



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Minutes

**Minutes of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group held on Monday
24 November 2025 at 19:30 at St John's House, Loves Wood, RG7 2JX**

These minutes are subject to approval.

Present

Councillors

Cllrs D Kilshaw, H Geary, D Morsley, J Todd, and K Strong,

Members

Mr S Whightman, Mrs L Clark, and Mr J Weedon, Ms J Wines, Mr D Overett.

Officers of the Council

Miss D Davis.

Commencement

The meeting commenced at 19:30

25/019 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Parry and Ms Wines.

25/020 To receive any declarations of interest (if any)

To receive from Members at this point or at any point during the meeting, in respect of any items included on the agenda, disclosure of any interests, and gifts and hospitality in line with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

None received.

25/021 Items for consideration

1 Actions Review

To review the actions set at the meeting of the Steering Group on 17 November 2025.

The Steering Group reviewed the actions arising from the meeting held on 17 November 2025. Progress updates and outstanding matters were discussed with reference to the Planning Issues and Stakeholder Tracker.

Members of the Steering Group updated the group on their current research:

- **Vehicle Data:**

Cllr Kilshaw confirmed that vehicle data requested from Cllr M Dennet had been circulated via the WBC Blackcat system. Mr Parry will undertake further detailed analysis.

- **Response to Lord Benyon:**

- Cllr Kilshaw and Cllr Geary will draft the response letter. Discussion focused on key points to raise, including:
 - querying any assumed influence over funding/CIL;
 - highlighting the local housing needs position, noting the AECOM assessment identifies a requirement for only 38 dwellings in Mortimer;
 - referencing the 110 homes at Tower Farm, some of which remain unsold; and
 - questioning the housing deficit figure for this specific area.
- Mr Overett or the Neighbourhood Plan Group will comment on the Housing Needs Assessment.
- Action: Draft letter to be circulated and submitted this week.

- **Bus Companies:**

Cllr Kilshaw noted no further contact had been made this week.

- **Traveller Sites:**

Cllr Kilshaw reviewed available information and queried whether any sites exist between Mortimer and Swallowfield.

- **Regulation 18 Preparation:**

- Cllr Todd confirmed all letters had been sent. She has researched previous Basingstoke & Deane Regulation 18 objections and prepared a timeline for the upcoming consultation.
- Cllr Geary has developed a draft objection framework with annexes; it currently extends to 35 pages, with an aim to condense it to approximately 10.
- Mr Overett reported that an archaeology report by Richard Massey is expected by the end of the week. Although unlikely to provide a strong objection, relevant points will be included.

- **Education:**

- Mr Overett met with Silchester School. The school is significantly undersubscribed (by 50–60 pupils). Concerns were raised regarding SEND capacity and transport links. A two-page statement on likely impacts has been requested.
- Cllr Todd suggested identifying the expected percentage increase in SEND provision per 100 pupils to support the objection.

- **Duty to Cooperate / Reg 18 Documentation:**

- Mr Wightman has begun reviewing Duty to Cooperate material and will examine the new documents due to be released on Friday, including the Reg 18 Local Plan and supporting evidence.
- All members are asked to review the documents and highlight areas for further investigation.

- **Engagement Between WBC and B&D:**

- Cllr Todd will ask Nick Carter about officer-level engagement between West Berkshire Council and Basingstoke & Deane.
- Mr Wightman will draft a letter to Andy K (Planning) requesting details of correspondence; this will be passed to Cllr Todd to send.
- An FOI request may be considered if required.
- **Water Supply:**
 - Mr Weedon reported that Thames Water currently provides 1 bar of pressure, above the statutory minimum of 0.7 bar. Initial calculations of capacity appear broadly correct. Although Thames Water is not a statutory consultee at Regulation 18, it is worth enquiring whether B&D has liaised with them.
 - Mr Overett has attempted contact with Bob Collington (former senior at Thames Water/Southern Water) and is awaiting a response.
 - Mr Weedon suggested submitting an FOI request regarding planned infrastructure upgrades.
- **Electricity:**

Mr Weedon has consulted a local residential developer and sent electrical demand calculations to SSE. SSE is modelling the likely power requirements for the proposed development.
- **AWE / DEPZ:**
 - Mr Weedon confirmed that John Steele will prepare a report, though the preferred angle is yet to be determined. Contact is required with WBC Emergency Planning—specifically Carolyn Richardson at AWE—regarding the DEPZ.
- **Surface Water / Flooding:**

Ms Clerk has issued various enquiries; limited responses have been received so far. Sherfield on Loddon has provided information regarding surface-water management and EV charging in new developments. No relevant information has yet been sourced via DEFRA.
- **Archaeology / Ancient Woodland:**

Cllr Strong is reviewing archaeological matters and ancient woodland issues. Although typically addressed at planning application stage, it was agreed that an ancient trees assessment should be requested now.

Cllr Strong will circulate the definition of an ancient tree.

2 **Planning issues and Stakeholder Tracker**

To review the Planning issues and Stakeholder Tracker and agree any further actions.

The Planning Issues and Stakeholder Tracker were reviewed. Unassigned line items were discussed and allocated to members of the Steering Group.

3 **Correspondence with landowner**

A response to the letter received on behalf of the landowner was prepared.

None.

25/023 Communications

The Steering Group discussed a range of communication matters, including:

- **Public Regulation 18 Objections:**

Members considered how best to guide the public in submitting their Regulation 18 objections. It was agreed that clear messaging is required to explain both the role of the Steering Group and the responsibilities of individual residents.

- **Letter to Basingstoke & Deane:**

The Group agreed to write to Mr Andy Konieczko at B&D requesting clarification on correspondence between West Berkshire Council and B&D, particularly regarding the Duty to Cooperate. It was noted that reference is frequently made to such engagement, and clarity is required on who has been involved. Mention was made of Mrs Denise Gaines, Head of Planning at WBC.

- **Response to Lord Benyon:**

The forthcoming response letter was noted and will be finalised separately.

- **Public Meeting and Communications:**

Significant discussion took place regarding an email from Nick Carter received during the meeting, confirming that WBC is arranging a public meeting on **8 December**. WBC has invited Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to participate and speak at the event.

After discussion, the Group agreed to collaborate with WBC on the meeting. A response confirming this position has been sent to Cllr Nick Carter.

- **Public Messaging on Reg18/Reg19:**

Cllr Kilshaw reported feedback received via Facebook concerning the use of technical terms such as "Regulation 18" and "Regulation 19". The Group further discussed the importance of clear language and accessible guidance for the community.

Members also considered what specific topics residents should raise in their objections to B&D. It was agreed that the Steering Group must provide structured, concise, and practical guidance.

- **Attendance of Landowner:**

It was agreed that the Steering Group should invite the landowner to attend the 8 December meeting.

25/024 Future agenda items

To identify specific future agenda items.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:23

Date of next meeting: 1 December 2025: