



NEW ALRESFORD
TOWN COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan

This update explains what residents can expect next in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

It explains the short reset period, the work now being undertaken to strengthen the plan, and the revised route to independent examination and referendum.

Residents Update

May 2026

1. Key themes emerging

- Loss of Government funding had significant impact on the project mostly related to the supporting technical report funding.
- The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that was published for consultation currently does not have any direct impact on New Alresford Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Winchester District Local Plan was adopted 24 March 2026.
- The project cannot be completed with the current consultant within the remaining funds allocated.
- It is essential that the evidence base is robust and can withstand scrutiny at the independent examination.

2. Current position

- The Neighbourhood Plan is at an advanced stage.
- There is a need to reset expectations against a realistic timeline.
- A substantial amount of evidence and policy work has already been completed.
- The objective is to complete the final stages within or below the funds allocated to the project.

What this means

- A substantial amount of work has been completed.
- We are nearly there.

3. Financial position – Phase 1 & 2

Budget Expenditure to date by phase

Phase 1
Jan 2022 – Sep 2024



Council expenditure: £17,417
Grant Funded: £17,187

Phase 2
Sep 2024 – Mar 2026



Council expenditure £31,161

4. Financial position – Funding source

Expenditure to date by stage

| Stage | Grant Funded | Council Funded |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Stage 1 - Review & Familiarisation | £4,004 | £1,250 |
| Stage 2 - Evidence, vision & objectives | £2,992 | £4,463 |
| Stage 3 - Plan writing | £4,887 | £17,788 |
| Stage 4 - Revising & Consulting | £2,278 | £2,700 |
| Consultant Meetings | £1,145 | £8,889 |
| Consultant Expenses | £314 | £552 |
| Additional scope items | £1,567 | £12,936 |
| | £17,187 | £48,578 |

Remaining funds allocated for the Neighbourhood Plan Project - £25,014

5. Policies

Delivery

- 17 policies.
- Good progress.
- Majority of policies fit for purpose.
- More work needed on some.

| | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| NA1 | Architecture & Urban Design | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA2 | Community Facilities | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA3 | Delivery, Monitoring and Review | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA4 | Employment | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA5 | Green & Blue Infrastructure | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA6 | Historic Environment | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA7 | Local Heritage Assets | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA8 | Housing Strategy | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA9 | Housing Size, Type and Mix | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA10 | Key Views | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA11 | Landscape | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA12 | Local Green Space | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA13 | Movement & Access | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA14 | Safeguarded Watercress Way | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA15 | Settlement Boundary | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA16 | Sustainable Tourism/Visitor Economy | Troy Planning & Design |
| NA17 | Town Centre | Troy Planning & Design |
| | Policies Glossary | NATC |
| | Introductory Narrative | To be decided |

6. Supporting reports & documents

Delivery

- Loss of government funding.
- Some need detailed review.
- Health check to confirm if fit for purpose.

| | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| Nov 2021 | Inception Meeting & Workshop Summary Report | Troy |
| Nov 2022 | Business Survey | Troy |
| Nov 2022 | Housing Needs Assessment | Aecom |
| Apr 2023 | Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report | Aecom |
| Aug 2023 | Site Options & Assessment Report | Aecom |
| Jul 2024 | Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim | Aecom |
| Jan 2025 | Consultation Survey Report | NATC |
| Jan 2025 | Local Green Space Assessment | Troy |
| Feb 2025 | Selection of Preferred Housing Site Allocations Template | Troy |
| Mar 2025 | Conservation Area Enhancement Options | Aecom |
| Mar 2025 | Design Guidance and Codes | Aecom |
| Mar 2025 | Housing Needs Assessment | Aecom |
| Nov 2025 | Key View Assessment | Troy |
| Nov 2025 | Potential Site Allocations: High-level Transport Review | HP & T |
| Dec 2025 | Habitats Regulation Assessment | LUC |
| TBC | Strategic Environment Assessment Final Screened | TBC |

7. Housing allocations

Delivery

- 100 homes to be allocated.
- Recommendations must be evidence based.
- Some technical reports need review.
- No decisions made on the allocations to be suggested in the plan.

Overview

The six sites under consideration with indicative housing numbers are:

- NA01 New Farm Road: 75
- NA02 Perins School: 12 to 13
- NA06 Arlebury Park: 36 to 51
- NA07 Drove Lane: 8 to 9
- NA08 East of Bridge Road: 4 to 8
- NA09 Spinney: 17 to 20

8. Extraordinary Council Meeting – 14 April 2026

To facilitate a reset - seven recommendations were approved:

- We will carry out an independent “health check” of current policies and reports.
- We will end our arrangement with the existing consultant.
- Activity on the Advisory Committee will be paused until June 2026.
- We will focus on the best way to manage and deliver the remaining stages.
- We will review the membership of the Advisory Committee.
- Spending will be assessed to ensure it delivers clear benefits and value for money.
- Specialist organisations will deliver specific pieces of work under focused agreements.

9. Project approach overview

Key message

- The Town Council has reviewed progress and approved a way forward.
- We are taking a short pause now to strengthen the plan before the final stages.
- The focus is on quality, robustness and deliverability.
- This work is intended to improve confidence in the final plan and reduce the risk of issues later in the process.
- The next stage will focus on strengthening the plan so it can move confidently into consultation.

What this means

Pause briefly to review key policies and project arrangements.

Use the reset period to make sure the plan is well-supported and ready for the next formal steps.

10. Project reset

Immediate priorities

Refresh Terms of Reference

Set clear boundaries, responsibilities and confirm decision-making authority.

Review NPAC structure

Confirm membership, remit and reporting lines.

Define interests bias and predetermination

Clarify what constitutes an interest, bias or predetermination and how it is declared and managed.

Improve project management

Provide project governance and management clarity and support.

Outcome sought

A controlled, transparent project structure that gives confidence in process, evidence and accountability.

11. What happens next

Independent review

An external “health check” will review key planning policies and evidence.

Delivery plan

The final stage will be mapped against clear outputs, milestones and responsibilities.

Targeted work packages

Further work will be commissioned only where it adds clear value and deliverable outcomes.

Partner engagement

The Council will continue working with relevant planning bodies and advisers as needed.

12. Why this approach

Review evidence

To make sure the plan is supported by reliable evidence and policy checks.

Better resilience

To reduce the risk of delay or challenge at later formal stages

Clear delivery

To keep the final phase focused, proportionate and cost-effective.

Successful outcome

To support a smooth route through consultation, examination and referendum.

13. Proposed timeline



Delivery principle

We are “nearly there”. A short reset now is intended to improve confidence, governance and deliverability, with a realistic route to referendum in February 2027.

14. What this means for residents

- The Neighbourhood Plan is continuing and remains a priority for the Council.
- The short reset is intended to improve the final outcome, not to stop progress.
- Residents will have an opportunity to comment during the formal Independent Examination (Regulation 14) later this year.
- Further updates will be shared as work progresses.



Key message

A short reset now gives the Council the best chance of delivering a plan that is clear, credible and ready for the community to consider.

15. Key message to residents

The Council has agreed a clear way forward for the final stage of Neighbourhood Plan. A short period of review and refinement will strengthen the plan, improve confidence in the process and help ensure residents can consider a robust final document at consultation and referendum.

Thank you for your understanding and continued interest in this important project.

