

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE – MARCH 2018

Following the consultation undertaken in December and January, agreement has been reached as to the criteria by which potential housing sites might initially be assessed. This level of agreement has included ongoing discussions with SODC who were broadly happy with nine of the ten criteria and recommended changes to only one. This change, regarding the definition of settlement boundaries around AR and KB, reflected SODC's concern that this might be too rigid an approach, out of line with other draft NPs. The Steering Group accepted the advice, adjusted the criteria and reappraised its initial site assessments accordingly.

On further advice from SODC, the Site Assessment process will now be handed over to "the professionals", My Community/Locality, who in turn use consultants to provide objective Technical Support in the production of the housing element of the draft NP. The Project Planner for the NP has been revised to take account of My Community's involvement and of the ongoing determination of several planning applications by SODC.

In the meantime, the Steering Group is proceeding with many other elements of the NP, as the plan is not just about housing. The draft Consultation Statement is being prepared, and the SG is moving into the hopefully less contentious aspects of the NP and the production of draft policies.

The updated Project Planner, the draft Consultation Statement and the conclusions reached by My Community will be recorded on the NP website as they become available.

www.astonrowant.org/planning/neighbourhoodplanpage

The next full consultation will hopefully be in the late Spring, in the form of a Pre-Submission draft of the NP.

Mark Thackeray

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