

Infrastructure



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Introduction

North Tawton has been identified as a Local Centre within the Draft Joint Local Plan. This means that although not as big and well-resourced as the main towns within West Devon – Okehampton and Tavistock – it offers some of the essential services and facilities that are found within the towns. Maintaining and protecting sustainable Infrastructure within North Tawton is essential to the health and well-being of all residents, within the town and surrounding villages, as well as ensuring the town continues to thrive and remain sustainable.

This theme has identified 3 key areas for North Tawton and surrounding areas which will ensure that residents of all ages are able to access services locally that ensure they can enjoy a reasonable quality of life. The 3 key areas are **Health Provision, Education and Car Parking & Transport Issues.**

Health Provision

Within North Tawton there is a Doctor's Surgery which is a branch of nearby Bow Medical Practice, 2 Dental Practices (one offering NHS provision), and a Pharmacy which provides a service to the town and the villages beyond. The Pharmacy has recently acquired new premises which enables it to offer a comprehensive service that allows people to manage their medications with any support they require. This commitment to the health and well-being of residents at a time when rural Pharmacies are under considerable pressure is very welcome.

Education

Pre School and Primary aged children are well served by North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery. The Nursery, which is managed by the Primary School, provides childcare and education for 2-4 year olds and is the main childcare provider in the town. Currently the school is almost to capacity with the likelihood of additional pupils from the new Batheway development. The majority of Secondary age pupils travel to Okehampton College, with some accessing Queen Elizabeth College in Crediton and Exeter College for post 16 education. Education comes under the remit of Devon County however this plan can ensure that monies available through 106 agreements are directed appropriately to support the educational requirements of the children of North Tawton and surrounding areas.

Car Parking & Transport Issues

Car parking, along with general transport concerns, is an issue that runs through a number of themes in this plan. In this section the aspect being addressed, within the relevant policy, is that of improved car parking. Transport concerns that have been raised by residents both in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, and regularly within Town Council meetings, include speed of vehicles through the town, HGV Lorries which access local businesses through the town, and general road maintenance. Although outside the remit of this plan, apart from car parking, these issues have

Objectives

11. To support a sustainable health provision within the town which enhances healthy living for individuals and families and meets the needs of local residents.
12. To ensure that 106 agreements consider the impact of new developments on the needs of the pre-school, Primary and secondary age children in the town providing appropriate financial support.
13. To support the provision of improved car parking within the town.

been discussed by the Neighbourhood Plan group and raised with the appropriate authorities and organisations.

The Policies, within this theme of Infrastructure, aim to address the key areas covered by the Objectives.

Section 8, Promoting Healthy Communities, and Section 4, Promoting Sustainable Transport of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) underpin these policies with specific paragraphs listed before each policy.

Neighbourhood Plan Policies

New Medical Practice

North Tawton is a rural community with limited transport links, therefore the provision of Primary Medical Services within North Tawton is important to the health and wellbeing of patients within the community, particularly those who are unable to travel.

North Tawton Medical practice has undergone significant change over the past few years. Until April 2008 Medical Services were provided through a single GP Practice. In September 2011 Wallingbrook, a Group Practice covering Okehampton, Chulmleigh, Winkleigh and North Tawton, took over the provision of medical services in the town. In 2014 Wallingbrook withdrew their provision in North Tawton for financial viability reasons. This left residents in a state of uncertainty about the future of medical services within the town. Interim arrangements were put in place for 12 months.

Following a tendering process in 2015, North Tawton Medical Practice became a branch surgery of Bow Medical Practice providing much needed security for the future provision of medical services within the town. The surgery is based in an old building in the town which has been adapted for its current use. Residents expressed the desire for more suitable premises and improved facilities in the Questionnaire. Planning permission for the Bathway Development does include the provision of a serviced site for a medical centre, however, in the current financial climate funding to purchase the site and construct a medical centre seems unlikely.

Policy IN1 reflects the expressed desire of residents to see improved medical facilities within the town.

Related District & National Policies

- **JLP (draft)**
- **NPPF 70**

Policy IN1 - New Medical Practice

Development proposals for the provision of an enhanced or new medical practice and surgery will be supported.

Development and the Implications for Education

There are 455 children and young people aged 0-19 years living in North Tawton (2016 Devon JSNA Community Profile) which makes up 22% of the population of the town, with 15.5% being of school age (5-19 years)

Primary and Pre-school education for children aged 2-11 years is provided by North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery, a 'Good' school as judged by Ofsted in 2014. In 2014 there were 135 children on the Primary School roll, by 2018 this will increase to 172, with the predicted increase resulting from additional families from the Batheway development, bringing this to 180+.

The main Secondary School for North Tawton is Okehampton College, an 'Outstanding' provision as judged by Ofsted in 2014, based 7 miles away. This is a popular College serving a wide geographic area. The new housing developments within Okehampton and neighbouring parishes will place increasing pressure on an already oversubscribed college.

Education requirements from all new housing developments, subject to 106 agreements, should be assessed by applying Devon County's Education section 106 policy (January 2013).

As stated in the 106 agreement for the Batheway Development, monies must be used for the provision and/or improvement of Primary education facilities within North Tawton and ICT equipment and for the improvement of Secondary Education facilities and contribution to transport costs.

Policy IN2 ensures that all new developments must consider the education implications of increasing the number of pre-school and school age children and young people in the town.

Related District & National Policies

- **JLP (draft)**
- **Devon County council 106 Policy Jan 2013**
- **NPPF 70 & 72**

Policy IN2 - Development and the Implications for Education

Development proposals should demonstrate that they have had considered implications arising from the proposal (if any) for education provision and capacity in North Tawton (including Pre-school and Primary provision) and any wider catchment implications in relation to Secondary Education.

Where an educational need is demonstrated, section 106 planning obligations (where relevant) and / or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (when in place in West Devon Borough) should be prioritised to support any necessary improvement in education facilities in North Tawton and where appropriate a contribution to secondary school facilities and transport costs.

Development and the Implications for Car Parking within the town

The most frequently raised issue in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire was car parking and transport concerns in the town. In response to the question 'what changes would you like?' addressing car parking (75%), and road and pavement maintenance (77%) produced the highest responses.

54% of residents who responded said that change or significant change was required in relation to car parking to enable better access to the town centre, 59% of those who responded said that change was required in relation to residents' parking and 49% in relation to visitors' parking. For 44% of those who responded, change or significant change would be welcomed to aid businesses to access car parking. Anecdotal evidence from stall holders attending a Craft Market held in the Town Hall highlighted the main obstacle for them supporting such an event in the future was the severe lack of car parking in the town.

The majority of houses in the roads approaching the Square were built before the creation of the motor car thus without garages or off road parking areas. The vast majority of residents have at least two cars per household. North Tawton has 2 public car parks, one at the top of the High St and the second off the Square behind the Council Office. Both are regularly full during the day and overnight, very often with residents' cars, leaving few spaces for visitors or residents accessing the town's businesses. Alternative sites for Car Parking in the town were suggested by residents in the Questionnaire and have also been considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Group. These require further discussions with owners of these sites and further consultation within the community. There is no easy solution to the parking issues within the town hence the need for all the policies within this plan to address this important issue – **Policy IN3; HO1; HO7 & E5.**

Related District & National Policies

- **JLP (draft)**
- **NPPF 39,40**

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