

Village Plan Steering Group

Report for Effingham Parish Council on 26 January 2016

Progress with draft Neighbourhood Plan

The initial draft Neighbourhood Plan was presented at two public meetings on 11 and 12 September 2015 and summarised in the Chairman's Half Year Report, both inviting comments from Effingham residents. It was also sent to GBC for technical comment, who submitted it for a 'Health Check' by Examiner Nigel McGurk and appointed consultants to prepare a screening report on the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment. To date we have received over 50 written comments from local residents, comments from EffRA, extensive technical comments from GBC, comments from statutory agencies Natural England and Historic England, as well as the Health Check report and further Clarification of the Health Check from the Examiner.

VPSG has worked hard alongside members of the Environment Working Group to revise that initial draft in the light of the Health Check and all comments received, and we have received significant technical support and advice from GBC. On the sensitive and controversial issues of housing policies and site allocations, we have complied with the advice from the Examiner in his Clarification that *'the qualifying body should look to provide as much supporting evidence as possible and wherever possible demonstrate that this has been subject to consultation and represents something supported by the community (remember the greatest strength of a Neighbourhood Plan is perhaps para 183 NPPF, community's have "direct power.").'* The Parish Council has already stated its intention to carry out a full survey of every household in the parish at the Regulation 14 consultation stage to determine whether or not the Effingham community supports the approach used in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed site allocations for housing.

VPSG anticipates that the technical revisions to the draft Neighbourhood Plan will be complete by mid February, and we can then move on to further public scrutiny of the revised draft before it is finalised and goes out to the parish-wide survey and formal consultation.

Public Scrutiny prior to Regulation 14 Consultation

VPSG propose that the Regulation 14 formal consultation and parish-wide survey on the revised draft Neighbourhood Plan should commence at the beginning of May. This allows for prior public scrutiny and allows time to take account of the likely contents of Guildford's next draft Local Plan; GBC expect to publish the initial draft at the end of March prior to the Borough Council agreeing it for Regulation 19 Consultation in June.

Once the intensive technical work is completed by mid February, **VPSG recommends that a new group 'Effingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group' (ENPAG) should be set up by the Parish Council to take the draft NP forward through public scrutiny and formal consultation.** It is proposed that ENPAG should be made up of six parish councillors and six non-councillor members appointed by the Parish Council to ensure involvement from across the Effingham community. The non-councillor members would include representatives of organisations such as Effingham Residents Association as well as individuals with experience of various aspects of our community (eg Effingham Housing Association,

schools and churches). ENPAG would meet at least once a month with additional meetings as needed, making recommendations to the Parish Council for decision. Anne Bott, a solicitor from Surrey Association of Local Councils, has kindly agreed to minute the first meeting of ENPAG and advise the Group on due process as we enter this formal phase of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

Provisional timetable:

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| Tues 26 January | Effingham Parish Council meeting – agree timetable, ENPAG Terms of Reference and ENPAG membership. |
| Sat 13 February | Public Workshop on Housing Policies and Site Allocations, KGV 10.00 to 15.00. |
| Tues 16 Feb | ENPAG first meeting, Parish Room 7.30 pm. Further meetings to be agreed, which would be in addition to those set out here. |
| Thurs 18 Feb (tbc) | Public drop-in session: Environment Policies |
| Tues 23 Feb | Effingham Parish Council meeting – to receive and decide on outcome of public sessions and recommendations from ENPAG. |
| Weds 9 Mar (tbc) | Public drop-in session: Design, Landscape and Heritage policies, and Village Design Statement. |
| Tues 15 Mar (tbc) | ENPAG meeting. |
| Tues 29 Mar | Effingham Parish Council meeting – to receive and decide on outcome of public sessions and recommendations from ENPAG. |
| End March | GBC expected to publish draft Local Plan |
| Tues 5 April (tbc) | Public drop-in session: Community and Local Economy Policies |
| Mon 11 April (tbc) | ENPAG meeting to consider implications of draft Local Plan, and recommend draft Neighbourhood Plan to the Parish Council. |
| Tues 19 April (tbc) | Special Meeting of Effingham Parish Council to agree the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation and parish-wide survey |
| Sunday 1 May | Formal start of eight week Regulation 14 consultation on draft Neighbourhood Plan, and parish-wide survey to every household. |