

Neighbourhood Plan

Steering Group Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

March 2024

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 20th of February to discuss progress. All steering group meetings and minutes are open to the public and advertised on the SMPC and NP websites.

Engagement continues with the neighbourhood planning team at West Berkshire Council to keep updated on relevant policy and process and to share best practice. It is noted that officers at WBC have recently changed. Relationships are being established with new officers and via existing links.

Cllr Nick Carter provides connection to WBC. An administrative assistant is employed to support the Steering Group.

A West Berkshire NP best practice sharing forum is in place, and the Stratfield Mortimer NP steering group actively participates.

Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2026 revision (Reserved Land MOR006)

Steve Davies, is awaiting feedback from West Berkshire in terms of the pre-application.

The Parishes response to Inspector's questions have been submitted on the 20th of February 2024. Waiting to submit the rest by the 22nd of March 2024.

Neighbourhood Plan 2027-2039

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 analysis of the Public Consultations, supported by consultants Bluestone is now complete.

Existing 2017-2026 NP policies have been reviewed by the Steering Group against the analysis of the public consultation, to decide what policies to carry over into the 2027-2039 NP and identify new policies that will need more detailed development.

Themes have been circulated, discussed and developed by the Steering Group, and are now happy to send them out to a professional to draft legally.

The Steering Group will find a consultant to assist with the Design Codes and the Housing Need Assessment.

Budget 2023/24

2023/24 earmarked budget for the NP steering group	£25,000
Spending this year to 29 th February 2024	£2,065.75
Remaining EMR balance for 2023/24	£22,750

Expected activities requiring budget in 2024:

- Consultancy costs for 2026-2039 NP document writing
- Administrative assistant costs
- Locality application
- Design Codes Scope
- Housing Needs Assessment