

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Report for Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

October 2024

Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2026 revision

We are expecting a planning application to be submitted to WBC from TA Fisher developers in relation to the allocation of 1ha of land for a new dentist and additional housing for the benefit of the community. We are not aware of a submission as per 15 October 2024.

Neighbourhood Plan 2027-2036

A new version of the Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan is being developed to align with the next West Berkshire Council Local Plan. Draft policies have been developed by the Steering Group.

A Locality grant application to MHCLG for consultancy support to develop housing design codes was successful. A meeting took place between the Steering Group and Aecom on the 18 September 2024, followed by a village walkover on the 7 October. Aecom have produced a draft document 'Stratfield Mortimer Design Guidance and Codes', which the Steering Group are reviewing. Aecom are reviewing the potential for the NP to include a masterplan for the village to support responses to potential planning proposals.

A second Locality grant has been submitted to MHCLG with the aim of securing funding for finalising the policy wording of the new NP and writing the new Plan document. A meeting took place between the Steering Group and Aecom on the 10 Oct 2024 to plan how this work would be conducted if successful.

Governance

A Steering Group and governance regime is in place to oversee progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, reporting to Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council.

There has been less engagement with West Berkshire Council planning team, as that team have experienced staff turnover and a lack of resources to support neighbourhood planning.

The Steering Group is in the process of securing administrative support.