

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



The autumn issue of Village Voice contained a Summary of the Draft Policies of the **Pre-submission Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan** which was posted on the parish website on Friday 15th September.

There was also a Notice with that issue advertising the statutory six-week consultation period for comments on the Draft Plan that would run from that date and would end at 5pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

My last Update urged parishioners to read the Draft Plan (and in the first instance the Plan Overview and Summary of Policies, both of which were reproduced in the Village Voice) online. As an alternative, people were invited to view hard copies of the Draft Plan which were made available either from members of the Steering Group or by attending any of the four Saturday Consultation Sessions held at the Parish Hall. Further copies were placed in the Bantham Shop and Buckland Box.

Comment Forms were made available both online and as hard copies for everyone to make a comment, positive or negative, about the Draft Plan.

A considerable number of people attended the **Consultation Sessions** and used the events mainly to voice their concerns about future housing development in the parish or to ask for clarification of some of the draft policies in the Plan. The majority of comments by parishioners were congratulatory, expressing support for the Plan and raising useful suggestions. Many people, however, told us that they did not see any reason to make any formal comments as they had no issues to raise, but expressed their support informally.

As explained in the last Update, the Draft Plan was also circulated to and comments invited from numerous statutory consultation bodies and organisations whose interests may be affected by the Plan. These included local businesses and landowners, and neighbouring parish councils. Lengthy comments were made by some of these bodies, including South Hams District Council planning department, which will have to use the Plan once it is made to help determine planning applications in the parish. Other bodies, including Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, provided very positive feedback and helpful comments. There was particular praise for the Heritage section of the Plan.

At this stage these comments are confidential but a schedule of these comments and of the Steering Group's responses to them will form an important part of the **Consultation Statement**. I should point out here that in order to meet the regulations, this statement is likely to run to well over 200 pages and that the Steering Group are immensely grateful to Mike Bone, whose expertise has made it possible to get all our documentation online. It has been a challenging and time-consuming task!

The **Consultation Statement** and the **Basic Conditions Statement** will shortly be submitted to the District Council, together with the **Submission Version of the Plan** and its **Evidence Base**, and thereupon become public documents which will be available online.

As explained in the last Update, the District Council must then publicise the **Submission Version of the Plan** on its website for a further period of six weeks. The same individuals and organisations will again have the chance to submit comments during this consultation period. Having done this, the District Council will submit the Plan to an independent Examiner of its choice, but agreed by the Steering Group, who will decide whether or not the Plan can proceed to a Referendum in the parish which the District Council will organise.

**Tony Goddard**  
Steering Group Chairman