

Vision for Windsor

Windsor must maintain its character as an attractive historic market town. Development must enhance the wider setting of the castle, river, parks and other attractions and the town must remain a pleasant place to live, be easily accessible, have a vibrant and healthy economy, and provide for and balance the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Our view of what the Windsor Neighbourhood Plan Area will be like in 2030

1. The historic nature of the town and the overall setting of Windsor Castle has been maintained and enhanced through attractive new development that is sympathetic to its distinctive character and heritage.
2. There is a green and leafy feel throughout and around the town.
3. There is a mix of high quality housing, suitable for families and a diverse population, with adequate parking.
4. It is a town where residents can move around easily with improved accessibility into the town centre by public transport, car, bike, river, and on foot, thus helping to address the problems of traffic congestion and lack of parking.
5. The transport and parking systems are sufficient to deal with the high numbers of visitors to Windsor.
6. Important views of Windsor Castle and local landmarks and attractions have been preserved within and around the town.
7. Shopping, education, health, sports and leisure, entertainment, social, and cultural opportunities have been improved for the wellbeing of the community.
8. It is a clean town with low levels of pollution.
9. All residents have improved access both to community facilities and to green and open spaces.
10. There is a vibrant and diverse economy from micro, small and start up businesses as well as medium and large businesses, and sustainable business and employment opportunities.

Key Priorities to deliver this vision include:

1. Strengthen protection for our remaining heritage buildings and encourage new developments which have regard to the nature and character of the different parts of the town and overall setting of the Castle.
2. Improve the visual impression of the town.
3. Improve and maintain amenities, open space and community facilities for residents.
4. Create a heart for West Windsor.
5. Encourage improved quality of architecture and street scenes throughout the town.
6. Retain the appeal of the town to families so that future development is matched by creating appropriate amenities for all ages
7. Seek ways to reduce congestion, and improve parking availability.
8. Improve the facilities and accessibility of green spaces in and around the town.
9. Protect Green Belt against development unless there is public support for this and clear overall community benefits.
10. Encourage high quality infrastructure.
11. Protect and encourage the diversity and balance of retail businesses and particularly small independents to make it attractive for people to shop locally.
12. Seek ways to encourage small and start up businesses and home working and encourage employers to stay in the town.

Heritage Housing & Community (& Indoor leisure, health & education) New objectives from Vision Survey in Red

INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY	SUGGESTED APPROACH
A. Our heritage is important and we need to protect and retain heritage buildings	1. Develop a local list of significant local heritage buildings and other heritage features that are not currently listed by English Heritage. 2. Protect existing heritage buildings and attractive features more strongly through conservation policies.
B. Preserve the distinctive and authentic character of the streets	Development must respect and enhance the character and appearance of this important and historic town and the wider setting of the Castle, other landmarks and valued buildings and areas and key views
C. Improve the appearance of the towns buildings	Encourage new developments to have a high standard of architecture and quality materials and be sympathetic to the character of the areas they are in.
F. Maintain community facilities	New development should provide new or replace existing community facilities where appropriate.
D. We know we need more homes somewhere but don't want to overdevelop and ruin our area	Identify any significant new sites that may be developed and create design briefs for these. Work with RBWM to shape the developments proposed on Sawyers Close, Vale Road and other sites proposed under the Borough Local Plan.
E. General support for family houses	Seek to provide a balance between the types of new residential development with family houses as well as flats.
G. Affordable Housing	Aim to develop policies to support or Provide affordable housing for rent/purchase (Key worker, shared equity etc)
H. Leisure & Community facilities for young people	Seek to provide more indoor & outdoor play & Leisure facilities
I. Ensure there are enough community health facilities	Support additional GP surgeries in areas where there are few (West Windsor) and allow development of existing surgeries to improve facilities & capacity. (Check with RBWM Health & wellbeing board & Clinical commissioning group)
J. Education	Ensure there are enough school places where new development to take place.

The Economy

INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY	SUGGESTED APPROACH
A. Clear and strong support for small and start up businesses	Devise planning policies to support small and start up businesses, such as areas for small business, home working/mixed live- work units.
B. We want a greater variety of unique independent local retailers.	Investigate ways to support local and independent shops and small retailers through the planning system.
D. We are losing some of our essential shops along Dedworth Road and in the town generally.	Monitor the balance between shop uses and devise policies to aim for a healthy balance between use classes. Encourage a range of shops suitable for all age groups. Support retail along Dedworth road-specifically the creation of more” heart “to West Windsor e.g (at the junction of Dedworth & Vale Road).
F. Concerns about the appearance of shops and shopping streets	Support RBWM Conservation policies on the appearance of shops, colour, signs and street furniture.
C. Bring back John Lewis!	Work with the Central Windsor NP for Business to encourage major retailers into the town.
E. We are losing employment space and jobs in the town through conversion of offices, industrial buildings and shops to residential .	Work with CWNP for business to find ways to maintain employment space in the town.
G. Encourage extra business uses & facilities	Support additional leisure facilities either in the WNP or Central Windsor Business area, e.g. Cinema, bowling, etc.

Transport

INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY	SUGGESTED APPROACH
<p>A. Traffic congestion is a major problem at certain times of the day for part of the year, particularly on the north/South route through Windsor including access to LEGOLAND and the town centre</p>	<p>Engage with RBWM , Central Windsor NP area (Windsor 2030), LEGOLAND, and other major stakeholders to improve transport infrastructure and other facilities and to resolve problems including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relieving bottlenecks 2. Supporting a new M3 M4 link 3. Supporting improvements to Park and Ride 4. Support new initiatives e.g. tram service, improvements to bus routes and stops, imaginative car parking schemes, use of the river. 5. Traffic management-calming, lights, signage, environmental improvements
<p>B. Parking is a problem for residents (as well as visitors)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek ways to provide more parking within new developments throughout the WNP area, encouraging a review parking standards where particular problems arise.
<p>C. Footpaths and Cycle facilities are popular but could be further improved.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with neighbouring NP areas to plan where possible for continuous walking and safe cycling routes throughout the town and specifically along the river and for access to them for residents (follow up the proposal for a new foot bridge across the river). And to and from Ascot via the great Park and Winkfield Road 2. Aim to develop better cycle access though Dedworth towards the town centre and work with new developments to take this into account. 3. Encourage new development to have provision for secure cycle facilities. 4. Improve underpasses to/from the town centre to improve access.
<p>D. New development impact</p>	<p>To seek to consider and reduce the impact of new development by working with RBWM and other stakeholders for example by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritising sites where there is access to public transport, good road access.

Open Space, Natural Environment, Countryside & Leisure

INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY	SUGGESTED APPROACH
D Some of our green spaces inside the town may be at risk of development	Protect and maintain green spaces inside the town, designating local green space (NPPF)
B We are concerned about losing the green feel of the town as it gets more built up.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and enhance the green feel of the streets. Protection of trees, green verges and hedgerows along major arterial routes. 2. Provide appropriate garden and /or communal green space within all new developments, enhance and expand open space provision to meet increasing need. 3. Encourage new developments to replace trees in front gardens and use green boundaries. 4. Encourage green corridors through the town.
E We are worried about the possible loss of the Green Belt and “edge of settlement” areas.	Protect and maintain green spaces around the perimeter of the town
A Some of our open spaces could be improved and have better facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and protect green spaces in areas designated for redevelopment such as Sawyers Close. 2. Improve facilities in existing open spaces, including sports facilities.
C We would like better access to green spaces for pedestrians and cyclists	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve connectivity, green “corridors” and safe cycle/pedestrian access “to and through” open space and development areas. 2. Seek to provide continuous walking/cycling access along the river north of Windsor & Eton Bridge and through the Home Park and Great Park. 3. Improve cycle/car parking facilities and signage for open space locations.
F. Address localised drainage issues	Aim for sustainable drainage, (SUDS-sustainable Urban Drainage System), inc subterreanean drainage and surface drainage E.g Bourne Ditch, and others under West Windsor.(Possible link to green corridors for wildlife). (Speak RBWM Simon Lavin re flooding risk).