

Mrs Jenny Nell
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In the final months of last year, Winchester City Council, as the local Planning Authority, carried out a consultation exercise. Denmead Parish Council became fully engaged in this carrying out a village consultation and public meetings using the evidence to deliver a detailed response. The work encouraged Councillors to become increasingly aware of the government's Localism Agenda and the opportunities that might be available within it. Last month, when it became aware of the Front Runners scheme the Parish Council unanimously agreed that we should encourage WCC to apply on our behalf. Denmead is one of the largest Parishes in the district and sits between the countryside (the new South Downs National Park) to the north-east) and an urban area (Waterlooville) and a new Major Development Area currently being built to the south and south east. It would be an area with varied aspects which could 'test' the Neighbourhood Plan scheme as a *Front Runner*.

This Parish Council wishes to reinforce its position as an innovative body: It is a Quality Council which in recent years has joined a PFI (for street lighting) and uses the Power of Wellbeing to maintain the village centre. Currently the Council is working on Exception Site for affordable homes with Hampshire the County Council.

The Parish Council has discussed and proposes the following arrangements:

- The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) would be prepared by a steering group consisting of a minimum 10 members with approx 5 representatives from the Parish Council, 2 from Denmead Village Association plus representatives from various community groups.
- the steering group will lead the process, including community consultation, liaison with statutory agencies, collation of background evidence and preparation of draft documents for consultation, with advice and support from Winchester City Council as necessary.
- The steering group will project manage the NP on a day-to-day basis and drive the project forward pulling in the necessary skills, from both local sources and experts in the fields, as required
- An initial estimate of the timescale for production of the NP is two years and this would follow the stages of the Winchester Core Strategy set out in its 2011 Local Development Scheme (Publication end 2011; submission April 2012; examination summer 2012 and adoption 2012). The NP would involve all evidence gathering, early community consultation etc during 2011 - 2012, followed by consultation on draft document through to examination, referendum and adoption in 2013. Therefore the NP would be developed to be in conformity with the (by then adopted) Core Strategy.
- The purpose of the NP will be to identify sites for a range of uses that were identified during the recent Blueprint consultative exercise. These include affordable housing, market housing, addressing the current

under provision of recreational open space, determine future burial ground space, seeking to consolidate and expand existing commercial enterprises (for local employment) and to confirm the extent of a locally designated Gap to ensure the identify of Denmead is retained separate from the major development area of West of Waterlooville to the south east of the village.

We commend the scheme to you and to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Yours sincerely

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