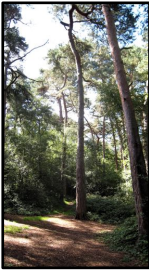


# STRATFIELD MORTIMER

Parish Council Special NDP Projects Newsletter

September 2017



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update.



# Referendum Update:

## What has happened and what is happening next ?

A lot has been happening since the positive result of 22<sup>nd</sup> June:

**NDP 'MADE'** West Berkshire Council (WBC) completed the process by 'making' the NDP the next day. More information at:

<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=34338>

**SDB CONSULTATION** The NDP has been used to consult with the developer of the site behind St. John's School as they prepare the Site Design Brief (SDB). There have been two rounds of consultation and each time the results have been reported to the Parish Council. For instance, the developer's original SDB has been changed to include more bungalows and to improve traffic calming measures. More details can be found on the next page.



## OTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The NDP has also been used to help the Parish Council Planning Committee when it comments on individual planning applications. For instance, the comments on a proposed development included reference to the policies about development in the countryside.

**DESIGNATED GREEN SPACES** WBC are being consulted on the way forward on a number of issues associated with the NDP. For instance, the NDP contains policies to make certain areas in the village into Designated Green Spaces giving them greater protection from development. The Parish Council is now asking WBC to help them comply with the regulations for making this.

## How things are shaping up for The Site !

The developer prepared an initial SDB in March and exhibited it in St John's Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Parish Council looked at the SDB and the public comments arising from the exhibition and prepared a table showing the differences between what was said in the NDP and what was being proposed. This was discussed with the developer on 1<sup>st</sup> June. They then prepared a revised SDB which was sent to the Parish Council in June.

The revised SDB is an improvement on the first version but there are still some outstanding issues which have again been sent to the developer and they are preparing a further revision.

An important feature of the SDB concerns the mix of homes; it is now approximately in line with the indicative mix in the NDP:



24 one or two bedroom apartments  
23 two bedroom homes  
25 three bedroom houses  
21 four bedroom houses  
3 five bedroom houses  
14 two/three bedroom bungalows

Of these homes 40% will be affordable homes which is a mix of social housing and other affordable schemes.

Another issue has been street lighting which is not proposed but the Parish Council has asked for the ducts for street lighting to be installed so that at some future date low-level, perhaps movement-activated, pedestrian lighting can be installed if required.

Other outstanding issues include the necessity to provide, in advance, assurances about drainage and sewage as well as the construction of all the homes on the site to the Lifetime Homes Standard. This standard would mean that all the homes could be easily adapted for those with a disability.

The Parish Council has also suggested that a community competition is held to determine the name of the new development.

## Village Projects

**BACKGROUND** In the NDP, at the end of most sections, there is a list of related projects. For example, at the end of the Heritage section there is a project "To develop a Mortimer Heritage Trail with a leaflet to identify and suggest routes for visiting heritage sites."

This and other projects were arrived at as part of the community consultation during the preparation of the NDP. Every household received a questionnaire which included a question about where monies paid to the Parish Council by developers (CIL) should be spent. This led to a long list of ideas for helping Mortimer become a better place to live, while still retaining its rural feel.

The idea was that these projects should be actioned once the NDP was given the go ahead in the referendum but some preliminary work has already taken place. So, for example, the first Heritage Trail leaflet has been produced and is now available from the library and Baobab. The leaflet is



*WWII Pillbox on the Heritage Trail.*

a good example of how most projects will work. There is a Parish Council committee, with co-opted non-councillor members, which gets things going but can call on a wide variety of organisations and individuals to either take on the project in total or play a significant part in its implementation. In this case, the Mortimer Local History Society played the major role in providing all the heritage information which was then stitched together into two circular walks. Another example is the provision of a new station car park where GWR and Englefield Estates are leading the project with some funding from the Parish Council.

So, in a nutshell, anyone wishing to help implement a project or develop a new one can help, and the Parish Council will do its best to assist with funding (including looking for grants) and expertise developed in the development of projects so far.

# Where are we now?

31 projects were included in the NDP but many more aspirational projects were identified in the process. In order to start on the implementation of the projects the Parish Council agreed to undertake initial work on six projects. The current status of these is:-

**HERITAGE TRAIL** As mentioned, the leaflet for the trail has been produced. It is intended that feedback on the leaflet on its accuracy, usefulness and any suggestions for change or expansion will be considered in about six months' time. There will then be a revised edition.

The leaflet was just one strand of the Heritage projects and works on providing signage for the trail and information boards has not started. If you would like to get involved in this please contact Dudley Ives (see inside back page).

**STATION CAR PARK** The Parish Council has been working with Englefield Estates and Great Western Railways (GWR) to try and provide extra car parking at the station.

Outline plans for this have been drawn up and these have formed the basis of preliminary appraisal by WBC. They have indicated that there are a series of matters that will need to be addressed before they think planning permission can be recommended by WBC officers. These are now being worked on and meetings will be held with WBC to



make sure that, as far as possible, everything has been sorted before a planning application is submitted. If planning permission is granted then GWR would build and operate the car park. It is believed that they would obtain a grant from Central Government to help with the costs of building the car park. For more info contact Neil Kiley (see inside back page).



## **FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY BETWEEN MORTIMER & BURGHFIELD COMMON**

This project was the first one that was worked on and unfortunately has had to be put on hold for a year as it was not considered viable. The initial work demonstrated that



the construction of a shared footpath and cycleway through the woods to Burghfield Common would be very costly. The reason for this is that the track would have to be surfaced, like a footpath on the side of a road, to avoid erosion by water running down some of the steep inclines involved. Not only cost but the appropriateness of a surfaced track through the

woods was also a factor.

The decision to not proceed was not taken lightly by the Parish Council. Indeed, they only deferred work on this project for a year in the hope that some other solution might present itself. In the intervening period the suggestion has been made that, rather than going through the woods, the track should be constructed alongside the road between the two villages.

In order to start this project up again volunteers are needed to consider new proposals. Support would be given using information gathered from the initial work. If you are interested in helping please contact Dave Kilshaw (see inside back page)

**SPORTS & LEISURE FACILITIES** This project aims to introduce more sporting and leisure facilities into the Parish. This is a long term project and it is proposed that interested parties will come together to form a steering group that will develop a sports and leisure strategy for the Parish. That strategy will then provide the background to enable individual facilities to be provided.



An initial meeting has been held with the trustees of the Fairground and the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field and they are happy to be involved. An invitation has been sent out to 20 individuals and organisations who are involved in sport & leisure in the village to come along to an event to try and start to form the steering group. It will then be up to that group, with the support of the Parish Council, to take the project forward. See the inside back page for details of the meeting. If you would like to get involved in the group or would just like to know more please contact Danusia Morsley (see inside back page).

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (T.P.O.)** It was thought that the new development would be better shielded if a T.P.O. was organised for the trees on the western side of the development. This cannot really happen until the SDB is finalised. If you wish to know more please contact Danusia Morsley (see inside back page).



**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT** It is perceived that there is a speeding problem in the village. This project is intended to develop measures which would counter that problem. The initial thoughts concerned traffic calming on The Street between the junction with



West End Road and the War Memorial. One of the issues with any traffic calming is that WBC would insist on street lighting for any raised feature. As such, it has been decided to await the completion of the zebra crossing to see what impact this has on the speed of traffic. Once that is known, this project will be taken forward.

If you would like to get involved in the group or would just like to know more please contact Pat Wingfield (see inside back page).

## Taking things forward



From the previous section you can see there are various ways to develop projects. What they all have in common is the need for individuals or groups to come forward to push them forward. Several projects waiting to be started are all about biodiversity and related green issues and the same sort of approach as that taken for the sports facilities (a steering

group of interested parties supported by the Parish Council) will be the most appropriate. If you are interested in this area, or indeed any other project and would like to contribute, or to know more please contact the Parish Council Office. (See back page).

**The projects which were identified through the NDP process are set out below.**

**Housing** Investigate the possibilities of providing a rural exception site and/or self-build site. *This means that a small group of affordable homes could be built somewhere in the parish outside the village settlement boundary.*

**Lighting** The design, need for and use of existing lighting will be reviewed to determine the benefit of bringing that lighting into line with the lighting policies in this plan. *This means, for example, that some of the existing lighting could perhaps be turned down at night as has happened in Strawberry Fields.*

**T.P.O.** Seek to organise an area T.P.O. on the existing trees on the western flank of The Site.

**Business** Local businesses will be encouraged to contribute to the setting up of a Mortimer specific business directory and website.



Develop an overarching vision for the progressive development of the village centre. *This means drawing up a detailed plan for any development at the core of the village.*



*For instance, what would happen to the existing school site if it moves onto The Site.*

**Moving Junior School** Once discussions between the schools and the Benefice identify a reasonable prospect of funding, the Parish Council will investigate, with all the interested parties, the potential of moving St Mary's Junior School nearer to the centre of the village.



**Connected Village** Investigate Mortimer becoming a connected village through public Wi-Fi



*This means having public Wi-Fi throughout the village.*

**Bike racks** Provision of more bike racks at the station.

**Station Car Park** Investigate options for increasing car parking provision at the station and identification and allocation of land for this. This is the station car park project described on page 5.

**Provision of Allotments** This has been looked at by the parish council before without success; the key to taking this forward is to find acceptable land for allotments.



## **Sports and Leisure Facilities**

Extension of Fairground facilities

Extension of sports facilities

Contribute to the development of a community / sports centre on the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field



These are combined in the Sports and Leisure Facilities project on page 6.

**Traffic Management Features** This is the Traffic Management project on page 7.

**Footpaths and cycleways** Improvement to the footpath to St Mary's school and the station.

Develop Parish cycleways, in particular investigate and if possible provide a pedestrian/cycleway:-

- Connecting Mortimer and Burghfield. This needs to be restarted once volunteers have come forward as mentioned on page 6.
- Away from the road connecting the village with St Mary's Junior School and the station. The idea would be to create a track, with links back to the road.

**Biodiversity** Identify and map existing wildlife corridors. These 'corridors' are ones which wildlife can use to move from one habitat area to another.

Identify and map existing corridors, that have the potential to be 'greened'.



Identify and map gaps in the existing and potential wildlife corridors.



Seek funds to enhance the existing network of wildlife corridors and to fill in any gaps; organise such enhancement.

**Heritage** Identify heritage sites; negotiate new or better access where appropriate

Seek funds for information boards at sites where appropriate and erect such boards with the agreement of landowners

Seek funding for the publication of a Mortimer Heritage Trail leaflet to identify and suggest routes for visiting heritage sites. The first edition of this has been completed – description on page 5.

Seek funding and agreement to the installation of heritage trail signage. This could include field footpath signs and road pavement signs.

## Summary

The Parish Council is embarking on a programme of projects that had public support expressed during the NDP process. Public involvement is encouraged and positively required in most of them; councillors alone will not be able to deliver them.

If you are interested in specific projects you can contact the committee member currently leading them:

Biodiversity& Green Space Project (Tennant Barber)

Tel: 0118 9333075

Email: [tennant.barber@btinternet.com](mailto:tennant.barber@btinternet.com)

Traffic Management Project (Cllr. Pat Wingfield)

Tel: 0118 99333019

Email: [pat.wingfield@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.wingfield@btinternet.com)

Heritage Project (Cllr. Dudley Ives)

tel: 0118 9332077

Email: [dudley.ives@btinternet.com](mailto:dudley.ives@btinternet.com)

Station Carpark Project (Cllr.NeilKiley)

Tel: 0118 9331150

Email: [neilkiley@btinternet.com](mailto:neilkiley@btinternet.com)

Footpath/Cycleway Mortimer to Burghfield (Cllr.Dave Kilshaw)

Tel: 07919 911058

Email: [david\\_kilshaw@hotmail.com](mailto:david_kilshaw@hotmail.com)

Sports & Leisure Facilities Project

Tree Preservation Order Project (Danusia Morsley)

Tel: 0118 9332620

Email: [danusia@morsley.me.uk](mailto:danusia@morsley.me.uk)

NOTE: A meeting to discuss this Sports & Leisure Facilities project will take place at 7pm 10<sup>th</sup> October; we have tried to invite all the village sports organisations but if we have missed you, you are still very welcome; please contact [admin@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:admin@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk) for further details.

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

The Clerk  
Parish Council Office  
The Library  
27 Victoria Road  
Mortimer  
RG7 3SH

Tel: 0118 933 1955

Email: [the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)

Website: [www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](http://www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)

Facebook: [facebook.com/stratfieldmortimerparishcouncil](https://facebook.com/stratfieldmortimerparishcouncil)

Minutes and Agendas of Council meetings, as well as other Council information, can be viewed on the above website or on the Parish Council notice boards which are located outside Boabab (the old Post Office) and the library.

The Parish Council Office is normally open:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays,

09:30 to 17:00

If the office is closed, correspondence can be left with the library staff or put in the library letter box.