



Local Plan Review

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Cllr C Kennedy and the Clerk attended a meeting hosted by Swindon Borough Council Planning Officers on Monday 4 February 2019, to understand their requirements of the Parish Council in assisting with the settlement boundary and open spaces reviews. Both providing evidence bases for the Local Plan review.

2.0 Report Details

- 2.1** Somewhat disappointingly technical gremlins put paid to an audio visual presentation.
- 2.2** The settlement boundary review and open spaces audit will form part of the evidence base for the local plan review (the first draught for consultation should be available Summer 2019).
- 2.3** The last settlement boundary review was in 2003/2004. The boundary determines the border between a built-up urban area and a country area. The NPPF significance is that development is restricted outside a settlement boundary. A settlement boundary is not related to land ownership or political representation. SBC wants to achieve consistent boundaries across the borough. SBC are reviewing the process methodology and some guidelines will be issued.
- 2.4** The two key features are firstly the boundary should include the built development and secondly should exclude open spaces on the edge of a settlement. (There are inconsistencies within the borough that need to be removed.) Estimated timescale to complete this is six weeks.
- 2.5** Changes to the settlement boundaries will be examined by the local plan review.
- 2.6** The last open space audit was in 2014 (Based on 2010 data). An open space in this context is defined as an area where the public have unhindered access to the whole of the area. A field is not an open space if it contains a public footpath without access being allowed to the rest of the area.
- 2.7** Open spaces include parks, gardens, playing fields, children's play areas and church grounds. The audit excludes small areas of open space such as nature strips and similar small areas generally alongside roads.

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- 2.8** The purpose of the audit is to define the quality and quantity of open spaces. SBC will provide parishes with existing worksheets for each open space and provide criteria as to how the quality of the space is defined.
- 2.9** SBC are issuing parishes with a list of spaces to audit which may not contain all of their open spaces, however, if parishes feel that a space which is new or has had significant changes has been missed they are able to add it.
- 2.10** Once the parish council is in receipt of the necessary maps and paperwork Cllr C Kennedy and the Clerk will liaise on how to action the reviews. Results of which will be taken to the next appropriate meeting before returning to SBC.
- 3.0** **Recommendations**
- 3.1** That the report is noted.