

Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan report to Parish Council 12-09-17

Since the last Parish Council meeting in early July the Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has met monthly. We have staged a first consultation event at the Garden Party which resulted in 80 comments being posted anonymously on titled notice boards and also gave some basic information about the Neighbourhood Plan process.

It is felt that this is not enough since many parish residents were not available on August Bank Holiday Monday 28th August, lessons were learnt. Consequently it is planned to distribute a two page double sided document inviting comments on a range of topics with the October Newsletter and to stage a tented Q&A forum at the Apple Pressing event on 15th October for anyone who feels they need further information about the process.

The response from these initial consultations will guide some of the areas for questions when the NP Questionnaire is composed and distributed around New Year.

The Steering Group will have a web page on the new Parish Council website. This will contain information on the process and will also contain the minutes of meetings etc.

I am pleased to announce that The Steering Group has successfully applied for a Government Grant via "Locality" for £2716.00 this offer was conditional. We have now completed the due diligence return and expect formal acceptance and transfer of funds within the next 14 days. This grant will fund the activity of the steering group for the next 6 months until the end of March 2018. The main items in the grant are funding for formal training of the Steering Group members for a day in Exeter and the use of a professional consultant to help with composing the Questionnaire which forms the basis of any further work.

Lastly I have circulated the latest copy of the timetable and plan for the Steering Group which ambitiously shows completion at the end of 2018. This is a difficult target but it is pointless having one which is too easily achieved. The frustration with the bureaucracy imposed by the process is immense since the project could be finished in half the time if we were allowed to move at a commercial pace. The other concern to the timescale is the delay to the Joint Local Plan until the Spring next year since our Neighbourhood Plan must comply with this and currently we are unsure of the outcome. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group require a formal acceptance of this plan from the Parish Council and I would ask for your support and a formal minute to that effect.

Richard Baker
RNPSG

Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan report to Parish Council 10-10-17

The Neighbourhood Plan for Ringmore is in the second of five stages to completion, ie. That of “Engaging with the community and gathering information” This phase is likely to take the next six months.

A survey has been published and delivered with the October Newsletter plus a stamped addressed envelope for its return. This survey is seeking ideas in advance of a formal questionnaire to be distributed in the New Year and to ensure that parishioner’s thoughts are covered by that questionnaire. Consultation with the parish is a legal necessity of the process.

Mike Campbell of Holdings, Houghton has joined the Steering Group.

Five members of the steering group then attended a course on Neighbourhood Planning run by Devon Communities Together in Exeter on the 4th October 2017.

In order to continue to promote the Neighbourhood Plan and consult with the parish the NPSG will have a small stand at the Apple Pressing event on Sunday 15th October.

The remainder of this month and the next will be taken up with researching and collecting data and evidence needed for later in the process. This will include interview/discussions with all known businesses in the parish.

Richard Baker

Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

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The Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continues with “Engaging with the community and gathering information” and has recently received more than 26 replies to the survey circulated recently. These responses will be assessed next week at the Steering Group meeting and will assist the Steering Group to ensure that it has covered all the points that are important to the residents of the parish in composing the critical Questionnaire for circulation in the New Year. Response to this Questionnaire in the New Year is the corner stone of the consultation process.

In addition the Steering Group has mounted two open forum days, one at the Garden Party event and one at the village Apple Pressing Day. Both these events gave members of the public information about the process, sought their opinions and someone was on hand to answer any questions. There will be more opportunities for consultation as the process progresses.

It is also proposed to meet with the businesses in the parish, eg. caravan parks, farms, pub and B&B's etc. to see how a future Neighbourhood Plan could assist those businesses.

It is recognised that there are some “homeworkers” and that this may grow in the future. The Steering Group will take their views into account as well.

The Steering Group has within its current budget the finance to use some outside professional help with ensuring that the Questionnaire is fit for purpose etc and the group will debate how best to use this facility at its next meeting.

Richard Baker

Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.