**Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

**Report to SF Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting Wednesday, Nov 20, 2019**

**1. Appointment of Consultants**

* The NP Working group is now able to recommend to the PC which company we feel is best suited to support our work over the next 18-24 months.
* After interviewing, receiving bids and schedules for the work involved we shortlisted two sets of consultant groups; Modicum Planning/Cambridgeshire ACRE and Rachel Leggett & Associates/Compass Point.
* After a full evaluation by the Group who considered Value for Money, ability & capacity to deliver, track record of delivering successful NPs in the Region and, the time constraints of the Working Group members, we are now in a position to recommend that Rachel Leggett & Associates/Compass Point be appointed as the consultants to carry out the stages of work involved up to the end of the financial year 31 March 2020.
* We further propose that the Working Group comes back to the Parish Council in Feb/March 2020 with a recommendation as to whether to apply for further funding to renew their contract for the financial year 2020-21.

**2. Funding**

The ‘Locality’ HMG funding application for financial support up to the period to end of March 2020 will be completed once a decision to appoint a Consultancy firm has been confirmed by the Parish Council

The application needs to be submitted by late-November in order to get approval in January 2020.

**3. Working Group Meetings**

The Working Group is currently in what is called ‘listening mode’. That is, we are open to approaches from individuals, groups and Borough/County Council officials who may want to contact us on NP-related matters. With this in mind, Karl Patterson Borough Planning) and James Grant (Borough Council’s Project officer, Commercial Services, Property Services) attended our regular pre-PC meeting on Nov 6th at SF Village Hall to present their thoughts on delivering custom/self-build housing in Stoke Ferry. We listened to what they had to say, and no comments or decisions were made.

**4. Public Consultation Meetings**

We are proposing that the *Initial NP Public Consultation* event will now be held in early February 2020, at SF Village Hall (date to be finalised).

Jim McNeill

Chair, SFNP Working Group