

Dear Bella,

Thanks for your note to Hannah dated 21st February.

Putting in place the Strete Neighbourhood Plan was a sustained piece of work which involved devising, drafting, consulting and the repeated revision and submission of drafts over 4 plus years. before it was finally approved and adopted in March 22. The bulk of the effort fell upon one Councillor who led a steering committee of volunteer residents and a professional consultant (who has since retired) to get the unrelenting detailed work done and agreed with the village residents and the statutory parties.

Was the effort worth it?

On balance I think the view of the PC would be 'Yes'

Although the NP did not secure controlled housing in a particular area in the village (which was one of the aims), the main benefit we have received from having the plan is an assurance from SHDC that Strete NP is robust and will ensure that there will always be controlled management and public consultation with any development application that may be received within the Strete settlement boundary.

Uncontrolled development in Strete was the primary threat that needed to be avoided. Now, the NP is the first port of call for SHDC Planning Dept when any proposal comes in and it lays down guidelines which are specifically tailored to the village and its aspiration to "... grow slowly and sustainably so that its high coastal character, sea views and natural beauty are conserved and enhanced while meeting local needs and improving local services...."

The PC certainly feels a greater sense of protection for residents from developers with the NP in place than we would do without it. The plan has also formalised the existence of three important Green Spaces in the village, which are also subject to a greater degree of protection than before.

As you may know, the Strete NP and much of the draft work leading up to it, together with the consultation process and the supporting evidence, is available in a separate section of the Strete Parish Council website, where all the material may be viewed and downloaded.

[Strete | Neighbourhood Plan | The Plan](#)

In view of this, we feel it will be of minimal use for us to meet face-to-face. We suggest instead that your Councillor's time would be better spent reviewing this archive so that they may get a feeling for what will be required in order to decide exactly what resources would be needed to replicate a similar exercise in Slapton, where those resources might be obtained and how they might be organised.

The decision to develop an NP will always be subjective, because the benefits are likely to be intangible until the NP is called into action on a real case. However, anything that puts a degree of control down to local level rather than relying upon the vagaries of the Plymouth & SW Devon Joint Local Plan has got to be good in our book. It is all about consultation, so early engagement with your residents to develop a vision for the future development of Slapton might be good and might help you to see the benefits more clearly.

I hope this is helpful to your deliberations.

Kind regards

Peter Hales

Chairman, Strete Parish Council.