

HBO Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

Report to HBO Parish Council

9th July 2024

The Steering Committee and Working Group were formed in March and to date, we have now held 2 meetings, both of which were open to the public. We have also held 4 Working Group meetings, 2 of which were open to the public.

Community engagement plays an extremely important role in the making of the Neighbourhood Plan and a consultation statement must be submitted with the Plan to be judged by both the District Authority and an independent inspector.

To this end, we will aim to make as many Working Group meetings open to the public as possible and invite comment and debate from our residents.

We are also proposing to include a newsletter in the September issue of the parish magazine and possibly in all further issues until the end of the year.

We will also be posting regular features on the Neighbourhood Plan Facebook Page and on the Parish Council's website.

The notice board, which we have asked the PC to purchase will be installed, with the trustee's permission, in the village hall and will be updated regularly.

We have now received a first draft of the results of the community survey. This will be checked and, if necessary amended, over the next couple of weeks. We will then aim to include the results of the survey in the next open Working Group meeting.

We have produced a project plan and are on track to complete the making of the Plan by the end of 2025 or very early 2026. However, we need to complete the evidence collecting element of the Plan by the end of this year and there is still a great deal to do.

We have now secured the balance of a £10k grant from Locality, subject completing some minor admin issues. We are also in the process of obtaining a further £8k for some more specific elements of the Plan. The awarding of the grant means we can now instruct our preferred Landscape Surveyors to carry out a Landscape Assessment Survey of the parish. This survey will play an important part when assessing potential housing sites.

Finally, I can report that we have made a start in the process of selecting suitable sites for our housing allocation.

We should have access to Local Plan Regulation 19 results by the middle of this month, which will give us a clear indication of the housing number this parish will be asked to provide.

In partnership with the RCCE, we are currently formulating a plan as to how we can carry out a 'Call for Sites' initiative to all landowners in the parish.

I would stress that the final selection of housing sites will be made after a thorough public consultation.

Alan Fisher
06.07.24