

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

July 2019

As many will know, the Drop-in session that was to take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd June was cancelled a few days before that date. The original purpose of this session was to present an assessment, carried out by independent advisers, of possible sites suggested by residents at the beginning of the Neighbourhood Plan process, where new housing might be built.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, based on professional advice received and also on the 2017 version of Mid Suffolk Council's Local Plan, had been working on the assumption that some 20 new houses might be required in Drinkstone over the period 2018-2036. That Local Plan had designated Drinkstone as a 'Hinterland Village' in which 'proportionate development' should take place.

On 18th June this year, three days before the Drop-in session was due, Babergh/Mid Suffolk published its new Draft Local Plan, for consideration by full District committee in the week beginning 24th June. This Plan re-designates Drinkstone as a 'Hamlet', a designation that reflects the representations made by Drinkstone Parish Council that the 'Hinterland Village' designation was inappropriate. The effect of this re-designation is to reduce substantially the number of new houses that Drinkstone is expected to accommodate over the period to 2036, from the assumed 20 to a minimum of just one.

While the new Local Plan is subject to confirmation, at the time of writing, planning permission has already been given since April 2018 to eight new houses. This more than satisfies the village's housing requirement for the entire period to 2036. At this stage therefore, there is no need to consider other sites and it is for that reason that the Drop-in session on 22nd June was cancelled.

Drinkstone's Neighbourhood Plan is almost complete. All residents will have an opportunity to consider and comment on the draft in early August. A Drop-in event had been arranged in the Village Hall for this purpose. This will take place on Saturday August 10, 10-3.

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Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group