

Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan Update

March 2019

We held a very successful public drop in day on the 16 February. 76 parishioners attended, and the comments received were both encouraging - in that people responded positively to the evidence and proposals - and flattering, in that they were impressed both with the work the steering group has done and the professional presentation.

If any councillor was unable to attend the drop in day, a PDF file of the display boards can be found on the village website, in the Parish Council section, under neighbourhood plan.

The bulk of the evidence gathering is now complete. We are now beginning to write the first draft of the plan itself, with the help of our consultant Ian Poole.

What next?

In the questionnaire we asked people to identify sites in the parish which might, and I emphasise might, be suitable for development. This will enable us to demonstrate to MSDC and to Government that we are able to deliver the number of houses needed to make our contribution to MSDC achieving its target for new houses over the next 20 years.

We have asked AECOM, a London consultancy to carry out a technical assessment of all the sites people suggested in the questionnaire and the drop in day last October. These sites will be evaluated against standard technical planning criteria, and against criteria that have emerged from the questionnaire results. All this will be presented to the parish for comment at another drop in day in May.

The final draft plan will be presented to the Parish Council for approval at our June meeting, before another drop in day in June for people to give feedback. Then there will be a further 6 week consultation period for the parish, before the plan goes off for external examination.

There will be a referendum on the plan in January or February 2020.

So a lot of work. Throughout this process, the Steering Group has been amazed and heartened by the level of support we have received from the people of Drinkstone - in volunteering to help with leaflet distribution, coming on village walks, and taking time to look at the work being done and give feedback.

Daphne Youngs