. The Parish Council supports the early provision of high quality alternative means of transport to the car together with timely improvements and additions to road infrastructure where necessary.

Community Action Planning

Wickham Parish Council is carrying out a Market Town Health Check and a review of its Village Design Statement. This will compliment the work carried out for the 2004 Parish Plan and existing VDS and will provide a robust Strategic Action Plan for Wickham which the community will expect to be respected and supported by WCC.

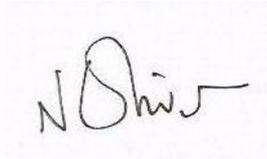
North Fareham SDA

Wickham Parish Council requests WCC has strong representation, which includes the Parish Council, during the master planning process for the North Fareham SDA to ensure the impact on the settlements of Wickham and Knowle are minimised and their distinctive integrity, character and appearance are not compromised.

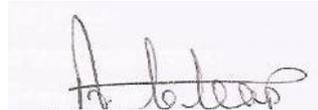
Preferred Options

Wickham Parish Council would welcome and actively seek involvement in the development of the LDF Preferred Options process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Oliver', on a light-colored background.

Nicki Oliver
Parish Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Clear', on a light-colored background.

Angela Clear
Chairman