Swindon Borough Council Local Plan 2043

Regulation 19 Publication Stage Representation Form

Ref:

(For official use only)

Please return to Swindon Borough Council By 11:59pm on Thursday 12th November 2026 by:

Email: SwindonLocalPlan2043@swindon.gov.uk or
Post: Planning Policy Team, 5th Floor, Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid St, Swindon, SN1 2JH

For your comments to be taken as a formal submission you are required to state your name and address. In line with the Data Protection Act 2018, Swindon Borough Council will treat and protect your data in accordance with the Act. If you wish to withdraw or amend your personal data, you will need to contact Swindon Borough Council's Planning Policy team either by email or post (please see above).

Hard copies of the privacy note are available at the Civic Offices and libraries across the Borough, or can be viewed online at: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/directory_record/23261/planning_policy_privacy_notice

This form has two parts –
Part A – Personal Details: need only be completed once.
Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

Part A

1. Personal Details

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation and/or third party, please fill out both section 1 and 2.

Title	Mrs
First Name	Georgina
Last Name	Morgan-Denn
Address Line 1	Parish Council Offices
Line 2	Thames Avenue
Line 3	Swindon

Line 4 Post Code	SN25 2RR
Telephone Number	01793 722446
Email Address	clerk@haydonwick.gov.uk

2. Organisation and/or third party

Please only fill out this section if you are responding on behalf of an organisation and/or third party.

Job Title	Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Organisation	Haydon Wick Parish Council
Third party/client	

Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph Number		Policy Number and Name		Policies Map (Section or layer)	

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

4.(1) Legally compliant	Yes	X	No	
4.(2) Sound	Yes	X	No	

Please tick as appropriate

Representations should focus on whether the emerging Plan is legally complaint and sound in accordance with paragraph 36 of the 2024 NPPF. This means assessing whether it has been positively prepared, is robustly justified and evidence led, is effective, and is consistent with national planning policy.

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound. Please be as precise as possible.
If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan please also use this box to set out your comments.

Haydon Wick Parish Council

Introduction and overall position

Haydon Wick Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 19 publication version of the Swindon Local Plan 2023 to 2043. The Parish Council represents the communities of Haydon Wick and Priory Vale, including established residential neighbourhoods and areas that have experienced substantial housing growth over recent decades. The Parish Council supports sustainable development, the provision of good quality housing, economic growth, environmental protection and the continued improvement of Swindon as a place to live, work and visit.

The Parish Council also recognises the importance of providing sufficient homes to meet identified needs, supporting employment opportunities and ensuring that Swindon remains an attractive location for investment. However, successive periods of development in North Swindon have placed considerable pressure on roads, community facilities, public services and existing infrastructure. These concerns were raised during the Regulation 18 consultation and remain central to the Parish Council's assessment of the Regulation 19 Plan.

The Parish Council considers that the success of the Local Plan must be measured by whether its proposed growth can be supported by infrastructure that is funded, deliverable and provided at the appropriate time. The Parish Council's representation

therefore focuses particularly on whether the Plan is justified by adequate evidence and whether its proposals can be implemented effectively.

The Parish Council welcomes the overall direction of the Plan but considers that further clarification, stronger delivery commitments and specific modifications are required.
The following representation identifies the principal concerns affecting Haydon Wick, Priory Vale and the wider North Swindon area.

Spatial strategy and sustainable growth

The Parish Council supports a spatial strategy that provides homes, employment opportunities and community infrastructure while protecting the character and quality of existing neighbourhoods. North Swindon has accommodated significant residential development over several decades. This has brought benefits, including new homes, local investment and additional community facilities. However, development has also increased pressure on established roads, schools, healthcare services, public transport, leisure facilities and green spaces. Future growth must take account of these existing pressures.

The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the combined effects of development at North Tadpole, Kingsdown, Blunsdon, Burcot Farm and other relevant locations, including development outside the borough boundary. Individual planning applications may demonstrate that their immediate impacts can be mitigated. This does not necessarily establish that the wider transport and community infrastructure network can accommodate the cumulative effects of multiple developments.

The Parish Council requests that the Local Plan:

- Demonstrates how cumulative growth across North Swindon has been assessed.
- Identifies the infrastructure required to support both existing and proposed communities.
- Provides clear evidence that infrastructure improvements are deliverable within the Plan period.
- Links major development phases to the timely provision of necessary infrastructure.
- Takes account of development in neighbouring Wiltshire where it affects roads and services within Swindon.
- Protects the quality of life of existing residents alongside the needs of future communities.

The Parish Council considers that sustainable growth requires more than identifying land capable of accommodating housing. It requires a credible and coordinated approach to the infrastructure and services needed to support that housing.

Transport infrastructure and connectivity

Transport infrastructure remains one of the Parish Council's principal concerns.
The Parish Council recognises the importance of encouraging public transport, walking and cycling. These measures should form part of a comprehensive transport strategy. However, the Plan must also recognise the continued importance of the highway network for residents, businesses, public services, deliveries and emergency

vehicles. North Swindon already experiences congestion at important junctions and along key routes. Further housing development has the potential to increase these pressures.

The Parish Council considers that the Local Plan must be supported by comprehensive transport evidence that examines cumulative development impacts rather than individual sites in isolation.

3.1 Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction
Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction is a significant transport constraint affecting North Swindon. The Parish Council considers that improvements to this junction should be identified as a priority within Swindon's Local Transport Plan and coordinated with the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The Parish Council requests:

- A comprehensive assessment of existing and forecast junction capacity.
- Consideration of cumulative traffic from North Tadpole, Kingsdown, Blunsdon, Burcot Farm and other relevant developments.
- Identification of a deliverable improvement scheme.
- Clear funding arrangements and delivery timescales.
- Appropriate development phasing to ensure necessary improvements are completed before further major housing phases are occupied, where required by the transport evidence.

The Parish Council does not consider it acceptable for substantial additional development to proceed on the assumption that existing congestion can be addressed at an unspecified future date.

Where the transport evidence demonstrates that improvements are necessary to make development acceptable, these should be secured through appropriate planning obligations, conditions or other lawful delivery mechanisms.

The Parish Council requests that Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction is expressly considered within the Local Transport Plan's programme of strategic highway improvements.

3.2 Thamesdown Drive and east to west connectivity
Thamesdown Drive is a key strategic route serving North Swindon and providing connections towards West Swindon. The Parish Council previously raised concerns about the absence of an extension of Thamesdown Drive to Great Western Way.

The Parish Council now recognises that such an extension is no longer a realistic transport solution. The priority must therefore be to assess and improve the performance of the existing road network. Particular attention should be given to east to west journeys along Thamesdown Drive towards West Swindon.

The Parish Council requests a comprehensive transport assessment covering the entire Thamesdown Drive corridor, including its principal junctions, connecting roads and onward routes.

This should include:
- Existing and forecast traffic volumes along the full corridor.
- The impact of additional development on east to west traffic movements.

- Junction capacity and traffic conditions at Purton Road, Mead Way and other significant connections.
- Peak period congestion and journey time reliability.
- The cumulative effects of development within Swindon and neighbouring Wiltshire.
- The impact on existing residential communities, public transport, commercial traffic and emergency services.
- Practical highway improvements, junction upgrades and traffic management measures.
- Clear funding and delivery arrangements through the Local Transport Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The assessment should consider the wider network rather than examining individual junctions in isolation. The Parish Council considers that future development must be supported by evidence demonstrating that the transport network can accommodate additional demand, with necessary improvements identified and delivered at the appropriate time. The Parish Council requests that the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan contain consistent assumptions about future traffic growth and the improvements needed to address it.

3.3 A419 access and the wider highway network

The Parish Council remains concerned about the impact of future growth on access to the A419 and the wider strategic road network. Development at North Tadpole, Kingsdown, Blunsdon and surrounding locations will generate additional movements across North Swindon.

The Parish Council requests that the transport evidence assesses the cumulative impact on routes connecting these developments to the A419 and identifies any necessary capacity improvements. The assessment should also consider whether traffic seeking alternative routes could increase congestion within established residential areas. Where improvements are required, they should be included in a funded infrastructure programme with clear delivery responsibilities and appropriate phasing.

3.4 Public transport, walking and cycling

The Parish Council supports improved public transport and active travel connections. However, these measures must provide realistic alternatives for residents travelling to employment, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure facilities.

The Local Plan should support:

- Reliable and accessible bus services connecting North Swindon with the town centre, West Swindon and major employment locations.
- Safe walking and cycling routes between residential areas and local services.
- Improved connections between existing and new communities.
- Accessible transport provision for residents who cannot drive.
- Appropriate parking provision based on realistic local circumstances.
- Consideration of future rail connectivity where supported by evidence and a credible delivery proposal.

The Parish Council supports sustainable travel but considers that transport modelling must use realistic assumptions about future travel behaviour. The availability of walking, cycling or public transport infrastructure should not automatically be treated as evidence that car journeys will reduce sufficiently to address identified highway capacity concerns.

Employment and economic development

The Parish Council supports economic growth and the creation of employment opportunities across Swindon. Housing development should be accompanied by access to suitable employment, helping residents work locally where possible and reducing unnecessary travel.

The Parish Council is concerned that housing growth without corresponding employment opportunities risks increasing commuting pressures and placing additional demands on the transport network.

The Local Plan should support a broad and resilient employment base, including opportunities for young people, those entering the workforce and residents seeking to develop new skills.

The Parish Council requests that the Plan:

- Protects viable employment land where justified by evidence.
- Supports the provision of accessible employment opportunities.
- Encourages appropriate employment and business opportunities within North Swindon.
- Supports apprenticeships, training and links with further education.
- Recognises the potential contribution of smaller businesses and suitable shared working facilities.
- Assesses whether employment locations are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling as well as by car.
- Considers the relationship between housing growth, employment provision and commuting patterns.

The Parish Council also considers that employment opportunities should be accessible to residents who do not own a car, including young people and those with mobility limitations.
The effectiveness of the Plan should be assessed through the availability and accessibility of employment opportunities, rather than employment land allocations alone.
The Parish Council requests that the evidence supporting the Plan demonstrates how the proposed spatial distribution of housing and employment will contribute to sustainable travel patterns.

Retail and local centres

The Parish Council supports the protection and continued development of Swindon's town centre, district centres and neighbourhood shopping facilities. Existing local centres play an important role in community life. They provide access to shops, services, employment and places where residents can meet.

The Orbital Shopping Park and smaller neighbourhood centres serve important functions for residents of Haydon Wick and Priory Vale. The Parish Council considers that future growth should strengthen these established centres and avoid undermining their long term viability.

The Plan should:

- Support the continued provision of local shops and essential services.
- Protect established centres from unnecessary loss of facilities.

- Ensure that new development has appropriate access to retail and community services.
- Encourage accessible and well connected neighbourhood centres.
- Recognise the importance of local businesses and employment.
- Consider whether existing facilities have sufficient capacity to serve additional residential development.

The Parish Council also supports appropriate investment in Swindon town centre and improved connections between the town centre and North Swindon. The Parish Council considers that the Local Plan should recognise the complementary roles of the town centre, district centres and neighbourhood facilities.

Housing quality, mix and affordability

The Parish Council supports the delivery of good quality housing that meets the needs of residents at different stages of life. New housing should contribute positively to established communities and provide a suitable mix of property types and tenures.

The Parish Council supports the provision of affordable housing where it is justified by local need and delivered in a manner that contributes to balanced and sustainable communities.
Housing development should also provide appropriate accessibility, parking, green space and supporting infrastructure.

The Parish Council requests that the Plan:
- Requires high standards of design and construction.
- Provides a suitable mix of housing sizes and types.
- Supports affordable housing provision based on identified local needs.
- Encourages accessible and adaptable homes.
- Provides appropriate parking and access arrangements.
- Ensures that new housing is supported by essential services and community facilities.
- Protects the residential amenity of neighbouring communities.

The Parish Council also considers that housing quality should extend beyond the individual dwelling. The design of streets, public spaces, landscaping, drainage, pedestrian routes and community facilities all contribute to the long term success of residential development.
The Parish Council requests that the Plan places appropriate emphasis on the quality and maintenance of these shared spaces.

Green infrastructure, biodiversity and open space

The Parish Council strongly supports the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, biodiversity and accessible open space. Haydon Wick and Priory Vale contain established green spaces that provide important benefits for residents and wildlife.

These spaces support recreation, physical activity, mental wellbeing, biodiversity, surface water management and community identity. The Parish Council is particularly concerned that future development should not reduce the accessibility, quality or ecological value of existing green spaces.

Important local assets include:

- Mouldon Hill Country Park.
- Seven Fields Nature Reserve.
- Clifford's Meadow and Haydon Meadow.
- Tadpole Field.
- Existing neighbourhood parks and open spaces.
- The Parish Council's play areas and recreational facilities.
- Established allotment sites, including Goodearl, Rose Walk and Ventnor Close.

The Parish Council requests that the Local Plan:

- Protects valued green spaces from inappropriate development.
- Maintains and improves ecological connections between habitats.
- Supports appropriate tree planting and woodland creation.
- Recognises the contribution of the Great Western Community Forest.
- Supports biodiversity improvements within established communities.
- Ensures that new development provides accessible and usable green space.
- Establishes appropriate arrangements for the long term management of green infrastructure.
- Recognises the importance of allotments and opportunities for local food growing.

The Parish Council supports biodiversity net gain and considers that improvements should be delivered locally wherever appropriate and consistent with the statutory requirements. Where biodiversity improvements cannot be delivered within a development site, the Parish Council encourages consideration of suitable locations within the surrounding community, subject to ecological evidence and the applicable biodiversity gain hierarchy.

The Parish Council also considers that existing green spaces should receive investment where additional development increases their use. The provision of new green space should not be treated as a substitute for maintaining and improving established facilities.

Flood risk, drainage and climate resilience

The Parish Council considers that flood risk and surface water drainage require particular attention in the Local Plan. Parts of North Swindon have experienced surface water drainage concerns, and further development may place additional demands on existing drainage systems.

Areas previously identified as requiring attention include Oakhurst, Haydon End, Abbey Meads and Tadpole Garden Village. Local concerns have also been raised regarding locations including Thames Avenue, Queen Elizabeth Drive and Tadpole Lane.

The Parish Council requests that the Local Plan is supported by up to date flood risk evidence that considers both existing conditions and the cumulative effects of future development. The assessment should consider relevant drainage catchments, watercourses and downstream impacts.

The Parish Council requests:

- Comprehensive assessment of surface water flood risk.
- Consideration of cumulative runoff from existing and proposed development.
- Effective sustainable drainage systems appropriate to site conditions.

- Clear responsibilities for drainage adoption, inspection and maintenance.
- Appropriate provision for long term drainage management.
- Consideration of drainage improvements within established residential areas.
- Meaningful engagement with parish councils and residents regarding known local flooding concerns.
- Monitoring of drainage performance following development.

The Parish Council considers that drainage infrastructure must be designed and maintained for the long term. It is insufficient to rely solely on drainage proposals at the planning application stage without ensuring that systems remain effective after development is completed.

The Parish Council also supports the development of accessible information about drainage assets and maintenance responsibilities. Climate resilience should be incorporated into the design of new development, including measures addressing extreme rainfall, overheating and the management of surface water.

Sports, leisure and recreation provision

The Parish Council considers sports, leisure and recreation facilities to be essential community infrastructure. These facilities support physical health, mental wellbeing, social interaction, youth engagement and community cohesion.

They also provide opportunities for volunteering, participation and the development of local community organisations. Haydon Wick Parish Council has direct experience of supporting and maintaining community recreation facilities.

These include the Parish Council's skate park, play areas, public open spaces and facilities used for community activities. The wider parish also benefits from community halls, faith venues, walking and cycling routes, sports organisations and voluntary groups.

The Parish Council is concerned that future residential growth will increase demand for both formal and informal recreation facilities.

The Local Plan should therefore:

- Protect existing sports and recreation facilities from inappropriate loss.
- Ensure that additional development is supported by adequate leisure provision.
- Recognise the importance of informal recreation, including walking, cycling, play and outdoor activity.
- Support the improvement and expansion of established facilities where additional demand can be accommodated.
- Secure appropriate developer contributions towards recreation infrastructure.
- Consider the needs of children, young people, older residents and people with disabilities.
- Ensure that facilities have appropriate long term maintenance arrangements.
- Support community and voluntary organisations involved in delivering local activities.

The Parish Council considers that developer contributions should not be restricted to creating new facilities within development sites. Where existing facilities will serve additional residents, contributions towards their improvement or expansion should also be considered where justified and lawful.

The Parish Council supports investment in swimming, indoor sports, community recreation and other leisure facilities across Swindon. The future of significant facilities, including the Oasis Leisure Centre, should be considered through realistic and funded proposals.
The Parish Council requests that sports and recreation needs assessments are kept under review throughout the Plan period. This should include consideration of population growth, changing demographics and the condition and capacity of existing facilities.

Community infrastructure, education and healthcare

The Parish Council considers that community infrastructure must be planned alongside housing development. Schools, healthcare facilities, community centres, libraries, youth provision and other local services are essential to the functioning of established and growing communities. North Swindon has experienced previous periods of school expansion in response to residential development. Schools including Haydonleigh, Greenmeadow and Orchid Vale have been affected by changing demand over time.

The Parish Council recognises that pupil numbers and school capacity can change as communities mature. It would therefore be inappropriate to assume that every existing school is currently operating at capacity or that all future growth necessarily requires additional school buildings. The Local Plan should instead be supported by current demographic evidence and realistic pupil forecasts.

The Parish Council requests:

- Regular assessment of school capacity and future pupil demand.
- Consideration of the changing age profile of established communities.
- Appropriate investment in existing schools where this provides a suitable solution.
- Safeguarding of land for additional education provision where supported by evidence.
- Assessment of healthcare capacity, including access to general practice services.
- Consideration of the cumulative demand placed on community facilities.
- Clear identification of funding and delivery arrangements for necessary improvements.
- Healthcare access is a particular concern where additional development increases demand on existing facilities.

The Parish Council considers that the Local Plan should demonstrate how healthcare infrastructure requirements have been assessed in consultation with the relevant health organisations. The Plan should also recognise the importance of community facilities that support preventative health, social interaction and independent living.

This includes accessible meeting spaces, libraries, leisure facilities and local activities.
The Parish Council considers that the timely provision of these facilities is necessary to create sustainable communities.

Digital infrastructure and telecommunications

The Parish Council considers reliable digital connectivity to be an essential component of modern infrastructure. Residents increasingly depend on broadband and mobile communications for employment, education, healthcare, public services and everyday activities. The Parish Council has direct experience of the disruption caused when essential digital infrastructure is installed after residential development has been completed.
In parts of Priory Vale, full fibre broadband was introduced years after homes were built.
This required additional excavation of established footways and created disruption for residents. The Parish Council considers that future development should avoid repeating this experience.

The Local Plan should:

- Support the provision of gigabit capable broadband infrastructure from the earliest stages of development.
- Encourage appropriate utility ducting and infrastructure coordination.
- Minimise unnecessary excavation of completed roads and footways.
- Support reliable mobile communications coverage.
- Encourage early engagement with telecommunications providers.
- Recognise digital connectivity as an important consideration in the design and delivery of new communities.

The Parish Council also remains concerned about mobile coverage and reliability in parts of North Swindon, including Taw Hill, Oakhurst and Haydon End. The Local Plan should support appropriate telecommunications improvements while ensuring that infrastructure is sensitively located and designed.

The Parish Council considers that digital infrastructure should be planned at the outset rather than treated as a later addition.

Heritage, local character and community identity
The Parish Council supports the protection and enhancement of Swindon's heritage and the distinctive character of its communities. New development should respect the identity of established neighbourhoods and contribute positively to their surroundings.

The Parish Council considers that heritage should be understood to include historic buildings, landscapes, transport heritage and features that contribute to local identity.

The Swindon and Cricklade Railway and the Wilts and Berks Canal are important heritage assets and opportunities for recreation, education and tourism. The Parish Council supports appropriate recognition of these assets within the Local Plan.

The Plan should:

- Protect designated and locally significant heritage assets.
- Support appropriate restoration and enhancement opportunities.
- Recognise the contribution of historic transport routes and infrastructure.
- Encourage development that respects local character.
- Protect important landscape features and established green spaces.
- Support the identity of existing communities.

The Parish Council also considers that the design of new development should avoid creating isolated residential areas with limited connections to neighbouring communities.
Good design should contribute to a sense of place and provide accessible public spaces that encourage community interaction.

Infrastructure funding and delivery

The Parish Council considers that infrastructure delivery is one of the most important tests of the Local Plan's effectiveness. A policy commitment to provide infrastructure is of limited value unless the necessary funding, delivery responsibilities and timescales are identified.
North Swindon has experienced successive periods of development, and residents have raised concerns about the timing and adequacy of supporting infrastructure.

The Parish Council therefore requests a clear relationship between the Local Plan, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Local Transport Plan and relevant investment programmes.

The Parish Council requests:

- Identification of infrastructure requirements associated with major development.
- Clear delivery responsibilities.
- Realistic cost estimates and funding sources.
- Appropriate phasing and occupation triggers.
- Transparent monitoring of developer contributions.
- Consideration of the cumulative impact of multiple developments.
- Appropriate arrangements for the long term maintenance of infrastructure.
- Regular review of infrastructure delivery against housing completions.

The Parish Council supports the appropriate use of Section 106 obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy to secure infrastructure improvements. Where lawful and justified, developer contributions should support improvements to existing facilities affected by additional demand, as well as infrastructure within new development sites.

The Parish Council also considers that suitable financial safeguards should be considered where necessary to secure the completion of infrastructure and protect public authorities from avoidable liabilities. These may include appropriate bonds, guarantees or other mechanisms where legally available and proportionate.

The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the potential transfer of infrastructure or public open space to local councils without adequate funding or clear long term responsibilities. The Local Plan should not create circumstances in which parish councils are expected to assume significant maintenance liabilities without proper assessment, agreement and financial provision.

The Parish Council considers that infrastructure delivery must be demonstrable, not simply aspirational.

Monitoring, accountability and implementation

The Parish Council supports a clear and transparent approach to monitoring the implementation of the Local Plan. The effectiveness of the Plan should be assessed through outcomes experienced by residents and communities. Housing completions alone do not demonstrate that sustainable development has been achieved. Monitoring should also consider whether the infrastructure and services needed to support growth have been delivered.

The Parish Council requests that the monitoring arrangements include:

- Progress against identified infrastructure projects.
- Delivery of highway improvements and transport measures.
- School and healthcare capacity where relevant to development.
- Provision and maintenance of green infrastructure.
- Delivery of sports, leisure and community facilities.
- Progress on employment provision.
- Performance of drainage and flood mitigation measures.
- Developer contributions received, allocated and spent.
- The timing of infrastructure delivery relative to housing occupation.

The Parish Council supports the publication of accessible information that enables residents and local councils to understand whether infrastructure commitments are being met.
Where delivery falls behind the agreed programme, the monitoring process should identify the reasons and the measures required to address the delay. The Parish Council considers that clear monitoring arrangements would improve accountability and strengthen public confidence in the planning process.

Partnership with Parish Councils

The Parish Council remains concerned that the role of parish councils is not sufficiently recognised within the strategic planning and infrastructure delivery process.

Parish councils possess detailed local knowledge of their communities. They are often aware of infrastructure pressures, drainage concerns, traffic problems, recreational needs and maintenance issues that may not be fully captured through boroughwide assessments. Haydon Wick Parish Council has direct responsibility for a range of community facilities and open spaces.

It also works with residents, voluntary organisations and other public bodies to identify and address local priorities. The Parish Council considers that this experience should inform the implementation of the Local Plan.

The Parish Council requests:

- Early engagement with parish councils on major development proposals affecting their areas.
- Consultation on relevant infrastructure requirements and delivery priorities.
- Opportunities to contribute local evidence to transport, drainage and community infrastructure assessments.
- Greater transparency regarding developer contributions and local infrastructure funding.
- Consultation before any proposal to transfer assets or maintenance responsibilities to a parish council.
- Regular engagement on the monitoring and implementation of the Local Plan.

The Parish Council recognises that statutory planning responsibilities remain with the relevant planning authorities. However, effective engagement with parish councils can improve the quality of evidence, identify practical delivery issues and support better outcomes for residents. The Parish Council requests that the Local Plan's implementation arrangements provide a clearer and more consistent role for parish councils.

Overall assessment of soundness

Haydon Wick Parish Council supports the overall objectives of the Swindon Local Plan 2023 to 2043. The Parish Council recognises the need to plan positively for housing, employment, environmental protection and community infrastructure. However, the Parish Council considers that the concerns identified in this representation raise important questions about whether the Plan is sufficiently justified and effective in relation to North Swindon.

In particular, the Parish Council remains concerned about:

- The cumulative transport impacts of development across North Swindon and neighbouring areas.
- The need for improvements to Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction.
- The impact of future development on the entire Thamesdown Drive corridor, particularly east to west journeys towards West Swindon.
- The adequacy and timing of infrastructure required to support additional housing.
- The protection and improvement of existing green spaces and recreation facilities.
- The provision of accessible employment opportunities and community services.
- The long term funding and maintenance of infrastructure.
- The effectiveness of monitoring and delivery arrangements.
- The recognition of parish councils within infrastructure planning and implementation.

The Parish Council considers that the Plan must demonstrate that its proposed development strategy can be implemented without creating unacceptable additional pressures on established communities. Where the supporting evidence identifies necessary infrastructure, the Plan should establish a credible means of securing and delivering it.

The Parish Council therefore requests modifications and further clarification to address the concerns raised. The Parish Council's concerns primarily relate to the national soundness tests of justification and effectiveness. The Parish Council does not seek to oppose sustainable growth. Its objective is to ensure that growth is properly planned, supported by infrastructure and delivered in a manner that protects existing and future communities.

Conclusion

Haydon Wick Parish Council supports the principle of sustainable growth and recognises the importance of a Local Plan that provides certainty for residents, businesses and developers. The Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of a long term strategy for Swindon. However, the experience of previous development across North Swindon demonstrates the importance of ensuring that infrastructure is planned, funded and delivered alongside housing growth.

The Parish Council's principal concern is that further development should not increase existing pressures without appropriate mitigation. Particular attention must be given to the cumulative effects of growth on Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction, Thamesdown Drive, access to the A419 and the wider transport network.

The Parish Council also considers that existing green spaces, community facilities, schools, healthcare services, employment opportunities and recreation infrastructure must be protected and supported.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Requested modifications

Haydon Wick Parish Council requests that the Regulation 19 Local Plan and its supporting implementation documents address the following matters.

Infrastructure delivery

Strengthen the relationship between housing growth and infrastructure delivery, including clear funding arrangements, responsibilities and appropriate development phasing.

Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction

Identify Cold Harbour (Turnpike) Junction as a priority for improvement within the Local Transport Plan, supported by transport evidence, funding arrangements and delivery timescales.
Where necessary to accommodate development, improvements should be completed before occupation of the relevant major housing phases.

Thamesdown Drive corridor

Require a comprehensive assessment of the entire Thamesdown Drive corridor, including east to west traffic movements towards West Swindon, junction capacity, connecting routes and cumulative development impacts.
The assessment should include Purton Road, Mead Way and other significant junctions, without limiting its scope to those locations.

A419 and wider transport network

Assess the cumulative impacts of development at North Tadpole, Kingsdown, Blunsdon, Burcot Farm and surrounding locations on access to the A419 and the wider highway network. Identify and secure necessary improvements.

Cross boundary development

Ensure that transport and infrastructure assessments account for development in neighbouring Wiltshire where it affects roads, public services and communities within Swindon.

Green infrastructure and biodiversity

Strengthen the protection of established green spaces, allotments, ecological corridors and recreation areas. Support local biodiversity improvements and appropriate long term maintenance arrangements.

Sports, leisure and community facilities

Ensure that future development contributes appropriately to the provision, improvement and maintenance of sports, leisure, recreation and community facilities. Recognise the value of improving existing facilities that will serve additional residents.

Education and healthcare

Require infrastructure planning to be informed by current school capacity, demographic forecasts, healthcare needs and the cumulative impact of future development.

Employment and digital connectivity

Support accessible employment opportunities and require appropriate consideration of digital infrastructure at the earliest stages of development.

Funding, monitoring and parish engagement

Strengthen the transparency of infrastructure funding, delivery monitoring and engagement with parish councils. Ensure that any proposed transfer of assets or maintenance responsibilities is subject to appropriate assessment, agreement and financial provision.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

Please note, in your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.

After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.

7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

	No, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)	X	**Yes**, I wish to participate in hearing session(s)

Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

8. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

The Parish Council must be recognised as having the strategic planning and localised infrastructure knowledge.

Parish Councils possess detailed local knowledge of their communities. They are often aware of infrastructure pressures, drainage concerns, traffic problems, recreational needs and maintenance issues that may not be fully captured through boroughwide assessments. Haydon Wick Parish Council has direct responsibility for a range of community facilities and open spaces.

It also works with residents, voluntary organisations and other public bodies to identify and address local priorities. The Parish Council considers that this experience should inform the implementation of the Local Plan.

Please note *the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.*

9. Do you wish to receive notifications about the progress of the Local Plan, including future consultation updates, submission of the Plan for examination and adoption of the Plan?

[X] Yes [ ] No

If you have selected yes, notifications will be sent via email where an email address has been provided.