

Great Somerford Parish (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan

Following consultation with Wiltshire Council in 2013/2014, it became clear that it would be wise to develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for the Parish of Great Somerford. New homes are needed in Wiltshire and the Core Strategy identifies Great Somerford as a village where more houses are to be built. The NP is intended to give the community a say in how their village is developed over the next ten years or so; obviously without a NP the village will have much less influence on where and how much development takes place. The first public meetings about the NP were held in April and July of last year. There followed two further consultation sessions in September which between them lasted seven hours and were attended by 162 Parishioners. At these last two sessions potential development sites were outlined as were areas that the village wished to keep free of development. Parishioners were asked to record their preferences for potential development sites, together with any comments they wished to make. These preferences together with comments were recorded and analysed by the NP Steering Group (SG).

Taking the above information, together with any other comments received from Parishioners, the SG prepared a package of information which outlined their recommendation for sites to be developed and sites to be kept free of development. This package was delivered to every house in the Parish in the last two weeks of January this year and eligible Parishioners were asked to state whether they agreed or disagreed with the recommendation of the SG, by February 14th,

Wiltshire Council advised that the SG recommend sites for development which would provide a total of 33 houses, of which 12 would be affordable homes. These are the numbers that we have been advised by Wiltshire Council are appropriate according to the recently agreed Core Strategy.

These sites are, Seagry Road, Dauntsey Road, Frog Lane, Adjacent to Brook Farm and behind the Old Police House and preliminary results of the consultation are as follows.

- Households consulted -----326 Great Somerford 274, Startley 52
- Households responding-----141 Great Somerford 135 (49.3%)
- Parishioners responding-----278
- Parishioners agreeing-----179 (64.4%)
- Parishioners disagreeing-----93 (33.4%) 34 disagreed with the total recommendation, 59 disagreed with one or more of the sites.
- Spoilt papers-----6 (2.2%)

These results show that the majority of Parishioners agree with the recommendation of the SG. This being the case, these sites and house allocations will be incorporated into the draft NP. However, there are several more stages to go through before the NP can be adopted as part of the Wiltshire Development Plan. The draft NP will undergo a six week period of consultation by the Parish before going to Wiltshire Council for another six week consultation. Following this there will be an independent examination before the final step, the Parish referendum. If greater than 50% of those

voting in the referendum approve the NP, it will become part of the development plan for Wiltshire, thereby ensuring that the wishes of the majority of our Parishioners are reflected therein.

Sid Jevons, On behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group