

# Policy Statements for the Nailsea Parish Plan

## 1. The Future of Nailsea

On the basis of the current mix of housing stock and population statistics in Nailsea, and against the background of national trends such as household size, with no significant change to the housing stock, it is projected that the population of Nailsea will slowly decrease over the next decades, the average age of the population will rise and the average number of residents per household will reduce. A slow decline in population would have detrimental consequences on the social benefits and provision of services in the Town.

The Town Council therefore supports a policy of limited growth, sufficient to maintain a balanced population age structure, stable in size. Such limited growth must be sustainable, requiring a balancing of economic, environmental and social needs. The Town Council will seek to identify the optimal size of this limited growth and the time frame over which it might be realised.

This will require commensurate limited growth in employment opportunities for residents in the Town to avoid increased out-commuting. In turn this is likely to require an improved transport infrastructure. Services must be planned and maintained at a level to meet the needs of a limited increase in population.

## 2. Green Belt Land

The Town Council fully supports the principle of separating distinct communities with green belt land. The Council will therefore continue to pursue vigorously its policy of seeking an extension of the green belt to the south and west of Nailsea (Bucklands Batch round to Netherton Wood Lane).

In order to allow for limited growth in accordance with policy 1 (The Future of Nailsea), some relaxation of the green belt to the north of the town (Bristol Road to Clevedon Road) may be required.

In addition a minor amendment to the green belt at the north east boundary of the town (west of Bristol Road) to improve access to the industrial estates, will continue to be sought.

## 3. Town Centre

The future of Nailsea as a thriving community requires a healthy retail and service sector. The Town Council wishes to work closely with interested parties such as the Town Centre owners and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to maintain and improve the range and quality of facilities and services in the centre of Nailsea, in order to promote its status as a market town.

In particular the Town Council supports the continuation of markets in Nailsea and will work with relevant bodies to achieve this.

The Town Council will also pursue improvements to the environment of the Town and is prepared to acquire an interest in the Glassworks site to influence the regeneration of the eastern High Street (see policy 4 Heritage).

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## 4. Heritage

The Town Council believes that the industrial and social heritage of the Town should be preserved and, where possible, made accessible to residents and visitors. The Council will also encourage and where appropriate support other groups wishing to understand and preserve the Town's heritage.

The Council will work with English Heritage, North Somerset Council and other interested parties to resolve the issue of the Glassworks site.

## 5. Open Spaces

### a) Amenity space

The numerous open spaces in and around Nailsea, including amenity space in residential areas, are highly valued by its residents and the Town Council. These open spaces will, as far as possible, be protected and preserved by the Council. To this end the Council will actively pursue the appropriate planning designation of such spaces and will be prepared to consider acquiring an interest in the ownership or maintenance of the relevant land should this be practicable and necessary to achieve this policy aim.

### b) Public Rights of Way

The Council is committed to the protection, maintenance and development of public rights of way, including footpaths, bridleways, quiet lanes and cycleways in the Town and will pursue this in conjunction with neighbouring parishes where appropriate. The Council will consider extending its responsibility for the maintenance of public rights of way and open spaces, to include those managed by North Somerset Council, subject to the transfer of appropriate funds in respect of the District Council's existing responsibilities.

## 6. Leisure Facilities

In order to enable active involvement in leisure pursuits the Town Council will support the development of sustainable recreational facilities to meet the present and future needs of the people of Nailsea. This includes, but is not limited to, sports fields, children's play areas and allotments.

The Town Council will continue to support the acquisition and development of facilities subject to the proportionate use of its resources. It will encourage and, where practicable, support organisations which themselves are promoting recreational activities.

The aim of the Town Council is to have a swimming pool in Nailsea. The Council will support the development of such provision, consistent with its overall responsibilities and resources. It does not believe it appropriate to manage or be responsible for the revenue costs associated with the operation of a swimming pool.

## 7. Community Safety

Although a large proportion of residents who responded to the survey consider Nailsea a safe place to live, particular concerns were expressed regarding anti-

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social behaviour (especially relating to alcohol consumption), irresponsible road usage and a desire for a more visible police presence in the Town.

The Town Council will endeavour to ensure the extent of these problems is fully understood and are adequately explained to residents. In particular it will seek regular reports on policing, to include statistical information on levels of crime and will continue regular dialogue with appropriate representatives of the police.

The Council will continue both to encourage relevant parties to take appropriate steps to address problems and also to provide support and encouragement to local organisations seeking to maintain and improve safety in the Town. These parties include, but are not limited to, the police, North Somerset Council youth services, other youth groups, the Local Action Team, the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the National Health Service.