

Vision for Mortimer

What is this about?

The Vision sets out the essential characteristics of Mortimer valued by the community and how to maintain and enhance them...

Background:

Mortimer has a distinctive rural character and sense of community with a wide range of services and thriving small business economy. It is this vision of Mortimer, now and in the future, that forms the fundamental and distinctive focus for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This vision is encapsulated by the following:

What will it mean to me?

Establishing the characteristics the community wishes to maintain and enhance will provide the yardstick against which to check that the plans and policies included in the NDP deliver the vision and also to judge the compromises that may have to be made..

Agricultural Although the livelihoods of most parishioners of Mortimer are no longer linked to agriculture there is still significant and valued rural commercial activity – farms, forestry, small holdings, and equine services.

The landscape and setting of the village Distinctive views, open spaces, woodland, rural paths and bridleways combine with the more immediate setting of the village to create the landscape within which the village is set. The area of the Fairground with community centre and the Horse & Groom, and the focussed centre of the village with St John's Church, shops, bank, Post Office is itself a valued visual landscape.

Separate from neighbouring villages

The approach to the parish through clear green belt, open fields or natural woodland between us and neighbouring communities of Burghfield, Wokefield, Beech Hill, Mortimer West End, Silchester and Padworth, and along the east side of The Street. Other villages within the area are similarly approached through working countryside.



Quietness A rural ambience pervades the parish rather than that of a town or urban area with the sounds of the countryside, wildlife, quietness not the urbanised hum of motor traffic or shopping malls.

Easy access to countryside Public paths/walks and rural activities are available for walking, cycling, shooting, hunting, horse riding.

Local design Local or typical architecture and design is to be encouraged rather than that of urban characteristics. Large car parks, lighting, road signage, advertising, taxi ranks and general street clutter found in a town are alien to a rural environment.

Specific Considerations:

For the parish and village to continue to be approached through working agricultural land, woodland, native trees and hedges, river etc. care has to be taken to ensure any developments on the edge of the village do not jeopardise this rural approach to the village now or in the future.

All proposals for development need to demonstrate how they improve and re-enforce Mortimer's rural character, not detract from it, by adhering to the policies in the NDP and the spirit of those policies, for example:



- ❖ How is context and character of the village including its historic heritage enhanced?
- ❖ How well is the connection with the countryside maintained and improved by such means as an enhanced network of well-maintained public rural footpaths and bridleways?
- ❖ Are the habitats and sites for country flora and fauna preserved and enhanced?
- ❖ Are facilities for the community that have the potential to improve the quality of life for the residents included alongside new development e.g. new green spaces, public footpaths, cycle ways, open spaces, provision of semi-mature and mature native trees and hedges?
- ❖ Roads, footpaths, fencing, road signage, etc. shall provide a safe, friendly, country village feel rather than an urban or suburban feel.
- ❖ Does the proposed development reflect the historic heritage, appearance and scale of existing buildings; where possible, does it avoid the demolition of older, traditional buildings?
- ❖ The village remains a dark village except where essential for safety and then the choice of lamp standard will be in keeping with a rural setting rather than urban style sodium lights.

Discussion Sessions

Tue 24th Feb 7 – 9pm

Sat 28th Feb 10 – 12am

Please use the post card:

Please use the postcard to express your views on the vision statement.