

Bradford on Avon Area Board, 11 March 2015

Neighbourhood Plan Updates

i) Holt Neighbourhood Plan

Holt Neighbourhood Plan conducted its major, detailed consultation on the first complete draft over the summer. We have now incorporated that feedback and re-written much of the document in the light of new emerging guidance. We were successful in gaining a second grant from Locality and have used some of this to buy in some expert consultation to ensure our next draft is as good as it can be and likely to survive the inspection process. We plan to hold our statutory consultation on this draft in spring. Then it should be final tweaks and into the inspection process.

Heather Morris,

Chair, Holt Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

ii) Bradford on Avon Neighbourhood Plan

Although work in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has not proceeded as speedily as was originally programmed considerable progress has now been made on setting out policies and proposals. To ensure that there is support in the town for the emerging plan it has been decided to carry out a public consultation on the main elements prior to final drafting. The date for this is 2nd to 16th March 2015 at the Vaults in Lamb Yard and online.

Housing Needs and Business Surveys for the town were undertaken at the end of last year. These were designed so that the policies in the plan would properly reflect local needs and be based on a full analysis of these issues.

Following the approval of the Wiltshire Core Strategy in January the Neighbourhood Plan can be finalised knowing that it will comply with the policies outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework and Strategy and there are no matters in the Core Strategy that have not already been taken into account.

The Steering Group continues to maintain close links with the Neighbourhood Plan liaison officer from the Spatial Planning team at Wiltshire Council and is intending to have the plan finalised by the summer.

The Town Council is pleased to acknowledge the assistance of the Community Development Foundation in the provision of a grant towards the cost of producing the Plan

Colin Johns, for Bradford on Avon Town Council

iii) Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan

The joint Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan has now passed its Independent Examination, we are delighted to announce. It is a remarkable achievement for our Neighbourhood Plan to have reached this stage – and apparently to be the first ever cross-border Plan in the country to have done so – following a tremendous community effort. Our sincere thanks to all who contributed.

In the report submitted both to B&NES and Wiltshire Councils, Planning Inspector, Janet Cheesley, comments: *“I consider that the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan will provide a strong practical framework against which decisions on development can be made.”* Ms Cheesley, who has already examined three other rural NPs, singles out for praise our consultation and publicity process, which went well beyond the legislative requirements.

It is usual for examiners to suggest modifications to help Plans conform to regulations. In our case, the examiner felt some of our proposed policies did not relate to land use or development and so should not be included. The Local Green Space designation has also been pared back. The Tyning in Freshford and Limpley Stoke’s play park are incorporated and will be given additional protection, if the Neighbourhood Plan is accepted at the referendum stage.

The examiner’s full report and further background information on the Plan can be viewed at www.freshfordvillage.com. We are not yet sure when the referendum will take place but will let you know as soon as we have more news.

From Limpley Stoke Clarion, March 2015

iv) Westwood Neighbourhood Plan

The Westwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established in May 2014.

The NPSG completed an extensive parish wide open consultation process from August to November 2014, reaching all households and securing responses from over 30%.

The outcome of the consultation exercise is presently being used to inform draft plan policies which it is expected will be consulted on within the parish in Spring 2015.

It is anticipated that a plan would be available and a referendum held in Summer 2015.

Jarrold Hill,

Chair, Westwood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group