



## **CNP Public Consultation No.4**

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## **1. Objectives and Approach**

Event	Public Consultation Workshop
Objectives	To obtain ideas and opinions relating to development within the Parish of Colerne
Time / Date	11:00 – 12:30 on Saturday 17 June 2017
Location	Calderhouse School, Thickwood
Facilitators	Jane Mellett (introduction) Facilitators: Anne Nicholas & Jane Mellett; and Bob Stone plus 3 other members of the Colerne NP Steering Group
Approach	Jane Mellett, the chair of the Steering Group gave a short introduction explaining the reasons why a Neighbourhood Plan is being developed, how it will be used in the Planning process by Wiltshire Council, and the need for this Plan to be solely driven by the views of the residents of the Parish.  The remainder of the meeting was an open discussion in which attendees were encouraged to offer their opinions on the six themes relating to the built environment namely: Housing Needs, Community Facilities, Business & Employment, Transport & Connectedness, Environment Management, and Energy & Utilities. Views were noted for subsequent recording in this document.
Attendees	11 residents from the Parish

## **2. Summary of Opinions**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This report summarises the perceptions, ideas and opinions of those attending the consultation and, as such, are not verified facts and figures.

The opinions shared, suggestions made and questions raised have been broadly categorised under the six themes in Section 2.2. Many of the comments, however, span several themes. More general comments and ideas that do not fit neatly under any of these themes are outlined in Section 2.3.

### **2.2 Opinions, grouped by Themes**

#### **2.2.1 Housing Needs**

- Do we need to bring new blood into the village? This would increase critical mass of inhabitants to support services (PO, school etc). Concern about relationship between population and supports if lack of underpinning infrastructure – eg increased travel to visit service providers elsewhere
- Consider the amount of development in the village since WW2
- Wish to contribute to under provision of housing in the UK – provide accommodation not just for own personal/ family needs

- Village was growing organically but slowed down now – assumption is that many young people have moved out
- Some young people born and bred in the parish may not want to remain here – and go elsewhere eg Swindon
- Future trend is for more young people to move back to be closer to grandparents for child-minding etc – affecting local housing needs
- Increase in elderly and young children (NB Nationally number of students age 18 will drop nationally until 2020, then rise again) affect housing needs
- Nursing home; sheltered accommodation – provision for the elderly (baby boomers coming to later life)
- Bungalows for elderly
- Provision for young people
- Apartments unsuitable for this parish (more suited to towns)
- Mixed population and mixed style of housing – leads to a ‘community’
- Need to identify design criteria to reflect what we want to see in the parish
- 200 houses would be enough

### **2.2.2 Community Facilities**

- Fewer shops in Colerne than in Marshfield
- Parishioners do not regularly use the shops in Colerne unless in central village
- Facilities need to make a quantum leap when under pressure from an increased population
- School age children – there is little for teenagers to do. Has anyone asked them what they would like?
  - Eg existing spaces eg Liberal Club for use by teenagers (eg pool), underwritten by Parish Council
  - Drop-in centre

### **2.2.3 Business and Employment Opportunities and Needs**

- Need business opportunities for the younger generation
- Need to cater for more people working from home
- Light industry / business space needs to increase
- Have studios / small workshops for people to rent, maybe an artisan area for arts and crafts, sustainability, ICT technologies, etc
- Visitor centre – ecological survey outcome, village history, Roman remains, airfield history; teas and momentos – attract visitors – employment
- Holiday homes can bring employment opportunities (although balance needed – not too many)
- Lower paid jobs imply need for affordable housing – or commute

### **2.2.4 Transport and Connectedness**

- Footpath from Thickwood to village is poor.
- Green Lane is impassable in winter
- Tiny lanes unsuitable for access

- Need shuttle bus service to Batheaston
- Increased business activity raises transport issues for people, materials and products
- Some increase in housing would justify more buses
- Young people and families need public transport to continue to live here
- Create cycle paths from Pinewood and Thickwood to Colerne (a safer community)
- Increase in electric cars and bikes in future – need charging points (using locally generated energy)
- Need central car park to allow walking unimpeded between shops, school and surgery

### **2.2.5 Environment / Land Management**

- See Electricity, and Airfield

### **2.2.6 Energy / Utilities**

#### Electricity

- Solar panels owned by village; feed in tariff no longer attractive. Ties up land better used for housing or other use.
- Solar panels on roofs of new build housing
- Wind turbines – but this area is not that good for wind
- Micro-generation of energy – see Airfield below

## **2.3 General Opinions**

### **2.3.1 Strengths**

- Strength of community – a self-contained village/parish with everyone joining in - enthusiasm
- Activities and interests
- People who have lived here for many years
- Evolving village, with people open to change – open-minded
- Tight-knit community
- School
- Mix of military and civilian children – good experience for the children – enriches the village
- Countryside (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
- Proximity to cultural centres: Bath, Bristol etc
- Rich mix of all sorts of different houses: big, small, old, new
- Relatively few holiday homes – unlike Biddestone

### **2.3.2 Weaknesses**

- In a bubble – could collapse – may have to increase for its own good
- Need more local employment to be more than just a dormitory town

## 2.4 A Vision for the Future

- Go for organic growth over a period of time, not a big bang development
- Positive attitude to development, looking beyond personal need
- Good quality design, whatever the build technique

## 2.5 The Airfield

- The Airfield is deemed to be a brownfield site.
- A large development on the airfield would effectively be a new village including shops – with an access viaduct to A420 – would lose heritage of Colerne (in the same way that the new development of Poundbury is not considered to be part of Dorchester by many)
- Need to make a case for the community for the outcome of the sale of the airfield eg the camp at Bicester was sold to a Community Land Trust which gives the community control of the built environment.
- For example:
- The area to the NW of the airfield could be a good site for business development, with infrastructure already in place. Small businesses along the road.  
Business could use the existing underlying infrastructure (ducting, cable runs, cabinets, hard standings, etc) to connect to micro-grid, possibly using pre-existing power infrastructure (UPS generators, etc (assuming that these are in place))
- Renewable Micro-generation of energy may be viable, notably electricity (solar, wind and biomass) – parish would benefit (via microgrid), and it would provide employment, in addition to becoming a viable technology beacon. <https://energy.gov/articles/how-microgrids-work>
- Rest of site could be nature reserves, conservation areas or adopt organic pasture/grazing management practices to provide further business/revenue/employment opportunities (renting out community pasture) but still accessible for community leisure use.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/05/06/restoring-wildflower-meadows-could-bring-new-era-super-organic/>
- A sports training centre
- A leisure centre incorporating the existing gym and swimming pool (heated by energy generated from nearby micro-generation plant ) – for use of all the Parish inc. schoolchildren who are currently bused to other facilities, and the elderly for health benefits
- The satellite dishes will stay, probably with a no-go area around them
- Perhaps the runways will be retained?
- Runway divides the parish
- On the Hullavington site, James Dyson is setting up a Science Park – state of art technology employer
- The site at Corsham, with its extensive underground bunkers has large data centre, - <https://arkdatacentres.co.uk/> and associated Science Park

### **3 Future Consultations and Research**

This is the third of this type of public consultation and several more are planned in June and July.

Suggestions for further investigation:

- Revise the map of Colerne to show the land not owned by the MOD in the area of the airfield
- How many children are there in the parish?
- What activities are there for teenagers?
- What are the employment opportunities in the parish? eg Lucknam, Jetway, Carpenter Oak, Euridge, builders, Octavian Wine
- How many parish residents are currently employed, permanent & part-time within the parish?
- Renewable Energy - Aberystwith – Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth (near Aberystwyth) - <http://www.cat.org.uk/index.html>

### **4. Definitions and Clarifications**

For the purposes of this meeting the following definitions were used:

- Community Land Trusts are a form of community led housing, where local organisations set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets important to that community, like community enterprises, food growing or workspaces. The CLT's main task is to make sure these homes are genuinely affordable, based on what people actually earn in their area, not just for now but for every future occupier

Sale of the Airfield – There is no definitive date for this. Any change to the use of land will have a Master Plan developed by the MOD in conjunction with Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council, so a full consultation with the community will take place.

## **5. Statistics**

**Total number of attendees: 11**  
(excluding SG members)

From Colerne Village 1  
From North Colerne (Pinewood) 0  
From Thickwood and nearby 10

Number of men: 5  
Number of women: 6

Of whom: Retired 6  
Working age 5

### **How people heard about the consultation:**

Parish Magazine:

May Fair stall:

Via email:

Via Web: 1

Word of mouth: 5

Leaflet Drop 4

Not known 1