

Joseph Walker

From: NIBLETT, Robert <Robert.NIBLETT@gloucestershire.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 October 2020 10:07
To: Neighbourhood Planning
Subject: RE: Preston Neighbourhood Plan: Regulation 16 Consultation now open, until 2nd November

Hello Joseph

Thank you for consulting Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) on the above matter. I have the following officer comments to make.

Response from Gloucestershire County Council Library and Information Services

Policy 6 Comment: Gloucestershire County Council ('GCC') operates Cirencester Bingham Library which is the nearest library to the Preston Neighbourhood Plan Area, and is therefore likely to be a community facility that would attract new users from new development in the Plan period. In order to ensure that the impact of new development on existing community infrastructure is clearly recognised and addressed in this document, including those facilities outside the Neighbourhood Plan Area (such as libraries), GCC requests that the provisions of Policy INF1 ('Infrastructure Delivery') of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2011 – 2031 are cross-referred to in Policy 6 and in the policy preamble, specifically the following statement from Policy INF1:

'Development will be permitted where infrastructure requirements identified to make the proposal acceptable in planning terms can be met. Provision of infrastructure will be secured having regard to regulatory and national policy requirements relating to developer contributions...'

Ecology (Biodiversity) Comments

SEA/HRA Screening of the Plan

We see at paragraph 10 that the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been deemed unnecessary. There is no reference to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in the consultation document but the need for HRA appears unlikely. The District Council and Natural England should be able to give a definitive view on HRA if not already.

The Plan Content

There appear to be no statutory or non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation within the parish. This is probably a reflection that most of the land within the parish is managed intensively as arable farmland (paragraph 28). However it is an area where small habitats and features occur and where some nature recovery activity based on these is feasible.

The vision for Preston to 2036 briefly mentions preserving wildlife but there is no mention of enhancement which is perhaps surprising given mandatory biodiversity net gain for most planning applications is being proposed (Environment Bill). The policies of the plan give some support for conservation but only quite modest promotion for nature recovery. Such policy cover is not essential as the District Local Plan covers biodiversity enhancement (i.e. EN1 and EN7 – as mentioned in paragraph 48 of the NDP).

Policy 1 includes promotion for any re-planting of non-native tree plantations to be done with native species which is welcome from a biodiversity perspective. Policy 2 promotes some use of hedges as boundary features to properties but does not give any preference as to whether native species should be used (this is dependent on exact location and function required though).

Overall there are no compelling ecological reasons to recommend any change to the wording of the NDP policies. However for biodiversity protection and enhancement in the parish there will need to be a strong reliance on district, county and national policies.

Minerals and Waste

No comments.

If you would like to discuss any of the points raised above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Rob Niblett
Senior Planning Officer

From: Neighbourhood Planning [mailto:Neighbourhood.Planning@cotswold.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 September 2020 13:09
Subject: Preston Neighbourhood Plan: Regulation 16 Consultation now open, until 2nd November

To whom it may concern

Preston Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan covering the whole of its parish area. The Plan sets out a vision for the future and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally. This plan has been submitted to Cotswold District Council, and is subject to a six week consultation, prior to being considered by an independent examiner. The examiner will consider the plan and its supporting evidence, and review the representations made. Should the examiner find that the plan meets with the Basic Conditions, it will proceed to referendum next year. Should more than 50% of votes cast support the plan, it will be made.

The Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents are available to view on the Cotswold District Council's website:

www.cotswold.gov.uk/preston

As the Council offices and other public buildings have restricted access due to Covid-19 Coronavirus, if you require a hard copy, please contact the Council and a hard copy can be provided at cost: £5 for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, £15 for the Plan and all the published supporting evidence.

There are a number of ways to make your comments:

- Complete the form attached from the website and email it to: neighbourhood.planning@cotswold.gov.uk
- Print the form and post it to: Neighbourhood Planning, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.
- We will accept other comments in writing (including electronic, such as e-mail), provided that a name and address is supplied. We cannot accept anonymous comments.

All comments must be received by 17:00 on 2nd November 2020.

Joseph Walker
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Publica, on behalf of Cotswold District Council

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