

STOKE ORCHARD AND TREDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE FEBRUARY 2020

Now that we have started the New Year, work has started in earnest on the first phases of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This plan is specifically designed to sit under the Tewkesbury Borough Plan (TBP) and, whilst it may not conflict with that plan it will bring a level of detail to policies to support our Parish which the TBP does not. So, whilst the TBP in general looks to improve assets like footpaths and green spaces it does not identify those which are a priority in this Parish. The NDP gives us the opportunity to do this and define policies and potentially obtain the resources as a condition on developments going ahead which enable us to deliver on those priorities. It also enables us to promote plans where we believe that TBP pays insufficient attention to issues of key importance such as Drainage and Flood prevention.

This work being undertaken now is in preparation for and the actual undertaking of “Gap Analysis” – this is the Planners’ jargon for identifying the bits of policy that might affect us that are missing in TBP and the first phase of that work is now in progress. This will be followed by a process of policy development, (putting our aspirations into a form of words which Planners can use as policies to guide decisions) and collecting evidence to justify those policies.

The Vision Statement which is the background to the NDP and which sets out our initial aspirations for the plan identified four key topic areas as a result of consultations in the Parish to which as a result of reviewing flood events over recent years the Steering Committee has asked the Parish Council to add a fifth – Drainage and Flood Prevention.

Detailed work, under the guidance of the Steering Committee will be taken forward within Topic Groups made up of people with a particular interest in specific topics or who have skills which are key to getting public support for proposals – such as getting out and talking to people or collecting evidence. The plan, to be adopted must be supported in a referendum so getting support for the policies and having the evidence to back them up is critical. We are still very interested in recruiting people to join the Topic Groups so if you are interested in helping in any of the areas set out below, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk on stokeorchardpc@gmail.com

The priority topic areas are set out below with a brief summary of what they cover.

Sustainable Transport – Improving the local infrastructure for getting about and making trips without getting into a car, such as cycle routes and footpaths whilst at the same time reducing the impact on environment and amenity of Parish Residents of vehicle movements through the Parish.

Green Infrastructure – Protecting and enhancing the local environment and the amenity of Parish residents by a combination of the protection and natural development of existing open spaces and use of natural means of accommodating the impact of new development, such as tree-planting and sustainable drainage such as the absorption of local rainwater run-off from the development.

Housing mix we must try to consider the provision of affordable housing for younger people and suitable housing for older people – in each case to avoid people being forced to move out of the Parish as communities mature. However, any developments need to maintain a rural aspect in keeping with our villages.

Historic Environment - the identification, protection and enhancement of the enjoyment of Heritage assets such as Listed Buildings and other assets of notable agricultural heritage value (such as any ridge and furrow, permanent pasture) or other sites of archaeological interest.

Community Facilities – the identification and pursuit of any opportunities to provide or support facilities for the enjoyment of the whole Parish Community. The current community centre at Stoke Orchard and the Tredington Village Hall being notable examples. We should also be including adequate schooling and medical facilities in these policies.

Drainage and Flood Prevention - The Parish stands on four named watercourses, the Swilgate, Dean Brook, Hyde Brook and the Moor. All of which drain large residential and commercial areas outside the Parish. We are seeking policies that protect us to reduce the flooding within our Parish and also maintain and improve the drainage of roads and land within the infrastructure of our own villages.