

*“The Neighbourhood Plan is by the community,
for the community. It provides the foundations
for Melksham to grow sustainably for the benefit
of those that live and work here.”*



Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2

MINI GUIDE

June 2025



MELKSHAM
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN

What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan covers both Melksham Town and Melksham Without.



This second edition of the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan is bold and forward-looking, aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes from development and create a legacy for future generations.

It prioritises the regeneration of brownfield sites, specifically the Cooper Tires and Old Library sites, to deliver homes, jobs, and a vibrant town centre.

It also protects the separate identities of Shaw and Whitley villages, whilst allocating sites for needed houses. The Plan even ensures that developments approved through appeals, like land South of Western Way, still meet local priorities.

This mini guide outlines the 21 planning policies that give our community a strong influence on planning decisions.

Read the full plan:
melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org



Policy Section 1: Sustainable Development and Climate Change

"The Neighbourhood Plan should encourage renewable energy production in ways that will deliver community benefits"

1. **Sustainable Design and Construction**
2. **Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation**
3. **Flood Risk and Natural Flood Management**
4. **Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Charging**

The first four policies of the Neighbourhood Plan set the context for developments that proactively address the challenges of climate change - a key challenge for us locally is an increased risk of flooding and this is a significant issue in Whitley and Shaw.



Policy Section 2: Housing and Infrastructure

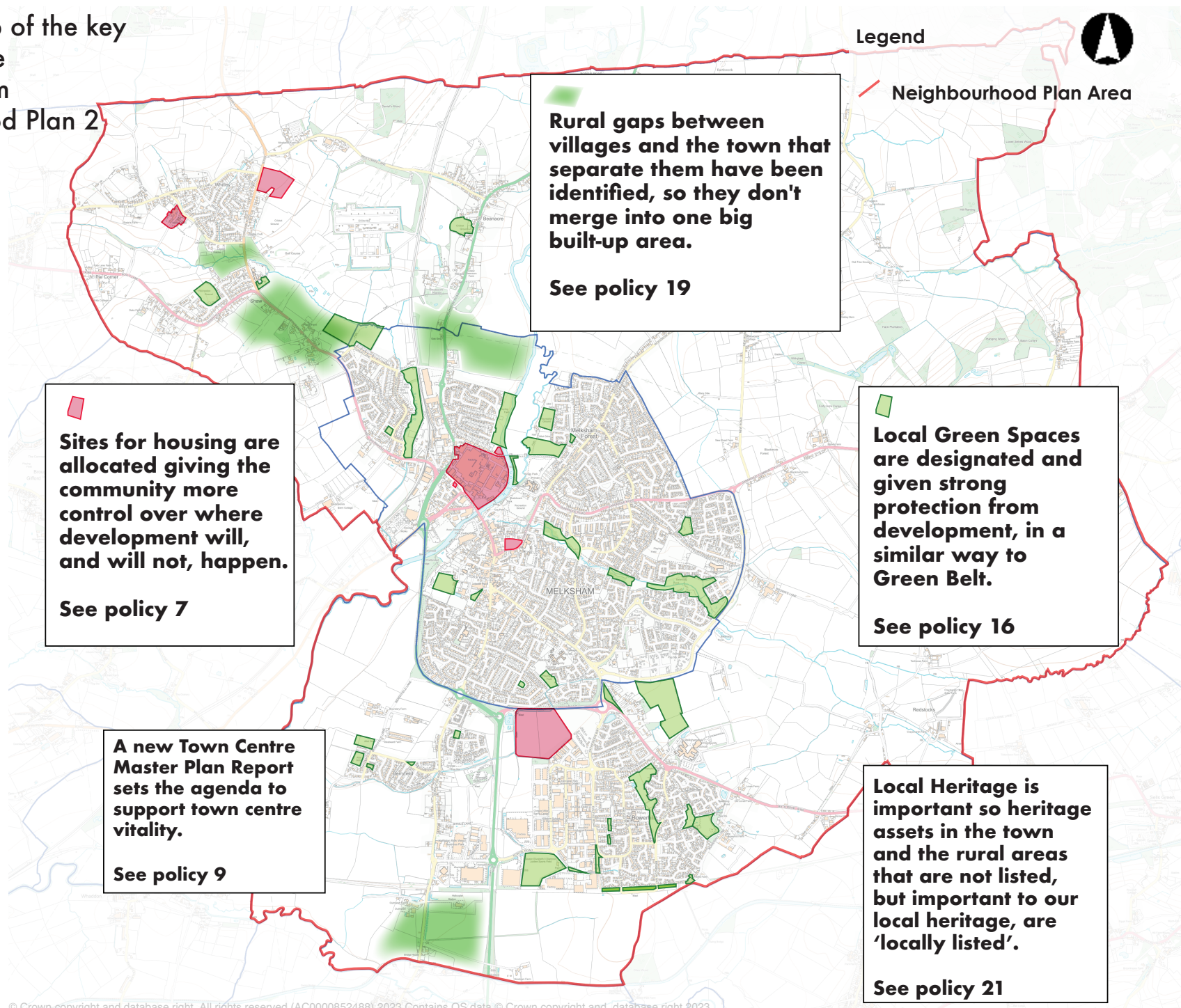
"It's vital that the Neighbourhood Plan supports diverse development that suits the needs of the community...which delivers real benefits for the local area"

5. **Community Engagement**
6. **Housing in Defined Settlements**
7. **Housing Allocations (Cooper Tires / Former Melksham Library / Land South of Western Way, Bowerhill / Land at Whitley Farm & Land at Middle Farm, Whitley)**
8. **Infrastructure Phasing and Priorities**

This section reinforces the role of local people in future development.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out clear policies that deliver a cohesive vision and approach to development and infrastructure.

Overview map of the key elements of the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2





Policy Section 3: Shopping, working and getting around

"The Neighbourhood Plan aims to create a positive environment to encourage retail investment into Melksham delivering diversity and choice and making the town more self-reliant"

- 9. Town Centre
- 10. Employment Sites
- 11. Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

Our town centres are changing fast, and we want Melksham to adapt positively to new challenges and chances. This plan focuses on boosting local jobs by protecting key employment sites.

We also want to make it much easier and safer to get around without a car, so people can walk, cycle, or use public transport to reach everything our town offers.



Policy Section 4: Community Well-being and Nature

"I like wild areas - they are great for playing hide and seek in. I also enjoy playing with my brother and friends since none of us have big enough gardens to play in"

- 12. Green and Blue Infrastructure
- 13. Biodiversity
- 14. Open Spaces
- 15. Community Facilities
- 16. Local Green Space

We believe that nature and open spaces, along with our community buildings and services, are crucial for a healthy and happy community.

That's why this section has policies specifically designed to protect and enhance these important local assets.



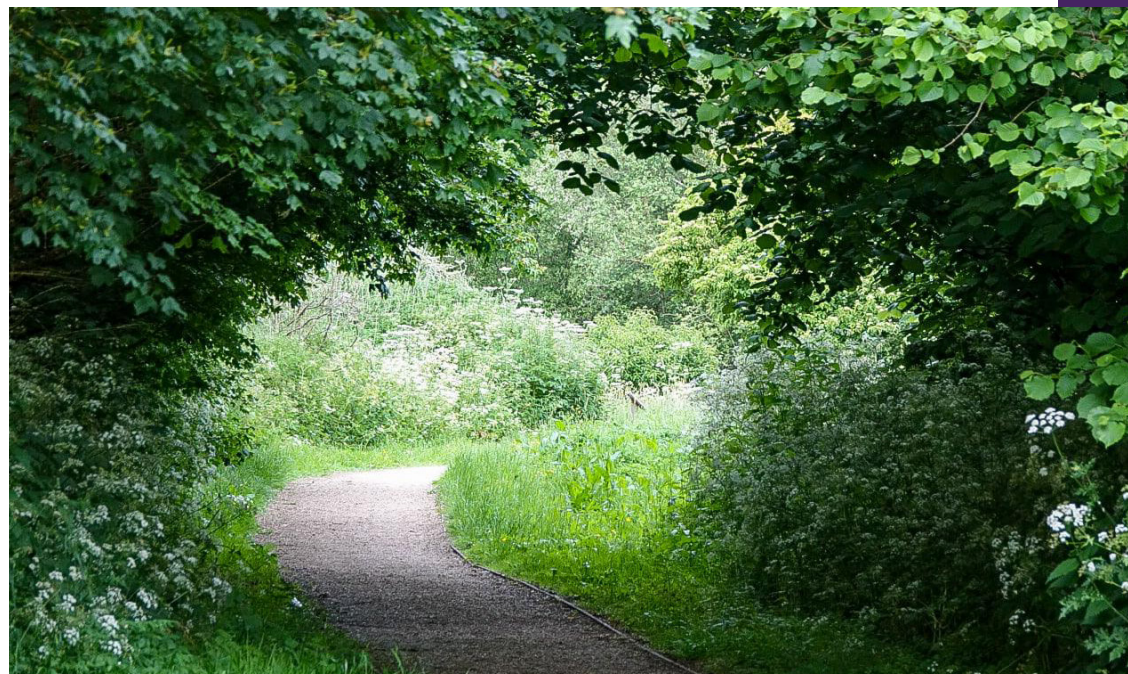
Policy Section 5: Natural and Built Environment

"We have the beautiful river Avon, meandering through the town with its riverside walks, stretching along fields through King George V Park and on to the wildlife reserve at Conigre Mead"

- 17. Trees and Hedgerows
- 18. Landscape Character
- 19. Separation of Settlements
- 20. Locally Distinctive, High Quality Design
- 21. Local Heritage

We have much to be proud of in terms of our heritage and natural environments both within the town and in our rural areas.

Policies in this section identify key features and set out clear criteria for respecting and enhancing the role of our built and natural heritage and environment.



The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Photographs by Linda DeSantiz. Aerial Photograph by Catherine Fallon Operations

Related information and the Plan evidence base can be found on the website: melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org

Questions and further information can also be directed at Melksham Without Parish Council or Melksham Town Council

Melksham Without Parish Council
clerk@melkshamwithout-pc.gov.uk | Telephone: 01225 705700

Melksham Town Council
townhall@melksham-tc.gov.uk | Telephone: 01225 704187

The qualifying bodies have received government grant funding and technical support during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

[Place Studio](#), a Bristol based planning and design consultancy that specialises in engagement and community led planning, were the main plan consultants.



melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org