

Progress on the Updated Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to all the parishioners who took the time to come to the Consultation Day on 16th August and for ranking preferences from the eight short listed housing sites and for making comments on other sites, either on the day itself, or on-line, until the end of the month.

The response was very encouraging with more than 450 forms completed, which means that around 25% of the population of the parish and around 33% of households decided to have a say. Well done to everyone and the volunteers on the Working Group.

Local preferences for the location of new housing in and around Findon is one of the fundamental democratic opportunities available to communities who undertake a Neighbourhood Plan that includes housing site allocations.

There are of course other important planning and highways issues to now consider in more detail as well as the mitigating features associated with the allocation of housing on some of the sites.

Over the next six weeks the Working Group will be reviewing these matters with the SDNPA planners, WSCC Highways team, site owners and stakeholders. One site not included in the original ranking form has emerged from the initial consultation responses and will be reviewed by the Working Group, along with any other sites that may yet be suggested by the community or landowners. If appropriate, this site, or sites, will be brought forward for a second consultation along with the most preferred sites from the initial consultation.

Please remember however we only need to allocate housing sites for around 30 dwellings over the next 19 years, so this is likely to involve only three or four housing site allocations in the Updated Neighbourhood Plan.

And now the summary, from most favoured to least, of the community's ranking preferences for possible housing allocations:

1. Former allotments at the Quadrangle (10 dwellings and allotments)
2. Former Fire Station (5 flats)
3. Paddock north of Nightingales (11 houses and flats)
4. Atalanta/Mayland site (6 houses and flats)
5. Small part of Monarchs Way field (11 houses, funding the replacement of the pre-school)
6. Paddock east of Pony Farm (4 houses)
7. Soldiers Field House and grounds (11 houses)
8. Paddock east of Elm Rise (15-20 houses and flats)

Once again, please remember that the ranking preferences are NOT actually housing site allocations, but they will be given significant weight when the Working Group brings forward a draft updated Neighbourhood Plan for formal consultation before the end of this year.