

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group statement June 2020

The Neighbourhood Plan – where are we? (and the impact of the Covid19 pandemic)

The Chichester District Local Plan Review has been delayed. The coronavirus pandemic is one underlying reason, but there are other problematic issues planners are working on. Further work being undertaken includes local development needs, land availability, the options for the A27, waste water capacity and nitrates in Chichester Harbour. In some instances this requires input from third parties, such as Southern Water and Highways England.

There are consequences. The Local Plan Review directly impacts on the Neighbourhood Plan. This is because there can be nothing in the Neighbourhood Plan that contradicts or runs counter to the Local Plan. Legally the Neighbourhood Plan, once successful at referendum and 'made', is part of the development plan along with Local Plan Review once adopted. We can't write a Neighbourhood Plan without understanding the development strategy in Local Plan Review. Progress with the Neighbourhood Plan has thus been delayed.

The next stages of the Local Plan Review can be found here.

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/30926/Timeline---Local-Plan-Review>

The most recent projection is that the Local Plan Review will be published in Spring 2021. It may be further delayed, but this is speculation. The Neighbourhood Plan will follow. Currently our existing Neighbourhood Plan (2014 – 2029) is valid and, with the current adopted Local Plan, contributes to current Planning Law. This applies until July 2020. Our understanding is that after that date the weight that can be given to the current adopted Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan will be reduced. This may mean that Planning Inspectors will be asked to adjudicate on any major development applications in the period before the new plans come into effect.

8 June 2020