

Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan
Chairman's Report to Wheatley Parish Council (No 8)
May-June 2017 (copied to Holton PC)

1. **WNP PUBLIC CONSULTATION** Wheatley N. P. Committee are pleased to present the Emerging Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan [version.20] for statutory Public Consultation. WPC, as the 'Qualifying Body', initiates a Consultation on 08 May for '**at least 6 weeks**'. A Bank Holiday, half term and General Election also fall in that period. We will therefore accept last-minute responses up to Friday 30 June.
2. **PARISH COUNCILS' RESPONSES** The WNP Committee advertised the Draft N.P. at the Annual Wheatley Parish Meeting on 03 May and is invited to the Annual Holton Parish Meeting on 25 May during the Consultation. A response to the Public Consultation is needed from each Parish Council and a meeting between WNP reps and each PC would obviously help frame that. If we held these meetings in the week beginning 29 May, after the Spring Bank Holiday, everyone would have had time to digest the Draft Plan. Please consider.
3. **COPIES OF WNP and PUBLIC RESPONSES** Parish Noticeboards and Parish Newsletters (sadly, for June only) carry details of how and where the Public may Consult either hard or electronic copies of the WNP and how to respond, either by email, website or in writing. Wheatley Parish Office and Wheatley Post Office have kindly agreed to be 'letter drop' locations.
4. **CONSULTATION IMPORTANT !** We're pleased, even proud to have come this far with the Draft Plan in a relatively short time. We accelerated, as SODC requested. Some communities have taken much longer, which affects morale and momentum. Practical community support for WNP efforts over 16 months has been really heart-warming and what makes Wheatley. The Draft can only benefit from suggestions, corrections, and ideas – the reason there is a Public Consultation.
Please respond individually and urge everyone else to do so.
We all need this Public Consultation to work.
5. **HOLTON - WHEATLEY LINKS** have been good during the NP process. Parish chairmen joined WNP personnel in July just to talk through how to cooperate; HPC Chairman attended a crucial meeting of WNP Committee to 'grill' Planning officials in September; Holton's nominated 'ambassadors' enriched the 8 WNP workshops / 28 hours discussion which drew together the Draft NP and its Policies for Consultation; both PCs held a joint confidential meeting at WNP's request in March 2017 to give support in a tricky moment with SODC.

Finally a memo:

WNP's Brief is HOUSING – LAND USE – EMPLOYMENT

Implicit in these are

Proposing of IMPROVEMENTS – MITIGATION of problems – ALTERNATIVE sites

COMMUNITY WISHES and CONCERNS are (among others):

TRAFFIC (a clear No 1) – ROADS, PATHS & PAVEMENTS – PARKING DENSITY

HOUSING NEEDS – KEEPING GREEN BELT

They OVERLAP but not COMPLETELY

John Fox, Chairman, Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan