

Housing and the Built Environment

Wiltshire's population has been increasing rapidly, mainly due to migration in the last 10 years, Wiltshire's population has grown faster than the regional and national averages. From 2001 to 2006/7, the Community Area had a 16.1% change in net dwelling completions; above the Wiltshire average of 6.6%. Estimates for the Calne Community Area now project that a lower than average increase in dwellings of 15% compared with Wiltshire's 22.9% by 2026;

Achievements since the 2006 update of the plan:

- **Affordable housing** - Council and Government initiatives have resulted in more affordable housing being made available. In order to ensure additional growth to cater for local needs and to give additional community benefits, Calne should provide up to 1,200 new homes over the period 2006 to 2026. 30% of this number have already been built and a further 19% are committed to be built. Calne could also provide 15.4hectares of employment land over the same period. An assessment of the most sustainable location for new housing development considers land to the east of Calne as the most appropriate location with possibly for up to 500 dwellings.
- In 2007, the average home price in the Calne Community Area was 5.07 times the average annual earnings of residents. In 2008 the average house price in Wiltshire was £238,217 whilst in the Calne the average house price was £196,026 from Land Registry data.
- **Provision of dropped kerbs and poor state of pavements** - Many areas can be identified as having poor quality pavements. Some urgent work has been undertaken but more needs to be done. An analysis was conducted on the need and location for more drooped

kerbs and five sites were completed using Calne Area Board funding.

Aspirations expressed in the most recent community feedback:

- **Unightly state of empty shops** - Shops owned by Wiltshire Council and rented by individuals businesses have been improved including those in the Phelps Parade. The paving was improved giving disabled access and a modern glass roof installed. Empty shops in private ownership are proving more difficult to re-let but negotiations are taking place.
- **Encourage landscape settings that are sympathetic to the local environment** - Calne Town Council have recently made improvements to the town by creating colourful floral arrangements and by the development of the Town Gardens. Private developers are being encouraged to improve local landscapes and the results can be seen in housing estates landscaping. A native woodland area of 10,000 English trees is to be created by the Hills Group on a former landfill site at High Penn. Blackthorn, Oak, Ash, Lime, Black Poplar and Downy Birch trees are being planted along with a variety of shrubs to provide a rich source of food for wildlife, insects and to improve the bio-diversity of the area. The scheme will be the largest tree planting scheme in Wiltshire in 2010 and funds for the project were secured from the Forestry Commission.
- **Identify sites for rural development** - The villages of Derry Hill and Studley as well as Heddington should receive only limited infill housing development appropriate for local housing needs.
- **The need for better facilities in public buildings** - The Library in Calne offers free Internet access and the library 'Infozone' gives homework support to pupils. In addition, through the 'eCalne' project, the library also offers free IT

training to residents. The Calne Community Hub also offers these I T training facilities and will provide an accessible toilet for use by all.

