

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Update for Parish Council Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

#### **Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)**

- Final version of the consultant's report currently being reviewed

#### **Design Code**

- Final version of the consultant's report currently being reviewed

#### **Future Housing Targets**

Further to the discussion at the February meeting regarding BDC's recommendation that we extend the NP to 2038 the Steering Committee has now considered this further and also discussed this proposal with our NP advisor at RCCE (Jan Stobart).

It was concluded that it will be better to stay at 2033 as we can then clearly align with BDC in stating that no further large developments (10+ houses) are required in Earls Colne to meet the requirements of the emerging BDC Local Plan.

More importantly if we were to extend the NP to 2038 it is likely that we will be required by the NP Inspectorate to provide allocated sites to meet the estimated housing target suggested by BDC for the period 2034 to 2038 (an average of 21 units per year). This would require a call for sites, assessment of all suggestions received and feasibility studies of the most favourable sites all of which would severely delay publication of our NP.

However we can still add an annex to the NP outlining our longer term visions such as investigating a Community Led Development and how we might meet future housing targets beyond 2033 but these can be in the form of suggested "further studies" and would not need to be detailed proposals within the NP.

These "studies" could then still be progressed as specific projects in parallel with the NP rather than as a firm commitment within it.

#### **Decision Required**

Agreement to proceed as outlined above.

Tony Calton  
13.03.22