

Neighbourhood Plans and the Localism Act

THE 'LOCALISM BILL', was enacted by Parliament in November. The government is inviting 'neighbourhoods' – for us the parish of Pattishall which includes Astcote, Eastcote, Dalscote, Cornhill and part of Fosters Booth – to produce 'Neighbourhood Plans'. These will show residents' views on how their neighbourhood should be developed. The plan will undergo a formal 'examination' and become an official planning document. Where there is a parish council, that council is expected to draft a plan in consultation with residents. The draft plan will then have to have approval of a majority of all residents in a referendum. The parish council has decided to provide a plan in order to secure the future of our village.

The procedure is as follows:

- a) The parish council (PC) notifies South Northants Council (SNC) of its intention;
- b) The PC prepares a draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for residents to comment on;
- c) The PC takes account of views expressed and finalises the plan in consultation with SNC;
- d) SNC send the NP for an independent examination; and
- e) If accepted, SNC organises a referendum of our residents;
- f) If 50% or more of voters are in favour then the NP must be adopted by SNC as a formal Planning Document.

The PC intend to draft our NP themselves and, as SNC bear their own costs, the cost to residents – from the precept should be reasonable for a very worthwhile investment. The timetable is not clear at present but we will keep you informed. As for the Parish Plan of a few years ago, we may need additional help from a

team of residents.

Having had advice from SNC planning department we envisage that Astcote, Eastcote, Pattishall and Dalscote be looked at as separate entities even though we are all one parish. We will use the existing Parish Plan and look at the possible needs and requirements of development over the next 10/15 years, including the possibility of some more housing development to provide for future needs.

We will publish our proposals for consultation in due course. In the meantime if anyone would like to assist in this process please come forward and help with the future of the parish.

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