

**The Parish Council is delighted that The Residents of Stanton Drew passed the village Neighbourhood Plan by referendum (held on May 6<sup>th</sup>) by a notable margin and with a good turnout.**

Stanton Drew Neighbourhood Plan was prepared for the Parish Council by a Steering Group made up of locals who were interested in shaping the future of the parish. Our thanks go to these people who gave up their time to ensure The Parish has a successfully adopted Plan which will work for us all.

This plan actually adds an extra layer of policies that seek to ensure that any limited development is sensitive and sympathetic to the character of the area. To ensure it considers the type and density of housing, green space, biodiversity, views and dark skies together. There is a policies to help ensure that any new affordable housing stays available for local residents plus a couple to help local businesses. It also contains some of the aspirations that residents brought forward during the consultations.

**Effectively, we have voted to have a greater say in what happens in our village, where as villages without a plan are subjected to broader planning regulation – as such this a great win for us.**

We are however concerned that there was misleading information distributed in the lead up to the referendum and would like to reassure all parishioners that having a neighbourhood plan does not remove any existing protection the Parish has regarding planning. Stanton Drew sits within the Green Belt, the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. Nothing in the Neighbourhood Plan changes that protection.

The term “development” covers all work that requires an application for planning permission, the vast majority of “development” applications in Stanton Drew are for domestic extensions and other reasonably non impactful works. Very occasionally there may be applications for individual new houses within the housing development boundary, or for Barn Conversions. **There is no reason to think this will change as a result of having a neighbourhood plan.**

**It is a gross misconception that we somehow want to open the village that we live in and love, up to some kind of mass housing development. In many ways, this plan gives us a greater degree of control and protection.**

There is emphasis in the plan on the importance of the established “Housing Development Boundaries” which is the invisible line which goes around existing development, permission may be sought for infill development between existing homes, but growth outside these boundaries is not supported by any policy in the neighbourhood plan.

Stanton Drew Neighbourhood Plan will now be used along with Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (which covers the whole of the country) as the guide lines and principles which are the basis by which all planning applications in our parish area will now be determined.

Having passed referendum the plan will be formally adopted by Bath and North East Somerset Council within 8 weeks of the referendum result.

Our plan will be periodically reviewed to ensure it stays in line with the Local Plan and National Policy.