

## **Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan**

Our work on site allocations has continued over the last month. We have received AECOM's site assessment report and the only reason we have not published it is that every page is stamped "draft" and we have been told the report must be approved by the Ministry of Housing before it can be considered final.

As I suggested last month as a result of the independent assessments all 16 sites might be suitable for allocation in the Plan, subject to various constraints being resolved.

So, while we wait for the Ministry to sign off the assessment report we are doing what we can to review and remove constraints on all sites, where the necessary information is available in the public domain. We can now see most of the cases where only the landowners will be able to provide more information, if they choose to.

We are making good progress with stage 3 of the process which is the selection of the best sites for allocation. We've finalised a process for doing that which is based on reviewing each site against the relevant policies of the Local and Neighbourhood Plans, using a consistent, clearly defined scoring system.

You can find a flowchart explaining the basic steps in that process on our website. As I write this I'm out of the country and having some problems with editing our website to provide you with more information, but will do that as soon as I am able.

As mentioned last time, we have now completed an update of the village housing needs assessment, which concludes that the main need is for smaller more affordable homes. Hopefully by the time you read this, the Parish Council will have formally adopted the document and informed Breckland Council of that fact, meaning the document will be something the planners must take into account when deciding planning applications.

In parallel with the work on site allocations we have largely completed a thorough update of the whole plan; the main things left to add being individual policies for each site that is selected for allocation in the plan. We will be sending an example of such a policy to Breckland's neighbourhood plan coordinator, and if she tells us it is along the right lines we will then write all necessary policies for such sites. Once those are complete we can send the draft plan to our main consultant for her review and comment, make final updates based on her

recommendations, and then publish it for a six week consultation review by villagers, Breckland Council and other public bodies.

Meanwhile the latest information we have on the Local Plan is that Breckland Council now anticipates it being approved in September.

You will probably be aware we now have two new Breckland Councillors and we will be contacting both in due course to gauge their interest in supporting the plan,

If you agree it's wrong to build 54 homes on land at Nilefields that often floods, would create a dangerous road junction, is home to a wide variety of wildlife, would merge Saham with Watton, and which offers no benefit to villagers, there's still time to object if you haven't already. There's a link to the application on our website.

And things are stirring development-wise at the golf club, on our side of the parish boundary as well as Watton's. Watch this space for more news on that as we get it.

As usual, if you have any comments or questions on any of this, or anything else to do with the Neighbourhood Plan, or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please get in touch with me.

**Chris Blow, STNP Work Group leader**



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