

# WHO ARE YOUR COUNCILLORS ?

Market Lavington Parish Council has twelve councillors representing the 2,000 or so people living here, as well as the businesses based here.

**ELECTIONS** for the Parish Council are held every four years – and the next election for Wiltshire Council and parish councils across Wiltshire will be coming soon – on Thursday 1 May 2025.

The current Market Lavington **PARISH COUNCILLORS** are:

- CHLOE STEVENS (Chair of the Council)
- FRED DAVIS (Vice Chair)
- LAURA TURNER-SCOTT
- DIANE FRASER
- CHRIS BOADEN
- JAY ROBERTS
- JANE TAYLOR
- DUNCAN POOLE
- ALAN BOND
- SUZANNE MORRISON
- LUCY SPARKES.

The Clerk is CAROL HACKETT. Email contact is: [clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The work of the Council is mainly achieved through the work of **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**. They include Finance; Planning; Highways; Recreation, Amenity & Footpaths; and The Old School. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Old School.

All **MEETINGS** are open to the public, with an opportunity for questions and comments addressed to councillors. There is the Annual Meeting held every May, when the work of the Council over the past year is presented.

The Council's **BUDGET** this year was set at £75,733, most of which comes from the precept (Council Tax).

# DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT MARKET LAVINGTON?

- As most of you know, Market Lavington has a long, long history. There were people working flint from about 3,000 BCE – some 5,000 years ago – living with their families around the Grove Farm estate and the Church. Later on, there may have been a sizeable Roman settlement here.
- The story of Market Lavington was described in Brian McGill's book *Village Under the Plain: the Story of Market Lavington*. It was published in 1995 by Bredegar Books and can be found through some online second hand booksellers (including Amazon). In it he describes how the first Parish Council was elected in 1894 – in line with a new Government Act that required a council for all villages with a population over 300. The first Council had 11 members. They were elected from 24 candidates, mostly from families known in the area for centuries.



*Broadwell, taken from the Devizes Tourist Guide 1959 issue. Note the trees in what is now the very popular playground – and the railings around the top basin.*

- An early issue which dogged the new Parish Council was the condition of the natural spring which rises in Broadwell. It was the chief source of fresh water for the village until the installation of running water in 1937! In September 1862, according to Brian McGill, “a storm cut a swathe a half-mile wide and two miles long through Easterton and the two Lavingtons which, in half an hour, filled the Broadwell area seven feet deep with hailstones...”!
- There were 146 acres of allotments in the village in 1895, with 163 acres of smallholdings and 200 “grown men” who technically could each qualify for an allotment. Can Neighbourhood Plan 2 make a difference for today's growers/potential growers?

# MARKET LAVINGTON PARISH UPDATE

Winter 2024

## WELCOME TO THIS FIRST ISSUE!

Every four years, you have the opportunity to elect a new Parish Council to represent your ideas and ambitions, help run a range of public services and look after the way our Parish looks and works.

Your councillors do this as volunteers. often spending considerable time over weekdays and weekends. But too often, we know that people do not have a clear idea of *what* we do as councillors.

This newsletter will be published four times a year, to give you a clearer picture about the work being done by councillors on behalf of everyone in Market Lavington.

We start in this first issue by introducing you to the new Neighbourhood Plan, set to influence how development is handled through to 2038. There will be extensive public consultation over the coming months, to ensure views are taken into account and help to shape the future of the village. You can see more about the work going into this at [www.marketlavingtonNP2.org.uk](http://www.marketlavingtonNP2.org.uk). Please do get involved!

We're also going to have a regular item introducing a range of facts, stories and quirks about our parish — there's lots to tell ... and we'll talk about the day-to-day work handled by our clerk and the councillors.

I hope you enjoy. Do let me know what you think.

**CHLOE STEVENS, Chair, Market Lavington Parish Council**  
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## IN THIS ISSUE ...

**INSIDE: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MARKET LAVINGTON** – Work has started on fashioning a new Neighbourhood Plan, setting out how we want the Parish to develop over the next 14 years.

**QUICK GUIDE TO PLANNING** — What influence does the Parish Council have over planning applications? **BACK PAGE:** Did you know this about Market Lavington?



# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MARKET LAVINGTON

In a referendum in 2021, the residents of Market Lavington approved a Neighbourhood Plan, setting out how we wanted the parish to develop within the context of strategic planning policy as set out in law by both the Government and Wiltshire Council.

Since then much has changed, including the requirement for new housing and new ways to ensure strong, effective design allied to environmental changes in response to the climate emergency. In response, work has now started on Neighbourhood Plan 2, which will review the 2021 Plan, updating as necessary, address new housing targets and set new policies to help shape the future of our parish and community through to 2038. These are some of the key points.

**WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?** Essentially, a neighbourhood plan is about the use and development of land. It sets out a vision, objectives, planning policies, proposals to improve the area or provide new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

The Plan may deal with a wide range of social, economic and climate change issues (such as housing, design, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues only.



A neighbourhood plan has to meet certain specified 'basic conditions'. These ensure plans contribute to sustainable development, reflect national policy and guidance and are in general conformity with adopted strategic local planning policies.

**DO WE HAVE A SAY IN ALL THIS?** The Neighbourhood Plan must also reflect community-wide comments, observations and concerns about the future. It adds supporting strategic and statistical evidence, such as census data, best practice in design, environment, sustainability, etc

Drafts of the plan are consulted on extensively and then considered by Wiltshire Council and eventually a Government-appointed inspector. When all is approved, the final draft goes to a referendum of all adults who live and work in the parish. The whole process may take 18 months.

**WHAT ARE THE FIRST STEPS?** The first step was taken at the end of October. An open invitation went out to landowners, developers and other interested parties to submit potential sites in the parish for future allocation in the Plan.

This 'Call for Sites' is being widely advertised, making clear the the sites must be deliverable during the period of the Plan (up to 2038). Any land not put forward at this stage is unlikely to be considered for allocation during the period of the Plan.

Submitted sites are explored by external assessors to see if they are "developable" and "deliverable". The Steering Group assesses them again in the light of policies such as design, sustainability etc that we propose introducing. We end with a short-list of sites that can be "allocated" in the eventual Plan.

**SO WHEN WILL WE BE ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS?** In January/February, there will be an extensive consultation with everyone in the parish – your opportunity to have your say on how the future of the parish can best be shaped. Do get involved. It's our village and all of us have the right to have our views considered.

The consultation helps us define Objectives and a Vision for the Parish over the next 14 years. There's also a mass of evidence and other material we need to provide to back up any new policies that are prepared in support of the Objectives and Vision.

Further documentation is required to the point when a draft plan is submitted to everyone living and working in the Parish. With comments and amendments taken in, the Plan is submitted to Wiltshire Council. If they are happy, they will put it out to further consultation before arranging for an independent examination. If the draft Plan meets conditions applied at the examination stage, it then goes to a community referendum. With a fair wind, and the help and involvement of everyone, we hope to be able to go to referendum late 2025/early 2026.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO** [www.marketlavingtonNP2.org.uk](http://www.marketlavingtonNP2.org.uk) or email the Steering Group at [contact@marketlavingtonNP2.org.uk](mailto:contact@marketlavingtonNP2.org.uk). You can also find updates on the [Market Lavington Community](#) Facebook page and in the [Market Lavington & Easterton Parish Magazine](#).



## QUICK GUIDE TO PLANNING

If a planning application is opposed by the Parish Council, does it mean the planning authority should agree? No. The legal process is this:

1. The decision whether to approve a planning application is taken by the local planning authority – in our case, Wiltshire Council.
2. When they receive an application, they must by law consult with the relevant Parish Council.
3. The Parish Council must give Wiltshire Council their opinion within 21 days. That may be taken into account but Wiltshire Council is not bound to agree.
4. The decision must balance a wide variety of factors, considered by the planning officer, who has delegated powers to approve most applications.
5. If there are strong reasons to oppose, the Parish Council can ask its Wiltshire Councillor to "call in" the application, in which case the final decision will be made by Wiltshire councillors at a meeting of the relevant Planning Committee. They may or may not agree with the Parish Council or even with the officers – so "calling-in" can be risky.
6. If the applicant or Wiltshire Council do not agree with the decision, then either party can appeal before a Government inspector – an expensive route but the inspector's decision is final!