

Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan

Shaping the future of Saham Toney!

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Our "Call For Sites"; the first stage in a process to allocate sites in the plan, remains open till 18th October. At time of writing 3 sites have been proposed for a total of 18 homes and discussions with other landowners indicate several more sites will be put forward before the deadline. We'll be able to give you more details in December's Saga, and before that we'll publish basic information on the sites proposed on our website. We have had on-site discussions with all landowners who are proposing sites and have been pleased that in all cases their ideas for developing their land accord well with the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan. As a result we are optimistic that subject to the independent site assessments, the allocation of the sites in the plan will be a positive step.

Meanwhile the grant that will pay for the village character study has been received and that study is about halfway through, with the first draft area assessments expected shortly.

Thanks to those who answered our questionnaire at the WCCC fun day on 29th September. It looked at how villagers find out about the neighbourhood plan. One group of neighbours asked us to visit them for a discussion but didn't leave any contact details. If that was you, please get in touch and we'll arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time. In due course we'll add that questionnaire to our website so that those who couldn't attend the Fun Day have a chance to fill it out.

The final examination hearings on the Breckland Local Plan in September didn't raise anything of great note for our plan, but we found out that the Inspector expects to publish his report in early January and Breckland Council continue to think their Local Plan will be approved by the end of March. During a break in the hearings we also had a useful discussion with the planners about how their housing policy will be applied to villages like ours, particularly how they will control the number of homes approved. We gave them our ideas to make their policy clearer in this respect.

We have had a long-standing invitation to the Neighbourhood Planning Coordinator at Breckland Council for her to visit the village and see for herself some of the development pressures we face. She did that on

21st September, and after giving her a guided tour of the village we had a very constructive informal discussion with her about pending changes to our plan.

This month the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS), which is part of Norfolk County Council, will undertake a study for us to map wildlife routes and habitats across the parish. Soon after it's completed we'll make their maps available on our website, and eventually they will form part of the plan.

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

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