

CHESIL BANK PARISH COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJECT

Newsletter No 8

March 2021

In spite of the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in, work on the Neighbourhood Plan has continued over recent months, albeit at a reduced pace. Following the Call for Sites exercise we undertook in October, we contacted Locality, who are the Government Department responsible for providing technical expertise on Site Assessments and Design Codes*. They have been working on our behalf since November and we received two draft reports from them in early March on both Design Codes and Site Assessments. We are now reviewing these documents prior to going back to AECOM** with our comments.

We are anxious to engage with the local community so that we can exchange views on the various aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan, such as Housing, Local Employment, the Environment, Conservation etc, but clearly this cannot happen until the restrictions on public meetings are removed. Consequently, it has been decided to reduce our efforts to a minimum during the next 3 months. We will still meet as a group monthly on Zoom just to ensure that we keep things ticking over. In the meantime we are working on a response to the draft Dorset Local Plan, which is available in the public domain. Comments need to be returned by the 15th March 2021.

See <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan.aspx>

We will continue to keep you updated over the coming weeks and months and look forward to being able to have a series of consultation events during the summer months, assuming that the rules allow us to do that.

Derek Troughton
On behalf of the Neighbourhood Planning SG

** A Design Code is a document that sets rules for the design of a new development. They provide a framework for the physical development of a site or area. For example, they might in our case specify a particular type of stonework for external walls or the provision of slate roofs. They are detailed and precise.*

***AECOM is an international infrastructure consulting firm who have been contracted by Locality, which is a Government Agency responsible for supporting Neighbourhood Plans.*