

**SSJ Neighbourhood Plan
Bimonthly Report to SSJ Parish Council
October 2015**

1. General

The Evidence Base is largely completed.

The year-long Wildlife Map Study has gathered a considerable quantity of information, and continues into 2016.

Bob's Farm has been withdrawn as a Neighbourhood Plan development site.

As a result, a '2nd Consultation Event' was held in early October, resulting in a vote in favour of the A340/Cranes Rd development.

The Steering Committee met on 12th October and adopted the A340/Cranes Rd site.

A Screening Report has been circulated to Statutory Authorities, further work is required to close this out. A meeting with BDBC is scheduled for Monday 16th November.

A draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been forwarded to Alex Munro (SSJ N Plan Consultant) for him to review and ensure compliance with procedural requirements.

2. Steering Group

1. There is no change to the Steering Group.
2. Further meetings have been held – the latest on 12th October.
3. The next meeting is scheduled for **7pm Monday 9th November** (please note revised date).

3. Evidence Base

1. The Neighbourhood Plan Base Summary on the website requires a complete overhaul / update.
2. The Wildlife Map Study continues – led by Mike Harrison, started on 01.01.15.
3. The VDS 2004 Summary is outstanding (due 31.10.15).

4. Screening Report

At SSJ N Plan request, BDBC has produced a Screening Report and circulated this to Statutory Authorities for comment. At the request of Historic England, a 'proportionate' SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) may be required but this is open to further discussion.

SSJ N Plan has drafted a response and forwarded this to BDBC for advice and approval. A meeting with BDBC is scheduled for Monday 16th November to discuss this and review overall progress.

5. 2nd Consultation Event

Bob's Farm was the Parish's 1st choice for development at the Consultation and Feedback Event (14.03.15); however, this was withdrawn as a Neighbourhood Plan development site by the developer following discussions with BDBC. Subsequent discussions with BDBC Cllrs and Officers failed to change the decision. As the site is 'unavailable', it cannot be considered for the N Plan.

There was no 'back-up' option from the previous vote (four of the original short-listed sites were deemed unsuitable and a fifth possibly unavailable). Consequently, a '2nd Consultation Event' was held in early October. Owners/agents for all original short-listed sites were contacted, however only one site was put forward – A340/Cranes Rd (one 'half' of a two-site option previously rejected). Voting documentation was circulated in The Villager magazine, and residents were invited to vote by returning slips to one of four ballot boxes. This resulted in a vote in favour of the A340/Cranes Rd development (18 dwellings + an option for a 1230sq ft shop) by 134 (90 not dependent on delivery of a shop) to 65.

This vote was accepted by the Steering Group who agreed to support the development site even though it is a greenfield site, and located at the northern end of the Strategic Gap. Reviewing the current Local Plan situation and taking consideration of Central Government pressures for more house building, it concluded that this is the 'least bad' option.

6. Programme/ Progress

A draft document has been submitted to our Consultant for review and editing. The meeting with BDBC in mid-November should allow completion of the draft by mid-December.

This represents a further 2 months slippage, one of which should be recoverable - the Referendum is expected to be held in May 2016.

7. Budget – to be updated

1. Costs during the period: £
2. Total Costs to date: £ (£ for consultants, £ Administrator & general admin £)
3. Further funding has been awarded and will be sufficient to complete the Plan – subject to timing and not having to submit an SEA.

J Crawley
Chairman

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Date: 24.10.15