

# Halt Harnham Housebuilding (HHH): HHSG Newsletter

Edition #8 Dated 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

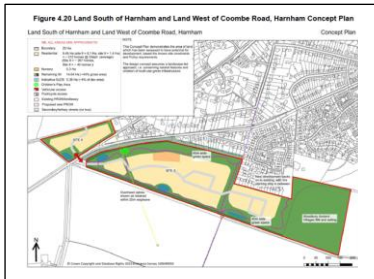


## Introduction

Hi everyone,

Since our last update in August, a lot has happened, so we thought a pre-Christmas update would be timely.

In November 2023, the Harnham and Salisbury community submitted over 2,800 Representations against the Local Plan - nearly a third of all received by Wiltshire Council. These objections focused on the planned development of 310+ houses on Sites 8 & 9, south of Harnham, citing concerns about transport, greenfield site use, landscape, and biodiversity.



After reviewing other Representations, it's great to see the support from Salisbury City Council, Britford Parish Council, and the Cranbourne Chase National Landscape (AONB).

## Local Plan - Submission

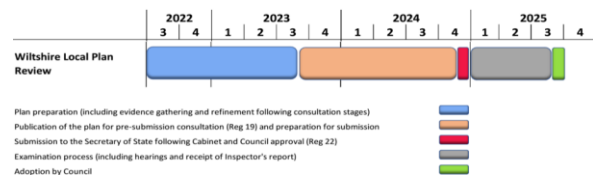
Wiltshire Council has submitted the Local Plan and supporting documents to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, with inspectors expected to be appointed by early January 2025. The Local Plan website is available here: [Local Plan Examination](#), featuring a Document Library and Representation Portal (including submissions like Wyatt Homes).

The current version of the Local Plan is nearly identical to the one consulted on in November

2023, except for the removal of the Netherhampton Garden Centre site (60 homes) – the owner has refused to sell.

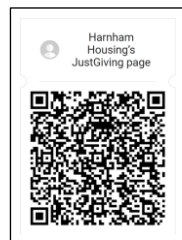
The timetable remains unchanged, reflecting a **9-month delay** compared to the Regulation 19 Consultation last year.

Table 4: Summary programme for development plan document production



## Fundraising for the Examination

In preparation for the Local Plan Examination which starts in January, and the Public Examinations expected in the Spring, we have just launched our **2<sup>nd</sup> Fundraising campaign**.



You can read all about it by following the QR code, but essentially additional funds will be needed to secure expert planning consultant representation. We hope you can help to support our fundraising.

## Meeting with Lord Pembroke

Some of our Steering Group members met with Lord Pembroke on 1<sup>st</sup> November. We briefed him on the issues associated with the planned development at Site 8 and the more strategic topics such as traffic, lack of brownfield sites etc.

We challenged him on whether he felt that he was leaving the right legacy for the next generation.

Lord Pembroke appeared unaware of the impacts or the level of feeling and anger felt by Harnham and Salisbury residents.

However, whilst he listened intently, he offered no follow-up, and simply suggested we voice our concerns during the Local Plan Examination and public hearings in the Spring next year.

So, a very disappointing result!

Meanwhile, we understand that Wyatt Homes are mobilising their resources, having recently conducted a geophysical survey to assess heritage assets on **Site 8**. Since the Local Plan remains unchanged, it will ultimately be up to the Local Plan Examination to challenge the proposed developments on **Sites 8 and 9**.

## Transport/Traffic - Gyratory

Wiltshire Council has confirmed that transport modelling for the November Local Plan consultation was based on housing growth only to 2026, not the full period to 2038.

Updated modelling shows the Harnham Gyratory, Exeter Street Roundabout, and connecting roads cannot handle projected 2038 traffic levels.

A £17.5m DfT-funded project to resolve daily gridlock at Harnham Gyratory and accommodate future housing growth was shelved in 2022, replaced by a smaller £2.5m scheme.

This smaller scheme - known as '[Salisbury Junction Improvements](#)' project - has been designed, again, only to accommodate traffic growth **up to 2026 and not to 2038**. So, it **doesn't** take into account the intended developments at **Sites 6, 8 & 9**. The extract from the Council's Q&A is here:

Q. How will the scheme improve conditions for motorists?

A. The scheme will accommodate the increase in traffic from currently identified developments in the area up to 2026, and journey times through the junctions should be reduced.

The proposed scheme adds a short third lane to improve flow from Exeter Street to the Harnham Gyratory **but actually worsens queues and delays on Downton Road and Coombe Road**.

Council modelling predicts peak-time queue lengths on these roads will **nearly triple**, delays from New Harnham Road into the Gyratory will **double**, and delays from Churchill Road South to Exeter Street Roundabout will **triple**. The Council has **no plans** to address these increases.

Despite knowing this, the Council has **left these proposals in the Local Plan** without any plans to address the impacts. **Shocking!**

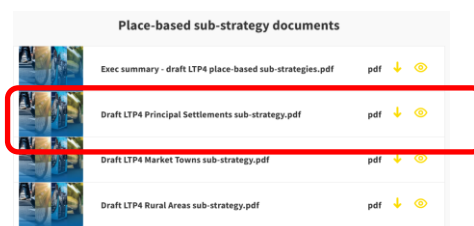
## Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)

Wiltshire Council has launched a consultation on its Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), running from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> January. LTP4 includes place-based sub-strategies, including one for Salisbury.

However, the Salisbury plan fails to address current traffic challenges or those linked to new housing developments in Harnham. Incredibly, it also **fails to mention** the Council's 'Salisbury Junction Improvements' Scheme.

Like the outdated 2018 Salisbury Transport Strategy, we believe LTP4 is **not** 'fit for purpose'. You can share your views via the consultation Portal: [Wiltshire Local Transport Plan](#).

Details specific to Salisbury are in the 'Principal Settlements sub-strategy' document: [Consultation Feedback](#).



Please take a moment to review the plan. We hope you'll agree with our critique.

Since the consultation Portal looks more like a customer feedback form (i.e. strongly disagree to strongly agree), **we suggest emailing your feedback directly to:** [transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk).

## Planning Reforms

You've likely seen this in the news: the Government is expected to release changes to

the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by year-end. These updates, consulted on this summer, aim to support the goal of building 1.5 million homes in the next five years.

These are the likely policy changes:

- Wiltshire's housing target increases by nearly 24,000 (81%) over the 15-year Local Plan.
- Councils must now demonstrate a 5-year Housing Land Supply (previously 4 years), requiring more housing sites.
- Priority for brownfield land, but Wiltshire Council has not identified new sites.
- Unused Green Belt ('Grey Belt') land may be allocated for housing.
- Government intervention likely if targets not met.
- Local Councillors lose the power to refuse Planning Applications.

## Other 'Developments'

### Site 6

Persimmon Homes has already started the consultation about the 220-home development on Site 6. If you want to respond to the consultation then here are the details: <https://downtonroad.your-feedback.co.uk/>

It would appear that this consultation has taken everyone by surprise, especially as the Local Plan hasn't yet been examined.

### Netherhampton Road – More Houses?

Vistry Homes has proposed 1,200 additional homes on Netherhampton Road (600 north, 600 south), alongside the 740 already approved. The proposal, to be reviewed during next year's Examination, could worsen traffic at the Gyratory but may be preferable to development on Sites 8 and 9

### Rowbarrow

The Bellway Homes development of 86 homes in Rowbarrow is progressing quickly, with fencing already in place. This will add further strain to Salisbury's road networks, particularly the Harnham Gyratory. The Planning Application and supporting documents are [here](#) and maps below:



### New Conservative Candidate for W. Harnham

You may be aware that **Andrew Suddards (Con.)** is campaigning to replace Brian Dalton (Lib Dem.) as the Wiltshire Councillor for West Harnham.

Andrew appears to be campaigning on key housing and transport/traffic issues which chimes with our campaign. No news on the other candidates yet.

## Steering Group Work

Our Steering Group meets regularly to challenge Wiltshire Council on key issues regarding Sites 8 & 9. We've also started collaborating with opponents of Site 6 (north of Downton Road, opposite the Park & Ride), which, like Site 8, spans Britford and Salisbury parishes.

We know from the consultation responses that the Cranbourne Chase National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) and CPRE – Campaign to Protect Rural England – have voiced their concerns; as have Natural England.

Our focus for January is **fundraising, whilst continuing to strengthen our case for objection.**



## Social Media



Please check out **our new HHH website:** <https://www.haltharnhamhousebuilding.co.uk/>

We are also now regularly posting on **Facebook** and **Instagram** so watch out for updates...

If you would like to join our group, then please contact us at: [harnham.housing@gmail.com](mailto:harnham.housing@gmail.com) We always need volunteers willing to help out!

## And finally...

We hope you have found this newsletter helpful. As always, we would appreciate any **offers to help** our Steering Group work.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Seasonal Greetings.

**HHSG** (Harnham Housing Steering Group)  
P.s. Please **share this** with family and friends.