

# INTRODUCING THE NORTH MARSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## What is the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan?

Officially, a Neighbourhood Plan is a long-term land-use planning document that addresses the development and use of land within a neighbourhood area.

**For North Marston that means that the village will be preparing a plan that reflects how the current residents and stakeholders in the village and the surrounding parish area wish to see the neighbourhood thrive and develop over the next 15 – 20 years.**

The Plan typically takes about 2 years to prepare, and it is written with the support of the Parish Council and AVDC. It must be in line with National Planning Policy.

Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and accepted by the village, it acquires a legal status, and **will be used to inform planning applications, and to guide planning decisions in the neighbourhood area.**

## What will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan?

Every area of interest to local residents can be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan could well, therefore, contain sections on:

- Housing development, including the desired nature, size, and content of any development
- The restriction of certain types of development
- The design of buildings in any development
- Provisions for the establishment or expansion of businesses
- The protection of important buildings and historic assets, including archaeological remains
- The protection and development of the existing environment, including open spaces, nature reserves, allotments, play areas, sports pitches, parks, public rights of way and planting of trees
- The retention and development of community facilities
- Transport and access issues, such as roads, cycling and walking provisions, and access for disabled people.
- Infrastructure improvements, including the provision of utilities

However, this list is not exhaustive, and if residents raise other subjects that are obviously of interest or concern to North Marston, then they, too, can be included in the Plan.

## How is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared?

**The North Marston Neighbourhood Plan is developed by a Steering Group appointed by the Parish Council, but it is owned by the village.** The plan provides the best opportunity for residents and stakeholders to express their opinions, and to have some control over, the future development of the whole North Marston Parish Area.

To provide residents and other stakeholders with as many opportunities as possible to express their views, **the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will arrange and publicise community engagement events**, such as:

- Regular village events to display information and get feedback from residents
- Consultations with local clubs and societies
- Meetings with local businesses and landowners
- Questionnaires and surveys

**The suggestions and recommendations in the final plan will reflect the opinions of village residents as expressed through all community engagement events.**

### **What is the role of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group?**

The Steering Group is made up of representatives from within the village who will write the Neighbourhood Plan with the help of an independent neighbourhood planning consultant, on behalf of the Parish Council.

In order to do this successfully, we will research all the necessary evidence to underpin the Neighbourhood Plan, examine existing data, plans, and reports relating to the village, carry out as many community engagement events as possible, develop questionnaires, collate residents' responses, and prepare suggestions and recommendations to the village and Parish Council for approved inclusion in the plan.

**The Steering Group is obliged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan that reflects the views, opinions, and wishes of the whole community in North Marston.**

Individual members of the Group can, of course, express opinions as residents of the village, but their **personal views cannot carry any weight in the preparation of the Plan itself, which must be based exclusively on the majority views of North Marston residents and stakeholders.**

**Members of the North Marston Steering Group appointed by the Parish Council are:**

Katherine Du Plessis	Resident representing Parish Council
Bev Davis	Resident
Trevor Jenkins (Vice-Chair)	Resident
Michael Lane (Chair)	Resident
Kevin O'Donoghue	Resident
Dave Rayner	Resident
Averil Wilkinson MBE	Resident
Ian Wilkinson	Resident

### **What happens when the Neighbourhood Plan has been written?**

After the Neighbourhood Plan has been written **it will be available for a period of at least 6 weeks to be read by residents and stakeholders**, as well as other interested parties including local authorities and neighbouring parishes, and national bodies such as the Environment Agency and English Heritage. **During this time, the Plan is open for consultation.**

The Plan is then amended, taking into account comments made, and submitted to the local authority (AVDC), which will check the plan, and ensure that the plan meets all legal requirements by passing it to an independent legal examiner who may require further minor modifications to be made.

**Following final acceptance by AVDC, the authority will arrange for a Village Referendum, and provided more than 50% OF THOSE VOTING accept the Plan, AVDC will bring it into legal force.**

The North Marston Neighbourhood Plan can then be used, in conjunction with existing local plans, to inform planning applications, and to guide planning decisions in the neighbourhood area.

## **When does work start on the Neighbourhood Plan?**

The Steering Group has already had 2 introductory meetings, and the Minutes of those meetings can be found in the Neighbourhood Plan section of the village website [here](#).

**The Group will introduce themselves and begin to discuss the Plan with village residents at St Mary's Church Fete on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>, when they will be happy to meet everyone, discuss matters of concern, and answer any questions from residents.**

Preparation for the first open village event is underway, and we expect that this will take place before the main summer holiday period begins.

Michael Lane  
Steering Group Chair  
1 May 2018