

## **Holt Neighbourhood Plan Update**

This has turned into a marathon rather than a sprint, but I hope we are approaching the last lap!

When we last reported in April's magazine, we had just finished the redraft in response to the professional planning consultant's comments. Since then we have formally submitted this draft to the Parish Council for their comments and endorsement, as ultimately they are the village body responsible. They signed it off at their May meeting so we do now have a final draft. This is posted on the PC website as before:

<http://holtparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

We have also had to write quite a lot of supporting documentation to meet Wiltshire Council's statutory requirements. This is also on the site.

The next steps are:

- Submission to Wiltshire Council who will undertake the formal 6-week online consultation.
- Appointment of the external Planning Examiner by WC, who will consider the Plan plus any feedback from the consultation.
- They will recommend either accept, accept with amendments, or reject.
- WC will respond to any factual errors and we will have the opportunity to make any required amendments.
- A final version will then be submitted to a referendum of the whole village, which will be conducted by WC along the lines of a Parish Council election.

In order to ensure everyone has the opportunity to see the documents, we are printing a small number of the current final draft. All members of the PC, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and others who have contributed will receive one. We have also made some available in the village hall for anyone to consult.

Once we have the absolutely final version (which will be the one for the village referendum) we will use our budget to print a copy for every household so people know exactly what they are voting on – and will have a copy for the future.

It's still impossible to give an exact timetable for these final stages, but the end is in sight!

Meantime, just to remind us all why this matters: the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has issued a number of decisions that demonstrate commitment to protecting emerging Neighbourhood Plans and their proposed development policies, including refusing permission for 77 new houses in Malmesbury.

So let's get behind this one!

**The Holt Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee**