



Denmead Neighbourhood Forum

A Frontrunner community group, operating as a Working Party of the Parish Council, producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Denmead

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - December 2013

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### It’s the only one in Winchester!

#### *The story so far....*

The localism legislation introduced by this government has encouraged Parish Councils to develop their own plans for the future of their community. Currently Denmead is the only Council in the whole of the Winchester City Council district to be preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Denmead was chosen by the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) be one of a select band of ‘Frontrunners’ in the project and given a grant to help us create our Neighbourhood Plan.

Since we started two years ago, the Steering Group, made up of Parish Councillors, one of our Ward Councillors and volunteers from within the village has been consulting with residents about how they wish the village to evolve over the next twenty years as well as fact-finding about the environment, transport issues, and community issues such as lack of green and play space. “We have had three rounds of consultation” reports Neil Lander-Brinkley (who chairs the Steering Group) as well as seeking professional advice from such bodies as the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on specialist issues”. Winchester City Council Officers have been helpful in providing background information as they progress the Local Plan for the District.



Working within the parameters set out in the Winchester Local Plan Part 1, Denmead is responsible for its own Plan for its development up to 2031. This will include where heritage views and green space should be preserved, when business initiatives should be encouraged as well as where houses should be built, how they should be designed and the mix of types of housing are all part of the work.

The above photograph shows Neil Lander-Brinkley at St George’s Road, Denmead where 80 dwellings, that count towards the total of 250, are approaching completion.

“We are positive about the future and not seeking to stifle change” says Neil. “We accept the fact that we have to find space for about 250 dwellings within the village plan area. “We will do that, but we as part of the process we will work with developers and the other authorities to ensure that the village has good and modern facilities that are in keeping with its heritage as a rural community on the fringe of urban settlements.”

The timetable for Denmead’s work shows that it will be consulting with residents during March 2014, showing them a draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan. That will be followed by an Examination by an independent Examiner (appointed by the government) and then a referendum in the summer. “We have now appointed RCOH Ltd as our professional advisors to help us and we are on track to achieve this” says Peter Ambrose, a resident who is a member of the Steering Group.

**By the way ....**

(i) Currently five Neighbourhood Plans have gone to referendum in England. All have been approved and the most recent was Tattenhall in Cheshire. Many others are now on the way – but still no others in Winchester!!!

(ii) Visit [www.denmeadneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.denmeadneighbourhoodplan.org.uk) for more information or contact the Steering Group via [clerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk) or telephone 023 9224 7947

**Not forgetting ....**

**It’s Christmas! and I would like to wish everyone who has had a hand in the Plan during 2013, in any way at all, a happy and peaceful Christmas and hope that they will continue to join us in a very busy New Year (well, the first few months, anyway!).**

**Neil**

