

Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council

Submission to additional Regulation 16 consultation by Cheltenham Borough Council in relation to the Leckhampton with Warden Hill Neighbourhood Plan

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL BY PARISH COUNCIL, 14 MAY 2025

The Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to reiterate its strong support for the draft Neighbourhood Plan which has now been through four formal public consultations in its present form and much previous consultation and local debate before that.

1. The parish council's proposed amendments have been judged to require further public consultation and we should explain the context for this on the record. The amendments proposal was intended to be a helpful response to unusually substantial submissions at Regulation 16 both from the principal councils and from developers despite neither having made such substantial responses at Regulation 14 despite the draft plan being largely unchanged from that earlier stage. The amendments we suggested were genuinely intended to ease the examination process by attempting to resolve issues raised in those unexpected responses and were intended to be minor and not to change any substantive policy at all. But since the borough council has reached a different conclusion, we are happy to respond to this further consultation on those proposals.
2. This council's view remains that the amendments proposed are still relatively minor - either drafting amendments like updating the recently changed name of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or acknowledging planning permissions granted since the draft plan was submitted to CBC or responding with minor changes in response to reasonable points made by respondents at Regulation 16.
3. In particular we would argue that the proposed changes to the policy wording at LWH2 are clarificatory and do not change the intent or effect of the policy. If agreed, they would helpfully remove specific reference to the MD4 site where development has been permitted (as requested by Miller Homes) and ask principal councils to have particular regard to some of their own policies (so clarifying responsibilities as requested) as well as to the local priorities which were already in the original text.
4. Our proposed wording changes at policy LWH7 are all minor and technical in nature and were suggested by the principal councils' responses to the first Regulation 16 consultation but which were not made to the same text at Regulation 14.
5. In summary the parish council obviously believes that each of our own proposed amendments should be acceptable for the reasons given in the proposals document but moving forward we are entirely happy to trust the examination process on whether these are actually incorporated into the draft plan or not.

Agreed by Council 14 May 2025