

January 2018

CONSULTATION ONE

The Plan swung into action in January with the First Consultation Questionnaire being delivered to homes in the Parish. Many of you spoke to our volunteers during this exercise and we were encouraged by so many positive words of support. The First Consultation Period is now over and questionnaires are being analysed. If you did not return yours, you have a very short period to do so; your volunteer's name is on the front page. Please return them by February 4th if you want your opinion to count.

NEXT STEPS

Thanks to everyone who participated in this first stage. As a result of you all taking the time to fill in the survey, we will have an informed view about what Parishioners feel are the key issues for our community. Our next step will be to identify the needs of the community around those issues, and determine what kinds of policies would be the right ones to develop for our Parish Neighbourhood Plan. We will be sending out a Second Consultation later in the Spring to help us with this step, and in due course there will be an opportunity for everyone in the Parish to see the Plan and to vote on whether it should be accepted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS ARE A BIG WORRY FOR DEVELOPERS

Neighbourhood Planning is an important step in ensuring local opinions matter when deciding on planning applications, and they are a force to be reckoned with. Last summer, a consortium of three property developers (Bewley Homes, Wates Development and Catesby Property Group) went to the High Court to seek a Judicial Review to prevent Waverley Borough Council from adopting the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan which was voted for by more than 10,000 local residents. Local news sources reported that the companies wanted to build hundreds of homes on sites not allocated for new housing in the plan, and that fact would weigh powerfully against their plans. The judge dismissed the developer's challenge to prevent the plan being adopted. This case is a clear sign that developers recognise that Neighbourhood Plans are a powerful tool in deciding planning applications and that they put more control in the hands of local residents.

Following the judgement, the leader of Waverly Borough Council said "This is a victory for the people of Farnham and its villages and for Farnham town Council - this is their plan. Years of hard work have gone into getting the plan prepared and it has been robustly consulted on and reviewed by an independent inspector. I am both delighted and disappointed. Delighted that the judge has dismissed the developers' claims and that the plan can now be adopted and used to help the council decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. However, I'm disappointed that the developers' decided that a legal challenge was an appropriate course of action. I hope these developers will now try to engage constructively with us for the good of the borough and its residents."

The Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Planning Group is committed to creating the right Plan for Lewknor Parish residents. Please join in the discussion, offer your views and make your opinion count!

Facebook: [Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Plan \(group\)](#)