**Intro page**

**Vision statement**

**Background:**

The North Dorset Local Plan acknowledges that Shaftesbury is a settlement of exceptional merit. The North Dorset Local Plan has proposed 1245 additional homes in Shaftesbury over the Plan period with 62% completed up to and including 2018. Although much of this housing will be sited immediately East of the Town Centre and within the Shaftesbury settlement boundary, the effects of the housing have been felt by the community. It was clear from the consultation process that the people of Shaftesbury are concerned to ensure that the infrastructure can cope with the demands put upon it. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan proposes no additional housing allocations.

Projections indicate that the population of Shaftesbury is changing.



By 2031 it is expected that the number of residents under the age of 15 years will increase by 24% and the residents over the age of 65 will increase to 56%. (source ONS and NDDC)

These figures have important implications for the future vitality and viability of Shaftesbury as a place to live and work, and places significant demands on the future provision of housing, schools and health services within the town.

**Community/ Leisure**

The Neighbourhood Plan defines the properties below as Community Facilities.

Proposals that will result in either the loss of or cause significant harm to a defined facility will be resisted, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the operation of the facility, or the on-going delivery of the community value of the facility, is no longer financially viable.

Development proposals to sustain or extend the viable use of existing community facilities and the development of new sustainable and affordable facilities to enhance community cohesion will be supported. (work out utilisation rates to support/ not support the Point)

1. Town Hall
2. Westminster Memorial Hospital (ACV)
3. Royal British Legion
4. Shaftesbury Arts Centre (3 or 4 different rooms)
5. Library (ACV)?
6. Lindlar Hall
7. Youth Club
8. Football Club and Sports Bar
9. Silver Band Hall
10. Bowling Club
11. Gold Hill House
12. Trinity Day Centre for the elderly
13. Tourist Information Centre
14. Guys Marsh Learning Centre
15. Shaston Social Club
16. Swan’s Yard – Swans Community Trust – Registered Charity – The Creative Heart of Shaftesbury
17. Bell Street Methodist church (hall)

**Tourism**

This policy is intended to support the growth of the tourist economy, by protecting existing tourist uses, and supporting the development of new ones.

Proposals for the development of, or change of use to, a bed and breakfast, hotel or hostel use within the defined Development Boundaries of Shaftesbury will be supported, provided the scheme has sufficient off-street car parking spaces and has regard to the amenities of adjoining residential properties.

Proposals that will result in the loss of an existing tourist use will be resisted, unless it can be demonstrated that its continued use is no longer viable.