



# Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan



Newsletter  
July 2022

## How can we improve our Parish?

### ▶ What has happened to date?

- ▶ Our Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in June 2017 and covers the period up to 2026. Its main focus was to define the requirements for the allocated 110 new houses, which is now entering Phase 2 of build.
- ▶ We need to ensure that we continue to have an up to date Neighbourhood Plan with legal weight beyond 2026. This will take into account the changes that have taken place to our area over time, any new national and local planning policies and guidance as well as other matters such as the impact of climate change.
- ▶ You may also be aware that West Berkshire Council is preparing a new Local Plan. This will set out planning policies and priorities for the district as a whole until 2037. Whilst we have been told that the new Local Plan will not contain any large scale housing or employment allocations for our parish, we still have to consider the future needs of our local residents and businesses. This is where community consultation is essential in determining what is required.
- ▶ A Neighbourhood Plan review ensures that we as a community can continue to shape the area in which we live. It brings the opportunity for the local people to refine or add policies, for example to give greater focus on climate change and sustainable development.

### ▶ What will happen next?

- ▶ The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group seeks your input and opinion to help shape the new Plan. We are beginning the process of community engagement and consultation, to establish the community's core aspirations and objectives for the future.
- ▶ We will then be producing a series of evidence base documents to support our Plan. These will cover the different topics that we agree upon in our aspirations and objectives. We would like your assistance and opinion on these documents, which will be used to justify the need for specific policies within our Plan.
- ▶ Please take a look at how to get involved and the potential key themes we have initially suggested as a starting point.

Please get in touch and let us have your thoughts via any of the methods below:

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

email: [NewNP@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:NewNP@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)

Write to us at

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council  
27, Victoria Road  
Mortimer  
Reading RG7 3SH

We will soon be adding Neighbourhood Plan information to the parish council website as well as our Facebook page and other social media.



We have appointed independent consultants Bluestone Planning LLP to assist with organising public engagement and ensuring that we comply with Neighbourhood Planning regulations.



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### ▶ Potential Key Themes

Potential key themes have been identified for discussion to guide development within the Parish. When decided upon by you, these will be focal areas of the Neighbourhood Plan. Such themes and topics could include:



#### Sustainability and Climate Change

- Community Energy Plans to acquire alternative energy sources more economically or to generate energy sustainably



#### Community facilities

- To enhance the centre of the village – buildings, space, services and facilities. Based on the principles and aims of Living with Beauty<sup>1</sup> which seeks to create beauty, refuse unsightly, unadaptable, unhealthy buildings and promote stewardship of our built and natural environment.
- How do we resolve parking problems around our schools?



#### Design and Conservation

- A design guide<sup>2</sup> and code to promote sustainable design, technology and materials on new development whilst maintaining the local character.



#### Environment and Green Space

- Should we designate more green spaces- if so, where would they be? Should the Parish Council purchase pieces of land to keep in perpetuity to preserve our environment?



#### Housing

- Should we be providing starter homes for local people? If so, how many and where?



#### Employment

- How can we help our local businesses?
- **These are just suggestions to get us started. Please tell us what would you like your Plan to contain?**

### ▶ We need your input

The ideas of the local community are vitally important in creating a successful Neighbourhood Plan. A variety of consultation methods will take place over the coming months.

The group plans to gain your input in the following ways and hope this will offer all local residents and business owners an opportunity to voice their opinions.

**Questionnaires:-** We will be distributing questionnaires in online / paper form to understand the aspects of the Parish best and least liked by residents, in addition to any improvements you would like to see being made.

**Consultation events:-** Join our community consultation events which will be publicised.

**Community workshops:-** These provide an opportunity to discuss the vision and objectives with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

**School/university students:-** Engagement with younger members of the community is very important to us. The Steering Group will work with local schools to integrate neighbourhood planning into the curriculum and or undertake surveys.

We are encouraging students normally resident in the area who are undertaking environment related courses to get in touch. Equally if you would like to combine the Neighbourhood Plan process in your coursework, please let us know.

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-with-beauty-report-of-the-building-better-building-beautiful-commission>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide>