

COTHERSTONE "NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN"

Newsletter - Number 1 - December 2014



Thank-you everyone for attending the open meeting in the village hall on 24th November. It was encouraging to see so many people who all agreed with the desire to have a Neighbourhood Plan.

This newsletter is sent to everyone who provided an e-mail and will also be displayed in the usual places and various notice boards around the village. Should funding be granted it will enable further distribution.

Topics of discussion included:

- What the plan is about
- How it came about
- Why we need one
- The steps in the process
- What comes next
- Timescales

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. This paved the way to plan the future use and development of land within "neighbourhoods" at a much more local and community-led level. A Neighbourhood Plan has legal standing and must be taken into account within any planning applications. Development of the plan must follow a laid down 3-stage process and it is the subject of a "referendum" prior to it being adopted. It is anticipated to take 12-18 months.



The **first stage** is to be designated as a "Neighbourhood Area" by the County Council

The **second stage** is the consultation process.

The **third stage** is the formulation of a plan and referendum.

Cotherstone is at stage one. The application will be submitted within 2 weeks.

The facilitation group is comprised of a partnership between the Parish Council and some villagers active in successfully resisting a recent planning application for further housing development in the village.



The facilitation group are: Diane Pennock, Ian Pennock, Richard Hunter, John Birkett, Lynn Metcalfe, Dreda Forster, Tom Hicks and Ross Law. There is additional support from people expressing a wish to help in other areas such as distribution of questionnaires, newsletters and compiling an e-mail forum.

Time limited professional support from an independent planning expert has been obtained and grant funding applied for.

To assist with information sharing and consultations an email forum is an excellent way to reach many people. This saves printing costs, time and is environmentally friendly.

Please share this newsletter with neighbours (within Cotherstone Parish) and if they want to be on the email list can they please forward it along with their name and address.