

East Coker Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plan Update

January 2016



Work has progressed over the past months on the continuation of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan Group has taken account of views expressed by the local community, through resident and business questionnaires and as a result of the very successful consultation event, that was held in the Village Hall on 10 October 2015, when over 150 local people attended and provided an excellent input into the Plan's development.

The Group is also engaging with the District and County Councils, as well as other agencies such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

Work has progressed on the writing of policies, based on the vision and objectives that were outlined at October event and which received good public support. These deal with all the subject matters addressed in the Plan, such as housing, employment and business, community facilities, the built and natural environment and transport and infrastructure. The policies in the Plan have to generally conform to both the National Planning Policy Framework and the South Somerset Local Plan.

A schedule of projects and actions is also being drawn up to go with the Plan, based on ideas put forward by the community.

Before the Plan is submitted to South Somerset District Council and then published for formal public consultation, the Group believe it is important that the community is consulted again on the working draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, with a view to ensuring that there is a broad a consensus of support for the plan and its policies.

There will therefore be another more informal Community Consultation event on **Saturday 19 March 11:00-14:00 in the Dampier Room at the Village Hall**, when copies of the Draft Plan, the policies and other information will be displayed and the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Group will be on hand to answer questions.

In due course the Plan has to be 'Examined' by an independent Planning Inspector and also subject to a local Referendum when over 50% of those voting have to support the Plan, for it is be finally adopted or 'Made'. This does all take time, but the Plan will then be used by both the Parish and District Councils to help determine planning applications within the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be part of the overall 'Development Plan' for the area.

So please make a note of the next consultation event in your diary now!

Sandra Snelling

Chair East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Group

January 2016

