

MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Report 2017/18

Annual Parish Meeting — April 2018

In the past year your Steering Group have pursued what has seemed to them an almost never-ending task. However, an end is actually now in sight: hopefully an end that will satisfy everyone - the Inspector and the parish at a final referendum!

Since last year's report we have, with the help of our consultants ClearLead Ltd of Ottery St. Mary, completed the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Once we had negotiated with them and agreed the scope of the assessment the questionnaire was ready to submit to the statutory consultees for them to also agree with the scoping document, then for the same people to scrutinise and comment upon the Assessment results that ClearLead had prepared. These exercises required two 6-week consultation periods but little change to our Plan, mainly re-wording to emphasise the protection of the environment and countryside: an explanation of why we did not want any and all new development to be only within the village of Membury and why we did not think it necessary to provide cycleways within the parish. These changes were highlighted in my Mercury article for Winter 2017 and added to the parish web site [www.membury.org.uk] should anyone wish to check the detail. The modified Plan was submitted to and approved by the Parish Council in November 2017.

That draft Plan [version 4.06.04] and all the back up data including all the responses we had had to the SEA was submitted to EDDC in December. However, we had not completed all the conformity cross references (showing how our Policies met European Law, the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] and EDDC Local Plan). The new EDDC Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Phil Twamley, was a great help with this and provided us with most of the references. We added these to our documentation and re-submitted the Plan as version 4.07.01 in early January 2018. There then was a further 6 week consultation period ending 16 March 2018 - that's been some 25 elapsed weeks of consultation alone over the past year!

Our Plan was accepted as valid by EDDC Management Committee on 6th March and submitted for formal examination to Mr Andrew Mead, our agreed Inspector with their (EDDC) caveat that the hamlets were not sustainable and our new development proposals would not make them so. He started work on 26 March. Full Examination usually takes some 6 to 10 weeks. Hopefully we will get interim feedback during that time and can, jointly and cohesively with EDDC, both react if and as necessary. I have been advised that Andrew Mead will be visiting the parish some time during the week commencing 3 April and will particularly wish to see for himself the nominated hamlets.

Following the formal examination of our plan and assuming that we can all agree to a final version that is acceptable to the parish, the District Council and the Inspector (on behalf of the Government) then our Plan will be approved. The final step then will be to hold a parish-wide public referendum and providing a simple majority of parishioners who decide to vote approve it, the Plan will be declared "made" and pass into Planning law. It will be valid, currently, through to 2031.

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It will then be for your **Parish Council to implement** the Community Action Plans embedded in it: adhere to the Policies therein - especially those covering the design and location of any new build, annexe, conversion and extension. It is also incumbent upon **parishioners to ensure** that their architects and new planning applications meet with the Plan before submitting them to the District Council.

The Parish Council are also required to monitor their performance against the Plan on a regular basis - these Annual Parish Meetings being an ideal possible public forum for that to be publicised, I would think - but that is for them to decide.

Finally, may I remind everyone that we are still using the Membury Mercury and the parish web site [www.membury.org.uk] to keep everyone informed of progress plus parish noticeboards, as appropriate for meetings etc. The submitted Plan is on the web site under the Neighbourhood Plan section. It is version 4.07 dated February 2018 and runs to some 64 pages! Any one of the steering group are only too happy to answer any questions you may have.

Alex Tasker

(Chair of Steering Group)

Tel: 881 364

Email: memburyplan@gmail.com

Steering Group Members

Mike Bell (also a parish councillor)

Mark Burrough (also a parish councillor)

Samantha Dare

Jason Hawkes (no longer a resident of this parish)

Heather Pearse

Jeremy Wallace

John Watson

Nick Yool