

LESBURY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FIRST DRAFT - VISION AND OBJECTIVES
31st August 2017

Vision

An attractive environment that supports the development of a vibrant community within its historical setting and contributes to the area's tourist and visitor experience. The parish will be a safe and healthy place to live and will offer high quality pre-school and primary education for all children.

Development will reflect the needs of the people in the parish, will maintain the integrity of each village within the parish and will enhance the natural beauty of the land and buildings that lie within conservation areas.

Any new housing will be environmentally sustainable and energy efficient. It will recognise the desire to encourage families with children to come to the parish and will cater for older parishioners who may need smaller homes and a level of support to help them to remain independent.

Other developments that contribute to the economy of the parish and provide work should be created in a way that is sympathetic to the historical setting and natural beauty, environment and status of the location.

We acknowledge that this is not a manifesto for the status quo and that change is inevitable if the parish is to remain sustainable, support the next generation and to flourish in the coming 15-20 years.

Priorities

Providing a first class education for children and high quality support for the older members of the parish are our highest priorities. To achieve these we have an agreed set of objectives.

Objectives

To ensure that any housing development:

- enables young families to settle in all the areas within our community
- protects the areas historical and attractive setting and maintains the separation of the villages that make up the parish
- can contribute to the tourism industry but ensures the use of accommodation as second homes/ holiday lets is limited
- contributes to the expansion of leisure and other community facilities within the parish
- is sensitive to the adjoining AONB.

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Practical considerations that will help us to achieve our objectives include:

- improving the current facilities of the school so that there is enough space for children to be taught effectively and resources, particularly for sport and physical development, that ensure full access to the school curriculum
- good parking facilities near the station that do not impede access of residents living in the vicinity of the station
- an effective drainage system across the whole parish that takes account of the impact of change on flood risk, potential contamination and biodiversity
- a bypass that reduces the number of heavy vehicles passing through the village
- protection of identified green spaces and development of a community orchard
- maintaining and, where possible, improving historical sites and the ecological and environmental assets within the parish
- good quality and, where appropriate, affordable housing, in areas agreed by the community, that meets the needs of local people, as identified in the housing needs survey
- cap on the building of new houses to provide a growth rate that ensures the parish is able to absorb and provide effectively for new people without losing the character of the village
- covenants that restrict the use of new homes as second homes
- a range of leisure facilities, shared with the school, that provide the opportunity for people of all ages to participate in enjoyable sports and exercise programmes
- continuation of a well maintained community facility in the centre of the village
- opportunities to extend commercial premises to include, for example a café
- process for evaluation of innovative business developments that are sensitive to conservation areas and AONB status that will make an economic contribution to the parish and help to support a growing community.