



## **COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) UPDATE – JUNE 20**

Our last update reported that producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan was never going to be a quick process.

Even under perfect conditions there are all kinds of checks and balances that need to be undertaken when preparing a statutory document. If you then throw in a general election followed by a global pandemic – understandably neither of which were on our radar when we began this process in 2018! – it has certainly added time to the process.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan Drafts**

However, rest assured the Compton NDP team are continuing to work remotely and meeting on a regular basis electronically via Zoom.

Alongside our consultants Aaron Smith and Hollie Snyder from Fowler Architecture and Planning we are currently amending and adding to the first NDP draft.

The second draft should be in our hands by the end of May and once agreed, after further scrutiny, will be shared with the Parish Council (PC) and West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) in a consultation exercise. The objective here is to ensure that the NDP's general direction of travel meets with approval.

As previously reported, the NDP team was delighted by the attendance and interest shown at the two NDP Village Hall presentations focusing on the Pirbright site held on February 13 and many thanks to all of you who participated. Your input has been invaluable.

The completed questionnaires have been analysed and important trends and concerns identified. It is clear, there is little support for Homes England's proposed number of houses to be developed on the Pirbright site.

### **Homes England's Imminent Pirbright Planning Application**

We expect Homes England to lodge its outline planning application with WBDC soon. As identified by the department earlier in the year we expect it to be a plan of approximately 250 houses.

You will know that the NDP is proposing a mixed development of approximately 140 houses, including employment, business and green space – this was published in our Interim Policy Statement on Pirbright (September 2019). This size and type of development was also recommended in WBDC's Pirbright Special Planning Document (September 2013). Both can be found on our website.

When Homes England's planning application is lodged it will be published on the Council's webpage <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications/search>.

You will have the chance to submit comments within a set timeframe and this can be done in one of three ways

- online – <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/representations>
- email – [planapps@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:planapps@westberks.gov.uk)
- writing – Head of Development & Planning, Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD

In this way the village will clearly be making its reaction public.

Once the application is lodged, the NDP will make an immediate village leaflet drop to confirm the application reference number, a reminder of how to comment and closing date.

Under present Covid-19 guidance, we are mindful of our duty to observe lockdown and social distancing guidance and will adjust our method of distribution accordingly so that no one is put at risk. A copy of the leaflet will also be posted on our website and Facebook page once available.

**Register on the Compton NDP website to receive email updates directly to your email address**

To ensure that you do not miss key information posted onto the website, you can register to receive email updates sent directly to your email address.

It is really easy to do, just go to [www.comptonndp.org.uk](http://www.comptonndp.org.uk). On the right-hand side of the page click the blue button marked 'Sign up to our latest news', enter your email address, tick the news, events and privacy boxes and then click Create.