

Report to Bigbury Parish Council on 14 February 2018

Bigbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Community-led Housing Scheme

Andrew Kirby Architects have now prepared an initial scheme for the Holwell Farm site showing 12 dwellings (3 private and 9 affordable). This scheme was shown to the Steering Group at their last meeting and was also discussed with the landowners. We have suggested a few changes to the scheme to include two bungalows to replace two of the two storey houses. We have also asked the Architects to prepare some illustrative drawings to show the type of dwellings and possible appearance. When we have received these we will be arranging a community event to discuss the scheme and to obtain the views of parishioners. This will be one of many meeting to make sure that we have the continued support of the community. We want to avoid any unacceptable loss of views, privacy or other types of amenity to residents of neighbouring properties and we will ensure that those living close by are made aware of the proposals and given the opportunity to comment. An Archaeological Assessment of the site is now being undertaken and the Archaeologists we are consulting with Historic England to ensure that this is carried out in accordance with their requirements.

Site Options and Assessment

AECOM Environmental Consultants are now actively engaged in carrying out an independent assessment of all of the sites available for development in the parish and hopefully we should be receiving their report in a few weeks time.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

AECOM are also now preparing a scoping report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This is the first stage of the assessment to obtain agreement from the District Council on the environmental issues that they need to consider. AECOM will then carry out an SEA of the draft Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the draft plan does accord with environmental legislation.

List of Local Heritage Assets

The Steering Group have started preparing a draft list of local heritage assets based on our village studies and a tour of the parish. To date we have not received any responses to our request for parishioners to put forward their ideas for the local list. There are nomination forms and a box for comments in the Holywell Stores so that everybody can get involved in this process.

We have not as yet carried out our detailed studies of the villages with the help of the youth of the parish but have put out a request for parents/guardians to let me know if their children would like to get involved. We have had a very positive response but there are quite a few people who have not responded so far. The weather was not been ideal to carry out these studies and we are waiting for a spell of better weather, but hopefully these events will take place very soon.

Important Views and Vistas

We are also putting together a list of important views and vistas that we need to protect. Again, we would like the local community to become actively involved in this work and it would be great if people could send me photographs of views that they consider should be protected.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The text of the draft neighbourhood plan is almost complete and Karen Lawrence is now putting this into an attractive format to include plans and photographs. We will be carrying out consultations with various parties including South Hams District Council, Historic England, the AONB Unit and other statutory consultees but do need AECOM to complete their work before we can carry out a formal consultation with the community. However, we do hope to be in a position to consult with the community on the draft Neighbourhood Plan in the Spring.

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