July 2020

Dear Resident

**Longborough Parish Council: Parish Planning – The Way Forward**

In 2013, Longborough Parish Council, with support from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC), published a Parish Plan for the village. That parish plan included how the parish should consider matters such as Planning, Environmental Factors, Highways and Open Spaces in addition to considering the general well-being of our population.

Minor reviews and updates to the plan were conducted in 2015 and 2016, however the Council now considers it to be time to decide how best to bring this plan up to date.

To assist with that decision, a public meeting was organised by the Parish Council and held on 2nd March 2020 where a guest speaker from the GRCC delivered a presentation to Councillors and 16 members of the public who were present.

The presentation outlined the options available to move forward from the current Parish Plan. These options are:

* **A general update of the existing “Parish Plan”** – A Parish Plan is a community led planning tool that has been deployed for many years. It is a general overall statement which concurs with current government planning policy. Community led plans (CLP) can help a community assess current and future potential issues and think about all aspects of community life in an area and set out a plan of action. A CLP is evidence of a strong community that has given clear thought to its needs. It can include land use, planning issues/issues around development locally. Although it has no formal weight and cannot allocate development sites, a Parish Plan could be a material consideration when considering, for example, planning applications and grant applications.
* **The development of a “Neighbourhood Plan”** – A planning based tool, most suitable for larger towns and parishes. Neighbourhood Plans, once adopted, become part of the local statutory development plan and will form the basis for determining planning applications in that area as well as protecting green spaces. Neighbourhood Planning concerns writing planning policies for the allocation of land, and a key benefit can be the community infrastructure that may be delivered through development. But there is also additional complexity and expense with Neighbourhood Planning due to the statutory requirements.
* **The development of a “Village Design statement”** – A Village Design Statement is not intended to be the same as a Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan and therefore does not cover every aspect of village life or specify the location and extent of development. It is instead primarily focused on ensuring the appropriate design of new development.

Each option is different in terms of the time to produce and the costs involved and these are broadly described in the table below:

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| **Title** | **Timescale and Approach** | **Resource and Cost Implications** |
| **Option 1:**A general update of the existing Parish Plan | 3-4 months. Questionnaire-based overseen by the Parish Council | Councillor and volunteer resident time. Admin/printing costs for various questionnaires / documents. No grant aid available. |
| **Option 2:**Development of a “Neighbourhood Plan” | 3-4 years. Structure must follow Government guidelines and concur with current Planning Policy | Parish Council involvement but Working Group comprising volunteers and experts required. Legal document which requires Secretary of State approval.Costs £5k- £12k depending on size of town. Grants up to £8k for eligible applicants. |
| **Option 3:**Development of a “Village Design Statement” | 1 year. Various sources of evidence used | Volunteer group would have to be established. Admin/printing costs. No grant aid available. |

A variety of further information on these options is available from the following resources:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/1634-planning-explained/file>

<https://www.grcc.org.uk/community-led-planning/community-design-statements>

To help the Parish Council understand the community’s opinions and preferences on this matter there is a small survey on the next page that the council would appreciate it if you could complete and return via one of the options outlined at the bottom of the survey.

Thank you for your time

**Tim Howse – Chair, Longborough Parish Council**

**Parish Planning Survey**

**Following consideration at the Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 2020, it was agreed that a broad community consultation should be organised to ascertain the degree of interest and support that could be provided by residents before moving forward with the matter.** The ability to deliver any of the options highlighted would depend to varying degrees upon the willingness of volunteer residents to give up their time to help organise data and produce the final documents. The Parish Council are therefore asking if you would kindly please reply to the following three brief questions:

1. **Which of the 3 options set out in this letter would you most like to see carried out? (Please circle one)**
Update the existing Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan / Village Design Statement / None of the above
2. **Would you be willing to give up your time to join a volunteer group, and attend meetings on a regular basis until the task is complete?** **(Please circle one)** YES / NO
3. **Can you offer additional help to the above or are you be able to help with administration, delivering questionnaires or providing support in any other way?** **(Please circle one)** YES / NO - If YES, please describe what help you can provide below.

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| (*Please continue on reverse of this sheet if necessary*) |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Optional)

Your response will help your Parish Council determine both how best to proceed as well as the likely level of engagement in our community. **Thank you for participating in this small survey**. If you have any questions then please contact the clerk to the council at clerk@longboroughg-pc.gov.uk or any of your councillors whose contact details are available at <https://longborough-pc.gov.uk/council-members/>

Please return this survey page to us by any one of the following methods:

* Handing into a member of staff at the village shop
* By email to either clerk@longborough-pc.gov.uk or tghowse@gmail.com
* Through the letter box at The Old Hall, The Folly, Longborough
* Arrange collection by telephoning 07832 386665