

ALVESCOT PARISH COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Adopted 21 September 2016

The purpose of this policy is to guide Alvescot Parish Council's decision-making in planning and development matters in the village, with particular but not exclusive regard to housing. It is based on consultation with residents including views expressed during the creation of the community-led *Plan A for Alvescot* published in June 2016.

Background

The parish council recognises that

- the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, expected to be adopted by the district council in 2017, will look to villages to contribute a limited amount of development towards the District's target for the period to 2029;
- most residents are strongly opposed to proposals for housing development which is disproportionate in scale, out of keeping with the character of the village, or in other ways detrimental to quality of life or environmental, social and economic sustainability;
- Alvescot's principal needs for future development are affordable housing for the up-coming generation, and homes suited to the needs of residents as they age.

Policy

The parish council will

1. ensure that the first objective of any development in Alvescot is to meet the interests of Alvescot residents and their families;
2. work to identify opportunities for creating affordable housing for the families of residents, including consulting land-owners on potential locations for small-scale development;
3. support in principle adaptations or extensions to existing homes which meet the needs of growing families, or ageing or disabled residents, subject to other material considerations of specific proposals;
4. continue to resist proposals for developments of disproportionate scale, unsympathetic character, or otherwise detrimental to the village and its residents;
5. co-operate with the district council and neighbouring town and parish councils in planning and delivering sustainable growth in the District to meet properly identified needs.

Consideration of planning applications

In considering planning applications on which it is consulted, the parish council will act in accordance with the above policy.

Each application will be judged on its merits, but the following approach will be taken when responding to the local planning authority:

- where an application positively supports the Parish Council policy, a **favourable comment** will be made;
- where an application is contrary to the policy an **unfavourable comment** or **objection** will be made (depending on whether there are grounds for objection under national or District planning policy);
- in other case **no comment** will be made.