

Edington Neighbourhood Plan Land for Housing – Call for Sites Guidance

Edington Parish Council is currently finalising a first public draft of its Neighbourhood Plan (the “Plan”) with a view to consulting local residents, as soon as this can be arranged in the current difficult circumstances.

One significant part of the Plan will be a section dealing with proposals for housing in the Parish during the lifetime of the Wiltshire Council Local Plan, which currently extends to 2035.

In order to allow the Parish Council to consider its housing proposals it is important for it to obtain an understanding of what land might be available for housing purposes in the future. The most recent survey of local residents demonstrated support for the idea that there should be some small-scale development of new homes. Also, the 2019 Wiltshire Council Housing Needs Survey identified a shortfall in the availability of affordable homes. The Council considers that meeting the needs of people who need smaller and/or affordable homes would be beneficial to the longer-term viability of the village (for example by making it easier for young families to live here and to assist downsizing by older residents).

The Council is, of course, mindful of the need to protect the overall environment and attractiveness of Edington as a place in which to live. With that in mind, we are asking residents who may consider making any land available for the **small scale development of homes, particularly affordable homes**, to let the Council have details of the land and any proposals for housing on it, so that such sites can be considered for inclusion in the Plan, which will be put out for consultation later this year.

The purpose of including these sites in the Plan would be to show residents which pieces of land are considered most suitable for some small scale development in the future. The sites would be **aspirations** for potential housing locations, but would not be formal site allocations. As such, the Parish Council would not be guaranteeing or underwriting that housing will be provided on the sites, but the choice of the sites would carry weight in prioritising where development might take place in the future.

The Council wishes to emphasise that it has not made any decisions about the size, number or location of any sites for potential housing and does not commit to accept any proposals which may be made; but any proposals which are taken forward will be subject to the overall guideline of being small in scale, in line with the views previously expressed by residents. A more detailed set of site assessment guidelines have been drawn up to inform the Council’s consideration of any sites which are submitted and can be viewed at:

<https://devplan.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/sites> .

If you wish to submit a site proposal for the Council to consider, could you please send it, using the form provided on the website mentioned above **by no later than Monday 10 May 2021** to: parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk.

Should you wish to discuss the matter informally before responding, please contact the Parish Council on the same email address so that we can get in touch with you.