**Neighbourhood Plan update – PC meeting 8th February, 2021-02-02**

On February 8th it will be just over 9 weeks since the public consultation on our Reg 17a Neighbourhood Plan ended and, at the time of writing, the District Council have still not decided what the next step in our Plan should be.

We had been expecting that after the years of consultation, examination and re-drafting our Plan would be submitted to a referendum following the last consultation. We had incorporated into our Plan the Examiner’s recommendations, some amended with the agreement of the District Council, and those of the District Council. The District Council had satisfied itself that the Plan met Basic Conditions (the legal requirements for a Plan). Twelve representations were received during the consultation and two of those have raised concerns by the District Council.

Loxton Developments, the developers responsible for Meadow Lane, made representations regarding the land to the west of Meadow Lane and Red Horse Close and the owner of the land west of Windmill Way, south of Oxhill Road also made a representation which has raised the District Council’s concerns. Both of these representations are in respect of land that had been identified by the District Council as potential reserve sites in their draft Site Allocations Plan (SAP). The District Council are now seeking legal advice on whether our Plan should be re-examined so that the process by which these sites were excluded from our Plan can be reviewed. It should be said that these sites have never been included as potential development sites in any iteration of our Plan and have always been the subject of strong objection by residents. It should also be said that we are under no obligation to include any particular site in our Plan. This potential re-examination would have implications on both the SAP and our Plan. Whilst it is not clear from correspondence with the District Council what the exact implications on our Plan might be were it to be re-examined it does appear that the District Council’s motivation in considering re-examination is to avoid having to defend a possible judicial review of either or both our Plan and the SAP. Suffice it to say that the major implication at the moment is a further intolerable delay in the process that already has taken far too much time.

Cllr David Roache

2nd February, 2021