



Report to the Town Council 3rd July 2017

Following the acceptance of the recommendation of the Independent Examiner's Report by the Town Council, the NPSC has been working to incorporate the recommended policy changes and other minor editorial adjustments.

The NPSC has been working with BDBC to provide a revised plan showing the detail of our Public Open Spaces which should be useful for planning purposes going forward.

The detailed program for the progression of the WNDP to referendum has been requested from BDBC but not yet received; indications are that it is likely to go to referendum in September.

It is rewarding to see that the document is now being quoted in planning decisions including the St Cross application in N. W. Whitchurch where the WNDP along with the relevant policies is being given weight by the Planning Officers, in determining the application.

DG attended the annual BDBC meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning groups on the 22nd June.

Four neighbourhood Plans have now passed referendum and ours is to be the fifth.

At the meeting changes to legislation were discussed including the following;

- Neighbourhood plans will form part of Development Plan as soon as they have passed referendum rather than waiting to be "made"
- Now a duty to review Local Plans at five year intervals, (so we may need to re-visit the WNDP in four years' time).
- relevant policies for supply of housing in a made neighbourhood plan will not be considered 'out-of-date' if a 3 year land supply can be demonstrated by the LPA. Statement applies to neighbourhood plans which are less than two years old and allocate sites for housing. (BDBC currently has a 6.7 year housing land supply).

BDBC are currently updating/drafting the following Supplementary Planning Documents.

- Design and Sustainability SPD
- Landscape and Biodiversity SPD
- Housing SPD (to include housing allocation)
- Historic Environment SPD
- Parking SPD
- Planning Obligations SPD

It is recommended that the TC monitor the progress of these documents.

Dave George 3rd July 2017