



THE PARISH OF NORTH NEWNTON

BOTTLESFORD, HILCOTT AND NORTH NEWNTON

Neighbourhood Plan: Second Summary of Activities

1. October – November, 2017

‘We like things just the way they are’ has been said by a number of people in Bottlesford and Hilcott. (North Newnton wants more change.)

So, an exercise to focus on the buildings of all kinds in our Parish, and the spaces in between them, is what comes next in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Planners call it a village character assessment and it is a description, done by us, of each village, setting out what makes it a place we want to live.

This was done for an area in Hilcott in 1994 when it became a “conservation area.” It’s a lovely description and you can see it on the Parish website: www.nnpc.org.uk. We can have descriptions like that in our Neighbourhood Plan for the rest of Hilcott, and for Bottlesford and North Newnton.

The Steering Group and Place Studio, our external adviser, have adapted the standard questionnaire and there is one for each village. Instructions are on the forms along with a map for each village.

Volunteers in each of the 3 villages have come forward to lead on this and each will be given forms and maps to give to neighbours. If you’d like to take part and haven’t received a form from a neighbour, you’ll find them on the Parish website and at The Woodbridge Inn and The Seven Stars. Or contact Fenella Rouse (Steering Group rep.) 07818 233 225 or arkbottlesford@gmail.com who’ll be able to give you forms and maps.

Other villages have told us it’s fun to do and, if we do it, we can have descriptions of all 3 villages and the land in between, to guide any future planning that might be suggested at any time.

We ask you to return the forms and maps to the Parish Council Postbox, Hilcott Village Hall, SN9 6LE by **20th November, 2017**.

2. December, 2017

Affordable housing* has been mentioned as something some of us would like to see more of in our Parish. Wiltshire Council asks every community making a Neighbourhood Plan to distribute a form (called a Housing Needs Survey) to each household in the Plan area, in our case, the Parish. Wiltshire Council decides on the timing and we are asked to distribute the forms at the end of November and beginning of December, with a return date of the end of December. The forms will give us all a chance to say whether we or anyone in our family

needs Wiltshire Council supported affordable housing in this Parish. By doing this, Wiltshire Council finds out the actual need.

[*“Affordable housing” is owned by housing associations and land trusts and must be allocated in line with Wiltshire Council’s allocation policy. After the first band of extreme need (for instance, homeless people with children) the second band is people with a local connection.]

3. We received 36 comments on our first Summary of Activities newsletter and the draft “Vision and Objectives” and have heard that a few more are on the way.

No one objected to the Steering Group’s approach or said that the Vision and Objectives didn’t reflect their views. 29 respondents explicitly supported the Steering Group’s approach and work. There were some very helpful observations about what could be false assumptions and errors and requests for clarification. These are all taken aboard and subsequent drafts, which will be circulated in due course, will reflect them. We were asked to make communications easy to read and clear and we’ve tried to do that in this. Please let us know if it’s still not clear enough.

4. Please feel free to comment on anything in this newsletter by sending your comments and observations to the Parish Group email:
northnewntonpc@gmail.com

Regards,

Penny Bond, Leslie Bond, Maggie Draper, Peter Dunn, Vicky Marshall, Rafal Radecki, Fenella Rouse, Carolyn Whistler.

(for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group)

October, 2017