

Neighbourhood Plan Update

As time is pressing we have been quite active, albeit behind the scenes.

So far we have set up a small steering group of volunteers - Alex Tasker, Nick Yool, Heather Pearse, Bryan Drew, Sam Dare, Jeremy Wallace, John Watkins, Beryl Griffin and Jason Hawkes - and will then co-opt expertise (such as IT, legal, design, local knowledge/history etc) for specific subjects.

To date we have:-

- prepared and submitted to the Parish Council a Terms of Reference document. If approved at the next Council Meeting then this will be added to the web site page (see below).
- announced and discussed at our Annual Parish Meeting (around 40 attendees) that we are intending to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Membury
- agreed to work in association with about 9 other Blackdown Hills parishes (such as Stockland, Chardstock, Yarcombe) to pool resources and share costs
- had a special Parish Council meeting which approved working with two consultants [Stuart Todd and Paul Weston] and approved the consequential funding
- applied for and been granted funds to cover the costs of preparing the Plan so there should be no net cost to Parishioners
- set up a web page within the parish web site [www.membury.org.uk] under Parish Council to be one of the key vehicles for information. This web page will also allow feedback to the dedicated email address
- set up a dedicated email address [memburyplan@gmail.com] for anyone to contact us on any topic and provide feedback or suggestions
- identified our core steering committee plus others to provide specialist help as and when needed
- we intend to involve the School and teenagers in our project - more information on this later this summer
- set the date for a public exhibition and consultation of **Friday 20th & Sat 21st June** in the Village Hall.
- We want to catch the afternoon close of School and then evening returnees from work - as we did with Design Statement. **The Exhibition will be open from 3.00pm to 7.30pm on Friday and again from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday.** Steering Group members will be there to answer your questions or get answers for you. **YOU need to let us know what you want addressed in the Plan**, what issues are of importance to you and there will be the chance for you to leave comments for us to work upon.

We will submit regular reports to both the parish web site and the Mercury for consideration and feedback (our meeting minutes are there too).

To date we have had 3 Steering Group meetings at which we have discussed and agreed our outline timescales, identified the issues we think likely be of concern and begun getting background data on them. We have set a target completion date of 30th March 2015 by which time the Plan will have been prepared, voted upon in a public referendum, approved by East Devon District Council and passed by the Government inspectors and be a statutory document.

Remember, this is your plan. Please let us have your views preferably by email to memburyplan@gmail.com.

Do come along to the exhibition and discussions on either 20th or 21st June.

Hope to see you there.

Alex Tasker