

Report for Stratfield Mortimer New Neighbourhood Plan (NewNP) Steering Group (SG)

11th August 2022

Purpose

- 1. Update SG on progress and output from questionnaire**
- 2. To gain, in principle (direction of travel), SG approval to the next stage of the NewNP (to go forward to SMPC Full Council)**
- 3. To approve a draft budget (to go forward to SMPC Full Council)**

Update on Stage 1 Progress

A stand was run at the Jubilee event which resulted in 83 comments. These have been analysed to inform the potential key themes of the NewNP.

A paper questionnaire and newsletter was distributed to all households; the questionnaire was also available on-line (Survey Monkey). 302 responses were received: 183 on-line and 119 paper responses which were subsequently loaded into Survey Monkey.

The responses are being analysed. The quantitative analysis can be directly reported using Survey Monkey analysis tools. These will be published once the analysis is complete. The qualitative analysis of the comments is currently being done. Both the qualitative and quantitative findings will provide the basic input for Stage 2. The highlights from the questionnaire analysis are

1. The current NDP vision has general support with but requires a substantial addition on sustainability – climate change, energy and the environment.
2. Looking to the NewNP the principal topics for inclusion were in order of preference
 - a. Environment and Green Space topped the choice 84.4%
 - b. Sustainability and climate change 73.7%
 - c. Facilities 68.7%
 - d. Housing 58.0%
 - e. Design and Conservation 55.3%

Housing had a high score from the analysis and there appears to be demand for specific types - affordable starter homes, affordable rent, availability for downsizers was a consistent theme.

3. Road, cycle, pedestrian safety and parking were all of concern of the respondents.

4. The younger demographic is under-represented with respondents under 44 years of age accounting for just 16% of the total response

The budget for this stage was set at £5000, excluding VAT, to date £3,733.32 has been invoiced and the forecast overrun to complete Stage 1 is £146.66.

Stage 2 Draft Plan and Budget

The objective of this stage is to have developed the NewNP (Vision, policies etc) for approval ready for writing NP Document to go forward to:

- a. Preliminary consultation, after update
- b. Submit to Regulation 14 consultation, and if supported and with amendments
- c. Submit to WBC for Regulation 16 consultation

Stage 2 Outline Plan

Four steps are planned for Stage 2

1. Open event to
 - a. present questionnaire findings to community including published on NP website etc (analysis, revised vision, key themes),
 - b. seek community feedback and opinions on revised vision and key themes
2. Workshops (made up of interested participants from the community supported by experts as necessary) to work up each key theme to a set of options for each theme for community comment
3. Draft Vision and key theme options and present to the community for opinion through public presentations and questionnaire.
4. Finalise vision and policy proposals for approval prior to Stage 3 (from feedback) ready for formal NP authoring.

Output is evidence based. New NP proposal for SMPC approval to go forward to detailed policy drafting prior to consultations.

Stage 2 Draft Budget

The draft budget for Stage 2 comprises:

- Baseline of £9,275 plus upper limit contingency for disbursements of £1,000.
- Employment of part time Administrative/Research Assistant £2,500
- Funding source: Parish Council offset by grant from Locality.

Next Steps

1. If the SG approves this plan in principle it will be presented to the SMPC in September for approval in principle
2. If plan and budget agreed in principle a detailed plan, resourcing and budget will be submitted for approval at the September SG and if approved submitted to SMPC for approval in October.
3. In parallel with Step 2, initial logistic planning will be done to identify suitable locations and availability for Stage 2 work.
4. A Locality application for a grant will be prepared and submitted. Note if Stage 2 is not approved the grant can be returned to Locality.