

# **Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan**

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

At time of writing the consultation on the Plan has 2 weeks to run, but by the time you read this, the consultation will have closed. We will be going through every comment from villagers, Breckland Council and other organisations and deciding what, if any, changes to the Plan are required.

In the June issue we will give you the highlights of what people said and our initial thoughts on what the comments mean for the Plan going forward. Before that we'll publish information about the consultation results on our website at [www.stnp2036.org](http://www.stnp2036.org)

If you came along to one of our six drop-in sessions, thanks for taking the time to do so. We hope you found it interesting and useful. And if you returned a questionnaire, many thanks for doing so: remember to look out for the results of the prize draw that will be made at the May Parish Council meeting.

As you're probably aware, the Breckland Local Plan is very important to our own plan, as we have to confirm with its overall policies. Starting on 17th April there will be a series of public hearings about Breckland's plan, running till early June. An independent examiner will review all aspects of the Local Plan and take evidence and opinions from those who participate in the hearings.



On behalf of the Plan steering committee, I will be taking part in the ten hearing sessions that may have some relevance to our own plan. Rest assured, I will be doing all I can to ensure the Local Plan is not changed in ways that might weaken our plan, and will be trying to ensure much greater clarity is brought to Breckland's plan.

The examiner has already asked Breckland Council to answer a number of questions about its plan and you can find the Council's answers, plus the written submissions of various bodies and individuals on the Council's website at:

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/localplanexaminationlibrary>

Until Breckland's Plan is approved there will be uncertainty about our own plan.



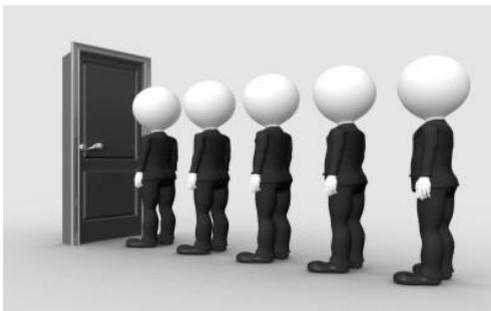
The greatest uncertainty concerns our housing allocation and the number of houses that would be allowed on any one site



The examination process will take time; after the hearings the examiner's report is likely to take several months to prepare and then Breckland Council must react to it. They say their plan will be approved by the end of this year. Based on their previous delays I think next Spring is more realistic.

Whatever their timetable, the upshot is that we have two choices:

**CHOICE 1:** WAIT FOR THE BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN TO BE APPROVED BEFORE FINALISING OUR OWN



This will mean it may be at least another year before our plan can be completed, but would have the advantage that Breckland planners would not be able to make changes to our Plan by changing their own at a later stage.

**CHOICE 2: DON'T WAIT FOR THE LOCAL PLAN TO BE APPROVED: PUBLISH OUR OWN PLAN AS SOON AS ITS READY**



If we choose this option we can work to our own timetable and could probably complete the plan and put it through its final 6 week consultation during the summer, then only have to wait for Breckland Council to arrange its examination and referendum.

The big risk in this would be if Breckland subsequently made any significant changes to the Local Plan which our Plan did not conform to: in that case important parts of our Plan could be over-ruled.



Which option would you choose? Write to us at [stnp2036@gmail.com](mailto:stnp2036@gmail.com) if you have an opinion about this.

As you may have seen on our website, our local MP, George Freeman, is very supportive of neighbourhood planning in general. We will be meeting him on 20th April for an open discussion of the challenges we still face and to see if there is any concrete help he can offer us in addition to his ongoing support. We'll let you know how the meeting

went in the June Saga, and before that in the news section of our website.

If you have any questions on any of this, or anything else to do with the Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch with me.



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