

Title	Joint Local Plan 2041 – Preferred Options Consultation
Authors	Clerk to the Council
Meeting	Western Valley Parish Council Meeting – 08 th February 2024

Consultation closing date 26th February 2024, 23:59

[“Nutshell” Consultation](#)

Or

[Full Preferred Options Survey](#) – approximately 220+ questions, asking for more detail on each section.

In addition, a member of public has submitted a detailed comment directly to the PC asking them to consider the following points:

NOTE: these are the opinions of a resident of our parish and not the opinions of the Parish Council

I note that on your agenda for this meeting is an item to approve the Parish Council's response to the Joint Local Plan consultation, which is due to be launched imminently by the district councils.

As it considers its consultation response, Western Valley Parish Council is in a somewhat unusual position, given that essentially all of the parish has already been allocated for development.

As such, one might consider the Parish Council has little to gain from a Local Plan. By the same token, however, the extent of the parish given over to development also emphasises the need to protect the few green spaces which will remain in the parish once those developments are complete.

Almost without exception, the green spaces in the Parish have been (or in the case of Valley Park, will be) “purpose-built” as part of masterplanned residential developments. These green spaces have been carefully planned and each has an important role to play within these developments, particularly given the majority of residents in the Parish live in relatively high density housing with limited private outdoor space.

It might seem absurd that the Parish Council would have to push for additional protection for these green spaces, particularly as they have so recently been defined and created. However, the Great Western Park Depot Scandal has shown us residents cannot rely on the districts’ default protections for green space — as set out in the draft Joint Local Plan Policy HP4.

The district councils themselves have demonstrated that those default protections will not protect green spaces in Western Valley from inappropriate development. Despite being offered countless opportunities to do so, as recently as last month, district councillors have refused to rule out the prospect of locating a large-scale council depot on land designated as green space within the Parish.

Fortunately, the Local Plan provides an opportunity to provide special protection for green spaces in the Parish through ‘Local Green Space’ (LGS) designation. LGS designation grants green space a level of protection similar to green belt, thus reassuring residents that it will not be subject to inappropriate development of the type recently proposed by the district councils.

National Planning Practice Guidance is clear that LGS designation can be applied to green areas within new residential areas such as Great Western Park:

“New residential areas may include green areas that were planned as part of the development. Such green areas could be designated as Local Green Space if they are demonstrably special and hold particular local significance.”

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the specific requirements for LGS designation as follows:

“106. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

(a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

(b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and

(c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.”

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-and-safe-communities#para106>

It is noted that not all areas of green space in the Parish would meet these criteria, and that it would be premature to seek protection for areas of green space planned for the Valley Park development, the details of which are subject to reserved matters planning applications.

However, it seems clear there are at least two existing green spaces within the Great Western Park area of the Parish which do meet these criteria:

1. The area of Public Open Space at the northern edge of Great Western Park (referred to as ‘POS L’). This green space is allocated as part of the Great Western Park development scheme for nature recovery, with much of the area being approved through planning as a wildflower meadow. This is in close proximity to the community it serves, being part of the Great Western Park residential development and immediately adjacent to a large number of residential dwellings. It is demonstrably special to the local community by virtue of its beauty, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. It is local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

Once Valley Park is completed this green space will take on an even greater local significance than it already does. It will be fully enclosed by built development and will provide value to an even larger community within the Parish, including those who will make use of the SEN school and care housing, both of which are planned to be located immediately adjacent to this green space.

2. The area of Boundary Park within Western Valley Parish. This green space is right at the heart of the community it serves, is demonstrably special to the local community by virtue of its recreational value

(including the cricket green and football pitches), and is clearly of local significance given the extent of its usage for such recreational activities. It is again both local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

It does follow that the entirety of Boundary Park should be granted LGS status, although I note not all of the park is in Western Valley Parish.

Although, unlike other district councils, South and Vale will not be explicitly soliciting requests for LGS designation as part of the Joint Local Plan consultation, they have confirmed at the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting where the draft consultation documents were considered that respondents can make such requests in their consultation responses and that these will be considered.

It would be manifestly unreasonable for the district councils to refuse such a request in the case of the aforementioned areas of green space. Whereas other parishes have sought and been granted several LGS designations through Neighbourhood Plans, given Western Valley is unlikely to take part in the Neighbourhood Planning process at any time in the foreseeable future, the Local Plan is the right and proper mechanism through which to make these designations.

I would therefore urge Western Valley Parish Council to seize this opportunity and, in its response to the Joint Local Plan consultation, to request LGS designation for these areas of green space as a matter of priority.

Nutshell Consultation (each question also asks for comments).

How far do you agree or disagree with the principle of reducing the housing target in the new Joint Local Plan?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Our preferred option does not include significant new sites for large scale housebuilding beyond the sites already identified for development in the last local plans. How far do you agree or disagree with this approach?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

How far do you agree or disagree with the Joint Local Plan raising standards to achieve net zero carbon development across South and Vale?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

How far do you agree or disagree with the Affordable Housing percentages?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
South Oxfordshire (50%)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vale of White Horse (50%)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you selected disagree or strongly disagree, what percentage of Affordable Housing would you propose?

	More than 50%	Less than 50%	Keep existing percentage
South Oxfordshire	☐	☐	☐
Vale of White Horse	☐	☐	☐

How far do you agree or disagree with our approach to employment land?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

If you selected disagree or strongly disagree, what would you propose?

- ☐ Plan for less
- ☐ Plan for more
- ☐ I don't know

What kind of spatial strategy do you think we should adopt? Please rank from 1 to 4, with 1 being your preferred approach and 4 being your least preferred.

Existing planned and new brownfield development at Science Vale, Garden Communities and Tiers 1, 2 and 3 of the settlement hierarchy (see map) (our preferred approach)

-- Please Select -- ▾

-- Please Select --

1

2

3

4

Greenfield expansion at the towns and larger villages

-- Please Select -- ▾

Co-location of housing and employment, including development on greenfield sites

-- Please Select -- ▾

A dispersed pattern of development including more at smaller villages

-- Please Select -- ▾

If a Town or Parish Council wanted to deliver more homes as part of their neighbourhood plan, how far do you agree or disagree with the Joint Local Plan including a strategy allowing allocation for further land for development?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

How far do you agree or disagree with the Joint Local Plan encouraging walking, cycling, buses and trains when planning for future travel?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

What type of community infrastructure would you like to comment on?

- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Community halls
- ☐ Sport and leisure facilities
- ☐ Health care facilities
- ☐ Public greenspaces / Local Green Spaces
- ☐ Allotments
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

If you said other, please specify here

Please tell us if you have any comments on our district's infrastructure needs, including any ideas you have about what is needed to support new development in our area or anything else you think we should consider - please make sure you've ticked the boxes above that are relevant to your comments.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposed policy approach to wastewater infrastructure?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

How far do you agree or disagree with the Joint Local Plan requiring developers to provide a higher level of biodiversity than in the Environment Act?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

How far do you agree or disagree with adding these additional policies to protect the landscape in the Joint Local Plan?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Homes already planned in existing plans:

Which site would you like to comment on?

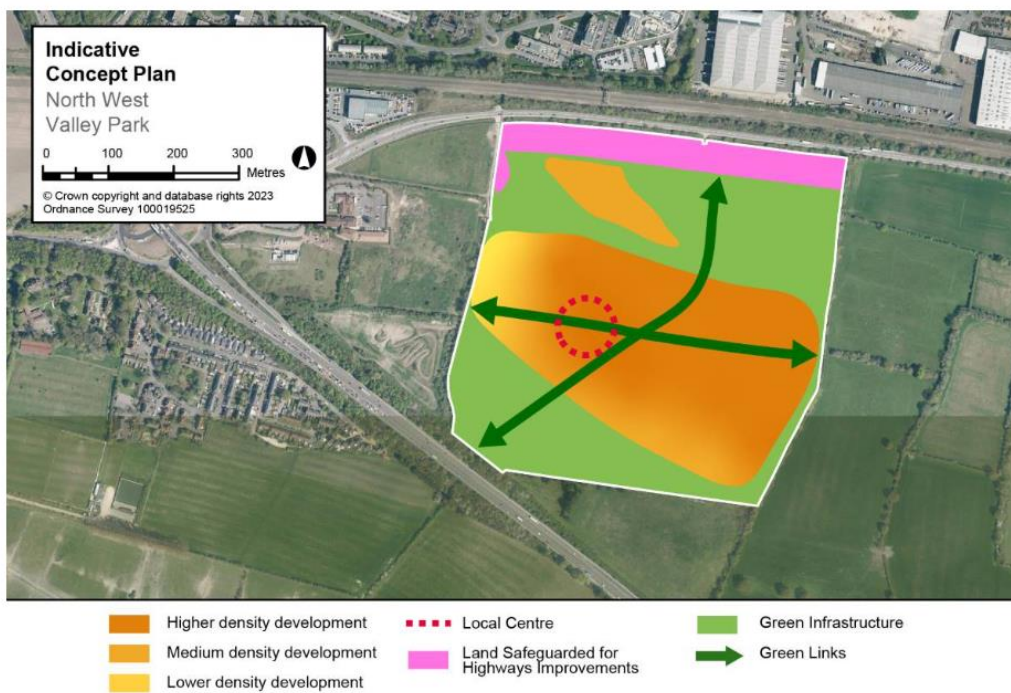
If you would like to comment on multiple sites, please comment on one site at a time.

When you would like to move on to Section 14, please select 'Take me to the next section' at the bottom of the list before clicking 'Continue'

- ☐ Land at Berinsfield Garden Village
- ☐ Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre
- ☐ Land south of Grenoble Road
- ☐ Land at Northfield
- ☐ Land north of Bayswater Brook
- ☐ Orchard Centre Phase 2
- ☐ Didcot Gateway
- ☐ Vauxhall Barracks
- ☐ West of Priests Close, Nettlebed
- ☐ Land south of Nettlebed Service Station
- ☐ Land at Chalgrove Airfield
- ☐ North West of Abingdon-on-Thames
- ☐ North-West of Grove
- ☐ North-West Valley Park
- ☐ Dalton Barracks
- ☐ Take me to the next section

If select “North West Valley Park”, leads to the following:

North-West Valley Park



How far do you agree or disagree with tweaking (minor changes) the North West Valley Park site allocation?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ I don't know

Next Section

What do you think are the best use(s) of the Dalton Barracks brownfield site? Please tick as many as you like:

- ☐ Building new homes
- ☐ Employment development
- ☐ Specialist housing for the elderly and/or a care home
- ☐ Community facilities like schools, health, leisure facilities (please state below)
- ☐ Prefer to leave as it is
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ I don't have a view
- ☐ Other idea (please tell us below)

What do you think are the best use(s) of the Crowmarsh Gifford site? Please tick as many as you like:

- ☐ Building new homes
- ☐ Employment development
- ☐ Specialist housing for the elderly and/or a care home
- ☐ Community facilities like schools, health, leisure facilities (please state below)
- ☐ Prefer to leave as it is
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ I don't have a view
- ☐ Other idea (please tell us below)

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Let us know in the box below

Is there anything else you would like to see in the Joint Local Plan that hasn't been covered already?

Let us know in the box below

Title	Finance 2023-2024
Authors	Clerk to the Council
Meeting	Western Valley Parish Council Meeting – 08 th February 2024

7.1. To approve payments list for February 2024

Voucher No	Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier
63	13/02/2024	£51.25	£-	£51.25	Meeting Room Hire	Vale of White Horse District Council
62	13/02/2024	£9.99	£1.99	£11.98	Hosting	Cloud Next Ltd
61	13/03/2024				PAYE Deductions	HMRC
60	13/02/2024	£10.30	£2.06	£12.36	Microsoft 365	Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd
59	13/02/2024	£26.00	£-	£26.00	WFH Allowance	Laura White
58	13/02/2024				Salary	Laura White
		£402.99	£4.05	£407.04		

7.2. To note the reconciled bank account and reserves balances as at 31st January 2024

A	Bank Reconciliation at 31/01/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2023 - 31/01/2024		70,727.08
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 31/01/2024		10,863.51
	Cash in Hand 31/01/2024 (per Cash Book)		59,863.57
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/01/2024	0.00	
	Unity Trust Current 31/01/2024	22,778.49	
	Unity Trust Reserve 31/01/2024	37,085.08	
			59,863.57
	Less unrepresented payments		
			59,863.57
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		59,863.57
	A = B Checks out OK		

Current Account Balance: £ 22,778.49

Reserve Account Balance: £ 37,085.08