

At the last parish council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the councillors agreed that the draft of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) circulated to them by email on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 should be used as the basis for submission to AVDC which is the next stage in the NP process.

Since this decision, the steering group have concluded the review of the feedback from the consultation exercise held in October/November 2017 and where considered appropriate amended the NP and associated reports. I can confirm that none of the changes made were considered material or fundamentally altered the key policies of the NP. The NP and reports were finalised during the first week of January and formally submitted to AVDC on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

AVDC had been pre-advised on our timings and were therefore in a position to immediately commence its own 6 week consultation with statutory bodies and consultees, including residents, landowners and other local organisations who had commented on the NP during the

steering group's consultation. AVDC's consultation period started on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and runs to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the end of which the NP can then be referred for independent examination.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will only be successful at examination if the required basic conditions can be demonstrated to have been met which are:

- Appropriate having regard to national planning policy;
- Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;
- In general conformity with the strategic policies in the AVDC development plan;
- Compatible with Human Rights requirements and EU obligations. We believe the Worminghall NP meets these conditions

Looking ahead, on the assumption that the independent examination will not be concluded before the end April, it is therefore unlikely that the referendum of all the residents of the parish to approve or reject the plan will take place before June. We will clearly be hoping for a level of support (ie a simple majority of those voting) which will would mean that our NP can be formally adopted by AVDC becoming an essential document to be considered in all future planning decisions in the parish.

I will obviously keep the councillors regularly updated on progress over the coming months.  
Don Potter Chair