

Do You Have the Skills and Time to Help Shape the Future of Your Village?

The Parish Council is looking for residents to help produce a **Neighbourhood Development Plan** (NDP) for the village which will help guide development over the next decade. New legislation encourages local councils to produce a (NDP) which will have the same powers as existing local plans produced by West Berkshire Council. The Parish Council is going to produce such a plan.

The plan has to conform to the existing West Berkshire Council Strategic Plan but can add detail. For instance the Strategic Plan says how many houses will be built in the parish, but the NDP can say where those houses should go.

There is a formal process that has to be followed in order to develop a NDP. The Parish Council made a formal application on 3rd September 2013 to West Berkshire District Council to designate the area for the Plan. The area is the entire Civil Parish of Stratfield Mortimer.

The subsequent steps involve developing visions and objectives, generating options, preparing a draft plan, consultation on the draft plan, submission of the plan, independent examination of the plan and finally a referendum in the Parish.

At the moment the Parish Council is drawing up some draft Visions and Objectives for the NDP to match the subject areas covered by the Strategic Plan. These areas are:

Delivering New Homes and Retaining the Housing Stock
Housing Type and Mix
Provision of Affordable Housing
Infrastructure
Transport
Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
Employment and Economy,
Rural Economy
Design Principles
Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency
Flooding
Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Green Infrastructure
Historic Environment and Landscape Character

As an example of the Visions and Objectives, a possible draft for the Employment and Economy area might be:-

Vision: *Mortimer will have a thriving economy while retaining the existing rural character of the area.*

Objectives:

Examine ways to encourage business growth, and hence employment within the village, that is appropriate to the village context.

Establish policies that will encourage such employment.

Ensure other policies within the plan are consistent with this aim.

It is intended to take a draft of the Visions and Objectives in the different subject areas to public consultation/meeting in early spring as the first stage in the process. Once these have been agreed then policies will be drawn up.

We are looking for local residents to volunteer to work with the Parish Council to prepare for the spring consultation and gather evidence; draw up and debate the Visions, Objectives and Policies; organise and run public consultation on the plan; keep everybody informed about what is going on.

If you have the skills and time to help us in any of these areas, or are just interested in learning more, please contact the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk