

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE – JANUARY 2018

In December the Steering Group produced draft criteria against which possible housing sites might be assessed, in order that a short list of such sites might then be discussed with landowners and form the next stage of local consultation. The consultation on the criteria and on their possible weighting, based on locally-assessed importance, runs / ran to 31 January. The results of this exercise should be made available in March, but this is rather dependent upon how SODC responds to several current planning applications which, if approved, might produce up to 24 new dwellings, mainly in Aston Rowant. This would be more than is expected from the parish, under the emerging SODC policy for small villages and over the whole plan period to 2033.

It would be helpful if any comments made by residents in respect of these applications could also be copied to the Steering Group, via np@astonrowant.org, so that those views can be assessed in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The consultation on the Protection of Green Spaces has been well-received and will be concluded in February.

It is important that the Steering Group continues with its work, regardless of these applications, as the Neighbourhood Plan remains the principal route by which local residents can take responsibility for the future of the parish.

The Steering Group continues to meet in KB Village Hall at 7.30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all, though they are working meetings with a strict agenda and a limited time in which to get things done. At the next meeting, on 13 February, a representative of SODC is expected to attend, to discuss progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, but NOT the current planning applications. That debate rests with the Parish Council and with SODC.

Mark Thackeray