

Agenda



01 Welcome / Apologies

Chair

02 Officers' Reports

2.1 Chair · 2.2 Treasurer

03 Election of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

04 The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

05 Village Voice Magazine

Pippa Richardson

06 Planning Update

Peter Richardson

07 Date and venue of next meeting

Chair's Report

A year of community action across Whitley and Shaw

Working with and for our community





COMMUNITY EMERGENCY GROUP

In its 12th year

A sustained case for refusal

12

addenda

160

pages

49,091

words

Safety and pollution risks remain unresolved

CAWS asks Wiltshire Council to determine the application without further delay and refuse permission.



64 of 113

documents revised, replaced
or superseded

Cumulative impact at the centre of the appeal

86

pages of case

11

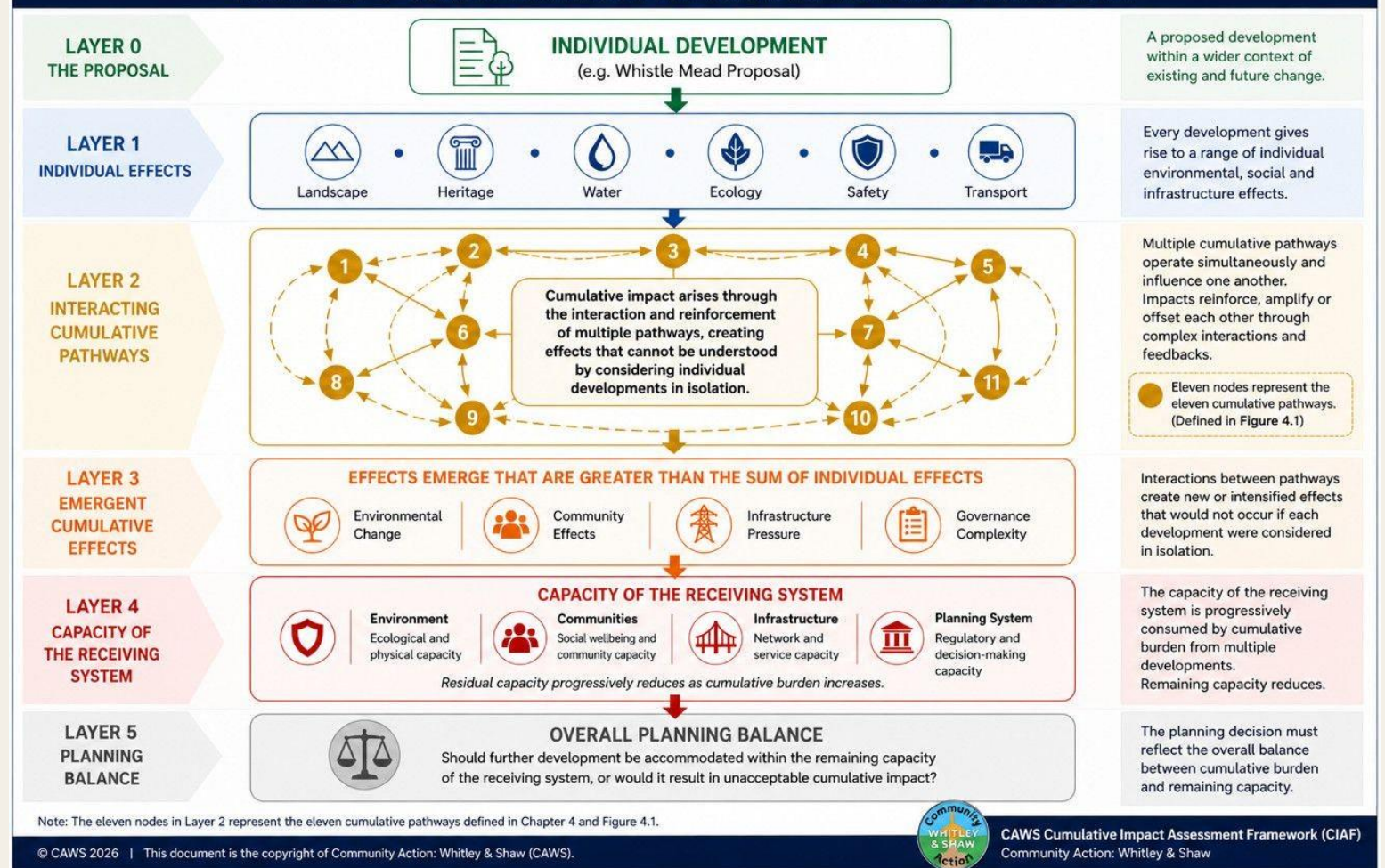
impact pathways

65

schemes within approximately 5 km

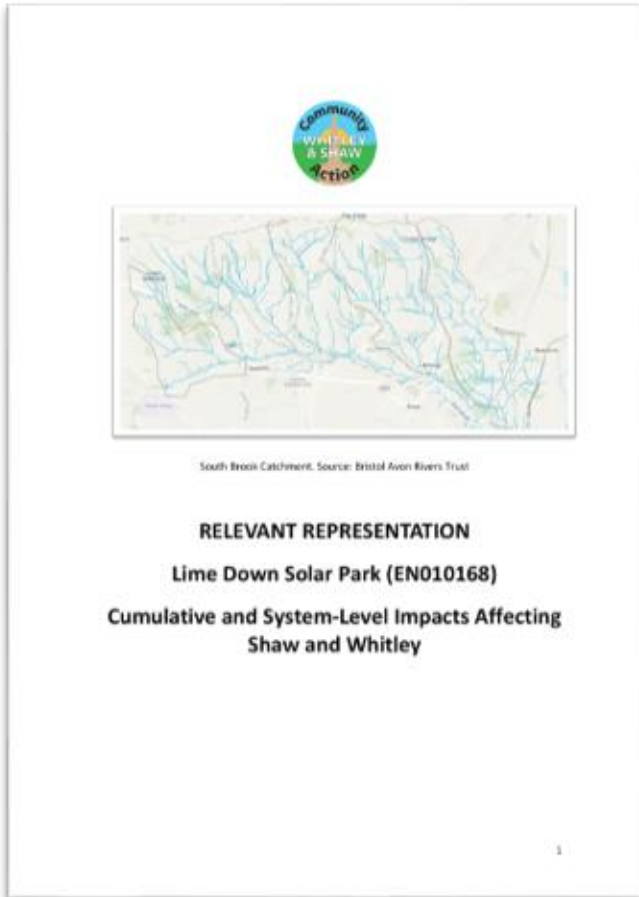
CAWS has asked the Inspector to uphold Wiltshire Council's refusal.

FIGURE 3.1 | CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEVELOPMENT



Whistle Mead cannot be judged in isolation

Evidence at every stage



22 km

**cable corridor connecting
to Melksham Substation**

Written submission

Evidence on impacts affecting Shaw and Whitley

Open-floor hearing

Dan spoke so local concerns formed part of the examination

Cumulative-impact paper

A 29-page follow-up examining connected effects across the shared infrastructure system

ROADWORKS ACROSS SHAW AND WHITLEY

Monitoring disruption. Challenging unsafe routing.



CAWS pressed for action on access, bus services and residents' longer journeys.



OPENED DECEMBER 2025

The Community Gallery

A new public space for local creativity and community stories

Small in scale. A lasting addition to community life.

A visible place to share work with everyone passing through the village





2

successful community litter picks every year

Residents working together across Shaw and Whitley

TWICE EACH YEAR



CAWS CONTRIBUTION

Seeing the whole landscape

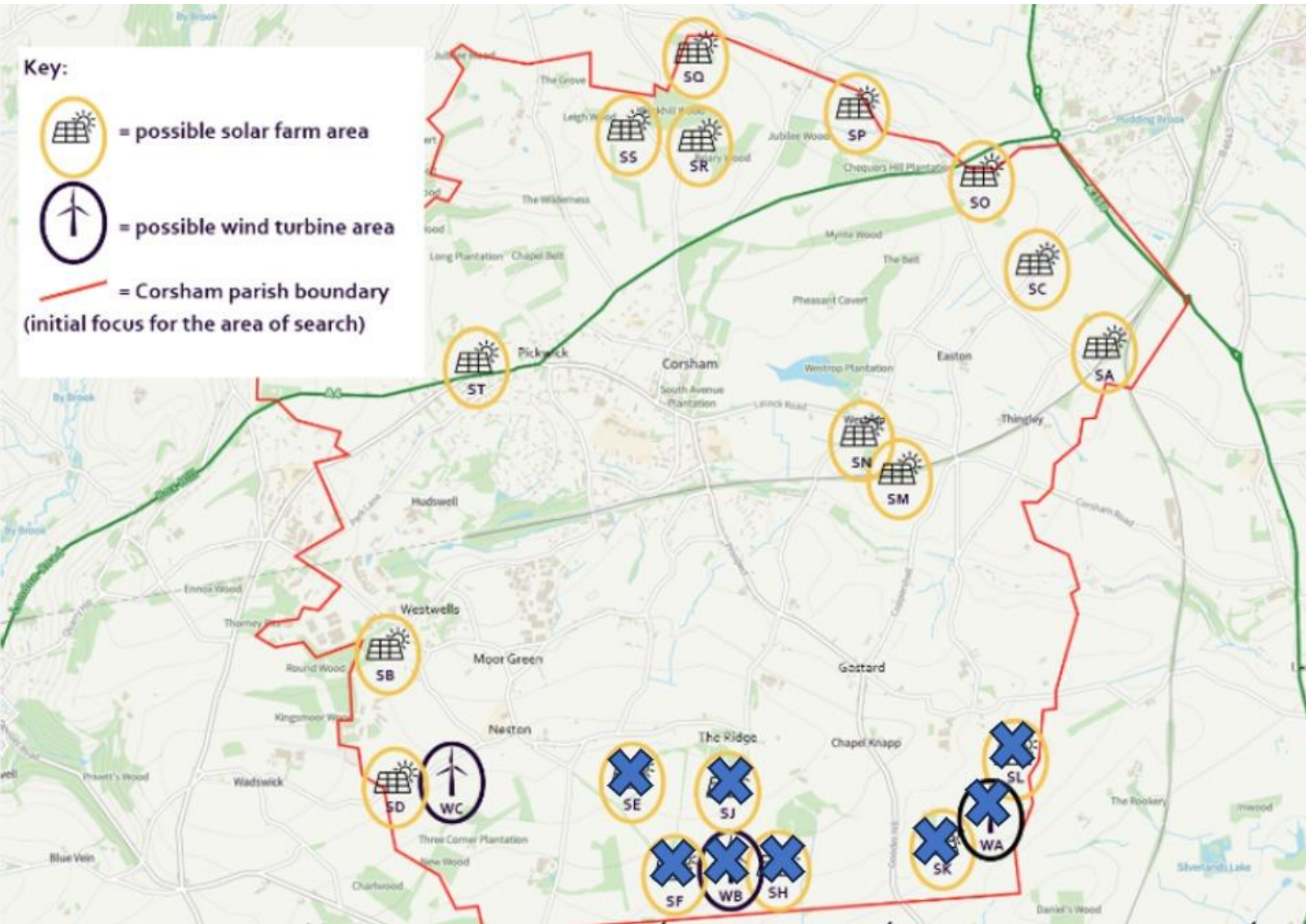
CAWS responded positively to show why potential energy schemes must be considered together and in their local setting.

Cumulative impact

The combined scale and concentration of development

Local constraints

Heritage, drainage and practical grid connection



5 page evidence-led response

CAWS opposed closure because local response capacity may be reduced while the scale and complexity of risk are increasing.

Fire capacity, preparedness and environmental protection must keep pace with changing risk.



27 April 2026

Consultation Response: Proposed Closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station

1. Introduction

This response strongly opposes the proposed closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station.

The proposal must be considered in the context of a rapidly evolving and increasingly complex risk environment across Wiltshire, including the growth of battery energy storage systems (BESS), solar infrastructure, and associated grid works.

The key issue is not simply response times, but the capacity, capability, and resilience of the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to respond effectively to modern, high-consequence incidents.

2. Changing Risk Profile: BESS and Energy Infrastructure

The expansion of energy infrastructure introduces a distinct and more complex category of risk.

- Lithium-ion battery failures can lead to thermal runaway, producing fires that are:
 - Difficult to extinguish
 - Prone to re-ignition
 - Potentially long duration (24-72 hours or more)
- These incidents typically require:
 - Sustained multi-crew attendance
 - Continuous cooling and monitoring
 - Extended operational presence on site

Guidance from the National Fire Chiefs' Council recognises BESS incidents as resource-intensive and operationally demanding.

At present, there is no clear evidence that site-specific response plans, configuration-specific firefighting strategies, or full-scale test data (such as UL 9540A) have been fully incorporated into local operational planning. This represents a material evidential gap.

Reducing fire station capacity against this backdrop introduces avoidable risk.

3. Firewater Contamination, PFAS, and Environmental Risk

BESS incidents are not solely fire events—they are environmental emergencies with potential long-term consequences.

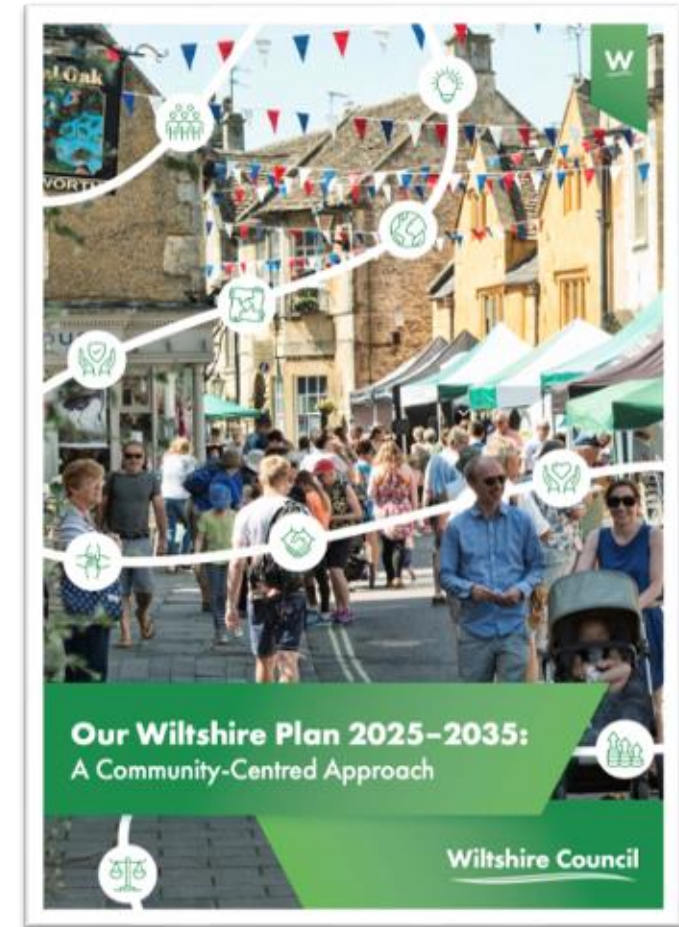
Firefighting operations can generate very large volumes of contaminated firewater, potentially containing:

- Heavy metals and battery degradation products

Testing delivery against the Council's own plan

“ CAWS used Our Wiltshire Plan 2025–2035 as the backdrop for a direct discussion about how residents experience Council services.

Issues raised included public evidence, consultation, planning pressures and the gap between published ambition and service delivery.



26 AUGUST 2026



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

4

young trees
have been damaged

Each tree represented volunteer effort, care and an investment in the future appearance of our villages.

CAWS has paused replacing the damaged trees.

BOOKS TO SHARE

Telephone-box library

Clean, sound and in good repair

The latest check found no immediate decoration or repair was needed.

More help welcomed

Refreshing the books, promoting the library and keeping the selection fresh.

A small community asset with a very visible presence



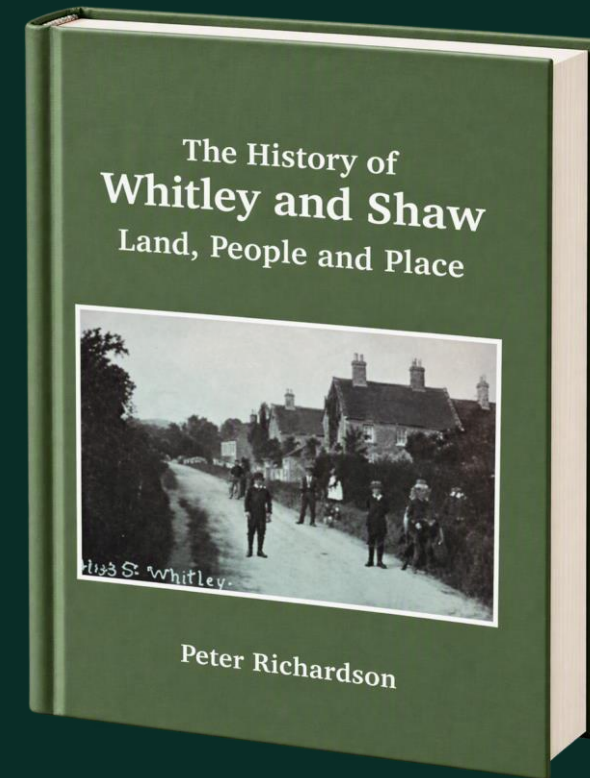
COMING SOON

A new history of Whitley and Shaw

Years of local research, expanded evidence and newly preserved stories from across both villages.

Second edition

The History of Whitley and Shaw
Land, People and Place



More community work

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 | SpeedWatch | Community safety |
| 02 | Broadband | Digital connectivity |
| 03 | Village Planters | Care for shared spaces |
| 04 | Visit to Melksham Substation | Understanding local infrastructure |
| 05 | School Travel Plan | Safer journeys for children |
| 06 | Defibrillator Training | Community Health |

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Thank you

With sincere appreciation for the time, care and support given throughout the year.

CAWS OFFICERS

Dan · Joan

CAWS COMMITTEE

Lesley · Mike · Helen · Maureen
Kirsty · Mindy · Pippa · Alison

SPEEDWATCH

Kirsty · Mindy · John · Susan
Peter · and others

CEG

Jonathan · Graham · Teresa · Marianne
Bill · Gary · Ginnie · Maureen · Richard
Mindy · Kevin · Tom · Sam · John · and others

VILLAGE VOICE

Alison · Mike · Pippa · Matt
John · Susan · Sara

TELEPHONE BOX LIBRARY

Maureen · Peter

ALL CAWS MEMBERS

Thank you for your support.

Every contribution is valued.



Community funds total £7,426

Including the £3,000 MWPC grant ring-fenced for Village Voice

JANUARY–SEPTEMBER 2026

OPENING POSITION · 1 JANUARY

£4,295 CAWS £3,105 · CEG £1,190

KEY MOVEMENTS

CAWS £525 · Head Shed rental (two years)
 £160 · CPR and defibrillator training
 Gardening Club · two purchases
 £3,000 · MWPC grant, ring-fenced for Village Voice

CEG £488 · Purchases
 £354 · MWPC grant

VILLAGE VOICE £1,140 · Advertising income, in addition to the
 £3,000 grant

BALANCES AT SEPTEMBER 2026

CAWS £2,234

CEG £1,056

VILLAGE VOICE £4,140

TOTAL

£7,426

Combined balance across all three funds



Election of Officers

Bobby Van

VILLAGE VOICE

Progress update

CAWS Annual General Meeting
September 2026

Our Villages, Our Voice

A new name, a stronger footing and a growing
community magazine



Village Voice

— SHAW & WHITLEY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE —

PEOPLE • PLACES • STORIES • TOGETHER

AUTUMN
2026
ISSUE 1

*Our Villages,
Our Voice*
♥

Poppy Field

A project for remembrance

Village History

Discovering the stories
on our doorstep

Halloween

Ghosts, legends and
local folklore

PLUS...

Village life
Walking routes
Gardening
The Whitley Westie
Local events



The relaunch is well under way

02

1

START-UP SUPPORT

Melksham Without Parish Council awarded a grant to help restart the magazine.

2

COMMUNITY CHOICE

Residents voted to change the name from Connect to Village Voice.

3

A NEW IDENTITY

The team created a new logo centred on people, dogs and village life.

4

A REGULAR RHYTHM

Six full-colour issues each year.



Advertising has secured the next year

03

The grant provided the launch pad. The annual advertising model provides the route to self-sufficiency.

1

ANNUAL BOOKING

Advertisers buy space across a full year of publication.

2

PAYMENT UPFRONT

Income arrives before the team commits to the annual print run.

3

CLEARER CONTROL

The team can match confirmed income against printing costs.

RESULT

Advertising already secured gives Village Voice funding for a further year beyond the initial grant.



The content plan already has strong foundations

04

12

regular contributors

Community groups, organisations and individuals have committed to contributing to every issue.

A dependable core for each edition

Regular features

- Village organisations and clubs
- Local history and community news
- Events, activities and useful information

One-off and seasonal articles

Halloween

Christmas

Local stories



The next phase depends on available funds

05

The print magazine comes first. If income permits, the team would also like to improve access and reduce production time.

ONLINE ACCESS

Explore an online version so residents can read Village Voice wherever they are and share articles more easily.

Subject to cost and practical options

FASTER PRODUCTION

Invest in suitable editing and layout tools to make each issue quicker to assemble and easier for volunteers to manage.

Investment would protect volunteer capacity

Priority: produce a dependable, engaging printed magazine every two months



Village Voice needs more hands

The positive response has been encouraging. Most of the work still rests with a small handful of volunteers.

HELP DELIVER

Could you take a road, a small area or an occasional delivery round when each issue arrives?

HELP SHAPE THE CONTENT

Suggest an article, share a local story or tell us about somebody whose contribution deserves recognition.

Even one idea or one delivery round makes a difference.

villagevoice26@gmail.com



PLANNING IN SHAW & WHITLEY

CAWS Annual General Meeting · September 2026



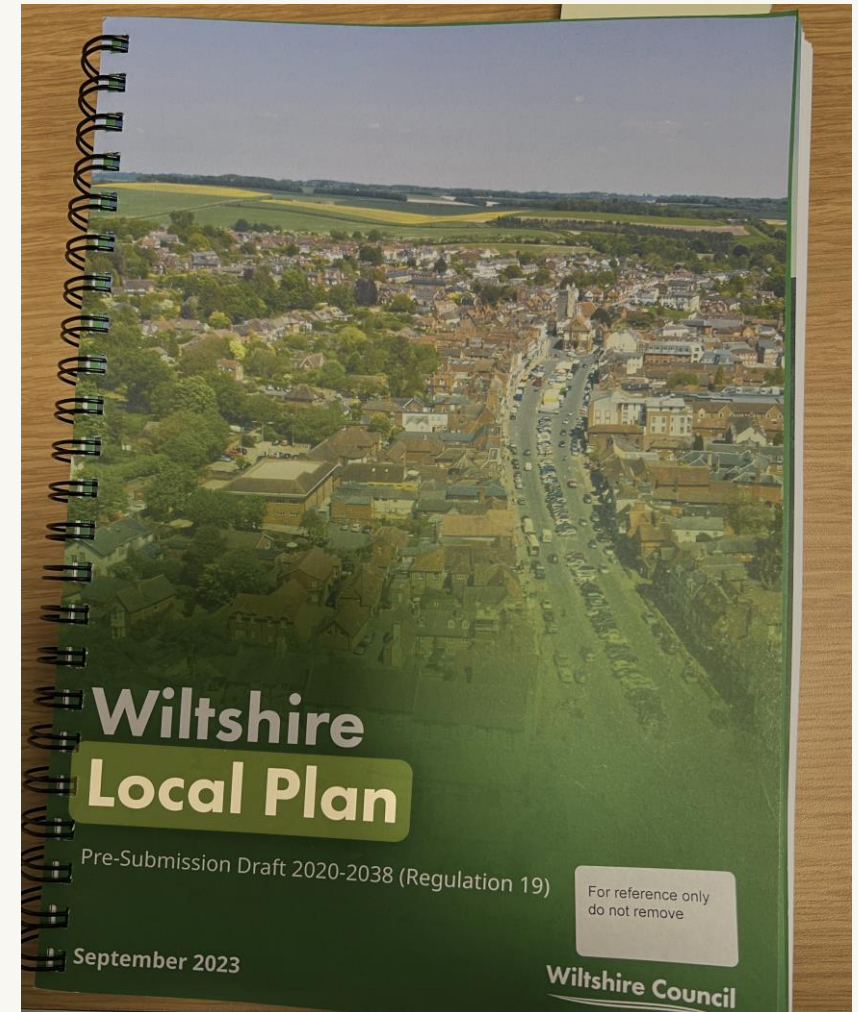
We planned positively

- JMNP2 is now part of the statutory development plan
- Over 100 sites assessed across the Melksham area - five allocated
- Over 400 homes provided for, against the 270 then required
- Growth in Shaw and Whitley was planned while protecting the rural gap and each village's identity (2 sites approx. 70 houses)
- *This met local need while protecting the rural gap and the villages' separate identity*



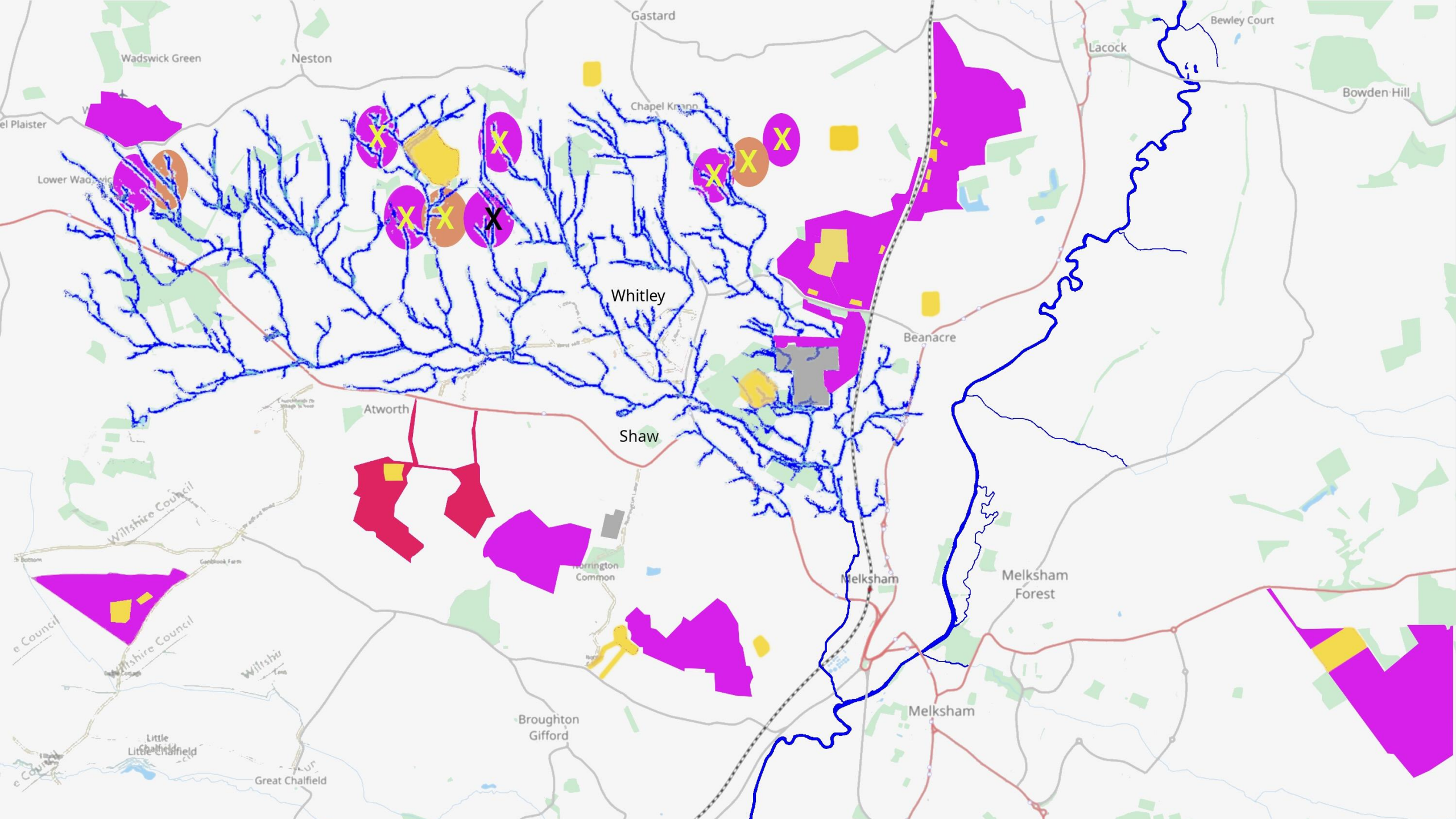
The planning context has changed

- Local Plan withdrawn; Core Strategy remains in force
- Housing land shortfall increases pressure for speculative development
- JMNP2's settlement, landscape and rural gap policies still apply
- Our position: JMNP2 deserves substantial weight in each decision



The current planning landscape

Title	Description	Status
Residential		
First Lane/Folly Lane	~ 100 houses	Application expected or Local Plan allocation bid
First Lane	2 houses	Application resubmitted - consultation to 16/10/2026
Top Lane	6 houses	Determination outstanding (PIP)
Middle Farm	~ 22 homes (Phase 1) ~ 33 homes (Phase 2)	In JMNP2 Phase 1 decision expected
Energy		
Brockleaze BESS	~ 210 BESS Containers	Determination outstanding
Whistle Mead BESS/Solar	14MW solar farm with co-located ~22MW BESS	Appeal decision outstanding
Half-Way Farm BESS	100 MWh	Status unclear
Lime Down	Cable Run	Public Examination ongoing
~ 50 Other Schemes	Various solar, wind, cables and enabling works	Operational, future NESO connections, permission granted, under construction, under consultation or expected
Determined		
Corsham Road	5 houses	Dismissed at appeal
Whitley Golf Club	Replacement driving range and shop; car park extension; minor clubhouse works	Approved



Why we are concerned

- The Woodrow Road and Snarlton Farm appeals, plus permission for 58 more homes at Berryfield, show how the supply shortfall can support development beyond planned allocations
- These decisions do not make every unallocated site acceptable
- The risk is piecemeal approvals without a planned assessment of need, infrastructure and cumulative effects on communities

What we can do - tactically

- Use JMNP2 to identify policy conflicts and protect village identity
- Challenge sustainability claims and assess cumulative impacts
- Make the harms count - the tilted balance is no automatic permission
- Press Wiltshire for housing delivery, transparent figures and community involvement
- and strategically...

New Local Plan Consultation (1)

Stance: Planned growth. Separate villages

- Support housing growth through JMNP2
- Keep Shaw and Whitley separate
- Protect the rural gap and village characters
- Match growth to infrastructure capacity and cumulative impacts
- Ensure infrastructure is funded and ready when needed

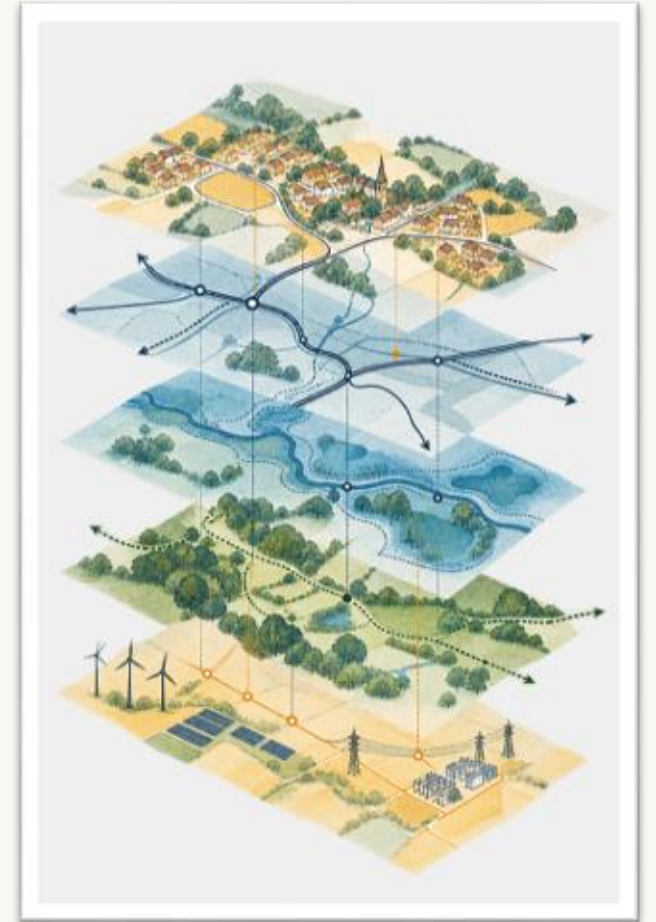


Wiltshire
Local Plan

New Local Plan Consultation (2)

Assess the whole picture

- Assess cumulative impacts across all development
- Tackle energy clustering around Melksham Substation
- Compare suitable brownfield sites and alternative locations
- Require robust BESS safety and emergency plans
- Protect water, wildlife, landscape and heritage



New Local Plan Consultation (3)

A plan residents can trust

- Show how community evidence shapes decisions
- Publish housing figures and site-selection reasons
- Provide local consultation and independent technical scrutiny
- Name those responsible for delivery
- Publish costs, progress and corrective action

13 priorities. 20 consolidated requests. Clear accountability.

New Local Plan Consultation (3)

The central message

- We accepted planned growth through a recently approved neighbourhood plan
- The housing shortfall should not displace that democratic, evidence-led strategy with piecemeal speculative development that erodes our rural gaps and the identity of our villages

Thank you to all our speakers tonight

Questions and AOB?