

## **Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan**

The final consultation on the Plan is underway as I write: it started on 29 October and runs till 5pm on 10 December. Breckland Council only gave us the information the day before it started, so the best we were able to do was announce it on our website and on posters around the village.

Breckland encourage comments to be submitted electronically, by attaching the representation form (available at its website and ours) to an email and sending to “neighbourhoodplanning@breckland.gov.uk”. Otherwise send by post to “Neighbourhood Planning” at Breckland Council’s Offices, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, NR19 1EE. Please don’t send comments to us this time!

If anyone wishes to see a paper copy we can make one available in a Covid-safe way. Please contact Breckland on 01362 656870, from 9am to 5pm on weekdays to arrange that.

Before consultation finishes Breckland must propose a shortlist of 3 potential independent inspectors to examine the Plan, and together with the Parish Council we will select one. The timing of what follows will be in that examiner’s hands. Many raise some initial queries with plan groups, but that’s not obligatory. If it does happen we hope to have any questions before Christmas. The holiday period will inevitably delay the actual exam, and we’ve no way of knowing how long that might take - 4-6 weeks seems a general average, but our plan is more complex than many and might take longer.

When the exam is complete, the inspector will publish a report giving his/her findings and recommendations. These will almost certainly include changes required to make the Plan acceptable, and we’ll need to incorporate those in order for the Plan to go to a village referendum.

We’re hopeful that will be held on 6 May 2021 to tie in with local elections, but that will depend on (a) the time taken to complete the exam; (b) the time Breckland take to make all necessary arrangements, and (c) the Government allowing local elections and referendums to go ahead.

To remind you, the referendum will be a simple ‘yes/no’ question asking whether villagers accept the Plan and if more vote ‘yes’ than ‘no’, it will come into force as soon as Breckland formally adopt it at a Council meeting.

Hopefully I'll have some news from the examination to tell you about in the February Saga, and we'll all be in a better position to understand how the final Plan will look.

### WHY WE THINK YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE PLAN

- ✓ It gives the village certainty about what development can – and cannot – happen over the next 16 years.
- ✓ It means developers must comply with a rigorous set of criteria in order to get new housing or other development approved.
- ✓ It balances a controlled level of development with strict requirements to protect and enhance village landscape, heritage and wildlife habitats, guards against any increase in flood risk and seeks to ensure adequate infrastructure is in place to support new development.
- ✓ It sets out a timetable for the phasing of development so that the village isn't overwhelmed by too much new building in too short a period.

Without a Neighbourhood Plan, everything would rely on the Breckland Local Plan, but that does none of the above.

**If you agree the Plan is worth having, please let Breckland Council know you support it during the consultation. Then, later on, vote 'YES' at the referendum**



As usual, if you have any comments or questions on any of this, or the Neighbourhood Plan in general, or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please get in touch with me. **Most importantly, stay healthy and safe!**

**Chris Blow, STNP Work Group leader Tel: 880915**



**[www.stnp2036.org](http://www.stnp2036.org)**



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***Neighbourhood Plan  
Shaping the future of  
Saham Toney!***