

Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
June 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 21st of May 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)

WBC's advice (in response to TAF's pre application) the current plan's housing is at too great a density.

There were two alternative plans presented for the committee to comment on, one of which reduces land to go for use by the school, and the other of which removes the land previously held for a potential new surgery.

The SG decided that needed to find out more information before deciding on next steps.

A number of formal letters from the SMPC Parish Council will be drafted and sent to gather this information, as well as writing a letter for the next Parish Newsletter to inform the community as to present situation.

Neighbourhood Plan 2027-2039

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, they have all been drafted and formatted.

SG to select who does the work and assists with the Policies, Design Codes and the Housing Need Assessment.

Budget 2023/24

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| 2023/24 earmarked budget for the NP steering group | £25,000 |
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| Remaining EMR balance for 2023/24 | £22,200 |

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