

A Neighbourhood Plan for Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. It provides communities with a way of creating a shared vision for their local area, and can help to shape any development and growth of their neighbourhood. Communities may decide to set out their views in a Neighbourhood Plan (NH Plan). This must be compatible with the local planning and approved in a local referendum, but will then form part of the local development plan.

Last year, Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council asked residents and businesses for their thoughts on improving our community. Nearly 200 responses were received and the Council has decided to set up a Steering Group to take things forward. Neighbourhood planning must be owned by the whole community, not just the Parish Council, and the Steering Group will include residents and businesses as well as councillors. Some people have volunteered already and further members are welcome.

The Steering Group's work will be in two phases.

Phase 1 will gather the information needed to underpin a NH Plan, including how much active support there is for developing one. It will report back to the Parish Council by the end of 2018 on whether or not to develop a NH Plan.

Phase 2, creating a NH Plan, this will only go ahead if the Steering Group recommends the development of a NH Plan [and the Parish Council agrees]. Even if it is decided not to have a NH Plan, the Parish Council will find the information gathered in Phase 1 very useful.