

## Progress on the Revision of the Neighbourhood Plan



The NPSG commissioned through Locality, the government funded Neighbourhood Plan support charity, two pieces of work.

Firstly, we have commissioned our own 'Housing Needs Assessment' that is specific for Four Marks and Medstead outside the South Downs National Park.

The consultant will review the development of the housing stock and the population of the area, taking into account the number of houses built over time and how the population has changes in number and age.

They will also consider the needs of those who need, what laughingly is described as 'Affordable Housing'. Hampshire Housing, the EHDC Assisted Housing advisor, has assessed the necessary current need for those with a link to the village as 110. Following the Beechlands Road application, 86 of these are already being provided, and there are 52 others associated with Applications progressing through the Planning System. It will also consider the provision to cover the needs of our older residents.

The second piece of work we have commissioned is our own 'Site Options Assessment'. As you are no doubt aware, EHDC have been inundated by landowners and developers offering development sites as part of its Land Availability Assessment. Our Consultant was extremely surprised at the number, 70 considered by the Consultant as 'unusual' and 'excessive'.

Most of you will remember the 'staccato' progress of the previous iterations of the EHDC Draft Local Plan - the Reg 18 Consultation in 2018, shortly followed by the '*10 Large Development Sites Consultation*'. This second consultation was caused by developers being 'upset' that '*they had not thought of offering a Large development site to the first Consultation*'. The NPSG has been forced to make its own 'Call For Sites' and prevent a similar situation occurring which could cause the rejection of the New Neighbourhood Plan when it is submitted to the Examiner.

We are expecting our Consultants to produce their reports in August, and we want to share these with residents in a consultation of residents during September, dependant on the timing of the production of the reports.

Your input at this time is very important, as it is the consensus of your opinions that will will guide the NPSG in formulating the new Plan for Medstead and Four Marks to 2042.