* 1. **THE EYEOPENER**

**HURN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**September 2024**

**IMPORTANT UPDATE**

**HURN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**Notice of Autumn Referendum**

The Hurn Parish Neighbourhood Plan has finally, after much delay, gone through Examination by a Government Inspector.

The process of putting together the draft Plan has taken 4 years and a lot of effort from The Parish Council and those residents who were part of the Steering Group, involving a lot of time and dedicated research. Having a Statutory Development Plan specifically for Hurn will undoubtedly pay dividends in the future, as any decisions made by BCP Council on planning applications within the Parish will need to have regard to the policies within our Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council was unanimous in supporting the Neighbourhood Plan and we want to give you notice that in the next few months there will be a referendum for Parish residents, where a simple majority vote to accept the Plan will give the Parish more control over planning decision making, which is not available at present.

**We will let you know the exact date of the Referendum.**

A copy of the Hurn Parish Neighbourhood Plan Final Draft including the Examiner’s modifications, (but still to be agreed by BCP Council), can be viewed on our website at [www.hurnparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hurnparishcouncil.org.uk) The Plan has 7 Policies and 5 Projects. A brief summary of each of the main Policies within the modified Plan are noted overleaf. The main change was that our proposed Local Gap was reduced in size by the Inspector. For any queries, please contact the Parish Chairman hurnparish@fillybrookfarm.co.uk

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF PLAN POLICIES**

**Policy 1. Conserving and Enhancing Hurn’s Historic Character**

This policy seeks to ensure the conservation of the area’s heritage assets, together with recognition of the setting of the Hurn Conservation Area. It seeks to conserve and enhance the character of the area which includes historic buildings, narrow lanes, open spaces, green fields and the Moors River Valley.

**Policy 2. Local Landscape Character**

This policy is to conserve and enhance the character of the local landscape, and in particular avoid significant harm to key characteristics, such as, lanes, tracks, mature hedgerows, woodland, riverside, rural open fields, parkland within Hurn Court and remote areas away from main transport corridors.

**Policy 3. Important Local Gap**

This policy identifies an important local landscape gap, being the fields between Hurn Village and the Airport. (The Inspector reduced the size of our original proposed gap).

**Policy 4. Access to the Countryside**

This policy relates to access to, and enjoyment of the countryside through the provision of footpaths and bridleways which must be compatible with the rural character of the area and conservation interests. It also aims to minimise adverse impacts on the safe use of the rural lanes and trails by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

**Policy 5. Woodland, Heathland and Farmland**

The policy states that any development proposals should protect and, where appropriate, enhance the biodiversity of the varied habitats within the parish, including the water meadows and floodplains of the River Stour, River Avon and Moors River with their willows, oaks and birch trees, the distinct heathland landscapes and the pine forests.

**Policy 6. Supporting Community Facilities and Local Services**

This policy specifically supports the community facilities of the Village Store/Post Office; Hurn Bridge Sports/Social Club; and the Moors Close Play Areas.

**Policy 7. Creating safer roads and pedestrian / cycle routes**

Measures to improve road safety, including specific crossing points identified on Map 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan, will be supported where they are designed in a manner appropriate to the rural character of the area

**HURN PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS**

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