

Stewkley Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2019.

Report on progress of the Stewkley Neighbourhood Plan.

Work on the research and preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan commenced on the 8th January 2016. Nine Working Groups of volunteers have researched and prepared reports on a full range of topics affecting our community. The Steering Group, now consisting of ten volunteers (50% Parish Counsellors) has met on twenty three occasions.

Last Autumn a draft of the proposed policies was sent to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) and Bucks County Council (BCC). Feedback from the authorities was used to update the draft plan and a pre-submission copy was forwarded to AVDC on the 8th April 2019 for their further observations and comments. AVDC advised the Steering Group that the Open and Green Spaces report should be updated and confirmed that the Parish Council would then be able to conduct the pre-submission consultation with the statutory consultees who will have six weeks to respond. At this point the Plan will be published on the Village Web Site for all residents to see. Issues raised will be considered by the Steering Group and the plan will then be updated to become the Final Submission. It is expected that this phase will be completed by August 2019.

The Final Submission will be sent to AVDC for checking, which is then followed by a further consultation period of six weeks before the external inspection takes place. The Independent Examiner is appointed by AVDC and examination is expected to take 6-12 weeks, depending upon the Examiner's time pressures. Examination recommendations will then be considered by the Steering Group and the Plan will be updated if required. When the Plan is in accord with the Independent Examiner's views, AVDC will organise a Parish Referendum and the Plan will be either be adopted or rejected by residents.

The current completed draft proposes twelve sites for development of new housing providing a total of 139 homes consisting of starter homes, retirement properties, bungalows, flats, semi and detached 3 and 4 bedroomed houses and affordable homes. These to be erected between now and 2039. The linear nature of the village is protected.

A Settlement Boundary around Stewkley Village defines a clear line between the countryside and village's built form. Open Green spaces are identified and protected. Conservation and Heritage aspects of the village are protected. Off street parking requirements for new builds exceed the existing AVDC policy. Community Assets are identified for retention. Existing connection between village and countryside are protected. The need for a private Nursery School to accommodate children from the age of six months is identified.

Considerable amount of work has been undertaken by those volunteers concerned with drafting the Plan and it is anticipated that the Referendum will take place in Spring 2020.

Neil Dickens - Chairman