

Longstock – Your Village, Your Vision

On 12 August 2019, Longstock Parish Council voted to support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for our parish. Neighbourhood planning allows communities to formally come together (through a parish council or neighbourhood forum) to have a say on the future development of the place in which we live and/or work.

Neighbourhood Plans are developed using a legal framework which requires; proposals to go through a formal consultation with residents, an independent examiner and pass a local referendum. If the plan proves successful it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the local area, meaning it will be used to make planning decisions for the area designated in the plan.

In order to administer the Longstock Neighbourhood Plan, Longstock Parish Council has brought together a steering committee made up of local residents from each corner of the village. In the coming weeks and months, the steering committee will be looking to gather your views and opinions on subjects which you are exceptionally qualified to answer – the place in which you live! Perhaps you have a favourite greenspace that you would like to protect, a view which you feel is important or you'd like influence the character of new buildings in the village? These are all issues dealt with by a Neighbourhood Plan.

So, what can you do to assist? If you want our plan to truly reflect your vision of Longstock from now and into the future, then we will need your valuable contributions. This could be as simple as attending engagement events and giving us your views, to completing questionnaires, giving feedback on topics or just spreading the word amongst your neighbours.

Perhaps you'd like to get more involved? Our steering group recognises that it has a mammoth task ahead which we will need Longstock residents to help us with. We are therefore looking for people of all ages, with a variety of skills and abilities, from all parts of the village to get involved. We need people who would be happy to participate in information gathering, for example doing a walk-around of their local area, highlighting problems and opportunities, or mapping out how the local area has changed in their lifetime to provide a better picture of the scale of past change. You could join us on an ad hoc basis or even just for a couple of hours each month? If you'd like to find out more then please email us on longstocknhp@gmail.co.uk