

Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
September 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 August to discuss progress. All steering group meetings and minutes are open to the public and advertised on the SMPC and NP websites; and on the library and Baobab notice boards.

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 application for the reserved land is in hands with TAF to submit; there is nothing else needed from the SG on this subject for the moment.

We will keep it as part of our General Agenda for future checks.

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.

The SG, as representatives of the community, have agreed to draft a response to the government in terms of neighbourhood plans not being mentioned in their current plans, and how the SG would like the importance of such noted.

Dave Chapman from Locality has put the SG in touch with AECOM and The Housing Needs will be the next step. This will take roughly 10 weeks from being commissioned to receiving draft. The Design Codes will follow, and it take 16 – 20 weeks with a site visit, where the public will be invited to attend.

Summons to the meeting and our agenda has been added on the Notice Boards outside the library and the Bao Bab with a calendar list with all the meetings.

Budget 2023/24

2023/24 earmarked budget for the NP steering group	£25,000
Remaining EMR balance for 2023/24	£21,713

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