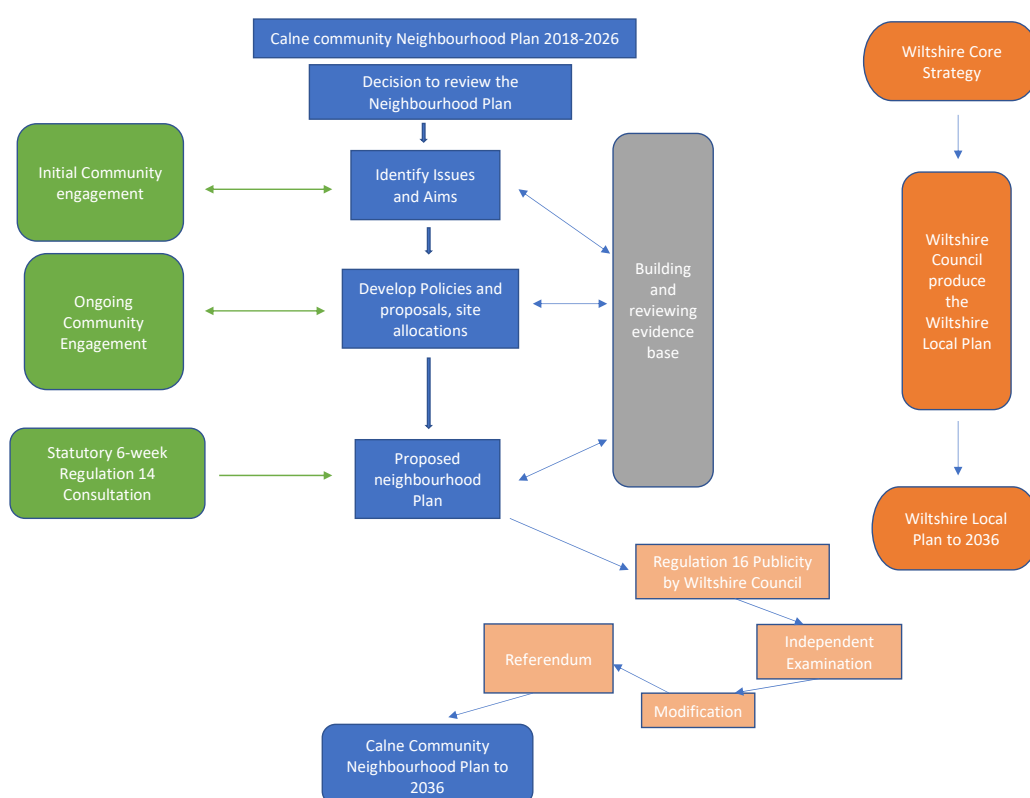


Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report July 2022

1 Introduction

As the [Qualifying bodies for the Neighbourhood Plan](#), Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council are working together on the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. The [Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group](#) which has representatives from both Council's, interested Community groups and community members carries out the work required on behalf of the qualifying bodies. This report is an update and overview of the process so far.



2 Review of the Neighbourhood Plan

Calne Without Parish Council and Calne Town Council took the decision to begin the Review of the existing Neighbourhood Plan to fall in line with emerging [Wiltshire Local Plan](#), which will have 2036 as its end date.

Unlike the first iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan the review of a plan started with a [review of the existing plan's effectiveness, its successes and failures](#) and the compliance of its policies with current [National](#) and Strategic policy.

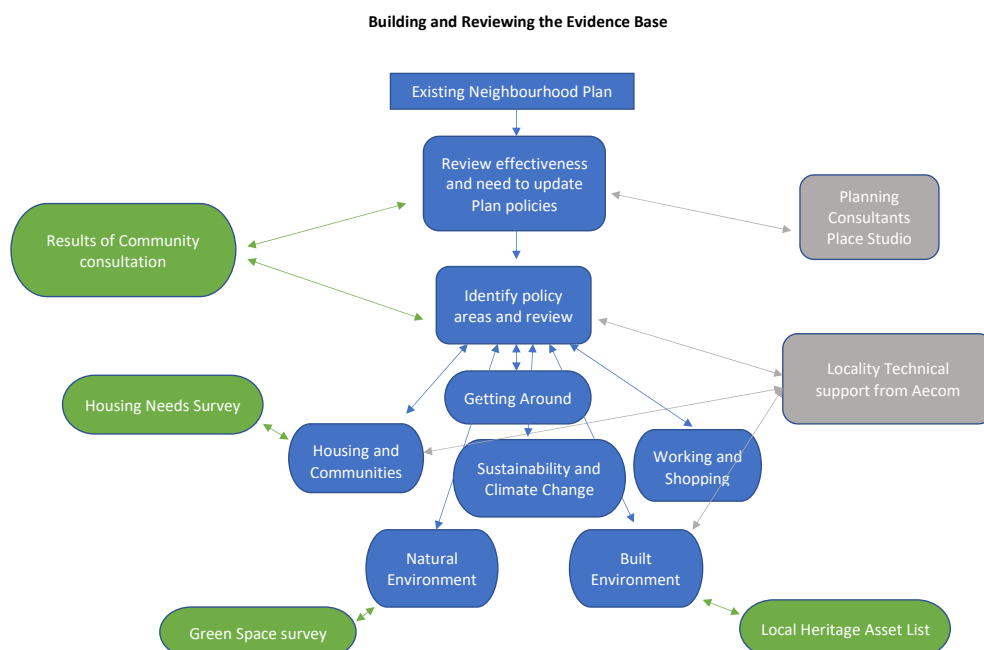
The Steering Group, with the approval of both Councils, appointed consultants [Place Studio](#) to provide professional, technical planning advice and have also accessed the [free technical support](#) provided by Aecom through [Locality](#). The Steering Group has regular monthly meetings to report progress of the topic groups and to consider any problems arising and

the cross-group issues. Place Studio respond to questions and provide technical guidance on timing, collection and processing of information so that the evidence base will stand up to professional scrutiny.

The initial review of the Plan has identified several policies that need to be revised, reviewed, removed, or added and throughout the plan Aecom and Place Studio have stressed the need for a greater local evidence base to support the policies to make them more effective in their operation.

Alongside the technical review the Steering group ran a community consultation based on things people wished to “Treasure or Transform”. The information from the technical review and the consultation has informed the next stage of work of the Steering group which is building and reviewing the evidence base.

Overarching all the policies will be the new emphasis on sustainability and climate change which will be the basis of the plan’s new aims and objectives. The Plan will also build an infrastructure delivery list which can help plan delivery and use of CIL funds.

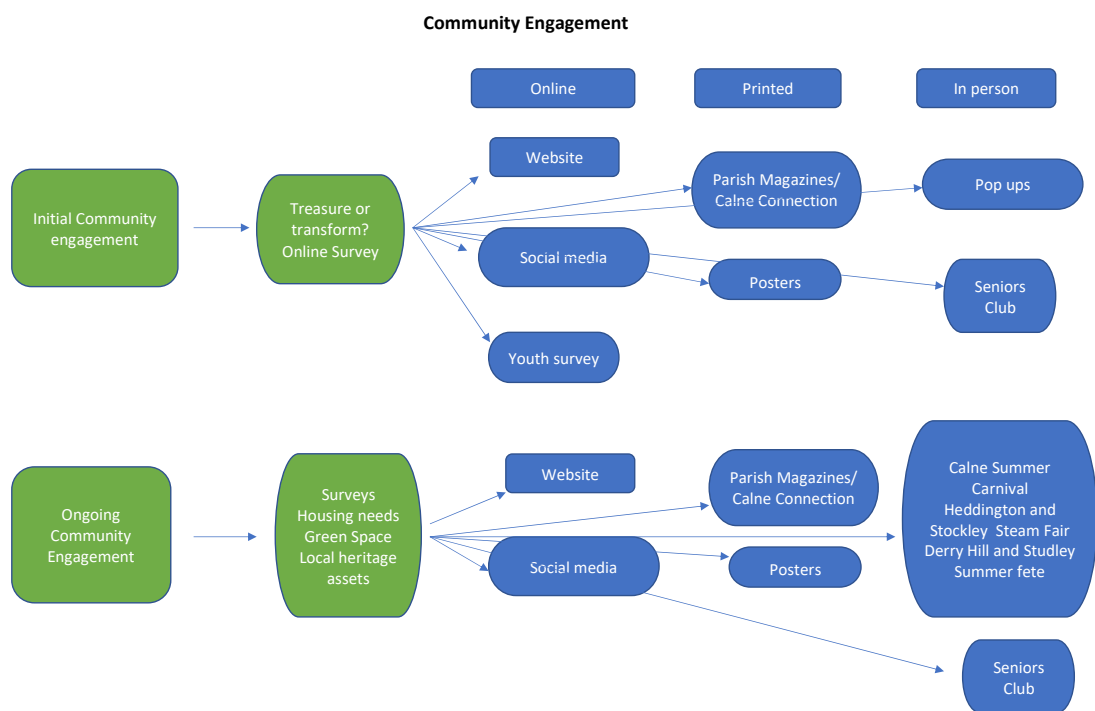


3 Evidence Base

The evidence base which supports and shapes the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan includes information that has already been collected by others e.g., census, housing and environmental and new information collected from the community, businesses, and landowners.

Place Studio are guiding the topic groups through the correct procedures for collection and analysis of the information, including commissioning technical support from Aecom. The work is being done by members of the groups reporting back to the Steering group any issues and questions to be resolved.

The topic groups, based on the original chapters of the Neighbourhood Plan, are; Sustainability and Climate Change, Housing and Communities, Working and Shopping, Natural Environment, Built Environment Getting Around. A workshop run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy gave the group a chance to discuss the new aims for the overall plan. Evidence collection has focused on Housing Needs, Green Spaces, Character Areas, Design, and Local Heritage Assets during early summer and will move on to cover the visitor economy, employment, town centre and potential and aspirational development sites in the late summer with the aim of having a set of draft policies for the Council's to review in the autumn.



4 Community Engagement

An important part of any plan making process is the engagement of the community in helping to shape the aims and objectives, while some points in the process require statutory consultation periods the most effective plans are built on ongoing community engagement.

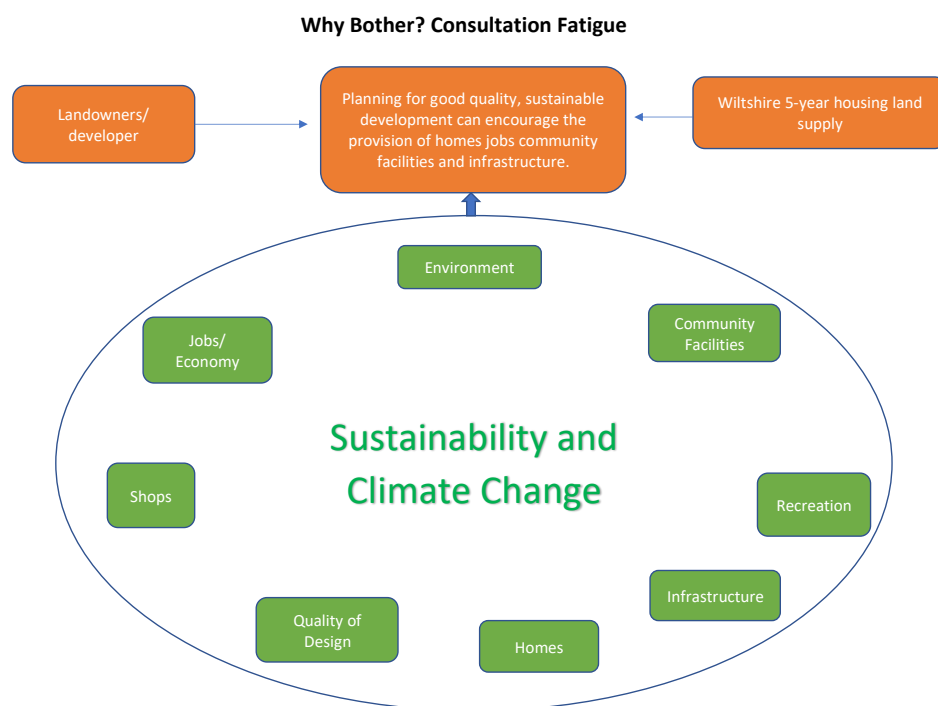
The first community engagement for the review was a high-level online consultation which asked people to identifying things/places they wanted to treasure, transform identifying on a map; things they like, don't like, or need to work on. The online survey was promoted

through the [Neighbourhood Plan website](#), social media, direct emails to community groups, and both Council's social media, websites, noticeboards, and Parish magazines. The survey was supported by 6 outdoor pop-up consultation events across the plan area giving residents the chance to talk to members of the Steering group and give their views. The consultation also targeted those parts of the community often difficult to reach with a separate online survey aimed at younger people and visits to elderly community group.

[Results of the consultations](#) have been posted on the Neighbourhood Plan website and advertised, where groups consulted have requested updates this has been carried out and all respondents are given the opportunity to sign up for updates and notification of future opportunities to get involved.

Consultations taking place now are more targeted, aimed at providing evidence to support and shape the new/revised policies of the plan. These include a Housing Needs Survey, Green Space survey and list of Local Heritage Assets, again these are run online and advertised through websites, social media, and Parish magazines. The Steering group is adding to this by attending local summer events such as the Calne Summer Carnival, Heddington and Stockley Steam Rally and Derry Hill and Studley fete.

The Housing Needs work includes direct emails to housing providers such as Housing Associations, commercial lettings agents and Estate Agents. The Working and Shopping Topic group are currently working to establish contact with local employers and businesses in readiness for future survey work.



With the review of the plan the Steering Group has come up against the “why bother” question and a level of consultation fatigue.

[The lack of 5-year land supply in Wiltshire](#) has reduced the weight given to the Neighbourhood Plan in current decisions on housing development, Parish, and Town Councils across Wiltshire under the “WALPA” group are working together to address this issue. Currently unless the national guidance is changed the only way of securing the prominence of the Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions is to complete the review.

It is important that the Steering Group and the Councils continue to stress to the community the importance and benefits of having an up-to-date plan that reflects their views. The Neighbourhood Plan will have policies that will hope to protect spaces that are important to residents and will seek to guide the design and character of new development to complement and enhance the area. The plan will also look to provide for new employment to come forward and to support the visitor and rural economy.

The Steering Group will be considering plans for ongoing community consultation to keep residents engaged in the process and provide information across the summer in preparation for the consultation on a draft plan in the late autumn. Suggestions and opportunities to engage that the Parish Council can support or enable would be welcomed as would suggestions of topics that should be covered.

Requested Actions:

1. That the Council notes the progress on the review of the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan.
2. That the Council's approve the ongoing community engagement of the Steering Group as detailed in this report and Councillors support and promote the review of the Neighbourhood Plan where possible raising awareness with the residents, community groups and businesses in the areas they represent.