



Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan vision

Report on the visioning workshop



Homes &
Communities
ATLAS

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Gillingham Town Council intends to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Gillingham. Neighbourhood planning is a new community right introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan will be produced instead of the previously proposed Gillingham Town Plan. It will build upon preparatory work, including public consultation, previously undertaken for that Plan. It will also complement the recently completed Town Design Statement.
- 1.1.2 The ambition of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan will be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area, as set out in North Dorset District Council's (NDDC) emerging Core Strategy. The emerging Core Strategy envisages significant growth to the south of Gillingham between now and 2026. This growth will help to consolidate the town's role as a key service centre in the north of the district. Gillingham Town Council wants to ensure the town benefits from that growth to become a vibrant and thriving place to live and work. It also wants to ensure that the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan helps to shape and direct sustainable development in the Parish between now and 2026.
- 1.1.3 The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group (GNPG) has been tasked with producing the Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of Gillingham Town Council. The first step in that process involves refreshing the consultation work undertaken for the Town Plan. In particular the GNPG is keen to build on the previous work to formulate a shared vision that describes the sort of place the people of Gillingham want their town and parish to be in 2026. This shared vision will then form the basis for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Advisory Team for Large Applications (ATLAS) was already working with NDDC and the landowners on the proposed development to the south of Gillingham. ATLAS agreed to work with the GNPG and NDDC in planning and hosting an initial consultation workshop. The workshop was designed to elicit views from a cross-section of local people and professionals on how the outputs from the previous consultation work could be updated and translated into a first draft vision, which the GNPG could publish for wider consultation. The workshop took place at the RiversMeet Leisure Centre on Monday the 22nd of October 2012.

1.2 The purposes of this report

- 1.2.1 The four purposes of this report are as follows.
1. Place the workshop in the context of the planning system.
 2. Provide a factual account of the workshop and the outputs from it.
 3. Demonstrate how those outputs might be translated into a draft vision, which the GNPG could consult more widely upon.
 4. Provide initial advice on significant matters arising from the workshop, which go beyond the formulation of a draft vision.

This report has been prepared by ATLAS on behalf of the GNPG, on the understanding that it will be circulated by the GNPG to all those who participated in the workshop.

1.3 The structure of this report

- 1.3.1 This report is divided into five sections. This first section introduces the report. The second section places the workshop in the context of the planning system. The third section provides a factual account of the workshop itself and the outputs from it. The fourth section demonstrates how those outputs might be translated into a draft vision, based on the ten key themes around which the group work was organized. The fifth section provides initial advice on significant matters arising from the workshop, which go beyond the formulation of a draft vision. Relevant material and information are included in the appendices.

2.0 Placing the workshop in context

2.1 The national planning system

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the national planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It is a system that includes both plan-making and decision-making. The plan-making aspects of the system are concerned with the production, monitoring and review of the development plan. The decision-making aspects of the system are concerned with determining applications, including planning applications. The system is plan-led. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission, for example, must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In each local planning authority area (e.g. North Dorset District) the development plan includes adopted development plan documents; i.e. the Local Plan and neighbourhood plans, which have been made in relation to the area. The development plan documents, which comprise the Local Plan, can include a Core Strategy.
- 2.1.2 Development plans are intended to play a vital role in the national planning system, as they are intended to provide the primary basis on which applications are determined. That is not to say, however, that development plans are entirely prescriptive. It does not automatically follow that an application, which conforms to the provisions of the development plan, will necessarily be approved. Nor does it automatically follow that an application, which does not conform to the development plan, will necessarily be refused. The planning system gives decision-makers (e.g. Planning Committees) discretion to also take other material considerations into account in reaching decisions on applications. That discretion aside, the development plan approach is intended to maintain a national and consistent basis for decision-making.
- 2.1.3 In order to maintain that national and consistent basis for decision-making the system includes a planning policy hierarchy. At the top of that hierarchy is the National Planning Policy Framework (the NPPF). The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Each local planning authority (e.g. North Dorset District Council) is asked to produce a Local Plan for its area. Local Plans form the next tier in the planning policy hierarchy. Local Plans must be consistent with the principles and policies set out in the NPPF. The Government expects Local Plans to address the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change across the local planning authority area in question. Local Plans are expected to set out the opportunities for development in that area, together with clear policies on what will or will not be permitted and where. Local planning authorities are expected to set out the strategic priorities for their areas; e.g. strategic policies to deliver the homes and jobs needed in the area. North Dorset District Council is currently consulting the community on key issues for the revision of its draft New Plan for North Dorset. The New Plan is eventually intended to form part of the Local Plan (as described above) for North Dorset. The draft New Plan proposes a strategic, mixed use extension to the south of Gillingham. As indicated above the development plan also includes any neighbourhood plans, which have been made in relation to the area. Neighbourhood plans are the next tier in the planning policy hierarchy. The intended role of neighbourhood plans is described in more detail below. The hierarchical relationship between the NPPF, the draft New Plan for North Dorset and the proposed Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan is illustrated in the diagram included as Appendix 1 to this report.

2.2 Neighbourhood plans

- 2.2.1 The NPPF describes how neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood planning to set planning policies through neighbourhood plans to:
1. determine decisions on planning applications; and
 2. grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development, which complies with the order.
- 2.2.2 Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans should reflect these strategic policies, and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan, or undermine its strategic policies. So in this case the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the draft New Plan for North Dorset, including the strategic allocation for a mixed use extension to the south of the town. In order to comply with the NPPF, the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan should plan positively to support that strategic allocation.
- 2.2.3 As indicated above neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. The workshop on the 22nd of October was a step in the process of developing just such a shared vision for Gillingham. In effect it was part of the preparation stage for the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan. The GNPG intends to use the outputs from the workshop to produce a working draft vision, which will be the subject of further consultation as the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan preparation stage progresses.
- 2.2.4 Once a neighbourhood plan has been prepared, an independent examiner will check that it meets the right basic standards. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has put in place regulations pertaining to neighbourhood planning, just as there are regulations pertaining to other parts on the plan-making system described above.¹ If the neighbourhood plan does not meet the right standards the examiner will recommend changes. Providing the draft Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan meets the right standards North Dorset District Council will organize a local referendum. This will ensure that the local community in Gillingham has the final say on whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan comes into force.
- 2.2.5 Once a neighbourhood plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and is brought into force, it forms part of the development plan. At that stage the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict. Hence, local planning authorities are advised to avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation. To this end officers from North Dorset District Council's Planning Department are working with the GNPG to ensure the draft New Plan for North Dorset and the draft Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan avoid unnecessary overlaps.

¹ The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.

3.0 The workshop - methodology and outputs

3.1 Preliminaries

- 3.1.1 On the 22nd of May 2012 Gillingham Town Council (GTC) submitted to North Dorset District Council (NDDC) a formal application for designation of the Parish of Gillingham as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Plan Area comprises the Parish of Gillingham. NDDC subsequently publicized this application in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The period for making representations on the same closed on the 31st of July 2012. The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group (GNPG) has delegated authority to produce the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of GTC. The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan will be produced instead of the previously proposed Gillingham Town Plan. It will build upon preparatory work, including public consultation, previously undertaken for that Plan.
- 3.1.2 The GNPG considers that establishing a shared vision for Gillingham is an important first step in producing the Neighbourhood Plan. As indicated above, however, the Neighbourhood Plan preparation stage is not without existing context. For example, on the 17th of July 2010 the Gillingham Town Plan Steering Group (GTPSG) engaged with the local community at a Town Plan launch event at the Gillingham Town Hall. The GTPSG asked the community for views on a range of issues. The results of that public consultation exercise are summarized on the Gillingham Dorset Town Plan Website. On the 9th of July 2012 the first printed copy of the Gillingham Town Design Statement (GTDS) was presented to the Mayor, Steve Joyce, on behalf of the Gillingham Town Design Statement Steering Group (GTDSSG). The GNPG was therefore keen to ensure that the visioning workshop for the Neighbourhood Plan was part of a continuum, building upon previous contributions from the community to the Gillingham Town Plan and GTDS work.
- 3.1.3 With the above objective in mind, the GNPG asked ATLAS to design the visioning workshop around the ten themes highlighted on the Gillingham Dorset Town Plan Website. Having reviewed the previous work ATLAS proposed two minor changes to the original ten themes. Firstly, ATLAS proposed that the themes '*A Safer Community*' and '*Thriving Communities*' be combined into the single theme '*A vibrant and safe community*.' Secondly, ATLAS proposed that '*Governance*' be added as a new theme. The GNPG approved these minor changes. The resulting ten themes for the workshop are listed below and illustrated in the diagram included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- **Affordable and sustainable housing**
 - **Economy**
 - **Environment**
 - **A vibrant and safe community**
 - **Access and transport**
 - **Health and wellbeing**
 - **Sport and culture**
 - **Children and young people**
 - **Older people**
 - **Governance**
- 3.1.4 At the GNPG's request the group work exercises undertaken during the visioning workshop were structured around these ten themes. The outputs from the workshop have also been organized under these ten themes.

3.2 The workshop and its outputs

- 3.2.1 The workshop took place on Monday the 22nd of October at the RiversMeet Leisure Centre, Gillingham. The programme for the workshop is included as Appendix 3 to this report. Fifty three people participated in the workshop, including representatives from Statutory Agencies, service providers, local businesses and the wider community. For the purposes of group work the participants were divided into five groups. A list of participants is included as Appendix 4 to this report. That list also shows the groups (A to E) to which each participant was assigned.
- 3.2.2 The Chairman of the GNPG opened the workshop by explaining GTC's decision to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, and the purpose of the same. He explained how the Neighbourhood Plan would cover the period up to 2026, as per NDDC's draft New Plan for North Dorset. He also provided a summary of the previous consultation work referred to above. An exhibition of the outputs from that previous work was available on the day, within the workshop space, for participants to examine. NDDC officers then explained the proposed strategic allocation to the south of Gillingham. They also made participants aware of the District Council's consultation exercises in respect of the draft New Plan for North Dorset. Contact details for the relevant lead officers within NDDC were also provided.
- 3.2.3 ATLAS then explained the rationale behind the ten themes chosen by the GNPG. In a brief presentation ATLAS explained how the themes might provide a structure within which participants could put forward their views on issues the shared vision and the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole ought to address. Each group was provided with a pre-prepared worksheet, which listed the ten themes and highlighted the questions posed to participants in the two group work stages. A copy of the worksheet is included as Appendix 5 to this report. Each participant was also provided with a summary list of the comments received during the previous consultation exercise referred to above. A copy of the summary list is included as Appendix 6 to this report.

The first stage of group work

- 3.2.4 Working in their assigned groups the participants were then asked to address the following question.
- Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?*
- 3.2.5 Each group was asked to initially focus on two particular themes, to ensure that all ten themes were addressed across the five groups. Having started with their two assigned themes, each group was then free to reflect on the other eight themes. Each group was assigned a facilitator and a note-taker. The facilitators had been briefed to help the participants focus on the themes. They were also tasked with ensuring that all participants were given opportunities to contribute to the discussions.
- 3.2.6 The first stage of group work was immediately followed by a plenary session during which a representative from each group was asked to highlight the key issues and points arising from the group discussion. ATLAS recorded a summary of those key issues and points on flip charts in front of the assembled groups. That recorded summary is set out below. A full record of all the issues and points recorded by each of the groups on their respective worksheets is included as Appendix 7 to this report.

Summary record of the key points and issues highlighted during the plenary session following the first stage of group work

Affordable and sustainable housing

- Energy efficiency in buildings.
- Coherent development.
- Importance of maintaining the original vision.
- Quality housing, with sufficient level of affordable.
- Homes suitable for home working.
- Focus on town centre - more activity, markets etc.

Economy

- Quality of the town centre.
- Jobs for young people (links to the point about formulating a comprehensive strategy for the town).

Environment

- Think about creating a large, focal point area of open space.
- Importance of connections between neighbourhoods - particularly important routes need to be identified.
- Important to encourage walking and cycling - within the town too.
- The town lacks an identity.

A vibrant and safe community

- Vibrant for **all** age groups; e.g. the 18 to 25 age group is less well served.
- Utilize Green Infrastructure to provide facilities and 'green' the town (links to the lack of identity point).
- Eco-tourism opportunities should be explored (again links to the lack of identity point).
- Exciting place - retain young people.

Access and transport

- Improve public transport and business transport.
- Ensure better advertising of public transport services.
- Make Gillingham the transport hub for the northern part of the District.
- Car sharing schemes.
- Wider road network - broadband.
- Car parking important to the town centre - make full use of existing car parks.
- North-south links are problematical at peak times.

Health and wellbeing

- Talk of new hospital - issues relating to out of hours service provision; health and dentistry etc.
- New development - opportunity for new mini health centre.
- Role of Green Infrastructure in maintaining good health and wellbeing.

Sport and culture

- Become the hub for the northern part of the District.
- This will require new and/improved sports and performance facilities.
- RiversMeet extension.

Children and young people

- Sixth Form College required.
- Provide a complete offer - education, training and employment (links to the point about formulating a comprehensive strategy for the town).

Older people

- Future-proof for older age groups.
- Ask old people what they need/want.

Governance

- Hard to get younger people involved. Older people have time and ability, but other perspectives would be good.
- Realism about the size of the town. Use opportunities to link with other towns.

3.2.7 During the break that followed ATLAS attempted to encapsulate the feedback from the first stage of group work into a list of key issues. All of the participants were asked to join in a brief review of the same (to test for consensus) and some amendments were made to the list during that review. The amended list, which was recorded on the day in front of the assembled groups, is set out below.

ATLAS summary of the feedback following the first stage of group work

- Coherent master planning - maintain original vision.
- Look for quality - energy efficiency.
- Sufficient level of affordable housing.
- Focus on improving the town centre - cafes/niche shops.
- Jobs/training for younger people - complete package.
- Start-ups - incentives.
- Bigger green space - focal point.
- Permeability - importance of routes between neighbourhoods and into the countryside.
- Vibrant for **all** age groups.
- Improve public and business transport - better advertising etc.

- Make optimum use of town centre car parks - better signage.
- How best to tackle lack of out of hours services.
- New growth provides opportunity for a new facility.
- Become the sports/cultural hub for the northern part of the District.
- Additional Sixth Form College and other further education facilities are required to ensure the town can offer the complete package of education/training/jobs referred to.
- Future-proof for older residents.
- Involve a wider spectrum of people to complement older voices.

The second stage of group work

3.2.8 Bearing in mind their individual worksheets and the common list of key issues (above) the five groups were then asked to address the following question.

What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?

3.2.9 Again each group was asked to initially focus on the same two themes it had prioritized during the first stage of group work. And again having started with their two assigned themes, each group was then free to also reflect on the other eight themes.

3.2.10 The second stage of group work was also followed by a plenary session during which a representative from each group was asked to highlight the key issues and points arising from the group discussion. Again ATLAS recorded a summary of those key issues and points on flip charts in front of the assembled groups. That recorded summary is set out below. As previously mentioned, a full record of all the issues and points recorded by each of the groups on their respective worksheets is included as Appendix 7 to this report.

Summary record of the key points and issues highlighted during the plenary session following the second stage of group work

Affordable and sustainable housing

- Free parking - liaise with North Dorset District Council.
- Who owns what in the High Street - name and shame.
- Equestrian-related plan.

Economy

- Provide infrastructure in phase with development.
- Quality of new build - improve existing stock.
- North Dorset District Council and Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group working closely together.
- Champion for quality.
- Balance variety and harmony - built form. 'Built form' being a shorthand for all aspects of the built environment; e.g. massing, scale, materials, detailing etc.

Environment

- All need to support the town's vision.
- NP needs to clarify community needs and formulate policies.
- Need more NP volunteers to address the full range of issues.
- Explore energy generation.
- Use/create a station car park.

A vibrant and safe community

- See the Group work sheets in the appendices.

Access and transport

- Need a transport champion as part of the NP work.
- Overlap with North Dorset District Council work on transport, but with a local focus.
- Strategic approach to the three towns - transport and services.
- Safety - secure by design.

Health and wellbeing

- Assess the needs of the community and convey these to the NHS.
- New facility may not be needed - better connections to town centre facilities.

Sport and culture

- Audit of existing facilities to inform the way forward.
- Planning obligations to deliver facilities off-site.

Children and young people

- Use social media to canvass young people.
- Further education facilities would also attract employers.
- Such additional facilities would benefit not just the young, but the whole working population.
- Linkages with other facilities.
- This may well require a strategic approach.

Older people

- Shuttle-bus service between the three towns; i.e. Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Mere.
- Viability of community hubs.
- Waste policies to be explored - look at implications for Gillingham.

Governance

- Importance of appointing/nominating champions.
- Overall aim to make Gillingham a vibrant town.
- Realism about the size of the town.

- 3.2.11 At the end of the second plenary session ATLAS briefly summarized the recurring themes emerging from the two stages of group work. Some of those themes relate to the vision itself and are addressed in the next section of this report. Some significant matters arising from the workshop go beyond the formulation of a draft vision. Those matters are addressed in the fifth section of this report.
- 3.2.12 Following the second plenary session the GNPG Secretary set out the next steps in the Neighbourhood Plan preparation stage and made an appeal for more volunteers to assist in progressing work on the various matters discussed during the workshop. The GNPG Chairman confirmed that ATLAS would prepare a factual report on the workshop, which would be circulated to all participants. He then thanked everyone for their time and contributions and brought the workshop to a close.

Post-workshop analysis of the outputs

- 3.2.13 As indicated above, whilst each group was asked to initially focus on two of the ten themes, all were free to also consider the remaining eight themes. As a consequence the responses from each group relate to some or all of the ten themes. Following the workshop ATLAS re-ordered the various responses, assigning them to the most relevant theme. The intention was to make it easier to analyse the responses and identify key issues. The workshop outputs, re-ordered under the relevant themes, are included as Appendix 8 to this report. ATLAS used this material to double-check that the key issues recorded (on the flipcharts) during the workshop represented an accurate summary of participants' views on the ten themes. ATLAS also used this material in translating the workshop outputs into a draft vision for the GNPG.

4.0 Translating the workshop outputs into a draft vision

4.1. Potential formats for the draft vision

- 4.1.1 The Government's view is that with a neighbourhood plan, communities will be able to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in their neighbourhood. They will be able to say, for example, where new homes and offices should be built, and what they should look like. With regard to the former, the point has already been made that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. So in this case the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the draft New Plan for North Dorset, including the strategic allocation for a mixed use extension to the south of the town. In order to comply with the NPPF, the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan should plan positively to support that strategic allocation. The Government also considers that a neighbourhood plan should set out a vision for the future of the neighbourhood in question. That vision can be detailed, or it can be general, depending on what the community in question wants.
- 4.1.2 The GNPG has not yet reached a settled view on the best format for the draft vision for Gillingham. It has decided, however, that the initial draft vision should be structured around the ten themes referred to above. The GNPG can then reflect on this question later in the process, having engaged in further public consultation on the matters that ought to be addressed in the vision. Bearing the above in mind ATLAS considers that the outputs from the workshop could be translated into a short document, or manifesto, for the purposes of consultation. The subsequent consultation exercises could then elicit views not only on the issues and aims, but also on how best to convey the vision in the Neighbourhood Plan; e.g. in prose, in a diagram, or in an illustration etc.

4.2 Draft vision

- 4.2.1 Figure 1 below illustrates how the outputs from the workshop might be translated into a general declaration of aims, or a manifesto, for Gillingham. In effect Figure 1 represents ATLAS's impartial interpretation of the workshop outputs, structured around the ten themes chosen by the GNPG. ATLAS notes that there are significant overlaps between those ten themes and the seven characteristics of sustainable communities identified in the Egan Review.² As a consequence the initial structure chosen by the GNPG offers an opportunity to formulate a very holistic vision for Gillingham.
- 4.2.2 If following consideration of this report the GNPG reaches a different view on how best to present the draft vision for further consultation, ATLAS will assist in producing an alternative draft document or diagram that reflects the outputs from the workshop.

² The Egan Review - Skills for Sustainable Communities (2004).

Figure 1 - ATLAS's interpretation of the workshop outputs

The overall ambition is that between now and 2026 Gillingham will become a place where...

Affordable and sustainable housing A quality built and natural environment.

- Coherent and well planned expansion has enhanced the richness and appearance of the town's built environment.
- There is a sufficient amount of affordable housing to meet identified need, within a balanced housing market.
- New housing sets a high standard in terms of architectural quality, adaptability and environmental performance.
- Residents benefit from well-designed and well-maintained public spaces, with facilities for all age groups.

Economy A flourishing and diverse local economy, with a wide range of jobs and training opportunities.

- New businesses and sociable uses (e.g. cafes) have significantly improved the quality and vitality of the town centre.
- Essential infrastructure to support sustainable growth is provided in sync with new developments.
- Visitors are attracted by the well-publicized services and facilities on offer, and by the positive identity of the town.
- A strong business community offers a wide range of jobs and training opportunities for all age groups.

Environment Enabling people to live in an environmentally friendly way.

- A network of Green Infrastructure serves to 'green' the town and contributes to good health and wellbeing.
- People can enjoy focal areas of public space, which help define the character and form of the town.
- Linkages between neighbourhoods, and between the town and its surroundings, encourage walking and cycling.
- All opportunities to make efficient use of resources, including local energy generation, are properly explored.

A vibrant and safe community Low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. A sense of community identity.

- The community actively supports and contributes to the shared vision for improving the town and parish.
- A wide range of opportunities for community, leisure, sport and cultural activities are available for all age groups.
- The variety of town centre businesses generates day-long activity in the High Street, and a positive atmosphere.
- All local strengths (e.g. equestrian facilities and eco-tourism) are embraced and effectively promoted.

Access and transport Good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.

- Close working with neighbouring towns, parishes and service providers continually improves public transport.
- Information on available public transport services is communicated widely by various means.
- Optimum use is made of facilities and schemes (e.g. car parks and Car Link) to help achieve the town's vision.
- All opportunities are taken to improve the resilience of the movement network (i.e. roads, cycle ways and footpaths).

Health and wellbeing High quality local health care and social services.

- All residents have convenient access to high quality local health care services.
- Arrangements are in place to deliver out of hours local health services, particularly for vulnerable residents.
- Transport options are available to ensure less mobile and vulnerable residents can access hospital services.
- Expansion of the town has been matched by well-planned expansion and improvement of local health care.

Sport and culture Opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities.

- Where RiversMeet and other sports facilities and open space have made the town a hub for sports and leisure.
- A new multi-use community centre is well-used and has been instrumental in supporting community life.
- Where regular local events and festivals strengthen community life and draw visitors to the town.
- Valued services (e.g. Library) are celebrated and cherished, and where gaps in service provision are targeted.

Children and young people Well-performing local schools, further and higher education facilities.

- Well-performing schools are strongly supported by the local community and form an integral part of community life.
- Expansion of the town has been matched by proportionate expansion of local education provision.
- The community works closely with neighbouring towns to secure quality further education and training opportunities.
- Children have safe places to play in their neighbourhoods and where young adults have opportunities to socialize.

Older people A good range of opportunities for older people to play an active part in community life.

- Elderly people are properly consulted, and where their experiences and needs help inform local decisions.
- Clubs and activities that enable older people to play a full and active part in community life are supported.
- Public services, the voluntary sector, and the community collaborate to ensure vulnerable people are not isolated.
- Decision-makers work to ensure that elderly people have convenient access to the services they need day-to-day.

Governance Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.

- The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a widely supported vision for the town's future, which is updated over time.
- Effective working arrangements with neighbouring communities help deliver continual service improvements.
- Appropriate local 'champions' are empowered and supported to pursue issues that are critical to realizing the vision.
- Technology and innovative approaches are used to bring the talents of young and old to bear in solving problems.

5.0 Other significant matters arising from the workshop

5.1 Scope and content of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1.1 The visioning workshop raised a wide range of issues and highlighted the importance of making early decisions about the scope and content of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan. Those decisions will need to factor in the available resources and the tasks that will arise from the various aspects of plan making. Early discussions between the GNPG and NDDC should prove very beneficial in this regard, as NDDC officers are well-placed to provide the GNPG with advice on the latter.
- 5.1.2 As indicated above the Government envisages that neighbourhood plans will enable communities to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in their neighbourhoods. By way of example the Government suggests that a neighbourhood plan will be able to say where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like. In effect a neighbourhood plan should establish a vision for the future. That vision can be detailed or general, depending on what local people want.³ The ten themes, which the GNPG identified from previous consultation work, are wide ranging. ATLAS considers that a vision structured around these themes is likely to be more general than detailed. Hence our point above that the initial structure chosen by the GNPG offers an opportunity to formulate a very holistic vision for Gillingham.
- 5.1.3 It is important to reiterate that the Government has also made it clear that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan, or undermine its strategic policies. So in this case the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the draft New Plan for North Dorset, including the strategic allocation for a mixed use extension to the south of the town. That does not preclude the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan from allocating additional, non-strategic, sites for new development. Although any such allocations would again have to be in general conformity with relevant strategic policies of the draft New Plan for North Dorset.
- 5.1.4 The Gillingham Town Design Statement (TDS) includes design guidelines for future development. These could potentially form the basis for general planning policies, as referred to above, which could be included in the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan. NDDC has indicated that the recent changes to the national planning system have necessitated a review of the development management policies within the draft New Plan for North Dorset. That review will identify areas where new policies or more detail might be required. This presents an opportunity for the GNPG and NDDC to jointly review those development management policies that will be applicable to development in Gillingham. The GNPG and NDDC could then agree how those policies could best be divided between the Neighbourhood Plan and the New Plan for North Dorset.
- 5.1.5 In this scenario the Neighbourhood Plan would include a holistic vision for the sort of place Gillingham aims to be in 2026, together with an appropriate range of locally applicable development management policies. The latter would be formulated in such a way as to help further particular aspects of the vision. ATLAS would be happy to contribute an impartial perspective to any such discussions between the GNPG and NDDC.

³ An introduction to neighbourhood planning (DCLG 2011).

5.2 Implementation of the Plan

- 5.2.1 Some of the discussions at the workshop went beyond the formulation of a vision for Gillingham and ranged over implementation issues. Some of the issues discussed could be addressed through the formulation of appropriate general planning policies, as referred to above. For example, the GNPG and NDDC could cooperate in putting in place policies that make provisions for future changes to the centre of Gillingham. Implementation would then involve development management, to ensure that private investment for particular forms of development is directed towards the most appropriate sites (i.e. in order to realize the overall vision).
- 5.2.2 There were also discussions about how improvements to Gillingham, its infrastructure and services would be financed. Again, ATLAS considers that early discussions between the GNPG and NDDC about potential sources of public funding for such improvements would be helpful. The Government's New Homes Bonus (NHB) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be among the topics for discussion. The NHB is a grant paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of homes and their use. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. There is also an extra payment for providing affordable homes. The CIL is a new levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area. In areas where a CIL is in force, landowners and developers must pay the levy to the local council. NDDC plans to introduce a CIL and has published a draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) for consultation. NDDC envisages that the IDP will play a key role in coordinating the level of local infrastructure and services, to ensure they meet existing and future demands.
- 5.2.3 It is important to note, however, that the NHB and CIL are being introduced at a time of cuts in public spending. Given the above it may be prudent to bear in mind that these new sources of funding may not always result in net increases in the amount of public money available to local authorities for investment in infrastructure and services.

5.3 Planned growth within the Strategic Site Allocation

- 5.3.1 Not surprisingly the proposals for a Strategic Site Allocation (SSA) to the south of the town were also discussed at the workshop. There were also references to the opportunities to secure improvements to the town by means of planning obligations (i.e. a section 106 agreement) on the proposed southern extension. As indicated earlier in this report, in order to comply with the NPPF, the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan should plan positively to support the proposed SSA.
- 5.3.2 In this context the GNPG, NDDC, and the prospective developers have an opportunity to work closely together to ensure the proposed southern extension is comprehensively planned and successfully delivered. As discussed at the workshop, a successful new extension to the town will facilitate an increase in population, which in turn will generate increased spending power in Gillingham. That will help make Gillingham a more attractive proposition for potential private sector investors. Delivering a well-planned extension should also secure new infrastructure and facilities: e.g. new connections (footpaths, cycleways and roads); new affordable housing; additional primary school facilities; public open space and sports facilities; and community meeting space.
- 5.3.3 It is important to bear in mind, however, that there are limitations on the imposition of planning obligations. In particular, planning obligations must be:

- (a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- (b) directly related to the development; and
- (c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

It is also important to note that the Government is actively encouraging local authorities and developers to renegotiate section 106 agreements in situations where particular obligations have prevented the planning permission being implemented; e.g. where particular obligations render the scheme in question unviable in the current economic climate.

- 5.3.4 Pre-application consultation exercises will provide further opportunities for the GNPG, NDDC and the prospective developers to discuss how best the southern extension can contribute to the realization of the overall vision for Gillingham.

5.4 Governance and communication

- 5.4.1 There was a considerable amount of discussion at the workshop about the potential benefits of nominating 'champions' to pursue particular themes or issues. There was also a plea from the GNPG for more volunteers to help with the work of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. Agreeing the scope and content of the Plan should enable the GNPG to prepare a programme for the work (i.e. a project plan). This could identify key stages and actions, together with an indicative timetable. It could also provide a transparent mechanism for assigning particular responsibilities to identified individuals or sub-groups. ATLAS notes that the GNPG intends to create a website to help raise awareness of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, as well as attracting more volunteers. Creating a website will also enable the GNPG to publicize its governance arrangements and keep the wider community informed about progress on the Plan.
- 5.4.2 As indicated above ATLAS will be happy to continue working with the GNPG and NDDC if we can be of assistance in reaching agreement on the scope and content of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, and in formulating a programme for its production.

Ends

Appendix 1

The planning policy hierarchy



The National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.



The New Plan for North Dorset - Core Strategy/Local Plan

Must be consistent with the NPPF - and address the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change across North Dorset District.



Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan

Opportunity to set out a shared vision for Gillingham, together with policies to help deliver that vision.

Appendix 2

Vision for Gillingham



**Previous consultation
July 2010**

Asked the community for views on a range of themes.

Identified ten key components of a more sustainable Gillingham.



Appendix 3

Programme for the workshop

09:30 - 10:00	Welcome and tea/coffee
10:00	Start
10:00 - 10:15	Introduction to the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan GNPG lead explains the background to and purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan.
10:15 - 10:20	Overview of the workshop ATLAS will explain the purpose of the workshop and introduce the programme.
10:20 - 10:30	Opportunity for any initial questions about the Neighbourhood Plan or the workshop To be fielded by GNPG and/or ATLAS/other project partners as appropriate.
10:30 - 10:45	Brief presentation on sustainable communities - introduction to first stage of group work ATLAS will provide an overview of sustainable communities - to stimulate discussion.
10:45 - 11:20	First stage of group work Working in groups of no more than 12 people the participants will be asked to review the previous comments and provide a group view on how the same should be translated into a series of aims for Gillingham, based on the 10 themes (i.e. the constituent parts of the draft vision).
11:20 - 11:45	Feedback and discussion - plenary session ATLAS will try to draw out the key aims on which there appears to be consensus.
11:45 - 12:00	Break
12:00 - 12:15	Brief review of key ambitions - introduction to the second stage of group work During the break ATLAS will attempt to summarize the key aims. Following the break ATLAS will briefly highlight the same and introduce the second stage of group work.
12:15 - 12:50	Second stage of group work Returning to their groups, the participants will be asked to reflect on the key aims and discuss the things that will need to happen during the plan period if these aims and thus the vision as a whole are to be realized. In doing so participants will be asked to reflect on issues relating to implementation and delivery - in effect, to consider what is realistically achievable.
12:50 - 13:15	Feedback and discussion - plenary session ATLAS will facilitate a final feedback and discussion session, highlighting and recording participants' views on implementation and delivery issues, together with any further thoughts on key aims.
13:15 - 13:25	Thank you to participants, and a brief explanation of the process ahead The GNPG lead will draw the event to a conclusion by thanking the participants for attending. S/he will also outline the process ahead, putting the workshop and its outputs in context.
13:25	Finish
15:30 - 19:00	Exhibition of the workshop material and outputs, with volunteers on hand to help people make comments and to answer questions about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 4

Participant	Representing	Group
Pete Bond	Gillingham Community Church	B
Shirley Bryant	Winning Smiles	C
Sarah Burton	Waitrose	D
Anita Busby-Wilcocks	Partnership for Older People Project (Community Development Worker)	E
Phillipa Chapman	Buckhorn Weston Parish Council	A
Clive Drake	Wessex Carewatch, Gillingham Rugby Club	D
Keith Harris	Manor Farm, Milton-on-Stour	B
John Havill	Gillingham Community and Leisure Trust Ltd	E
Fran Hill	Gillingham Guide community magazine	E
Helen Holden	The Mellowes Nursing Home	B
Michael Holm	Environment Agency	D
Marian Honnywill	Silton Parish Meeting	E
Tim Hoskinson	Savills (representing Gillingham Brick and Tile)	A
Stephen Howard	Campaign to Protect Rural England	B
June Hunt	North Dorset Primary Care Trust (NHS)	C
Su Hunt	Milton on Stour Village Committee	C
Martin Hurt	Plantworld Nursery	E
Sheila Hussey	Allum and Sidaway	A
Steve Ingham	Gillingham Imperial Silver Band	D
Edward Ives	A and R Tiles	B
Steve Joyce	Mayor of Gillingham	B
Allistair Leask	Motcombe Parish Council	C
David Lloyd	Gillingham Museum and Local History Society	D
David Lohfink	C G Fry (representing C G Fry and Welbeck)	D
Janie Martin	Dextra Group PLC	E
Bob Messer	Gillingham Action for Nature Group	B
Jon Mutter	Spectrum Signpost Housing Association	C
Chris Odgers	Terence O'Rouke (representing C G Fry and Welbeck)	C
James Parkin	Dorset Wildlife Trust	D
Ian Parsons	Highways Agency (Asset Manager for Dorset)	E
David Pope	Mere Parish Council	A
Hilary Ritchie	North Dorset District Council	C
Gillian Sanders	Wessex Water	E
Emma Sleeth	ASDA Community Life Champion	B
David Stuart	Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	C
Simon Tattersall	Dorset Fire and Rescue (District Commander) and Zeals Parish Council	D
Joy Wallis	Dorset Wildlife Trust	A
June Watkins	Stours Parish Council	B
Continued overleaf		

Participant	Representing	Group
Phil Wheatley	Gillingham Rotary	C
Shawn Whitley	Dorset Police (Neighbourhood Inspector)	A
Jonathan Young	Woolley and Wallis (representing Newhouse Farm)	E
Paul Evans	ATLAS	A - Facilitator
Sarah Jennings	North Dorset District Council	B - Facilitator
Bob Dean	North Dorset District Council	C - Facilitator
Terry Sneller	North Dorset District Council	D - Facilitator
Hugh de longh	North Dorset District Council	E - Facilitator
Mark Hebditch	Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group (Secretary)	A - Note-taker
David Beaton	Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group (Chairman)	B - Note-taker
Alex Murdin	Dorset Design & Heritage Forum	C - Note-taker
Simon Kidner	Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group (Vice-Chairman)	D - Note-taker
Oliver Goodhall	We Made That - Creative Artist Facilitator	E - Note-taker
Holly Lewis	We Made That - Creative Artist Facilitator	Photographer
Anthony Keown	ATLAS	Facilitator
Mick Lodge	Councillor and RiversMeet	Support
Rachel	RiversMeet	Support

Appendix 5

A vision statement for Gillingham 2026
 Consultation workshop at the RiversMeel Sport and Leisure Centre, Gillingham - 22nd of October 2012

Group

ATLAS

<p>The local community was previously consulted on the themes below. These headings and the related summaries may give you ideas.</p>	<p>Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026? Please record your stage 1 responses below.</p>	<p>What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026? Please record your stage 2 responses below.</p>
<p>Affordable and sustainable housing A quality built and natural environment. Sufficient diversity and affordability of housing, when it balanced housing market.</p>		
<p>Economy A flourishing and diverse local economy with a wide range of jobs and training opportunities.</p>		
<p>Environment Enabling people to live in an environmentally friendly way.</p>		
<p>A vibrant and safe community Low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, with visible and effective community policing. A sense of community security.</p>		
<p>Access and transport Good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.</p>		
<p>Health and wellbeing High quality local health care and social services. Effective support services for vulnerable members of the community.</p>		
<p>Sport and culture Opportunities for culture, leisure, community, sport and other activities.</p>		
<p>Children and young people Well-performing local schools, further and higher education facilities. A good range of facilities for young people.</p>		
<p>Older people A good range of opportunities for older people to play an active part in community life.</p>		
<p>Governance Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.</p>		

Appendix 6

What the community said in July 2010...

ATLAS

Affordable and sustainable housing A quality built and natural environment.

- Dwellings of varied character appropriate to the town.
- Recent housing developments have little character in relation to the town.
- Better control over housing design to ensure design quality is paramount.
- A better range of houses in general.
- New housing can be a good thing as it generates revenue for the town.
- Too much emphasis on affordable homes - a better range of houses is what is needed.
- More affordable housing for rent.
- More trees, landscaping and community spaces needed around the town.
- If more houses are built we need more facilities to support the population.

Economy A flourishing and diverse local economy, with a wide range of jobs and training opportunities.

- More land should be made available for industrial uses - providing employment.
- Lack of variety of shops. Some say rents are too high. Shops remain empty for years.
- Smaller, unique shops - lower rents a must! Also some brand names in the High Street.
- Keep parking cheap and provide more of it to attract people to shop in town.
- Develop the Red Lion field to link the High Street/W aitrose/Square as a coherent whole.
- Build on the Bridge car park, High Street frontage - to provide shops to link the top and bottom of the High Street.
- Promote high-tech businesses and industry - especially relating to sustainable energy.
- The industrial estate needs to be decluttered and made to look attractive, rather than a mess!
- We also need a hotel, which we lost.

Environment Enabling people to live in an environmentally friendly way.

- More trees please - especially on the grey housing estates!
- Eliminate litter from roads and lanes - educate adults and children not to litter.
- Solar panels please. Bio-mass energy production. More efficient houses.
- Allotments please.
- The river walks are wonderful and well used. They are becoming dangerous, however, due to subsidence.
- Public access down to the rivers for people to enjoy the water, especially in hot weather.
- More green spaces to sit and enjoy the area.
- Better landscaping in the High Street. Better quality shops.
- Open spaces in the surrounding estates are of great benefit.

A vibrant and safe community Low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. A sense of community identity.

- Roads can be a bit chaotic around school times. Motorbikes are a nuisance in Gillingham at night.
- Zebra crossings needed in Peacemarsch as there are two places with no pavements.
- Gillingham is a very safe place to live.
- More visible police presence on the streets. CCTV is not a replacement for this.
- There is an urgent need for a larger meeting place than the Town Hall - to include a place for film and theatre performances.
- A central developed area for people of all ages to use, such as gardens with seating/a communal area for use in all seasons.
- Gain more public access to the Comprehensive School facilities; e.g. theatre, sports, hall etc.
- Keep High Street alive with better shops etc. - and therefore a better community atmosphere.

Access and transport Good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.

- Enhanced transport system; e.g. bus routes, more car parking at railway station and more cycle ways.
- Lack of direct bus services to Shaftesbury and Wincanton for work times. Need more direct bus routes.
- Transport east to west is okay, but northwards is non-existent. And southwards is poor and expensive.
- The train is far too expensive from Gillingham to London. Train service is a major plus for the town. Dual the railway line.
- The pavements in Gillingham are dangerous. How disabled people manage them without more injuries is a miracle.
- Car link scheme is good, but need to extend service for after 6pm and Sundays.
- Apart from rush hours the roads are adequate.
- Better cycle ways would encourage more cycling - meaning less traffic and health benefits.

What the community said in July 2010...

ATLAS

Health and wellbeing High quality local health care and social services.

- Gillingham is well catered for in health services. Two good surgeries.
- Nowhere nearby for blood tests etc. for children.
- Need more children's health care; e.g. not enough health visitors.
- More skilled support for families needed.
- Desperately need a hospital - 25 miles to Yeovil, 29 miles to Salisbury, difficulty getting there.
- Availability of NHS dentistry is not adequate.
- Westminster hospital needs replacing. Replacement should be in Gillingham.
- Need minor injuries treatment centre locally, especially as the Shaftesbury facility closes after 8pm and at the weekends.
- Good service from local doctors.

Sport and culture Opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities.

- Gillingham needs a Community Centre, which would be for all ages and for future generations.
- The town also needs a performance venue.
- All local clubs to get together and support the provision of better facilities, in one place, that all could use.
- Hurry up RiversMeet! Support RiversMeet - use it or lose it!
- Signpost the bowls club from the High Street
- Why no more Gillingham festival? The local artists would perform free.
- Need a thriving community café at RiversMeet.
- Library service is first class. Good library service must not be lost. The museum is good.
- Make the rivers more accessible for walks, recreational space etc.

Children and young people Well-performing local schools, further and higher education facilities.

- Good schools.
- An excellent secondary school.
- If houses increase how will Gillingham cope with increase in school children, especially 11 plus.
- More children need more facilities - where will these be provided?
- A further education institute is needed, possibly shared with Shaftesbury.
- I like the youth club.
- Lack of facilities for 14-18 and 18-25 year olds.
- How about having the youth centre open later (maybe until 10:30/11:00pm) on some evenings?
- There are some well-run volunteer based facilities; e.g. scouts.

Older people A good range of opportunities for older people to play an active part in community life.

- There seems to be stacks of clubs and societies for the over 50's and 60's.
- The new Leisure Centre will need to make concessions for the elderly and disabled (as the last one did).
- There is a lack of facilities for older people - discussion needed with them.
- Many older people could participate more actively in the facilities that are provided. How many attend the Seniors Forum?
- Less traffic and a bypass would make Gillingham a safer place for older people to live in.
- As the town 'ages' then health will be an issue, and accessibility. More community transport is needed.
- More local public transport is needed, including buses with low steps.
- Community leaders can develop activities for older people in Gillingham.
- Most of the bungalows suitable for old people are too far away from shops and other facilities.

Governance Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.

- More promotion of our tourist heritage - more promotion of the town needed to attract visitors.
- Gillingham's historic environment needs to be protected and promoted.
- We need to make more of the Town Square - improve shop fronts and provide more greenery.
- Let's go Fair Trade! The town needs more shoppers - then more shops will come.
- Make PACT (Partners and Communities Together) more community driven.
- Bring justice to Gillingham - hear Magistrates' cases in Gillingham.
- Make Gillingham bigger - then you will have more residents, more businesses and more industry.
- The older age group run the town (they are capable and have time) but they should not forget that stuff changes.
- The town's infrastructure must be developed at the same rate as housing and employment growth.

Appendix 7

Group A responses

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?

What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?

Group A was asked to initially focus on 'Affordable and sustainable housing' and 'Economy' - but was also free to comment on the other themes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Core Strategy needs to reflect NP. ▪ Red brick and stone. ▪ Incorporate energy efficiency into design and high standards insisted on. ▪ SSA is opportunity for best practice - need not be vernacular as new quarter. ▪ Ideally developers should work with the community and be sensitive to the community's vision. ▪ Sensitivity to existing landscape and valued sites. ▪ Need for coherent integrated plan. ▪ Open spaces. ▪ Ambition should be quality and character. ▪ Affordable housing should be integrated unobtrusively. ▪ Town centre needs to be more welcoming (café culture) and vibrant. ▪ Need to encourage new business start-ups. ▪ Exploiting empty shops. ▪ Niche businesses. ▪ Cinema. ▪ Fuller use of school facilities. ▪ Markets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrastructure, facilities (i.e. the social offer) ideally should precede residential development. ▪ Improving town centre to draw new residents into the town and increase local pride. ▪ Exemplary standards for new build to be complemented by improvements of existing stock. ▪ Pro-active community relationships with planning officers and developers. ▪ Need for community low carbon champion - resilient, energetic and knowledgeable. ▪ Encourage variety of design - tactfully managed. ▪ Free parking. ▪ Pedestrianization of at least part of High Street. ▪ Structured approach to vetting new businesses, incentivized by rate holidays. ▪ High Street management group to match facilities to start-ups. ▪ Focus on local farming opportunities. ▪ Research ownership - name and shame landlords who inhibit sustainable, vibrant town centre. ▪ Electricity generation - hydro, biomass opportunities to be investigated. ▪ Better use of existing facilities. |
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Group B responses

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?

What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?

Group B was asked to initially focus on 'Environment' and 'A vibrant and safe community' - but was also free to comment on the other themes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gillingham 'lacks an identity' - Town Meadow Project an opportunity. Trim trees for more light. ▪ Green infrastructure. ▪ Danger of missing a large open space - green infrastructure must include this (Chantry Fields?). ▪ Skate park BMX (Wyke). ▪ New development must have cycle path links to town and surrounding villages (extend to Mere). ▪ Highways Authority over designs roads - too wide, unnecessary roundabouts - out of line. ▪ Town centre is not the focal point it should be. ▪ Not charity shops/estate agents. ▪ Must be aesthetically pleasing (busy). ▪ Parking a big issue. ▪ Rates and rents must be looked at. ▪ You need the footfall first. ▪ The supermarket problem. ▪ Access negotiated through the car park at the Co-op. ▪ Vision must include permeable access - must address uses on High Street, how it's accessed. ▪ Culturally? Revive festival? Central events draw people in - must be a site available. ▪ More people in town at night the safer. ▪ Lights on path over meadow proposed. ▪ Porosity crucial - build into design - not just existing paths. ▪ Vibrant for all ages, not just children and adults - focus on 18 to 25 years group. ▪ Activity corridors - everyone can benefit from green infrastructure. ▪ Size of gardens - mix of densities - allotments. ▪ Community Hall in High Street, not back of Riversmeet - although footings already there for it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green infrastructure - ensure the developers are buying into the vision and aspirations. ▪ Provide right guidance; e.g. TDS. Need to identify what the community wants. ▪ Review existing open space - plan for the future - review settlement boundaries - IOWAs (Important Wooded or Open Areas). ▪ Establish policies. ▪ Play areas - use by different age groups. ▪ Build on what has been achieved so far - more volunteers in NP needed. ▪ Town centre - Town Meadow regeneration very important. In planning terms identify as a community area. ▪ Review existing primary/secondary shop fronts. ▪ Expand local plan policies for design detail; e.g. room for wheelie bins, cycle storage. ▪ Governance issue; e.g. landowner of footpath by Stour. ▪ Local communities working together. ▪ Vibrant and safe community. ▪ What do we need? And what do we not need? ▪ Have to be realistic; e.g. we will not get a cinema, but what about moviola in the town? ▪ Make town centre attractive enough for people to come in from, say, The Mellows. |
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Group C responses

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?

What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?

Group C was asked to initially focus on 'Access and transport' and 'Health and wellbeing' - but was also free to comment on the other themes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low density housing preferred, with car parking. ▪ Infrastructure, like schools, planned well in advance. ▪ Quality housing (materials etc.) wanted. ▪ Town Centre 'health check' and 'vision' needed. ▪ Improve the quality and the attractiveness of the town centre, built environment and heritage. ▪ NDDC transport study must inform NP process. ▪ Must serve housing growth and older demographic. ▪ Pay car parks in town centre may reduce retail vibrancy. ▪ Bus services should be reviewed - better advertised. ▪ New surgery for southern development. ▪ Better access for old people to community based services and out of hours dentistry. ▪ New school must be integrated into new development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs to be transport group for NP to make list of specific issues to address; e.g. bus routes. ▪ Need network rail and bus companies around table. ▪ Support cycle and pedestrian access in parish. ▪ Improved legibility - signage of routes etc. ▪ Assessment of community health needs; e.g. survey - then list of needs given to NHS through health forum. ▪ Make sure transport to existing practices is adequate. ▪ Get together sports/community groups to identify commonalities; e.g. use of sports facilities or cycle routes to improve health and wellbeing - through community planning process as well. |
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Group D responses

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?

What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?

Group D was asked to initially focus on 'Sport and culture' and 'Children and young people' - but was also free to comment on the other themes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Talk about 'homes' or 'living' rather than houses. ▪ Broadband - housing suitable for home working. ▪ Specialize on equestrian. ▪ Quality, modest housing for young graduates. ▪ Promote eco-tourism. ▪ Spaces amongst housing for outside play. ▪ Easy access to countryside. ▪ Manage environment; e.g. ponds between Gillingham and Motcombe - DWT 'Look Again' project. ▪ Better pedestrian/cycle access around town. ▪ Cinema. ▪ Open spaces for unsupervised activity. ▪ Clubs, Bars, low budget restaurants. ▪ Sport and cultural focus for North Dorset. ▪ Youth football facilities. ▪ Performance space. ▪ Secondary school education - sixth form college - Further Education College - transport to education facilities. ▪ Access, transport, parking for education and sport facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit and designate land for open space etc. ▪ Audit and designate public rights of way and access. ▪ NP to act as focus/coordinator for disparate activities and ambitions. ▪ Capture ambition for facilities, include in requirements for SSA. ▪ Approach schools - use social media to find out what youth want - and employers of youth. ▪ Provision of education facilities could encourage employers to come to town. ▪ Create identity - coordinate activities. ▪ Many past initiatives failed due to lack of leadership. |
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Group E responses

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?

What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?

Group E was asked to initially focus on 'Older people' and 'Governance' - but was also free to comment on the other themes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable housing and homes for life ambitions. ▪ Make affordable housing part of the package that attracts and retains Gillingham residents. ▪ Provide quality housing that is balanced by market forces, but integrated and mixed. ▪ Parking provision is required in the area. ▪ Opportunities for young people's employment need to be communicated - local jobs and apprentices are available. ▪ Provide opportunities for setting up local businesses and support entrepreneurship. ▪ Live/work town balance could support Gillingham. ▪ Investment support to make Gillingham attractive - establish this early. ▪ Establish suitable businesses and market Gillingham. ▪ A303 to be maintained as key strategic route. ▪ Connections to A303 should be improved; e.g. connections between A303 and Gillingham for lorries etc. ▪ Broadband infrastructure needs to be future-proofed - plan ahead for technology advances. ▪ Facilities to support increase in residents, especially health and access to health care. ▪ Make better use of Shaftesbury Hospital facilities. ▪ Attractive opportunities for young people might ensure that they are retained for employment. ▪ Offer more for less affluent older people (and make use of skills). ▪ Provide services that are accessible and affordable. ▪ Provide services that older people want - find out what they are asking for. ▪ Focus, reconnect and boost confidence of isolated older people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality design needs to ensure homes meet requirements - make these a pre-requisite of housing being built. ▪ Business rates investigated to reduce risks of setting up a new business - potentially alleviation for new enterprises. ▪ Young people lead on 'trial lets' to encourage entrepreneurs and provide physical and technical support. ▪ Use existing empty properties or develop enterprise centre. ▪ Vocation/artisan - further education. ▪ Make a vocational career (e.g. apprenticeship) as important as going to university. Schools seem to concentrate on getting students to university. ▪ Set up shuttle-bus that circulates, collects and delivers to the town centre - and a regional linkage between three towns. ▪ Need to look at strengths and needs of Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Mere. Need to look at the three towns as a cluster. Need to provide link bus services (e.g. shuttle-bus) between the three towns. ▪ Community facilities for older people's activities (but relevant to all activities). ▪ Look at the mix of existing facilities, current and anticipated future need, and viability of facilities. This will help define need/use of new facilities, such as RiversMeet community hall. ▪ Business - subsidized bus service provided (establish robustly if this is needed). ▪ Access to a local community hub - there is a short supply of halls - for older people and others. ▪ Community car opportunities - support is required to make the most of existing facilities. |
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Continued overleaf

- Public transport should be accessible, affordable and convenient - services should cater to this.
 - Future-proofing for cost/income variations for living.
 - Sustainable framework for support groups and fund appropriately.
 - Address how to get wider population involved - especially those who have less available time.
- Provide a place for people to come together in a social meeting space.
 - Use of school - and create inter-generational opportunities to provide facilities.
 - Coordinate spending to avoid over-saturated supply of facilities.
 - Collaborate with all three market towns locally in delivering aims and ambitions.
 - Set up enablers to ensure that aims are coordinated - and are able to join the dots between businesses, schools and others.
 - Make people and wellbeing part of the NP ambition.
 - Make a representative body that is able to apportion money.
 - Ensure coordination with neighbouring areas in governance set up.
 - Health facilities need supporting travel provision (especially with increased requirements for being eligible for ambulance transport).
 - Combine medical facilities where possible.
 - NHS changes mean that there is thinking about how to keep people well at home - look after health; move away from hand holding.
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Appendix 8

First theme - Affordable and sustainable housing

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group A responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Red brick and stone. ▪ Incorporate energy efficiency into design and high standards insisted on. ▪ SSA is opportunity for best practice - need not be vernacular as new quarter. ▪ Ideally developers should work with the community and be sensitive to the community's vision. ▪ Sensitivity to existing landscape and valued sites. ▪ Need for coherent integrated plan. ▪ Ambition should be quality and character. ▪ Affordable housing should be integrated unobtrusively. 	<p>Group A responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exemplary standards for new build to be complemented by improvements of existing stock. ▪ Encourage variety of design - tactfully managed. ▪ Pedestrianization of at least part of High Street. ▪ Better use of existing facilities.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low density housing preferred, with car parking. ▪ Quality housing (materials etc.) wanted. ▪ Town Centre 'health check' and 'vision' needed. ▪ Improve the quality and the attractiveness of the town centre, built environment and heritage. ▪ 'Talk about 'homes' or 'living' rather than houses. ▪ Broadband - housing suitable for home working. ▪ Affordable housing and homes for life ambitions. ▪ Make affordable housing part of the package that attracts and retains Gillingham residents. ▪ Provide quality housing that is balanced by market forces, but integrated and mixed. ▪ Broadband infrastructure needs to be future-proofed - plan ahead for technology advances. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality design needs to ensure homes meet requirements - make these a pre-requisite of housing being built.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy efficiency in buildings. ▪ Coherent development. ▪ Importance of maintaining the original vision. ▪ Quality housing, with sufficient level of affordable. ▪ Homes suitable for home working. ▪ Focus on town centre - more activity, markets etc. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free parking - liaise with North Dorset District Council. ▪ Who owns what in the High Street - name and shame. ▪ Equestrian-related plan.

Second theme - Economy

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group A responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town centre needs to be more welcoming (café culture) and vibrant. ▪ Need to encourage new business start-ups. ▪ Exploiting empty shops. ▪ Niche businesses. ▪ Cinema. ▪ Fuller use of school facilities. ▪ Markets. 	<p>Group A responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structured approach to vetting new businesses, incentivized by rate holidays. ▪ High Street management group to match facilities to start-ups. ▪ Focus on local farming opportunities. ▪ Research ownership - name and shame landlords who inhibit sustainable, vibrant town centre.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You need the footfall first. ▪ The supermarket problem. ▪ Opportunities for young people's employment need to be communicated - local jobs and apprentices are available. ▪ Provide opportunities for setting up local businesses and support entrepreneurship. ▪ Live/work town balance could support Gillingham. ▪ Investment support to make Gillingham attractive - establish this early. ▪ Establish suitable businesses and market Gillingham. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business rates investigated to reduce risks of setting up a new business - potentially alleviation for new enterprises. ▪ Young people lead on 'trial lets' to encourage entrepreneurs and provide physical and technical support. ▪ Use existing empty properties or develop enterprise centre. ▪ Vocation/artisan - further education. ▪ Make a vocational career (e.g. apprenticeship) as important as going to university. Schools seem to concentrate on getting students to university. ▪ Business - subsidized bus service provided (establish robustly if this is needed). ▪ Improving town centre to draw new residents into the town and increase local pride.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality of the town centre. ▪ Jobs for young people (links to the point about formulating a comprehensive strategy for the town). 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide infrastructure in phase with development. ▪ Quality of new build - improve existing stock. ▪ North Dorset District Council and Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group working closely together. ▪ Champion for quality. ▪ Balance variety and harmony - built form.

Third theme - Environment

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group B responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gillingham 'lacks an identity' - Town Meadow Project an opportunity. Trim trees for more light. ▪ Green infrastructure. ▪ Danger of missing a large open space - green infrastructure must include this (Chantry Fields?). ▪ Activity corridors - everyone can benefit from green infrastructure. ▪ Size of gardens - mix of densities - allotments. 	<p>Group B responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green infrastructure - ensure the developers are buying into the vision and aspirations. ▪ Review existing open space - plan for the future - review settlement boundaries - IOWAs (Important Wooded or Open Areas). ▪ Provide right guidance; e.g. TDS. Need to identify what the community wants. ▪ Expand local plan policies for design detail; e.g. room for wheelie bins, cycle storage.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage environment; e.g. ponds between Gillingham and Motcombe - DWT 'Look Again' project. ▪ Open spaces. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electricity generation - hydro, biomass opportunities to be investigated.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Think about creating a large, focal point area of open space. ▪ Importance of connections between neighbourhoods - particularly important routes need to be identified. ▪ Important to encourage walking and cycling - within the town too. ▪ The town lacks an identity. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All need to support the town's vision. ▪ NP needs to clarify community needs and formulate policies. ▪ Need more NP volunteers to address the full range of issues. ▪ Explore energy generation. ▪ Use/create a station car park.

Fourth theme - A vibrant and safe community

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group B responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skate park BMX (Wyke). ▪ Town centre is not the focal point it should be. ▪ Not charity shops/estate agents. ▪ Must be aesthetically pleasing (busy). ▪ Rates and rents must be looked at. ▪ Culturally? Revive festival? Central events draw people in - must be a site available. ▪ More people in town at night the safer. ▪ Lights on path over meadow proposed. ▪ Porosity crucial - build into design - not just existing paths. ▪ Vibrant for all ages, not just children and adults - focus on 18 to 25 years group. ▪ Community Hall in High Street, not back of RiversMeet - although footings already there for it. 	<p>Group B responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide right guidance; e.g. TDS. Need to identify what the community wants. ▪ Review existing open space - plan for the future - review settlement boundaries - IOWAs (Important Wooded or Open Areas). ▪ Play areas - use by different age groups. ▪ Town centre - Town Meadow regeneration very important. In planning terms identify as a community area. ▪ Review existing primary/secondary shop fronts. ▪ Local communities working together. ▪ Vibrant and safe community. ▪ What do we need? And what do we not need? ▪ Have to be realistic; e.g. we will not get a cinema, but what about moviola in the town? ▪ Make town centre attractive enough for people to come in from, say, The Mellowes.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look at the mix of existing facilities, current and anticipated future need, and viability of facilities. This will help define need/use of new facilities, such as RiversMeet community hall. ▪ Access to a local community hub - there is a short supply of halls - for older people and others. ▪ Community car opportunities - support is required to make the most of existing facilities. ▪ Provide a place for people to come together in a social meeting space. ▪ Use of school - and create inter-generational opportunities to provide facilities. ▪ Infrastructure, facilities (i.e. the social offer) ideally should precede residential development. ▪ Pro-active community relationships with planning officers and developers. <p>Continued overleaf</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Need for community low carbon champion - resilient, energetic and knowledgeable.▪ Better use of existing facilities.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vibrant for all age groups; e.g. the 18 to 25 age group is less well served.▪ Utilize Green Infrastructure to provide facilities and 'green' the town (links to the lack of identity point).▪ Eco-tourism opportunities should be explored (again links to the lack of identity point).▪ Exciting place - retain young people.	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ See the Group work sheets in the appendices.

Fifth theme - Access and transport

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group C responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NDDC transport study must inform NP process. ▪ Must serve housing growth and older demographic. ▪ Pay car parks in town centre may reduce retail vibrancy. ▪ Bus services should be reviewed - better advertised. 	<p>Group C responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs to be transport group for NP to make list of specific issues to address; e.g. bus routes. ▪ Need network rail and bus companies around table. ▪ Support cycle and pedestrian access in parish. ▪ Improved legibility - signage of routes etc. ▪ Make sure transport to existing practices is adequate.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New development must have cycle path links to town and surrounding villages (extend to Mere). ▪ Highways Authority over designs roads - too wide, unnecessary roundabouts - out of line. ▪ Parking a big issue. ▪ Access negotiated through the car park at the Co-op. ▪ Vision must include permeable access - must address uses on High Street, how it's accessed. ▪ Easy access to countryside. ▪ Better pedestrian/cycle access around town. ▪ Parking provision is required in the area. ▪ A303 to be maintained as key strategic route. ▪ Connections to A303 should be improved; e.g. connections between A303 and Gillingham for lorries etc. ▪ Public transport should be accessible, affordable and convenient - services should cater to this. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free parking. ▪ Set up shuttle-bus that circulates, collects and delivers to the town centre - and a regional linkage between three towns. ▪ Need to look at strengths and needs of Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Mere. Need to look at the three towns as a cluster. Need to provide link bus services (e.g. shuttle-bus) between the three towns.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve public transport and business transport. ▪ Ensure better advertising of public transport services. ▪ Make Gillingham the transport hub for the northern part of the District. ▪ Car sharing schemes. ▪ Wider road network - broadband. ▪ Car parking important to the town centre - make full use of existing car parks. ▪ North-south links are problematical at peak times. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need a transport champion as part of the NP work. ▪ Overlap with North Dorset District Council work on transport, but with a local focus. ▪ Strategic approach to the three towns - transport and services. ▪ Safety - secure by design.

Sixth theme - Health and wellbeing

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group C responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New surgery for southern development. ▪ Better access for old people to community based services and out of hours dentistry. 	<p>Group C responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of community health needs; e.g. survey - then list of needs given to NHS through health forum.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities to support increase in residents, especially health and access to health care. ▪ Make better use of Shaftesbury Hospital facilities. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health facilities need supporting travel provision (especially with increased requirements for being eligible for ambulance transport). ▪ Combine medical facilities where possible. ▪ NHS changes mean that there is thinking about how to keep people well at home - look after health; move away from hand holding.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Talk of new hospital - issues relating to out of hours service provision; health and dentistry etc. ▪ New development - opportunity for new mini health centre. ▪ Role of Green Infrastructure in maintaining good health and wellbeing. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess the needs of the community and convey these to the NHS. ▪ New facility may not be needed - better connections to town centre facilities.

Seventh theme - Sport and culture

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group D responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specialize on equestrian. ▪ Promote eco-tourism. ▪ Cinema. ▪ Clubs, Bars, low budget restaurants. ▪ Sport and cultural focus for North Dorset. ▪ Performance space. ▪ Access, transport, parking for education and sport facilities. 	<p>Group D responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get together sports/community groups to identify commonalities; e.g. use of sports facilities or cycle routes to improve health and wellbeing - through community planning process as well.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Become the hub for the northern part of the District. ▪ This will require new and/improved sports and performance facilities. ▪ RiversMeet extension. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit of existing facilities to inform the way forward. ▪ Planning obligations to deliver facilities off-site.

Eighth theme - Children and young people

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group D responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality, modest housing for young graduates. ▪ Spaces amongst housing for outside play. ▪ Open spaces for unsupervised activity. ▪ Youth football facilities. ▪ Performance space. ▪ Access, transport, parking for education and sport facilities. 	<p>Group D responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit and designate land for open space etc. ▪ Audit and designate public rights of way and access. ▪ NP to act as focus/coordinator for disparate activities and ambitions. ▪ Capture ambition for facilities, include in requirements for SSA. ▪ Approach schools - use social media to find out what youth want - and employers of youth. ▪ Create identity - coordinate activities. ▪ Many past initiatives failed due to lack of leadership.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attractive opportunities for young people might ensure that they are retained for employment. ▪ Infrastructure, like schools, planned well in advance. ▪ New school must be integrated into new development. ▪ Secondary school education - sixth form college - further education college - transport to education facilities. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of education facilities could encourage employers to come to town.
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sixth form college required. ▪ Provide a complete offer - education, training and employment (links to the point about formulating a comprehensive strategy for the town). 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use social media to canvass young people. ▪ Further education facilities would also attract employers. ▪ Such additional facilities would benefit not just the young, but the whole working population. ▪ Linkages with other facilities. ▪ This may well require a strategic approach.

Ninth theme - Older people

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group E responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future-proofing for cost/income variations for living. ▪ Offer more for less affluent older people (and make use of skills). ▪ Provide services that are accessible and affordable. ▪ Provide services that older people want - find out what they are asking for. ▪ Focus, reconnect and boost confidence of isolated older people. 	<p>Group E responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community facilities for older people's activities (but relevant to all activities).
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future-proof for older age groups. ▪ Ask old people what they need/want. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shuttle-bus service between the three towns; i.e. Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Mere. ▪ Viability of community hubs. ▪ Waste policies to be explored - look at implications for Gillingham.

Tenth theme - Governance

Drawing upon the previous consultation responses, what key aims do you think ought to be encapsulated in a vision statement for Gillingham 2026?	What objectives ought to be set in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to help achieve these aims between now and 2026?
<p>Group E responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable framework for support groups and fund appropriately. ▪ Address how to get wider population involved - especially those who have less available time. 	<p>Group E responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate spending to avoid over-saturated supply of facilities. ▪ Collaborate with all three market towns locally in delivering aims and ambitions. ▪ Set up enablers to ensure that aims are coordinated - and are able to join the dots between businesses, schools and others. ▪ Make people and wellbeing part of the NP ambition. ▪ Make a representative body that is able to apportion money. ▪ Ensure coordination with neighbouring areas in governance set up.
<p>Responses from other groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance issue; e.g. landowner of footpath by Stour. ▪ Public transport should be accessible, affordable and convenient - services should cater to this. 	<p>Responses from other groups</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hard to get younger people involved. Older people have time and ability, but other perspectives would be good. ▪ Realism about the size of the town. Use opportunities to link with other towns. 	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Importance of appointing/nominating champions. ▪ Overall aim to make Gillingham a vibrant town. ▪ Realism about the size of the town.

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