



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Agenda

**Minutes of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group held on Monday
17 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, J Todd, and K Strong,

Members

Mr D Overett, Mrs L Clark, and Mr J Weedon.

Officers of the Council

None.

Commencement

The meeting commenced at 19:30

25/013 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Mr S Whightman** and **Mr J Emberson-Wines**

25/014 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.

25/015 Items for consideration

1 Actions review

Minuted below

2 Planning Issues and Stakeholder Tracker

Each member of the group updated on actions and progress made against their respective areas in the issue tracking spreadsheet.

Cllr Kilshaw reported that the letter to Lord Benyon had been sent during the week.

Cllr Strong reported there was some ancient woodland on the site, but insufficient to provide a substantial blocker to the plan's progress.

Mrs Clark suggested that the WG work toward collating a list of surveys that would be necessary for BDBC to undertake as part of this site moving into their Local Plan.

Debbie Tan, and environmentalist may be of support to the WG. Mrs Clark also reported that the site was a critical water supply for one of the waterways and that the Action for the River Kennet group may be able to provide views on impact of the site being developed.

Mr Weedon reported that progress had been made on water supply and waste water handling, with further research to conduct. Electricity supply was more challenging and work to identify the right contact was ongoing. In respect of AWE liaison, Cllr Bridgman and D. Cllr Poole had already begun work with AWE via the standing liaison group. Mr Overett suggested that Bob Collington (formerly of Thames Water) may be able to assist.

Cllr Todd suggested that BDBC might be required to conduct a site water appraisal and that the WG should look to see if that aligns with their borough appraisal and flag any gaps or shortfalls. She reported that the two ICBs involved report that their services are already stretched with little spare capacity. Funding was not the concern, since they reported that they are unable to recruit the right skills and people to bridge gaps in service.

Mr Overett reported progress with some schools, with responses awaited from St Mary's. Nothing heard from Willink, Burghfield Federation or Hurst so far. He noted that a former site in Tadley had been rejected on grounds of bringing too many children within the DEPZ and that this may carry over to this development if children were required to be schooled there. The question of transport to and from Tadley was raised and Cllr Kilshaw agreed to pick that up as part of his responsibility.

Cllr Geary reported that there were no major concerns from his research, but that the Mortimer dark skies were rated as E1 so this will have impact on plans, especially the potential need to place covenants on the site to prevent light pollution. Affordable housing there is a slight mismatch between district policies, but little to be helpful. On CIL, this can be transferred voluntarily, but must meet s122 standards and cannot be relied on. The alternative is use of s106, where specific and proportionate issues can mandate BDBC to provide cross border funding. These areas will require substantial effort from WBC and SMPC to manage effectively. Cllr Geary also reported that the figures for generated CIL on hand were not accurate as BDBC have a tiered rate, with WE Farm attracting a rate of £200 per sqm. This means that the CIL generated would be around £6.3m, with a 25% share for a parish with a NDP/LP of £1.575m.

Cllr Kilshaw reported that after analysis the area around Mortimer has a significantly higher concentration of traveller pitches than the regional average. Policing will be asked for comments on the impacts of this higher concentration and the impact of another site. He also reported that at present disabled access to and from the site location was poor and substantial improvements would be required. On ambulance response, this was reported to be from Theale and routing was to the nearest hospital with appropriate capacity and capability, therefore either ICB could receive patients.

25/016 Minor matters (if any)

The group discussed to potential for a further public meeting. There was consensus that this would be appropriate just before the opening of

Regulation 18 so that the community have the opportunity to receive information, ask questions and be provided with information to inform their objections.

25/017 Communications

The letter to Lod Benyon to be added to the SMPC bulletin.

25/018 Future agenda items

The review of the planning objection action tracker.

Close

The meeting closed at 20:54

Date of next meeting: 24 November 2025

CLlr H Geary 17/11/2025