



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan

Origins of the plan

- The Localism Act 2011 envisages that communities will have greater say about their neighbourhood
- The Constitution of the Forum, approved in September 2014, sets out its purpose and principles:
- *‘The basic purpose of the Forum is to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well being of the area’*
- A series of principles inform the steps we take towards achieving our purpose.....



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Our constitution

- The Constitution envisages that we will *‘protect, preserve and enhance:*
 - *The architectural heritage and physical and environmental character of the area*
 - *Green spaces and the natural environment*
 - *Local businesses serving the area*
 - *Use of land for public purposes*
 - *Whilst acknowledging that some change for social, economic and environmental reasons can be desirable*



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Principles of the plan

- Other principles include....
 - *Taking account of climate change*
 - *Maintaining diversity*
 - *Encouraging the development of a close and integrated community*
 - *Recognising the importance of good service provision for all*
 - *Supporting efforts to reduce crime*
 - *Acting on the basis of equality*
- The Forum should also seek to establish a mechanism for joint planning with neighbouring Forums



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Gathering evidence

- Key to developing the Plan is
 - *Feedback from the community gained from questionnaires, workshops, exhibitions*
 - *Input from specialist advisers on particular topics*
 - *Contact with other parties, the local authority and other interest groups including adjoining Forums*
 - *Regular Forum meetings, discussion and debate*
- This provides the crucial evidence base on which our proposals for the Plan are based and from which our policies will be derived



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Next steps

- The Forum is well on its way in the process of gathering information to support the Plan
- The next steps are in the formulation of policies. They must also meet a series of ‘basic conditions’
 - *have regard to national policy, particularly that expressed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*
 - *contribute to the achievement of sustainable development*
 - *be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Development Plan for the local area*
 - *be compatible with EU obligations*



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Sustainability

- Sustainability, the NPPF's 'golden thread', has three dimensions – economic, environmental and social
- The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' sets out five 'guiding principles':
 - *living within the planet's environmental limits;*
 - *ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;*
 - *achieving a sustainable economy;*
 - *promoting good governance;*
 - *and using sound science responsibly.*



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Our Vision and Objectives

- Following the collection of the Community's views, gathered through the questionnaire, a Forum Workshop established a Vision and a series of Objectives for the Plan. These were communicated through the Exhibition in June and appear on our web site – www.woodfordneighbourhoodforum.co.uk
- The further evidence gathered has now fed into our objectives and gives us a clearer view of the policies which will be derived in each of those areas.....



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan

Our Vision

“The Vision for the Woodford Neighbourhood Plan is to manage and support beneficial change whilst retaining and enhancing the village’s rural identity, character, quality of life and sense of community.”

This Vision is supported by a series of Objectives:

*Environment, Community, Development,
Movement, Employment, Integration*



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Environment*

“Protect the area’s Green Belt and preserve the open and rural character. Protect the landscape and important views”

- Our earlier Questionnaire revealed that over 60 per cent of respondents cited the rural environment as a reason for choosing Woodford as a place to live
- and an overwhelming majority of respondents, 83 per cent, wanted enhanced protection of the landscape, 70 per cent to protect historic features



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Environment - action*

- We are commissioning a Wildlife Study and hope to set up a volunteer team to undertake a habitat survey which will support the study
- We are considering the appointment of a specialist to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment (subject to funding)
- We are mapping all our historic buildings
- Can you help us?



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Environment – your help is needed

- We need to map the rich habitats around the village – trees, hedgerows, verges, ponds and ditches
- Can you help by joining a working group to assist with this this?
- *Please contact us*

woodfordneighbourhood@gmail.com





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Environment – your help is needed

- What is your favourite place or important view?
- What makes Woodford special for you?
- Email us a photo and tell us why it is important to you and these will be posted on our web site





Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Community*

“Preserve and enhance recreational assets and open space to promote a healthy community”

- Woodford is blessed with a wide range of facilities – the Community Centre, playing fields, clubs and their facilities, cricket grounds, open landscape, footpaths and bridleways
- The Community Centre also rated highly when asked what the plan should encourage and important when asked how the enlarged village should be integrated
- Our green spaces are also of value and can be designated - for this we need your help.....



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Community – Local Green Space designation

- What is your favourite green space? - We need to identify spaces which are special to the community and holds particular local significance
- Let us have a photo and tell us why the space is special





Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Development*

“Provide variety and mix that meets local needs and manage limited infilling including residential, employment and community uses”

- Woodford is a small settlement which is washed over by the Green Belt. This to a large extent determines the nature of any development
- When asked if the Plan should identify land to meet local need over half agreed, 57%, but there was a clear preference, over two thirds, for total development of less than 50 homes



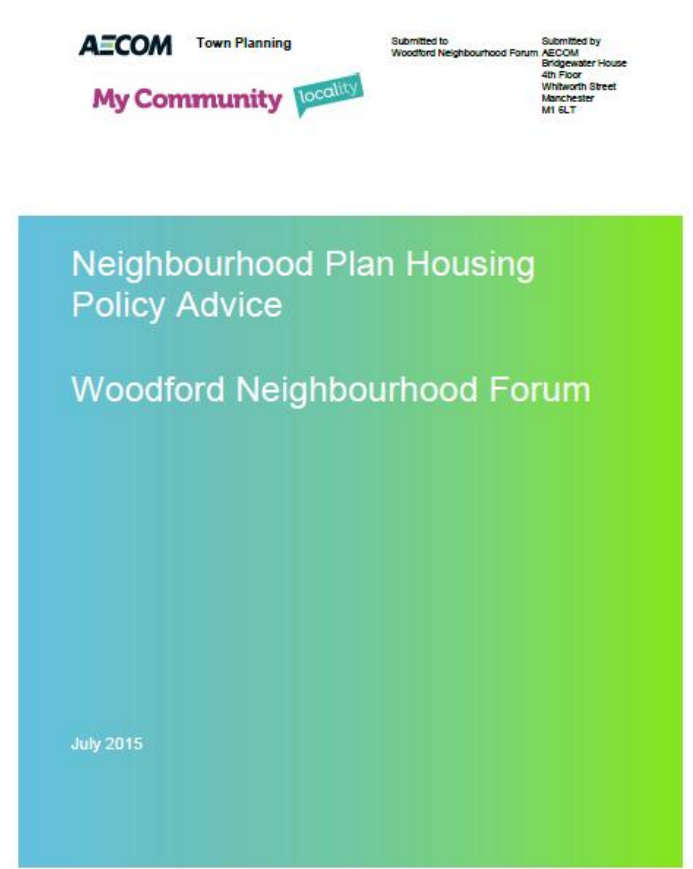
Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Development*

- Further questions sought to determine who might want to move in Woodford, or wanting their own home and what the nature of that might be.
- 42 respondents wished to move to meet longer term needs, the majority requiring smaller homes. 18 wanted a new home, the majority two bedroom owner occupied but currently not available
- There was a similar response when asked who might need a home in the next five years, with 28 respondents positive (of total 276)
- Business and community needs are yet to be identified



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Development - action*

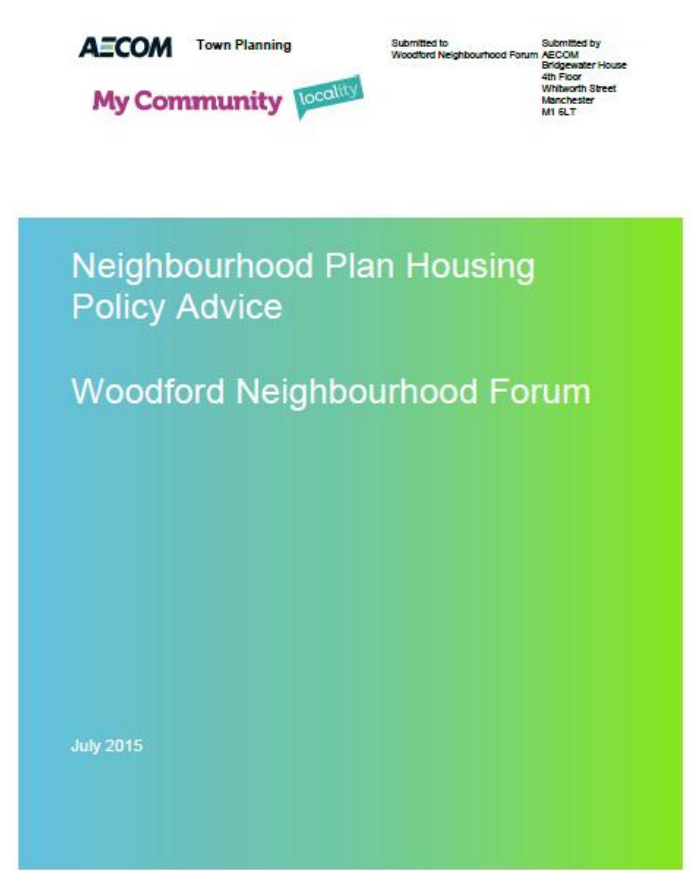
- Our Plan needs to be related to national and local housing policy
- We commissioned technical support to provide advice on demographic, economic, market and social data at local level
- This will help the Forum to understand type and quantity of housing needed to inform policy





Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Development - advice*

- “Based on the data presented in the report on the quantity of dwellings required and the market affecting those quantities, AECOM recommend that housing need for Woodford in the period 2011 – 2026 is in the range of **20 to 25** additional dwellings”





Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Development – next steps*

“Provide variety and mix that meets local needs and manage limited infilling including residential, employment and community uses”

- The housing need expressed in the study and that found in our questionnaire suggest what might be an appropriate level of provision for Woodford
- We now need to understand where and how we might meet these needs
- The Forum envisage exploring this in further consultation with the community



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Movement*

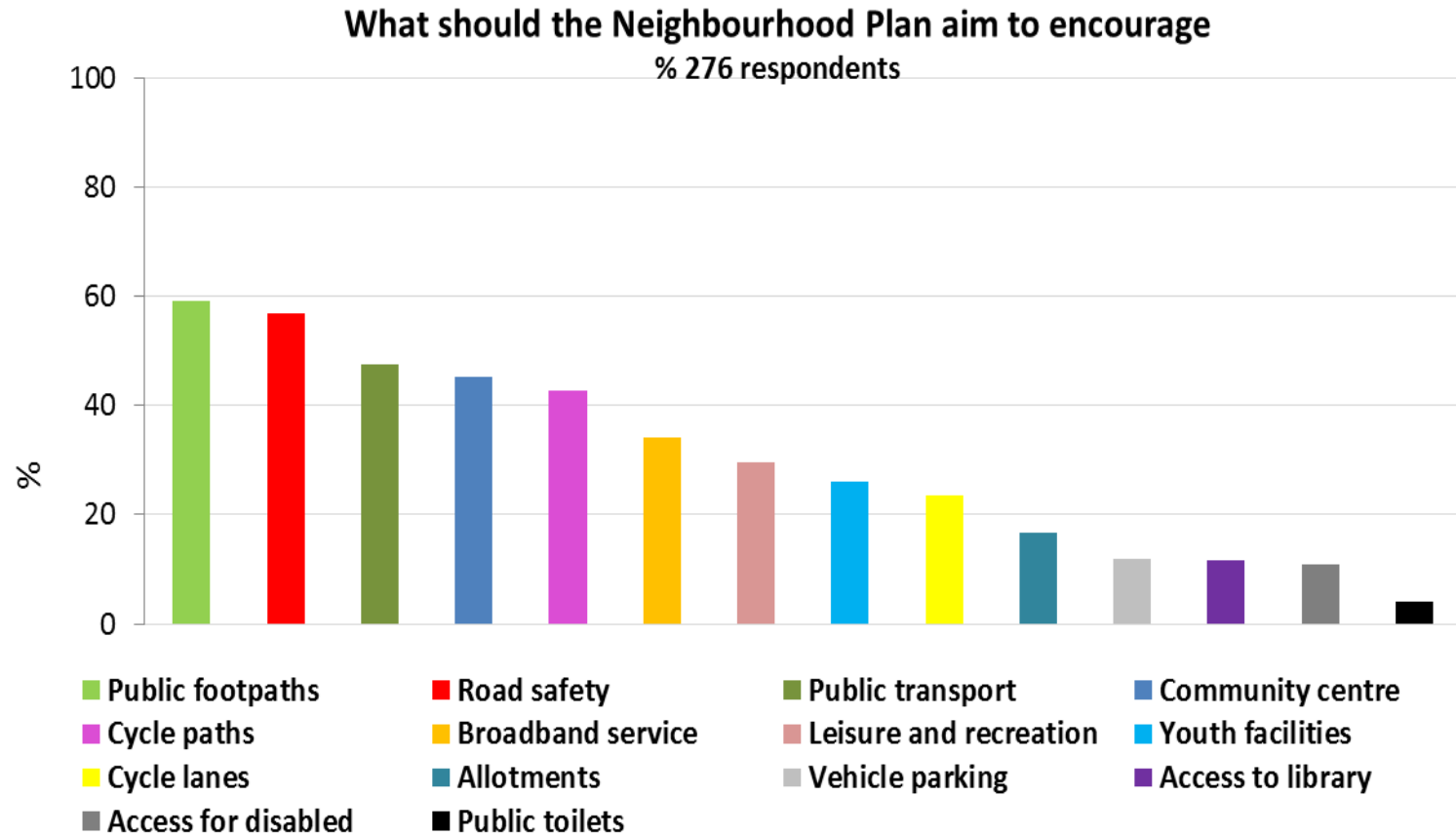
“Create safer roads, streets and lanes and increase public access to countryside by foot, cycle and bridleway. Encourage sustainable transport”

- The provision of footpaths and cycle paths, road safety and public transport all feature highly when residents were asked what the Plan should encourage
- Traffic through Woodford is likely to change as roadworks are completed and this may be expected to make movement through the village safer



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Your views





Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Movement - action*

- “Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.” [NPPF]
- We have commissioned a study to examine these issues and recommend options for improvements to encourage safer and sustainable movement
- A group has been set up to walk the whole footpath network, and consider their condition, accessibility and connectivity



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Employment

“Seek to protect and support local employment”

- Responses to our questionnaire suggested that no more land should be allocated for employment while existing sites should be protected from change of use.
- Our Objective, which emerged from the workshop and further Forum discussions, expresses the desire to maintain employment in the village
- The Questionnaire response suggests any new space should be in existing buildings or on brownfield sites



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Employment - actions

- Woodford is the home to over a hundred businesses, large and small.
- We are currently undertaking a survey which will help to identify how the Neighbourhood Plan could support them.
- This will also help us to understand the nature of local business and any demand for space, if at all.
- We will be alert to any changes which could result in the loss of any existing employment space



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Integration*

“Ensure integration and linkage between the existing village and the aerodrome development to achieve an enhanced, enlarged community”

- While the new aerodrome development lies outside the Neighbourhood Area it will, nevertheless, have an impact on the existing village
- Feedback from the Workshop and Exhibition confirm that the integration of the new and existing parts of the village should be encouraged



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan *Integration - action*

- The Forum have been meeting the developers, Redrow, on a regular basis and it is mutually agreed that integration will be facilitated where opportunities arise
- This, for instance, includes the reconnection of historic footpath routes across the airfield ensuring permeability through to the countryside
- New facilities, such as useable open space, play areas and a new school will benefit us all and encourage this joint objective
- Ultimately we hope to extend the Neighbourhood Area to embrace the new development



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan

Next stages 1

- Work is ongoing by theme to support emerging policy development work. This includes a gap analysis between NPPF, SMBC Development Plan policies, Woodford SPD and emerging community aspirations
- The Plan will be based on a series of specific policies for Woodford relating to our Objectives
- A pre-submission consultation on the draft Plan will be undertaken later this year
- The draft Plan will be revised following consultation and submitted to SMBC early in 2016. From this stage, the NP process is a joint one but led by SMBC



Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan

Next stages 2

- SMBC publicises the Plan (minimum 6 weeks) and then agrees to progress the Woodford Neighbourhood Plan to approval
- SMBC agrees and appoints an independent Inspector in consultation with WNF
- The Plan is examined and the Inspector's report issued
- SMBC publicise the Plan and hold a referendum for Woodford residents
- With a majority vote, 50 percent plus, SMBC 'make' the Plan and it is brought into effect –
we expect this to be in late Spring 2016



Agenda



1. Opening remarks
2. Introduction
3. Approval of minutes of 2014 AGM
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of members of Management Committee
6. Update on Redrow Aerodrome development
7. Update on CEC Local Plan Examination
8. Update on A6MARR and Poynton Bypass
9. Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan
10. Questions and discussion



Questions and Discussion

