

STEWKLEY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS THROUGHOUT 2016/7

The preparation of our Parish Neighbourhood Plan has continued throughout the last year.

The nine Working Groups addressing:

Housing & Landscaping.

Conservation & Heritage,

Roads & Infrastructure,

Primary Education,

Youth,

Amenities,

Elderly & Disabled,

Business

& Recreation have now virtually completed their research & published their draft Policies & recommendations.

Every available means of communication has been utilised to enable consultation with villagers.

The new Parish Council Web site was launched in the year and whilst it took a while to complete and modify, all Neighbourhood Plan papers are now on the site for public scrutiny. This includes:

The initial Village Survey,

Minutes of Steering Group meetings,

Draft Working Group Reports,

News Letters,

Policy Statements,

Site details,

Maps

and answers to frequently asked questions in 33 separate categories.

There have been six public meetings in the last year, ten News Letters have been published and there have been regular monthly updates in the Grapevine.

In spite of all of this I estimate only around 10% of the village adult population have participated, commented or made suggestions on the plan.

Contact has been maintained with the Parish Councils at Mursley, Drayton Parslow and Soulbury should there be a need to share a policy.

The research is now drawing to a finish and the Working Group Reports are now being finally completed for inclusion in the Plan.

I am confident we will very shortly be in a position to publish the sites selected by the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning Team for future development over the next 5, 10 or 15 years. There will be a further Public Exhibition solely dealing with the recommended 5 year sites and providing details of the

proposals for development by way of number, type & design of homes and open spaces. I personally hope with the co operation of the land owners & developers we can incorporate 66, High Street North (Cricketers) and Soulbury Road into that Exhibition so that the next 5year period for development in Stewkley Parish is available to view.

A further opportunity for comments will then be available before these sites are finally included in the Draft Plan.

The Parish Council has engaged a Consultation with experience in the subject of Neighbourhood Planning to prepare the draft plan. It will be the responsibility of the Stewkley Parish Council to sign off the final draft Plan.

I say 'Draft' because it does not stop there. The next stage will be to provide AVDC with our draft Neighbourhood Plan for their consideration. Following this the Statutory Authorities are consulted on the plan.

The next stage is for AVDC Planning Authority to review the plan & comments received from the Statutory Authorities.

The Plan then goes to the Independent Examiner and he/she may raise Planning issues.

Following this circulation, if necessary the Plan will be updated before being published on the AVDC Web Site and copies distributed around the village in places of public attendance.

Stewkley Parish will then be invited to vote at a Referendum on whether they accept or disagree with the final plan.

Subject to 51% of those voting agreeing the Plan it then becomes finally approved.

Throughout this last year we have had around thirty people working on the research for the Plan. That number has now been reduced to the whole of the Parish Council plus another dozen or so.

I am sure most would agree the whole exercise has proven to be far more involved than we first thought. Hundreds of hours have been spent on the task to date and I thank everyone for their patience & commitment over the last year.

All being well we will have completed the job by the end of this year.