

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2020 19:16
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: FW: SDC Plan Local Revuew Consultation 2020 - Feedback from Minchinhampton Baptist Church

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Apologies sent to the wrong address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2020 21:32
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SDC Plan Local Revuew Consultation 2020 - Feedback from Minchinhampton Baptist Church

Dear All,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the SDC local plan review.

As a key part of the Minchinhampton town community, parish and beyond we very much support the vision for the parish that:- *“ Our Communities may aspire to develop culturally, aesthetically, commercially, environmentally, socially and spiritually, providing a safe place for future generations and families”* that was set out in the Minchinhampton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018 – 2036.

The Minchinhampton Baptist Church (MBC) has played a significant role, alongside the Parish Church to provide different aspects of Christian worship and activities that meet the community needs in the past, today and in the future. Historically of course this goes back to 1765 when the original Chapel was built in Chapel Lane prior to the newer building built on Tetbury Street in 1834 and the Institute serving the community in the early 1900's.

From this History we continue to support the local town and support the SDC Strategic Objectives:-

S01 - for Accessible Communities, active social, leisure and recreation and Youth and Adult learning.

S01a – for healthy, inclusive and safe communities - healthy lifestyles, social interaction for the young and elderly and vulnerable.

S03 – For town centres that have vitality and viability demonstrating connectivity for and within the community

S05 - climate Change and Environmental – where we maximise the re-use of buildings

In fact in a way MBC has been seeking over many years to aspire with these values for the community.

Under Section 4 Housing and Community, we recognise the needs for New Developments as in Core Policy CP8 and Affordable Housing Core Policy CP9

Much of the plan provides support as to where Housing development is expected to be and recognise the Housing needs in Minchinhampton as identified in the Neighbourhood Development plan and in the SDC plan review.

As a church we wish to meet the needs of new families coming into the community and would suggest that in Minchinhampton, MBC is limited in some ways due to its history that we have referred to the introduction to this submission due to:-

1. In 2020 there is limited parking capacity in the vicinity of Tetbury Street which causes particular problems at times of services and events being held at MBC in parking on Tetbury Street and in the local area, this is particularly acute when we cater for more elderly people, those with Blue Parking Badges or when needing to use the Church for weddings and funerals.
2. Looking to this next decade and beyond we wish to offer more activities in the locality as the demographic profile will continue to change with time and new families but find ourselves potentially limited by the building we currently have and wish to continue to use.

Firstly, we would therefore welcome solutions that can be provided that offer more parking in the east of the town in the area of Tetbury Street. MBC does attract people from outside the community and therefore carparking is and will remain a real key issue as well as being an attraction for bringing people into a refreshed town centre. An example of this recently was when MBC held our Christmas Dinner for fifty people at The Crown.

Secondly, as there is scheduled to be more people making up the community in the coming decades, from varied backgrounds there are limited number of venues where 200 plus people can meet within community. MBC would welcome the opportunity of sharing needed additional facilities within the Community that would accommodate the numbers we have at present and will increase with time, coupled with the appropriate parking capacity.

Building and rebuilding communities for the future which can be economic, vibrant and cohesive in the centre of the town is challenging but we believe there needs to be a true balance of facilities that enables the community to bond, be creative and be a safe place for all in the community.

We would be please meet to expand on the principals expressed in these comments in future.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

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Secretary & Treasurer - Minchinhampton Baptist Church