



LESBURY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

November 2019

Dear Resident

Quite a lot has happened since we last contacted members of the public about the Neighbourhood Development Plan, but there has been little to report as we have been waiting to hear the outcome of various assessments that have been undertaken on our Plan.

However, we are pleased to be able to give you a short progress report and to tell you about the next stages.

The first consultation period on our draft Plan was held from December 2018 to February 2019 and minor changes were made to the Plan following comments we received from statutory consultees such as The Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and NCC, as well as comments made by residents of Lesbury Parish.

During the consultation period, we were told that a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Plan would be required and, following from this, that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Plan would be necessary. These assessments were required because there are a number of highly protected areas within Lesbury Parish, such as the Northumberland Shore SSSI, the Alnmouth Saltmarsh and Dunes SSSI and the Northumbria Coast RAMSAR (wetlands of international importance).

We received the SEA report on 18th October and are now holding a consultation on this report with the same people/organisations involved in the first consultation. We are planning to hold a “surgery” to allow members of the community to see the current version of the Plan and/or to answer any questions about the NDP during this consultation period, as this will be the last opportunity for members of the public to comment on the Plan before the referendum, which we expect to take place early next year.

Once this consultation period is completed, we will need to address any issues raised and then the Plan will be submitted to NCC for a final 6-week consultation to be held by NCC. After this, the Plan will be examined by an external Examiner. The final stage is then the referendum.

All the updated documents for the Plan as well as the HRA and SEA reports are available to view on the Lesbury Parish Council website (www.lesbury-pc.org.uk) under Neighbourhood Development Plan/Final Documents. The ‘surgery’ will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 16th November from 10 am to 2 pm when members of the NDP Steering Group will be present to answer any questions you may have about the NDP and the next steps.

Lesbury Parish NDP Steering Group