

**September 2020**

## **Longstock – Your Village, Your Vision**

Despite the strange times we find ourselves in, the Longstock Neighbourhood Planning committee are pleased to confirm that although we have been a little quiet, we are still here, enthusiastically working away on Longstock's Neighbourhood Plan!

In our last update, we reluctantly advised that both of our face to face community engagement events were cancelled due to coronavirus. Naively we hoped to reschedule these events for later in the year but sadly, social distancing restrictions have meant that we're still not in a position to meet with you in person yet. Please be assured that we are exploring other innovative ideas to keep you informed of our progress and practical ways to gain your valuable feedback. In the interim, please don't forget that the minutes of all our Steering Group meetings can be found on Longstock Parish Council's webpages (under the Neighbourhood Planning tab) and that our Facebook page 'Longstock NHP' is now live, so please do look us up and 'like' our page to follow us.

Whilst the coronavirus continues to hamper some elements of our work, we identified that there are areas of the plan which can be completed remotely or required desktop research. After a brainstorming session, the Steering Group identified the following key work streams which in due course will be incorporated into our plan;

Housing Need, Longstock Village Design Statement (VDS), Open Spaces, Footpaths, Verges and Hedges, Traffic, Listed Dwellings, Buildings and Gardens, Historic Heritage Assets and Sites, SSSI's, Village and Countryside Landscape features.

(This list is not exhaustive. As the plan develops we recognise that there may be other elements of work to consider).

One of the most prominent work streams appeared to be Housing Need. In our March update, we mentioned that Housing Need was a key component of any neighbourhood plan. A plan should seek to establish if there is actually a future housing need within its designation and if so, the types and tenures of properties required. After a lot of discussion (and head scratching) as to how a projected figure (covering the 30-year lifespan of our plan) could be determined, the Steering Group recognised that they would need technical assistance. After seeking advice, it was agreed that this issue would be best served via a housing needs assessment which would be completed independently (and remotely) by approved subject matter experts. Since our last update, we are pleased to advise that in association with Locality, consultants have been engaged to complete this fundamental but complexed element of work.

By breaking our plan down into work streams we have been able to identify bite size pieces of work which can be prioritised in terms of coronavirus 'risk' and progressed now. In order to maintain oversight, we have formed each of these work streams into sub working groups which are headed up by each of our committee members. Creating smaller more manageable segments of work means that you may well see us out and about in the village mapping places of interest, making notes or taking photographs so if you see us, please don't hesitate to come and say a socially distanced 'hello' and ask us what we're up to!

Finally, as always, we are always 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](mailto:longstocknhp@gmail.com)



### **CALLING ALL LONGSTOCKINGS**

Longstock Neighbourhood Planning Committee are in the process of creating a short film about Longstock, its residents and why we've chosen to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan.

As part of this process we would like to include soundbite interviews with Longstocking's of all ages to get a brief insight into what it means to be a Longstock resident.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved please email us at; [longstocknhp@gmail.com](mailto:longstocknhp@gmail.com)

No previous experience necessary!