

Neighbourhood Plan News

Further to the District Council's Open day in October as part of the Longwick Capacity Study, a packed Village Hall in January learnt how a Neighbourhood Plan could enable the community to guide how Longwick village and the wider Parish develops.

Overwhelming support was given for the Parish Council to proceed with making a Neighbourhood Plan. The application to the District Council for designating the entire Parish as a Neighbourhood Area was approved on 2nd March.

A Steering Group has been convened. This consists of Cllr Val McPherson (Chair), Cllr Sally Whitworth, Cllr Brian Richards, Janet Marsh, Graham Bucknell and Tony Bravery. The three co-opted members were selected from those expressing interest at the January meeting.

Work has commenced on the initial stages of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Visions and objectives have been drafted and potential sites and site selection criteria have been recommended to the Parish Council. Engagement with the hamlets within the Parish has commenced, as these were not within the scope of the District Council's Study in October. Meetings with some key interested 'Stakeholder' parties have been held; others are planned.

The Parish Council wishes to consult as extensively as possible on the emerging Plan. A new email address has been set up to handle Neighbourhood Plan matters. Those who expressed interest in being kept informed by email at the January meeting have been included in a Consultation Group.

This is being supplemented by those who have registered interest further to their response to the Local Plan consultation earlier last year. Those already on the Consultation Group list should have already received this News item by email. If you have not received this by email directly, you can register your interest by emailing lciparishnp@gmail.com.

The Parish Council has agreed to set up a Neighbourhood Plan page on the Council's website: <http://www.longwickcumilmer.org.uk/> Look out for this as it will hold an expanding list of documents and relevant material for the plan process.

Notes of meetings will be posted on the Parish and Village Hall notice boards.

A presentation on the latest developments will be given at the **Annual Parish Meeting, 21st April, 7:30 PM in the Village Hall**. Please come along then to listen, comment and ask questions.

A stall is being planned for the **Fete, 2nd May, on the Recreation Ground**.

The aim is for a Draft Plan to be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting of 19th May. Formal consultation will follow and the next few months will be a very important time.

A referendum will be held near the end of the process. If there is a majority who vote in favour of the Plan, it will be 'made' and the policies will become part of the Development Plan and have to be considered whenever planning applications are submitted.

The Parish Council encourages everyone to be involved in this, to help guide how Longwick and other areas of the parish develop in future.