

## **MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

Minchinhampton Parish Council is aware that Stroud District Council is about to start a review of its Local Plan and would like to express its views.

It is understood that Stroud District Council is under considerable pressure to increase the number of houses to be built in the district and is looking for possible sites. It is also understood that Stroud District Council is open to views expressed by parishes and members of the public and that no strategy has yet been decided.

**The Parish Council appeals to the District Council to correct the status of the town, currently listed as a Tier 2 community** in the Local Plan. Minchinhampton has very little in common with other Tier 2 towns for many reasons including its level of services and amenities. Its position in the AONB, its special landscape and ecological status (including free-roaming cattle on its busiest roads) and its lack of main transport routes. It has more in common with Tier 3 communities such as Painswick and should be more accurately placed with them.

**Minchinhampton Parish is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan** (draft appended) which is about to be submitted to Stroud District Council. This NDP document distils the community's and the Parish Council's views on the way the parish might develop over the next five years and beyond in relation to housing needs as well as traffic, parking and employment. The NDP is a balanced view, and respects organic growth.

The Local Plan Review places four possible development sites within the Parish boundaries. These are reviewed as follows:

1. Land to the south of the Cirencester Road (MIN A). The parish council does not support further development in this location which is outside the settlement boundary, in a green field and within the Cotswold AONB. The parish council may be supportive of some small development of essential community services and possibly affordable housing ONLY in the area and adjoining the development boundary of the Town, which this site does not.
2. Land east of Tobacconist Road (MIN B). This area has some considerable limitations in terms of large-scale residential use not least of which is its position in the AONB and again outside the settlement boundary. It may provide back-up winter grazing for the protected and managed Common. Previous attempts to get this land into development have failed for a number of reasons, including importantly, access and traffic generation. It is however adjacent to housing to the north and if access could be planned in that direction it is possible that some small scale development of affordable housing may be achievable .
3. Brimscombe Farm (BRI D). This green field site abuts the planned Brimscombe Port development which will provide a considerable number of houses along the canal corridor over the next few years. Whilst the parish council opposes further development that creeps up the distinctive green valley slopes that provide a backdrop and a clear delineation for the port community, some small scale development may be possible, if access can be resolved.
4. Dockyard Works (BRI C). This site is adjacent to the Wimberley Mills development, close to the canal and River Frome. We have no objections to the development of this site. As it has been an employment site for some considerable time, we would prefer that this use is continued in order to provide jobs within the parish.