

NP Policies Comments – October 2025 Consultation.

General

- All of plan has been well put together and it would be such a shame if this well thought out plan was not derailed by our neighbouring council
- Thank you to the Steering Group for all their hard work
- The policies look very sound in all areas
- Having reviewed the plans at the consultation I would like to commend the plans on the comprehensive and cohesive nature of the plan. It is right that we support sustainable development for the village, but it's so in a way that respects the character of the village as well as the environmental impact of any developments..
- An excellent job. The policy seemed very thorough Meeting the needs of Mortimer in years to come.
- The Policies show clear thinking keeping the character of Mortimer whilst looking to the future.
- Think the work done by MVP plan committee and supported by Parish Council is sterling. And excellent that they are consulting the community.
- Very informative and considered well done on being the voice of the village
- Well presented
- Displays do not clearly show which is actual policy.
- Thank you for setting everything out so clearly – really helpful. THANK YOU.
- Thank you for today.

Designated Green Spaces

- Include area of trees behind Strawberry Field and along Hammond's Heath as designated green space
- Enforceable designated green spaces with every new building site.

Traffic

- Have a policy 'Not to have 20 MPH speed limit apart from those roads where there is evidenced based need.
- Would like if possible dedicated cycle space to be made possible on the local main roads
- Additionally, Mortimer is located on a link road between AWE and Reading which means we see a lot of traffic at commute times particularly speeding on the West End road.
- Any additional housing in West Berkshire or Basingstoke and Dean will create more school traffic, car parking particularly St Mary's needs to be a priority. Traffic is already increasing in the Village, development at AWE over the next 10 years will increase traffic even more. Any further access points onto the street make traffic, particularly at rush hour, dangerous not to mention the safety of parents or children walking to the schools
- speeding triggered traffic lights to slow people down

- Traffic volume already intolerable down The Street – especially at school times – additional impact on traffic accessing A33 and M4 needs to be seriously considered.
- Put temporary traffic lights on for 30-45 minutes at St Mary's school to safely regulate traffic, rather than clearing cars and creating a race track

Infrastructure

- No more houses until after station car parking has been sufficiently extended
- Car park extensions is a priority now [*station*] What does it mean when it says when circumstances permit what are the circumstances? West Berkshire Council wants us to be nice to the environment, but we can't take the train to work because there's no parking
- Is there a plan for a car park or drop off for St Mary's school?
- Consideration of electrical grid expansion, STW network including small sewers, potable water and the Internet for all new development as the development is built. So no additional pressure is put on the current infrastructure.

Community Energy

- Community energy this could be set up under an alternative structure democratically owned by the community CBS [*Community Benefit Scheme*]. Is there a necessity for the parish Council to own and manage it? They have no expertise in this area.
- No EV charging in public spaces Overall I think the plan is great on energy policy.
- I think we should have our own Community Energy plan for Mortimer to help sustainability planning. I like the Community Energy Policy but could go further.
- How do we protect greenfield sites surrounding the Village being turned into solar farms? There has been a huge uptick of applications being approved by central government recently. How do we plan to balance environment, energy and food security better? Carbon capture and food is just as important as energy We shouldn't be reliant on offshoring our food needs to countries with poor environmental standards.

Design Codes

- New houses to be built with swallow houses. You can buy special bricks, bat boxes, hedging runs
- Would like to see a policy making provision for allotments local sustainable etcetera
- Whilst respecting climate change biodiversity and other important aspects my one comment would be, how will the standards of homes building be overseen to ensure environmental aspects such as solar panels and air source heat pumps are installed to the highest of standards and efficiency.
- All new houses need PV Solar panels. Also, air source heat pump heating and no carbon fuels.
- Enforceable designated green spaces with every new building site
- All new houses should have solar panels and are built to high environmental standards.

- On energy policy I feel we should go further I am so frustrated that new homes are still being built with gas boilers as standard. Also, why can't new homes be required to have solar panels? Old housing stock is hard to retrofit but new should be easier.
- Look, density, access and water.
- It is so important that all new developments are mixed [*Think this means social, affordable and market*], have solar panels and a large green space is included which includes shade and a diverse surface.
- Which policies are being carried over from the NDP
- Can Neighbourhood Plan set rules for solar panels mandating them on new builds?
- I like the principles.

Housing Needs

- Whilst acknowledging the need for some additional housing as outlined in the Housing Needs Survey. It is disturbing to note SM7 is still identified as a potential site having been rejected previously for numerous valid reasons - not least the access onto the main road, environmental concerns and flooding
- My children can't afford to live here even though they were born here and so thought about housing for people who want to stay close to their families (like Woodlands) would be good
- Mortimer has certainly contributed its share of new housing for West Berkshire Good to know that there is a smaller requirement for the next 15 years.
- Not enough for those who have grown-up in the village to be able to afford to stay within the village. Even with schemes, housing is unaffordable for the wages paid for young persons and therefore are being forced to look elsewhere to live or pay extortionate rent price for not much.
- Support housing that meets the needs. I suggest this is not meeting a local need!

Biodiversity

- How do you measure a 10% increase in biodiversity? 10% does not seem enough 30% seems a better target.
- Biodiversity supporting text 'There is nothing special about Mortimer. Can we rephrase to Mortimer has no designated sites change
- National ??? to increase hedgehog by ensuring all gardens and especially new builds have holes in fences for hedgehog movement.
- New houses to be built with swallow houses. You can buy special bricks, bat boxes, hedging runs

Climate Change

- Interested in the temperature management for any new bills. The idea of green corridors and cool islands is very interesting Are there any standards that need to be followed?
- I particularly like the energy climate change and resilience.
- What are we going to do about water conservation if drought becomes the norm in Mortimer?

Flood Management

- On surface water provision has any additional feed into local Brook being modelled taking into account what Thames Water may resume [?] doing with sewage

Transport

- One area that does not appear to be documented is transport although Mortimer is quite well served with buses to Reading there are limited other transport links.
- West Berkshire Council wants us to be nice to the environment, but we can't take the train to work because there's no parking

Environment

- I particularly like the ..., and environmental policies
- And we have to drive a large proportion of recycle categories to containers in other villages using our car to get there
- Include on the map all woodland and biodiversity areas rather than just ancient woodland.
- where does the runoff water from highways go surface water may be contaminated with oil and detergents etc?
- I think the green policies are good

Employment, Facilities and Services

- EFS 1 suggest 12 months marketing report to cater for seasonal variation.
- I like the EPS policy.
- Additional Doctors and dentist's buildings actually in place and working before housing agreed

Lighting

- I am really pleased that the dark skies is a priority and keeping the rural nature of the area.
- I strongly support the Dark Skies Policy.
- Is there a definition for required for safety reasons in the public lighting section reference to ST lighting
- No street lights

Other

- Where's the playing field for St John's
- I would like the park to change cause I want the park to have a zip line.
- I would like there to be a soft play area nearby
- I have lived in Mortimer Damson Drive for 18 years and sad to see the main development of to our fields in the centre of village and the three to four block of flats being built at the far end of the development along with the six to 12 foot wall backing onto the avenue. This development was built with no

alternative exit or entry roads onto our main street and once these flats are occupied possibly two to three cars per flat The impact from this development alone will have its impact So West Berkshire have fulfilled their quota of Houses.

- Please put design codes on website in particular site design briefs