



Update of the Neighbourhood Plan – Marnhull Parish Council 4 September 2023

Awareness-raising / consultation

We want to ensure that everyone throughout the parish is aware of the Neighbourhood Development Plan so they can play a full part in it as we progress. So we have submitted an article to the **Marnhull Messenger** for September. We have a flyer that will go through every letterbox in the parish and posters for the village. We are using facebook and social media and of course we are posting minutes and progress reports on the Parish Council website.

We had a presence at the **Flower show and Fest** – We had a good response from both shows. We have begun to compile a list of emails and volunteers from around the parish. We have collated information including important views, pinch points, near misses and accidents, green spaces and green gaps that it's important to retain in the village. These are now on the Parish Online Mapping service. We plan to have a competition for “my favourite view of Marnhull parish, through the seasons” as an additional way of engaging interest.

Village Groups – We are contacting the groups and businesses in the village. Both raising awareness and collating information – we particularly want to know How can the NP help you?

Landowners – continuing our contact with landowners in the parish to understand their development plans. Landowners that are on the SHLAA map, and ones that are not.

Funding & Finance

The government grant was open to apply for at the beginning of the month. Steve Penson has been great in applying, and for persevering, through the comprehensive application process. There is a maximum for one year of £10,000, and a £18,000 lifetime maximum, for the grant. Whatever money we receive must be spent by the end of the financial year, or returned. We have been awarded £9,860 towards consultants fees.

With the funding we have been able to employ **Jo Witherden, planning consultant** – We have had two meetings with Jo, who is very helpful and a wealth of knowledge and local experience. She is steering us in the right path, as well as helping with project

development and management. We aim to use her time as efficiently as possible to get best value from her knowledge and expertise.

We are also applying for the first of the Technical Support Packages for which we are eligible. Through these professional input is paid for under a national government scheme and there will be no cost to the Parish Council for this work.

Other Actions

Design Codes – This is one of the Technical Support Packages for which we can apply. Design Codes set out a clear guidance for new developments in a simple concise and illustrated way dealing with materials, landscaping, energy performance, layout etc. with an emphasis on development that is sympathetic to our parish area. This will help to ensure future developments are future-proofed and fit with the local character. We have had an initial meeting and expect to receive confirmation of support within two weeks. An inception meeting and site visit will follow.

We have received an initial **housing needs analysis** from Dorset Council which supports the view that we will not need to put forward development sites other than those already approved.

We intend to undertake a **Conservation Area Appraisal** to review the current historic buildings and heritage assets of the village.

Jules Cormack and Jo Witherden are meeting **Highways** department in the next fortnight.

We will be sending out a **questionnaire** in November to every household in the parish. This will be able to be answered either on paper or through an online survey – survey monkey. There will be one for Businesses and one for everyone else. This will begin the very important process of engaging people in expressing their views about the future of the village and we urge everyone to participate wherever you live in Marnhull and whatever your views.

30 August 2023