

NP4Yaxham – Report to Parish Council – 16.02.2017

Newsletter Issue 6 has been delivered throughout the village which highlights the news that Yaxham is not to be a Local Service Centre in the emerging Local Plan.

This is entirely due to the substantial efforts of the NP4Yaxham Working Group, including the Parish Council Chairman, over the last year and highlights the real importance of parish council and village support.

However, this does not mean that large planning applications will not come in the future. It simply means that applicants are less likely to gain planning permission for the large scale developments we have seen recently.

It also means that there is now more likelihood of the village remaining as a small rural settlement which was a key issue throughout the village in all the consultations. Organic small scale development is likely to continue as it has over the last decade.

The Independent Examiner is coming to Yaxham next Tuesday for an informal hearing. He wishes for further information about the justification for the Strategic Gaps Policy STR1. He may then recommend amending the policy wording or a re-drawing of the actual gaps. He could also decide it is all perfectly reasonable – particularly as they are so well supported throughout the village.

This will be the first such Hearing in Breckland and none of us knows how it will pan out. However we have learnt a very good lesson which is that it is really crucial for parishioners to turn out for these meetings to lend their support. So if you are free on Tuesday morning – be here for a 10.00 a.m. start and listen to the proceedings.

We are really near to the end of the road now and at this point I can be honest and tell you that there have been times when we have really wondered whether all the countless hours of effort was worthwhile. However the one thing that has kept us going has been the considerable and growing support we have had from the village. You wrote over 80 emails to Breckland on the LSC consultation and residents continue to send in comments about the most recent planning applications and this should continue. Many residents have also emailed NP4Yaxham or, phoned or written to thank the Working Group for our efforts on behalf of the community and in difficult times, these have been very much appreciated.

So I take this opportunity, on behalf of our Working Group of 10 residents, to thank you for your support and also to thank those who help us by taking on the Newsletter deliveries. This has been a true community effort and hopefully it won't be too long now before Yaxham's Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to the first Referendum in Breckland.

Maggie Oechsle

Chairman NP4Yaxham