

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Jan 2023

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 17 January 2023 to discuss progress. All steering group meetings are open to the public and advertised on the SMPC and NP websites.

A republication of the advert for a part time administrator to support the Steering Group has attracted applicants. The recruitment process is progressing.

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 on the 2 February 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. Comments provided are being recorded and analysed for decision and audit purposes.

The potential preferred option for the optimal legal route to enact a revision is to be tabled to SPMC along with a request to formally ask Bluestone for their advice on process. This request sits outside of Bluestone's current contracted remit and will be at additional cost of c.£500.

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. This has been delayed due to illness within Bluestone. The steering group have asked Bluestone to confirm the expected date for completion.

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:

- Illness at Bluestone is delaying work.
- Administrative assistant still to be recruited.

Budget 2023/24

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