

WL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FIRST REVIEW

Report for WLPC Annual Meeting – May 2023

The West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in June 2019. Its main purpose is to determine what development is needed and where it may be allowed - and thus where it should not take place.

In this area, a neighbourhood plan has to be in accordance with the Wiltshire Council Plan, currently known as the Core Strategy, and with the National Planning Policy Framework. Local planning decisions may also be influenced by a Village Design Statement and a Conservation Area Statement.

The West Lavington Village Design Statement was adopted in 2003 and is now too old to be taken into account when planning decisions are made.

Wiltshire Core Strategy was made in 2015 and covers the period up to 2026, so that also is the period covered by our current Neighbourhood Plan. Not only is 2026 not far away, but until recently, Neighbourhood Plans began to lose influence over planning decisions after only two years. The rules are in the process of being changed to make that 5 years, but for our plan, that is only 2024. Unless our plan is updated soon, then planning decisions, known as Development Control, are potentially open to schemes that are unwanted by the community.

By way of example, Worton does not have a neighbourhood plan and is now likely to get a development of 28 houses in a location that is not popular with the community. Market Lavington's plan has saved the community from a large development in a very unsatisfactory location.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy is currently being updated to cover the period up to 2036. Our review, if adopted, is thus intended to do several things:

- a) It refreshes the existing plan in accordance with changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the new Wiltshire Plan.
- b) It will cover the period up to 2036 and will maintain full influence until 2028/29.
- c) It will replace the Village Design Statement by incorporating design guidelines for each Character Area of the villages.

Unfortunately, Wiltshire Council have, only today, said they need longer to assess our needs and that we cannot proceed with our consultation until they say so. A few printed copies of the documents are at the back to show you we have not been idle, but they are not yet definitive so please do not take these away!

Even after we can undertake a consultation, there are several stages to go involving Wiltshire Council and an independent inspector, but we hope we will not need a referendum. I can only thank those who have contributed so far.

SOUTHBANK FUND

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

May 2023

The Southbank Fund was founded by John Dauntsey who died in 1498. He is believed to have endowed the three alms-houses at Southbank as a charity to assist single women and widows in the parish.

These days, the charity distributes a small gift of money with a Christmas card just before Christmas. It is, I think, one of the happiest tasks anyone could ask to do.

In December 2022 the Southbank Fund gave a card with a £10 note in it to each of 25 ladies. I believe this charming gesture is greatly appreciated by the recipients.

It is always challenging to know who to include in the list and nominations are welcome. I regret that, by our ancient deed, gentlemen are not eligible so we are increasingly politically incorrect.

The Trustees with me in 2022 have been Mrs Eileen Hinton and we have been joined by Mrs Liz Evans and Mr Steve Cox. On behalf of the Fund and of the village, I thank them all.

The Southbank Trustees meet again in early December and it will be my job to provide the mulled wine.

Richard Gamble
Chairman

Village Care and Link

Imagine you receive a letter from the NHS and it says they have made an appointment for your CT Scan on 24th May at Salisbury District Hospital at 9am.

You don't drive, none of your friends or relations are able to take you and public transport is not convenient.

Well that is what we are here for and have been for over thirty years.

You phone our number - it's in News and Views - and the wonderful Ian will try to find a volunteer driver who is available that day and is willing to give up his time.

Lately we have had to tell one or two clients that we don't have anyone who is free - so that indicates we need to expand our pool of drivers.

If you are willing to join our wonderful band please contact me. My details are on these handouts on the front table here.

Michael Page

Chair

West Lavington WI Report for Parish Council AGM

For the first time since the pandemic, the WI had a full programme of events for the year from April 2022 into 2023. It was wonderful to get back together in person and enjoy varied talks and social events.

Partly due to the pandemic, our membership had declined and we therefore decided to hold an open event to advertise our organisation in the local area. Our Coronation Tea to celebrate the new King Charles III was a great success and we were delighted to welcome over 50 ladies throughout the afternoon who very much enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new over tea and cake. The ladies of the WI excelled themselves in providing a wonderful spread of delicious cakes and working hard to serve tea and socialise with all our guests. Our memorabilia table definitely brought back memories and was very popular.

Although it was not primarily a fund-raising event, we were delighted that the raffle and donations added almost £140 to our funds.

Thank you to everyone who supported us. We hope some of you will decide to come along to a WI meeting and try us out. Our programme will be advertised in News & Views and on the West Lavington Facebook page. We are a friendly and welcoming group and would love to welcome new members.

Sue Bastone
West Lavington WI President
westlavpres@wiltshirewi.org.uk

Dauntsey Aided Primary School

Report to the West Lavington Annual Parish Meeting, May 18th 2023

It is now some 18 months since DAPS joined the Equa Multi Academy Trust and the school is now beginning to see the benefits the alliance provides. The school continues to be a happy, safe and caring environment where children are inspired and challenged in their learning.

The school has 7 classes and started the new school year with 173 pupils, this figure has now grown to 199. This increase is a good indication of the school's reputation as many of the additional children live outside the catchment area. Our mini farm is also growing, as in addition to the chickens, we now have Bert and Ernie, 2 very friendly pygmy goats.

The children in year 5 and 6 made the annual trip to the O2 arena to sing, along with 2,000 others, at the Young Voices show. Year 4 have just returned from their residential trips to Hooks Court and year 6, having just completed their SATS exams and Bikeability, are off to North Devon Adventure Park next week.

On behalf of the school I would like to thank Dauntsey's School for letting all the classes at DAPS use their swimming pool throughout the year, and for the first time, letting us use the running track for our sports day in July.

I would also like to thank the Parish Council and Village Hall for the use of the car park for parents. Hopefully the traffic in Sandfield will get easier once the Hayfields site is fully open and the parents can use the new drop off zone.