



BRIZE NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk, Mrs C Peach
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SENT BY POST AND BY E-MAIL

WYG Group
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Dear Sirs

RE: CARTERTON MASTER PLAN

I am writing on behalf of Brize Norton Parish Council (BNPC).

Further to attendance at the presentation of the Master Plan to the Carterton Town Meeting on 12 May and at the “Open Day” events on 21 May and 27 May the BNPC have discussed their thoughts at the monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 1 June 2015. The councillors have agreed unanimously that their combined comments should be captured and sent to the team responsible for developing the master plan, copied to the local planning authority and their local District and County Councillors.

BNPC are **extremely disappointed** that they have not been properly consulted in either the scoping or development of the proposed master plan despite the fact that the Parish is directly affected by these proposals. This lack of consultation is neither transparent, nor in the spirit of collaboration and co-operation that is being fostered by the national government and the NPPF.

Notwithstanding the above, as users of the facilities and services in Carterton and in the spirit of co-operation required of us, BNPC trust that the following comments will be taken in the constructive manner that they are being made.

The BNPC comments fall into four groups as follows:

1) Transparency

- a) The plans presented in the master plan should clearly show the boundaries of Carterton Town and all the neighbouring parishes
Reason: so that it is clear what is proposed for development inside the town and what is proposed in neighbouring parishes.
- b) There should be a plan that clearly shows:
- The location of the 821 houses that have planning commitments within the town boundaries as at 1 February 2015.
 - The location of the further 200 houses identified as the REEMA Central Strategic Development Area in the draft Local Plan.
- Reason:* so that it is clear where the 1,021 houses that are already identified in the draft Local Plan for development within Carterton between now and 2031, are located.
- c) The plan described in b) above should include the 700 houses that have a planning commitment on the land between Monahan Way, Carterton Road and Burford Road
Reason: so that it is clear that these 700 houses are located in Brize Norton Parish.

2) Development within Carterton Town Boundary

- a) BNPC are entirely supportive of the proposals to improve the town centre amenities for the benefit of the Carterton residents and the surrounding villagers
Reason: to give the town a more welcoming character and to improve the services in the centre of the town.
- b) BNPC are entirely supportive of the proposals to increase pedestrian and cycle routes within and across the town
Reason: to promote the use of more sustainable transport methods and to reduce the use of cars for short local trips.
- c) The above proposals should be further supported by detailed plans showing how the funding from the legal agreements associated with the 821 houses that have planning commitments will be spent to achieve these goals
Reason: to demonstrate how the funding raised from current planning commitments is being used to meet the requirements of the master plan.

3) Population, Business and Employment Data

- a) The master plan should present data demonstrating how the population of Carterton has grown over the last 25-30 years identifying the number of temporary residents (service personnel, subject to postings) and permanent residents based in Carterton
Reason: to clearly present historical population trends and growth data.

- b) The master plan should present data demonstrating how the number and type of businesses in Carterton have changed over the last 25-30 years identifying the number of businesses that are directly associated with the RAF and those businesses that are not dependent on the RAF base
Reason: to clearly present historical data on business changes and growth.
- c) The master plan should present data demonstrating how the amount and type of employment in Carterton has changed over the last 25-30 years identifying the amount of employment that is directly associated with the RAF and that which is not dependent on the RAF
Reason: to clearly present historical data on employment in Carterton.
- d) The clear presentation of the above data will then allow an objective assessment of what has caused significant changes in population, business and employment growth/change and so provide a firm basis for projecting future growth scenarios
Reason: a good understanding of the past is key to assessing the future and so enabling the setting of realistic targets for the future size of the town in terms of population, businesses and employment.

4) Development outside Carterton Town Boundary

The data collated, presented and assessed in 3) above will then inform whether or not there is any justification for expansion outside of Carterton

Reason: Factual data is required to justify the implicit assumptions in the master plan that Carterton:

- Can compete with Witney as a service centre.
- Needs additional housing over the numbers already stated in the draft WODC Local Plan to 2031.
- Needs more employment land over that identified in the draft WODC Local Plan to 2031.

The results from 1), 2), 3) and 4) above will then form the basis for working in clear collaboration and cooperation with neighbouring parishes and WODC

Reason: this is a requirement of the NPPF and Planning Law.

BNPC trust that the above comments are helpful in determining the appropriate sustainable development for Carterton to 2031 and beyond, in a transparent, consultative and collaborative way, recognising that:

- The delivery of the 1,700+ houses already committed over the next 15 years in Carterton/Brize Norton will require the development of some 2,500 new jobs in the area over the period, to prevent further congestion on the local transport infrastructure. This is the equivalent of 14 new jobs a month for the next 180 months, a growth rate that has not been achieved in the past, despite the delivery of 1,700 new houses in Shilton Park over a shorter time period.

- Despite the improvements in the UK economy and the consolidation of RAF Transport Command to Brize Norton, there have been a significant number of shops closing in the centre of Carterton over the last 6 -18 months (e.g. BlockBuster, Roses Electrical, Chicco's fast food outlet, The Really Useful Shop, Giles Toys, The Florists). The number of market stalls on a Thursday has fallen despite the move to the new market square. The farmer's market lasted less than a month due to lack of trade.
- Recent closures in the town centre, as summarised above, demonstrate the urgent need to improve the trading environment in the centre of Carterton.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and we look forward to the incorporation of our comments into the next draft of your master plan.

Yours faithfully,

Carolyn Peach

Clerk to Brize Norton Parish Council

WODC Cllr Barry Norton
WODC Planning Chris Hargreaves
WODC Councillor Alex Postan
OCC Councillor Neil Owen