

**Kingswood Parish Council**

**Kingswood Neighbourhood  
Development Plan**

**2014-2031**

**Basic Conditions Statement**

**April 2016**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to explain how the proposed Kingswood Neighbourhood Development Plan (KNDP) has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2015 (As Amended) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been considered to have been met.
- 1.2 The Statement addresses each of the four 'basic conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.
- 1.3 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
  - the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area); and
  - the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

## Supporting documents and evidence

- 1.4 The KNDP is supported by a Consultation Statement and this Basic Conditions Statement. The KNDP is also supported by a Character Assessment and other evidence prepared or commissioned by the Steering Group<sup>1</sup>

## Key statements

- 1.5 Kingswood Parish Council is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for its own parish. The KNDP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the neighbourhood area.
- 1.6 The neighbourhood area is contiguous with the parish boundary, as shown in the map accompanying the neighbourhood area designation application included as Appendix A.
- 1.7 The KNDP covers the period from 2014 to 2031.
- 1.8 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 It is not considered that the KNDP will have any effect to weaken the statutory protection for Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings within the neighbourhood area (see also Section 5).
- 1.10 The KNDP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the area of Kingswood as designated by Stroud District Council in June 2014.
- 1.11 There are no other Neighbourhood Development Plans in place for the Kingswood neighbourhood area.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.knp.btck.co.uk/>

## 2 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

2.1 It is required that the Kingswood Neighbourhood Development Plan (KNDP) has appropriate regard to national planning policy. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

### National Planning Policy Framework

2.2 The NPPF in sections 183-185 refers to Neighbourhood Development Plans and seeks that those plans have regard to the policies in the NPPF and to be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. This phrasing is explained more clearly by the Localism Act which refers to the 'adopted Development Plan'.

2.3 This section demonstrates that the KNDP has regard to relevant policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- Building a strong, competitive economy
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
- Requiring good design
- Promoting healthy communities
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

2.4 The KNDP has 9 principal objectives. These specific goals are derived from the broad Vision for the community also set out in the KNDP. The Submission version of the KNDP provides a table on page 11 demonstrating the linkages between the Vision, Objectives and specific policies within the Plan. This table allows the Objectives (and components of the Vision) to be related to the 'Policy Topics' covered by the KNDP including "Heritage Assets", "Environment", "Facilities and Infrastructure", "Transport" and "Landscape Character". We summarise them in Table 2.1 below and which NPPF goals each objective seeks to address.

2.5 Table 2.2 then provides a summary of how each policy in the KNDP conforms specifically to the NPPF.

**Table 2.1: Assessment of KNDP objectives against NPPF goals**

KNDP Objective	Relevant NPPF goal
To conserve and enhance the areas of countryside that separate Kingswood from Wotton-under-Edge, Hillesley, Wickwar, and Charfield.	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
To maintain, conserve and enhance the natural environment in respect of open spaces, public views of the distinctive landscape and wildlife.	Requiring good design Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

KNDP Objective	Relevant NPPF goal
To preserve and promote the heritage contained within the parish.	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
To support proposals for development in keeping with the scale and character of the parish.	Requiring good design
To support sustainable development which reflects the housing preferences of the local community and different groups in terms of affordability, type, size and a mix which reinforces local character.	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes Requiring good design
To ensure that alternatives to car use are available. To ensure that the needs and safety of pedestrians, particularly children and vulnerable groups are prioritised. To control vehicle parking accordingly.	Promoting sustainable transport
To support business development and employment opportunities within the parish.	Building a strong, competitive economy Supporting a prosperous rural economy
To protect and improve the existing community, leisure and sport facilities for all age groups.	Supporting a prosperous rural economy Promoting sustainable transport Promoting healthy communities
To support and maintain the provision of a village school with spaces for all primary school age children living within the parish.	Supporting a prosperous rural economy Promoting sustainable transport

**Table 2.2: Assessment of how each policy in the KNDP conforms to the NPPF**

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
1	POLICY SL1: KINGSWOOD SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT LIMITS BOUNDARY	14, 17, 19, 28, 47, 55, 70, 111, 157, 162	Sets out the broad spatial approach in the NDP to positively support a range of residential, economic and infrastructure development at locations identified as appropriate for such schemes – principally within the Settlement Development Limits at Kingswood - and consistent with other policies in the NDP. The policy recognises that residential development may contribute towards the housing needs of the District where it can be demonstrated that this will sustain the role and function of the settlement and contribute to viability and social cohesion.
2	POLICY SL2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS	50, 56, 58, 59, 61, 126	Seeks to ensure that housing development is not out of keeping with the design of surrounding housing, without stifling good or innovative design and protecting the amenities of surrounding occupiers. The policy highlights that evidence to inform applications is available through the Conservation Area Statement and Village Design Statement adopted as Supplementary Planning Advice in December 2014. The policy offers opportunities to reinforce distinctiveness and local character drawing on features from the built environment and the appropriate provision of green space.
3	POLICY SL3: AFFORDABLE HOUSING	47, 54	Sets out a policy approach for the consideration of locally identified affordable housing need. The policy is based on a current estimate provided through Local Housing Needs Surveys and recognises where this may be additional to the existing needs identified in the District Local Plan. The policy identifies the potential benefits for sustainable development in providing additional affordable housing to this with a connection to the Parish through residence or location of employment. The policy seeks to provide support for small-scale affordable housing applications ('rural exception sites') subject to safe access to facilities at Kingswood, providing a mix of dwellings to meet evidenced need and consistent with Local Plan Policy HC4 to provide local nomination rights.
4	POLICY CA1: KINGSWOOD CONSERVATION AREA	58, 61, 126, 135, 132, 137, 138	Seeks to ensure that new development has regard to the historic environment in terms of local character and heritage significance associated with the Kingswood Conservation Area including its contribution to the form of built development, use of materials and relationship to access and street layout.

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
5	POLICY CA2: LISTED BUILDINGS AND NON-DESIGNATED ASSETS	58, 61, 126, 132, 133, 134, 137	Seeks to ensure that new development takes account of any impact on the significance of heritage assets and their setting. The policy identifies that this specifically relates to the Listed Buildings in the Parish (including those contributing to the Conservation Area) but also a number of non-designated assets and that more information is provided within the Kingswood Conservation Area Statement. The policy allows for relevant exceptions when considering any harm (including substantial harm) that may arise from development affecting heritage assets, such as where development secures the optimum viable use.
6	POLICY CA3: ARCHAEOLOGY	126, 132, 137, 139	The policy looks to ensure appropriate investigation and consultation for all heritage assets of archaeological interest in the Parish including those which are currently only partially identified or where the location is unknown. The policy provides direction on the nature of possible assets including Kingswood Abbey.
7	POLICY BE1: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	19, 21, 28	Strongly supports proposals in scale with the rural nature of the village that will generally help to create, expand and develop business initiatives subject to avoiding adverse impacts upon neighbours or the locality. The policy seeks to protect commercial land and premises that make a valuable in maintaining the vitality of the local economy and supports their further development. The policy identifies local circumstances where proposals may have significant adverse effects and also where proposals for changes of use that do not provide employment opportunities will be considered.
8	POLICY BE2: SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE AND HOME WORKING	21, 58, 109	The policy contributes to ensuring a prosperous rural economy and reducing the need to travel as well as supporting land and property to optimise the potential for development whilst providing safeguards for the amenities of surrounding occupiers and land uses and to ensure any related works contribute to local character and good design. In appropriate circumstances, for example, the policy supports the conversion and adaptation of existing dwellings to support home-working.
9	POLICY BE3: RURAL DIVERSIFICATION	19, 21, 28	The policy is consistent with the aims of supporting a prosperous rural economy in terms of supporting a wide range of economic activities including those that may be appropriate in existing or redundant agricultural buildings. This policy highlights where appropriate opportunities for diversification of the rural economy will be supported (the supporting texts notes this may include, for example, tourism and recreation uses) where they provide other employment-generating functions in appropriate circumstances.

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
10	POLICY GSC1: PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION SPACE	17, 28, 38, 55, 69, 70, 72, 73	The policy looks to ensure that key facilities such as the primary school remain within walking distance of most properties within the village and supports the development of new infrastructure which enhances or maintains the vitality of the community. The policy looks to retain and support provision of facilities to improve social interaction and support the future development of services and well as enhance access to high quality open spaces
11	POLICY GSC2: ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE	69, 70	Looks to retain and safeguard local vitality through guarding against the loss of valued services and facilities and planning positively for opportunities for diversification or shared space where appropriate.
12	POLICY E1: CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HABITATS	103, 109, 113, 114, 117, 118, 152	<p>The policy seeks to identify and protect features in the natural environment consistent with their contribution to the hierarchy of biodiversity assets. The policy aims to avoid negative impacts on existing designated sites and legally protected and locally important areas of habitat.</p> <p>Net gains in biodiversity are sought through appropriate mitigation, enhancement or recreating habitats and the policy sets out a requirement to consider any impacts from new development on existing areas of mitigation and have this confirmed as part of responses from relevant statutory consultation bodies.</p>
13	POLICY E2: MINIMISING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT	109, 113, 114, 117, 118	Looks to ensure that proposals for new development explore the full range of opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around the site including wherever possible minimising the loss of existing biodiversity assets or ensuring their satisfactory replacement which continues to reflect features such as local character.
14	POLICY E3 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT	109, 113, 114, 117, 118	Seeks to plan positively for the management of green infrastructure, including taking account of the contribution that assets within the Parish make towards wider ecological network as well as their value in terms of increase public access to and enjoyment of the natural environment.
15	POLICY E4: PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES	74, 76, 77	Makes use of the provision for making a designation and applies the site selection criteria. The justification and evidence used to support the designations of three areas of Local Green Space is included within a table to support the Policy text in order to reflect their importance – including contribution towards recreation and the setting of heritage assets.

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
16	POLICY E5: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FOOTWAYS AND CYCLEPATHS	75, 109, 114, 115	Seeks to protect existing PROWs identified in the Plan, ensuring that any re-provision addresses key criteria in terms of its accessibility, function and value to the community and contributes towards green infrastructure. Views which complement the enjoyment of locally valued landscape character are also recognised in terms of their relationship with open space and the amenity value of the Rights of Way network. The policy contains provision to support uptake of cycling alongside criteria to ensure that cycling infrastructure best reflects considerations for the local environment
17	POLICY LA1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND LOCALLY IMPORTANT VIEWS	17, 75, 109, 113, 114, 115	Places great weight on conserving the landscape and scenic beauty of the Cotswolds AONB and land within the Parish which contributes to its setting, recognises in-particular the relationship with views from public spaces. The policy also identifies important features and criteria within the landscape which are highly valued locally in terms of their connection with the built, natural and historic environment and connections to open space of amenity value. The policy also contributes to recognising the intrinsic value of the countryside and its contribution to local character and identity.
18	POLICY FR1: MINIMISING THE IMPACT OF FLOODING FROM DEVELOPMENT	94, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103	Seeks proposals that take account of national policy and guidance for flood risk and drainage matters and identifies relevant local criteria to ensure that development does not worsen flood risk elsewhere and provide for appropriate management of the local drainage network, including where appropriate making provision for Sustainable Drainage Solutions and integration with green infrastructure networks such as through opening up existing culverts.
19	POLICIES T1A and T1B – PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY	28, 30, 34, 35, 39, 69, 122	These policies look to promote pedestrian accessibility through any new development in terms of ensuring that development does not negatively impact upon walkability for all users and where necessary provides an assessment of equality and access issues for non-motorised users. The policies include a framework to identify and provide for footpath and accessibility improvements at key locations in the village and also seeks to ensure that developments do not have a cumulative severe impact on the highway network and permit safe access by pedestrians improve access to key facilities within Kingswood and ensure that non-car users have alternative routes to the existing road network.

No.	Policy title and reference	NPPF ref. (para.)	Commentary
20	POLICIES T2A and T2B - CYCLING	17, 30, 34, 35, 39	These policies look to minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists and promote the maximum possible uptake of opportunities for cycling including recognising where improved cycling infrastructure can improve safety and complement green infrastructure networks.
21	POLICIES T3A and T3B – MANAGING TRAFFIC IMPACT	28, 30, 34, 35, 39	These policies look to ensure that the transport aspects of any proposals (such as provision for parking) take account of the wider impacts of development and secure acceptable outcomes in terms of type, mix and use of development, their relationship with good design and overall visual appearance, including where increased traffic or transport impacts may impact upon local character or designated heritage assets.
22	POLICIES T4A and T4B – SPEED AND SAFETY	28, 30, 34, 35, 39	These policies look to minimise the potential conflict between traffic and pedestrian / cycle movements through taking account of vehicle speeds. The policies support in-principle reductions in speed limits and delivering the principles of home zones.
23	POLICY T5 – SMARTER TRAVEL	30, 34, 35, 36	Seeks to secure Travel Plans on an appropriate scale of new development and from existing major trip generator sites in order to maximise sustainable travel behaviour. The policy looks to facilitate and enhance the use of sustainable modes of transport.
24	POLICIES T6A and T6B – PARKING	28, 30, 34, 35, 39	The policies looks to protect and enhance the current levels of parking for facilities in Kingswood in order to help ensure the continuing vitality of the retail and service offer and provide for appropriate levels of car parking in new developments.

### 3 CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The NPPF states in paragraph 14 that a presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF and 'should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.'
- 3.2 Table 3.1 below summarises how the objectives and policies in the KNDP contribute towards sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF.

**Table 3.1: Assessment of KNDP objectives and policies against sustainable development**

<b>Deliver Economic Sustainability</b>	
<i>NPPF Definition – 'Contribute to building a strong, responsive economy'</i>	
<b>KNDP Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that alternatives to car use are available. To ensure that the needs and safety of pedestrians, particularly children and vulnerable groups are prioritised. To control vehicle parking accordingly.</li> <li>To support sustainable development which reflects the housing preferences of the local community and different groups in terms of affordability, type, size and a mix which reinforces local character.</li> <li>To support business development and employment opportunities within the parish.</li> <li>To protect and improve the existing community, leisure and sport facilities for all age groups.</li> <li>To support proposals for development in keeping with the scale and character of the parish.</li> </ul>
<b>KNDP Policies</b>	<p>POLICY SL1: KINGSWOOD SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT LIMITS BOUNDARY</p> <p>POLICY BE1: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>POLICY BE2: SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE AND HOME WORKING</p> <p>POLICY BE3: RURAL DIVERSIFICATION</p> <p>POLICY GSC1: PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION SPACE</p> <p>POLICY GSC2: ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE</p> <p>POLICY T5 – SMARTER TRAVEL</p> <p>POLICIES T6A and T6B – PARKING</p>
<b>KNDP Comments</b>	<p>The KNDP recognises the rural setting providing an underlying context for the Parish whilst recognising the role of the main settlement at Kingswood as providing a range of services and facilities to benefit the local economy which should be sustained. The economic benefits of local employment are particularly emphasised, taking account of the significant opportunities in the Parish including a number of designated 'Key Employment sites (including Renishaw works) and other non-designated employment locations. The continued appropriate growth and development of business initiatives is supported across the Parish and the KNDP</p>

	<p>provides support for adaptation to modern working patterns through home-working. The KNDP recognises the opportunity to promote sustainable development by increasing the opportunities to live locally for those who work in Kingswood but live outside the Parish and require affordable housing. The approach as a whole also seeks to increase the uptake of sustainable transport use and improve access to local employment opportunities by non-car means e.g. walking and cycling. The KNDP also recognises the additional economic benefits of employment-generating non-commercial uses such as retail, tourism and leisure and seeks to support their development and other opportunities for rural diversification.</p>
<b>Deliver Social Sustainability</b>	
<b><i>NPPF Definition – 'Support strong vibrant and healthy communities'</i></b>	
<b>KNDP Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support proposals for development in keeping with the scale and character of the parish.</li> <li>• To support sustainable development which reflects the housing preferences of the local community and different groups in terms of affordability, type, size and a mix which reinforces local character.</li> <li>• To ensure that alternatives to car use are available. To ensure that the needs and safety of pedestrians, particularly children and vulnerable groups are prioritised. To control vehicle parking accordingly.</li> <li>• To protect and improve the existing community, leisure and sport facilities for all age groups.</li> <li>• To support and maintain the provision of a village school with spaces for all primary school age children living within the parish.</li> </ul>
<b>KNDP Policies</b>	<p>POLICY SL1: KINGSWOOD SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT LIMITS BOUNDARY</p> <p>POLICY SL2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS</p> <p>POLICY SL3: AFFORDABLE HOUSING</p> <p>POLICY GSC1: PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION SPACE</p> <p>POLICY GSC2: ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE</p> <p>POLICY E4: PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> <p>POLICY E5: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FOOTWAYS AND CYCLEPATHS</p> <p>POLICIES T1A and T1B – PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY</p> <p>POLICIES T2A and T2B - CYCLING</p> <p>POLICIES T4A and T4B – SPEED AND SAFETY</p> <p>POLICY T5 – SMARTER TRAVEL</p> <p>POLICIES T6A and T6B – PARKING</p>
<b>KNDP Comments</b>	<p>The KNDP seeks to maintain a thriving community across the Parish and focused on the main settlement at Kingswood. The KNDP's objectives recognise that this can</p>

	<p>best be achieved by supporting and sustaining the viability of local services and facilities and providing for any additional development in close proximity to these. This includes promoting the most effective use of sustainable transport methods and offering encouragement for proposals that demonstrate how these can be enhanced.</p> <p>The KNDP seeks to identify sustainable patterns of growth for the village primarily focused within the Settlement Development Limits for new residential and commercial development. This aims to take account of local character and land use patterns as part of identifying appropriate patterns of development and ensure that proposals above an appropriate scale have full regard to other evidence such as the Kingswood Village Design Statement. This aims to ensure that new development complements local character and the overall dwelling mix in the village, for example.</p> <p>Meeting the housing needs of all is recognised as a priority, and opportunities to provide the affordable housing needed for those with a direct connection to the Parish are encouraged. The provision of community infrastructure is also identified as a local priority, including circumstances where this may be permitted beyond Settlement Development Limits and exceptionally in association with enabling residential development where this can enhance the role and function of the settlement.</p> <p>Objectives to maintain the character and vitality of the Parish recognise the important contribution of the open space and green infrastructure makes towards leisure, recreation and well-being and there is a specific intention to protect the setting of the Cotswolds AONB and enjoyment of it from locally valued public viewpoints within the Parish.</p>
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**Deliver Environmental Sustainability**

***NPPF Definition – ‘Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment and mitigate and adapt to climate change’***

<b>KNDP Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conserve and enhance the areas of countryside that separate Kingswood from Wotton-under-Edge, Hillesley, Wickwar, and Charfield.</li> <li>• To maintain, conserve and enhance the natural environment in respect of open spaces, public views of the distinctive landscape and wildlife.</li> <li>• To preserve and promote the heritage contained within the parish.</li> <li>• To support proposals for development in keeping with the scale and character of the parish.</li> </ul>
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<b>KNDP Policies</b>	<p>POLICY SL1: KINGSWOOD SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT LIMITS BOUNDARY</p> <p>POLICY SL2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS</p> <p>POLICY CA1: KINGSWOOD CONSERVATION AREA</p> <p>POLICY CA2: LISTED BUILDINGS AND NON-DESIGNATED ASSETS</p> <p>POLICY CA3: ARCHAEOLOGY</p> <p>POLICY GSC1: PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION SPACE</p>
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	<p>POLICY E1: CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HABITATS</p> <p>POLICY E2: MINIMISING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>POLICY E3 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>POLICY E4: PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> <p>POLICY E5: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FOOTWAYS AND CYCLEPATHS</p> <p>POLICY LA1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND LOCALLY IMPORTANT VIEWS</p> <p>POLICY FR1: MINIMISING THE IMPACT OF FLOODING FROM DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>POLICIES T3A and T3B – MANAGING TRAFFIC IMPACT</p>
<p><b>KNDP Comments</b></p>	<p>The KNDP recognises the role and function of different locations across the Parish as key to the character and identity of the Parish as a whole and important for the environmental domain of sustainable development. The KNDP requires good design of new development, including to reflect local distinctiveness and the area’s heritage assets, and this is enhanced by designating certain spaces as local green spaces of importance to the local community. Across the Parish, this is complemented by policy direction to concentrate development at the main settlement in Kingswood and set out appropriate development uses for the open countryside and surrounding hamlets within them.</p> <p>Particular emphasis is placed on traffic congestion and minimising impact of any potential development on existing traffic corridors including those within the Conservation Area. The KNDP also highlights the nature of the local drainage network and its contribution towards green infrastructure and providing habitats for protected species as well as managing flood-risk.</p> <p>The KNDP seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity, particularly with regard designated sites and protected species. It seeks to minimise the impacts of flooding and places a focus on reducing traffic congestion and travel by the private car to reduce carbon emissions and support for renewable energy schemes looks to combat and prevent climate change.</p>

- 3.3 As demonstrated in Table 3.1, the strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals.
- 3.4 Kingswood Parish Council has considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required because the KNDP is not likely to have a significant impact upon the environment.

## **4 GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

- 4.1 The development plan currently consists of the following:
- Stroud District Local Plan (2015)
  - Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012 'saved' policies
  - Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (2012)
  - Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997- 2006 'saved' policies
- 4.2 The policies of relevance are shown in Table 4.1 below, along with a consideration of whether they represent the strategic policies of the development plan. Where they do, consideration is made of whether the KNDP is in general conformity with them.
- 4.3 There are no additional emerging developing plan documents for Stroud District which it is necessary for the KNDP to take into account.
- 4.4 Any policy that is not identified in Table 4.1 is not considered to be relevant to the KNDP because the KNDP does not have any policies that directly relate to it.
- 4.5 It is confirmed that there are no 'saved' policies in either the 'Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012' or 'Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997-2006' nor policies in the Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (2012) the KNDP policies have any relevance to.

**Table 4.1: Relevant strategic policies in the Stroud District Council Development Plan Documents**

Local Plan Policy	KNDP policy
<b>Stroud District Local Plan (2015)</b>	
CP2: Strategic Growth and Development Locations	<p>Policy SL1 recognises that the main settlement at Kingswood has an identified Settlement Development Limits boundary where new residential, retail, business and infrastructure development is to be encouraged and that this location is identified within the settlement hierarchy of the SDLP.</p> <p>Policy SL1 also sets out the land uses typically sought in open countryside locations outside the main settlement in Kingswood.</p> <p>The KNDP as a whole recognises that this policy identifies other limited development may take place outside such designated areas and in accordance with the other policies of the SDLP. Relevant circumstances where the KNDP potentially supports additional development on this basis are set out against specific other policies from the SDLP listed below.</p>
CP3: Settlement Hierarchy	<p>Policy SL1 recognises that Kingswood village is defined as a Third Tier settlement within the SDLP settlement hierarchy. As a location expected to provide for lesser levels of development, Policy SL1 also sets out that any proposals (including those that may contribute market and affordable housing) sustain its role, support and maintain the viability of the Parish and provide evidence to demonstrate this to attain support.</p> <p>It is important to note that in considering “appropriate development” the SDLP Inspector’s Report understood that this should be read with specific policies and the Plan as a whole (including SDLP Policies CP3, HC1 and HC4) (paragraph 141). These policies focus development within Settlement Development Limits, whilst the Plan as a whole provides relevant exceptions.</p> <p>Policy SL3 reflects SDLP Policy CP3 and the support for Third Tier Settlements to deliver affordable housing to meet locally identified needs as a priority for development.</p>

Local Plan Policy	KNDP policy
CP4: Place Making	<p>Policies SL1 and SL2 in-particular represent the essence of this policy (and the associated 'mini-vision' for the Wotton Cluster) to recognise character and distinctiveness and focus development in the most sustainable locations. Other policies in the KNDP as a whole reflect the Guiding Principles for the Cluster such as CA1 (recognising the area's heritage assets) and LA1 (conserving and enhancing the high quality natural landscape including the AONB and its setting)</p> <p>Policy SL2 looks to protect or enhance a locally defined sense of place through local design considerations and characteristics of the built and natural environment. The KNDP is supported by an Environmental Character Assessment and Village Design Statement to assist with the direction of this policy.</p> <p>Policies T1A, T1B and T5 especially seeks to reduce the dominance of the car by encouraging sustainable alternatives and improving safety.</p>
Policy CP7: Sustainable Communities	<p>Policy SL1 recognises the need for any development proposals to demonstrate their contribution towards sustainable communities and Policy SL2 requires proposals to take account of local housing mix.</p> <p>Policy SL3 sets out a priority to provide for locally arising needs for affordable housing and provide nomination rights to those with a long-standing connection to the area either through residence or employment within the parish.</p>
Policy CP8: New Housing Development	<p>Policies SL1 and SL2 together set out support in principle for proposals looking to deliver market and affordable housing subject to demonstrating that this will support and maintain sustainability and viability across the Parish and also considering how they meet the local housing needs of the Parish and reflect local character.</p> <p>Policy GCS1 provides details of where the provision of housing alongside the delivery of new community facilities may be considered favourably as an exception to the role of Kingswood in the settlement hierarchy and the location on development outside of Settlement Development Limits, where this demonstrably enhances the sustainability and role of the settlement.</p>

Local Plan Policy	KNDP policy
Policy HC1: Meeting Small Scale Housing Need Within Defined Settlements	<p>Policy SL1 reflects the identified Settlement Development Limits boundary for Kingswood within which proposals for residential development will be supported.</p> <p>Policy SL2 provides for a high standard of design locally in broad accordance with the criteria of SDLP Policy HC1.</p> <p>Policy E4 sets out Local Green Spaces provides additional support to protecting open space important to the character of the settlement.</p> <p>Policy E1 sets out the need to protect locally identified habitats and areas of recorded species where negative impacts upon biodiversity are to be avoided and Policy E3 looks to improve connectivity between wildlife and green spaces.</p>
Policy HC4: Local Housing Need (exception sites)	Policy SL3 provides an indication of need and expresses support for providing additional affordable housing with nomination rights for those with a connection to the area as a specific priority, along with criteria for where any such sites may be most appropriately located in order to ensure sustainable development outcomes.
Policy HC5: Replacement Dwellings	Policy SL1 provides support for providing replacement dwellings across the Parish (subject to relevant criteria).
Policy HC8: Extensions to Dwellings	Policy HC8 of the SDLP may not be considered a strategic policy. However, Policy BE2 of the KNDP does relate in its support for adaptations and extensions to dwellings to support employment and home-working whilst seeking to ensure a high quality design and protect local character and neighbours' amenities. This supports the viability of home-working and flexible use of accommodation.
Policy CP11: New Employment Development	<p>Policy BE1 offers local support for economic development in-keeping with rural character.</p> <p>Policy BE3 recognises specific support for this as an element in rural regeneration, including the conversion and re-use of disused agricultural buildings for small scale enterprise. The KNDP recognises that many business premises also provide a community service and their loss should be specifically resisted – see Policy GSC2. Delivery Policy EI6 of the SDLP (although non-strategic) is also relevant with respect to proposals affecting community uses in the context of KNDP Policy GSC2.</p> <p>Policy BE2 sets out how economic development can be achieved as part of conversion of existing dwellings.</p>

Local Plan Policy	KNDP policy
Policy EI1: Key Employment Sites; and Policy EI3: Small Employment Sites	Policies SL1 and BE1 together recognise the high degree of existing employment land within the Parish and the need to protect and support these locations in continuing to provide jobs and opportunities for economic development. The policies for the KNDP provide additional detail as part of a framework for where non-employment generating uses may be considered, for example when there is no prospect for re-occupation following sustained marketing activity.
Policy CP13: Demand Management and Sustainable Transport Measures	Policy SL1 of the KNDP contributes to the intentions of SDLP Policy CP13, setting out a Travel Plan as a suggested requirement for proposals to demonstrate how they will maintain and support sustainability across the Parish.  Policies T1A and T1B, T2A, T2B and T5 provides additional direction to support and encourage sustainable transport patterns, including ensuring access to sustainable transport modes, setting criteria for the most sustainable locations to achieve this and identifying key parking facilities in the village which should be considered.
Policy EI10: Provision of New Tourism Opportunities And Policy EI11: Promoting Sport, Leisure and Recreation	Policy GSC1 recognises the need to support the provision of new or improved / extended facilities for sport, leisure, recreation and culture including potentially in locations beyond Settlement Development Limits.  Policy SL1 makes provision for Biodiversity Action Plans to demonstrate and encourage positive effects of any future development on the natural environment to add local recreational and amenity value.
Policy EI12: Promoting Transport Choice and Accessibility	Policies T1 – T5 set out the requirement for proposal to connect with and enhance existing infrastructure and seeks to direct any growth to the most sustainable areas of the Parish. The policies also make clear the appropriate parking standards for the Parish.  Policies SL1 and T5 sets out that proposals in the main settlement at Kingswood should provide a Travel Plan as appropriate.
Policy CP14: High Quality Sustainable Development	This is an over-arching policy to which a significant number of the KNDP policies reinforce or have regard whilst also having a more specific relationship with other elements of the SDLP.  Of particular note are the local biodiversity features in the natural environment set out in Policies E1, E2 and E3 and direction on specific local character in Policy SL2.

Local Plan Policy	KNDP policy
Policy CP15: A Quality Living and Working Countryside	<p>Policies SL1 and LA1 provide clarity on key features of local identity and historic character that reinforce the need for appropriate uses in the countryside beyond settlement development limits within the Parish. Policy SL1 also sets out the types of development considered appropriate within this context, including having regard to conserving and enhancing character in outlying hamlets.</p> <p>It is also important to highlight that SDLP Policy CP15 serves as the corollary to other policies directing growth referred to above and that the SDLP Inspector's Report highlights that settlement development limits are an important means of directing growth to the most sustainable locations (Paragraph 194) and that "to allow unrestricted development outside existing settlement limits could undermine the established strategy of managing growth in the district." (Paragraph 66).</p> <p>Policy SL3 promotes rural exception sites consistent with the forms of development also supported through Policy CP15.</p>
Policy ES4: Water Resources, Quality and Flood Risk	Policy FR1 provides direction of Rural Sustainable Drainage Solutions and seeks to give effect to relevant byelaws for Stroud District (adopted 2002) regarding development in proximity to watercourses as well as setting priorities for management of the local drainage network.
Policy ES6: Providing for Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policies E1 and E2 take forward the approach of SDLP Policy ES6, having regard to locally and nationally designated sites and protected species but also providing direction for undesignated but locally important assets including locally important habitats, wildlife corridors and areas of species recording. This includes taking account of the impact on wildlife that may arise from successive phases of mitigation.
Policy ES7: Landscape Character	<p>Policy E4 provides for the designation of Local Green Spaces, some of which reinforce special features and diversity of local landscape character.</p> <p>Policy E3 looks to secure the protection, retention or replacement of landscape and biodiversity features where appropriate.</p> <p>Policy LA1 recognises the contribution of landscape and character to the setting and identity of locations across the Parish, including in-particular the locally valued relationship with the Cotswolds AONB and other locally important key views.</p>
Policy ES8: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands	<p>Policy E1 identifies additional biodiversity assets to be considered in the context of this policy and Policy E2 looks to minimise the environmental impact of proposals, securing replacement provision for loss of tree cover or vegetation wherever possible.</p> <p>Policy E5 notes that any provision or relocation of rights of way will be supported where they contribute to wildlife corridors.</p>

Local Plan Policy	KNDP policy
Policy ES10: Valuing Our Historic Environment and Assets	Policies CA1, CA2 and CA3 identify key heritage assets to be considered as part of any development proposals. This includes reference to the Kingswood Conservation Area Statement providing up-to-date evidence for heritage significance in some cases and also setting out provisions for undesignated heritage assets and to further the investigation of potentially unidentified archaeological remains.
Policy ES13: Protection of Existing Open Space	<p>Policy E4 identifies appropriate Local Green Spaces (and highlights other key areas of open space) that accord with SDLP Policy ES13 in terms of their role such as providing focal points or contributing to distinctiveness and local character.</p> <p>Policy E3 seeks to secure improvement to green infrastructure corridors as part of relevant development proposals.</p> <p>Policy E5 recognises that existing public rights of way provide positive existing access to views and for leisure and recreation and that these should not be harmed; also setting out that where realignment is necessary landscaped wildlife corridors should be provided as part of alternatives.</p> <p>Policy LA1 identifies that public spaces provide important locations to enjoy locally identified key views within the Parish including from the village centre and Kingswood Playing Field and that development should not adversely affect the amenity of these more sensitive locations.</p>

## **5 DOES NOT BREACH, AND IS COMPATIBLE WITH, EU OBLIGATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.
- 5.2 The Local Planning Authority, Stroud District Council (SDC), allows relevant qualifying bodies to submit a screening request for emerging NDPs. The KNDP Steering Group provided SDC with a copy of the Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) KNDP, from which the LPA provided a Screening Opinion regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations. To ensure legal compliance and a robust screening opinion, SDC considered the likely effects of the NDP against the criteria in Schedule I, of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
- 5.3 The formal opinion is included as part of the KNDP submission along with the consultation responses and further comments of statutory consultees Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency<sup>2</sup> (See Appendix B to this document). These consultees were provided with a copy of the Screening Opinion on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and invited to provide comments on the report.
- 5.4 Responses from the statutory consultees have been considered alongside the screening report. All of the consultees agreed with the opinion that a full SEA of the KNDP would not be required and considered that the plan was unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 SDC proceeded to issue its determination that the KNDP will not give rise to significant environmental effects or have significant effects on European Designated Sites regarding consideration under the Habitats Directive. The determination of SDC is also included as part of the KNDP submission.
- 5.5 Preparation of the KNDP has been supported by extensive efforts at community engagement as detailed in the Consultation Statement (April 2016). It is considered significant that this takes forward earlier means of public participation such as Parish surveys. The Consultation Statement also details the wide range of media used to distribute information and that face-to-face consultation activities were provided as part of consultation of the Draft Plan. There is therefore significant confidence that all sections of the community, including hard-to-reach' groups have been offered the opportunity to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan process.
- 5.6 Policies have been prepared in a manner that seeks to improve development outcomes for different population groups including the elderly and disabled, for example in terms of accessibility and pedestrian safety. The policies have been shaped by the response to earlier consultations as part of looking to achieve this.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/2188/sea\\_and\\_hra\\_screening- determination\\_kingswood.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/2188/sea_and_hra_screening- determination_kingswood.pdf)

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Kingswood Neighbourhood Development Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Kingswood Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

## **APPENDIX A – NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION AND PARISH BOUNDARY MAP**

## **APPENDIX B – SEA SCREENING REPORT, STATUTORY CONSULTEE RESPONSES AND DETERMINATION**