**ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING, MAY 17th 2022**

**NORTH MARSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP REPORT**

Having gathered all the background information and data required, the Steering Group continued to meet monthly over Zoom throughout the past year in order to complete a draft Neighbourhood Plan and Design Code for the parish, following discussions with the Parish Council.

A final Draft Plan was completed and endorsed at the December 2021 meeting of the Parish Council, allowing the Draft Plan to be published and the statutory pre-submission consultation period to begin.

The pre-submission consultation’s purpose is to enable all residents and other interested parties, including potential developers and national statutory bodies, to comment upon the Draft Plan and make suggestions for improvement or alteration before a final Neighbourhood Plan is produced and submitted to the local authority. The North Marston consultation ran for a period of 8 weeks, from mid-December 2021 to early February 2022. It included one “drop-in session”, held at the Wesley Centre, where residents and others were given the opportunity to meet members of the Steering Group and discuss the Draft Plan in person. Over 60 separate individual and detailed representations were received from a number of consultees, including a number from Buckinghamshire Council, and some from potential developers.

At the end of the consultation period, the Steering Group convened to consider all the representations received, and to agree upon any appropriate changes that should be made to the Draft Plan in light of the suggestions. This consideration resulted in several detailed changes being made to the Draft Plan, all of which were thought to improve and strengthen the Final Plan, and, in particular, its policy provisions and protections.

Details of all representations made (without personal information) form part of the Neighbourhood Plan Submission Consultation Report which can be found on the Parish Council website.

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The final Submission Neighbourhood Plan, containing all the improvements, was completed by the Steering Group in early April 2022, and endorsed by the Parish Council at the April meeting of the Parish Council. It was then forwarded to Buckinghamshire Council on April 20th 2022, together with the Design Code and all other required documents.

All the documents submitted to Buckinghamshire can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan page of the Parish Council’s website under the heading SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

<http://www.northmarston.org/?page_id=858>

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Buckinghamshire Council have agreed that all the documents submitted meet their legal requirements, and they will now take over the process.

Buckinghamshire will examine and consult upon the submitted Plan before forwarding it to an Independent Examiner for final assessment. Changes may be made to the Submission Plan by either the Council or the Independent Examiner after discussions with the Steering Group and the Parish Council.

This next stage in the Plan’s development will take a minimum of 3 months to complete and may take somewhat longer. The first part of the formal examination process is a period of public consultation on the parish’s Neighbourhood Plan lasting for a period of 6 weeks. The consultation will be advertised in the press and will begin on Thursday 12th May.

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Meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are now in abeyance while Buckinghamshire and the Examiner complete their work but will resume again to guide residents through the Parish Referendum process which will hopefully take place later in 2022.

**Michael Lane**

**NMNP Steering Group Chair**

**May 9th 2022**