



## A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Kingston

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

### Kingston's emerging Neighbourhood Plan

We are working hard on a good draft of the Neighbourhood Plan that will go out to the parish for consultation (This is the so-called 'Regulation 14 draft'). A working draft is with the PC for consideration and also with South Hams NP Officer Duncan Smith.

In recent weeks there have been important changes to the government's national planning policies. The Inspectors who are reviewing the emerging Joint Local Plan (Plymouth, the South Hams and West Devon) have also made some important comments that we will also need to take into account in our own Neighbourhood Plan.

### Housing and the AONB

The latest national planning policies have confirmed that the **AONB should be given the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty**. The Inspectors said the available evidence in the draft JLP does not show that sufficient weight has been given to this requirement when allocating some housing sites.

As a result of these changes, Kingston is no longer being assigned an indicative minimum of around 10 new houses. We will continue to identify our housing requirements and identify sufficient land to meet them – but against a clear backdrop of protecting the AONB.

There is consequently a lot in the Plan about protecting our amazing environment and heritage, (you made very clear, in the questionnaire responses, how much you valued both), as well as on housing and employment. We also have to look to the future as we must assume that there will be future changes in land ownership, employment patterns and the economy, which will affect us all.

### Local Green Spaces

We gave our provisional listing of local green spaces in the last Newsletter and you can still comment on these through our website. Neighbourhood Plan Groups are advised to continue to identify LGSs in line with the requirements of NPPF.

## **The Settlement Boundary**

Earlier plans established a boundary for many villages in the South Hams including Kingston, which was intended to contain village growth to within reasonable limits. The emerging JLP revised these, though that for Kingston is very little changed. It is shown as the Settlement Area on the Questionnaire, (on the website) at Q 11, and generally follows the ancient outline of the main village, which sits characteristically in a 'bowl' surrounded by higher ground.

Within the settlement boundary suitable new development will generally be acceptable. Outside the boundary, development will be far more tightly controlled. The Inspectors did not consider that the revised settlement boundaries had been given sufficient consultation for inclusion. As a result the formal identification of settlement boundaries in the South Hams will be removed from the JLP.

Neighbourhood Plans have and continue to be, empowered to appropriately identify settlement boundaries themselves, subject to the proposed boundaries being consistent with the principles established by the JLP process and despite the issues raised by the JLP Inspectors.

Don't forget you can contact us anytime with your thoughts and comments through: Judy Alloway 810692, [allowayjudy1@gmail.com](mailto:allowayjudy1@gmail.com) or Flo Watts 810019, [flowatts1@gmail.com](mailto:flowatts1@gmail.com) or through our website, [www.kingstonplan.org](http://www.kingstonplan.org) and comment on the above information or any other aspect of our work.