Trowbridge Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Trowbridge Town Council
Working for your Community

Trowbridge Town Council is commencing work on the Trowbridge Neighbourhood Plan, and we need your help to ensure it reflects the views and aspirations of our local community. The plan is developed through community consultation and engagement, drawing on local knowledge while ensuring it is in line with national planning policy and guidance.

Our neighbourhood plan will focus on heritage, important views, local green spaces, our green and blue infrastructure network, and how we get around Trowbridge. As part of this first consultation, we are seeking your views on:

- **Local heritage assets that should be protected.**
- **Identifying important views of buildings, streetscapes, monuments, spaces and landscapes.**
- **Designating most important green spaces to ensure they're protected against development.**
- **The value of our green and blue infrastructure network and how this should be improved.**
- **How we move around Trowbridge using walking, cycling or wheeling and ways these routes can be improved.**

It is important that we hear from as many people as possible to ensure that the plan reflects the views and priorities of the local community.

Neighbourhood Plan Area



How to respond to the consultation?

Please let us know whether you support the topics which have been proposed using our online questionnaire / consultation form. This form will also allow you to comment on each individual topic, including any nominations you may have.

Responses can be made via the following link below or by scaning the QR code.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Gm3s37VkCJ

There is also opportunity for you to use the Placecheck interactive map instead to submit your answers! Details on this are available through the above link.

Paper copies are also available from the Civic Centre.

All the consultation material is available on the Trowbridge Town Council Website.

The consultation is running until 11:59pm on 13th October so please ensure you respond before this date.



The neighbourhood plan area for Trowbridge was designated by Wiltshire Council on 22nd June 2026. The plan will therefore cover the area defined in red.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

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A neighbourhood plan is a document prepared by a community group for a designated area to guide future development. It focuses on the use and development of land and may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area, or the provision of new facilities. It can address a wide range of social, economic, and environmental issues.

A neighbourhood plan is shaped by community visions and aspirations through public consultation and engagement that help guide the policies within it, drawing on local knowledge where appropriate, and also ensuring conformity with national planning policy and guidance. Once a neighbourhood plan has been prepared, it will be submitted to Wiltshire Council and then be subject to an independent examination. The plan will then be taken to referendum where, if successful, will become part of the development plan for the area. This means that planning applications will be assessed against the plan.

Trowbridge Town Council is currently preparing the Trowbridge Neighbourhood Plan to help shape the town and positively influence its future. The neighbourhood plan focuses on particular topics that the Town Council has identified as essential to protect and enhance. These are heritage assets, key views, local green spaces, green and blue infrastructure, and active travel. They now welcome your views on these topics.

The preparation of the Trowbridge Neighbourhood Plan to date has been informed by the following documents and guidance, all of which are publicly accessible:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026)**
- **Wiltshire Core Strategy**
- **West Wiltshire District Plan and Leisure and Recreation DPD**
- **Planning Practice Guidance**
- **National Design Guide**
- **Trowbridge Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**
- **Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit**
- **Wiltshire Council Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy**
- **Trowbridge Masterplan 2014**



What we've done to date?

Step 1: Designating Neighbourood Area
Completed on 22nd June 2026, designating the whole civil parish of Trowbridge.

Step 2: Preparing a draft neighbourhood plan
Engagement with stakeholders and collection of evidence. Work on step 2 is continuing, and this consultation forms part of this, to identify and prepare draft planning policies which will make our community's vision a reality.

We are here!

Step 3: Pre-submission publicity and consultation
The draft neighbourhood plan will be subject to formal consultation (Regulation 14) where material modifications are made.

Step 4: Submission of a neighbourhood plan to the local planning authority
Once submitted to Wiltshire Council a statutory consultation will be undertaken (Regulation 16) where material modifications are made.

Step 5: Independent Examination
An examiner will be appointed to consider the plan and whether the modifications will change the nature of the plan.

Steps 6: Referendum
If the examiner considers the nature of the plan has changed, a community referendum will be held. If not, the plan will be made by the LPA within 5 weeks.

Trowbridge Town Council welcome your views on the following topics to understand how best to shape, protect, and enhance Trowbridge in the future to ensure it remains a place where the community desire to live and work in.

A brief outline of each topic area is defined below to understand its purposes within the neighbourhhod plan, and the following boards explain the what the Town Council need from you for each topic, and how you can respond.

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What is being Consulted on?

Key Views
Our rural landscapes and public rights of way are treasured by us all, and the neighbourhood plan can help protect particular views within the area that are special and/or valued by the community. This includes accessible viewpoints that are reflective of what makes our settlements distinct.

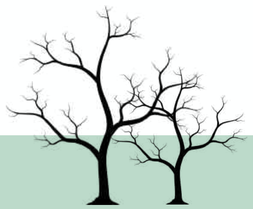
Local Heritage Asset
As part of the neighbourhood plan it is possible to identify buildings, monuments, and places that should be preserved as non-designated heritage assets for future generations.

Active Travel
The neighbourhood plan can identify Movement Routes throughout the Town for protection, such as routes that are well used, as well as improvements to the existing infrastructure to allow more people to walk or cycle to local services.



Green and Blue Infrastructure
A neighbourhood plan can identify and protect key areas of biodiversity and wildlife value through the identification of Green and Blue Infrastructure corridors, such as along the River Biss to the south and north of Trowbridge. This can include enhancement and improvement of such areas to support the benefits of the natural environment.





Local Green Space
National Planning Policy allows communities to identify and protect areas of particular importance to them as local green space, such as recreation grounds or allotments. This power within a neighbourhood plan has the effect of imposing similar controls to those that apply within the Green Belt, effectivley protecting the site from most development.

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Local Heritage Assets

Local heritage plays an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness in the historic environment.

The neighbourhood area already contains several designated heritage assets including 224 statutory listed buildings, including 205 Grade II, 13 Grade II*, and 6 grade I Listed Buildings. Trowbridge also has an extensive amount of sites, buildings and monuments within the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER).

What is a Local Heritage Asset (Non-Designated Heritage Asset)?

This designation recognises that an asset has some historic significance, which can positively influence the character of the local area, be it through its historical associations, age, or appearance. The designation does not apply any formal statutory listing, such as a Listed Building, however it does mean that the significance of the asset should be valued and taken into account as a material consideration within planning applications that may affect the site or surrounding environment.

As part of the neighbourhood plan, it is possible to define further assets as 'non-designated' heritage assets (NDHA).

What happens next?

The Town Council welcome nominations from you on which NDHA's may be suitable for identification within the neighbourhood plan. Each nomination will be shortlisted to undergo an assessment based on the criteria outlined to the right. If a nomination meets at least one of the criteria, then it will be protected as an NDHA to be preserved for future generations. Any landowners or residents will be contacted for their views on the proposed designation.

All heritage asset types, including monuments, sites, places, areas, parks, gardens and designed landscapes/parkland may be considered for inclusion. All assets identified will be assessed by the Town Council against the criteria in the following table to determine their suitability for protection within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please use the consultation form and map to let us know the following:

- **The name and address of any asset you believe should be included in the list.**
- **Why you think this building should be designated.**
- **If there is any particular history of the asset(s) that contributes to its significance, including any relevant local knowledge.**

Criterion	Description
1. Has architectural interest or quality.	The intrinsic design and aesthetic value of an asset relating to local and/or national styles, materials, construction and craft techniques, or any other distinctive characteristics.
2. Is a landmark feature.	An asset with strong communal or historical associations, or because it has especially striking aesthetic value.
3. Has a relationship with designated heritage assets (as part of their setting) in age, materials, or any other historically significant way.	Groupings of assets with a clear visual design, functional or historic relationship.
4. Has historical associations with (1) features such as historic road layout, a park or a landscape feature, and / or (2) important or prominent people or past events.	A significant historical association of local or national note, including links to important local figures.
5. Illustrates the development of the area (individually or as a group), including reflecting the functional character or former uses of the area.	Heritage assets are primary sources of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
6. Contributes positively to the character or appearance of the area.	The local sense of place and identity are shaped by local history, culture and heritage, and how these have influenced the built environment and wider landscape.
7. Other local reasons of special value.	Other reasons may be identified where appropriate.

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Key Views

The character and landscape setting of Trowbridge, in conjunction with the well-used rights of way network, will be a priority for protection and management by the neighbourhood plan. The following criteria has therefore been devised by the Town Council to assess the value of suggested Key Views within the neighbourhood area:

- **Key Views must be accessible by the public and visible from the public highway, rights of way network, open spaces, or proposed / designated local green space.**
- **Key Views should show a range of physical (natural or man-made) features and an expanse of the parish, not one particular object unless this is a building or feature of particular cultural heritage.**
- **Key Views should merit at least one of the following values:**

Value	Definition
Aesthetic	Views with strong aesthetic qualities that appeal to the visual senses that may include memorable / distinctive views of features, or a combination of features, of landscape or townscape (such as an attractive and distinctive group of buildings).
Biodiversity	Views containing the presence of valued natural capita assets that contribute to ecosystems, habitats and ecological networks.
Cultural Heritage	Presence of historic landmark structures (designated or non-designated heritage assets) or landscape elements/ parkland.
Functional	View of the landscape that has strong physical or functional links with landscape designations, including Special Landscape Areas, or are important to the appreciation of the landscape and its qualities.
Recreational	From a place offering recreational opportunities where experience of a view(s) is important to the enjoyment of the activity.
Tranquility	A location offering high levels of tranquillity or perceptions of tranquillity, including perceived links to nature, dark skies, presence of wildlife/ birdsong and relative peace and quiet. Places may also exhibit a general absence of intrusive or inharmonious development, land uses, transport and lighting.

A Key View is a publicly accessible viewpoint in the neighbourhood area that is reflective of what makes Trowbridge distinct as Wiltshire's County Town. The views are memorable and appreciated. They provide an attractive setting or backdrop, encompassing an important feature of settlement history and the way the built and natural landscape has been shaped by those living and working within it, and by nature.

What happens next?

The Town Council need the communities help to identify any Key Views across the designated neighbourhood area.

Taking account of the criteria and definition below, we want to know what views you think are important to the Town. These can include views looking into the Town across important buildings as well as views out into the countryside and wider landscape.

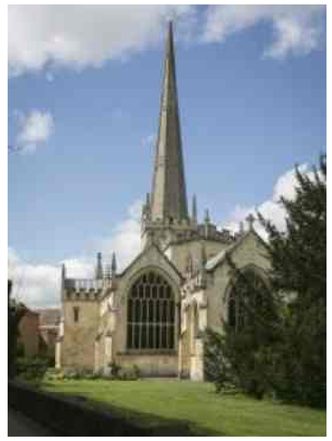
Please use the consultation form and map to let us know the following:

- T**he name and/or address of the viewpoint location for protection.**
- **The direction of the view from the viewpoint location.**
- **Description of the view and its importance for protection.**

Following the consultation, each identified view will be visited by the Town Council and assessed against the criteria. The results will be presented in a report for the community.

If you have any photographs, please send to info@trowbridge.gov.uk with any references.





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Local Green Space

What is a Local Green Space?

National Planning Policy allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them by designating them as Local Green Space (LGS). This power has the effect of imposing similar controls to those that apply within the Green Belt, effectively protecting the site from most development.

Green spaces contribute to quality of place, together with buildings, urban spaces and the wider public realm. Quality of place is a key factor in attracting investment, jobs and growth to an area. It is also important in making an area an attractive place to live, work and spend leisure time. So green spaces have real economic value to the surrounding area, in addition to supporting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Informal green spaces**
- **Town Greens**
- **Allotments**
- **Cemeteries**
- **Highway verges**
- **Parks and gardens**
- **Country parks**
- **Canal towpaths and river courses**
- **Sports pitches, golf courses and bowling greens**

The criteria for LGS is set out in National Policy, which states that the designation should only be used where the green space is:

- ***In close proximity to the community it serves;***
- ***Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and***
- ***Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.***

As part of the neighbourhood plan preparation, the Town Council are seeking to understand if there are any areas that should be designated as Local Green Space, in line with National Policy. These areas would ideally have public access and must take into account the criteria above (i.e. not an extensive tract of land such as all fields surrounding the Town).

What happens next?

We want to hear your views on the which spaces are important to the neighbourhood area which you wish to see protected within the neighbourhood plan.

Please use the consultation form and map to let us know the following:

- **The name and address of any space(s) you believe should be included in the list.**
- **Why you think the space(s) should be designated as a Local Green Space.**
- **If there is any particular history or use of the space(s) that contributes to its significance, including any relevant local knowledge.**

All sites put forward will be assessed to determine their suitability and compliance with the criteria in the National Planning Policy Framework.



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Green and Blue Infrastructure

What is a Green and Blue Infrastructure?

Green and blue infrastructure (GBI) is a network or corridor of natural features than run through an area. A GBI can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Trees and hedgerows**
- **Grasslands**
- **Woodland**
- **Wildlife habitats**
- **Parks**
- **Streams**
- **Rivers**
- **Ponds**
- **Sustainable Drainage**

GBI provides benefits including supporting wildlife, managing flood risks, adapting to climate change, and contributing towards the character and appearance of an area. Unlike Local Green Spaces, GBI is a wider and more varied network of land and natural features that connects different green and blue spaces together, rather than being a single designation.

As set out in Wiltshire Council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, strengthening the network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure has an important role to play in halting biodiversity loss, nature recovery, building resilience to climate change, as well as promoting healthy and resilient communities through enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and food or energy production.



Planning Practice Guidance sets out how natural resources and GBI provide a range of benefits known as eco system services. There are key goals which GBI can help to achieve, including:

- **Building a strong, competitive economy – GBI can drive economic growth and regeneration.**
- **Achieving well -designed places – GBI can enhance the built environment and reinforce or enhance the local landscape character.**
- **Promoting healthy and safe communities – GBI can support physical and mental wellbeing through recreation, exercise and social interaction.**
- **Mitigating climate change, flooding and coastal change – GBI can contribute to carbon storage, cooling, shading, and flood risk management among other things.**

What happens next?

As part of the Trowbridge Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council will map different GBI corridors throughout the neighbourhood area that link local sites and features of importance and deliver connectivity of assets between and within different parts of the area.

Therefore, we would like to know whether there are any particular areas that you wish to see covered as part of the GBI network / corridor which are important to you? Are there any areas which need enhancing? Improving? Or better connectivity?

Please use the consultation form and map to let us know the following:

- **Any areas you feel should form part of the wider GBI network? These may cover any LGS designations you have nominated.**
- **Let us know why you think these area(s) are important.**
- **Any opportunities to improve or enhance the GBI network within Trowbridge?**

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Active Travel

What is Active Travel?

Active travel means travelling from one place to another through active movement, such as walking, wheeling or cycling. The neighbourhood plan can identify routes throughout the Town that are well used and important to the community, as well as opportunities to improve existing routes and create new connections.

Wiltshire Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) has already identified opportunities for improving walking, cycling, and wheeling infrastructure within Trowbridge. However, the neighbourhood plan consultation will build on this work by seeking local knowledge about how routes are currently used, which are most important to the community, and where people experience difficulties or see opportunity for improvement.

The LCWIP can be accessed here: https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1723/Local-Cycling-and-Walking-Infrastructure-Plans-LCWIPs. We welcome any additional comments that may not be covered within this document.

What happens next?

The Town Council welcomes input from the community to help us understand which routes are most important for walking, cycling, and wheeling in and around Trowbridge, including connections to nearby settlements. This information will help identify opportunities to improve existing routes and create new active travel connections, making it easier for more people to walk, wheel and cycle.

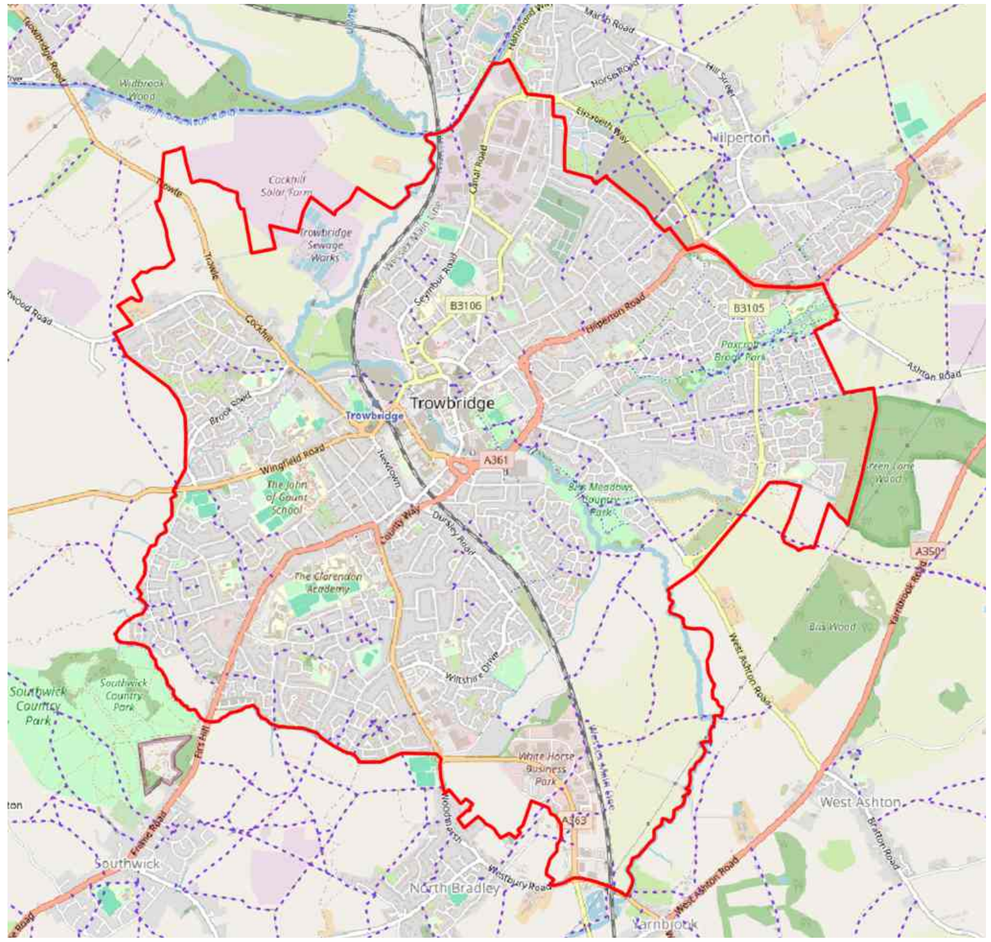
This could include routes along the existing Public Rights of Way network (as shown on the right), as well as other routes that you use regularly.

Please use the consultation form and map to tell us:

- **Which routes are most important to you for walking, cycling or wheeling in and/or around Trowbridge?**
- **Why are these routes important to you?**
- **Do you experience any problems or difficulties when walking, cycling or wheeling along these routes? If so, how could they be improved?**
- **Are there any areas where you would like to see new walking, cycling or wheeling routes, including connections to nearby settlements? If so, why?**

Source: QGIS

Existing Public Rights of Way Network



Public Rights of Way



