

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



My Update in October reported the presentation to the Parish at a public meeting of the results of the Questionnaire circulated in June 2016 and looked forward to the two Focus Group meetings that the Steering Group decided to call in response to the comments of those attending the presentation.

Those two **Focus Group meetings** were held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October and on the 1<sup>st</sup> November in the Parish Hall.

The first meeting to be held dealt with the Local Economy and began with a presentation by Gary Luddington, the Leader of the Economy Working Group, followed by a panel Question and Answer session.

The second meeting, which dealt with Housing, was conducted by Sue Crowther who is the Leader of the Housing Working Group. She began with a presentation and afterwards took questions from the floor assisted by Judy Pearce, who is not only a member of the Steering Group but also a District Councillor and a member of the Joint Steering Group for the Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan.

Both events were lively occasions and those attending were reminded that the policy statements produced for discussion were very much initial thoughts and would be influenced not only by the comments of those attending these events but also by the future consultations that would take place.

Meanwhile the **Joint Local Plan** has been out for consultation and recently some further development sites (mainly in the Plymouth area) have been advertised for consultation.

Further and even more importantly from the point of view of the Parish, the Councils have just published the results of their consultation on the **South Hams & West Devon Village Sustainability Assessment Framework**. This consultation had identified a list of criteria for deciding which villages should be targeted for new housing and how much. The Steering Group responded to this consultation observing that since Neighbourhood Plans have to demonstrate that they are contributing to sustainable development, it should be left to them rather than have top-down housing targets imposed upon them.

Notwithstanding, an amended list of criteria has now been issued and Thurlestone has been assessed as having an initial score of 31 points, largely due to the fact that it has a shop, internet, primary school, pub and parish hall - all of which are given the highest weight. The Steering Group and Parish Council will be responding to this second consultation (due the 9<sup>th</sup> December) by questioning some of the services and facilities that have been included. The criteria can be found on the Parish Website by going to the Neighbourhood Plan drop-down menu and clicking on 'Joint Local Plan.' If you have any comments please contact us by clicking on 'Contact Us' on the same drop-down menu.

Another recent development of importance to the Parish is the outcome of the Judicial Review proceedings against Cornwall Council relating to the **St Ives Neighbourhood Plan**. The challenge brought by a local firm of architects against the second homes restriction in the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan was unsuccessful. This is a landmark ruling and means that a principal occupancy restriction is legally enforceable where such a policy would contribute to sustainable development. As such, it is an example of how a neighbourhood plan can have 'real teeth.'

Finally, the Steering Group continues to meet monthly and the Minutes of these meetings are published on the **Parish Website**. I do urge everyone in the Parish to take a look at these pages, which provide a comprehensive summary of the work that has been undertaken to date on the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Tony Goddard**  
(Steering Group Chairman)