

CHRISTCHURCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) – OVERVIEW (July 24)

Note: This document is meant only as a 'simple overview for residents'.

The main **themes** identified in the NP are:

- Getting About
- Green and Open Spaces
- Town Centre, Shops & Services
- Design and Heritage
- Place-Making Opportunities

Each theme has led to further work which has resulted in specific documents being drafted to form part of the NP.

Highlighted below are just a few of the **themes** to help explain the process.

Green and Open spaces

To ensure the NP proceeds smoothly, it will be beneficial to ensure there is no duplication of protections of open spaces between National Legislation, the BCP Local Plan (LP) and the NP.

Put simply, protection of open spaces works in layers.

If an open space is identified in one plan, then it is not required to be identified in other plans (please note this list is not extensive).

1. National (SSSI, Green Belt, etc)
2. LP, where spaces are designated for protection such as Local Green Space (LGS)
3. Spaces that have been missed from 1 and 2, therefore to be added into the NP

Design and Heritage

This identifies each area within Christchurch and mentions character areas and details what is allowed or not allowed on any developments.

The tabular form of what is permitted etc is clear and concise and will allow better decisions by planners as well as giving specific points when residents raise any objections to planning applications.

Place-Making Opportunities

This is another important area where the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) has already fed back on the draft LP that we feel too many sites are designated as “Strategic” and therefore removes any local influence that Christchurch may have on setting housing targets on smaller sites within the NP.

The NPWG will shortly be focusing on this workstream.

Strategic housing targets and sites were mentioned in recent updates on the LP.

Timelines (only highlights are shown, which are estimated)

- August 2024 – First draft completed
- November 2024 – Presented to full Christchurch Council
- December 2024 – 6 week consultation through to late January 2025
- Most of 2025 – With BCP for their consultation, before passing to examiner
- November 2025 – Referendum to public and further 12 week consultation
- 2026 – Likely adoption of NP

Please note that the LP is likely to be adopted by May 2025.

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