



Progress Update August 2017

Our last progress update was in September last year and many have asked: What's happening?

The answer is that there has been a lull in our activities. The draft Warnham Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Horsham District Council (HDC) last October for review and comment. At the time HDC were appointing a new Neighbourhood Planning Officer and reviewing the neighbourhood plan process and analytical procedures. This took longer than expected and it wasn't until the end of May that we had a response.

Many neighbourhood plans throughout the country have been returned for clarification at the statutory examination stage or, after being formally approved, have been successfully challenged in the courts by disappointed developers whose sites have not been included in the final plans. This has led to critical scrutiny of every step in the neighbourhood plan process with consequential delays in the vetting process at HDC.

There is also interrogation of the housing numbers Warnham's plan seeks to deliver.

Following the Parish Community Survey in 2015 it was established that Warnham wished to see the minimum number of houses built to facilitate the provision of some 15 units of affordable housing. This results in the total requirement of up to 60 housing units in the period up to 2031. HDC are now seeking further justification of the number of units to be included in the plan. Recognising that this issue governs all neighbourhood plans in the country the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have evolved a standardised method of calculating a housing allocation to parishes. This is an extensive analytical process which, at the time of writing, is being undertaken for Warnham by DCLG's consultants. The results of this exercise are eagerly awaited, but not scheduled until late August, and could suggest a larger scale of development in Warnham than that envisaged. Every effort will be made to limit the extent of additional housing in and around the parish.



While the analytical process proceeds, further work has been undertaken on the short-listed sites. Development of 15 houses on the church glebe land has been approved but the anticipated 5 units of affordable housing has been dropped in the final plan; and this has been accepted by HDC. A concept for housing on parts of the two sites north of Freeman Road and north of Warnham School has been prepared. Of benefit to the community in the preliminary scheme is the retention of the

football pitch, footpaths and open space in the higher area of the sites. The football pitch is let to the Parish Council and could have been reclaimed for development.

The draft Warnham Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to further consultation with the public and with statutory consultees. At that stage all comments made on the plan will be required to be formally addressed and responded to. After final scrutiny by a government Examiner and the incorporation of the Examiner's required amendments the final plan will be put to a parish Referendum. The timing of the Referendum is now programmed for 2018.

NDP Steering Group: Pam Brinkler, David Bridges, John Crockford, Andy Crombie, Anne Davies, Hilary Farquhar, Chris Gould, John Hamer (Chairman), Scott House, Ann Lloyd, Sally Pavey, Roger Purcell, Bill Sorrell, Alex Wilks.