

Comments by Paper - Consultation 3 - character of Watlington

Reference	Plan Comment
51	Watlington is a lovely village and we should aim to preserve all that is good about it - we should not risk it
63	A lot of thought & planning has gone into this report and I would like to thank all the people that have been involved. It is important to keep the character of Watlington, but as everyone is noticing the character over the last decade has become less pleasant. The pavements are unswept and becoming overgrown with weeds and the general appearance is of a neglected and uncared for community. It is hoped that extra housing will improve not damage the existing town.
98	<p>The very large amount of land for development would completely alter the character of Watlington, changing the size of the community beyond recognition.</p> <p>All three parcels of land are required to enable the alternative route, so if only one or two sites are developed, there would be the increased traffic without the means of mitigating it.</p>
100	It looks good
112	It seems an extremely sensible compromise between the demands and requirements required for the growth of Watlington
126	<p>Sustainable locations, within easy walking distance from key services and locations, should be allocated first. Keep the character of Watlington as a village surrounded by countryside. The proposed plan is a response to development of Chalgrove Airfield.</p> <p>Watlington Parish Council and many residents are opposed to development of the airfield and it is not for the Watlington NDP to take a contrary decision and plan for Chalgrove airfield. Until details of the airfield are known, and funding confirmed, this plan can't come forward, if ever.</p> <p>A plan that can be brought forward asap, should be identified using sites within and better related to the centre of Watlington.</p>
155	This seems to be a well thought out plan, that allows for growth of the town (to meet national targets re housing) whilst still maintaining the character of the town. New houses are inevitable and the proposals look sensible and well considered. I am happy to support this Plan.
156	Using smaller sites that will integrate with Watlington and can be developed in a reasonable timescale
160	Needs to be strictly monitored and governed by an outside party, who are not builders/developers
162	How do we ensure development is of a mixed,attractive style, not a set of "boxes"

Reference

Plan Comment

- 163 The design and materials used for individual dwellings should be controlled, as should the lay-out of streets and the provision of greens and trees among them.
[I would like "should" to be "must" but I fear that will not be the case]
- 165 Appropriate to "historic character"? Then build these houses around Blackbird Leys
- 167 Excellent objectives
- 168 I support the thoughtful incorporation of appropriately sized and designed developments into the plan. Must be proportionate too.
- 169 The policy reflects exiting SODC policy and doesn't add anything specific to Watlington. How can development enhance the setting of historic & listed buildings and other heritage assets ? Does the Watlington Design Guide reflect the principles of the SODC design guide? Does it add to this document?
- 170 The historic character of Watlington should include Brook Street - see comments under Policy 2
- 171 As long as the above remain and are followed
- 172 This is essential if we are to keep the unique state if our town.
- 173 Specifically support the use of appropriate building materials (Brick,flint) to ensure the houses blend in well with existing developments
- 174 The number of houses proposed will inevitably alter the character of the village - "small is beautiful"
- 178 The design, scale and form of new housing, and the the selection of appropriate materials are crucial matters to ensuring new developmement creates a sense of place and reinforces local character. The use of the proposed design guide may help, but care should be taken to not be too prescriptive oe innovative good quality or contemporary design. There is a delicate balance to be struck.
Developers should be prevented from using standard house types of poor design and inappropriate materials, but in practice this will be difficult as SODC lacks the will and resources to enforce
- 179 Good plan, town needs houses for current residents, this makes housing achievable /affordable for the next generation
- 180 Essential
- 183 Please have a big variety of house designs and not crammed together. Also sensitive use of materials in keeping with The Chilterns

Reference

Plan Comment

- 184 * Whilst we agree with this, we don't think the policy objectives should be too prohibitive for developers. It is important that new homes are actually built, whether or not this is appropriate to the historic character of Watlington & whether or not it affects the views from the hill
- 186 It is imperative that there is no relaxation of the policies to allow adverse development
- 187 Character of new development must be in keeping with Watlington and the Chilterns
- 188 The plan supports but certainly doesn't enhance the character.
- 189 But not at the detriment of outlying villages e.g Christmas Common and Howe Hill
- 192 Ensure housing styles reflect local character and use local materials, we don't want any grey featureless boxes, or gaudy pastels.
- 193 Totally agree
- 195 The aesthetics of the new development and of Watlington and its surrounds are of course, very important. The policies stated are the ideal. The aesthetics stated above, however, should not be allowed to take absolute precedence over the aesthetics of the area in which homes to the west of Watlington are situated. I'm sure all of the residents in the west wish to live in a tranquil environment, which is free from the infernal hum of moving traffic throughout the day and is free of traffic jams. The character of the west of Watlington deserves also to be considered.
- 196 The proposed sites aren't near to the town centre and historic buildings so I would question the importance of new development being in-keeping with historic buildings. However, I do think there should be development that is in keeping with local vernacular housing styles (even though that's very variable) and that appropriate materials should be used
- 197 How will guidelines be balanced ?
If not enforced then they are meaningless
How will infill housing be managed through the policies ?
- 199 1d - If the standard of house design is anything like recent builds in the town, then the character of the town is doomed, I am afraid!
- 201 (except 1b) - all development can be viewed from Watlington Hill, so I am not so sure that it is a particularly valid criteria and seems to be designed to protect the interests of those who live on Hill Road? Where there already some very ugly developments. So modify (1b)
- 202 Location will not change the overall character of the town

Reference

Plan Comment

204 Vital - for air quality and the visual environment - to insist on developers planting a large number of mixed species mature trees

205 Keep lighting to a minimum and keep it directed downwards

206 Subject to 1a The development is of a scale & design appropriate???

207 We support the need for new development to respect the unique character of Watlington.

208 I have to object because I do not feel any of the above printed points are being followed. If they were things would be different

362 It is vital that Watlington does not lose its character as a result of inappropriate development.

450 Watlington will end up becoming huge and will lose its charm and place as smallest town in England!