

THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Since the successful Community Engagement Meeting held in the Parish Hall on the 29th September and reported in the Village Voice in the September issue the Steering Group has been busy taking the Plan through the next of its many stages.

Immediately after the 29th September meeting the views of the Parish, as recorded on the Post it Notes, were carefully studied, analysed and summarised and the resultant summaries circulated to all of those attending the meeting who had provided their contact details. These will be shown on the Parish website when it is officially opened.

At an early stage in its development a Project Plan was prepared to take the Steering Group through the early stages of the project, Following the Community Engagement Meeting this Project Plan was updated to show the various stages through which the project must pass before being finally completed.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires that all local plans must be based on "adequate, up to date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area" (...the plan seeks to cover). The Steering Group is accordingly now launched into an evidence gathering exercise so that its policies, when they are developed, will be based on hard, carefully preserved evidence and not on assumptions, presumptions and prejudices.

This process will take several months and has required the Steering Group to set up three Working Groups. These three Working Groups (following the example of the developing local District Plan) will cover Economy, Housing and Well Being. Their chairmen/women Gary Luddington, Sue Crowther and Kit Marshall are each charged with recruiting up to five other people (subject to criteria as to age, expertise and geographic spread) to work with them to research the existing facilities in the Parish and the demand for additional or alternative facilities.

Other members of the Steering Group have been asked to research and report on the environment, the historical heritage, the infrastructure and the natural resources in the Parish, all of which will have a bearing on the Neighbourhood Plan policies. These Working Groups have been asked to provide at least initial reports by February next year.

As part of this process David Martin the Treasurer of the Steering Group will be looking to obtain the government funding that will be required to cover the cost of hiring any specialist consultants that may be required, setting up the detailed Survey of public opinion that will be undertaken in the spring of next year, and other expenditure involved in the preparation and presentation of the final plan document.

Elsewhere in this edition of Village Voice is an advertisement for any of its readers who have experience in Market Research please to lend a hand with preparing and implementing this Survey. If anyone reading this has the requisite knowledge and would be willing to help with this worthwhile project I would be very grateful to hear from them.

It had always been the intention of the Steering Group to make full use of the new Parish Website and we are waiting with increasing impatience for those heroes who are developing the website to declare it open for business so that we can start to use it to keep the Parish informed of what we are doing.

Tony Goddard
Steering Group Chairman