

## **East Coker Neighbourhood Plan – Update March 2016**

Neighbourhood Development Plans were first introduced by the 2011 Localism Act. It is part of the Government's approach to planning, which aims to give local people more say about the scale and nature development takes place in their area. However, all Plans must have regard to higher level strategic planning policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and also be in general conformity with the recently adopted South Somerset Local Plan 2015.

The East Coker Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) relates to the whole of the Parish of East Coker. It includes a wide range of topics, including housing, employment, community facilities, transport, and the built and natural environment. The Plan will run until 2018 to coincide with the end date of the Local Plan. However it will need to be reviewed before the end of the plan period.

The Plan has been prepared by local people with some external support, following extensive community consultation and engagement over a period of years and is now put forward as the completed plan for further public consultation and comments. In due course the Plan will also have to be examined by an independent inspector and be subject to a local referendum.

Both the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council very much look forward to receiving your views and believe that the plan represents a broad consensus of local opinion.

**Bridget Sugg**  
**Chair East Coker Parish Council**

**Sandra Snelling**  
**Chair Neighbourhood Plan Group**

**March 2016**

*“ .....Now the light falls  
Across the open field, leaving the deep lane  
Shuttered with branches, dark in the afternoon,  
..... TS Eliot, “East Coker”*