

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



The two months since my last Update in March have been very busy for the Steering Group. The **Family Events** at the end of March and beginning of April were a great success; they were very well attended and much enjoyed by the young families who came along. In total, we received 45 completed questionnaires on the subject of Wellbeing and we have used the responses to prepare the Parish Questionnaire so as to find out the views of the wider community.

Another community event, the talk by **Martin Parkes of Devon Communities Together** on the subject "What is a Neighbourhood Plan" was also well supported (despite it clashing with a Quiz Evening in the Village Inn!). Martin explained that it is important to understand that Neighbourhood Plans have legal weight; only spatial planning matters can be included and that in this respect they are very different from parish plans. He described the numerous hurdles that have to be jumped before the Plan is made (adopted); and a lively question and answer session followed.

Another stimulating event was the seminar given to members of the Steering Group by **Robin Toogood, South Devon AONB Manager**. Robin gave us a very helpful steer as to how to draft policies in the Neighbourhood Plan that would better protect the parish's designation within the AONB.

The **Housing Needs Survey** carried out by South Hams District Council has now been completed and the results are being analysed. A summary report will be available shortly. Although the survey was produced free of charge by the District Council, its distribution was organised by *Village Voice* and funded by the Parish Council. More mundanely, but no less importantly, our Treasurer David Martin has succeeded (no easy task!) in extracting a first tranche of Government funding. Further sums will be claimed in the near future.

I have previously stressed the important role that the new **Parish Website** plays in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and the fact that it is intended and already is serving as the main point of contact between the Steering Group and the community. All of our minutes and much of our background material is posted on the site, thanks to the assistance and patience of Mike Bone. I do urge all members of the Parish community to keep in touch with our activities by keeping a regular eye on our section of the site.

Finally, upon the launch of the Questionnaire, a watershed event in the development of the Plan, I have asked our Project Director Sue Crowther to explain its role and importance as a final paragraph to this Update.

**Tony Goddard** (Steering Group Chairman)

## Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

The **Questionnaire** is the culmination of seven months' work by the members of our Working Groups assisted by other members of the community – all of whom are volunteers - to find out the main issues, concerns and priorities of the parish. We have collectively undertaken an exhaustive survey of the existing housing stock; we have spoken to landowners, farmers and service providers; and we have conducted surveys with young families, local employers and estate agents. All this information has been used to prepare the Questionnaire and your responses will help us develop the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please take the time to complete the Questionnaire and give us your views.

**Sue Crowther** (Steering Group Project Director)