

Timetable and Management

Stoke Gabriel Parish Council, as the qualifying body, has the legal responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Following presentations by guest speakers (Graham Swiss of South Hams District Council Strategic Planning, Greg Davies of the Community Council of Devon, and David Watts, chairman of the Paignton Neighbourhood Forum) in the August 2013 Parish Council meeting the Parish Council embarked on a lengthy process of discussion and debate at their monthly meetings. As a consequence of these it was agreed to hold a consultation with parishioners as to whether they favoured the parish developing a Neighbourhood Plan. A questionnaire was sent by post to all households in on the parish electoral role in March 2014 with an April 12th deadline for returns to the acting clerk or via a 'Survey Monkey' portal.

The results of the consultation were announced at the June 2014 Parish Council Meeting. There were 210 responses out of 1127 Parishioners able to vote. This represented a turnout of 19% with 180 in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan and 27 against with 3 spoilt papers. The formal vote to begin the Neighbourhood Plan process took place at the July meeting confirming that the Neighbourhood Plan area should be the Parish of Stoke Gabriel.

The application and terms of reference was duly filed with South Hams district Council in August 2014.

The required South Hams District Council consultation process was completed on 17th October 2014 and the Plan was approved by the South Hams Executive Committee on 11th December 2014.

The first Neighbourhood Plan open meeting was held on Thursday 22nd January 2015. Some interest was shown in Steering Group membership and support work however it took until July to complete the membership when the first Steering Group meeting was held. Steering group members represented a broad section of the community. Meetings initially took place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Agendas and minutes are available on the web-site.

In June 2015 the Parish Council commissioned a 'Housing Needs Survey'. This was carried out by Devon Communities Together on behalf of: The Devon Rural Housing Partnership

June 2016 saw the launch of our first detailed questionnaire to parishioners and businesses. There were 370 responses to this document which were analysed using 'Survey Monkey'. Subsequently a feedback event was held on Saturday 24th September in the Village Hall. Results of the survey were shown together with the response to open questions posed in the questionnaire. For those unable to attend the detail was displayed on-line. Additional feedback was used by the Steering Group to discuss & define the way forward for the plan.

On Monday May 1st 2017 the group exhibited at the Village 'May Fair' with a focus on greenspaces, deliberately chosen to stimulate interest, which was a successful strategy with many attendees recording their thoughts in print and on maps. This feedback formed part of a follow up consultation event which took place on Saturday 13th May 2017 in the Village Hall (in conjunction with the annual walks held to validate footpaths). There were over 60 attendees

who provided more responses with 'self-build' housing providing significant interest. Also in May an update document was sent to all dwellings within the Parish to bring all residents up to date with progress. In May 2018 a new web-site was created solely for the Neighbourhood Plan with links from the Parish Council web-site.

Throughout this process the steering group has met on a monthly basis with an open forum encouraging participation from attendees at all times. Many of these activities took place in the same time period as the South Hams, Plymouth and West Devon Joint Local Plan processes which were of course of primary importance to the Stoke Gabriel Neighbourhood Plan. Steering group members actively participating at meetings and feeding into the consultation. The JLP was adopted by South Hams District Council on March 19th 2019.

On the 12th December 2018 the NP group jointly hosted an evening with the Stoke Gabriel Community Land Trust to gather more information on housing needs. A mini survey was completed by 30 participants. Their inputs were reviewed and a report submitted to South Hams District Council to enhance the previously commissioned housing needs survey

On the 30th May a summary of progress of the 'Plan' was given to around 100 parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting which took place in the Village Hall.

Updates have also been published monthly in the 'Stoke Gabriel News' during the process.