



## ***PART TWO - OUR ASPIRATIONS***

### **Aspirations**

Neighbourhood Plans can only have policies based on the use of land. There have been other recurring issues raised during our consultations that cannot be addressed by a land use policy. These matters can be included in a Neighbourhood Plan as 'aspirations'. When a Neighbourhood Plan is finalised and adopted, only the policies will be legally binding as 'material consideration' for all future planning applications. The Aspirations are documented here to indicate that they are important to the residents in the Plan Area and are for Parish Councils or other bodies to take forward.



## A1 – Pre-Application Protocol

Members of the Chew Valley Parish Councils are happy to ‘*work closely*’ with potential applicants, as will planning officers at Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council. Our local B&NES councillors also support us in this.

Pre-application engagement is an opportunity for applicants to get the Parish Council’s opinion on a potential scheme or development. It allows for early conversations around any issues and community consultations.

This will be handled equitably for all by using the following guidelines:

We expect that the Applicant will:

- contact the relevant Parish Council clerk at the earliest possible opportunity,
- lead and fund the involvement,
- submit a report with any planning application that shows how the policies within this Neighbourhood Development Plan have been used to inform the proposals.

The Parish Council will:

- provide any potential applicant with a single point of contact,
- agree an approach to community involvement that is appropriate to the type, scale and location of the proposed development,
- agree who needs to be consulted (which may include adjacent Parishes) and provide help in contacting them,
- make available support such as access to meeting places and local information (e.g. on footpaths and ecology), and
- agree the applicant’s final report if the process has been followed to their satisfaction.

Bath & North East Somerset Council offer a full pre-application service:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/apply-planning-permission/you-apply>

***All of the above is without prejudice to the Parish Council’s final judgement on the merits of any application itself.***



## **A2 - Aspiration for Chew Valley Lake Perimeter Footpath/Cycleway.**

There is wide support from parishioners for the provision of a complete footpath/cycleway linking communities and schools together around the Chew Valley Lake. It is an issue that has been raised in all our consultations and surveys. This is an item that must fall to aspirations and would need the consent of landowners, Bristol Water and the appropriate wildlife authorities. The Neighbourhood Plan would be happy to support any project that could see this being achieved successfully for all parties. It would have several advantages: leisure, tourism and a safe route to school being some.

***Such a project would need to demonstrate that it would not impose any detrimental impacts on the special nature of the designated Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation and undergo a full HRA screening and appropriate assessments***





### **A3 - Aspiration for Business and Economy in the Chew Valley Area**

Employment in our seven parishes is characterised by lots of small independent businesses (i.e. less than 10 employees) in predominantly retail, health, education, construction and tourism sectors with an unusually high proportion of self-employed people working from home.

Our vision is to encourage this profile of small local employers and home working to generate local employment opportunities for local people (especially in the youth age bracket 16-24) thereby maintaining the unique rural character of the Plan Area that is so highly valued by its residents.

#### **We will do this by:**

- Encouraging fast internet/mobile phone connectivity and Rural Business Hubs to better support home-working and tourism and to encourage small local businesses to establish themselves in the Plan Area.
- Encouraging tourism into the area to attract more customers for local businesses.
- Encouraging the continuance and, where necessary diversification, of farming activities in the area to maintain the unique contribution that farms make to the landscape character of the area and to maintain a source of local employment.

### **A4 - Aspiration for Better Public Transport**

The results of the Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and household survey indicated a majority of respondents would be interested in a new direct Monday to Friday bus service to Bristol, Bath and Wells, with perhaps Keynsham.

It is not economically viable to operate regular direct services to all these places. However, a regular (every half hour at peak times) shuttle to link between Bristol Airport and Pensford/A37 (via Chew Stoke and Chew Magna and via A368 to the A38, to link with existing regular bus services) could be feasible. This could support those who wish to commute to work, those who wish to use it for an evening out and for leisure or shopping, and it could also take on the existing one day a week daytime services.

It would probably require having small mini buses (with wi-fi) connecting to these main bus route, it would need to be sustainable regarding funding and the amount of evening and weekend service would have to depend on requirement.



## **A5 – Aspiration for improved utilities**

### **Power and Water Supply**

Power cuts and low water pressure were concerns indicated in the household survey. Unreliable services from utilities can discourage the development of new local businesses and agricultural activities. The Plan Area is of a dispersed rural nature; this, combined with the age of some of our utilities infrastructure, often results in sub-standard services in many locations (i.e. frequent power outages and drops in water pressure).

### **Mobile Network Coverage**

Coverage of the major mobile networks in the Plan Area is very patchy and generally poor. In addition to the indisputable social and health/emergency benefit, reliable mobile coverage is also desirable to support businesses operating in and around the Plan Area, and to support tourism and leisure activities requiring internet connectivity (such as cycling/walking/running apps).

## **A6 – Aspiration for a swimming pool**

The Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan initial household survey demonstrated that the second most desired additional facility was “a swimming pool”. (7.7% of respondents citing this as compared to 8.5% for “faster broadband”.)

The health benefits of swimming are well known with the NHS Choices website noting that regular swimming can reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke. The site also states that swimming is useful for helping with weight loss and improving low mood.

With over 53% of the population of the Chew Valley being over 55 years of age, the health benefits alone would be enough to recommend the building of a swimming pool locally, as the nearest are 30 minutes away. A swimming pool would also add into the diversification of tourism and provide local employment.



## A7 - Aspiration for Tranquillity

The Household Survey indicates that the most common factors attracting people to live in the area are the 'countryside' (69.1%) and 'peace/ quiet' (62.4%). The tranquil nature of the area attracts people to live, work and visit the Chew Valley. Tranquillity is described by the CPRE as a 'quality of calm that people experience in places full of the sights and sounds of nature' which can be beneficial to health, wellbeing and quality of life. Tranquillity can be affected by intrusive sights and sounds of developments and human activity both during the day and night.

Our vision is for the tranquillity of the Neighbourhood Plan area to continue and to be enhanced.

We will do this by:

- a) Encouraging those living, working and visiting the area to value and respect the tranquillity.
- b) Helping current developments consider how they can minimise their impact on the tranquillity.
- c) Working with developers to ensure that developments are well-designed with potential impacts on tranquillity minimised to an acceptable level.

CPRE <http://www.cpre.org.uk/>

## A8 - Aspiration for Dark Skies

Light pollution can have a detrimental effect on the behaviour and welfare of animals, disrupt people's sleep, waste money and energy, adversely affect the visibility of the night sky and blur the distinction between urban and rural areas. Whilst Policy **HDE15** Dark Skies Policy applies mainly to new developments, our vision for dark skies (minimising light spilling/ pollution) in the Neighbourhood Plan area also extends to current buildings/ developments and human activity.

We will do this by:

- a) Developing initiatives towards addressing light pollution.
- b) Encouraging residents and businesses to consider their own use of lighting and how light spillage can be minimised (e.g. security lights, outdoor night lights, safer and directional lights, hours of operation).
- c) Continue to encourage the minimal use of lighting.
- d) Further developing our understanding of the needs of wildlife (e.g. bats) in our area in relation to lighting.



## A9 – Community Infrastructure Levy

All seven Parish Councils have indicated that they are happy with the idea of collectively administering Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds generated from development within the CVNP area.

It will be for the Parish Councils to determine the detail of how this will be administered and how projects could be put forward for consideration.

