

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review Consultation Statement

October 2025

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Timeline of events	2
1. The Early Engagement Process.....	4
Examples of Informal Engagement Publicity	4
Outcomes	16
2. Pre-Submission Plan Publicity	17
Examples of Pre-Submission Regulation 14 Publicity	18
Pre-Submission Plan Feedback Report	25
Appendix 1 – Outcomes of informal engagement.	26
Appendix 2 – Outcomes of Regulation 14 Consultation.....	33
Appendix 3 – Statutory Consultees.....	50

Introduction

- 1.1 The original New Milton Neighbourhood Plan was made in June 2021 by New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority following a referendum where 88% voted in support (35.7% turnout).
- 1.2 New Milton Town Council agreed to review the Neighbourhood Plan in September 2023
- 1.3 The Steering Group was re-established with its first meeting in December that year once grant funding was secured and ONH were re-engaged by the Town Council to provide professional support for the project. The Steering Group comprised a number of councillors and community members, along with Town Council officers. The Town Council took responsibility for governance arrangements and decisions about the production of the plan.
- 1.4 Members of the Community who were directly involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan Review either through their regular involvement with the Steering Group or taking part in individual focused policy area sessions were:
 - Sue Larking (Chair of New Milton Residents Association and Trustee of New Milton Youth Trust) Steering Group Member
 - Julia Stamper (Vice Chair of New Milton Residents Association and on the committee for Friends of New Milton Station) Steering Group Member
 - Nick Saunders (Chair of New Milton Heritage Society) Steering Group Member
 - David Orme (New Milton Resident and Cyclist. Member of Christchurch Bicycle Club) – Walking and Cycling LCWIP routes
 - Simon Quincey (Transition Lymington) – Cycling LCWIP routes

- Colin Barr (New Milton Cycling Club) – Cycling LCWIP routes
- Tony Sargeson (resident) – Walking LCWIP routes
- Bob Lord (Chair of Friends of Ballard Water Meadow and a volunteer ranger for Barton common) – environmental policies and Green Loop

The Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their valuable contributions.

1.5 Residents were invited to take part in the Neighbourhood Plan process both online and in person. This included meetings with Steering Group members, and events such as the informal and formal consultation. Advertising and letters were distributed, along with hard copies of the draft plan displayed to view in four key locations in the town.

1.6 This consultation statement has therefore been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) in respect of the New Milton modified Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2042. The legal basis of this Statement is provided by Section 15 (2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires that a consultation statement should: i. Contain details of the persons and bodies that were consulted about the proposed Modifications Project; ii. Explain how they were consulted; iii. Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and iv. Describe how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

Timeline of events

Date	Event	Purpose
5 th December 2023	Initial Steering Group Meeting	The group reviewed the success of the current plan and the implementation of the policies over the last 2 and a half years and looked to review where the plan would benefit from new or strengthened policies.
December 2023 – September 2025	Town Council Planning Committee	The Neighbourhood Plan is included as a standing item on the agenda for the committee, which meets twice a month in order to provide the public and council with updates to the project.
January 2024 – August 2025	Regular In person Steering Group Meetings.	Bringing together community and council representatives to develop policy ideas and shape evidence bases.
July 2024 to April 2025	Informal officer meetings with local groups.	Targeted community engagement on specific policy areas with local organisation representatives to help prepare evidence bases,

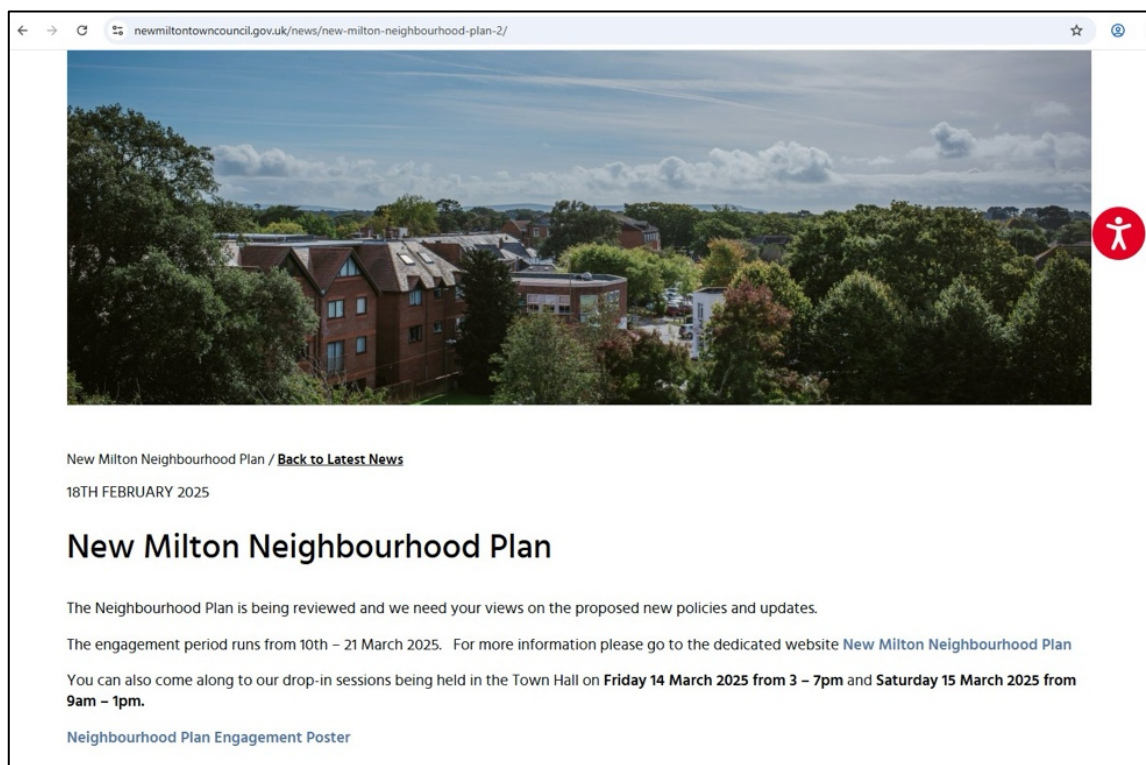
		particularly around active travel and biodiversity.
November 2024 – January 2025	Letters sent to 120 landowners in New Milton	To advise of potential inclusion of land as brownfield, invite comments and invite to take part in informal engagement.
February to April 2025	Various promotional advertising (see sample publicity below)	To provide wider awareness and promotion of the informal engagement, how to respond and follow up reports.
10 th – 21 st March 2025	Informal engagement period	Dedicated website detailing each of the policy areas, with on-line survey questions on each policy area. Paper copies of the website content lodged in local community buildings.
14 th and 15 th March	Community Drop-in sessions	Open invitation for the community to join Steering Group members at the Town Hall to discuss the proposed new policies and modifications in the Neighbourhood Plan.
13 th May 2025	Town Council Meeting	Approval of Pre-submission Plan for Regulation 14
May – July 2025	Various promotional advertising (see sample publicity below)	To provide wider awareness and promotion of the Regulation 14 and how to respond
28 th May 2025	Letters to local businesses and all those on business parks.	To provide targeted awareness and promotion of the Regulation 14 and how to respond.
2 nd June – 16 th July 2025	Regulation 14 Consultation	6-week statutory consultation period on the pre-submission plan.
26 th August 2025	Steering Group meeting	To review responses received to Reg 14 and agree changes in order to prepare of submission version of NMNP
9 th September 2025	Town Council Planning Committee	Review of draft Submission version of Plan and approval
29 th September 2025	Full Council meeting	Review of final Submission version of Plan and approval

1. The Early Engagement Process

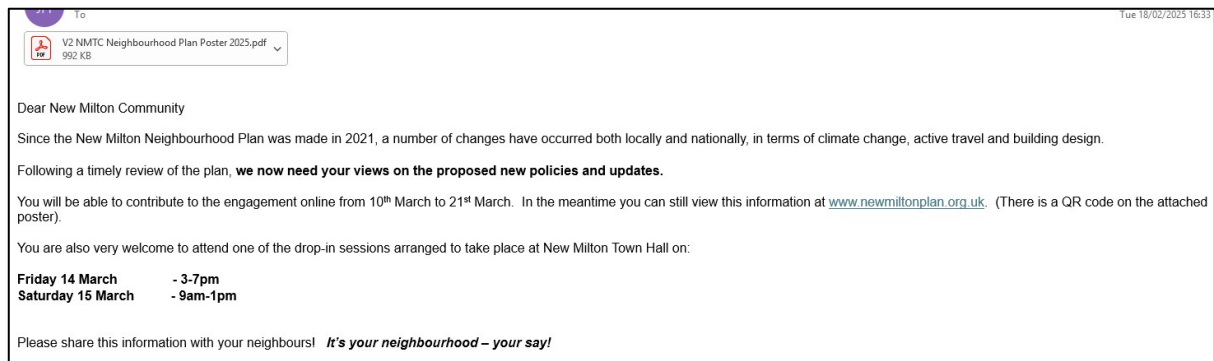
1.7 New Milton Town Council is committed to its role as the closest level of local government to residents. The Council takes every opportunity to speak with residents and considers their comments and concerns carefully when planning its activities.

1.8 Work began on reviewing the made Neighbourhood Plan in December 2023. Comprising of original members and some new members, the Steering Group formed a mix of councillors, officers, and local community representatives, all of whom had extensive relationships with the wider community and groups, along with a wealth of local knowledge. The Steering Group met regularly, in person to report on information gathering over the year to December 2024. At which point, the group considered the draft ready for informal engagement. Carried out in March 2025, the informal engagement period provided an opportunity to seek views on the modified and proposed new policies, using a means of in person and online interactions. Extensive publicity was undertaken to ensure a wide awareness of the review. The drop-in sessions were popular and attracted 109 people. Due to the original Plan being made less than four years before, attendee had few concerns but were interested in the modifications. The engagement helped shape the Regulation 14 policy wording and Plan content. A copy of the written responses to the engagement can be found in Appendix 1.

Examples of Informal Engagement Publicity



Informal Engagement News release on Town Council website



New Milton Town Council email to community subscribers



THE NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your neighbourhood, your say.



We need your views!

On the proposed new policies
and updates to the New
Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

How to take part

For more
information
please go to:



newmiltonplan.org.uk

This early engagement period runs
from the 10th – 21st March 2025
and is available to view online.

Please come along to our
drop-in sessions at:

New Milton Town Hall on
Friday 14th March 2025 3pm – 7pm and
Saturday 15th March 2025 9am – 1pm

Why are we reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan?

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2021, a number of changes have occurred both locally and nationally. With new approaches to climate change, active travel and building design, it's time to reflect these changes in the plan.

Reviewing the plan also offers the opportunity to further develop a town centre masterplan, and to identify brownfield sites for future development to reduce the District Council's need for green field development, as well as safeguarding locations which we feel are inappropriate for development.



NEW MILTON
TOWN COUNCIL

For more information visit:

newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Poster to advertise informal engagement.



Informal Engagement drop-in session room set up.



NEW MILTON
TOWN COUNCIL

New Milton Town Council, Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6AS
t. 01425 619120 e. info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk
www.newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

NEWS RELEASE

Your Neighbourhood, Your Say!

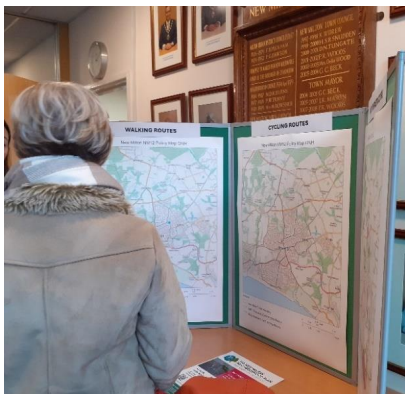
New Milton Neighbourhood Plan



The Neighbourhood Plan process is led by New Milton Town Council, working with the local community, businesses and land interests to enhance, protect and promote New Milton with a focus on regeneration within the Town Centre. The vision is for a vibrant **town centre** with many different uses, not just retail – that is a meeting place and social hub for all ages to work, visit and live.

Sharing the exciting vision for New Milton was the key message in the lead up to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Referendum that took place on Thursday 6 May 2021. This resulted in a positive yes vote – 87% of the vote - from New Milton residents for its formal adoption. [New Milton Neighbourhood Plan - New Forest District Council](#)

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was made, a number of changes have occurred, both locally and nationally, in terms of new approaches to climate change, active travel and building design. These changes needed to be considered, and at the same time undertake a timely review of all the Neighbourhood Plan policies.



An engagement period was launched in March 2025 inviting residents to share their feedback via an online survey at [New Milton Neighbourhood Plan - New Milton Neighbourhood Plan](#).

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party also hosted drop-in sessions held over a two-day period and were well attended. Residents expressed great interest in the review and representatives were met with a wealth of questions and support for its policies.

February so do write to our Chair, Sue Larking, with any local aspect which you feel requires attention.

I note from a paper I was reading that there is something called the 'Snow Moon appearing on the 3rd February, named after the month most likely to produce snow (if the clouds don't interfere!) No doubt some of our great local photographers will take a few shots but it might be worth a quick look after it gets dark, however cold.

I don't know about you but, when the weather is cold and miserable, I often reach for my slow-cooker. I know that air fryers seem to have taken over the kitchen these days, but there's nothing so lovely on chilly days than the build-up of smells from the slow-cooker during the day! This month, I've included not only a slow-cooker recipe but it's vegetarian too, which is sure to please both the palate and the pocket! See p.17—and, don't forget, if you have any really good tried and tested recipes (must be your own due to data protection regulations), I'll be happy to consider them for publication (after I've tried them myself, of course!)

Last February (is it really that long ago), I introduced the idea of you finishing a limerick with your own ideas. As we certainly received quite a few replies, I'm trying again this February in Puzzle Corner (p.19). I'll be delighted to have your concluding line ideas!

My last thought for this Editorial is about our wonderful website. I visit it often and particularly when I need local information—it really is terrific and I can't recommend it more highly to you. Nigel, our website manager and his small team, do an amazing job of keeping it all up-to-date and fresh, so do give it a try if you haven't already—www.nmra.org.uk.

Keep safe and warm in February.

Janet Moyles, nmrafocus.editor@gmail.com

FROM THE CHAIR

Having sat down to write my report this morning I was reminded of something, attributed to the Princess Royal, that if you are troubled by bad weather it is because you are not wearing the right clothes. So I have gone back upstairs and added another layer and now feel a little more able to continue, aided by a mug of steaming hot coffee. Roll on the spring and a little more warmth.

As we prepare for our AGM at the beginning of March, I am reflecting on how the year has brought new challenges for New Milton and our Residents. The decision by the new Government to pursue 'devolution' means that we may well lose our New Forest District Council and be merged into a much larger body. Having been around at the inception of Unitary Authorities, I remember being very concerned at how little was understood about the nature of life in the New Forest by our city cousins in Southampton. Working 30-years

ago alongside the NFDC, I realised how lucky we were to have them and have seen the benefits they bring through a number of my voluntary roles since, especially with Armed Forces Veterans. It is unlikely that anything is going to stop this from steamrolling over us but I hope that, whatever the outcome, our unique circumstances are recognised.

Housing, and the lack of it, is another challenge to New Milton, especially for younger families and people living alone and of working age. Our Town is relatively new at 128-years-old, but it grew here because of the railway and the need to build. As it grew and a community became established, it needed more building and more people and we flourished with the right balance. Now, sadly, we have more people and not enough housing or, at least, not enough of the right type of housing. Lymington is constantly complaining of yet more retirement complexes being built and I was surprised to hear that many of them remain empty. It is NFDC who have the understanding of what is needed, even if not always the complete power to decide, and they have built many apartments that are affordable or for rent for single people across the Forest. We need to keep a watching brief on those proposals that come forward from private developers which add to the numbers of housing stock but do little for the social development of the area. Whether we can influence it or not is debatable—but we can try.



THE NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your neighbourhood. your say.



We need your views!

On the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

How to take part

For more information please go to:



newmiltonplan.org.uk

This early engagement period runs from the 10th - 21st March 2025 and is available to view online.

Please come along to our drop-in sessions at:

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Friday 14th March 2025 3pm - 7pm and
Saturday 15th March 2025 9am - 1pm

Why are we reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan?

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2021, a number of changes have been made both locally and nationally. With new approaches to climate change, active travel and building design it's time to reflect these changes in the plan.

Reviewing the plan also offers the opportunity to further develop a town centre masterplan, and to identify brownfield sites for future development to reduce the District Council's need for green field development. As well as safeguarding locations which we feel are inappropriate for development.



NEW MILTON COUNCIL

For more information visit: newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Engagement

The New Milton Neighbourhood Plan was ratified in 2021 and is now currently being reviewed by the Neighbourhood Plan working group. Proposed new policies and updates have been put forward for consideration and **we need your views!**

Further details about the updates are available to view online at
newmiltonplan.org.uk

The early engagement period runs from 10-21 March 2025 and will include the opportunity for you to give your views via the website during this time, as well as an open invitation to come along to the drop-in sessions.

Drop-in sessions have been arranged to take place at New Milton Town Hall on
Friday 14 March from 3-7pm and Saturday 15 March from 9am - 1pm.

Everyone is welcome!

[Neighbourhood Plan Engagement poster](#)



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Dear New Milton Community

Since the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2021, a number of changes have occurred both locally and nationally, in terms of climate change, active travel and building design.

Following a timely review of the plan, we now need your views on the proposed new policies and updates.

You will be able to contribute to the engagement online from 10th March to 21st March. In the meantime you can still view this information at www.newmiltonplan.org.uk. (There is a QR code on the attached poster).

You are also very welcome to attend one of the drop-in sessions arranged to take place at New Milton Town Hall on:

Friday 14 March

Saturday 15 March

- 3-7pm

- 9am-1pm

Please share this information with your neighbours! ***It's your neighbourhood – your say!***

New Milton Community Centre Insight Magazine March 2025

The Barton Bugle

February 2025
Issue 183

Community Magazine & Local Business Directory

Meet the Locals

John Slater

Local History

The Attractions of Milton Parish

It's a Dog's Life

Bertie's House Sitter



Local Wildlife

Local History

Meet the Locals

Going Places

It's a Dog's Life

Local Events

Book Reviews

Local Articles

Local Clubs & Societies

The Barton Bugle

March 2025
Issue 184

Community Magazine & Local Business Directory

Meet the Locals

Michael Heatley

Local History

The Church that Moved

It's a Dog's Life

Bertie's "Pub" Crawl



Local Wildlife

Local History

Meet the Locals

Going Places

It's a Dog's Life

Local Events

Book Reviews

Local Articles

Local Clubs & Societies

Poster contained in the Barton Bugle February and March 2025



Local School Production programme including Neighbourhood Plan poster



Poster included in the February and March New Milton Mercury



“ Let’s see how your campaign performed ”

ILIFFE MEDIA

Press

27x4 adverts appeared from 28th February to 7th March in the Advertiser & Times.

Reaching 29,531* weekly readers.

*JICREG (30/09/24)

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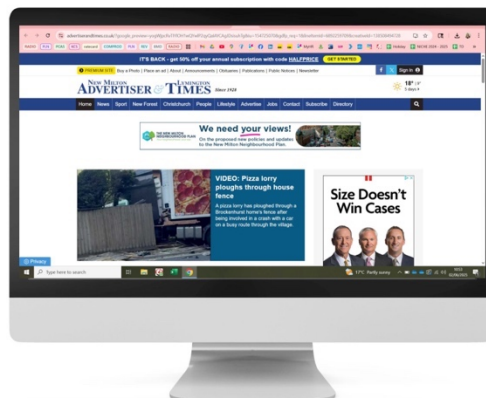
NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL
For more information visit:
newmiltoncouncil.gov.uk

ILIFFE MEDIA

Online

Standard format adverts appeared from March 3rd to March 13th on www.advertiserandtimes.co.uk.

10,001 page impressions were delivered, resulting in 4 clicks and a CTR of 0.04%



ILIFFE MEDIA

Online

Banner adverts appeared from the 10th to the 16th of March on the New Milton: The Briefing Newsletter.

45,780 page impressions were delivered, resulting in 47 clicks and a CTR of 0.10%



**THE NEW MILTON
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
Your neighbourhood, your say.

ILIFFE MEDIA

Social Media Report



ILIFFE MEDIA

New Milton Advertiser Informal Engagement social media reach

New Milton Town Council
March 3 · 🌐

The New Milton Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed and some policies revised and new policies proposed and we need your views! We invite you to participate online during the public engagement period 10-21 March. Further information is available on the dedicated website www.newmiltonplan.org.uk
<https://www.newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk/>



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Mon, Mar 10
Neighbourhood Plan Engagement
Shared to Barton on Sea & New Milton Community

Interested

New Milton Town Council
March 10 · 🌐

The Neighbourhood Plan Engagement Period is now open until 21 March and you can view the policies and documents at www.newmiltonplan.org.uk.
You can provide your feedback on the revised and new policies on the Policies page of the website. Just click on the individual policies.
[#newmilton](#) [#neighbourhood](#) [#HaveYourSay](#)



We need your views!
On the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

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Neighbourhood Plan Engagement
Shared to Barton on Sea & New Milton Community

Interested

Like Comment Share

New Milton Town Council
March 14 · 🌐

The Neighbourhood Plan working party will be available at the Town Hall today from 3pm-7pm. They'll be back tomorrow from 9am-1pm so do come along and have a chat about... [See more](#)



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On the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

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Please come along to our

Fri, Mar 14
New Milton Neighbourhood Plan
The Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, BH25 6AS New Milton, United Kingdom
2 people went

Interested

Like Comment Share

New Milton Town Council
May 6 · 🌐

NEWS RELEASE
Your Neighbourhood, Your Say!

The Neighbourhood Plan process is led by New Milton Town Council, working with the local community, businesses and land interests to enhance, protect and promote New Milton with a focus on regeneration within the Town Centre. The vision is for a vibrant town centre with many different uses, not just retail – that is a meeting place and social hub for all ages to work, visit and live.

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An engagement period was launched in March 2025 inviting residents to share their feedback via an online survey at New Milton Neighbourhood Plan - New Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party also hosted drop-in sessions held over a two-day period and were well attended. Residents expressed great interest in the review and representatives were met with a wealth of questions and support for its policies.

Policies that were considered for modification included Diversifying Housing, and Regeneration of New Milton Town Centre, which attracted many interesting and valid comments.

Residents were also very supportive of the Walking and Cycling policy pointing out the need for more options to be made available for safer routes for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Proposed new policies around Biodiversity and Maintaining and Enhancing the Conservation area received positive support suggesting these were crucial additions to the Plan.

The informal engagement is now closed; however, information remains available on the www.newmiltonplan.org.uk website. A formal consultation is being planned for June 2025.

The Council and the Working Party members are delighted with the positive community feedback so far and would like to say thank you to the New Milton Community for their valuable contribution in the Neighbourhood Plan review process.
<https://www.newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk/.../your-/>

New Milton Town Council Social Media posts.



1. Neighbourhood Plan Review –

Neighbourhood Plan – Informal Public Engagement

March saw the Neighbourhood Plan go to informal public engagement on the 10th - 21st March. Advertising was circulated via posters in the local community, print and pop-ups in local press and publications, posts on social media and via New Milton Town Council. A dedicated website to the Neighbourhood Plan hosted the proposed new and modified policies, maps and an online survey inviting comments from the public. Drop-in sessions were also held at the Town Hall on the 14th and 15th March and received a welcomed turnout. Members of the working party met and discussed the NP in face to face meets with members of the public. Policy maps were displayed on presentation boards, printed information and packs were available to view and the dedicated website was displayed in large view via a projector. A laptop was provided with help from working party members for those who needed assistance in completing the online survey. Genuine interest and a wealth of questions and pleasantly led conversations led to an open interactive discussion on the proposed updates and changes to the Neighbourhood Plan, along with its complexities. Packs were distributed at the Memorial Centre, Town Hall, Community Centre and Library for those who prefer paper reading. Results of the engagement will be used as evidence base during the review process.

Next steps

Next steps will see the Neighbourhood Plan go to a formal engagement period this mid-year, presented to statutory consultees including the district council.

2. New Forest Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan –

New Forest National Park Authority – LCWIP update

One key point raised by NFNPA to the Government Consultation for a Mayoral Combined Authority mentioned potential travel benefits. For example, having the Combined Authority with responsibility for transport across the whole area may be more effective than the current situation where different authorities have their own responsibilities. Active travel measures and the implementation of the New Forest Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) are cost-effective ways to reduce transport emissions, and it is recognised that a Combined Authority has the potential to improve delivery.

The Cycle Working Group met on 17 January 2025 and discussed a range of topics including the LCWIP which has been through a public consultation process and hopefully will be approved at the next HCC Cabinet meeting in June. As part of the Active Travel England (ATE) feasibility studies, the NFNPA commissioned the A35 safer crossings and off-road cycle network wayfinding studies. Now, in conjunction with ATE National Parks Capability fund, NFNPA are seeking a consultant to deliver a third feasibility study on the route from Lyndhurst to Lymington, identified as Route 120 in the draft LCWIP.

Report from Town Development Manager to March Full Council on the Informal Engagement exercise.

Outcomes

1.9 Evidence gathered during the drop-in sessions and through the survey indicated support for the proposed modifications. There was some concern over the potential loss of Forest Arts Centre, so the Plan wording needed to make it clear that the intention was only ever to

redevelop the site if the Arts centre was suitably relocated beforehand. There was concern over the inclusion of all of the car parks as potential brownfield sites, and again, the plan would need to make clear that the intention was to not lose all parking but to ensure sufficient remains to meet need but recognising that some are certainly underutilised. The Town Centre Masterplan also considered a multistorey on one site to reduce losses. It is felt that in the longer-term active travel should be considered a viable alternative to driving into town. There was also concern for the future of the local shop identified at Sea Road, but this has now opened. There was also notable support for trying to preserve and enhance heritage assets and some really helpful input in terms of missing links for active travel.

2. Pre-Submission Plan Publicity

2.0 Following the conclusion of the Informal Engagement process the intention was to update the Plan in response to the feedback received, before taking it to the Regulation 14 Consultation. The idea was to keep momentum and interest on the Plan after undertaking a wide awareness campaign for the informal engagement. As such, following approval by the Town Council in May, consultees were invited to respond to the Regulation 14 Consultation of modified New Milton Neighbourhood Plan between from the 2nd June to 16th July 2025. The Town Council were once again, extremely proactive in publicising the plan to ensure good awareness and clear information given on how to respond. Responses were accepted via email or letter.

2.1 List of publications and publicity to ensure wider awareness of the Regulation 14 consultation was sent out as follows (illustrative examples are set out below the list)

- Emails were sent to Statutory consultees on the 2nd June 2025 (See Appendix 3)
- The Regulation 14 poster was placed in a number of publications, including:
 - New Milton Advertiser and Times
 - New Milton Community Centre Insight Newsletter July 2025 edition
 - New Milton Mail & Barton Bugle Magazine Barton Bugle/New Milton Mail page 24 <https://digital.magmanager.co.uk/Preview/Index/2791907>
 - New Milton Mercury page 30 <https://digital.magmanager.co.uk/Preview/Index/2791909>
 - New Milton Residents Association Focus Magazine May 2025
 - New Milton Rugby Club Family Funday Programme June 2025
- Posters were put up in noticeboards around the Town advertising the consultation and how to respond.
- New Forest District Council included details of the Regulation 14 and a link to the website in their email News to subscribers June 2025
- New Milton Town Council E-news June and July (Local residents and Groups)
- The Plan was uploaded to the dedicated New Milton Neighbourhood Plan website <https://newmiltonplan.org.uk/> to be read on-line or downloadable PDF, with both static and interactive policies mapping. There was also a link from the main Town Council website.
- Advertising posts on Facebook through New Milton Town Council and the New Milton Advertiser.

- Local businesses and industrial parks were subject to a letter drop of the poster.
- Paper copies of the Plan could also be found at the Town Hall, Community Centre, the Memorial Centre and New Milton Library during their opening hours.

Examples of Pre-Submission Regulation 14 Publicity



THE NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Your neighbourhood, your say.

We need your views!

On the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

Regulation 14 is a formal consultation on the draft plan which runs from the **2nd June – 16th July 2025** and is available to view online at **www.newmiltonplan.org.uk**

Please submit comments on the draft plan during this period to info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

*If you do not have access to the internet, please contact **The Town Council** for more information*

Why are we reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan?

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2021, a number of changes have occurred both locally and nationally. With new approaches to climate change, active travel and building design, it's time to reflect these changes in the plan.

Reviewing the plan also offers the opportunity to further develop a town centre masterplan, and to identify brownfield sites for future development to reduce the District Council's need for green field development, as well as safeguarding locations which we feel are inappropriate for development.

 **NEW MILTON**
TOWN COUNCIL

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan poster which was used for paper and electronic advertising.



[Home](#)
[Town Council](#)
[Our Amenities](#)
[Youth & Family](#)
[Neighbourhood Plan](#)
[Community](#)



New Milton Neighbourhood Plan / [Back to Latest News](#)

10TH JUNE 2025

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan

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New Milton Town Council website – Latest News

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan

newmiltonplan.org.uk





Consultation on the Modified New Milton Neighbourhood Plan will begin on 2nd June and continue until 16th July 2025.

The new plan can be explored as PDF documents through the buttons below, or via the website [policies](#) page. All appendix and supporting information can be found on the [documents](#) page.

[Pre-Submission New Milton Neighbourhood Plan](#)
[Modification Proposal](#)
[Modification Statement](#)

Important Consultation Information

The modified NMNP is published for statutory consultation under Regulation 14 of the Regulations. Comments on the proposals and content of the plan and its other published documents are welcomed from everyone living and working in New Milton as well as local organisations and landowners.

They must be made either by email to info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

or by post to New Milton Neighbourhood Plan, Town Hall 2 Ashley Rd, New Milton BH25 6AS

between the 2nd June – 16th July 2025

Any comments made after that deadline may not be considered by NMTC. Anyone submitting comments to NMTC must provide an email or postal address and contact name. NMTC will keep this information confidential. However, it must forward information to NFDC & NFNPA in due course for the sole purpose of notifying all those that have submitted comments that it has received a final version of the plan for examination.

New Milton dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website home page


New Milton Town Council
May 30 · 🌐

The New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. Your neighbourhood, your say.

We need your views on the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan.

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<https://mailchi.mp/.../the-new-milton-neighbourhood-plan...>



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New Milton Town Council
July 14 · 🌐

You've only got a couple more days to have your say on the New Milton Neighbourhood. We need your views - email to info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk by Wednesday 16 July. www.newmiltonplan.org.uk [#haveyoursay](#) [#neighbourhoodplan](#) [#CommunityMatters](#)



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NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

10 shares

Like Comment Share


New Milton Town Council
June 18 · 🌐

We need your views on the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. <https://newmiltonplan.org.uk/>

We know it's quite a document to get your teeth into! But have a look at some of the modified policies, we'd really value your comments via info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk.

NM2 Diversifying Housing
NM3 Land East of Caird Avenue
NM4 Design Quality
NM5 New Milton Town Centre Regeneration
NM10 Buildings of Local Heritage and Townscape Value
NM12 Walking and Cycling
NM13 Barton on Sea
NM14 The Rural Areas in the National Park
NM15 Employment
NM17 Early Years Facilities
NM18 Education
NM19 Connecting the Town

And here are the new policies to have a look at:

NM20 Biodiversity
NM21 Energy Efficiency
NM22 Maintaining and enhancing the conservation area.
NM23 Local Shops
NM24 Brownfield Sites
NM25 Area of Special Character



Various screenshots of social media posts for the Regulation 14

Current consultations

Supporting nature recovery in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is asking for your views about their draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The draft strategy covers:

- key issues and opportunities for nature for a number of strategy areas in Hampshire
- biodiversity priorities for different types of habitat
- species recovery

[Give your views on the consultation](#) before 11.59pm on 23 June 2025 on Hampshire County Council's website.

Neighbourhood Plan for New Milton

New Milton Town Council are inviting views on the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. The [consultation on the draft plan](#) runs until 16 July 2025.

New Forest District Council Email Bulletin June 2025

NEW MILTON RUGBY CLUB FAMILY FUN DAY FUN DOG SHOW

Rosettes to 5th Place & Prizes to 3rd Place

Judging: 12.00 to 2.15	
12.00 Most Appealing Eyes	01.15 Young Handler
12.15 Handsomest Boy	01.30 Best Rescue
12.30 Prettiest Girl	01.45 Waggiest Tail
12.45 Best Pedigree	02.00 Best Puppy (under 1) & Veteran (over 7)
01.00 Best Crossbreed	02.15 Judges Favourite

£2.00 per class. CASH ONLY Pay on entering the ring

Sponsored by:
The Friendly Dog Club www.friendlydog.club

For further information contact :
Angela or Kate at The Friendly Dog Club 01425 615880

ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEADS - NO CHECKCHAINS NO BITCHES IN SEASON - PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

THANK YOU TO OUR DOG SHOW ARENA SPONSORS

A&M Personalised Gifts

Personalised gifts Making every gift count
<https://ampersonalisedgifts.etsy.com>

THE NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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Advertising in New Milton Rugby Club Family Funday programme.



Example of Poster on Town Council Notice Board and third-party social media post.

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan

Reminder - we need your views!

Regulation 14 Consultation is a formal consultation on the draft New Milton Neighbourhood Plan, which runs from 2 June - 16 July and is available to view online at www.newmiltonplan.org.uk

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It's your neighbourhood, have your say!

New Milton Town Council subscribers e-newsletter



NEW MILTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Your Views Matter

July 2025

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan

The revised and new policies proposed for the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan are still available for you to review at [New Milton Neighbourhood Plan](#) and we need your feedback.

Don't miss out on having your say!

You've only got a couple more days before the **Regulation 14 Consultation closes on 16 July.**

Please send your feedback and comments to info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk.

14/07/2025

To

 NMTC Neighbourhood Plan Poster (Final)_page-0001.jpg
1 MB

Dear New Milton Community

The **revised and new policies proposed for the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan** are still available for you to review at [New Milton Neighbourhood Plan](#) and we need your views.

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Mon 02/06/2023 14:18

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Further examples of digital publicity for the Regulation 14



Welcome to the July edition of INSIGHT. As I write, the temperature is 23 degrees in the morning and climbing! The gull, who has claimed residence near us, is helping himself to much needed water from our pond (though we have had to erect a gull-proof mesh across it to save the fish). Hello Summer!

We have lots of news about what is happening in and around our vibrant community and this month we hear from our local branch of the MND Charity on page 5.

Inside, we have all the usual NMCC information to ensure that you can get the best out of your Community Centre. The Chairman's Annual Report is on page 3 and there are various requests for volunteers if you have the time and would like to get involved. We also report on a new karate group with a fa-



The local branch of the MND Charity have become affiliate members of NMCC—see page 5

NEW MILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR MONTHLY EVENT CAKE & COFFEE

New Milton Insights Magazine.

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NEW MILTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Reg14 advert in New Milton Community Centre Insight Magazine



New Milton Advertiser and Times advert and social media reach during Regulation 14

Pre-Submission Plan Feedback Report

2.2 All of the responses were read, analysed, and summarised and set out as a report which is included as Appendix B. A full copy of all of the responses, with personal details redacted, has been included as a separate appendix to this report. The report includes the Steering Group response to the comments raised and how they could be incorporated into the Submission version of the Plan. Following review by the Steering Group, the changes were incorporated into the modified Neighbourhood Plan, prior to tabling for approval by Planning Committee and then Full Council in September 2025

Appendix 1 – Outcomes of informal engagement.

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results	
Policy Number	COMMENTS
Proposed New Policies - 50 reactions on-line to these policies, individual detailed responses below.	
Biodiversity	
NM20	Nothing to add other than it is crucial to include this in the NM Neighbourhood Plan
NM20	NM20 should always be considered when new development proposals or changes are planned. It should not, however, determine the success of, for example new affordable housing schemes.
NM20	Has consideration been given to how the requirement for maintaining a green canopy will be enforced. Would a Tree Preservation Order be sufficient or would Section 106 agreements be required. To preserve the character this policy must exclude an option for financial mitigation.
NM20	Agree as long as maintained. The footpath behind Western Avenue has areas where Ivy etc has been allowed to go mad which makes for rat breeding grounds. These areas should be cleaned up with them being grassed or, even better, wild flower meadows being planted.
Energy Efficiency	
NM21	We need affordable housing so we need homes which are efficient and economical to live in however locals must be able to purchase these homes. Every additional condition placed on developers adds cost to the construction and hence increases the price. Will grants be available to developers to cover these additional costs? We need good quality homes for locals that they can afford to purchase. This policy seems to be seeking an ideal solution which will simply continue the exodus of locals who are already priced out of the market. The town should be looking for ways to reduce the cost of development.
NM21	All new builds to be self sufficient in energy production

NM21	All new builds should be forced to incorporate the very latest developments in efficiency and eco. Builders are allowed to get away with building to the most minimal standards of insulation and heating.
NM21	Absolutely agree. The minimum standards builders are required to achieve in new builds have hardly changed in decades and are simply inadequate given the technological advancements we now have
Conservation Area	
NM22	We really hope that some of the original / old/er buildings can be preserved where possible, as they are part of New Milton's charm
NM22	Too many conservation areas have been eroded through multiple - but each one minor - concessions over time. Delighted to see this council determined to preserve and improve the area
NM22	There are areas within Old Milton that would benefit from sensitive regeneration.
NM22	It appears that the policy map is not up to date. The New Milton settlement boundary was extended in July 2020 to include two strategic sites SS10 - land to the East of Brockhills Lane and SS11 - Land south of Gore Road. Please amend the Policy map to show the current town boundary.
Local Shops	
NM23	What is happening to Sea Road and the proposed Co Op???
NM23	Sea Road Local Shopping. Why is this still empty? Why has little effort been made to sort out any remaining problems so that this need shop can supply local housing?
NM23	Sea Road local shop amenity has stood empty for years. Local People need this community asset within walking distance of many many homes. What is being done to encourage/force resolution. Can a community run facility be considered if large retailers find this uneconomic, or a health and wellbeing related facility?
NM23	Force an outcome to the empty and deteriorating Sea Road premises. The west side of Barton would hugely benefit from a local shop - possibly a Co-op, or mini Waitrose/M&S to differentiate it from - and thus minimise impact on Barton News - but would give greater choice to Barton shoppers and also serve the west and north west
NM23	As long as character of older buildings are maintained such as Lloyds Bank building etc
Brownfield	

NM24	Where are visitors to the town going to park? Is the priority to find sites for homes within the settlement boundary or is it to return New Milton to the flourishing town it was in the early 19th century. I was lucky enough to grow up living in York Avenue and have seen huge swathes of the surrounding land become housing estates. To preserve what is left of the original town development should be restricted to the outskirts and the brownfield sites identified should be reserved for commercial or community use and enhanced to attract residents and visitors.
NM24	site 28 - Tesco car park is quite often full & therefore I believe part or all of it should not be lost as essential for families making a large shop & also for disabled drivers. I believe the woods next to Tesco should be retained as ideal for walkers inc dog walkers. Site 22 - Old Milton shops should be retained but if necessary flats could be built above them. Site 30 - Arts Centre should be kept as important part of the community - flats could be built above if suitable.
NM24	Make sure that the infrastructure, sewage, water, etc. is adequate to meet the demands of all the new proposed housing, as the ageing pipes may not be able to cope with the new demands. Keep as much of the green belt as is possible
NM24	It would be a great shame to lose the Forest Arts Centre! I think the centre has potential for much more community use than it already has. Whilst increasing residential areas within the town is needed it would be a shame to lose recreational/hobby/arts opportunities that everyone could enjoy.
NM24	Have the owners and/or operators of the suggested development sites been consulted? Are they all in favour of vacating the land and where would they move their businesses to. In identifying the sites for potential development has consideration been given to planning regulations and local opinion? If they are included in the plan could a developer expect to be granted development permission? Why have the previously identified Brownfield sites been omitted from this plan? Only if the current owners have expressed an interest in developing their land and the current operators are on short term leases and there are no onerous planning restraints on development should all these sites be included
NM24	Don't agree with site 30. Forest Arts is a valuable resource for the residents of New Milton & so that site should only be developed if it incorporates a new Arts Centre or is relocated elsewhere in New Milton
NM24	Always prioritise brownfield sites before green belt
NM25	Shame that Milton Hall has been made to look so modern on the frontage, would never know this was a building of historical significance

NM25	I agree that all the features you list of very important to preserve and enhance. New Milton is not exactly a picture postcard village high street but could certainly be improved with sensitive planning controls around shop frontages and the types of businesses allowed to operate there
NM25	Does this area contain brownfield sites suggested for development. How do you reconcile maintaining the special character of this older part of the town with constructing modern energy efficient homes with additional green canopy?

Proposed Modified Policies - 46 reactions on-line to these policies, individual detailed responses below.	
NM2	There is a need for fewer retirement properties and more single occupancy and family homes, some of which must be affordable and environmentally friendly.
NM2	LAND WEST OF STEM LANE, NEW MILTON Please refer to the letter sent via email on 20/03/25 to the Town Council Town Clerk and Planning Chair for further information. Bidwells submitted representations to New Forest District Council's Call for Sites consultation in December 2024 for the above site. As part of our submissions to the Call for Sites consultation, we stated that we would seek to engage with the Town Council and the NP process to discuss bringing the site forward. Bringing forward this land for development would help meet housing delivery requirements of both the District and Town Council's plan requirements for both market and affordable housing, supported by the required levels of public open space/BNG, and appropriate and necessary new infrastructure. We would like to meet with the Planning Steering Group/Town Council to discuss how our proposals may help meet the objectives and needs of the NP and TC over the plan period.
NM2	It is critical for the best development of New Milton that the right housing is planned and constructed with all haste for those in the area who need housing. This will be almost exclusively at the affordable housing level. Whilst we see medium and expensive property building work around the town, the reality is that housing stock in these categories is adequate. It is not adequate, or anywhere near at the other end of the price scale.
NM2	All new build housing should be what the area needs not what the developers want to build for optimising their profits
NM2	Agree but feel that anything that is aimed at retirement housing should be refused. This will only increase the elderly population that New Milton already has

NM5	Whilst I accept and agree that a lot of these areas need to be regenerated, I am very surprised to see that ALL the car parks within the town have now been included! The availability of good parking is essential for the high street and shops to thrive going forwards. Lack of car parks will mean more congestion in the residential side roads. The arrival of Marks and Spencer's and the continuing support from Bradbeers for the town is encouraging more people out of the area to visit New Milton. Where will they be able to park? I do not think a multi storey car park is in keeping with the town and think they have the potential to create an environment for anti social behaviour. The town still feels an open and safe environment for the most part. I also believe that one of New Milton's strengths is the excellent town open car parking... Please don't spoil it!! Thank you
NM5	Overall, there is a lot of positivity within this neighbourhood plan. However, I do have concerns regarding the inclusion of developing all the car parks within the town. Currently the car parks give good and easy access to Station Road (North and South) for everyone especially the elderly and less able. It would also be a great loss if the Spencer Road Health Centre, Town Hall, Citizens Advice and Police Station were to be replaced by MSCP. If these facilities were to be relocated out of town, accessibility would be a problem for people without transport. Traffic management at the Ashley Rd/Spencer Rd junction would also need to change if all the parking were to be directed to one area. I would also be very sorry to lose the lovely Elm Avenue car park. Please consider carefully at what you would be taking away from shop keepers, workers, residents and visitors alike. New Milton is a much nicer place to live nowadays and it's much appreciated. Thanks your time in reading my comments.
NM5	New Milton is not the prettiest of villages. Terrible planning decisions in - I suspect - the 60s and 70s have resulted in a hotchpotch design appearance. Improving the quality of shops allowed to operate there and encouraging more restaurants/bars - all with smarter frontages - would uplift the area. I feel Bradbeers should have a responsibility to 'give something back' to the community by improving all the street scene in Station Road. First floor and above, all their buildings are in a shocking state of repair - all of which contributes to the 'down at heel' feel of New Milton. I do believe they're trying to achieve this and so I'm at a loss to understand why their fantastic redevelopment plans have been turned down. It would be a magnificent statement- a starting point for regeneration. And how come M&S built something very similar in appearance and Bradbeers are turned down?
NM5	Junction improvements would be good
NM5	I accept and agree for brownfield sites to be developed within the town centre. However, I am disappointed at the number of car parks included. I'm particularly concerned about the possible re location of Spencer Road Medical Centre. This facility is currently in a very convenient spot, I feel it would be detrimental to many residents if it was moved out of town! Where the car parks are situated at moment, they give easy access to everyone, enabling them to park either end of town. This is particularly important for the less able residents of New Milton and fairer to all the shop keepers. Regarding the proposed multi storey Spencer Road car park, where would the relocation of the town hall, and police station be to remain accessible to everyone? I think the New Milton Town Councillors have done a really good job at

	regenerating the town so far, and it has become a pleasant place to live. Please consider the next steps very carefully. Thank you for your time.
NM5	Do not agree, under any circumstances, that the Memorial Hall land should be used for housing. As much as anything else for the fact that it is called Memorial Hall for a very significant reason
NM10	Agree strongly with this as it is important that the history of an area is maintained. It is unfortunate that the frontage of Old Milton Hall now looks so modern.....
MISSING ROUTES	
NM12	Sunnyfield Lane, Off Highlands Road, Barton On Sea. Why is there a Private Road notice on this lane when it is a public footpath (I think)? It is off putting and is designed to make people think they have no right of way. Maybe there should be signage to indicate Footpath. I have noticed a lot of this around and about and it is not clear without thorough investigation if paths are permissible or not. I do not want to go armed with OS maps when I go out or look at my phone to check.
NM12	No routes missing
NM12	Footpath from Gore Road to Walkford Lane not Sign Posted so not sure where it is
NM12	I would so like to walk continuously from Barton to Highcliffe via the sea front. I am aware the cliffs are unstable, but please can you re-investigate to see if some kind of path can be made. I know many people would be glad of this and it would be worth the cost involved to reassess this situation, particularly now we cannot go through Naish. This is nearly as high as my wish to walk to Bashley.
NM12	I would like to express frustration over being unable to walk safely from New Milton BH25 5NA, to Bashley Village Hall for activities, to Redcliffe Garden Centre and The Emporium BH25 5RY each under 3 miles from home, which I regularly used to do. A safe route as a matter of urgency is high on my wish list. There is no safe crossing point from Cull Lane to Marks Lane, across Sway Road B3055 or from old Stem Lane into New Lane, across Bashley Crossroad B3055. I can walk straight along the main road to the roundabout and cross there. BUT... There onwards it is unsafe to walk along Bashley Road itself. This stretch of road from the roundabout to the locations above is less than a ten minute walk. This has been an age old problem. Few cars adhere to the speed limit, lorries do slow down but they drive too close, terrifying, there is a sign that says everyone uses the road, but it is not stand alone therefore it looks a bit like an advertising sign and is overlooked therefore useless.

NM12	Western Avenue will be made a designated cycle route which is fine. However I feel it would enhance their safety if the signs on Ringwood Road signposting clifftop carparks & beaches were removed & put at the end of Sea Road. In reality there are no clifftop car parks or beach access at the end of Western Avenue. This would also make the sharp bend by The Cliff House more safe
NM12	Making junctions safe for walkers and cyclists is critical - there are relatively inexpensive means of achieving for this pedestrians such as narrowing junction entrances and having dashed lines where walkers cross. Reducing speed limits to 20mph can be highly effective - in Wales this has resulted in an average reduction in insurance premiums of £50 per driver and a 28% reduction in death and injuries.
NM12	Ensure there is enough space to keep pedestrians and cyclists away from cars
NM12	Can white lines be marked up like a cycle lane for pedestrians? I have seen this in another area when driving through a village, but cannot remember where. Or pinch points installed? Pinch points would slow traffic down and make vehicles aware that pedestrians are likely to be using the road. That would be a help. This works a bit in Walkford just outside New Milton. Current signage is not visible enough. It needs to be stand alone. If you were to drive down this road I would highly guess you would not notice the sign unless it was pointed out to you. Complete waste of time and money. Problem is, again I am guessing, there is nowhere that it can be sited without the posts sticking into the road. Please take these points into consideration and improve where you can.
NM12	Both Footpaths and cycle Routes should be separated from motor traffic. More routes from New Milton to the New Forest should be opened and be traffic free routes
NM13	More priority should be given to the rapidly deteriorating state of the cliff tops. Erosion by the sea does seem to have been halted by previous efforts at sea level but the big problem now is 'top down' erosion from bad weather/poor drainage
NM13	It's s shame the pine trees can't be removed & replaced with native trees
Retained Policies - 1 reaction on-line to these policies, individual detailed responses below.	
NM7 Please remember that this building is the War Memorial Hall and although you are seeking to make it a Hub it is not and it should always reflect the purpose for which it was originally built. NM18 With increased housing comes the need for more school places. Classes are too big at the moment more places will be needed	

Appendix 2 – Outcomes of Regulation 14 Consultation.

NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

REGULATION 14 ANALYSIS NOTE OF STATUTORY BODY AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIONS

AUGUST 2025

1. Introduction

1.1 This note summarises the representations made by the statutory bodies on the Pre-Submission version of the modified New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (NMNP) during its 'Regulation 14' consultation period which ran from the 2nd June to the 16th July 2025. It concludes by recommending main modifications to the NMNP so that it may be submitted to the local planning authorities New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority (NFDC/NFNPA), to arrange for its examination and referendum. It is followed by a summary of the representations made by the local community as part of the Regulation 14.

2. Statutory Consultees

2.1 Representations have been received from:

- Environment Agency
- Hampshire County Council
- Historic England
- National Gas
- Natural England
- New Forest District Council
- Pennyfarthing Homes
- South West Water
- Southern Water

2.2 The other statutory consultees (as listed in the supporting Consultation Statement) were consulted but none have made representations.

National Gas and Historic England raised no specific issues on the NMNP.

3. Analysis

The representations include suggested modifications to the policies and supporting text of the document. This note focuses only on those of greater substance as all those referencing editorial updates can be addressed by the group in finalising the document.

3.1 Natural England.

Natural England does not agree with the current HRA conclusions and require further information on New Forest Recreational Disturbance Mitigation, as well as nutrient neutrality mitigation.

Response – ONH has referred back to AECOM to review these comments. They will add a clarification to the HRA in respect of ARNG but disagree with the comment raised over nutrient neutrality, noting that while this information would be required from individual developers for planning applications, that level of information is not reasonable to be required at the Neighbourhood Plan stage as it requires the detailed calculations to be undertaken which will only be undertaken at the application stage.

3.2 Turley on behalf of Pennyfarthing Homes, raise concern over the modified NP in three main areas:

1. Housing Delivery

- Outdated Housing Requirement: The plan is based on a housing requirement of 200 dwellings, which is no longer valid given the updated housing needs calculated using the revised Standard Method. The updated baseline has significantly increased the housing need in the New Forest area (from 521 to 1,512 dwellings per annum).
- They suggest the Neighbourhood Plan Group aligns its timeline with that of the Local Plan reviews to avoid redundancy and ensure that strategic housing requirements are accurately reflected.

Response: The NP is not seeking to engage §14 NPPF and is well aware of the need for the district to bring forward more housing, however the NP is not in a position to allocate greenfield sites due to the requirement to release land from the greenbelt, which is not a matter for the NP. In terms of timing, the plan is under review now in the knowledge that there will be pressure from “greybelt” applications in the short term and due to the Local Plan being out of date and not likely to have a new plan adopted for some time. As such the NP wishes to ensure that the modified NP addresses issues which were omitted previously or not so prevalent, but have a raised importance. These include design, energy efficiency, biodiversity, protecting employment sites etc.. so these matters can be give full weight in the planning process as the most up to date part of the development plan.

2. Housing Mix (Policy NM2)

- Overly Prescriptive Policy: The draft policy requires 60% of all new housing to be 1- or 2-bedroom units, primarily based on demographic data showing an older population.
- Lacks flexibility and fails to consider the broader spectrum of housing needs, such as for families or younger people.
- It contradicts Policy HOU1 of the New Forest District Local Plan, which mandates housing mix be informed by site-specific characteristics and viability.
- A similar approach in a nearby Neighbourhood Plan (Lymington and Pennington) was already questioned by the Local Planning Authority.

Response : The 1 and 2 bedroom requirement is not just based on existing demographic data but actively seeks to encourage younger people into a town where the aging population, if allowed to continue without any intervention, will account for more than half the population within the next 10 years. As such it is responding to local characteristics and the SG will consider revising the requirement to 50% given the concern over viability, which will also demonstrated increased flexibility. Many of the smaller dwellings within the existing housing stock are within age restricted settings and not accessible to younger people.

3. Energy Efficiency (Policy NM21)

- Support for Zero Carbon Readiness: While there is support in principle for sustainable, Zero Carbon Ready homes aligned with the Future Homes Standard 2025, the plan includes several concerns:
 - Overreach Beyond Local Plan: The policy's targets, such as Passivhaus certification and detailed post-occupancy evaluations, exceed requirements in the Local Plan and Climate Change SPD.
 - National Guidance Conflict: A December 2023 Written Ministerial Statement advises against setting local energy efficiency standards that surpass national regulations.
 - Viability Concerns: No formal viability assessment has been submitted to justify the higher standards. Notably, adopting Passivhaus standards could result in a cost increase of approximately 19%.

Response: The Court of Appeal (25 July 2025) R (Rights: Community: Action Ltd) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government [2025] EWVA Civ 990 held the 2023 Written Ministerial Statement doesn't prevent LPAs from setting higher standards, National policy is only guidance and can be departed from in local circumstances. It is further noted that as the policy does not impose Passivhaus, it just seeks rewards its use, it is not setting a higher standard and as such need not be accompanied by a viability assessment.

3.3 Southern Water. They are supportive of the policies within the plan, recommending the following additional policy criterion as follows :

Policy NM3

h. *To minimise the risk of sewer flooding and protect water quality, surface water will not be permitted to discharge to the foul or combined sewer network*” – SG to add

Policy NM4

Xiii takes account of flood risk through their location and design, existing flow routes and drainage features within the site should be identified and preserved eg ditches, seasonally dry watercourses, historic ponds.

Xiii integrates sustainable drainage systems, to minimise and control surface water run-off, provide flood storage capacity and improve habitats and species migration. SuDS measures should include source control components such as rainwater re-use/harvesting, green roofs, rain gardens, trees, permeable paving. Multi-functional SuDS features should be used to meet several planning policy requirements within the same area of the site eg biodiversity, amenity, green infrastructure, flood risk, drainage.

Xiv minimises the risk of sewer flooding and protects water quality, by not discharging surface water to the foul or combined sewer network. - SG to add to the plan

Policy NM5 and NM24

D. In order to assess available network capacity, the wastewater and water infrastructure provider will be consulted on planning applications as early as possible to review the development proposals and work with the developer on the intended delivery programme, this will assist with identifying any potential network reinforcement requirements. Where there is a capacity constraint, the Local Planning Authority will, where appropriate, apply phasing conditions to any approval to ensure that any necessary infrastructure upgrades are delivered ahead of the occupation of the relevant phase of development

SG to add to the plan.

Design Guidance

They would welcome additional guidance in Section 4.8 the Design Guide that ensures that surface water is not permitted to be discharged into a foul only or combined sewer.

- h. To minimise the risk of sewer flooding and protect water quality, rainwater drainage for the Extension will not be permitted to discharge to the foul or combined sewer network*
- i. If the Extension is within three metres of a public sewer, a developer will need to submit a Build Over Application to Southern Water for approval, this is a mandatory requirement and ensures that the necessary precautions are in place to protect access to the sewer and its operation*

Response – Recommend updating the policy wording as set out. In respect of the Design Guidance, the document has now been finalised and as such the additional wording is unable to be added but the Town Council will refer the request for a policy in respect of sewerage to be included within the emerging Local Plan.

3.4 South West Water state the importance of instilling water efficiency principles into all modes and scales of development for securing efficient use of water resources within the long-term. In pursuit of promoting more sustainable consumption behaviours, the Undertaker strongly supports the Local Authority in adopting draft policy imposing water efficiency requirements to achieve a maximum average water consumption of 110 litres/person/day. A such, expanding proposed policy wording to secure suitable water efficiency standards across different development types and scales is strongly supported. They note that all of the sites within this New Milton neighbourhood plan regulation 14 consultation that are within the SWWL area of water supply, can be accommodated within the existing water supply network and infrastructure. As the allocations progress, if it is determined that any network reinforcements are required, this would be funded through the Infrastructure Charge that SWWL imposes on developers.

Response – The Town Council will refer the request for a policy around water efficiently standards to NFDC and NFNPA within the emerging local Plan.

3.6 Hampshire County Council Hampshire County Council (HCC) has submitted comments as follows :

Policy	County Council suggestions	Response
NM12 Walking and Cycling	Regarding Public Rights of Way (PRoW), the County Council welcomes the Policy NM12, however, they encourage more explicit reference to the PRoW network, within the plan, as a key component of active travel infrastructure and the NPPF, particularly Para 105 and for planning to “Protect and Enhance” the network. PRoWs play a vital role in enabling sustainable, off-road travel and recreation, and their inclusion would strengthen the plan’s alignment with wider accessibility and connectivity objectives especially in relation to Policy NM12. Additionally, the County Council would expect the Plan to acknowledge the new King Charles III England Coast Path, which passes through the plan area.	July 25 update form Natural England indicates the route of the CIII Coastal Path through the parish has not yet been approved in full or implemented, so unable to add to mapping as yet. Consider reviewing policy wording in the supporting text to give greater emphasis to the PRoW network.
NM3: Land East of Caird Avenue	Hampshire County Council as the minerals and waste planning authority welcome that mineral infrastructure safeguarding has been included in Policy NM3, with regards to the safeguarded Caird Avenue operations. However, it is recommended that wording is also included regarding the nearby safeguarded Ashley Manor Farm mineral site. It is requested the following be added as a new criterion within this policy wording: <u>“The site lies within the safeguarded buffer zone of the Caird Avenue operations and in close proximity to the Ashley Manor Farm site. At the request of the County Council, as Minerals</u>	Suggest the policy is updated with the additional proposed wording.

	and Waste Planning Authority, this site will be required to demonstrate that it has considered these safeguarded sites in any forthcoming proposal. This could be in the form of a Safeguarding Assessment or through discussions with the safeguarded site's operator."	
NM5: Town Centre	Hampshire County Council as landowner supports Policy NM5, however does request a wording change regarding the loss of community uses. It is noted that the annotation for Parcel No.15 on the interactive Policy Map states: "Release of land for development would only be permitted if community uses could be suitably relocated within New Milton". This wording appears to be inconsistent with Policy STR8 (Community services, infrastructure and facilities) in the adopted New Forest District Local Plan – "There will be a presumption against any development that involves the loss of education, health, social and other community services, unless the use of the site or building is redundant, or the service will be provided in another way following a service review." The note on Policy Map does not acknowledge that the redevelopment for alternative, non-community uses may be acceptable if it can be demonstrated that the use of the site or building is redundant. The County Council regularly undertakes service reviews to manage the needs for change. This may sometimes result in the re-provision of services through alternative delivery models, or in some cases, the existing service site may no longer be required. To ensure general conformity with the adopted Local Plan and to allow appropriate flexibility for public services and operations to adapt to change, it is therefore recommended that the note to be amended as follow: "Release of land for development would only be permitted if community uses could be suitably relocated within New Milton or if the use of the site or building is redundant."	This relates to the library site. The policy is considered consistent with STR8 as there is not proposed to be a "loss of service" as it would be re-provided elsewhere within the town, however policy supporting text and map can be updated to state that site may be made available if after a service review the facility were found to be redundant.
NM24: Brownfield Sites (outside the Town Centre)	Hampshire County Council as landowner supports the principle of Policy NM24, however does request a wording change regarding the loss of community uses in New Milton. It is noted that the annotation for Parcel No.24 on the interactive Policy Map states: "In active community use which would need to be re-provided elsewhere in the parish prior to development." This wording appears to be inconsistent with Policy STR8 (Community services, infrastructure and facilities) in the adopted New Forest District Local Plan – "There will be a presumption against any development that involves the loss of education, health, social and other community services, unless the use of the site or building is redundant, or the service will be provided in another way following a service review." The note on Policy Map does not acknowledge that the redevelopment for alternative, non-community uses may be acceptable if it can be demonstrated that the use of the site or building is redundant. The County Council regularly undertakes service reviews to manage the needs for change. This may sometimes result in the re-provision of services through alternative	This relates to the Arts Centre site. The policy is considered consistent with STR8 as the service would be provided in a different way (i.e in an alternative location) However, it is suggested to update the supporting text to note that proposals would only be supported should the facility be re-provided as there is no indication that the site would be considered redundant at this time.

	delivery models, or in some cases, the existing service site may no longer be required. To ensure general conformity with the adopted Local Plan and to allow appropriate flexibility for public services and operations to adapt to change, it is therefore recommended that the note to be amended as follow: “In active community use. Release of land for development would only be permitted if community uses could be provided elsewhere in the parish or if the use of the site or building is redundant.”	
NM24: Brownfield Sites (outside the Town Centre)	The County Council notes that Policy NM24 contains Site 23 “S&B Offices West of Caird Avenue”, which lies within the safeguarded buffer zone of the Caird Avenue operations and in close proximity to the Ashley Manor Farm site. It is requested that the presence of the safeguarded mineral infrastructure is noted within Policy NM24 and also within the site selection summary and constraints information in Appendix B. The County Council request the following wording within the site constraints in Appendix B: <u>“The site lies within the safeguarded buffer zone of the Caird Avenue operations and in close proximity to the Ashley Manor Farm site. At the request of the County Council, as Minerals and Waste planning authority, this site will be required to demonstrate that it has considered these safeguarded sites in any forthcoming proposal. This could be in the form of a Safeguarding Assessment or through discussions with the safeguarded site’s operator.”</u>	Appendix B to be updated with the additional wording as set out.

3.7 Environment Agency. The plan raises no environmental concerns. They raise some minor comments as follows:

General - flood risk

We have checked the proposed sites and policies map in terms of issues within our remit and have no specific comments to make at this time in relation to these. We are however pleased to see that the proposed allocations seem to have been directed to the areas at the lowest probability of flooding (Flood Zone 1) according to the Flood Map for Planning.

Policy NM12: Promoting Walking and Cycling

We commend the principle of point ii. within this policy (“In proximity to Danes Stream and Becton Bunny opportunities are taken to open up culverts and create habitat enhancements while maintaining at least an 8m buffer from any works”). However, the final part of the sentence could be made clearer by amending to these words - “at least an 8m undeveloped buffer from the top of the riverbanks and/or culvert location.”

Policy NM20: Biodiversity

We recommend a minor addition to C at the end as follows *“The first step of mitigation is to avoid any significant harm to biodiversity.”* This will ensure that the mitigation hierarchy is considered (paragraph 193 a) of the National Planning Policy Framework).

We would recommend that any references to ‘green infrastructure’ are amended to ‘green and blue infrastructure’ This helps ensure that rivers and watercourses are not marginalised and are considered as part of any net gain plans rather than just focusing on the terrestrial environment.

Response : Recommend updating the plan to reflect the suggested additions/alterations.

3.8 A summary of the substantive points raised by NFDC are set out below.

Policy Number	Policy Name	NFDC Summary Comments	Response
NM2	Diversifying Housing	- Reword opening paragraph to remove reference to first homes - Clause A Threshold should be “10 or more” (aligns with national policy). - Clause B More detail requested on tenure mix. Will a lower overall percentage be acceptable if there are issues with viability, or would an increase in affordable home ownership be the preferred option? - Clause C concern that 60% small units may harm viability.	Suggest update text as suggested Clause A -suggest amend policy to 10 or more homes. Clause B The HNA concludes that “<i>On balance, the relative need for Social Rented homes versus Affordable Rented homes is a complex area because of the interaction of benefits, rents and earnings. AECOM suggests that the local authority is best placed to assess what proportion of Affordable Housing should be provided as Social Rent, drawing on their waiting list data and more detailed evidence in LHNAs.</i>”: Hence why Clause B is as written and therefore is not recommended to change Clause C suggest reduce to 50% if viability has proven challenging. However NFDC assertion that 1 and 2 bedroom houses are likely to be flatted may not be the case, particularly outside of the town centre
NM3	East of Caird Avenue	Replace shall for should clause B and will to should for clause C” for greater flexibility.	Suggest update Clause B to include the word “should” however Clause C to remain as “will” to provide certainty to a proposal that there will be support for such a scheme. “Should” in this circumstance seems ambiguous.
NM5	New Milton Town Centre Regeneration	Site deliverability uncertain. Have all the landowners required to bring sites forward confirmed that their land is available and within what timescales? What is the quantum of development anticipated	The accompanying site allocations report Appendix B sets out the quantum of development on each site and confirms that all site owners, including NFDC who own a number of the

		on each site (i.e., number of dwellings, amount of non-residential floorspace where applicable)? • Concerns about mitigation strategy and brownfield passport reference and Part II brownfield register suggesting deletion of the three paragraphs relating to this. • Ownership/legal uncertainties.	sites, have been contacted. (A meeting was held at NFDC offices to discuss which sites under their ownership should be included) Landowners were invited to advise if they wished their site to be omitted from the process rather than included. As a result of this two sites were omitted. Nil responses were taken as acceptance of inclusion and a further period of informal consultation after landowners were contacted, was undertaken providing a further opportunity for them to comment. In terms of certainty, the sites identified in NM5 and NM24 are designed to encourage developers to come forward, in the knowledge that the sites are recognised as suitable in principle through the policy. As the policies do not seek to engage §14 NPPF there is no requirement to demonstrate when during the plan period they are expected to come forward. In respect of the matter of recreational mitigation, this was raised with NFDC in advance of the Regulation 14 with the following response given <i>“The <u>previous HRA</u> (Paras 5.94 – 5.118) provides the appraisal for recreational mitigation, and I think you’ll find useful, esp para 5.108 (which is then put into effect in <u>adopted Local Plan</u> Policy ENV1 and further detailed in Local Plan paras 5.15 – 5.24, which is being implemented today via our <u>mitigation programme</u> I mentioned on the call. That is where the developer contributions for mitigation feed in.</i> <i>So I think you can place confidence in the current mitigation policy framework for smaller development in the New Milton area.”</i> This comment has has been included within in the HRA.
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			Reference to Brownfield Passports now qualified in supporting text.
NM10	Buildings of Local Heritage & Townscape Value	• Ensure compliance with Historic England guidance • Final sentence needs revision	Only the 2 sites being added to the policy need to demonstrate compliance with the Historic England guidance as the previous list has already been examined and found satisfactory. The justification is clearly set out in the appendices to the Regulation 14. The supporting text can be updated to confirm that the landowners of the locations were contacted prior to the Reg14. Update final sentence as recommended.
NM15	Employment	• Clarify site selection and replace rigid wording.	Recommend amending clause B to remove the words “in any circumstances” but recommend leaving wording in Clause A (changing “will” to “<i>would be likely</i>” to just introduces ambiguity. Additional supporting text added to aid selection of sites.
NM20	Biodiversity	• The policy is split into a number of clauses, and the wording of some of these appears to contradict others, leading to some internal inconsistency. The wording of Clause F appears to contradict the local community needs referred to in Clause B and would benefit from further clarification.	This does not appear to make sense – there is no clause F?
NM21	Energy Efficiency	• Post-occupancy evaluations not enforceable. • Should be mindful of the WMS in respect of not setting higher standards / Wait for Future Homes Standard. • Clarify performance metrics in Appendix B.	The Court of Appeal (25 July 2025) R (Rights: Community: Action Ltd) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government [2025] EWWA Civ 990 held the 2023 Written Ministerial Statement doesn’t prevent LPAs from setting higher standards, National policy is only guidance and can be departed from in local circumstances. However, this policy does not set a higher standard it just incentivises it. There is no reason POEs are not enforceable unless the LPA decides not to press ahead with its commitments in respect of climate change and sustainability. The supporting text will be expanded upon to address these matters.

NM22	Conservation Area	• Clause A: remove redundant final part. • Clause B: energy upgrades must not outweigh heritage protection—rephrase for NPPF consistency.	Clause A and Clause B suggest updating
NM23	Local Shops	• Define vague terms (e.g., “partial loss”). • Account for Use Class E. • Clarify whether criteria i–iii are “and/or.”	Suggest remove the words “partial or total” to clarify the policy. Definition of dispersed local shop added to supporting text as well as further clarifications.
NM24	Brownfield Sites	• Delivery of 200 homes lacks viability evidence. • Confirm landowner engagement. • Remove Green Belt mentions from supporting text.	Supporting text to be updated.
NM25	Area of Special Character	• Minor editorial changes only	Plan updated

Local community representations.

A number of representations have been made by members of the community, which have been grouped by policy area as follows:

Brownfield Development (NM5 and NM23)

Respondent 1 considers the loss of Osborne Road car park for 11 residential units does not justify the loss of parking which the respondent considers is well used by older residents and would deprive them of parking convenient to the Memorial Hall and the shops.

Response

SG consider that all car parks should remain in the brownfield policy, but to address the issue of concern over the levels of available public parking the supporting text will be updated to direct applicants to include a parking survey with their application to demonstrate sufficient remaining alternative provision. Where insufficient parking results, schemes should seek to retain an appropriate level of public parking on site as part of the proposals.

Respondent 2 also comments upon the Osborne Road car park, asking where the cars that at present use it, especially users of the Community Centre, to park? The respondent also suggests that the Post Office building could be brought back into use to house the banking hubs now there are no longer any banks in the town and people have to go further afield to access banking services.

Response

See above in respect of Osborne Road Car Park. Whilst the Plan is not considering the Post Office building as a banking hub as this would be unlikely to require change of use, it may be something the TC would support should a proposal come forward.

Respondent 3 has included a petition by residents of Davis Field and surrounding areas. It objects to the proposed development of Site 16, a brownfield site identified in NM23

Key Objections and Concerns Raised by Petitioners:

Residents state they were not directly notified by the council and suggested that the council could have used leaflets or other channels (e.g., Homeseach magazine) to inform locals, raising concern that the council may have withheld information to avoid public objection and suggesting that development could be directed to Barton instead. The residents state that the area is already crowded and further development would exacerbate this, due to density and infrastructure limitations.

Response

The Landowner (NFDC) was contacted prior to the Regulation 14 who confirmed the land was considered available at this time. The purpose of the Reg 14 is to bring the proposed plan to the attention of residents, including neighbours of proposed sites, which has been undertaken as set out in the Consultation Statement. However, given the concerns raised, the SG has omitted the open space element from the modified plan, due to the resulting reduction in green space as expressed in the representation. In respect of parking, any new development is

unlikely to result in an increase of parking issues, as the garage blocks are currently rarely used for parking cars and new schemes would need to incorporate parking within their design.

Respondent 4 noted their disappointment at the inclusion of the New Forest Arts Centre as an option for development. It is the only arts centre of its kind in the new forest and is used by so many in the community. The council should be supporting it not proposing to knock it down. The respondent notes the need for new affordable homes but not on that site which is used by so many.

Response

The Neighbourhood Plan is absolutely supportive of community facilities across the parish, including the Arts Centre. For the purposes of clarity, the site would only be considered for redevelopment should the Art Centre be agreeable to relocation to a new, purpose built facility in the proposed community hub as set out in policy NM7.

Respondent 5 supports the broader aims of revitalising New Milton but raises the concern that whilst NM5 seeks to bring forward additional residential opportunities through redevelopment of the public car parks in the Town Centre, that it may actually reduce footfall as there will be nowhere for shoppers to park. They recommend that there is a policy mechanism requiring equivalent replacement parking to be provided in equally accessible locations before redevelopment occurs. As such, they feel the policy is currently inconsistent with NPPF 98 c/d, which seeks to guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, Local Plan Policy STR8, which aims to protect and enhance community infrastructure, and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan (HP2), which seeks to enable healthy, accessible high streets. To make the Plan sound and sustainable, they request that Policy NM5 be modified to include the following clause:

“Redevelopment of existing public car parks will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is no net loss of parking capacity, or that alternative provision of equivalent capacity, accessibility, and function has been secured in a suitable location.”

Response

Supporting text updated to recognise concern and seek parking survey.

Respondent 6 objects to the proposed redevelopment of The Arts Centre and Osborne Road Car Park.

Response. As stated above the Arts Centre would only be redeveloped should the current centre be relocated to the proposed community hub at the Memorial Centre. See above for response regarding Osborne Road car park.

Policy NM7 Cultural and Community Hub and War Memorial Recreation Ground

Respondent 7 Notes in the Town Centre Masterplanning Study overall Map showing Town Centre Car Parks, the Memorial Centre Car Park is shown as Town Centre Parking. This is not Town

Centre Parking and if the current proposals (NM5) go ahead, its availability will be even less than it is now- and more importantly it is a Private Car Park. The respondent also notes that the study suggests that the Weekly Street Market is a major draw of footfall into the Town, which they believe is untrue and all attempts at making the area more suitable an environment for a Street Market would be wasted as all

In respect of policy NM7, the respondent believes the town council will have no influence over its development as this would largely be directed and dictated by The New Life Church

Response

SG to contact AECOM to seek permission to amend Masterplan document. NP supporting text to weekly market removed.

NM2 Diversifying Housing

Respondent 8 agrees with the proposed new policies and updates to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan but is concerned how the very important emphasis on affordable housing for younger people will actually be delivered.

Response.

The Neighbourhood Plan creates the policy for the local planning authority to apply in the determination of planning applications. The SG are aware that viability issues can influence the delivery of affordable housing but will use the plan to bring this matter to the attention of developers and will hold the planning authority to account should they seek to disapply the policy without good reason.

NM13 Barton on Sea

Respondent 9 just notes that in Policy NM13, points xvii and xxvii are duplicated ('occasional pine trees') as are xvi and xxvii ('mown grass road verges')

Response – delete duplication.

NM12 Walking and Cycling – 6 responses

Respondent 10 notes an issue between the mapping of the footpath off Stem Lane New Milton opposite the road entrance to Queensway Industrial Park, shown on the policies map as a footpath but not on the HCC mapping even though signage was erected to note the temporary closure of the path for the installation of solar panels two years ago.

Respondent 11 notes the Green Loop from the 2019 Neighbourhood Plan, through Great Woar Copse, is incorrect and the NFDC Green Way secured in 2018 should be the Green Loop.

Response – SG to review and amend mapping regarding the above two comments

Respondent 12 notes the safe routes for cycles and pedestrians was last updated online in 2022, but

as a cyclist, they have not noticed any improvements on the provision of safe routes for these groups and have had several near misses and two forced off-road tumbles.

Where can an update be found but would also note the following would “essential ingredients” Clear signage and road markings.

Isolated, small cycle lanes that suddenly disappear.

Shared routes for pedestrians and cycles, with priority given to pedestrians.

Provision of street furniture for locking cycles to.

Parking on cycle lanes which defeats the purpose of it.

Response – the “essential ingredients” referred to in the main are included as part of the healthy streets indicators which the revised plan is introducing, particularly around safety, clear signage and street furniture. However the respondent is also indicating enforcement issues around parking which the TC may wish to address outside of the NP forum.

Respondent 13 Transition Lymington - wish to request the following additional text in the NP
“The Town Council will work towards, and alongside other Councils at all levels as necessary, to designate and implement Local Cycle Routes, including a route connecting Ashley, Hordle, Everton and Pennington (4.25 miles). LTP4 states that HCC will ‘evaluate, when undertaking larger maintenance schemes, opportunities to bring existing infrastructure for walking and cycling up to current standards, rather than simply replacing like for like’. Prior to larger planned maintenance work (including carriageway resurfacing) affecting roads on this designated Local Cycle Route, the Town Council will work with HCC to evaluate signage and junction priority alterations, which can be undertaken as part of the planned maintenance work.”

Response : SG to add supporting text.

Additional Commentary.

Strongly support the Town Council’s own Local Cycle Route Carrick Way - Andrew Lane - Hare Lane to the town boundary, from where it would follow the Tube Map Route 3 continuation across Hordle PC to Pennington via Everton. The LCWIP Route 240 Hordle to Everton is similar but of course stops at Everton. See extract attached showing both routes with our annotation in red. Both LCWIP Route 240 and Tube Map Route 3 use low-speed/low-to-moderate volume roads (2600 vehicles/day on Everton Road). But the LCWIP audit of Route 240 indicates that major interventions would be needed with this option including costly signalling of some junctions. Route 3 makes greater use of quieter residential roads, with only limited interventions needed, such as junction markings and signage. Hordle PC wrote to HCC in support of Tube Map 3 at the time of the LCWIP public consultation. The Lymington & Pennington TC section of Tube Map Route 3 is identified as a Neighbourhood Plan ‘Cycle Route Opportunities’ option (extract of draft NP attached with our annotation in red). This shows the final entry into Lymington via Pennington using Wainsford Road. We encourage the Town Council to grasp this chance to link these primary employment and retail centres.

Transition Lymington subsequently provided further commentary as follows:

The draft New Forest LCWIP (with publication now scheduled for the end of the year) shows the link between New Milton with Lymington (Primary Route 200) following Ashley Lane - Silver Street - Sway Road. Although direct (and which is an LCWIP requirement) it is highly problematic not least due to traffic volumes. Both the likely alternative route options, LCWIP Secondary Utility Route 240 (Hordle to Everton) and our own Tube Map Route 3 (New Milton to Pennington via Everton) would require action by Hordle PC which is where most of the route interventions would be needed. (Very little is required at the L&P TC end.

Respondent 14 David Orme – Local Active Travel Representative.

Recommend adding design principles to NM12 for the utility walking and cycling routes (designated as ‘NMTC Proposed LCWIP Walking/Cycling Routes’ on the Policy Map) and clarify whether the

'Rail Trail' mentioned consists of one or more of these routes (or otherwise). New Milton Station proudly proclaims 'Gateway to the Forest' – this should be mentioned as well as the Rail Trail (to Barton). Candidate design principles for the utility walking and cycling routes should include the following:

1. In 2022, the Highway Code was updated to make clear that pedestrians crossing side roads have priority over drivers, however without road markings this is often not adhered to. Where NMTC-designated walking routes cross road junctions with no existing crossing point, add 'Side Road Zebra Crossings' (ie just the markings, no lights) at all junctions (as now being implemented in Sheffield). These are cheap and highly effective in encouraging Active Travel (83% of UK adults feel more confident crossing a road with a zebra crossing, and that 76% of parents would be more likely to walk their children to school if there were side road zebras in place along the route).
2. Where designated walking routes cross wide road junctions, consideration should be given to narrowing these junctions, in order to slow traffic and reduce the distance needed to cross the road (HCC Draft LCWIP also makes this point).
3. Signposts should be included for all sections of walking and cycle routes that are deemed already adequately safe, and further signage added as safety measures are introduced.
4. There should be a move towards 20mph zones where the designated walking and cycling routes are not separated from the road, or which cross a road.
5. There should be a stated aim for children to be able to safely walk or cycle to all schools in the town.

Response – SG to remove reference to Rail Trail as not yet in a position to take forward . SG to add the design principles for utility walking and cycling.

Responses across a number of policy areas:

Respondent 15 makes a number of suggested additions including clarifying the market in New Milton. The also note a lack of guest houses and hotel for "exploring the New Forest"

Response – reference to market removed. In respect of accommodation, there are a number of 2nd homes, Air BnBs and holiday parks providing alternatives for guest houses and hotels.

Para 2.18 – add two more paragraphs

g. Significantly increase the area of road verge habitat and other green space for a more pleasant walking/cycling experience for residents

and visitors. Manage all areas sympathetically to accommodate the needs of our wildlife community. The better they're managed, more wildlife will be attracted to these areas – a more relaxed and healthy local community will ensue. Stop destroying road verges with vehicle cross-overs and driveway improvement schemes. (this links with 3.1 – The Vision).

h. Make provision, at any stage of new development or during renovations, for urban wildlife. Many of our native species that associate with the built environment are declining. Urban birds in particular; Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins.

Response – SG are comfortable that the policies provide sufficient detail in respect of habitats and wildlife without further addition.

POLICY NM2 – Diversifying Housing

Suggests a new paragraph – E - All new developments in the Town will take account of Government's NNPF (December 2024) and make provision for wildlife within the fabric of the buildings during their construction.

Response – this already forms part of the design guidance rather than a housing mix policy

POLICY NM3 – Land at Caird Avenue

Should there be mention of the land east of Milford Road (Ashley Manor Farm) – minerals extraction site?

Response – yes, now added.

POLICY NM4 – Design.

New paragraph

xiii – all new buildings (residential or commercial) will follow the recommendations of the NPPF (December 2024), and make provision, within the fabric of all or most of the buildings for urban wildlife – Swifts, bats and hedgehogs.

Response: design policy already makes provision for additional habitats resources for wildlife.

POLICY NM5 – Town Centre

Suggest being more visionary, closing-off Station Road at Lloyd's Bank end and Bradbeers end, directing, soon to be the electric/hybrid majority of quieter, less-polluting vehicles around Elm Avenue, Whitefield Road, Spencer Road and Osborne Road. Make the Town Hall car park two-storey, so more vehicles can park on the same footprint. Get rid of the Water Tower car park and the one behind Tesco's on Old Milton Road. Pedestrianise the centre and make it more pedestrian-friendly, opening the opportunity for the café-culture vibrancy that the Vision(s) for years have been wanting???? Put some fountains and water-jets in there as well. Let the children have some fun.

Response – The NP is seeking to balance ensuring the future commercial success of the town centre with enabling it to be less car dominated and more pedestrian friendly. The plan may therefore not go as far as the respondent would like, although the ideas are very welcomed.

POLICY NM7 – Recreation Ground

There is an opportunity to “develop” the margins (ie outside the perimeter tarmac path) into native wild-flower planting and managed appropriately (not just mown repeatedly) for the needs of our native wildlife.

Response – SG to pass to TC as a planting matter to address, as this is a site management issue

POLICY NM12 – Walking and Cycling

It needs to be stated that any creation of pathways, walkways etc, to attract more walking/cycling in the town, are not installed at the expense of our natural (and rare) habitats and wildlife. All proposals should be surveyed initially by a professional ecologist, to ensure no loss of important biodiversity, just for the sake of people not getting their shoes dirty.

Response – SG to add wording to the policy to ensure the creation of active travel routes does not result in harm to important biodiversity.

POLICY NM20 – Biodiversity

The respondent questions the inclusion of recreational playing fields, children's play areas, off-street footways as they require different management to contribute to biodiversity.

He thinks the Plan should re-think "canopy cover". The canopy is high up and is that layer that shades the ground. The understorey is the "middle-layer" and then there is the "ground-layer" (or ground cover) of plants and fallen branches on the ground. Why not mention the Duchy of Cornwall or Brighton and Hove Council who are now installing Swift bricks in all new developments – a simple way of increasing biodiversity in our urban areas. The whole focus in the description to this (Biodiversity) Policy is trees! They're not in short supply, nor declining. There's so much more that can be done easily to boost biodiversity. There is no mention in New Milton's revised Neighbourhood Plan of how this links to Hampshire County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and the recommendations for nature recovery in the Town, nor NFDC's declaration of a Climate and Nature Emergency and actions to be taken to turn around the fortunes of our declining wildlife.

Response : SG are content with the policy as set out. In respect of the HCC Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) , the draft has now been published so the group will review the content and if in agreement, add to the policy wording to note that the plan will work alongside and support the priorities of the LNRS within the New Milton area.

4. Conclusions & Recommendations

4.1 The representations are generally supportive of the modified NMNP and, with some modifications as detailed above, it is considered that it can proceed to the Regulation 15 submission stage without further consultations.

5. Next steps

The Steering Group will need to update the supporting text where appropriate to reflect both the statutory consultee responses and community responses.

The group will need to then consider if it is comfortable with the proposed policy wording changes and discuss with ONH the updating of the submission version of the modified NMNP. Once all amendments/updates have been made then ONH will update the Policies Map.

The group will then need to finalise the Consultation Statement.

Once the submission version of the NMNP Plan is ready, ONH will also prepare the Basic Conditions Statement, final versions of the modification proposal and modification statement and the Town Council will need to approve its submission version of the Plan to send to the LPA for the Regulation 15 and 16 process.

Appendix 3 – Statutory Consultees.

Specific consultees as set out in the regulations

1b	Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council
1b	Beaulieu Parish Council
1b	Boldre Parish Council
1b	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council
1b	Bramshaw Parish Council
1b	Bransgore Parish Council
1b	Breamore Parish Council
1b	Brockenhurst Parish Council
1b	Burley Parish Council
1b	Copythorne Parish Council
1b	Christchurch Town Council
1b	Damerham Parish Council
1b	Denny Lodge Parish Council
1b	Dorset Council planning
1b	East Boldre Parish Council
1b	Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council
1b	Exbury & Lepe Parish Council
1b	Fawley Parish Council
1b	Fordingbridge Town Council
1b	Godshill Parish Council
1b	Hale Parish Council
1b	Hampshire County Council - planning
1b	Hampshire County Council - transport
1b	Hampshire County Council - countryside services
1b	Hampshire County Council - Property services
1b	Hampshire County Council (Stuart Jarvis)
1b	Hampshire County Council Childrens Services
1b	Hampshire County Council Public Health
1b	Hampshire County Council Estates and Development Services Hampshire County Council
1b	Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council
1b	Hordle Parish Council
1b	Hyde Parish Council
1b	Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
1b	Isle of Wight Council
1b	Lymington & Pennington Town Council
1b	Lyndhurst Parish Council
1b	Marchwood Parish Council
1b	Martin Parish Council
1b	Milford Parish Council
1b	Minstead Parish Council
1b	Netley Marsh PC
1b	New Forest District Council
1b	New Forest National Park Authority
1b	Ringwood Town Council

1b	Rockbourne Parish Council
1b	Sandleheath Parish Council
1b	Sopley Parish Council
1b	Southampton City Council
1b	Southampton City Council
1b	Sway Parish Council
1b	Test Valley Borough Council
1b	Totton & Eling Parish Council
1b	Whitsbury Parish Council
1b	Woodgreen Parish Council
1b	Wiltshire Council - planning
1b	Wiltshire Council - transport
1b	Wiltshire Council - estates team
1c	N/A NOT A COAL AUTHORITY
1d	Homes England
1e	Natural England
1f	Environment Agency
1f	Environment Agency
1f	Environment Agency Sustainable Places Advisor
1f	Hampshire Local Nature Partnership
1g	Historic England
1h	Network Rail Planning
1h	Network Rail
1i	Office of Rail and Road
1i	Hampshire Highways
1i	National Highways
1i(a)	The Coal Authority
1j	Marine Management Organisation
1j	Marine Management Organisation
1k (ii)	BT Openreach
1k (ii)	EE
1k (ii)	Vodafone (cable infrastructure team)
1k (ii)	Virgin Media
1k (ii)	BT Group plc
1k (ii)	Waldon Telecom Ltd
1k (ii)	Vodafone (property team) (
1k (ii)	Mobile UK
1k (ii)	Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure LTD
1k (ii)	Openreach newsites
1l (i)	Intergrated Care Board
1l (i)	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board
1l (i)	Intergrated Care Board - Deputy Director - Primary Care –
1l (i)	Hampshire Place (Southwest)
1l (i)	Intergrated Care Board
1l (i)	Intergrated care Board - Programme Manager – Healthcare
1l (i)	and Estates Transformation

1l (ia)	NHS England
1l (ii)	Scottish Southern Electric SSE
1l (ii)	Scottish Southern Electric SSE
1l (ii)	Network Investment Engineer Scottish and Southern Energy
1l (ii)	National Grid
1l (iii)	Southern Gas Network SGN
1l (iii)	Head Office Scottish and Southern Energy
1l (iii)	Powergen E.ON
1l (iii)	British Gas
1l (iii)	Development Planning Manager RWE npower
1l (iv)	Wessex Water
1l (iv)	Wessex Water
1l (iv)	Southern Water
1l (iv)	South West Water
1l (v)	Bournemouth Water
1m	New Milton Residents Association
1m	RNLI
1m	Memorial Centre
1m	Community Centre
1m	NM RBL
1 m	HOPE
1 m	NM Youth Trust
1 m	NM Youth Voice
1 m	NM Talking Newspaper
1 m	Friends of Ballard Water Meadow
1 m	Friends of New Milton Station
1(n)	Rice.com
	Relymart
	International Stores
	International Restaurants and Takeaways in the town
1o	New Life Church
1o	Barton on Sea Methodist Church
1o	NM Evangelical Church
1o	St Mary Magdalene Church
1o	St Peters Church Ashley
1o	St Johns Church Bashley
1o	NM Baptist Church
1o	Ashley Baptist Church
1o	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church
1o	Quaker House
1o	Buddhist Temple Tesarangee
1o	Jehovahs Witness
1p	SEPARATE DATABASE
1p	Danestream Farm Shop
1p	Double H Nurseries
1q	NM Disability Information Service

1q	NF Mencap
1q	Dementia Friendly Hampshire
1q	Alzheimers Society
1q	Inclusion New Forest
1q	Solent Mind The Hollies
1q	Open Sight Club
1q	Summer Wood
1q	Waterford House
1q	The Hollies
1q	New Forest Community Link

MPs

Sir Desmond Swayne
 Sir Julian Lewis
 Christopher Chope
 Caroline Nokes
 John Glen

Misc.

GP Practices - Coastal Medical Partnership

Police
 Forestry England

Health and Safety Executive. Gov
 Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies

National Landscape
 Coda Music Centre

Arnewood School
 Eaglewood School
 Durlston Court School
 Ashley Junior School
 NM Infants School
 NM Junior School
 Ballard School
 New Milton Police
 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary
 HCC Cllr Fran Carpenter
 HCC Cllr Keith Mans
 HCC Cllr Mel Kendal
 NM Heritage Society
 NM Football Club
 NM Cricket Club
 NM Rugby Club
 Bashley Football Club
 Indoor Bowls
 Bashley Rydal Cricket Club
 Forest Arts Centre
 NM Leisure Centre
 Brock College Fusee House
 NF Business Partnership
 Bashley Village Hall

Tesco
 Morrisons
 Lidl
 Aldi
 Barton on Sea Post Office
 Morrison Daily Post Office
 Ferndale Post Office
 Ashley Nisa
 Beechwood Stores
 Bashley Post Office
 Ferndene Farm Shop
 Train Station Manager
 St Denys Care Home
 Twynham Assisted Living
 Waverley House Retirement Home
 Wellington Court Retirement Housing Complex
 White Rock Nursing Home
 Windy Ridge Nursing Home
 Wooldridge View Care Home
 Agincare
 Ashfield Care Homes
 Ashley Lodge Care Home
 Barton Lodge Care Home
 Bethel House Care Home
 Carlton House Rest Home
 Engleburn Care Home
 Chestnut Court Rest Home
 Gore Grange Care and Day Centre
 The Gatehouse Care Home
 Helping Hands Homecare
 Grey Gables Assisted Living
 Lakeside Pines
 Kingfishers Care Home
 Ocean Breeze Care Home
 Beach Crest Residential Home
 Barton on Sea Golf Club
 Barton Sea Scouts
 Hoburne Holiday Park Bashley
 New Milton Fire Station
 New Milton Guides
 New Milton Scouts
 Redcliffe Garden Centre
 Bashley Plant Centre
 The Solent Cluster

BROWNFIELD SITES

Landowners of Site 1 – 24

Details redacted for GDPR