

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



Since my last update, 261 parishioners have completed our **Questionnaire**. This represents 37% of households in the Parish which is a high return rate and we are very grateful to all those who took part. The DR Company who organised our survey will be giving a presentation for members of the Steering Group shortly and after that, the survey responses will be available on the Parish website.

We are also proposing to have a further presentation from the DR Company in September to which everyone is welcome. The responses to the Questionnaire will form the basis of the policies in the consultation draft Neighbourhood Plan upon which parishioners will have an opportunity to comment. This is likely to be towards the end of 2016, or early in 2017.

Meanwhile, you may have read in the press about the new **Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP)**. Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council have decided to work together to produce a single JLP which will set out the overarching policies and strategic land allocations for housing and employment for the combined areas of the three local authorities through to 2034.

The consultation document can be found on the South Hams website at: <http://www.southhams.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> where you will find links to the 'Thriving Towns and Villages' Consultation and Booklet. You may use the online response form to make your comments or email your response to Strategic.Planning@swdevon.gov.uk. The final deadline for comments is 5pm on 12 August 2016.

One of the main tasks of the JLP is to set out how many people will be living and working in the Plymouth Housing Market Area (of which we are part) over the next 20 years and to ensure that enough homes will be built for them. The housing figure quoted for villages in the South Hams is 700. The potential target housing figure for smaller villages is 10-20 and 20-30 for larger villages. But these figures can be expected to change as the JLP process progresses.

What is clear is that Neighbourhood Plans will play a pivotal role in the process. The draft JLP proposes that it is for the villages, through their Neighbourhood Plans, to establish local level of need and establish village policies and allocations for housing and employment. It recognises that detailed local issues are best understood at the Neighbourhood Plan level and that Neighbourhood Plan groups are best placed to understand the individual and unique local issues. Nonetheless, there is a warning that the local planning authority may step in if the Neighbourhood Plan is not progressing in a timely fashion, or does not demonstrate how a sufficient level of new development will come forward.

It is therefore helpful that the results of our **Housing Needs Survey** are about to be published and will shortly be available on the Parish website. This survey was undertaken by the South Hams District Council on behalf of the Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The survey was aimed primarily at affordable housing needs within the parish, but also obtained data relating to the private sector. The information obtained from the Housing Needs Survey and the Questionnaire will form part of the evidence required by the Steering Group to help them formulate housing policies for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Finally, it is not too late for you to be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. Please contact us via the Parish website, if you would like to be involved. We are particularly looking for people with graphic design skills.

Tony Goddard
(Steering Group Chairman)