

THE ELSTEAD & WEYBURN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

What is happening?

Since the Planning Workshop in January the four Working Groups have been gathering information about Elstead, its background and how it is now.

All the Groups are looking into what we have now in the village and what might be needed in the future to maintain it as a balanced, living community that is a good place to live and work.

Environment, Heritage and Design - Betty Moxon

- Photographing the village, conservation areas, green areas and general street scenes.
- Mapping the rights of way, sports and recreation facilities, flood plains etc.
- Identifying the many designations that apply to Elstead parish - AONB, SSSI, RAMSAR sites etc.
- Identifying the listed buildings
- Contacting the sport and active recreation organisations in Elstead.

Housing and Community Facilities – Richard Rees

- Gathering a plotting on maps local facilities (schools (from pre-school upwards), churches, and halls, medical... etc.)
- Gathering census and demographic information
- Gathering School intake / capacity and substantive change data (i.e. when the school last had a substantive change to cater for increased volumes)
- Summarising the current Elstead Design principals
- Shaping themes of a neighbourhood survey (not the questions, but what we want out of such a survey)
- Drafting objectives of the group – to help ensure clarity on scope and avoidance of duplication with other working groups
- Contacting the many social organisations in Elstead.

Transport & Access, Communications, Utilities, and Drainage – Guil Strathalmond

- This Group has been investigating wide range of facilities and services as a basis for assessment of the impact of future changes in Elstead.

Employment & Business – Helen Page

- The working group is looking at employment in Elstead, past, present and future.
- We are looking at the loss of employment in the village over the last few years, what has caused this trend and how it affects those living here?
- Investigating any company in Elstead that has employees or has a physical site in the village, including home workers and tradesmen who live in Elstead but don't employ.
- We have identified on a map the physical location of all businesses and have put together a spreadsheet to start to categorise these businesses.
- Contacting local businesses to find out their future plans for expansion or closure and needs in terms of employment and facilities.
- Investigating numbers of employees and where they live.
- Considering the impact of any development at the Tanshire Business Park on employment within the village.
- Discussed possible future needs for local employers - i.e. child day-care, storage units, yard space for tradesmen etc.
- Investigating the large number of home workers in Elstead and their possible future needs for expansion, business space, services and facilities.
- Employment in the future for the village. We hope that the Village Plan will be used by developers looking at areas in and around our village and take into consideration the need for continued employment in the village.

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What happens next?

The investigations of the Working Groups are being co-ordinated by a Steering Group and supported by external Planning Consultants and a Waverley Planning Officer. Once sufficient information has been collected this will be put together into a report which will form part of the "Evidence Base" for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Facts and figures are only part of the picture. The whole purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to provide solid guidelines for the management of Elstead and its environment and facilities for at least the next 15 years.

The people living here and their children now have the chance to say what they would like the village to be like in the future and there are many questions to be considered, for instance:

- Do we want more homes for people working outside Elstead, or for young people who want to live where they grow up?
- Do we want more jobs, more shops, better facilities and services?
- What would we like to see more of and what less of in the village?

Many villages have lost all their shops and employers, becoming commuter dormitories, reliant on nearby towns for all their facilities.

Elstead has been going this way for the past 20 years at least but it is still a very lively mixed community.

Future development could accelerate the trend but we can influence this by making sure that the right policies are included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Information is needed about what we want for Elstead's future. Some of this will be collected by asking residents to respond to questionnaires about housing and facilities. We need more people to help with this and anybody with spare time or ideas is welcome to join us.

Public Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting –April 15th

This will be held in the URC Church on Wednesday April 15th. It will be followed by a discussion on Neighbourhood Planning led by Planning Consultant Chris Bowden.

There will be an exhibition in the URC Hall illustrating the investigation work being done by the Working Groups and what needs to be done to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.

Elstead & Weyburn - The Future (TBA)

A Public Workshop led by Planning Consultant Angela Koch will be held in late April or early May to take the development of the Neighbourhood Plan to the next stage.

This will be an opportunity for everybody to put forward ideas on what they would like Elstead and Weyburn to be like in the next 15 years, for our benefit of us and for our children.

These ideas will be assessed with the information collected earlier and will form the basis for the writing of the Neighbourhood Plan policies for submission to Waverley.

Weyburn Group Exhibition – March 28th

This Working Group is holding an Exhibition in the Elstead Youth Hall from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm on Saturday March 28th.

This Group has been concentrating on possible development of the Weyburn industrial site, in the light of likely proposals by Linden Homes for housing.

It is an employment site and there are concerns about the impact that a major development would have on services and facilities in Elstead.

Refreshments will be available.