Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

December 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 19 December 2023 to discuss progress. All steering group meetings are open to the public and advertised on the SMPC and NP websites.

Engagement continues with the neighbourhood planning team at West Berkshire Council regarding our plans to revise the current and develop a new Mortimer NP.

Cllr Nick Carter provides connection to WBC. An administrative assistant, Ana Hernandez, is employed to support the Steering Group. Ana is on maternity leave, with administrative tasks will be handed to other Steering Group members in the interim.

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.

A pre-application meeting between SMPC and TA Fisher has taken place. WBC are anticipating a forthcoming planning application from TA Fisher.

Neighbourhood Plan 2027-2039

The NP Steering Group are developing the new draft policies for a new NP, aligning with the WBC local plan. Monthly Steering Group meetings are doubling as workshops to review each policy theme, considering recommendations for policy ambition and content. These workshops will be ongoing throughout the winter.

A Locality Bid is being developed to seek specialist support for policy development.

The steering group are also considering seeking specialist support for housing design code policy development.

Budget 2023/24

2023/24 and 2024/25 earmarked budget for the NP steering group	£25,000

Expenditure to 23 October 2023	£1761
Remaining EMR balance for 2022/23	£23,239

Expected activities requiring budget in 2023/24 and 2024/25:

- Consultancy costs for 2026-2039 NP document writing.
- Administrative assistant costs
- Locality application