

WEST HORSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In light of new national guidance clarifying ‘what a neighbourhood plan can and cannot do’, we invited our recently appointed planning consultants to assess our existing Emerging Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement documents and to recommend an appropriate course of action for the Group to take in order for the WHNP to be submitted for a successful examination.

The resulting report highlighted that whilst much of our policy subject matter was valid, there was a considerable amount of additional work to do in order to produce an effective neighbourhood plan document. It is this work that has kept the Group occupied for the past three months. As a direct result of this report the Steering Group successfully recruited a number of additional members and has established three new task groups: Housing & Design; Environment & Landscape; and Community Assets & Infrastructure.

These task groups are now in the final stages of preparing their reports and establishing if any further informal community consultations are required before our consultants’ advice on specific policies.

Once completed, these task group reports will enable the Steering Group to decide which policies will offer our village the greatest possible protection from inappropriate development, especially in light of the strategic housing allocations proposed in GBC’s Draft Local Plan.

As part of our ongoing community engagement we did make a return appearance at The Raleigh Summer Fair where we were able to engage directly with both children and parents - our Parish map-based competition, persuasive writing competition winners’ gallery and free sunflower planting all proving popular.

The next step for the Steering Group is the conversion of our list of policies into a first draft plan. We anticipate holding an informal Open House-style community consultation event towards the end of October. This event will enable us to gauge our community’s support for our choice of policies and to ensure that we have all the necessary evidence to support those policies.

For further information please visit our website www.westhorsleyneighbourhoodplan.org and sign up to our mailing list, or contact us directly via email secretarywesthorsleynsg@gmail.com ■

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