



Update: The draft NP Independent examiner was scrutinised and commented on by the Milton Keynes Council and the Clerk. The final report of the NP Independent Examiner has since been received (Appendix 1) and the majority of recommendations have been implemented as per the report (Thank you to Cllr R Gifford and Mr Mason Edwards), scrutinised by the Clerk and changes implemented. The report was then scrutinised once more against the changes made to the revised Plan by the Clerk (Appendix 2) and I am pleased to report that V20 of the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan has now been sent to Milton Keynes Council to undergo further scrutiny prior to the referendum.

Diane Webber (MKC Planning), who was responsible for taking the Plan through the final stages, has now left MKC. The work has now been passed to a new officer, Mr John Cheston who has advised that they will be carrying out the following next steps:-

- Arranging a meeting with the TC and Simon Peart and Nick Crank (in the MKC Conservation & Archaeology team). We are suggesting that Policy 9 could be revised to set out in a little more detail what the TC envisages coming forward on each of the sites. This would narrow down the possible options and make the assessment of the impact of the policy allocations a little easier to assess in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening opinion.
- If the TC are happy to make some changes, then the plan can be re-screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and we would need to agree to make some changes to the plan that differ from the Examiner's recommendations and re-consult/ notifying interested parties (section 13 of Schedule 4B of the T&CP Act 1990). Depending on the responses we receive, we may or may not consider it appropriate to hold a further examination.
- Hopefully, with the revised policy wording providing greater clarity of the intentions for each site, the need for an SEA could be avoided.
- Once all that is done (with or without a further examination), we can proceed to referendum.

I understand that due to the lack of staff at MKC that they are unable to give a timescale for this additional work to be done. I will provide a further update at the next Planning meeting.

Committee to **NOTE** the report

Lynne Compton, Clerk to the Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017