

Wiltshire Council Planning Consultation Response – Housing Enabling Team

24th March 2026

Application No:	PL/2026/01383
Application Type:	Full Planning Permission
Proposal:	The development of 90 dwellings with new access from Blind Lane internal roads and footpaths, areas of open space (including play space), drainage, landscaping and associated plant and works.
Site Address:	Land off Blind Lane, Southwick, Wiltshire

Thank you for consulting the Housing Enabling Team in connection with the above Full planning application. My comments and observations in respect of the affordable housing requirements are as follows:

I note that the proposed development site falls outside the Settlement Framework Boundary for Southwick and may therefore be contrary to Planning Policy. However, if through the planning process the development site is considered suitable for the proposed residential development, my comments and observations in respect of the affordable housing requirements are as follows:

Policy Requirements:

Core Policy 43 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (as amended by the National Planning Policy Framework) sets out a requirement for 30% on-site Affordable Housing provision within the 30% Affordable Housing Zone, on all sites of 10 or more dwellings. There is therefore a requirement to provide 27 affordable units within a scheme of 90 dwellings. This would meet the policy requirement and would assist in addressing the need for affordable housing. The Affordable Housing should be secured, at nil subsidy, in a S106 Agreement.

Tenure Mix:

In accordance with Core Policies 43 and 45 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy the tenure mix should reflect local need for affordable housing and should therefore be provided with a tenure mix of 60% of the units (16 units) being for Social Rented housing, and 40% of the units (11 units) being provided for affordable home ownership that could comprise of Shared Ownership and First Homes. The specific home ownership tenures / split will be advised by the Housing Enabling Team at the time of S106 drafting, however, it is likely that the 11 units of home ownership tenure will be sought as shared ownership.

Unit Size Mix:

Core Policy 45 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy states that housing size and type will be expected to reflect that of the demonstrable need for the community within which a site is located. The applicant has proposed the below Affordable Housing mix, which is generally acceptable, however, please note comments in **bold**.

Social Rented (16 units):

-1 bed / 2 person (maisonette style) flats = 6 units. **4 units are required to include 2 x ground floor maisonettes built to M4(2) Standard*.**

-2 bed / 4 person houses = 5 units, **these should preferably not include ensembles. The 1 x 2 bed M4(3) Standard house is not required; this unit should convert to a general needs 1 x 2 bed house.**

The Layout Plan shows 4 x Glenside property types rather than 2 x Glenside and 2 x Lakeshore as shown on the accommodation schedule, please can this be corrected.

-1 x 2 bed/ 4 person bungalow built to M4(2) Standard is required*

-3 bed / 6 person houses = 4 units. 5 units are required. The floor plan refers to 'Heatherfield' property type and the accommodation schedule refers to 'Heatherwood'. Presumably, they are the same property type, please let me know if this is not the case and appropriate corrections should be made.

-4 bed / 7 person house = 1 unit

Affordable Home Ownership (11 units)

(specific tenures to be advised by the Housing Enabling Team and included in the S106 Agreement, however, it is likely that the Housing Enabling Team will request the 11 units as shared ownership):

-2 bed / 4 person houses = 7 units

-3 bed / 5 person houses = 4 units

There is also a demonstrable need for adapted housing in Southwick. On all schemes which provide more than 10 Affordable Housing units, it is requested that at least 10% of affordable units are provided as affordable rented adapted units to help meet this need. These units should be provided as ground floor flats / bungalows to Building Regulations M4(2) standards. In this instance it would be appropriate to provide 2 x 1 bed ground floor affordable rented maisonettes and 1 x 2 bed affordable rented bungalow as adapted units to meet demonstrable need*.

Design of Scheme (including Minimum Floorspace Standards):

Affordable housing in Wiltshire is expected to meet high standards of design and quality, and to be visually indistinguishable from open market housing. When considering scheme design options, the following should be taken into account:

- **Clustering / Distribution:** On a proposed scheme of this size, the Affordable Housing should be evenly dispersed, in 2-3 distinct clusters with no more than 15 units in each cluster. Any First Homes should be distributed across the whole site. The proposed clustering of the Affordable Housing is acceptable.
- **Adjoining Properties:** To aid marketing/sales of Affordable tenures all Affordable tenures should, where possible, not be directly connected to the other affordable/market tenures in semi-detached pairs or in terraces.
- **Distribution of 1 bed flats:** Any 1 bedroom flats should be provided in maisonette style flats, each with a dedicated garden space.
- **No Flats over Garages / Commercial Properties:** Please note that due to potential maintenance and management issues flats over commercial units or garages are considered unsuitable for affordable units.
- **No 2 bedroom flats:** 2 bed flats above ground floor level are not considered suitable for affordable units. Demand for these types of units is low as the majority of households on the Housing Register who are eligible to bid on a 2 bed property are families with children, for whom a 2 bedroom house with a garden is more suitable. The Council and its partner RPs are averse to this type of accommodation as it results in regular re-admittance to the Housing Register.
- **Parking:** Electric Vehicle Charging Points or infrastructure should be provided for each affordable home to meet current building regulation and local requirements. The scheme layout should be designed to have as much in-curtilage parking as possible to facilitate the provision of on-plot Electric Vehicle Charging Points for the Affordable dwellings wherever possible. Parking courts are not considered suitable for affordable homes (other than for blocks of flats). The parking being proposed for the Affordable Housing is generally acceptable, however, plot 81 (3 bed house) needs one more car parking space as does plot 21 (4 bed house), please can this be corrected by the applicants.

- **Parking for M4(2):** Parking spaces for M4(2) units should meet the required standard with respect to location and width.

If, in accordance with the Wiltshire Design Guide, the market units are being provided to full Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS), then the Affordable units should also be provided to that standard. If, however, full NDSS is not required for a specific scheme, we would require that all Affordable homes are built to meet at least 85% of the Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS) relevant to the dwelling type and minimum person criteria, in order to ensure that the Affordable Housing units are eligible for inclusion in Homes England's Affordable Housing programme. The sizes (sqm) and person criteria of the proposed Affordable Housing is acceptable. NDSS and 85% NDSS are shown in the table below:

Number of bedrooms	Number of bed spaces	NDSS			Minimum 85% NDSS		
		1 storey (sqm)	2 storey (sqm)	3 storey (sqm)	1 storey (sqm)	2 storey (sqm)	3 storey (sqm)
Studio	1p	39 (37)*			34 (32)*		
1b	2p	50	58		43	50	
2b	3p	61	70		52	60	
	4p	70	79		60	68	
3b	4p	74	84	90	63	72	77
	5p	86	93	99	74	80	85
	6p	95	102	108	81	87	92
4b	5p	90	97	103	77	83	88
	6p	99	106	112	85	91	96
	7p	108	115	121	92	98	103
	8p	117	124	130	100	106	111
5b	6p	103	110	116	88	94	99
	7p	112	119	125	96	102	107
	8p	121	128	134	103	109	114
6b	7p	116	123	129	99	105	110
	8p	125	132	138	107	113	118

*Where a one person flat has a shower room rather than a bathroom the floorspace may be reduced from 39 sqm to 37 sqm (NDSS) or from 34 sqm to 32 sqm (85% NDSS).

Transfer of Affordable Rented and Shared Ownership Units to Registered Provider:

The affordable dwellings (other than any First Homes) will be required to be transferred to a Registered Provider, approved by the Council, or to the Council, on a nil subsidy basis.

It is strongly recommended that the applicant contacts Registered Providers and Wiltshire Council's Residential Development Team as soon as possible to discuss the best option for the affordable dwellings including an indication of transfer prices that can be expected. A list of Registered Providers who work in partnership with Wiltshire Council, and contact details for Wiltshire Council's Residential Development Team, can be provided on request.

Sale of First Homes

Please note that any First Homes being provided must be discounted by a minimum of 30% against the market value, with the sale price, at first sale, no higher than £250,000 after the discount has been applied. They must be sold to qualifying first time buyers (with the discount and restrictions passed on to subsequent owners in perpetuity) in accordance with procedures and eligibility criteria set out in government guidance. Please see [First Homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/first-homes) for more information. First Homes should be marketed to households with a local connection to Wiltshire for the period that local eligibility criteria apply.

Nominations:

The Local Authority will have nomination rights to the affordable dwellings, secured through a S106 Agreement (Local Authority to provide first draft of the S106 to meet its current format).

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