

Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan

An update on progress in drafting the Plan

In our article for the Winter edition of Neighbourhood News, we set out a Vision Statement for Sandridge Parish in 2031. Since then, a number of working groups have been developing the policies that we hope will assist the Parish achieve that vision. In this article we wish to show some of the progress made and to provide information on how you can continue to be involved.

In November, as part of the St Albans Sustainability week, we held an event in Sandridge Village Hall outlining our work to date and asking attendees for their comments on our direction. Our presentation at that event set out the Aims and Objectives of being used to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. It also provided some information on how the boundary of the village may be drawn. It was a successful afternoon with many comments received and interest expressed.

Our aim whilst preparing the Plan is that Sandridge Parish should continue to evolve as an inclusive and cohesive community, whilst retaining the distinct character of its neighbourhoods and quality of life. We have identified a number of key policy areas upon which we wish to concentrate.

Development – identification of suitable development sites and ensuring provision for affordable housing and giving priority to people with local connections.

Infill Housing – policies aimed at promoting good quality, sustainable design of extensions and restrictions on the over development of garden plots.

Commercial – maintaining a reasonable mix of shops and businesses.

Travel – improving bus links and supporting improved bus services.

Rights of Way – maintaining existing paths, cycle ways and bridle paths and developing new routes for recreational use and improved connections to important destinations.

Green spaces – identifying and maintaining the important green spaces within the Parish, and maintaining our Green belt assets.

We are currently in conversation via e-mail with residents who have previously expressed an interest in being involved with the development of the Plan. If you wish to be involved, then please contact Simon Thwaites at the Sandridge Parish Offices on: 01727 831 871; email: 'clerk@sandridge-pc.gov.uk' and we will add you to the circulation list.

Our next step is compiling our work to date into the draft Neighbourhood Plan including policies which will apply to future planning applications in the parish. We aim to get the document ready for late spring/early summer and then progress it through the assessment process which includes a referendum to all residents seeking their support for the Neighbourhood Plan.

We will be holding 3 more events between 2.00 – 4.30pm on the afternoons of **18th March at Sandridge Village Hall, 25th March at Jersey Farm Community Hall and 1st April in Marshalswick Community Centre**. We hope that as many of you as able can attend and join in the discussions. At these events we hope to give you more information on a number of key policy areas that are being drafted.

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