

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Dec 2022

Governance

A Steering Group and governance regime is in place to oversee progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, reporting to Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council. The steering group last met on the 20 December 2022 to discuss progress. All steering group meetings are open to the public and advertised on the SMPC and NP websites.

The advert for a part time administrator to support the Steering Group didn't heed any successful applicants. As such the post has been readvertised locally and on the Reading University jobs board.

Engagement continues with the neighbourhood planning team at West Berkshire Council to keep updated on relevant policy and process and to share best practice.

Cllr Graham Bridgman provides connection to WBC.

A West Berkshire NP best practice sharing forum has been set up and is due to commence with its first chairs meeting in January 2023.

Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2026 revision (Reserved Land MOR006)

Allocation of 1ha of land for additional social amenity (educational and medical) within the 2017-2026 plan continues to be reviewed with the intention of extending the timeframe for delivery of the policy.

Public consultation is live and due to close on the 31 January 2023. There has been a good level of engagement by the community to date. Comments provided will be recorded for decision and audit purposes.

Optioneering for the optimal legal route to enact any revision continues, with the decision taken by the Steering Group to formally ask Bluestone for their advice on process. This request sits outside of Bluestone's current contracted remit, which is focussed on development of the new 2027-2036 NP, and will be at additional cost.

Neighbourhood Plan 2027-2036

The Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan will be updated to align with the next West Berkshire Council Local Plan. Early community engagement has established that the community are supportive of an update.

The November community workshops took place as planned, with analysis from the events expected back from Bluestones in due course.

The West Berkshire Council website for the Mortimer NP will be updated to communicate the intent to develop a new 2027-36 NP.

Budget 2022/23

2022/23 earmarked budget for the NP steering group	£28,946.90
Expenditure to 30 November 2022	£8,467.91
Remaining EMR balance for 2022/23	£20,478.09

Expected activities requiring budget in 2022/23:

- Bluestone consultancy costs for public consultation analysis
- Bluestone consultancy costs for 2017-26 NP revision advise
- Administrative assistant

Risks to forecast:

- Administrative assistant still to be recruited.

Budget 2023/24

An initial budget request for £25,000 has been submitted to SMPC for 2023/24.