

Draft Box Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan



Note for Full Council on September 27 2026 - Interim update report for mid - 2026 on the draft Box Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (as approved by Planning Committee on August 27 2026)

Background

- 1.The Parish Council is preparing a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish.
- 2.Councillors have had previous updates on this in line with the terms of reference for the Steering Group which is taking the work forward.
- 3.Most recently, Planning Committee received an interim update report for mid-2026 at its August meeting.
- 4.The report identified several important topics for the preparation of the draft Plan as well as identifying several current workstreams for the Steering Group.
- 5.The report was unanimously agreed by the Planning Committee with a resolution that the matter progress to Full Council at its September meeting.

Purpose of this note

- 6.This note serves to introduce this matter to Full Council and to explain how comments at the Planning Committee are being addressed by the Steering Group within the wider preparation of the draft Plan.
- 7.It should be seen within a wider objective of building support and understanding about the draft Plan across the Parish Council in order that all Councillors are effective and successful advocates for this important project for both the Parish Council and the community.

Comments at Planning Committee

8. It was encouraging that there was a positive response to the report at the Planning Committee.

9. There was reference at the meeting to the current work by the Steering Group which includes updating the draft Plan in regard to :

- the publication of the Government's latest National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026); and
- the position in regard to the withdrawal of the draft Wiltshire Local Plan Review and its replacement by a new Local Plan under the new requirements from Government

10. It would be feasible for the draft Plan to progress without the necessary updates to its text in regard to these matters.

11. However, the Steering Group strongly consider that it is important that the draft Plan which is, in due course, the subject of Regulation 14 consultation (subject to Councillor approval at that time) should be as up to date as possible at that time in regard to how it identifies the wider planning context in which the draft Plan is being prepared.

12. It is also important to note that the NPPF in Appendix A confirms that neighbourhood plans submitted after the NPPF had been published must comply with the new NPPF. The Steering Group are updating the draft Plan on this basis.

13. The Steering Group anticipate Planning Committee and Full Council being updated on the necessary updates which are proposed to the draft Plan in due course.

14. It was suggested that the necessary updating work may be assisted by the use of AI. The Steering Group is receptive to all suggestions that will assist the efficient and effective preparation of the draft Plan.

15. The Steering Group is already in the process of undertaking 'health checks' on the draft Plan against the new NPPF. This lends itself in a timely manner to supporting and informing the updating of the draft Plan without embarking on the use of untried and unfamiliar 'tools' which, in any event, would require 'final' checking for correctness.

16. It was pointed out that the Appendix to the report to Planning Committee would benefit from clarification and further information in regard to anticipated programme. It was suggested that a diagram may be informative.

17. The Steering Group has reviewed Appendix A in the report to address these observations. It has prepared a significantly expanded document based on Appendix A in the Planning Committee report. Whilst a diagram is not proposed at this stage, it identifies with greater clarity what is involved in the overall programme of preparing the draft Plan, which parties are involved, the key outcomes at each stage and an indicative programme as far as it can be ascertained at this time. This is attached to this note. It supersedes the item in the report and should be read alongside the main report text.

18. The Steering Group will bring forward further items to support the work on the draft Plan across the rest of 2026/2027. As set out in the report, Steering Group members are always available to respond to any questions on the preparation of the draft Plan.

Steering Group preparing the draft Box Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

