

**STEWKLEY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**  
**JULY 2016**

**Public Consultation**

The next opportunity for members of the public to bring forth their ideas or concerns will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July between 10am and 12md at the Pavilion. Steve Nicholl has agreed to accompany me at this session. Other members of the Steering Group are welcome to attend and participate if they so wish.

**AVDC - Draft Local Plan.**

The AVDC draft Local Plan (VALP) for the whole District has now been published on the Web and the link has been provided to all our participants in the project. I have requested a hard copy be purchased for our deliberations as we progress to drafting the Neighbourhood Plan.

The District Plan proposes a total of 144 new homes for the parish of Stewkley. At the time of preparation AVDC calculated that HELAA had identified 85. Five at High Street North (STW003) and 80 at Soulbury Road (STW005) leaving 41 yet to be identified. The recent result of the Appeal for STW003 means that 14 homes can be built on this site rather than 5 as proposed by AVDC. Consequently should Soulbury Road be agreed the remaining figure will reduce to 32 sites rather than 41.

We should not forget that Page 66 of the VALP, although showing Winslow or Haddenham as preferred locations, still lists Stewkley as a possible site for a settlement of several thousand homes

**Adjoining Parishes**

I personally attend the Drayton Parslow Parish Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June and briefed their Council members on the process we are following for preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. I invited them to write to our Parish Clerk should they have any suggestions or concerns likely to affect our Parishes.

**Land Ownership**

Together with Andy Chappell we have started to identify landowners in the Parish. Within the direct curtilage of the High Street there are 45 sections of land owned by 34 separate people. Within the parish there are over 300 fields and we are progressing through the ownership of these. The major owners are Hunt, Wheeler, Roffe, Heady, Keen, Judd, Gurney, Stanton & Dickens.

**Sewerage**

The AVDC draft Plan explicitly talks about the necessity for appropriate Sewage to accommodate new developments. (Page 13). There is a strong belief in Stewkley the present sewerage system will not effectively deal with any additional demands on both the piping and sewer works. It is therefore essential we establish the accuracy of any claims. Therefore an independent Consultants assessment is now necessary.

Neil Dickens – Chairman.