

Consultation: draft Neighbourhood Plan ideas

Welcome

Thank you for responding to previous consultation on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Bodicote. We have used your feedback to prepare a vision and objectives for the Parish, as well as a set of policy and wider project ideas. We are now asking for your thoughts on these before we prepare the draft Plan. You previously told us that the Neighbourhood Plan should:

- Protect Bodicote's village identity and historic character, and avoid becoming a suburb of Banbury.
- Safeguard important green spaces, countryside views, and access to the surrounding landscape.
- Improve and expand green infrastructure, including community greening and re-wilding projects.
- Support better local facilities, such as youth and sports provision, a community café, and improved public transport.
- Reduce traffic speeds and improve road safety to make walking and cycling safer and more appealing.
- Ensure new housing meets local needs, offers a mix of homes, and reflects Bodicote's character.
- Promote sustainable building and retrofitting, including energy-efficient measures like solar panels and heat pumps.



The Neighbourhood Plan must be aligned with the Local Plan being prepared for Cherwell as a whole by the District Council. It should not repeat policies in that, nor those policies established at the national level. Instead, the ideas that have been developed in this Neighbourhood Plan are locally-specific.

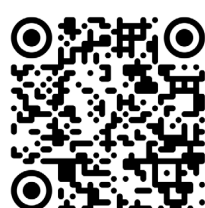
The ideas presented here include a mix of:

Policy ideas: These apply where planning permission is required for development or land use change. They do not apply to 'permitted development'.

Project ideas: These are wider aspirations not strictly linked to development and which may be delivered by partners, such as the District and County Council, and where funding payable by developers might be directed towards.

Please let us have your views and comments on the ideas. All the documents you need can be found on the Parish Council website, including a link to the online response form for your feedback

<https://www.bodicoteparishcouncil.gov.uk/>



The vision for the Parish

The policy ideas in the Neighbourhood Plan are framed by an overarching vision and set of objectives. These have been generated based on feedback from earlier consultation. The draft vision is:

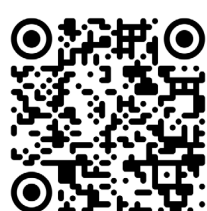
“In 2042, Bodicote has retained its distinct village identity separate from Banbury. Its historic charm, reflected in the style of buildings, use of natural materials, relationship with the countryside and sense of community remain the defining features of the village.

Important green spaces, such as Kingsfield, Town Furlong and others have been retained, providing important areas for recreation, health and biodiversity. Views out across the countryside and walking routes through these have been preserved for the mental and physical well-being of the community.

Future development has been carefully managed and is of a scale and design that is sensitive to the character of the village, whilst embedding sustainable design and energy efficient measures. Affordable homes have been successfully integrated within the fabric of the village, as have homes that support the needs of an ageing population.

Community facilities and local infrastructure have been improved, including facilities for the young and old. At the same time, improved bus routes, walking and cycling links enable safe and easy access to wider facilities in Banbury. Traffic calming measures and safer walking and cycling routes have been delivered for the benefit of all ages in Bodicote.

Overall, Bodicote in 2042 is a place where the village atmosphere, green spaces and community spirit have been preserved and cherished.”



The objectives of the draft Plan



Objective 1:

Development, design and character

To manage future development so that it reflects Bodicote's village character and supports sustainable living.

Objective 2:

Green spaces and countryside

To protect and enhance Bodicote's green spaces, countryside setting, and biodiversity.

Objective 3:

Access and movement

To improve access and movement within and beyond the village in a safe, sustainable and inclusive way.

Objective 4:

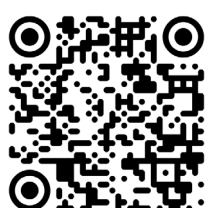
Community infrastructure

To strengthen community infrastructure and support facilities for all age groups.

Objective 5:

Living well locally

To promote environmental sustainability and community wellbeing.



Policy & project ideas

Development, design & character

Policy ideas include:

Policy 1: Residential development

New homes in Bodicote should be well designed, make good use of previously developed land, fit the village's character, and be within safe and easy walking distance of key services.

Policy 2: Design and character

All new development should respect Bodicote's historic village character, use appropriate materials, protect important features like trees and views, and create attractive places that feel part of the village.

Policy 3: Housing type and mix

New housing should focus on smaller homes and accessible designs that meet local needs, including homes for older residents, first-time buyers, and people who want to live independently for longer.

Policy 4: Parking

Parking should be carefully designed so it works well for residents without harming the look, greenery, or character of Bodicote's streets.



Access & movement

Policies in respect of transport are well established at the national level and in the adopted and emerging Cherwell Local Plan. Instead, a series of projects have been identified for delivery in Bodicote. They are:

Project A: Walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure

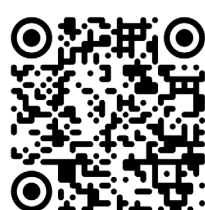
Improve and connect footpaths and cycle routes so people of all ages can safely walk, wheel, or cycle within Bodicote and to nearby places like Banbury and Longford Park.

Project B: Bus service improvements

Work with partners to improve local bus services and facilities so public transport is more reliable, accessible, and better meets residents' needs.

Project C: Traffic management measures

Introduce design-led traffic calming and safer crossings to reduce vehicle speeds and make roads safer and more pleasant for everyone.



Policy & project ideas

Green spaces & countryside

Policy ideas include

Policy 5: Locally important views

Important views of and from Bodicote must be protected so new development does not spoil the village's countryside setting and sense of place.

Important views are shown on the map below.

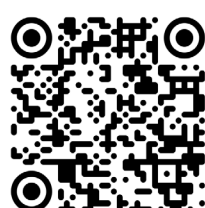
Policy 6: Local Green Space Designations

Bodicote's most valued green spaces are protected from development so they remain open, accessible, and enjoyed by the community for generations.

Maps of proposed sites for designation are shown on the following posters.



Map of Locally Important Views in Bodicote



Local Green Spaces

Kingsfield (*)



Blackwell Drive



Town Furlong



Flyover Woods



Bodicote Cemetery



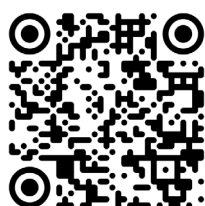
Keyser Road



National policy establishes criteria to determine whether a green space might warrant designation as a Local Green Space. These are that the green space should be:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

(*) This green space have been drawn to exclude areas of hardstanding (e.g.: car parking) and existing structures on the site (e.g.: buildings and halls)



Local Green Spaces

Cotefield Drive / Blossom Field Road



Seedling Road



Seedling Road southeast



Park End Green



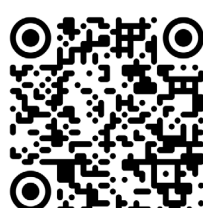
The Rydes



Rydes Close



Are these spaces important to you? How do you use them? Should they be designated?



Policy & project ideas

Community life

Policy ideas include:

Policy 7: Community facilities

Existing community facilities should be protected and improved, and new ones should be flexible and, welcoming, and designed to support village life for all ages.

Are there any spaces which might benefit from 're-wilding'? Are there any facilities missing or needed in the Parish?



A series of wider projects have also been identified:

Project D: Kingsfield community hub

Redevelop Kingsfield facilities into a modern, flexible community hub with improved buildings, play areas, and spaces for events, health, and social activities.

Project E: Re-wilding

Support re-wilding initiatives like wildflowers, trees, and habitats to boost biodiversity and enhance Bodicote's green spaces.

Project F: Health and wellbeing

Encourage community activities and initiatives that support physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connection.

Project G: Active travel initiatives

Promote walking, wheeling, and cycling through local initiatives, information, and facilities that make active travel easy and appealing.

Project H: Climate change guide

Create a simple, practical guide to help residents take climate-friendly actions at home and understand how they can reduce their environmental impact.

