

Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan

Firstly, I'd like to thank Tim Goddard, who invited one of my group and one other villager to join him in looking at ideas to alleviate some of the flood problems in the village. The report they wrote is available on our website and is now with the PC to take the next steps. In a nutshell, their idea is to hold back water upstream of properties during flood conditions.

IMPORTANT - COMING SOON!

The final formal submission of the Plan and all its supporting documents

A final 6-week consultation on the Plan – to be organised and run by Breckland Council

Last month I told you how the Plan is being delayed and obstructed by one officer at Breckland Council, and that has continued. In addition, the Council is not telling us how or when they plan to organise the final consultation on the Plan, which is their responsibility. All the same, by coincidence on the same day I send this report to the editor (11 Oct), we will be submitting the Plan, but I'm not able to confirm either the date when Breckland Council will publish it for consultation.

This is really unfortunate as it's important that all villagers know when that consultation takes place, including those without internet access. This time that's Breckland's responsibility. Although they haven't told us how they intend to inform everyone, we suspect it will be something like an announcement on their website and in the EDP. Being unconvinced those will reach every villager, we had intended to include a special notice in this month's Saga, but lacking any concrete information, can't do that. Yet, by the time the December Saga is published it's likely that consultation will be in full swing, so an announcement then might be too late.

If this gets resolved by around the third week of October, with the editor's permission, we may still be able to have a special notice delivered with this Saga – if there isn't one, you'll know we didn't get the information in time.

Regardless, when we have details from Breckland, we'll announce them on our website and on posters around the village, so if you are interested in the consultation, please look out for those.

WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE INFORMED DIRECTLY ABOUT THE CONSULTATION?

If so, please be sure to let me know. You can do that by email to stnp2036@gmail.com or by phoning 880915 (or leave a message). When details are known I will then let you know by email or phone - just tell me which of those you prefer. All I need is your name and an email address or phone number where I can contact you.

Until the final consultation is complete, apart from any more problems Breckland might bring up, there will be little or no news about the Plan. After consultation we may get some initial clarification questions from an examiner, but other than that will have to wait for an exam report to be published. That will inevitably recommend some revisions, and all we can hope is that those will not significantly affect the intent and strength of the Plan's policies. We don't know how long the exam will take, but suspect we won't see the report till early in the New Year.

We suggested an overall timetable to Breckland that allows a village referendum to take place on the same day as local elections – 6 May 2021, Covid permitting. However, although this was sent to senior people in their planning department, they replied they are unable to comment. It's worrying of course that planners are unable to plan even a 6 or 7 month process!

DO YOU SUPPORT THE PLAN?

If so, please let Breckland Council know 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!**

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