

THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

I ended my last Neighbourhood Plan Update in the Village Voice with a rather tactless suggestion that the Steering Group were becoming impatient for the new Parish Website to be open for business. I have grovelled appropriately to Mike and Paul for any implied criticism of the speed with which they have been able to complete their herculean task and can now congratulate them that the Thurlestone Parish Website is and has for some weeks been open for business. I recommend it to the Parish as being something of which we can be very proud. Our grateful thanks to all of those who have played a part in bringing the Website into being. All future Neighbourhood Plan Updates will appear on the Website as well as in Village Voice.

The Website will also for the future provide a convenient (and indeed preferred) way for people to contact the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

As reported in the last Update the Steering Group has set up three Working Groups which have all been very active (despite Christmas) in recruiting people to serve on these groups and evidence gathering in the three areas of Economy, Homes and Wellbeing.

- The Economy Working Group led by Gary Luddington and assisted by Peter Hurrell, Carey Ryan - Carter and Will Southcott has been identifying and circulating all businesses in the Parish and enquiring (with appropriate respect for commercial sensitivities) what plans they have and what opportunities may exist for the future.
- The Homes Working Group led by Sue Crowther and assisted by Judy Pearce, Charlie Michelmores, Will Hoare, Kay Barry and Sian Williams has embarked on an ambitious fact finding exercise to ascertain the existing housing stock in the Parish including affordable housing, and the split between owner occupied and rental properties, full time occupation and holiday homes.
- The Wellbeing Working Group led by Kit Marshall and assisted by Anna Martin and Vanessa Barton has been producing an inventory of the Parish's existing health, education, sports and recreational organisations and facilities as a prelude to looking at what improvements and opportunities may exist for their future.

The Steering Group will shortly be posting on the Website the Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement Strategy including post it responses obtained at the Community Engagement Meeting held last September. As the final stage of the evidence gathering process, the Steering Group are also considering organising a series of workshops starting with the topic headings mentioned above. Please keep an eye on the Website for details of these workshops which are likely to run over March and April.

The evidence which is being gathered together with the feedback already obtained and to be obtained over the coming months will form the basis of a Questionnaire/Survey which will follow. The Steering Group has already been in touch with a small company specialising in running this type of Survey and is now exploring what funding is available for this and other similar consultancies.

Finally and in the light of the community feed back in favour of affordable housing at the Community Engagement Meeting we are in touch with the South Hams District Council to provide us with a Housing Needs Survey which is likely to be circulated to all households in the Parish the third week of March.

I take the opportunity to remind the Parish again that the success of the Neighbourhood Plan depends upon as many people as possible contributing towards its preparation. Please let us know whether you wish to play an active role by contacting us via the Website.

Tony Goddard (Chairman) January 2016.