



A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Kingston

Kingston must maintain its character as a living village in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

A few months ago the Neighbourhood Planning Group commissioned an independent Site Assessment Report from a highly experienced planning consultant, who is also helping us with developing the Neighbourhood Plan, NP. He is working with some other NP groups in the South Hams. The national guidance for Neighbourhood planning notes that a site assessment is considered essential to the Neighbourhood Planning process. The Report, which will shortly be on the NP website and available as a paper copy in the Reading Room, covers 11 potential building sites in Kingston. There were only 10 sites included in the Questionnaire, but we were told of a further one after the questionnaire went out and this has been included. This is an impartial professional Report based on planning requirements and not on anyone's personal views. The consultant toured the sites and has had access to all the information we have collected from landowners and potential developers.

The Report will form a part of the evidence base from which we will develop the housing policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. Your views as given in the Questionnaire will of course be a significant part of this evidence.

The Report shows 3 sites as suitable for new build with the potential of 7 new homes. The draft Joint Local Plan noted that Kingston could sustain 10 new homes over the Plan period. This is an indicative, not a definitive, number, but was allocated following consultation on a number of sustainability issues, eg public transport, facilities and amenities etc. There are already 3 new homes in the village with agreed planning permission, given during the period the Joint Local Plan will cover, which is 2014 - 2034. However please note that there is currently no clear cap on the number of homes to be built in the village and any site which landowners/developers put into planning will be judged on its own merits.

Sites deemed 'unsuitable' in the Site Assessment Report, are not precluded in any way from applying for planning permission. Both Vicarage Park and Sanderson's Field are in the process of, or are already applying, for planning permission. Anyone can comment on their proposals through the South Hams District Council website when the full application becomes available.

And the Questionnaire—The collated information on what you said in answer to the questions will be available as tables and bar charts etc. in a report to be placed on the NP website after Christmas. There is a lot of data and it takes time to ensure the results are clear and accessible to all. We will not be putting the spreadsheets on the website, as individual households could be recognised and we promised

confidentiality. A report on the Very Special Questionnaire will also be posted and a process report on how it all worked.

Why not get involved in developing Neighbourhood Plan policy?

We would like to set up a series of groups to work on policy in each of several possible, (to be confirmed), policy areas eg: Development and Design; Environment and Heritage; Transport; Community Amenities; Housing; Business and Employment. This will involve more people and spread the work load. You do not have to be an expert, but you will need enthusiasm and an interest in the future of Kingston. We anticipate several weeks of intensive work starting in late January.

If you are interested please contact Judy, see contact details below, or any other member of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Very best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year, and most especially to all those who have contributed to the Neighbourhood Plan. By next Christmas we hope it will be 'made' which is the rather odd term for a Plan that has been agreed by referendum. The Plan will then be used, as part of the Joint Local Plan, to make planning decisions and to guide and manage future development in the area.

Do not forget you can contact us anytime through: Judy Alloway 810692, allowayjudy1@gmail.com or Flo Watts 810019, flowatts1@gmail.com or through our website, www.kingstonplan.org