

Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan Renewal

Westcott Village Forum (WVF): Meeting 2

27th February 2025



Introductions and Presenters

- James Leaver – Acting Chair, WVF (+ Planning Lead, WVA)
- Jo Astor – Acting Secretary, WVF and Communications Working Group (+ Communications Lead WVA)
- Chris Smewing – Evidence Gathering Working Group, WVF
- Kevin Foo – Programme Manager, WVF
- Paul Goddard – Secretary, Westcott Village Association



Agenda

1. Introductions and declarations
2. Review actions from 12th November 2024 (St. John's) and 7th February 2025 (school) inaugural meetings
3. The Westcott Village Forum leading the WNDP process
4. Our objectives
5. Changing planning environment – an update
6. Project programme
7. Funding application
8. Boundary application
9. Constitution
10. Working groups updates
11. Chairperson and secretary nominations and election
12. Next steps and Q&A



Actions from last meeting

- Required deliverables:
 - Project programme – Kevin Foo
 - Elect remaining positions (Chairperson + Secretary) – ALL
 - Apply for funding (MHCLG funding) – Ian Dunsford
 - Apply to MVDC confirm relevant Neighbourhood boundary – James Leaver
 - Draft and share the constitution – Paul Goddard
 - Invite nominations to join Working Groups – Jo Astor, Chris Smewing and Ian Dunsford
- Further reading:
 - <https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/>
 - <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/neighbourhood-planning/>



The Westcott Neighbourhood Forum

- The Westcott Village Forum is now formally established and taking the lead
 - 125 Village Forum members - includes 109 residents, 7 businesses, 6 clubs/groups, plus School, Doctor and Church
 - 21+ need to attend meetings to be quorate
- Working Groups
 - Data Collation and Analysis – Chris Smewing
 - Policy – Ian Dunsford
 - Communications – Jo Astor



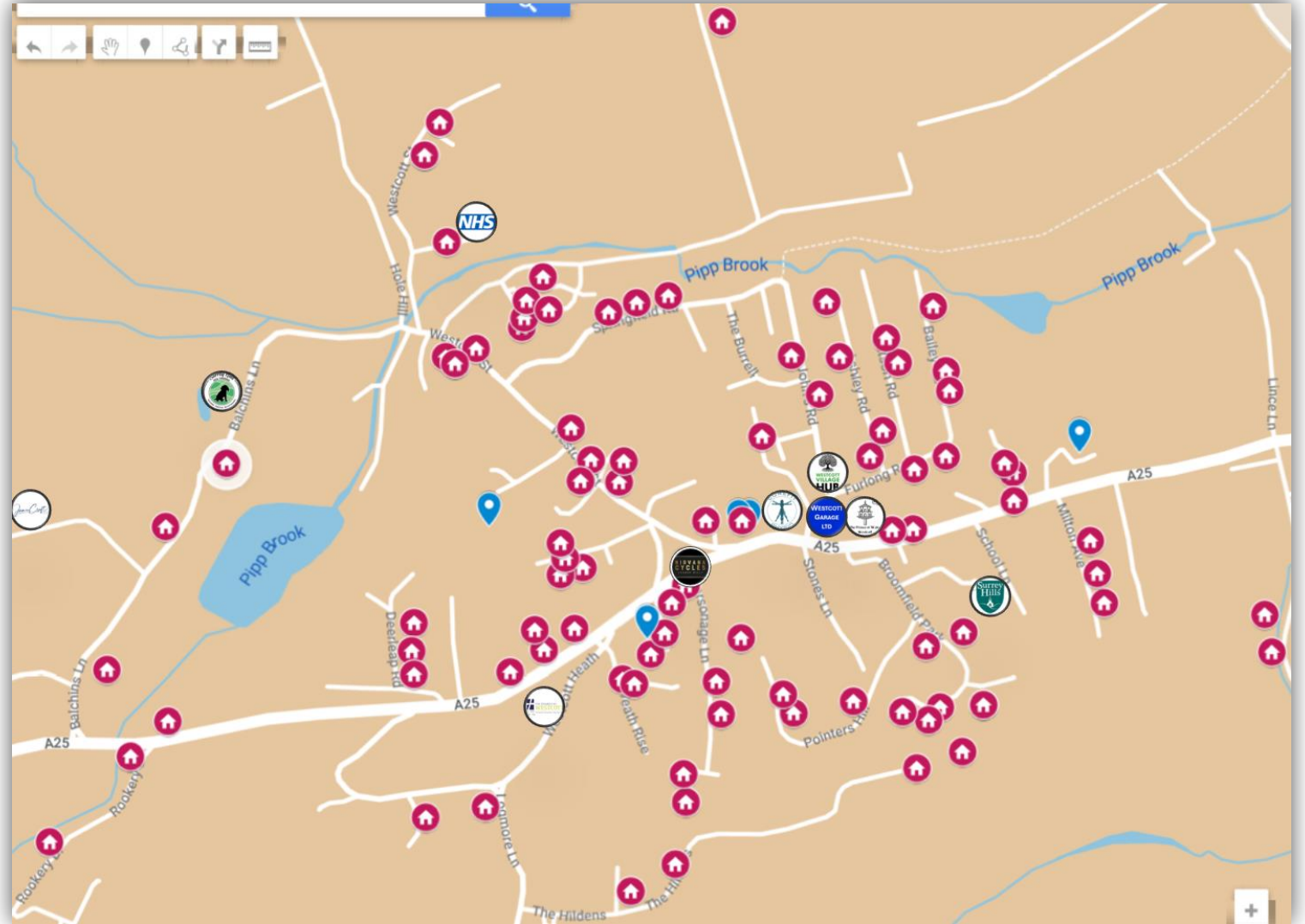
A representative forum

< Zoomed in village centre >

125 Forum members

**114 postcodes known
and shown on map**
(11 postcodes tbc)

Updated: 24th Feb 2025



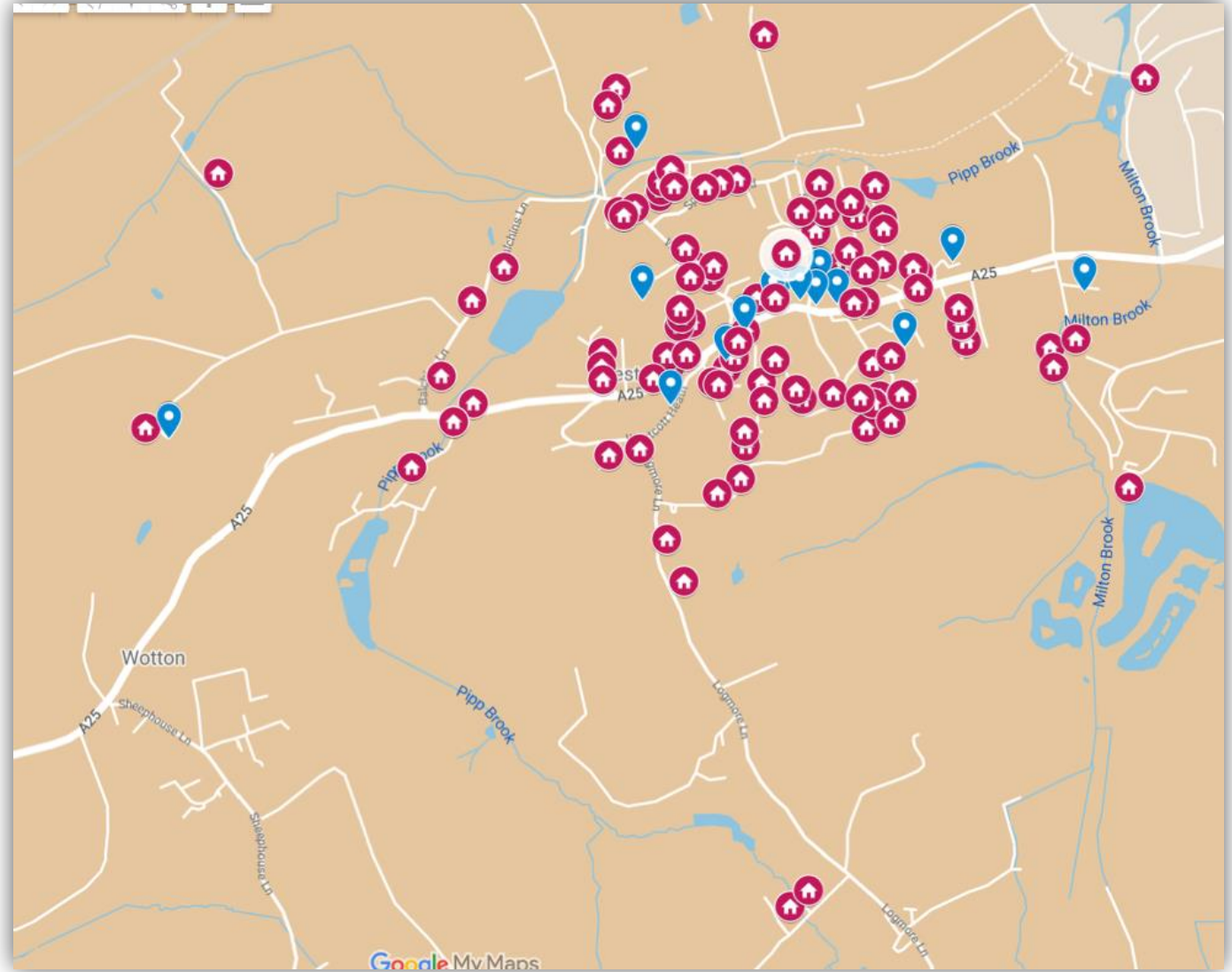
A representative forum

< Wider area map >

125 Forum members

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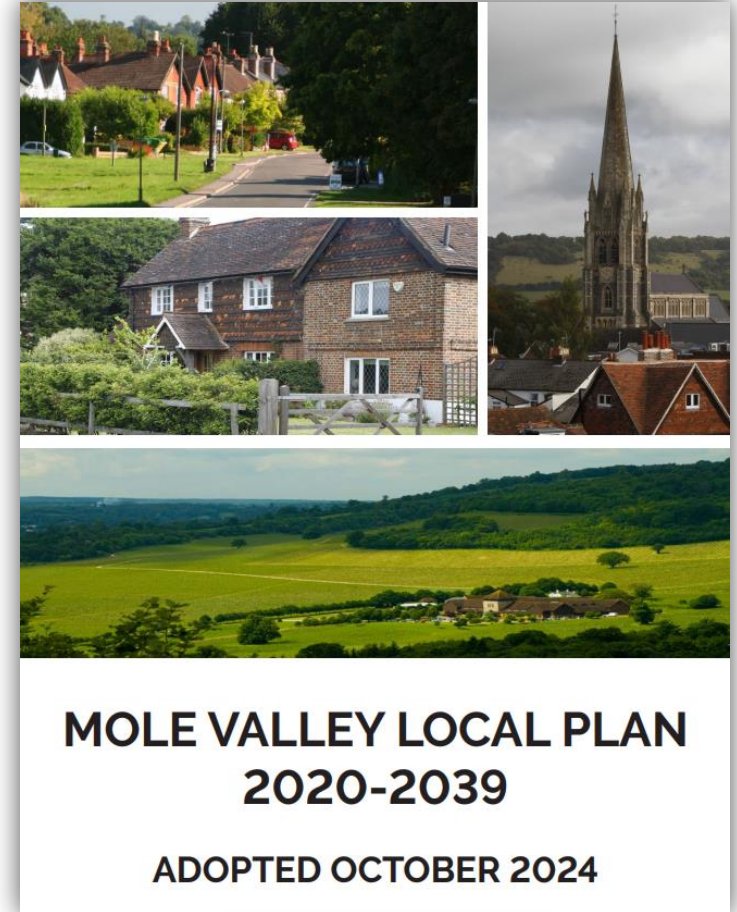
Forum objectives

- A new plan to set a positive vision for future development and a planning policy for Westcott
 - Replaces the 2017-2026 Plan.
 - Considers a range of social, economic and environmental issues such as housing, design, heritage and transport.
 - It should not promote less development than in the current MVDC Local Plan for Westcott.
 - It can be a 5, 10, 15 or 20 year plan.
 - It must be based on community engagement and evidenced to show a proper understanding of views, aspirations and needs.
- To reflect a fast-changing planning environment under the new Labour Government
- It is subject to independent examination to ensure it meets legal requirements. It is then subject to a public referendum, more than 50% of those voting must say “yes” to bring the plan in to force
- Decisions on planning applications are currently made with reference to the MVDC Local Plan AND the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan. We need to make our next Plan future-proof



Changing planning environment

- National Planning Policy Framework – published in December 2024
 - Significant increase in housing numbers – 833pa in Mole Valley
 - Mole Valley District Council Local Plan – 366pa – recently adopted
 - MVDC 5 year average 2016-2020 delivery – 270pa
- Other factors
 - Green belt / grey belt?
 - Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB)
 - Conservation Areas: Milton Street and Westcott Village
 - Devolution/ Unitary – Mole Valley District Council may cease to exist
- Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan



Project Programme

[ACTION 1]

Westcott Village Forum Schedule March 2025

Select a period to highlight at right. A legend describing the charting follows.

Period Highlight: 1

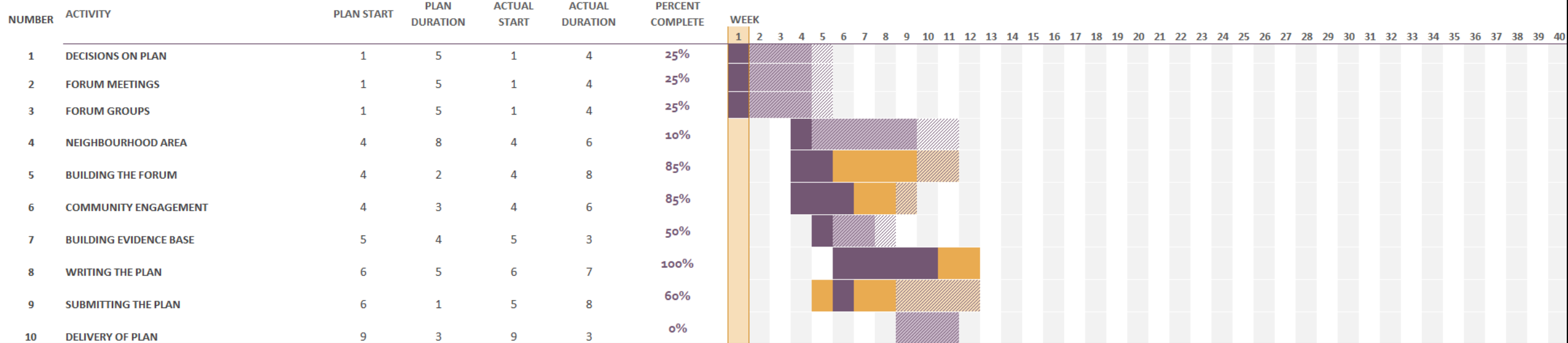
Plan Duration

Actual Start

% Complete

Actual (beyond plan)

% Complete (beyond plan)



- Timings for each activity tbc
- Target referendum date: May 2026



Funding Application

[ACTION 3]

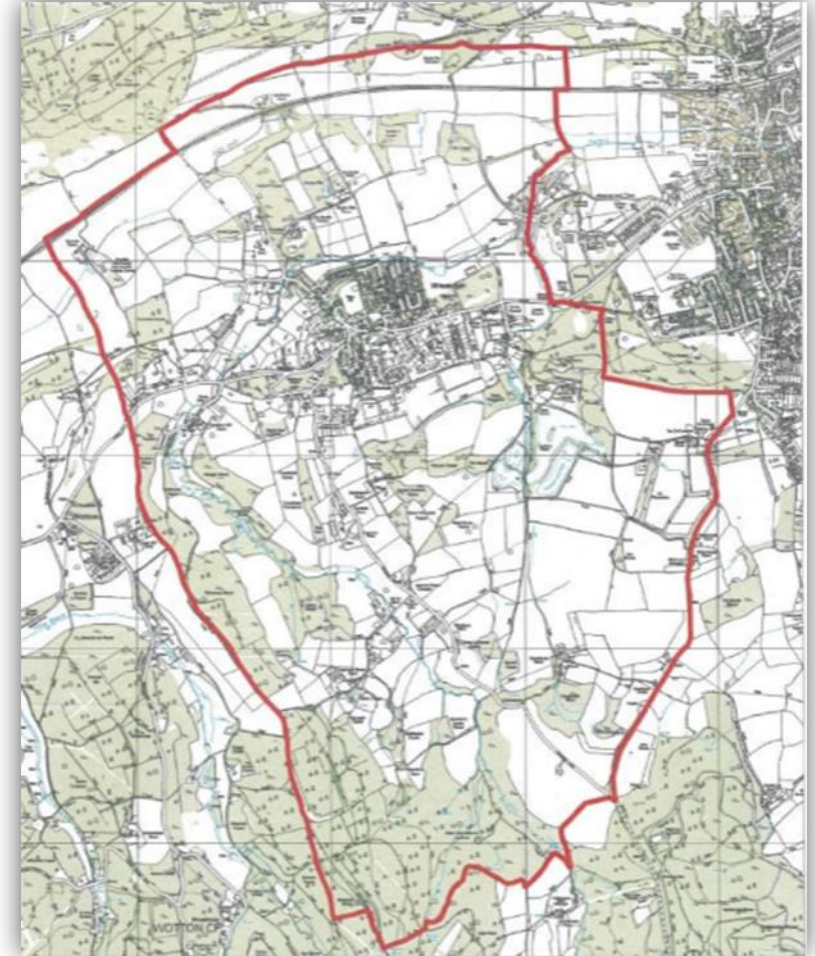
- We intend to bid for Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme for grant (up to £10k) and technical support packages (up to £8k).
- Submission deadline for grant support is on 31 March 2025. Our bid will include:-
 - all survey costs (housing needs survey and other potential surveys)
 - the communications plan
- Neighbourhood planning is not expensive as mostly driven by volunteer time (The Village Forum).
- MVDC will also provide financial and officer assistance with mapping, referendum mailing and the polling station.



Neighbourhood Boundary Application

[ACTION 4]

- As agreed at last meeting – existing boundary
- Not new Mickleham, Westcott and Okewood
- Submitted to MVDC in draft for comment
- Hope to have approval from MVDC by next Forum meeting
- Any questions or comments?



Draft constitution

[ACTION 5]

- Submitted in draft to MVDC for comment
- Hope to have approval from MVDC by next Forum meeting
- Any questions or comments?



Working groups established

[ACTION 6]

- Evidence Gathering – Chris Smewing, Olga Kurushina, Jakki Phillips and James Leaver
- Planning Policy – Ian Dunsford, Nancy Lund, Louise Scillitoe-Brown and Robin Potter
- Communication and Participation – Jo Astor (lead), Deborah Lewis, Gill Todd, Helen Mardell, Jan Cunningham, Janet Ormiston, Judith Packer, Mary Holford, Tim Way

More volunteers welcome to join groups.



Evidence gathering update

- Group composition
- What have we done so far?
 - First meeting in POW on 6th February
 - Next Meeting on 4th March
 - Met with Surrey Community Action – Housing Needs Survey
 - Met with Clarion Housing Group
 - Reviewing previous surveys
 - Considering what other evidence will be useful for the Policy team
- Recommendation to instruct Surrey Community Action housing needs survey work. A professional housing needs survey will provide a more robust evidence base.
- Canvas opinion on Residents' Association vs Parish Council?
- Forum approval



Policy update

- Group composition
- What have we done so far?
 - First meeting in POW on 21st January
 - Second meeting on 18th February
 - Reviewed existing Westcott Plan (7 Policies) against NPPF and Mole Valley Local Plan
- Recommended new Policy Themes
 - Climate Change
 - Biodiversity
 - Landscape
 - Historic Environment
- Recommendation – ‘Call for Sites’ – how and timing?
- Forum approval to proceed



Communication and participation update

- Introductory meeting in January
- School presentation to parents in February
- Engagement opportunities: WestFest (22 June), online, social media
- Branding
- Milestone plan incl. surveys (digital and paper)
- Next meeting: March



Chairperson and Secretary

[ACTION 2]

- Nominations
- Constitution considerations



Next steps

- Record decisions made by Forum
- Agree actions
- Date for next Forum meeting



Questions and Discussion

contact@westcottvillage.com



Further reading

- <https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/>
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