

Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) – October 2017

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan although to a timetable that has a tendency to flex as new information and external events take effect. Breckland's own Local Plan for example is not now scheduled for adoption until Spring 2018

Since our last report, we have held a helpful meeting with our elected District Councillor which we anticipate will open a new route of communication with Breckland. More such meetings are expected.

Given the expanding nature of this project, we have established a more formal organisation which received the formal approval of the Parish Council at their meeting on 4th September.

Our next key milestone remains the publication of the rewritten version of our plan, known officially as the "Regulation 14 Pre Submission." This will contain another major re-write of our Policies which will take account of agreed Breckland comments to our previous version, plus refinements arising from the July update to their Local Plan. In doing this we are studying many Neighbourhood Plans formally adopted in other areas and information available on-line which helps to more robustly explain and justify our policies. We are also rationalising and merging our policies, so the 17 we listed on our fete display will become 8 or 9 while keeping all the aims we had before

We have been considering commissioning professional consultants to give advice and guidance on how best to refine our Plan in order to obtain the smoothest passage through regulatory stages. The initial responses have not been very inspiring perhaps because the best candidates are also the busiest and so unable to help us in the short term. As a result we are reconsidering the best time to ask for that support and what form it should take. While we haven't decided yet, the most likely option is to meet consultants and pick their brains now (free of charge we hope) and engage them formally late this year or early next. Watch this space.

Because of the uncertainties we can't yet be very exact on when we will issue the plan for your comments but we are hoping that can be by the end of October.

We told you last time we would look at options for a website to keep you up to date without being subject to print deadlines. Since then we have worked out how we can do this without needing to become experts. Once we have something worth uploading we'll let you have

the site link but this is a lower priority than the plan rewrite. Please continue to watch progress on our plan and participate wherever possible.

We are still seeking better information on **past village flooding** to help us argue against development in affected areas. What we need most are details on where flooding has occurred in the past (i.e. addresses), its extent and approximate date. Photos and/or sketch plans would be especially helpful. If you can help on flooding or have any comments or suggestions concerning the plan in general, please send your information to STNP2036@gmail.com or simply contact us at the same address and we will get in touch.

Brian Mitchell, STNP Working Group