**NEWS from the SEEND PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

 **June Update**

 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is now starting to draft the Neighbourhood Plan! This news may surprise you in that we seem to have been working on this project for a long time…… But as with many tasks, the preparation is what takes the time. We are using the evidence that has been gathered together with the feedback received from the community.

 Work on 'Local Green Space' designation, the identification of 'Local Heritage Assets' and locally 'Valued Views' is at an advanced stage, with key evidence reports nearing conclusion.

A Community Design Statement for Seend Parish, which will inform the design of any new development in the Parish is also now nearly complete. This can be used in advance of the Neighbourhood Plan completion to inform comments on planning applications in the Parish. We hope it will also be of interest to local people as it touches on the local history and character of different parts of the Parish, dividing each settlement area into a number of character areas. The Steering Group is working with the Seend Community Land and Asset Trust to support the delivery of affordable housing for local people in the Parish. Three members of the latter attended part of our last meeting to update us on their progress.

Further work includes:

* Work to map wildlife corridors and green routes (known as 'Green Infrastructure') is now nearly complete and community facilities have been mapped, so that their ongoing use can be protected and supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.
* As background evidence reports are completed, they will be published on the Parish Plan website, ([www.seendparishplan.org](http://www.seendparishplan.org)) and some will also be considered at upcoming Parish Council meetings.
* Further work is also planned to analyse the suitability of development sites, although it is not yet decided whether any sites will be identified in the Neighbourhood Plan itself.
* Our target is to have a draft of the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan in place by Autumn 2019, this will then be consulted on locally ahead of examination and referendum.

All are welcome at the monthly open meetings. The next Committee Meeting will be Thursday 27th. June at 7.30pm. in the Community Centre. There will be no open Committee Meeting in May, but there is the PC Village AGM at which Georgina A’Bear will report on our progress. (Some members of the SG meet again between these open meetings to progress the background work, together with our Consultants).

 Carola Thorpe on behalf of the S.P.N.P. Steering Group