



Rolleston Needs You!

Rolleston's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Newsletter

Issue 4 ~ July 2012



Thank you for your Questionnaire Returns

The questionnaire was delivered to the 1450 households in the village. We received back 39% of questionnaires which is an excellent response rate for a local survey.

The overwhelming view was that **71% of respondents wanted 50 or less new houses built** in the village over the next 19 years. This is an important piece of information which will be a major part of finalising a Neighbourhood Plan.

The questionnaire responses did not clearly identify specific sites suitable for development. The specific styles of acceptable housing were also not clear. This is why we need help from the village residents again. It was very clear that more 3 storey houses and flats in the village were NOT popular and are not in character with the rest of the village.

To satisfy the needs of the Plan we need to look at alternative sites for any development. **Do you own an area of land (however small) which you would want to be considered for development?** Would you want this area of land to be included for consideration of development over the next 10-15 years?

We need more detailed descriptions of the types of housing you would prefer to see in the village. For example do we need more starter homes, sheltered housing, pensioners' bungalows etc.? Can you please advise why you see this need.

Please let us know about any other possible development sites and specific housing types. You can either email or telephone Clerk to the Council, Heidi Light, or drop your ideas off at the box in Starbucks. This information is also needed to fight the Borough Council's plans for Rolleston – see over.

We will be having public open days to show possible housing types and sites for housing later in the summer. This will be your opportunity to register your preferences. Make a note of the dates – Evening of Monday 20th August, 6pm until 9pm and Saturday 1st September, 9.00am – 2pm in the Old Grammar School Rooms, Church Road.

College Field Planning Application

You will all be aware that Burton College have submitted a planning application to build up to 120 houses on the college playing field. The NP Steering Group have submitted a formal statement of objection to this plan sighting the questionnaire responses which clearly showed that the village did not want this number of new houses. We have also asked the application to be refused on grounds of prematurity, while the Neighbourhood Plan is being developed.

Heidi Light, Clerk to the Parish Council will temporarily be taking over as Secretary to the NH Group. Therefore any queries should be addressed to:

Heidi Light on 812538 or email hlight@btinternet.com

Your Views Count ~ Please Get In Touch

~ Email: nprolleston@gmail.com

~ Facebook: Rolleston on Dove Parish Council

~ Via the village website: www.rolleston.org.uk

~ Contact: Heidi Light Parish Council Clerk tel 812538

Rolleston Still Needs You!

ESBC Preferred Options – Build on the College Playing Fields!

The Borough Council have now published what is in fact their draft Local Plan which is called Preferred Options. This document can be found (with great difficulty) on the Council Web site. It has profound implications for our village. This document is open for consultation and it is important that objections to its content are made to East Staffordshire Borough Council within the consultation period (25th July to 21st September). If you can object, but need more information we can help. We will also be happy to provide you with an electronic version of the document.

The document states that the growth requirement for the borough in the 19 year period 2012 - 2031 is 8935 dwellings. This amounts to 470 new houses each and every year. The document states that Burton itself is suitable for the largest scale developments and transport improvements. In order to meet these (self imposed) targets greenfield development is inevitable.

To meet part of this target Rolleston has been allocated a target of 125 houses. This will be made up of 100 houses on the College fields and 25 windfall sites. This figure of 125 houses is much bigger than the figures that have been bandied around by the Borough, due to the fact that the number of houses to be absorbed by the 'strategic villages' has risen from 450 over 25 years to 615 over 19 years. It is interesting that Abbots Bromley, despite having more facilities than Rolleston, is not classified as a strategic village and therefore will be allocated only 40 windfall sites.

By allocating 125 houses, of which 100 are to be on the College playing fields the Borough Council have robbed our village of a say in the number of houses; the placement of these houses and - because there is an application in already for the college playing fields – the timing of any development. (And who would not risk a large bet that when things settle down the 100 houses suggested for the College Playing fields will have grown to 120). This is completely against the spirit of the Government's Localism legislation and shoots down our Neighbourhood Plan. We have written to Central Government raising our concerns over the way that East Staffs Borough Council is riding roughshod over our emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group have decided that they will fight the plans for Rolleston in the Preferred Options. That is why we are going ahead with plans to identify other land within the village that could more sustainably meet any targets imposed on us.

Although it could seem that the Neighbourhood Development Plan is dead the truth is that it, and the information within it, is needed more than ever. The Group are determined, with the Parish Council, to fight for a fair allocation of development for Rolleston and for our right to determine where and when any development will take place.



The Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

If you feel strongly about how Rolleston will be in the future, it is not too late to join the group.

We would welcome more members who are willing to attend meetings, usually every other Thursday evening, and to work to make sure that the wishes of the people who live in Rolleston are the main deciding factor in what happens in Rolleston in the future.

If you do not feel you can commit to regularly attend meetings we need helpers to deliver these Newsletters and other items door to door.

Ring John Morris on 814181 or Heidi Light on 812538