

Agenda Item 6a is proposed due to increased pressure of development and perceived lack of policy application to protect areas in Wiltshire that are being overdeveloped. The Parish Council has been working within the confines of the legal structure available to object to recent development in Lyneham and Bradenstoke with very little positive support to avoid unwanted and unneeded development sites. WALPA would provide another place of support for the Council to receive guidance, support and understanding from fellow Parishes that hold different experience.

WALPA, the **Wiltshire Area Localism and Planning Group**, is an alliance of over 30 town and parish councils in Wiltshire that works on local planning issues, particularly concerning Neighbourhood Plans. The group formed to address concerns about the potential loss of local control in planning decisions and to represent the interests of their communities to Wiltshire Council and the government. They advocate for their members on planning matters, which can include responding to consultations, lobbying on issues like land supply shortages, and developing local design guidance.

- **Membership:** WALPA is made up of representatives from town and parish councils across Wiltshire, collectively representing a significant portion of the county's residents.
- **Purpose:** Its primary goal is to ensure local input is considered in planning decisions, especially when faced with pressures that could override local plans and concerns.
- **Activities:** WALPA members meet to discuss issues, coordinate their responses to planning matters, and engage with Wiltshire Council on strategic planning issues, including reviewing the Local Plan. They have also worked on issues like the Wiltshire Design Guide and the impact of national planning policy on local plans.