

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Hazeley Cottage, Nightingale Lane, Mortimer RG7 3PS on Tuesday 16 December 2025 19:30

Steering Group Attendees

Doug Overett – Meeting Chair (DO); Graham Bridgman (GB); Bob Coe (BobC); Joanne Emberson-Wines (JW); Neil Kiley (NK); Jayne Todd (JT); Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

1. Apologies

Tennant Barber (TB)

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of 18 November were agreed with no amendments.

4. NDP and Reserved Land

DO reported that we are still waiting for the planning application for the reserved land.

5. Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan SG update

JT and DO reported that the Steering group is making very good progress. Their work can be broadly divided into three main areas:

1. Supporting residents to prepare their objections and encouraging attendance at the demonstration on 7 January at St John's Hall, to coincide with the public consultation held by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Councillor Dave Kilshaw is leading the communications for this activity.
2. Preparing the group's formal objection. The group aims to have a draft version ready in the first week of January 2026.
3. Gathering data from key services and providers, including SSEN, Thames Water, health services, schools, and transport.

The Steering Group (SG) is engaging a planning consultant to provide advice up to the end of the Regulation 18 stage.

The SG are still trying to engage with Mortimer West End Parish Council to see if they can assist in any way.

#JW arrived 19:50

6. Neighbourhood Plan updates

DO raised a point about the fact that we are dropping some of the NP policies that were included in the 2017 NDP as many of those policies have been replaced by the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.

GB suggested we write something into the new NP to say this is a lighter version of the NP as many of the policies are now in the West Berkshire Local Plan which runs up to 2041

BobC reported that Tenant and he had met with planning consultants Bell Cornwell (BC) for the inception meeting on 9 December and they were very impressed with them. BC have a deadline of 31 January to review the draft NP Policies. Some initial comments raised: -

- We can allocate sites outside the settlement boundary in the Parish if needed.
- Questioned our inclusion of contingency sites.
- Over 55s houses can not be inherited and would need a section 106 legal agreement.
- Prepare a statement for design characteristics for any new settlement and set a radius.
- For any major site (10+) the developer should put forward a design brief before a Planning Application is prepared. For large sites it should also include a consultation with the community.
- BC will be reviewing the weight to be given to the 2017 HEELA and Landscape Capacity Assessments.
- BC will produce maps.

First email update will be by 23 December. BobC has suggested to them they attend one of our next meetings to share their views with the whole SG.

Actions: TB, BC

7. Regulation 14 tasks

. The group reviewed the Regulation Task 14 task list, and the current status is as follows:

- Bell Cornwell was appointed as a planning consultant after 3 quotes were requested.
- The draft NP policies were completed and sent to Bell Cornwell, and they will feedback by 31 January 2026.
- The draft policies have also been sent to West Berkshire Council, and they have agreed to provide feedback in January. ST to chase early January.
- JT will take the lead on drafting the non-policy sections of the NP, with contributions from other group members where needed.
- GB has spoken to a photographer, and she has provided samples of her work. SG needs to let her know what we want.

Actions: JT, GB, ST

8. AOB

ST to check Design Codes are on the website.

GB will format the Vision statement and start working on the introduction of the NP.

Actions: ST, GB

Close

Meeting ended 20:53

Next meeting 20.01.2026 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer. Depending on feedback regarding policies there may be a meeting on 3 February 2026.