**Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

**Report to SF Parish Council Meeting Nov 6, 2019**

**It’s been a busy and enjoyable month for those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group!**

**1. Recruitment of Consultants**

* As previously reported, we have got back to one of the consultancy firms we interviewed asking them to review their prices and schedule of work. They have now replied, and this will be subject to further discussion by the Working Group.
* The Working Group is also to hold a face-to-face meeting with a further Consultancy Firm on Monday, 11th November.
* With the information we will then hold we will make a recommendation to the PC as to which company we feel is best suited to support our work over the next 18-24 months. Because of the need to complete the funding application form (see below) the PC may make this decision via a round robin email or at an Extraordinary Meeting.

**2. Funding**

The ‘Locality’ HMG funding application for financial support up to the period to end of March 2020 has been started. It will be completed when a decision to appoint a Consultancy firm has been made.

The application needs to be submitted by mid-November in order to get approval in Jan 2020.

**3. Working Group Meetings and Members**

As well as a constant flow of ideas, information and support between members, we held a full meeting on 23 October; 6 members attended and there was one apology. We welcomed on board a new member who, among their other attributes, is an experienced professional archaeologist and a skilled report writer and is now setting forth researching the history of our village to help prepare the ‘Village Character Statement’ for the NP. This is crucial work and we would like to express thanks for taking on this role. A further recruit is hoping to attend and join at our next meeting.

Working Group Members have now taken on responsibility for various aspects of the work involved in developing the NP.

At the meeting, two members provided useful feedback on a Self and Custom Build Workshop they organised by Borough Council Planning Dept on Oct 10. As well as picking up useful information on this topic important connections had been made including Gayton NP Group, Karl Patterson (Planning) and ‘LIVEDIN’ Custom Build Developers. As a result, Karl Patterson requested and will be attending our regular pre-PC meeting at 6pm, Nov 6th at SF Village Hall to explore the potential to deliver custom/self-build housing in Stoke Ferry.

**4. Public Consultation Meetings**

* An Initial Public Consultation event will be held: 10am-2pm, Dec 7th,at SF Village Hall.
* Plus, another event will take place in the Church Hall on the evening the Xmas lights are switched on (date TBC).
* Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be available at each event.

**5. Future Working Group Meetings**

As well as meeting to progress the NP, the Working Group will continue to meet once a month, prior to the monthly Parish Council Meetings so that our reports are as up to date as possible.

Jim McNeill

Chair, SFNP Working Group