

18<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Silverton  
EX5 4HR

Dear

### **Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

Work in preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan is now well under way. It is the Parish Council's aim to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place by the middle of 2015 so I am writing to invite your organisation to contribute to the planning process and be kept informed of progress.

A neighbourhood plan is the prerogative of every town and parish council in England. The Localism Act 2011 has given us the right to prepare a plan that puts local planning policies in place to interpret and add detail to Mid Devon District Council's Local Plan. A neighbourhood plan can cover any aspect of future development we deem needs a more local policy putting in place. We can decide to have a wide-ranging set of neighbourhood policies or just deal with one or two matters. Our policies can be detailed or simply set general principles for development.

What is important is that the Neighbourhood Plan for our area reflects the wishes and aspirations of the community. Every adult will have an opportunity to vote for the Plan at a referendum before it becomes a statutory planning document. We also intend to ensure that all those who live and/or work in the parish are able to help determine the scope of the Plan and contribute to its preparation via an extensive consultation process over the next few months.

We are presently gathering facts and evidence in order to understand better how our neighbourhood and communities function and what local people think about life in Silverton parish today and their hopes for the future. Back in April we sent questionnaires and explanatory letters to every household within the parish and had our first consultation on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June. We are hoping to hold the next consultation in November or early December, and you will be informed by letter of when this will take place and where.

We would now like to invite every community and voluntary organisation to make a preliminary contribution to the planning process by letting us have your perspective on:

- What is good and not so good about the parish today?
- What could be done to make the parish a better place to live and work?
- What, if anything is preventing your organisation from functioning as it would wish?
- Your organisation's needs for different or better accommodation or more space in future?
- What you hope we might tackle through the Neighbourhood Plan?

We would welcome hearing from you on these and any other matter you think is relevant by email or letter, if possible by the end of the first week in November 2014.

Many thanks in anticipation

Yours sincerely

Olivia Kennard  
Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Committee Chairman  
[www.silvertonparishcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhoodplan](http://www.silvertonparishcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhoodplan)

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Sheet of local organisation responses

Dear Olivia,

**The 60+ Fitness Groups** run weekly throughout the year on Mondays at 0930 (men's group) and 1030 (ladies' group), except in July and August when we take a well-earned break for the summer holidays. Both classes are well supported and are sponsored by The Friends of Wyndham House Surgery who kindly pay for the cost of the large Community Hall, which is a really good area to meet in, giving us lots of space to do all the activities we get involved in. There is a small admittance charge of £2.50 which includes tea/coffee for those who would like it at the end of the class and it is open to anyone who would like to join in not being restricted just to those who belong to the Wyndham House Surgery. Both groups are completely non-competitive and those attending are encouraged to aim for maintenance fitness by working within their own limitations. Thus it is hoped that those taking part will have enjoyment, companionship and will benefit by improving their fitness levels and achieve a feeling of well-being.

The Balance Classes which take place on Thursday mornings are aimed at those who are a little less active and/or who have experienced a fall recently. Participants are referred to the Classes by the Wyndham House Surgery and there is no charge to those participating. The Friends of Wyndham House have been really generous in allowing these classes to take place by covering their cost. We have a very cheerful group of volunteers who give up their time on Thursdays to keep a careful eye on all those taking part in balance activities, so making it safe for people to practice and improve their skills.

Best wishes,  
Margaret  
23.10.14

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Dear Olivia,

**This was the response from the Silverton Ringers .**  
Regards Albert Campbell.

"St Mary's Church is a Grade 1 Listed building and is a village amenity, being available to all and being a place where it is a pleasure to use the various pathways through the Chuchyard to either pass through or to contemplate.

The Bell Tower houses a clock that chimes the Hour through day and night.

There are 8 bells in the Tower and there is an active Band of Bell Ringers who continue to practice the Ancient Art on a regular basis.

This naturally involves Bell ringing on Sundays and festival days and also regularly on practice nights at least once a week and occasionally visitors ring sometimes for up to three hours.

There have recently been occasions in villages where houses have been built and the owners have successfully, made a case for, even The Chimes on Village Churches, to be silenced as they were unaware of the fact when they purchased their homes close to a Church.

Any Neighbourhood plan should stress that this is a village, the essence of which should not be compromised by the demands of new residents.

Accordingly, any development should take account of the pleasure of hearing the Bells in all their glory and this particularly applies to any building proposed near the Church.

Furthermore, it should be made clear in any Neighbourhood Plan that active Bell Ringing will continue to take place in Silverton."

Regards

Paul

On 18 Oct 2014, at 15:04, albert.campbell wrote:

<Bell ringers - Albert Campbell.docx>

23.11.14

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#### **Response to local business consultation letter from James Blackburn of Carbondgc on 20.10.14 by email**

Below are a few business and general pointer I feel are important to cover in the plan.

- Population in Silverton is c.1900. It's my unscientific feeling that this is a pretty optimum size for a community to sustain itself in many aspects of life. Many more homes will bring a change in the current feel and powerful community spirit of the village. Additional in fill development may well be an option of which there are various opportunities. I am not in favour of enlarging the village boundary if we can help it.
- The village has been pretty poor at offering sporting activities locally, with the football club stuttering with no club and a poor pitch. I feel it is a great shame and a mystery to me that Silverton did not take advantage of all the funds available in the 1990,s and early 2000's to develop a sports ground/club house . The vast majority of significantly smaller villages than Silverton own fantastic facilities for relatively small populations - Football and cricket

pitches, tennis courts and club houses. We have to rely on facilities in Thorverton etc for our population. Therefore, a policy for developing sporting facilities and activities would be agreeable.

- From a business point of view, there are opportunities for small business across the area to link up and I feel (again unscientific) that having small office facilities locally, with fast broadband etc at affordable rents would be well supported. Possible policy to develop this and better communication levels (business to business)

Not sure if these are add much, but would be interested to hear what's going on at the next consultation.

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Hi Olivia,

I asked the **Carers** for their opinions today and the biggest worry is the amount of traffic using Fore Street and High Street and the speed they go. The other problem is the lack of Public Toilets.

Sally Slee[.

21.10.14

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Hi Olivia,

With regards to **The Flower Club** we don't have another meeting until the end of November so I can't ask their opinion, we are very lucky to have The Church Office for our meetings and it suits us well,  
Sally.

21.10.14

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### **To Committee Chair:**

A copy of your email to the **Village Youth Worker**, Lauren Strand, dated 17th October, 2014, has been forwarded for comment. (Thankyou Lauren.) I am unaware as to whether Lauren or the Revd. Ann Varker have made responses to the Neighbourhood Plan Survey and at this stage it is not practical to call a Church Council meeting.

1. As the Parish Council is aware the Methodist Church has on several occasions requested a directional sign to the 'Methodist Church' to be erected in the vicinity of the Square.
2. Sensitive housing development for families would be welcomed, but mindful of the capacity of the Primary School, sewerage disposal, medical services.
3. Roadside parking frequently restricting visibility for drivers and pedestrians.
4. The Village Youth Club, meeting at the Methodist Church, would welcome additional leadership.
5. The Methodist Church premises are available for booking for concerts, seminars, meetings, lectures, etc., subject to negotiation with the Booking Secretary, Mrs. Lorraine Sheppard, 01392 860268.

Hope this is helpful,

ALEC ROLLS  
3.11.14

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## **Silverton & Exe Valley Seniors**

Secretary – Martin Clough

38 Hederman Close Silverton Devon EX5 4HW

Tel: 01392 860971 e-mail: [martin.mcassoc@btconnect.com](mailto:martin.mcassoc@btconnect.com) website: [www.sevs.info](http://www.sevs.info)

### **Response to Silverton Neighbourhood Plan Consultation**

Membership of Silverton & Exe Valley Seniors is open to anyone over 50 living in Silverton, nearby towns and villages. The Club currently has 165 members about 55% of whom live in Silverton. The Club which has been in existence for about 20 years (formerly as the Silverton Over Sixties Club) arranges theatre trips, coach outings and holidays and there are social activities each month including Coffee Mornings and Whist fortnightly on Monday afternoons. A monthly newsletter is also produced to keep members informed of activities.

Because it is not easy to get everyone together, it has not been possible to meet in a forum to agree a collective response for the Neighbourhood Plan, but of course it is open to individuals to make their views known through engagement in the SNP consultation stages. From a number of conversations and comments it is however apparent that our members value the good health facilities in the Village, the availability of local shops (including a Post Office and butcher) and facilities, places offering refreshment, the local environment and about maintaining, as a minimum, the bus service particularly to Exeter about which the Club has made representations in recent years to Devon County Council and Stagecoach.

Also important, particularly for those without transport, is a means of getting to/from the surgeries and hospitals (which are currently available through the Link-Up scheme). As regards the environment, Silverton is viewed as a nice place to live and which should not be spoilt by future overdevelopment. The old Village Hall site is however regarded as an eyesore which could be put to better use either as a car park to relieve existing congestion, housing infill or shops together with a path to the Village centre connecting the new and old parts of the Village. Many of the elderly needs, as indeed in other communities, are about the ability to be able to walk the streets safely during the day and in the evening. In this regard there is some concern about the exposure of pedestrians to vehicular traffic in School Road and measures to improve the safety of pedestrians including perhaps a virtual pavement to reduce the risks particularly during the hours of darkness would be welcomed.

There is still a good community spirit in Silverton (albeit at risk of reducing as the community expands and becomes more of a commuter village for people working in Exeter) and there are a number of organisations, clubs and classes in the Village which provide activities for residents during the day and in the evening.

09.11.14

*SEVS/General Correspondence/Response to SNP Consultation.doc*

**Silverton Parochial Trust**  
**Registered No: 201255**  
**Olivia Kennard**  
**Chairman SPNPC**

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**Dear Olivia,**  
**Silverton Neighbourhood Plan**

**Thank you for your letter 18<sup>th</sup> October regarding the proposed neighbourhood plan.**

**The trustees engaged in a lengthy debate at their recent meeting as to what they considered essential for the future wellbeing of the citizens.**

**The general consensus was that we were very fortunate to live here in a village that has almost every facility available except a public convenience and competitive retailers. There are, as you are already aware, organisations, clubs and other gatherings, too numerous to mention, available to meet the needs and aspirations of every individual parishioner. That is what we think is 'Good about the Parish today'**

**The immediate need for Silverton is to have some control on the horrendous parking problems in our main street and Wyndham estate. The current parking provision is wholly inadequate for the number of resident vehicles. The housing needs are for a balanced increase in new build to accommodate first time buyers in the medium price range and not expensive retirement bungalows. Any new development should be in a location that does not add to the traffic / parking problems. There would be a considerable benefit to a 20 MPH restriction throughout the village confines. Traffic transit speeds are far too high!**

**As a voluntary trust our organisation is well satisfied with accommodation available and we have no need of permanent premises.**

**The trustee's hope is that you gain sufficient reaction to your request for participation with constructive suggestions to enable you to produce a worthy plan.**

**Our very best wishes for a successful outcome.**

**Yours sincerely.**

**Arthur Williams  
Chairman & Trustee**

**Registered Office: 'Henbury' Old Butterleigh  
Road Silverton Devonshire EX5 4JE**

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**Silverton Youth Club – Neighbourhood Plan Contribution:**

I spoke with the young people and these are a consolidation of their responses...(in Blue)  
(My own contributions are in green!)

- What is good and not so good about the parish today?  
Silverton is quiet/ peaceful  
There is a good community feel – everyone is friendly  
Silverton is clean – and safe
- What could be done to make the parish a better place to live and work?  
Could there be a community shop?  
Improvements on the park – equipment for older children/ teens – like an outdoor Gym or Zipline
- What, if anything is preventing your organisation from functioning as it would wish?  
We're in quite a small space  
It would be good to have our own space that we can call our own  
We are in desperate need of more adult volunteers – am currently relying on two other adults to keep the club open which is not sustainable.
- Your organisation's needs for different or better accommodation or more space in future?  
Our space currently works well, but if numbers increase (as has been the pattern recently), we will need a bigger space to meet in – that is practical!
- What you hope we might tackle through the Neighbourhood Plan?



More things for young people/families to do regularly – not just ‘hanging around’ – something more structured and planned that doesn’t cost a lot to join in with.

21.11.15