

Jan 2022

Longstock – Your Village, Your Vision

A belated Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas and are ready for all that the New Year brings!

In our update this month, the Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) Steering Group would like to start by saying an enormous thank-you to everyone who came along to see us on 7 Dec 21, in Longstock's Village Hall for our Community Engagement Event. We were really thrilled by the turn out, especially on a wet afternoon (and evening) in December, and really appreciated all of your positive comments, suggestions and enthusiasm!

I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that the overwhelming sentiment of all those who attended was, that we absolutely love Longstock, and appreciate just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place. The Community Engagement Event also bolstered previously shared views that we want Longstock to develop in such a way that it retains its rural heritage with strong agricultural ties, whilst remaining a vibrant, unique and special place to live.

Throughout the event, we displayed commentary collected from you in previously circulated questionnaires. These comments had been analysed for common threads and then grouped together into themes. The themes, and particularly your comments, were then used to develop a Vision for Longstock by the end of our plan in 2035. Once we'd established a vision, we then set about drafting overarching 'objectives' which, once finalised, will be used to help us accomplish our vision.

Both the vision and draught objectives can be seen [below / overleaf....](#)

The objectives in particular are an extremely important part of the planning process as they will be used to create the underpinning policies, which are specific to Longstock's NHP. Hopefully this may go some way to explaining why we keep pestering you for feedback! We are very keen to ensure that every single comment received is taken into consideration, and then woven in to the process. This in turn will inform our NHP's direction going forward. By taking this approach, our plan really will be a reflection of what you as residents want.

Over the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to you again to gauge your feedback on our draft objectives, so if you have five minutes to spare, please could we ask you once again to take a moment to let us know your thoughts – positive or negative!

Finally, for those of you who were unable to attend the Community Engagement Event on the 7th, we had a very special premiere of Longstock's very own 'NHP film' which was created for us by; Aly Warner, narrated by Alice Foster, with music written and beautifully performed for us by Longstock's very own singer/songwriter, Nick Feretti. The film includes lots of stunning photos taken by Ed Warner and Sophie Walters and some fantastic soundbites of Longstocking's of all ages, which were recorded by Craig Foster. If you get a spare moment, please grab a cup of tea (and perhaps even a biscuit), and take a look by logging on to; <https://vimeo.com/653766213>

As always, we are particularly keen for residents join us as either part of the Steering Group, or even just to offer their skills, experience, or suggestions on an ad-hoc basis. If you feel that you would like to know more or perhaps would like to get involved, then please email us at longstocknhp@gmail.com

Longstock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



A VISION OF LONGSTOCK IN 2035

In 2035, Longstock has retained its unique identity as a vibrant, working agricultural community. It has conserved the rural character of the village as well as preserving its historic heritage, exceptional open views and access to the countryside.

Test Valley School remains a small rural, high achieving secondary school, which maintains strong links to the parish and is available for use by all the community. People continue to work locally with various opportunities on local farms, in the tourism industry and small cottage industries as well as working from home due to the high quality and reliable connections to modern technologies.

The range of housing types and tenures built since 2019 have significantly reduced the local housing need for affordable homes and has met demand for the types of homes suited to older people and young families. This has enabled local people to downsize, purchase first homes and has ensured the longevity of Longstock's strong community.

The design of new buildings has been small scale, sustainable, environmentally sensitive and complementary to its surroundings and has met or exceeded low carbon regulations.

The village hall and recreation ground remain focal points for the village and are regularly used by residents and for village gatherings-a symbol of Longstock's inclusive and caring community. Sporting and recreational facilities have been preserved and expanded for the use and enjoyment of the local community.

Improvements to footpaths; the addition of cycleways and the re-instatement of community transport, have all been successfully achieved. All these positive

improvements have allowed villagers to remain connected to one another; and the surrounding villages as well as enabling access to the open countryside; all of which positively contribute to our resident's health and wellbeing.

Environmental Objectives:

- **Protect the sensitive natural environment and exceptional rural assets surrounding Longstock**
- **Maintain and improve footpath and cycleways**
- **Ensure that where appropriate dark skies are maintained**
- **Create and preserve specific areas as local green space and areas of considerable importance to the community**
- **Ensure any new development respects the local biodiversity and maintains or mitigates for wildlife corridors**
- **Maintain strategic gaps between Longstock and surrounding villages**

Housing Objectives:

- **Ensure the stock of smaller, affordable homes is increase**
- **Deliver affordable housing on a small site within the village**
- **Ensure development is in keeping with the local area and does not detract from the rural nature of its surroundings**
- **Ensure development is of a high-quality, carbon-neutral design.**
- **Ensure the pattern of any new development will reflect the current pattern of development in the Parish, where practical**

Traffic and Transport

- **Provide traffic calming measures through the use of developer contribution**
- **Re-direct non-agricultural commercial HGV traffic to avoid the village centre**
- **ensure appropriate links with the village and any new developments**
- **work with local partners to create footpath links with the Test Way**

Local Economy

- **Support appropriate business development to build a strong economy with local employment that benefits all residents**
- **Support and encourage small start-up businesses**

Heritage

- **To protect and enhance the historic environment, including heritage assets deemed to be of value to the village**

CALLING ALL LONGSTOCKINGS



The Longstock Neighbourhood Plan is a huge undertaking and will only be as successful as the input it receives from local residents.

As the plan proceeds we need further volunteers to get involved in sub committees which will be exploring areas such as traffic, footpaths, verges and hedges, SSSI's and historic heritage assets.

If you or someone you know could spare a few hours per month and would like to get involved please email us at;

longstocknhp@gmail.com