



# Dumbleton Parish Council

## Help shape the future of our parish

We live in a fantastic parish with many beautiful views, wonderful buildings and villages filled with real community spirit. **"How can we protect and preserve the character of where we live?"** is one of the most frequently asked questions of the Parish Council.

Dumbleton Parish Council is a consultee for Tewkesbury Borough Council's Planning department. We comment on every planning application in the parish (even the ones for tree cutting!) and our responses help to inform their decisions.

As a consultee the Council is **only one of many voices** heard on planning decisions, particularly in relation to major developments.

However, there's a way that **every one of us** in the parish can help to shape the development of the parish over the next five, ten, twenty years and beyond.

**It's called a Neighbourhood Plan, and we'd like your views on it.**

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It's an important and powerful tool that gives communities like ours **statutory (legal) powers** to help decide how their area develops.

In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:

- **A set of planning policies** for the parish which are used to help decide on planning applications
- **Written by you**, the people who know and love the area, rather than the local planning authority
- **A legal measure** to help the community to get the right types of development in the right place

A Neighbourhood Plan is **community-led** - it's researched, written and voted on by the people who live in the community - **you**.

A Neighbourhood Plan has to, by law, engage with the whole community, including:

- all residents in the parish
- local businesses in the parish
- community groups and organisations
- landowners
- schools and educational establishments

There's a huge amount of talent within our parish and everyone can be involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

You can learn much more at <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/neighbourhood-planning/>

### What it isn't...

A Neighbourhood Plan has statutory (legal) powers but **what it can't do is stop any or all development** across the parish

**A Neighbourhood Plan can help shape everyone's future - yours, your children's and your grandchildren's - so it's a vital decision for the parish**

## Why a Neighbourhood Plan now?

It's inevitable that Dumbleton, Great Washbourne and Wormington will be targeted for development as part of the government's ambitious plans for new housing and Tewkesbury Borough Council's own Local Plan<sup>1</sup>.

The plan to turn Ashchurch into Tewkesbury Garden Town<sup>2</sup> includes over **10,000 new houses**, and a **Bicester-style shopping village**<sup>3</sup>. This will have a dramatic effect on the whole area and the A46, and a trail of large-scale development will follow.

**Tewkesbury Borough Council has told the Council that every village will be developed, no matter what**

With these pressures and more facing our parish, we believe that a Neighbourhood Plan is the best chance for our community to be part of the process and for every resident to have an influence.

The statutory powers of a Neighbourhood Plan are powerful tools in helping shape development in the parish, alongside the Parish Council. **It also has the voice of every one of you behind it.**

**We need you to be part of it and to tell us if you want the parish to develop a Neighbourhood Plan**

## What we're asking you

### We need to know if you're in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish

We're asking every household in the parish to say **Yes** or **No** to the proposal of creating and having a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.

If 50% or more of the responses received are in favour, we will start the process (*see What's involved?*)

The short survey is online at <https://bit.ly/2SQPeBI> and takes less than a minute to complete.

**Scan this code on your phone to open the survey**



You can also give us your choice by completing the simple form on the back of this leaflet and returning it to The Parish Clerk, 2 Mews Cottage, St Peter's Lane, Dumbleton, Glos. WR11 7TL.

We're also asking you if you'd like to be involved in the Team that helps to create and deliver a Neighbourhood Plan. **There's no obligation in answering this question.** The Neighbourhood Plan needs a Team, so we're just trying to determine the level of interest across the parish. This will also play a part in the final decision.

**THE SURVEY WILL CLOSE ON 31 OCTOBER 2021.**

Please go online at <https://bit.ly/2SQPeBI> or fill in the form on this leaflet and return it to us.

**Thank you for your help!**



1 Planning policies in a local authority area, in our case, Tewkesbury Borough Council. The Council's Local Plan can be seen at <https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/local-plan>  
2 <https://www.tewkesburygardentown.co.uk>  
3 <https://designeroutletcotswolds.com>

## What's involved?

If the parish votes in favour to start the process, a Neighbourhood Plan Team will be created by residents. Once the team is in place, there are three steps in the Neighbourhood Plan process:

- The Parish Council will need to decide on the neighbourhood area – the area within which the Neighbourhood Plan policies will apply. This is submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) for designation, so that it's officially recognised.
- The Team will need to talk to lots of people locally – residents, businesses, community groups and schools – to find out what's important to them about where they live, what they'd like to improve, and their vision for the parish.
- It also has to gather evidence to back up the ideas that the community want to see. Using this feedback, the team writes the planning policies that form the Neighbourhood Plan

Once the draft Neighbourhood Plan is complete, it's submitted to TBC.

TBC check that it has been produced correctly to the legislation. They will then arrange for an independent examiner to check that the plan meets the basic conditions.

If the plan passes these tests, TBC will organise a public referendum, so that everyone in the parish can decide whether they support it. If more than 50% of the registered voters are in favour of the plan, TBC must bring it into force.

This means that it will form part of the statutory development plan for Tewkesbury Borough, so any decisions about whether or not to grant planning permission in the parish in the future must be made by taking our Neighbourhood Plan into consideration.

**It's not a short or simple process**

**and can take between two to three years**

**This is why it's essential to know if**

**you're behind it before we decide**

## What's the cost?

The cost of producing a plan varies depending on the complexity of the plan and the neighbourhood's size. Average costs range from £10,000 to £13,000.

Some of the costs involved are the responsibility of TBC, such as the independent examination and referendum, but funding all other costs will need to be met by the Neighbourhood Plan team.

The good news is that any team producing a Neighbourhood Plan can apply for a basic grant of up to £10,000. Even with a grant, it's likely the team will need to raise funds through events. The Parish Council may also be able to contribute from its budget depending on circumstances.



## If you want to know more

We can't explain everything involved in creating and implementing a Neighbourhood Plan in a short leaflet, but you can learn more about what it is, how it works and the process by visiting <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/neighbourhood-planning/>

This site also has great resources to learn, in much more detail, about what's involved and how to produce a Plan.



## Be part of the future of the parish

### We need you to decide on a Neighbourhood Plan.

Please take the time to read this leaflet, visit the Neighbourhood Plan website shown above and learn more about why a Neighbourhood Plan can help all of us with the parish's future.

Most importantly, let us know if you're in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan by completing your survey by **31 October 2021**.

If you have any questions, please email us at [nplan@dumbletonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:nplan@dumbletonparishcouncil.org.uk) - we can't promise to answer everything but will do our best.

Thanks for your time and we look forward to seeing your response!

**Your decision on a Neighbourhood Plan is  
one of the biggest for the parish's future**

## Dumbleton Parish Council Initial consultation on a Neighbourhood Plan



You can also complete this survey online at <https://bit.ly/2SQPeBI> (scan the code above)

Are you in favour of Dumbleton Parish Council starting the process of producing and implementing a Neighbourhood Plan?  Yes  No

Which village do you live in?  Dumbleton  Great Washbourne  Wormington

If you answered YES, are you interested in helping with a Neighbourhood Plan?  
**There is no obligation - we are assessing the level of interest only.**  Yes  No

**OPTIONAL:** If you would like to join the Dumbleton Parish Council mailing list to stay up to date, please provide your details below

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed survey to *The Parish Clerk, 2 Mews Cottage, St Peter's Lane, Dumbleton, Glos. WR11 7TL* by 31 October 2021 - thank you for your help with this short survey.