

ARNE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have come a long way since embarking on Arne Parish's Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process at our first Information Evening on Thursday 24th April last year. The vision is now securely in place and often highlighted. There was a very good response to our October parish survey and much has already been achieved through the efforts of the steering group and our various working parties. In writing this first article it might be an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the government's planning practice guidance:

"Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead."

When drawing up the plan, we need to identify what is desirable, then what's essential, then what's realistic. However, we have all realised that the main strategic focus in the NP is clearly the provision of extra housing. Our survey showed that residents favoured:

- Suitably sized and structured homes with 1-3 bedrooms, some flats
- Developments of no more than forty houses, to be within the by-pass and within existing settlement boundaries
- Developments that do not inhibit active food production, farming or cultural activities, nor disrupt other existing economic activity
- Ease of access to road system
- Building near to existing infrastructure, e.g. proximity to bus routes, shop, school, etc.
- A cohesive relationship between old and new settlements

Members of the parish council have also recently considered both the Purbeck Local Plan Partial Review, Issues and Options consultation and the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework. The findings from our survey have informed our responses to these two plans extensively, based exactly on what residents actually feel about local development.

As these two plans demonstrate, it has become increasingly clear that, in line with government guidance, our Neighbourhood Plan needs to be *"aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area"*, responding to district, county and

national priorities. Although this may seem counter to the localism agenda that empowers a parish-based response, the parish council assures you that your views will be delivered in a rigorous and effective manner to ensure that good community-based judgements are made.

Currently, there is a push from the NP steering group to start writing some of the first draft of the plan. As a result, working group chairs have undertaken to agree the objectives that have arisen from their discussions and, if possible, to start thinking about the policies that may arise from these objectives, based on all the evidence that has been gathered so far. These will eventually be put to all residents through a parish referendum.

To this effect, we will be seeking support through an agreed service level agreement with Purbeck District Council, to help us bring the final plan together.


There is still time to go and, although it will be a challenge to meet the original deadline for publication in a year's time, we can assure you that all members of the parish council and the NP steering committee are doing their very best to achieve successful publication as soon as possible.

We can assure you that, as residents, you will see the draft plan before it goes to referendum. You will also

be continually updated on the plan's progress through the website and the parish magazine. The NP is always discussed at our meetings which you are cordially invited to attend.

We ask you to continue the dialogue with your parish council so that our Neighbourhood Plan becomes a robust and accurate document, benefiting the residents of Arne Parish and its future generations.


Ashley Pellegrini
Neighbourhood Plan Chair



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