



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

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from Flimwell Stonegate Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Why is the Neighbourhood Plan important? Under Government pressure for more housing Rother District Council's Local Plan requires this Parish to plan to accommodate at least 104 new homes in addition to any outstanding from the previous Plan. BUT, and I quote from a letter from a senior Rother officer, "At the same time, in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development in the NPPF, I am obliged to also point out that simply because a housing target is met would be unlikely to be a sufficient basis for resisting a further proposal where both the site and scheme are acceptable in planning terms." So a robust and rigorous Neighbourhood Plan is the best and maybe only option if you want to minimise gross over-development. Our consultant, Richard Eastman has given an excellent explanation of Neighbourhood Planning to David Goodale. See his contribution at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR0zP2-Hg2bKuB0pcElBbRw> and get an 'official' view at: <https://youtu.be/SvAHhrKNVt0>

We now have the reports of the January 'Visioning' sessions. You can see the P.L.A.C.E. contributions from Stonegate, Flimwell and Ticehurst and the overall report at <http://www.feria-urbanism.eu/ticehurst/4591380821>

The second phase of public consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan Design Forum was held over two days, Wednesday 9th March and Thursday 10th March 2016 in Ticehurst Village Hall and received contributions from 101 members of the community. It was particularly rewarding to hear a presentation from students at the Primary School - it is, after all, mainly they who will benefit (or suffer!) from the Plan. When you read this more contributions will be available on YouTube.

Low cost accommodation for local families is a persistent and completely understandable demand. Developers have no 'added value' in such housing, but incentives exist which may make 'self-build' a real option in the Parish. We are looking at how we might formulate policies to make this work.

What now? What is most important now is comments, both reactions to the work so far and new thoughts, from anyone and everyone in the Parish. Share your thoughts on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1660007400938887/> or email frankienowne@btconnect.com and keep in touch at <http://ticehurstnp.org> and at the Parish Assembly.

Development on OUR terms!