

Status Report as at 23rd February 2019

Since the last report in February 2018 a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to draft the Neighbourhood Plan to build on and reflect the feedback received since it was commenced in January 2016. You may feel that it is taking too much time to finalise but some plans have taken up to 5 years to be adopted.

Community feedback places the character of the village high on the list of attributes they wish to see maintained. A considerable amount of time has been spent producing a Village Character Assessment (VCA). This sets out to describe the unique character and form of the village and will be used to support development which matches or compliments the existing character. Conversely it will also be used to help protect from uncharacteristic development. The VCA can be viewed on the community website :-

<https://www.neighbourhooddevelopmentplan.oldburyonsevern.org.uk/documentation/>

The Site Assessment work reported in the last report has been completed and the full report can also be found on the community website. This report objectively examines all the sites originally designated for consideration after the flood risk assessment had been completed, this reduced the number of sites considered to have potential for development.

The Site Assessment report can also be viewed on the community website.

The Housing needs Assessment has also been completed and also can be viewed on the Community Website.

These reports have been used to draft the Plan to an advanced stage which will enable South Gloucestershire Council to provide a screening opinion as to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This has been an issue for some time because our Plan is being prepared with a number of major issues which make plan making more complex. The flood risk issues in the Parish generally are a major factor as are the nature conservation designations of the Estuary. This and heritage issues have all to be taken into account when trying to find suitable sites for modest development.

In order for a neighbourhood plan to meet the basic conditions when it is independently examined it must be compatible with EU obligations. One of these obligations relates to the effect a plan will have on the environment. South Gloucestershire Council currently have the plan and will in conjunction with the statutory bodies (The Environment Agency, Historic and Natural England) determine whether or not a SEA is required. This process will take a minimum of 6 weeks and probably longer. If the decision comes back that a SEA is required there will probably be 12 weeks of work before it is available.

This time provides the opportunity for an additional community engagement event to feedback in more detail what the draft plan is saying and to provide an opportunity for parishioners to respond to it. Responses will be considered and if necessary the plan will be amended although we believe it reflects the wishes of the community based on the feedback received so far.

This is planned for **Saturday 30th March 2019**, the venue is the **Memorial Hall**, the event will be open from **12.00 to 18.00** on the day.