

# Hazelwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan

January 2015

## 'HERE IS THE NEWS'

**Hello Hazelwood Parish Residents,**

**As we move towards 2015, first-things-first, let us wish you a very happy New Year.**

**The Steering Group also thought it would be a good idea to use our email data base more frequently to keep residents informed, as we progress towards completing the Neighbourhood Plan. So, here we are, with the first of a series of newsletters.**

### **Open evening *UPDATE***

It was good to see so many of you on November 27<sup>th</sup>. It allowed us to both tell you where we've got to and to hear from you. During the course of the evening, we covered a lot of ground;

#### **Setting the Scene**

\* Hazelwood is not currently identified by Amber Valley as a designated development area...

...BUT

\* They are under pressure regarding building plot numbers, their Local Plan is not yet finalised - thus, they are vulnerable to developers.

\* Next year's General Election brings all sorts of uncertainty.

#### **Facts and conclusions - The Final Questionnaire research**

\* It showed that the majority (80%) of Hazelwood Parish residents are here for the longer term

\* 56% don't want to downsize

\* 30% do, against a backdrop of limited numbers of smaller houses

\* Little evidence, as yet, of need for social housing.

\* In-depth Housing Needs Survey clearly required - see later.

#### **Speaking objectively...**

Mike Wood, architect and Steering Group colleague, outlined first thoughts on possible objectives which would then allow us to form the policies to achieve them. He also showed the constraints which would pertain *especially* to planning applications for Hazelwood, based on the parish's landscape qualities, visual impact and adherence to an intended Village Design Statement.

All of this will form the basis of the draft Hazelwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Its intention will be to control, not just future growth but also quality of design and its sensitivity towards the existing built environment.

#### **Housing Needs Survey launched!**

Against the background of two previous research exercises giving glimpses of residents' thoughts and wishes, we had taken the decision that an in-depth, independent survey was required to assess local demand. Chairman, Kevin Eaton, announced that questionnaires from Midlands Rural Housing were already in the post to residents. He urged everyone to complete theirs to ensure a robust, evidential base against which new planning applications would be tested.

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#### **STOP PRESS!**

Well done everyone. As of today, the response rate is a very welcome 69%; well above what we expected and, apparently, well above the norm for this type of exercise.

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Analysis is happening during January but please complete your questionnaire if it's still awaiting your attention. EVERY RESPONSE COUNTS!

***Watch this space for what the analysis tells us and how it will affect the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.***

#### ***And finally...***

During a very useful Q and A finale to the evening, it became clear that more publicity would be welcome for Steering Group meeting dates. Henceforth, these will be shown in the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council's web site, in the Parish Council display cabinet at the Memorial Hall, in the Parish magazine's future issues and the email newsletter.

As these will be working meetings, we have arranged that anyone wishing to raise specific points can do so right at the beginning of the meeting. Following discussion, guests can then choose to stay or not, as they please.

Next meeting dates;

Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup> Hazelwood Memorial Hall 7.00pm

Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> St John's Church 7.00pm

Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> Hazelwood Memorial Hall 7.00pm

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Kevin Eaton,  
Chairman,  
Hazelwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group