

Neighbourhood Planning – An Opportunity To Get Involved

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting new development proposals. It can;

- Develop a shared vision for your neighbourhood.
- Choose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built.
- Identify and protect important local green spaces.
- Influence what new buildings should look like.

So it provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. A Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority, and decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, and any other material considerations.

What's Happened So Far?

Sturton Ward produced a Neighbourhood Plan in 2015, and has now begun the process of updating and revising that Plan. The principle objective is for the Parish Councils to control the type of housing development in the Ward's three villages, North and South Wheatley, Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Hablesthorpe, and the associated hamlets of Bole, Coates, Fenton, Littleborough and West Burton.

A Steering Group has been formed from representatives of the Parish Councils, and with assistance from representatives of Bassetlaw District Council and local volunteers has begun the process of producing a revised plan. This included a 'call for sites' in September 2018, to which a number of landowners have responded proposing a good range of potential development sites.

Meetings have been held to discuss the process, the additional information needed in the plan to keep it in line with the latest guidance, and the process to gather that information. These meetings have been open to the public to attend, and a meeting held specifically to outline and explain the process for the public was held in North Wheatley in October 2018.

What's Going to Happen Next?

Bassetlaw will publish its Local Plan in January 2019 which will outline the development landscape in which our Neighbourhood Plan will sit. We will employ external expertise to provide information for the plan in the form of Housing Needs and Character assessments. The potential sites proposed for development will need to be evaluated and decisions made around which are preferred, and for what types of development.

Why Should I Get Involved?

Put simply, local development affects all of us, and this is an opportunity for all of us to have our say in the type of development that takes place. Anyone can attend meetings, listen to others and express their opinions before the draft plan is put to a local referendum.

Documents, minutes of meetings and dates of future meetings throughout the process will be available at; www.sturtonward.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2019/