



WROUGHTON  
PARISH COUNCIL  
POLICY DOCUMENT

**Adopted 18 July 2016**



## **PARISH POLICY DOCUMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The aim of this document is to protect and enhance the current village of Wroughton and the surrounding parish and to make policies that will retain the parish and its special character for future generations.

The Parish is one of the largest in Wiltshire and has a wide diversity of both village facilities, farming and protected countryside. It contains a conservation area which includes many old buildings which require protection from inappropriate development. The parish will be undergoing major change in the coming years with the development at Wichelstowe north of the M4, with another 4,500 homes being built.

This document sets out the policies of the Parish Council in respect of the various aspects of their operations. This includes policies for planning, the environment and leisure activities and also includes policies for the health and well being of the inhabitants of the parish.

The Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Swindon Borough Council on 14 July 2016. This document is split into sections which cover: the right housing in the right place; access to services; making the 'heart of the village' the centre of the community; a great environment to live; a thriving economy supporting our village; a village which is proud of its heritage. The Policy Document complements the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan as this already contains policies on various aspects of village life.

In drawing up this latest version of the Parish Council policy document we acknowledge the work of Vision for Wroughton who produced 'The Community Strategic Action Plan for Wroughton 2007-2017' and some of our policies are based on that document. The Vision for Wroughton document was produced after extensive consultation with the public and so the work can be relied upon to reflect the views and wishes of Wroughton residents.

This document is split into sections to cover the main areas of responsibility of the Parish Council's Committees.

## **PLANNING**

### **Introduction**

Local Authorities and in particular a Planning Authority, have a responsibility to set out the framework in which economic development can take place, services can be provided and the environment protected and enhanced.

On 14 July 2016 Swindon Borough Council adopted the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan which sets out planning policies and how the parish will develop until 2026. The Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document and should be used by the Planning Authority in the same way as the Swindon Borough Council Local Plan.

### **Forward Planning**

As a statutory consultee, the Parish Council regularly make contribution to consultations from local, regional and national government. In this way, it is possible to influence forward planning policies such as Swindon Borough Council's Local Plan.

### **Planning Policy**

The Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan contains policies to maintain the village and identifies development sites for the next 10 years. A list of the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan policies are attached to this document as Appendix A.

This Policy Document does not repeat those policies and the remaining policies are more general rather than specifically planning policies.

### **Policy Statements**

1. To ensure proper representation, as an elected public authority, on any body or organisation that formulate policy for or will influence the development of the parish.
2. To specifically support the development of any redundant educational sites that are not included within policy RH6 (Table 1 – Development Proposals) of the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Planning Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will resist:

1. The removal of the right of the Parish Council to refer a planning application to the Planning Committee at Swindon Borough Council (the planning authority).

## **LEISURE & AMENITIES**

### **Introduction**

Leisure facilities play an important part of the life of the parish. People of all ages should have access to sports facilities and a good community centre is vital as a centre of recreation. In addition to this, policies have been included to cover the youth, elderly and the health of the people living in Wroughton.

The Parish Council has produced a Sports & Leisure Plan that provides more details of the future development of facilities in the parish.

### **Sports Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Protect existing sports fields and continue to maintain their integrity as sports areas.
2. Actively pursue and promote the need to acquire additional community playing space, with national guidelines as a target.
3. Encourage all ages to participate in sporting activities.
4. Encourage and support those groups and organisations which are actively involved in developing young people's engagement in sporting activities.
5. Seek to ensure the fullest access to both public and commercial sports facilities within the Parish.

### **Youth Provision**

This has been split into 2 sections. The Policy Statements provide the framework from which the more detailed Policies have been drawn up. The Policy Statements contain the aspirations of the Parish Council and the Policies provide the detail of how the Parish Council will work towards achieving them.

### **Policy Statements**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Work towards the integration of our youth with the general community.
2. Support the social and cultural development of our youth (clubs, activities etc.).
3. Ensure the prevention of discrimination against our youth in terms of their ability to participate in the community.

## **Youth Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Continue to manage and support a youth club for the parish.
2. Encourage youth involvement in the work of the Parish Council.
3. Maintain to a high standard the play spaces in the parish for a variety of ages to use.
4. Welcome opportunities to support and work in partnership with the parish's educational establishments.
5. Encourage the promotion of community values in statutory education, wherever possible.
6. Maintain and encourage youth sport in the parish (see Sports Policy).

## **Older People Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Support initiatives that increase residential and nursing home care in Wroughton that will allow residents to remain in Wroughton close to family and friends.
2. Support initiatives that facilitate access to shops, bus services, health services, leisure services within Wroughton village.
3. Work with Swindon Borough Council to protect and improve access to footpaths within the parish for people with disabilities.
4. Support groups and facilities that enable older people to contribute and participate in the life of the parish.

## **Health Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council supports developments that:

1. Localise good primary health care located within the 'heart of the village' for all residents of Wroughton.
2. Encourage the provision to NHS dental care facilities for the residents of Wroughton.
3. Recognise the link between poverty and health inequalities and supports initiatives that address this.

## **ENVIRONMENT & ROAD SAFETY**

### **Introduction**

The local environment has a major impact on the well being of residents. This can range from the conservation of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the parish to the maintenance of footpaths and roads in the village.

### **Highways Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council is not the Highway Authority and has no powers to carry out work on roads or footpaths. This is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council.

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Work with the Highway Authority to achieve a safe environment for motorised and non-motorised road users, including the introduction of 20mph speed limits where appropriate.
2. Work with the Highways Department at Swindon Borough Council to resolve individual highway issues in the parish.
3. Work with Swindon Borough Council to ensure that the Ellendune Car Parks remain free parking.

### **Public Transport Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will campaign for more public transport on regular bus routes especially early morning, late night and at weekends.

### **Rights of Way Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council has the one of the greatest length of public footpaths in Wiltshire.

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Work with Swindon Borough Council and voluntary groups to maintain the condition, signage and accessibility of our footpaths and to promote local walks.
2. Work to improve footpath and cycling routes between the village and other communities, facilities, recreational leisure and the wider cycling/footpath network.

### **Environment Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Support the protection of existing local woodland areas and encourage new woodlands and maintain public access to them.

2. Protect and enhance the streams and ponds within the Parish.
3. Seek public access to the Old Reservoir site as a recreational facility.
4. Raise an awareness of agriculture and farming and its importance to the life of the parish.
5. Support the improvement of access to the conservation areas within the parish including the AONB land and the land administered by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.
6. Actively engage with organisations which promote these common environmental objectives.

### **Neighbourhood Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Support a safe and harmonious village for all members of its community.
2. Endeavour to provide facilities for all ages.
3. Encourage inclusion and participation in village life.
4. Support and encourage local groups which organise community and village events.

### **Crime and Disorder and Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Liaise with Neighbourhood Watch groups.
2. Work closely with the Police and PCSOs to establish and maintain adequate and dedicated police cover for the village.
3. Provide an active and accessible link between the Police and parishioners.

### **Waste Collection and Recycling Policy**

Wroughton Parish Council will:

1. Encourage and promote recycling to minimise landfill waste.
2. Support, when appropriate, Swindon Borough Council's waste and recycling policy.