

Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan is the official way in which all members of the Parish of Ringmore can have their say on how the parish should develop over the next 5 to 20 years. There will be several parish wide consultations during the course of the process during the next 18 months or more.

The Parish Council confirmed at their meeting 16th May, their earlier decision to combine with the Ringmore Residents Association and go forward with a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. A registration form has been submitted to SHDC and we have received from them an acknowledgement and a Parish Map, which they would like us to use to designate the area under review.

An entirely independent and representative Steering Committee will be formed in the next few days and they will first need to write Terms of Reference which in turn need to be confirmed by the Parish Council at their meeting on June 13th.

Following that, the Steering Committee will consider an agenda and timetable for the initial steps to be taken this year. The whole process will take in excess of 18 months and there will be detailed consultation with the Parish via a questionnaire, exhibition or meeting from time to time.

The final document, when agreed locally will go to SHDC and then to a Government Inspector before being put to a Parish referendum for acceptance. The plan will then be a legal document.

The Steering Committee will report monthly to the Parish Council on progress and will also publish an update in the Newsletter.

Richard Baker
Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan

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The Ringmore Neighbourhood Plan will be an important step in determining the way the parish develops over the next 20 years and therefore it is important to all residents to take an active interest in its proceedings.

An embryonic Steering Group has been formed under the auspices of the Parish Council and this will be consolidated during the next month with extra members.

The Steering Group is seeking representatives of all the settlements within the Parish:- West Challaborough, Ringmore Village, Marwell and South Langston/Renton. We would also like all aspects of our parish to be represented, young working families, retirees, businesses etc. but the Steering Group also needs to be kept to a manageable size. Anyone interested in joining the group should reply to the poster on the notice boards or to the advert in this Newsletter.

Some progress has already been made. The Group has agreed Terms of Reference for the Project and these have been ratified by the Parish Council. This forms a basic part of the SHDC registration procedure. The area to be considered is the whole area inside the Ringmore parish boundary.

The next steps are to seek grant aided funding from SHDC and some training of the Steering Group members to carry out the task. After that The Group will embark on "information gathering" and this may involve a parish presentation or exhibition and a questionnaire. I hope you will give this your full consideration and support.

There will be regular monthly updates to The Parish Council and to residents via The Newsletter.

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The steering group has been successful in acquiring government funding for the next six months of £2,716. Most of this money is budgeted for training, hiring professional guidance and for printing of The Questionnaire to parish residents, which will be distributed in January. The money is controlled by the Parish Council.

The steering group undertook its first public consultation exercise at the Garden Party on August Bank Holiday Monday. This was a partial success by introducing the subject and allowing residents to comment on a range of topics that might become relevant in the future. However we did not reach everyone, so it has been decided to repeat the exercise with the survey attached to this Newsletter. The survey is a search for ideas and is not a voting process. This survey will help the steering group to ensure that The Questionnaire is asking the correct questions. The Questionnaire will be one of the main pieces of evidence when writing The Policy.

A similar survey was undertaken in West Challaborough with over a 40% response.

We welcome Mike Campbell, who has recently joined the steering group but we are still looking for more members. Five members of the steering group will be attending an all day training session in Exeter on Wednesday 4th October and there are still a couple of places available for any new members. If you would like to join the steering group and help guide the future of this village, please phone 01548 811115.

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The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has completed its initial consultation with residents and received a 33% response to the survey sent out with the October Newsletter. These responses covered all points of view and will be valuable in forming the Parish Questionnaire which is the cornerstone of any future policy making.

Due to the importance of this document the steering group will be using a experienced professional company, Devon Communities Together of Exeter to guide us and assist judging the replies to the Parish Questionnaire. The Questionnaire will be accompanied by a “Housing Needs Survey” of the whole Parish. All answers to this separate document will be dealt with in confidence by DCT. The steering group will only see the consolidated statistics.

We expect to distribute the Questionnaire and Housing Needs Survey in mid to late January 2018.

Richard Baker
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