

New Alresford Town Council

Neighbourhood Plan Update Report – September 2025

Background

In 2021, New Alresford Town Council (NATC) considered updating the *New Alresford Design Statement* (2008). Instead, the decision was made to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan—a more robust and statutory planning policy tool shaped by residents and stakeholders. Once adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan helps guide development while preserving the town’s heritage, identity, and sense of place.

An application to initiate the Neighbourhood Plan process was submitted to and approved by Winchester City Council (WCC).

Phase 1

NATC engaged Troy Planning in July 2021 to support the development of the plan (Resolution 21/159). Troy’s proposal included support for the following stages of the process;

- Stage 1 – Review & Familiarisation
- Stage 2 – Evidence, Vision & Objectives
- Stage 3 – Plan Writing
- Stage 4 – Revising & Consulting

Examination Support and Technical Reports were not included in this proposal. Additionally, it is important to note that Troy Planning’s original fee proposal did **not** include detailed work on site allocations, heritage, public realm, employment, or transport.

The proposal for £39,437.50 (See Table 1) was approved (Resolution 21/160) and a Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group was formed, comprising three councillors and five residents. Both the inception meeting and the first community consultation identified key areas of interest for residents, including:

- Housing allocation
- Employment
- Heritage
- Public realm
- Local green spaces
- Views
- Design
- Transport

To support the project, NATC applied for grant funding from Locality/Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The grant application process was thorough, requiring detailed submissions and independent approval by the MHCLG, and we successfully secured grant funding of £17,187.10. At the end of each financial year, NATC was required to report on how the funds had been used.

In addition to grant funding, NATC successfully applied for several technical support packages, which were delivered by AECOM at no cost to the Council:

- Housing Needs Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Technical Site Options and Assessment
- Masterplanning
- Design Codes
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) – Not delivered.

In September 2024, the Council undertook a review of the project's progress, and funding. The Council noted that the budget for Advisory Committee Meetings had been exceeded by £2,044.00 and agreed to focus on these costs going forward.

Net expenditure on Phase 1 was £17,417.08. This represents an underspend of £22,020.42.

Phase 2

In September 2024, the Council requested a revised project forecast. A revised proposal from Troy was considered and approved by the Council.

This proposal was for £41,500 to complete Stages 1 to 4 (Resolution 24/061) plus an estimated cost of £5,950 for Examination Support. The total Phase 2 budget is £47,450. The expenditure at the end of Q1 FY 2025/26 was £20,806. The Council holds £26,644 in the Neighbourhood Plan earmarked reserve.

NATC was successful in securing all the technical support packages it applied for. By March 2025, all technical reports had been completed - **except** for the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

However, at the start of the 2025/26 budget year, Central Government withdrew all Neighbourhood Plan funding and technical support from Locality. This impacted Aecom support and the production of the HRA. This has created an additional funding challenge.

Throughout the process, NATC has prioritised alignment with WCC's Local Plan, which itself underwent independent examination in 2025. This has contributed to the delay in reaching Regulation 14, which is now anticipated in spring/summer 2026.

Due to the environmental sensitivity of several proposed sites, statutory consultees—including AECOM, the Environment Agency, WCC Landscape, English Heritage, and the South Downs National Park—have all emphasised the critical importance of obtaining a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Hampshire Highways has advised that it will not provide comments on development proposals until Regulation 14 is reached. WCC faced a similar issue with its Local Plan and commissioned a separate access report to address transport concerns.

It is important to note that **neither** the HRA nor a Transport Review (access report) was included in the original project costing. However, both documents are essential to ensure that informed decisions can be made about site allocations at Regulation 14. Along with the reports already completed by AECOM and Troy Planning, they will form a robust evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan's independent examination.

The project financial reports by Phase/Stage and by Phase/Financial Year are attached at Table 1 & 2.

New Alresford Town Council (NATC) : Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Table 1 - Expenditure by Phase and Stage

NP Phase 1 (Jan 2022 to Jul 2024)

	Phase Budget	In Scope Tasks	Additional Tasks	Total Payments	Grants Received	Net Expenditure	Variance
Advisory Committee Meetings	£2,375.00	£5,564.00	-	£5,564.00	£1,145.00	£4,419.00	£2,044.00
Meetings with WCC	£1,250.00	£856.00	-	£856.00	-	£856.00	-£394.00
Expenses	£700.00	£815.68	-	£815.68	-	£815.68	£115.68
Stage 1 - Review & Familiarisation	£4,387.50	£5,254.50	-	£5,254.50	£4,126.10	£1,128.40	-£3,259.10
Stage 2 - Evidence, vision & objectives	£6,112.50	£4,904.50	-	£4,904.50	£1,625.00	£3,279.50	-£2,833.00
Stage 3 - Plan writing	£11,450.00	£8,725.00	-	£8,725.00	£2,575.00	£6,150.00	-£5,300.00
Stage 4 - Revising & Consulting	£13,162.50	£2,278.00	-	£2,278.00	-	£2,278.00	-£10,884.50
Stage 5 - Examination support	-	-	-	-	-	-	£0.00
Technical Reports	-	£428.00	-	£428.00	-	£428.00	£428.00
Additional	-	-	£5,778.50	£5,778.50	£7,716.00	-£1,937.50	-£1,937.50
	£39,437.50	£28,825.68	£5,778.50	£34,604.18	£17,187.10	£17,417.08	-£22,020.42

NP Phase 2 (Sep 2024 Ongoing)

	Phase Budget	In Scope Tasks	Additional Tasks	Total Payments	Grants Received	Net Expenditure	Variance
Advisory Committee Meeting	£3,950.00	£2,056.00	-	£2,056.00	-	£2,056.00	-£1,894.00
Meetings with WCC	£1,550.00	-	-	-	-	-	-£1,550.00
Expenses	£200.00	£50.00	-	£50.00	-	£50.00	-£150.00
Stage 1 - Review & Familiarisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	£0.00
Stage 2 - Evidence, vision & objectives	£2,550.00	£2,550.00	-	£2,550.00	-	£2,550.00	£0.00
Stage 3 - Plan writing	£13,950.00	£13,950.00	-	£13,950.00	-	£13,950.00	£0.00
Stage 4 - Revising & Consulting	£19,300.00	£2,200.00	-	£2,200.00	-	£2,200.00	-£17,100.00
Stage 5 - Examination support	£5,950.00	-	-	-	-	-	-£5,950.00
Technical Reports	-	-	-	-	-	-	£0.00
Additional	-	-	-	-	-	-	£0.00
	£47,450.00	£20,806.00	£0.00	£20,806.00	£0.00	£20,806.00	-£26,644.00

New Alresford Town Council (NATC)

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Table 2 - Expenditure by Phase and FY

NP Phase 1 (Jan 2022 to Jul 2024)

NP Proposal	21/160 (Jun 2021)	Stages 1 - 4			£39,437.50
	In Scope Tasks	Additional Tasks	Total Payments	Grants Received	Net Expenditure
FY 2021/22	£3,438.70	£3,386.50	£6,825.20	£4,126.10	£2,699.10
FY 2022/23	£10,395.38	£160.00	£10,555.38	£5,056.00	£5,499.38
FY 2023/24	£13,274.60	£1,867.00	£15,141.60	£8,005.00	£7,136.60
FY 2024/25	£1,717.00	£365.00	£2,082.00	-	£2,082.00
	£28,825.68	£5,778.50	£34,604.18	£17,187.10	£17,417.08
				Underspend	£22,020.42

NP Phase 2 (Sep 2024 Ongoing)

NP Proposal	24/061b	Stages 2 - 4 (2024/25)			£36,200.00
NP Proposal & Budget	24/061b & 24/111b	Stages 2 - 4 (2025/26)			£5,300.00
NP Budget	24/111b	Stage 5 - Examination Support (2025/26)			£5,950.00
	In Scope Tasks	Additional Tasks	Payments	Grants Received	Net Expenditure
FY 2024/25	£16,241.00	£0.00	£16,241.00	£0.00	£16,241.00
FY 2025/26 (YTD)	£4,565.00	£0.00	£4,565.00	£0.00	£4,565.00
	£20,806.00	£0.00	£20,806.00	£0.00	£20,806.00
				In NP Reserve	£26,644.00