

EAST MEON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Since 2014 and at one time or another, no fewer than 32 volunteers have been involved in helping to develop the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The 108 residents who attended the November 2015 update morning got a further insight into the many processes (statutory and others) and sheer volume of work that the plan has entailed. It was also hugely encouraging for those involved to again receive such unanimous support for their efforts, and the Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan is now taking shape and should be ready for the six week residents' consultation period at the end of April 2016 (the specific date will be advertised). This is when residents, developers and other interested bodies may provide feedback and comment on the draft plan. Any necessary amendments will then be made before the plan goes forward to the South Downs National Park (SDNP) for their six week scrutiny and consultation period. Thereafter the plan progresses forward to other statutory bodies before it gets to the Government Examiner who finally approves it for a residents' referendum, which is still some way off.

Of immediate importance and interest is that residents will finally see a draft plan that will determine how the places where we live and work will develop over time

A full timeline which also shows the many stages is available on the NP web site where you can see this and other information: www.eastmeon.org.uk.

Where compliance allows, the guiding principles from residents' feedback over the past few years has been;

- Small dwellings of 2 to 3 bedrooms, for young families and down-sizers.
- No large scale developments – (maximum 5/6 dwellings)
- Sympathetic and high quality design.
- Protect green spaces and landscape views.
- Any development should not add to existing drainage problems.
- Minimise traffic issues.

These important views have also been part of the criteria for assessing all suggested housing development sites. They will also be supported by robust policies which will be binding if accepted as being compliant with the SDNP Local Plan (and of course the all-important 'examiner'). We have some confidence that these policies are sensible and can be accepted.

East Meon will have to take it's share of regional development and residents expressed a wish for more options for moving to smaller houses within the village. The plan's goal is also to have minimum impact on residents, the village and the landscape environment.

East Meon Parish council

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East Meon Residents Group.

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