

# SLIMBRIDGE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consultation Statement - Regulation 15

19 June 2023



## **1 Introduction**

**1.1** This draft Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Slimbridge Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (hereinafter ‘Neighbourhood Plan’ or ‘NDP’). Section 15(2) of part 5 of the regulations requires that a Consultation Statement should:

- Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan;
- Explain how they were consulted;
- Summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted, and
- Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered, and where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

**1.2** Part A gives an overview of the consultation events and activities that have been undertaken so far, to lead to the production of the Draft Slimbridge Neighbourhood Plan, and ultimately the planning policies contained within it.

**1.3** Part B is to come, and will give an overview and description of the formal pre-submission consultation, known as Regulation 14, that is currently being undertaken on the Draft Slimbridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan. This covers the period from 16 January 2023 to 26 February 2023. The purpose is to ensure Slimbridge Parish residents, stakeholders and other interested parties have an opportunity to formally comment on the draft Plan. Those comments and issues raised will be included in the next version of this report, together with responses. Changes made to the plan following consideration of consultation responses will also be outlined.

**1.4** Supporting information related to this Statement is available on the Slimbridge Parish Council (SPC) website (see ‘NDP draft documents and policies’).  
<https://slimbridge-pc.gov.uk/ndp-draft-policies/>:

Consultation Statement Material 1: Posters

Consultation Statement Material 2: Surveys 2021

Consultation Statement Material 3: Presentations

Consultation Statement Material 4: Residents Feedback

Consultation Statement Material 5: Regulation 14 Consultee Letters, List of Contacts and responses.

Consultation Material 6: Regulation 14 Publicity

Consultation Materials 7: Regulation 15 Representations and changes

## **PART A**

### **Our Approach to Consultation**

2.1 Throughout the preparation stages of the Slimbridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Slimbridge Parish Council and the NDP Steering Group have worked hard, despite the restrictions imposed by COVID lockdowns, to engage local people on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, and also ask for people's views on key topics.

2.2 In May 2020, a group of residents concerned about the potential development of Wisloe Green suggested to SPC that development of an NDP may be appropriate and SPC submitted an application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area to cover the Slimbridge Parish area on 19 May 2020. A Steering Group made up of councillors and residents was formed in July 2020 and held the first workshop. Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and two Working Groups were approved in September 2020. A leaflet was sent out with the village newsletter in September 2020 explaining the function of an NDP, asking whether residents were for or against an NDP and asking for volunteers. A project plan was defined and agreed by SPC. A risks and opportunities paper was drafted and agreed by SPC on 21 September 2020. The Steering Group then started gathering the evidence needed to support the NDP. Section 3 sets out the consultation methods that have been employed (pre-Regulation 14) in the preparation of the NDP.

### **3 Plan Preparation and Consultation (Pre-Regulation 14 Consultation)**

This section sets out details of how the community and other stakeholders as a whole were engaged in the process of plan preparation.

#### **3.1 Summary of events and activities**

<b>Event / Activity</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area: Slimbridge Parish	19 May 2020
Workshop held with Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC)	7 July 2020
NDP Steering Group formed and held first meeting	21 July 2020
Short questionnaire and explanation of an NDP circulated with Parish newsletter. 61 responses were received with 52 in favour of a NDP. 6 new volunteers	24 September 2020
Work started on by WG2 on questionnaire, residents, businesses, housing needs. Focussed on local needs, not generic.	21 October 2020
WG1 start work on publicity	21 October 2020
Meeting with GRCC on cooperation. GRCC agreed to review draft questionnaire	13 January 2021
GRCC redesigned questionnaire found to be unsatisfactory as it	18 February 2021

was generic and not specific to Slimbridge	
Poster advertising the questionnaire designed and distributed	27 February 2021.
Contact established with Simon Maher, Stroud District Council NDP contact	March 2021
Questionnaires distributed to households and businesses with replies requested before 31 March	5th March 2021
Joint newsletter with SPC and the Wisloe Action Group distributed	10 March 2021
Open Zoom event held to answer any questions regarding the NDP. Report issued	16 March 2021
Replies to questionnaires received from of 42% households, but only 6 businesses replied	1 April 2021
Residents' views report and Residents' views summary report issued	21 May 2021
Drop in event in the Village Hall	22 May 2021
Drop in event held in the Churchyard	5 June 2021
Drop in event in the Village Hall	19 June 2021
Meeting Simon Maher (Stroud District Council) who was satisfied with progress	22 June 2021
Drop in event at the Forge	3 July 2021
Business view report issued and results found to be unsatisfactory. New data collection exercise planned	19 July 2021
Housing needs survey report issued. See 'Local Housing Needs Report' for more detail	19 July 2021
Simplified data collected for businesses agreed with face to face meetings	August 2021
Table at Slimbridge flower show	21 August 2021
Further survey of local businesses 13 September 2021. See 'Businesses in the Parish' report for more detail	13 September 2021 -20 October 2021
Table at the Slimbridge Heritage Weekend event	23/24 October 2021
Draft 1 of the vision statement distributed to NDP Steering Group and Parish councillors	25 October 2021
GRCC produce independent Housing needs survey	November 2021
Table at the village hall coffee morning asking for views on Vision statement and key topics. Report issued	11 December 2021
Final version of Vision Statement (Draft5) included in village news letter asking for comments. None received	December 2021
Draft objectives publicised at Coffee morning and comments	5 February 2022

received. Report issued	
Leaflet publicising the Community event distributed to all households	10 September 2022
Community event to present the draft NDP and introduce the Reg 14 process	23 September 2022

### 3.1 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Steering Group Meetings

Steering Group Meetings are held at least every four weeks and report to the Parish Council at similar intervals. Copies of the minutes are available on the Parish Council Website. <https://slimbridge-pc.gov.uk/>

### 3.2 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Parish Website

The Slimbridge Parish Council website was used to promote the details of events and activities, and also hosted the NDP web pages which contain updates, consultation documents, minutes and evidence etc. <https://slimbridge-pc.gov.uk/>

**HOME** PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY VILLAGE FACILITIES CONTACT

## Slimbridge Parish Council

Slimbridge Parish website aims to tell you about the Parish and the work of the Parish Council.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan Open Event – Friday 23rd September**

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Open Event is planned for this Friday, 23rd September. A number of tables have been booked by local organisations and all draft documents of the NDP to

**LATEST NEWS**

- Parish News 20th September
- St John's Heritage Week
- Parish News 5th August
- Parish News 26th July 2022
- Parish News 16th June 2022

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

### 3.3 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Facebook

The Parish Council's Facebook page has been used to keep residents to keep up with NDP progress, we have also used this to share information and to flag up activities and events. In September 2022, the Parish Council Facebook page had 406 followers. The page is also linked to from the Parish Council website.

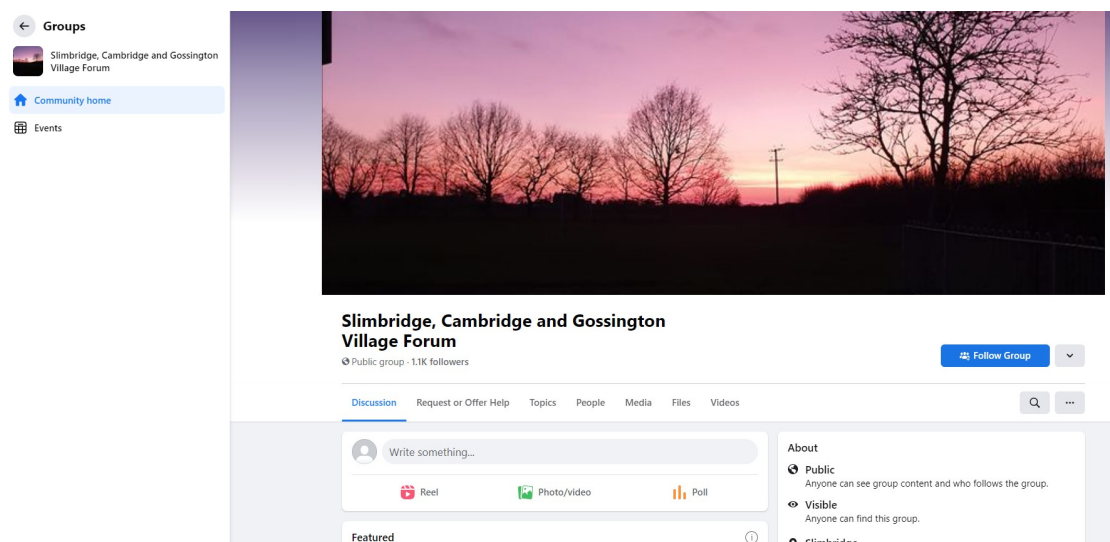
<https://www.facebook.com/slimbridgepc/>



### 3.4 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Facebook Slimbridge, Cambridge and Gossington Village Forum

The Slimbridge, Cambridge and Gossington Village Forum Facebook group has been used to provide updates on the NDP, activities and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/955054481534622/>



### 3.5 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Slimbridge Village Newsletter

The Village Newsletter has been used as another line of communication to circulate information about the progress of the NDP. This is distributed to all residents once every two months.

<b>DIARY DATES AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022</b>	
6Aug	First Saturday Coffee Morning – supporting the Church become more eco-friendly. VH 10.30-12noon
7Aug	Farewell Party on Retirement of the Rev. Bill Boon. St. John's Church, Slimbridge 11.00am
7Aug, 4Sept, 2Oct, 6Nov, 4 Dec:	Cricket Club Quiz Nights. Tudor Arms 7.30pm
10Aug	Slimbridge Parish WI - Dursley Lawn Bowls Club Taster Session, followed by Ploughmans Supper.
17Aug	SLHS.. "A Village in Wartime, Slimbridge 1939-1945" by Lee James/Den Bannister. V.H. 7.30pm
20Aug	Slimbridge Gardening Club Summer Show. Village Hall 2.00-4.00pm
3Sep	First Saturday Coffee Morning supporting Motor Neurone Disease Asssoc. V.H. 10.30-12noon
9-17Sep	Heritage Open Days Slimbridge Church (Tower tours Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> & Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> )
16, 30 Sept, 14, 28 Oct, 11, 25 Nov:	Knit, Natter & Sew Group. Slimbridge Cricket Pavilion. 2.00-4.00pm
13Sep	Slimbridge Gardening Club. "Seasonal Plants" with Tim Hancock. Village Hall 7.30pm
23Sep	Neighbourhood Development Plan Drop-in Event. Village Hall 3.30-8.30pm

<p><b>SLIMBRIDGE CHURCH, RETIREMENT OF THE REVEREND BILL BOON</b> ..... Bill Boon, Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Slimbridge for the past twenty-five years, will be retiring at the end of August. There will be a farewell party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00 am in the church. Everyone is very welcome, so please do join us to thank Bill and Julie for their many years of dedication to the parish and to wish them a long and happy retirement.</p>
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<p><b>SLIMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL</b> .... Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the Jubilee weekend celebrations, despite the rainy weather, with the numerous activities that were put on. Thanks to all those involved in organising this. The various working groups of the Parish Council continue to progress in their activities. The <b>Footpath Group</b> continue to meet fortnightly to clear footpaths in the parish, please don't forget to look at the recently rejuvenated Jubilee footpaths – maps are available on the parish website. The <b>Neighbourhood Development Plan Group</b> are now at the stage where the first draft of the plan is almost complete, and with this they are aiming to have an open evening on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 3.30 – 9pm in the Village Hall – look out for more details on this community event where all your valued input is welcomed. If you haven't yet signed up for parish e-mails, then please do via the parish website, or e-mail the Clerk who can add you to the list, you will then get up to date local information on events, roadworks, and activities of the Parish Council. You may have also seen work done on the verge of the A38 and Dursley Road, a <b>Verge Management working group</b> are managing this area to become a wildflower area. It is planned for small signs to go up soon to keep everyone informed of the work going on. Also look out for the bus shelters being revamped, another one is due a good clean soon and will have the back wall decorated. The <b>Slimbridge Road Safety Group</b> continue to move the mobile speed signs round the parish and Gloucestershire County Council have just released their Road Safety Policy for consultation so the Parish Council will be responding to that next month. The 20 is Plenty campaign continues and we welcome everyone to drive at 20mph through the parish. WWT are also helping promote this by having it in all their literature and on their website. Other projects on the horizon are looking at preserving the listed tombs in St Johns Churchyard and looking at upgrading the inside of the pavilion. To be involved in any of the Parish working groups, please do drop the Clerk an e-mail or phone call and you can be put in touch with the groups. Lastly, the Parish Council is now on the look out for another member of the public to join the Solar Farm Community panel and being involved in looking at grant applications for this, please e-mail the Clerk if you are interested in joining. The Solar Farm applications will be open from August – application forms available on the parish website, with a deadline to receive them by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Helen Dunn, Parish Clerk. <a href="mailto:clerk@slimbridge-pc.gov.uk">clerk@slimbridge-pc.gov.uk</a> 07943 894637 <a href="http://www.slimbridge-pc.gov.uk">www.slimbridge-pc.gov.uk</a></p>
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<p>On behalf of the <b>NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN GROUP</b>, Slimbridge Parish Council would like to invite you to an informal drop in event at the Village Hall on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022 between 3.30pm and 8.30pm where tea, coffee (wine and nibbles after 6.30 pm, kindly donated by Haydn Jones and Mike Stayte), will be provided. It's an event to share and consult with residents the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which has been drawn up by volunteers in the Parish over the last two years. A 15 minute presentation will be given by the Chair of the NDP, David Thoms, at intervals (3.45 pm - 4.30 pm, 5.30 pm and 7pm) with an opportunity after each session for residents to raise any queries they may have. We look forward to seeing you at this event.</p>	<p><b>SLIMBRIDGE CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS</b> A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our coffee mornings in June and July, by coming along, bringing donations to the produce stall or helping on the day. The two events together raised over £650 for Slimbridge School and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The coffee morning on 6<sup>th</sup> August will be helping Slimbridge Church become greener, raising funds to replace the present halogen bulbs with LEDs, to reduce carbon emissions. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> the coffee morning will be supporting the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Offers of homemade cakes, plants, fruit and vegetables are always welcome for the popular produce stall.</p> <p><b>HERITAGE OPEN DAYS</b> Slimbridge Church will be taking part in the national Heritage Open Days, from 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> September. Come along to find out more about this historic building at the centre of the village. Self-guided tours, children's trail and I-spy scavenger hunt. Tower tours on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.</p>
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### 3.6 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Drop in events

A number of drop in events have been held throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process, for example, Saturday Coffee mornings in the village hall and drop in events held in the churchyard.

### **3.7 ONGOING ACTIVITIES – Link to local activities**

The NDP Steering Group take advantage of opportunities to connect with the residents and businesses of Slimbridge e.g. local charity events, workshops in the area, Slimbridge gardening club shows, Parish Notice boards and the school. Wherever possible these events are used to update the community on the NDP. Members of the NDP Steering Group attended these events where possible, with the view of making people aware of progress on the NDP.



## **PART B**

### **REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION**

*Please note, this section is draft and will be completed after Regulation 14 consultation*

**4.1 Statutory Requirement.** The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 states that before submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority, a qualifying body (Slimbridge Parish Council) must:

- Publicise in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:
  - details of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan
  - details of where and when the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan may be inspected
  - details of how to make representations and when
  - the date by which those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date on which the draft proposal is first publicised
  - consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood plan and
  - send copies of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.

4.2 This section of the Consultation Statement will outline the approach taken by the Steering Group to consult on the Draft NDP at the Formal Regulation 14 stage of the process. Several methods were adopted to ensure that all relevant bodies and parties were informed of the consultation period, as well as ensuring that local residents were made aware of the consultation period and provided with opportunities to provide their views and comments.

**4.3 Consultation Period.** The Regulation 14 consultation period was launched on 23rd January 2023 until 5th March 2023. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation Report, and associated draft evidence base documents were included in this consultation.

**4.4 Viewing the Documents.** The Draft Plan, Consultation Report and the associated evidence base documents were available to view on the Slimbridge Parish Council website during the Regulation 14 Consultation. Feedback forms were available online. Hard copies of the Plan and its appendices, as well as hard copy feedback forms, were also available the view at the following locations during the consultation period:

Slimbridge Village Hall

Slimbridge Post Office

Slimbridge Church

Slimbridge School

Slimbridge Social Club

The Tudor Arms

The George

The Black Shed

The WWT

**4.5 Contacting Statutory Bodies.** On 19th January 2023 a letter was sent to all statutory bodies to inform them of the forthcoming Regulation 14 consultation. A copy of a sample letter, along with the list of contacts to which it was sent and responses received, is available in ‘Consultation Material 5: Regulation 14 Consultee Letters, List of Contacts and responses.

**4.6 Publicity.** As well as contacting statutory bodies as above, the Regulation 14 consultation was publicised through a range of methods (see ‘Consultation Material 6: Regulation 14 Publicity’). This included:

- A mini guide to the Slimbridge NDP and the Regulation 14 Consultation was distributed to all households and businesses in the Parish
- Posters were displayed throughout the Parish
- Slimbridge Parish Council Website and social media
- E-mail to all Slimbridge Parish recipients.
- Direct door to door contact.

**4.7 ‘Drop in’ Consultation Events.** Throughout the Regulation 14 consultation period, drop-in sessions were held at the Village Hall at coffee mornings and the gardening club, during which people were invited to make comments.

**4.8 Regulation 14 Consultee Comments & Responses.** The Neighbourhood Plan received a total of 68 responses to the Regulation 14 consultation from a mixture of statutory consultees, local businesses and landowners, and members of the local community. All comments were logged, along with any suggestions / proposals made by respondents. The responses were considered by the Steering Group, and where appropriate, amendments were made to the Plan.

Key points that emerged from the Regulation 14 consultation included:

- Community responses were generally supportive of the aims of the Plan and in many cases added some useful local detail. The Vision and Objectives were approved with very minor changes required. The average support rate for the policies was 78.7%, 18.0% were not sure and 3.2% did not support the policies. All the Practical Projects were approved.
- The most supported policies, both with 90.2% support were:
  - SCE5 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows.
  - SLW2 Local Green Spaces.

- The least supported policy, with 65.9% support was  
SD3 Sustainable Development to meet Local Housing Needs
- There was much constructive and useful feedback, especially from Stroud District and from Government agencies.

The complete log of comments made, the Steering Group's responses and the list of changes made can be found at Consultation Material 7: Regulation 14 Representations and changes.