

# LANDFORD VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

## 1 Introduction & Acknowledgements

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### 1.1 Introduction

The production of this document is a fulfillment of one of the actions requested in the Landford Community Plan (2008-2013)<sup>1</sup>, which was for the production of a Village Design Statement (VDS)<sup>2</sup>.

The purpose of a VDS is to address the subject of design and the way new development can be made to harmonise with the existing character of the local area.

To achieve this objective, this document provides a description of Landford and the surrounding countryside, the landscape setting, settlement pattern (including the network of roads and footpaths), its character and buildings. It contains a set of design principles based on the distinctive local character of the area. In particular the VDS helps to manage change and demonstrate how new and locally distinctive design can add to the visual quality of the village.



This document has been developed, researched, written and edited by local people; is representative of the views of the village as a whole; has involved a wide section of the village community in its production; describes the visual character of the village; and demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development.

During the creation of this document, the Committee worked in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority and Wiltshire Council as the planning authorities for this parish. This Statement is compatible with the statutory planning system and has been designed as a Supplementary Planning Document for the parish of Landford.

### 1.2 The Consultation Process

The Landford Community Plan was published and issued to every household in December 2008. As part of the consultation process to produce that Plan, questionnaires were circulated to the 460 households in the parish, and over 80% of households responded with one or more replies. To the question “*What changes to Landford would you like to see?*” there were many replies both for and against particular things, but many of the replies could best be summed up by “**Keep the rural character of the village**”.

The replies to other relevant questions were as follows;

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| • <i>Is the New Forest important to you?</i>   | Yes 508; No 18  |
| • <i>Only traditional style new houses should be permitted</i>   | Yes 347; No 146 |
| • <i>Should there be a Building Register for those buildings not already listed, but worthy of note for historical reasons or local character?</i> | Yes 374; No 119 |
| • <i>Would you like a Village Design Statement prepared for Landford?</i>  | Yes 438; No 56  |

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<sup>1</sup> See Reference 9.1

<sup>2</sup> See Reference 9.2

Having a local mandate to proceed with a VDS, a public meeting was held in March 2009 to explain the purpose and procedures involved, and people were invited to join a Committee. Twelve volunteers were recruited representing a geographical selection from across the parish.

In June 2009 the Group had a stall at the Landford Summer Fair where they displayed information already gathered regarding the settlement, and the public were asked their views on a series of questions to determine what they liked or disliked about the local built environment. With these views in mind and following research by members of the Group, a Draft VDS was produced in conjunction with the officers from the New Forest National Park Authority. It was used as a discussion document at a public meeting in February 2010 and also posted on a website. Every household received an invitation leaflet to the public meeting, which included the website address should they wish to view the document online.

Throughout this process, articles have been printed in the local community magazine (Horizon) to keep local people informed on progress to date.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING.** Where the terms **GOALS** and **GUIDELINES** are used in this document, the following definitions apply.

**GOALS** express a desired objective, important to the village, but not necessarily subject to the planning process.

**GUIDELINES** express specific design criteria which should help the people producing planning proposals for development. They will also influence planning decisions made by the local planning authority

### **1.3 Acknowledgements**

As chairman of the Landford Village Design Statement Committee, I thank my fellow committee members and all those that have helped us, for their time and dedication over the last two years spent on the production of this Document.

On behalf of the Committee I thank those residents that contributed valuable information during our initial surveys and outdoor events and for the constructive comments made during our open day events. We are grateful to those people who gave us permission to reproduce extracts from their contribution and any associated pictures.

The Committee wish to acknowledge the financial contribution from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (thanks to Mr Frank Ellis), and the considerable contribution of the New Forest National Park Authority, without which it would not have been possible to produce this Document. In particular we thank the two officers Paula Freeland (Interim Director of Conservation Recreation and Sustainable Development) and Nick Evans (Park Plan and Community Planning Officer) for their time and invaluable advice freely offered throughout this project. Similarly we thank Richard Nash (Spatial Planning Officer, Economy and Enterprise) from Wiltshire Council.

The committee also wishes to acknowledge the information and help gathered from the many accessible sources of data now in the public domain.

**Ken Parker**

**Committee Members** - Keith Cameron, John Fairhurst, Neil Gillespie, John Gledhill, Jon Hurst, John Martin, Ken Parker (Chairman), Tom Pender, Irene Spencer, John Spencer.

