Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan Review – Report to the Steering Group on Consultation Results
November 2025

Introduction

This report summarises the comments received from the community as part of the Consultation which ran between 5th October and 26th October 2025. 172 responses were received in total, including 126 responses to the online Microsoft Forms Questionnaire, 44 paper forms completed, and 2 representations received by email. Overall, this is a successful response outcome.

This consultation sought views on the potential sites for development as well as the nominations put forward for Key Views, Local Green Space, and Local Heritage Assets for protection within the NDP. An overview of responses received for each topic have been presented below. It is key to note that not all respondents answered each question.

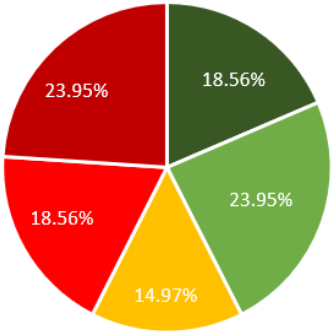
Potential Site Options

The tables below summarise the overall votes for each site individually, as well as providing a summary of the comments received, separated by objections, support and general comments.

Respondents were asked whether they believe each site is suitable for development. Respondents were invited to strongly agree, agree, be neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree with the suitability of each site. The comments provided are a summary of those provided by the respondents. These should be further considered against the factual assessment of constraints and opportunities within the Site Assessment Report.

Site 1: Lydiard Farm

Total responses: 167/172	
Strongly Agree	31
Agree	40
Neutral	25
Disagree	31
Strongly Disagree	40
No Answer Given	5

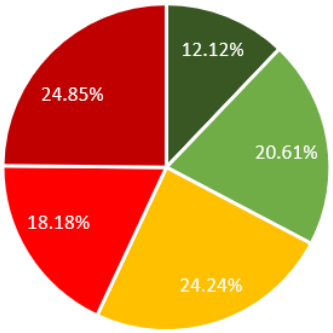


Objections:
Crams multiple units onto a small area of land.
Traffic concerns onto road, poor access, impractical, unsafe.
Full of wildlife/protected species and is largely undisturbed.
Will put pressure on the infrastructure.
Overdevelopment and change to the character of street scene.
Concerns over the loss of farmland in the area.
Flooding and drainage concerns.

Support:
Current buildings not attractive so redeveloping is beneficial.
Doesn't extend village boundaries and enables coalescence.
In keeping with the built development of the village.
Doesn't close the gap between LM and Swindon, so preferable.
Good location in terms of access to services and facilities.
Ideal spot, particularly for infill development.
Good location for bringing people together.

Other:
Lower density development, 2-3 bed houses or bungalows.
Housing shouldn't encroach on church/graveyard. Views of the church from key vantage points should not get blocked.
Scope for new footpath/cycle access through this development, potentially opening up new routes to parish hall and school.
Incorporation of parking and new access to school?

Site 2: Greensend	
Total responses: 165/172	
Strongly Agree	20
Agree	34
Neutral	40
Disagree	30
Strongly Disagree	41
No Answer Given	7

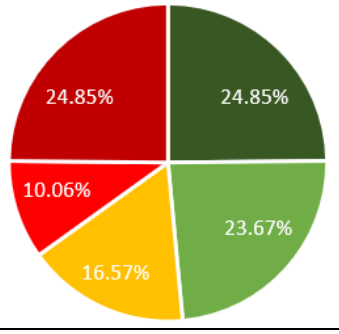


Objections:
Too far out of the village.
Crams multiple units onto a small area of land.
Losing green space and impact on environment.
Further from services and facilities.
Busy road, access issues, dangerous when parking along road.
Would abut developments in Purton and lose the identity of LM.
Extending LM and could impact rural buffer zone.

Support:
Doesn't close the gap between LM and Swindon, so preferable.
Good brownfield site on preferable side of village.
Within the current built up boundary.
Development would improve the appearance of the site.
Suitable location on school bus route and good access links.
Doesn't appear to be impede on view of existing residents.

Other:
Housing to be in keeping with the surroundings, but also high quality and low density.
Good if safe walking round is provided through settlement.
Plans from current landowner seem modest and reasonable.

Site 4: Baileys Piece	
Total responses: 169/172	
Strongly Agree	42
Agree	40
Neutral	28
Disagree	17
Strongly Disagree	42
No Answer Given	3



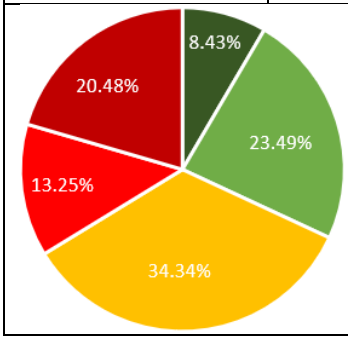
Objections:
Crams multiple units onto a small area of land.
Concerns over flood risk and protected species.
Would impact key views and privacy of nearby homes.
Multiple ownership complicates deliverability.
Congested and unsafe access.
Will put more pressure on the infrastructure.

Support:
Ideal location for starter homes/development.
Unattractive and field is neglected.
Wouldn't extend village boundaries or enable coalescence.
Previous recommendation for up to 10 houses.
Not on the east side of the village so supportive.
Perfect infill development and would
Good location and access to routes in and out of village.

Other:
Ideal if low density, high quality, in keeping with surroundings.
Concerns over developer buying both plots and create an estate which is not in keeping with the village.
Depends on the definition of 'small-scale development'.
Could be a joint development with Lydiard Farm.

Site 5: The Coach House

Total responses: 166/172	
Strongly Agree	14
Agree	39
Neutral	57
Disagree	22
Strongly Disagree	34
No Answer Given	6



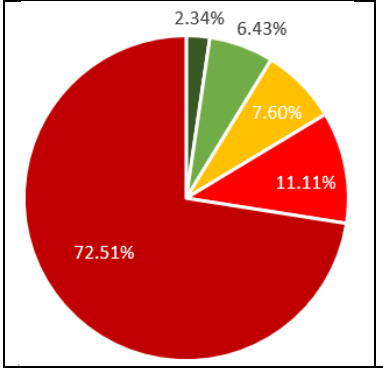
Objections:
Seems a shame to lose business premises in the area.
Dangerous access point and busy junction.
Development between Swindon & LM should not be supported.
Flooding is a big problem.
Access approaching the roundabout could be a problem.
Distance from services and facilities.

Support:
Brownfield site with merit in improving area which is eyesore.
Good for infill as long as in keeping with the locality.
Small development in keeping with neighbouring properties.
Potential for safe access onto the 30mph road.

Other:
Suitable on this side of village if minimal units of 1-2.
Suitable if commercial use if confirmed to not be required.
Preserving the nature of the settlement is important.
More land is available than what is shown.

Site 9: Meadow Springs

Total responses: 171/172	
Strongly Agree	4
Agree	11
Neutral	13
Disagree	19
Strongly Disagree	124
No Answer Given	1

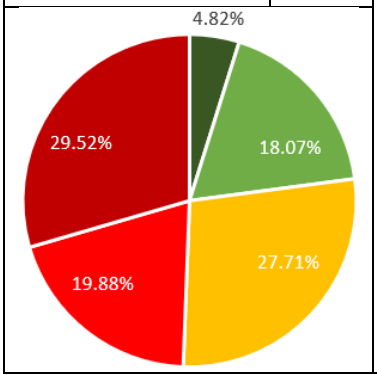


Objections:
Brings LM even closed to Swindon, minimising buffer.
Substandard access with often obstructions from recreation ground with near misses off Chestnut Springs.
Good presence of wildlife which development would affect.
The site includes an agricultural workers building.
Devalued house prices.
Concerns over emergency services access.
Traffic and access issues, too narrow.
Drainage and flooding issues.
Lots of wildlife on the site and nearby.
More strain on existing infrastructure, overdevelopment of LM.

Support:
Acceptable for a small number of bungalows.
Nearby playing fields for children.

Other:
Consideration needed to historic planning applications.

Site 11: Land North of Lydiard Green	
Total responses: 166/172	
Strongly Agree	8
Agree	30
Neutral	46
Disagree	33
Strongly Disagree	49
No Answer Given	6

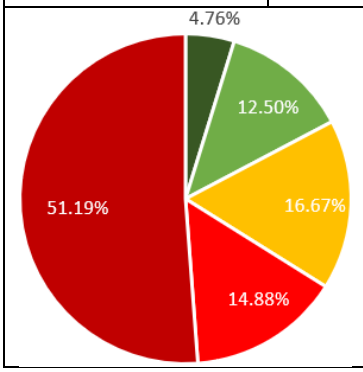


Objections:
Would enlarge the hamlet, seems too large.
Bringing LM closer to Purton.
Further away from services and facilities.
Not linked to LM well so would create standalone development.
Poor, narrow access and traffic/parking issues.
Flooding concerns, water running in the summer time.

Support:
Development would follow build line of this end of the village.
It is on the main bus route through the village.
Within the Lydiard Green development, promoting coalescence.
Good for small development or infill.
Does promote coalescence with Swindon.

Other:
Development should be of high quality and low density to be in keeping with the existing character.
Any development should not extend further than Bagbury Lane.
Better suited for industrial use.
Commercial sites should be preserved.

Site 12: Land southeast of Stone Lane	
Total responses: 168/172	
Strongly Agree	8
Agree	21
Neutral	28
Disagree	25
Strongly Disagree	86
No Answer Given	4

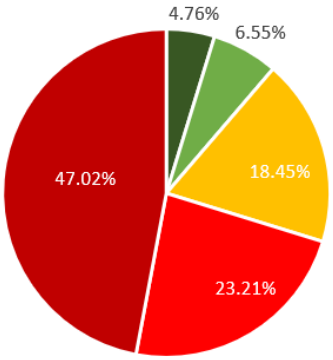


Objections:
Would extend boundaries towards Swindon as retained currently in the NDP.
Road is not suitable for more development.
Outside the requirements of the existing NDP.
Loss of sight of the Ridgeway, one of the few routes with view.
Agricultural land should be preserved.
Development here will set a precedent for further development.
Lots of wildlife within and surrounding the site.
Would change the character of the village.

Support:
Seems a sensible place to extend village if it has to happen.
Seems a generally good location if not a large development.
Links with the sports field and other houses.

Other:
Suitable if low density with large open green space provided.
Depends on numbers and how units will integrate into village.
Suitable if foot/cycle paths along Stone Lane are proposed.
Traffic survey to be undertaken prior to potential development.

Site 14: Land West of Washpool	
Total responses: 168/172	
Strongly Agree	8
Agree	11
Neutral	31
Disagree	39
Strongly Disagree	79
No Answer Given	4

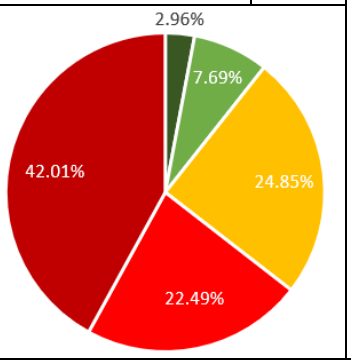


Objections:
Infringes on local gap between LM and Swindon as retained currently in the NDP.
Extensively used footpaths throughout the site.
Dangerous driving in the area, unsafe access.
Flooding concerns and potential to increase flooding in areas.
Limited service and facilities, and footpath access to them.
Insufficient infrastructure for more development.
Potential increase in traffic and where access will be located.

Support:
Good for small scale or infill development.
Seems a sensible place to extend village if it has to happen.
A natural extension to LM, being close to other properties.

Other:
There are better sites on offer.

Site 16: Land Adjoining 39a Stone Lane	
Total responses: 169/172	
Strongly Agree	5
Agree	13
Neutral	42
Disagree	38
Strongly Disagree	71
No Answer Given	3



Objections:
Infringes on local gap between LM and Swindon as retained currently in the NDP.
Development here will set a precedent for further development.
Too narrow for pedestrians and no existing footpaths.
Highway safety concerns and unsuitable access road.
Flooding issues.
Insufficient infrastructure and far from services and facilities.
Avoid building on greenfield land.

Support:
Good for small scale or infill development.
Development suitable if current housing footprint is retained.

Other:
Consideration needed to historic applications and issues raised in relation to these.
There are better sites on offer.

Other Comments Received

Some mixed comments, unrelated to any specific sites, were also received. These include:

- I believe this new housing could make Lydiard Millicent an even better place to live. It would help bring the village together, offer useful new services, and make daily life that bit more enjoyable for everyone. That's why I think it's a positive step for our community.
- No real identity to the Conservation Area at present.
- In our opinion it is extremely important that the terms of the new Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan continues to specify that Lydiard Millicent should remain an independent Wiltshire village and not become a suburb within West Swindon.
- Only brownfield sites should be developed.

Potential New Site Submissions

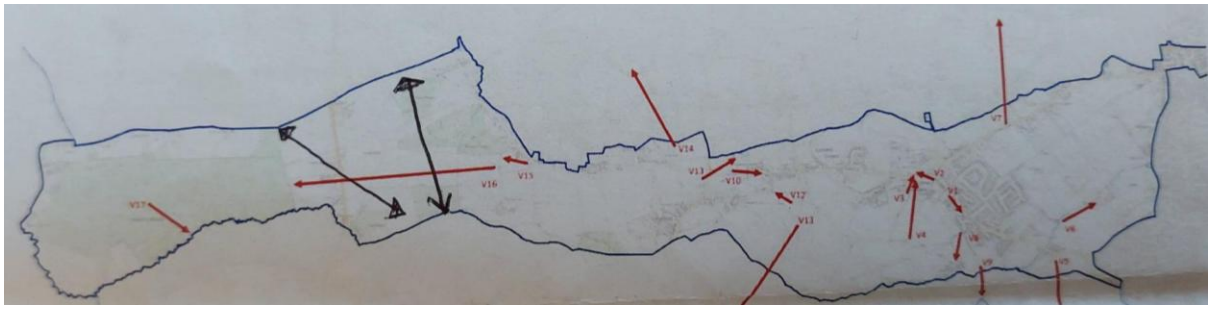
No additional sites were brought forward during the public consultation stage.

The community consultation was Step 3 of our recommended approach to site selection. The Steering Group are recommended to take these responses into account as the site selection process develops. Step 4 are site appraisals, whereby the same focused sites are appraised against the objectives of the neighbourhood plan and National Planning Policy Framework, through a set of 'decision-aiding' questions. Scores are awarded against each question which allows the sites to be ranked and scored in relation to their sustainability and accordance with the overall NDP.

Key Views

Respondents were asked whether they agree with the Key View suggestions put forward by the Steering Group and whether any should be removed and/or any additional views should be considered for protection. Most of the respondents either agreed with the suggestions and/or made no further recommendations whilst a small majority left this question blank, mainly due to issues related to the quality of the map presented.

One paper respondent put forward a suggestion for the following views to be considered at Greenhill. The first (west arrow), a view between PRoW LTRE52 and Wood Lane. The second (eastern arrow), a view between PRoW LTRE52 and the crossover of PRoW PURT120 and 121. No further commentary on this view was added in relation to this suggestion.



Additional suggestions were put forward for potential designations as Key Views:

- More views facing Lydiard Park.
- Rural gap from footpath between Lydiard and Swindon, looking towards Lydiard Millicent.
- View from path from rear of Pub/Forge Fields, across to Lydiard Park.
- Stone Lane to Southeast / Badgers Brook footpath towards Marlborough Downs/Ridgeway.
- View from Greenhill entrance toward Greatfield.

- 28 and 28a Stone Lane view to Christ Church and the downs.
- North of Washpool and Common Platt.
- Top of Greenhill Lane looking toward the Cotswold.
- Bottom of Greenhill looking across to the wood.

All suggested candidate assets should be assessed against the Key Views Criteria. MLP can provide the methodology for the assessment.

Whilst there were no disagreements to the Key View nominations presented, one respondent stated that all areas should be protected by key views rather than just selected areas. It is our advice to the steering group that only those views of value to merit importance in planning decisions should be considered.

Other Comments Received

Additional comments, unrelated to specific Key Views, were also received. These include:

- *These views contribute significantly to the distinct character and tranquillity of Lydiard Millicent. Protecting them is vital to preserving the village's aesthetic, cultural heritage, and biodiversity for future generations. I encourage the Council to ensure these views remain safeguarded from development that could diminish their value.*
- *Maintaining hedge heights should be encouraged to ensure views aren't obscured.*
- *Local views in existing NDP (looking Southeast from The Moors/Stone Lane, SU096862) should still be a protected view as it is a rural view overlooking farmland and preserves the open space around the village which enhances the pastoral character of the village.*
- *We need to keep numbers 1, 1a, 6, 7, 8 and 9 from the old plan.*

Local Green Space (LGS)

Respondents were also asked whether they agree with the LGS suggestions put forward by the Steering Group to be designated in the NDP, and whether there are any other areas that they feel should be designated. Most of the respondents either agreed with the nominations and/or made no further recommendations whilst a small majority left this question blank.

Additional suggestions were put forward for potential designations as LGS:

- Village/Lydiard Green
- Lydiard Plains
- Meadow Springs/Land behind Meadow Springs
- Lydiard Park
- Echo Lodge Meadows
- Area between Nine Elms and Stone Lane
- Green field part of school grounds
- Land to the rear of The Sun Inn
- Land adjacent to Baileys Piece (Site 4)
- Field at Greenhill entrance, adjacent to Greatfield
- Friths Copse
- Fields adjacent to Site 16, extending west to site 14.
- Meadows running along Badgers Brook from Holborn
- Land to the south of Stone Lane / Fields to the rear of 43-44 Common Platt.
- Field to the rear of Forges Field
- Link at The Mews
- Brick Kiln Copse.

- Sites 1, 4, and 9.

All suggested candidate sites should be assessed against the LGS criteria defined in the National Planning Policy Framework. MLP can provide the methodology for the assessment.

In terms of disagreements, one respondent did not agree with the nomination relating to the green link at the Mews and Meadow Springs and considers this to be good for infill development instead. Another responded did not feel that the inclusion of Webbs Wood and Echo Lodge fitted the definition of Green Spaces set out in the NPPF.

Other Comments Received

Additional comments, unrelated to specific LGS nominations, were also received. These include:

- *Why is Webbs Wood suggested, which is some distance from the Parish, when Brockhurst Wood, Park Corpse and Ringsbury camp are not included?*
- *We need more open green spaces which are easily accessible from the village. How about adopt a plot and plan community veg etc?*
- *I wonder if there is a preservation order on the amazing Oak tree on the Holborn footpath.*
- *We should ensure that we retain the path to Lydiard.*
- *I realise the idea is for 'publicly accessible' sites but how wonderful would it be if we chose to protect wild green spaces around our village. The local wildlife thrives here - roe, muntjac, foxes, bats, kestrels, red kites, owls, skylarks, starlings, swifts and species of butterfly and dragonfly. To destroy this wild habitat would be a travesty. Protecting a space like this for the richness of its wildlife surely should be considered. How about a hide at the local recreation ground looking out over the field? A chance to educate the residents of our parish about their local wildlife. A chance to save our green spaces.*
- *We live in a very desirable village, to which people aspire to live in. The danger with over development will destroy the village environment. Whilst we support to develop the village and embrace more families/children, we must be careful not to destroy what we have. It would be interesting to understand the vision, population.... school, pub, shop, etc....which would be a guide to further development.*

Local Heritage (Non-Designated Heritage Assets - NDHA)

Finally, the respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the list of potential NDHA's or whether any additions should be considered. Most of the respondents agreed with the nominations and/or made no further recommendations whilst a small majority left this question blank because they weren't sure on where/what some nominations were. A few confirmed that a map showing the locations of nominations would have been useful.

The following suggestions were put forward for potential designations as NDHA:

- Farm House at Park Side Farm, Park Lane
- The barn at Greenhill
- Ringsbury Camp
- Manor House
- Priory Cottage
- The Butts
- Terrace of cottages at Greatfield
- Barn at Greenfield

All suggested candidate assets should be assessed against the NDHA criteria defined in our methodology. The Steering Group can then assess these assets.

In terms of disagreements, two residents don't see the benefit of the old telephone boxes, confirming that they are not adding anything to the heritage. Another resident disagrees with Manor House, raising concerns relating to the landowners having the this pushed onto them.

Other Comments Received

Additional comments, unrelated to specific NDHA nominations, were received. These include:

- *I'm not keen on preserving something just because it's old. If it has true architectural or historic merit then ok. I don't know all the above buildings to make a meaningful comment.*
- *The Old Post Fofie is known as Post Office Cottage, 7 The Street.*
- *How about protecting more of the wonderful old trees we have around the parish e.g. the lonesome horse chestnut on Chestnut Springs, the oaks in the fields towards Lydiard Park.*
- *Dovecot is already a listed building.*

It is now for the Steering Group to consider all the comments and suggestions made and to make a decision on whether all or some of the additional Key View, LGS, and NDHA nominations should be taken forward for a detailed assessment to consider whether they meet the criteria to be taken forward as designations in the NDP.