

Neighbourhood Plan

Steering Group Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

April 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 19th of March 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.

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)

The Parishes response to Inspector's questions have been submitted on the 20th of February 2024.

The Steering Group agreed on their last meeting on the 19th of March that there was nothing further to add to the Inspector's questions and all could be submitted by the deadline of 22nd of March.

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.

Reviews have been completed on all Themes.

A list of consultants will be put together and send to tender for a short presentation to the SG.

The Steering Group will agree on a consultant to assist with the Policies, Design Codes and the Housing Need Assessment.

Budget 2023/24

2023/24 earmarked budget for the NP steering group	£25,000
Remaining EMR balance for 2023/24	£22,650

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
- Review of Policies