

This announcement is about the Referendum for the **Neighbourhood Plan**. It is **not** about the Neighbourhood Development Order which is for a new surgery, 17 houses, new cemetery etc. Announcements on the NDO will be made in due course.

The Burcot and Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been approved by the Examiner and SODC, 12 years on from the launch event held in the village hall in October 2012.

SODC will now organise a Referendum **on the Neighbourhood Plan** which we expect to be held mid to late September. All parishioners on the electoral roll will be eligible to vote.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning policy document, alongside National Planning Policy owned by central government, and the Local Plan owned by SODC. Planning policy provides the framework against which planning decisions are made.

**Please note that this is different from the Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO)** which is the Parish Council's planning application for the new surgery, 17 houses etc. The public examination of the NDO is ongoing, and, subject to a recommendation from the Examiner, is expected to be put to referendum in early 2025. Further announcements will be made on this in due course.

Back to the Neighbourhood Plan. You can find a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan that was submitted on SODC's website here [Burcot & Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Plan \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://southoxon.gov.uk). Please note that the Referendum version on which residents will be voting reflects changes recommended by the Examiner and so is slightly different from this version. These changes are mainly editorial in nature. The Referendum version will be published by SODC prior to the Referendum.

For a summary of the Neighbourhood Plan, read on.

**The Vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is:**

*“for a single, thriving, sustainable parish formed of two distinct villages, each with its own particular identity and character, with shared facilities and amenities.”*

**The key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are:**

- To build a long-term sustainable community
- To sustain and improve local services, business and amenities

- To protect and enhance the natural environment and green spaces
- To honour the historic character of the parish, its villages, and its setting
- To improve the network of footpaths and cycle paths within the parish and to neighbouring villages

### **Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out 10 policies for the use of land. These are, highly summarised:

**BCH1 School Improvements** - This policy is intended to encourage proposals to improve and extend the primary school

**BCH2 Enhancing Community Facilities.** This policy identifies a number of existing community facilities, e.g. Recreation Ground, Village Hall, Cemetery, Parking and Allotments that may benefit from improvement or extension and supports such proposals to ensure they remain fit for modern purposes and demands

**BCH3 Design Principles in Burcot.** This policy establishes the importance of the design of new development to maintain the essential character of Burcot.

**BCH4 Design Principles in Clifton Hampden.** This policy establishes the importance of the design of new development to maintain the essential character of Clifton Hampden.

**BCH5 Protecting Community Facilities.** This policy identifies community, open space, sport and recreation facilities and seeks to ensure that the long-term potential value of these facilities is not lost.

**BCH6 Local Heritage Assets.** This policy is intended to give additional protection to designated Local Heritage Assets, in recognition of the important contribution they can make to the special character of the Parish.

**BCH7 Footpaths and Cyclepaths.** This policy is intended to encourage proposals that result in an improvement to existing footpaths or cyclepaths generally, and specifically between Burcot and Clifton Hampden, and on the Oxford Road,

**BCH8 Provision of well-designed energy efficient buildings and places .** This policy is intended to deliver a step change in the energy performance of all new developments in the Parish, and to encourage the retrofitting of energy efficient features in existing homes.

**BCH9 Green Infrastructure.** The policy defines the presence of Green Infrastructure assets in the Parish. Its purpose is linked with the vision and principles of green infrastructure in the District by defining a network of green infrastructure assets in the

neighbourhood plan area as a means of providing environmental support for the community and wildlife.

**BCH10 Local Landscape Character.** This policy is intended to conserve and where possible enhance the culturally and historically important local landscape character of the parish, and in particular the waterscape of the River Thames corridor and its setting.

If you are not familiar with the NP, or would like to know more about these policies, do please read the NP which can be found at the link above.

### **A Big Thank You**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to the many surveys and consultations over the years and told us what you think and want of the NP, to the Village Plan committee and its successor the NP Steering Group who did the work to pull it all together, and the officers at SODC who have supported us throughout.

The decision on whether to adopt or reject the Neighbourhood Plan will now be yours. The Referendum is decided by a simple majority of those that vote.

Giles Baxter

Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

July 2024