

# Briefing Paper

## The Future of Neighbourhood Planning

*Status: A private working document to aid discussion and decision-making at the Planning Meeting on 19 June 2019 regarding the three options for revision of Neighbourhood Plans offered by HDC*

### 1. The Issue

- 1) Central government has required Local Planning Authorities (such as HDC) to increase the number of houses they deliver in their area.
- 2) HDC is currently awaiting to hear from central government how many more new houses it will be required to deliver.
- 3) In anticipation of this, HDC has commenced a review of its Planning Framework. This is not likely to be completed until 2021.
- 4) In addition, central government now requires Local Planning Authorities tell each Parish with a Neighbourhood Plan how many new houses they must provide. (In HDC this is a change. Previously, HDC allowed communities themselves to determine how many houses to provide in their Neighbourhood Plan)
- 5) Once HDC has had its increased allocation of new houses from central government, it will decide how many of these houses can come from “strategic allocations” in its revised Planning Framework and how many need to come from Neighbourhood Plans. HDC has indicated that this is likely to mean an increased number of new houses from Neighbourhood Plans. It will then

issue numbers of new houses to its Parishes for inclusion in their revised Neighbourhood Plans. Nuthurst's number is likely to go up from circa 50, but it may not. We need to wait to see.

6) To facilitate a possible change in house numbers, HDC has said that Parishes must make a provisional choice of one of the following three options for the review of their Neighbourhood Plans.

## ***2. The three options***

1) The Parish starts conducting its own review of its NP in mid to late 2021. This would follow similar procedures as for the original Neighbourhood Plan but would require a more stringent evidence base. Another public referendum would be needed.

2) Not to review its own Neighbourhood Plan but to allow HDC to find any extra sites for more housing in the Parish. HDC says this would be by consultation with parishes (but HDC's track record on consultation so far has been far from good!). There would be no public referendum. HDC's decisions would be final. Any extra sites would be included in HDC's revised Planning Framework and the existing Neighbourhood Plan would remain in place.

3) A hybrid, with HDC making decisions on extra sites for housing in parishes, but permitting parishes to make changes to their Parish Design Statements and Local Green Spaces, if they wanted.

## ***3. The recommendation at this stage***

Not option 3 because it is minimal and not really much different to option 2.

Not option 2 because, in effect, it gives total power to HDC to decide on new sites in the parish and there would be no recourse if we did not like its choice.

To make a provisional choice of option 1 for two reasons:

- Mid to late 2021 is some time off, and anything could change in the meantime regarding housing policy
- It is best to control matters ourselves

#### **4. Changing our mind**

However, when we know the size of any increased housing allocation, this may make us change our mind and choose another option. For instance, we may be happy with option 2 (allowing HDC to choose the sites) if our increased allocation is exceedingly low as this would save us manpower and money. Let us wait and see.

#### **5. Conclusion**

To inform HDC that Nuthurst Parish Council's provisional choice is to carry out its own review of its Neighbourhood Plan, but that it reserves the right to change its mind when HDC advises it of the number of houses allocated to its Neighbourhood Plan.

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