NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

We had our inaugural meeting on the 5th December 2013 which was well attended.

We had representatives from the Conservancy, Parochial Parish Council, Itchenor Memorial Hall, The Sailing Club, Itchenor Society as well as representatives from the local residents. Thus reflecting a genuine involvement of the whole village.

The purpose of the meeting was to decide the way forward and how to achieve results that would produce a Neighbourhood Plan that would benefit the whole community.

A matter of concern was "the area of influence" as described in the VDS that lies within the boundaries of Birdham and West Wittering. The concern s expressed by some representatives was that as these area were within the Neighbourhood Maps of these two parishes (which in turn was based on the parish boundaries), Itchenor would no longer have any influence over their policies.

Subsequent, to the meeting I have had very constructive meetings with Stephen Hammett of West Wittering and Jane Finch of Birdham respectively.

The concern s that had been raised regarding the "area of influence" were conveyed to them and from both I received understanding and an expression for us to work together for the mutual benefit of all three parishes.

When I spoke to Jane, she intimated that the policies for the area (Shipton Green) could be based on the policies in the VDS a copy of which she has although she has since also been sent the relevant policies duly highlighted.

Stephen also has been sent the relevant policies and intimated that he saw it as an opportunity for co-operation.

What was reassuring was the expression by all parties that as adjoining parishes we should work for the mutual benefit of the wider community and we have agreed to keep in regular contact.

There was a brief discussion on the policies. Peter Arnold, who represented the Itchenor Society said that the Society gave consent for the policies in the VDS to be used. It was agreed that much of the Neighbourhood Plan would be based on the VDS however a Neighbourhood Plan by its very nature is wider and would require policies to cover headings not included in the VDS. It is anticipated that the headings plus the formation of working parties, if required, will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting.

It was agreed that the steering committee should have sight of the summary of the questionnaires in order to assist them in formulating the policies.

The date for the next meeting is Wednesday 12 February 2014.