

ASH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

At the Council Meeting of February 2024, it was resolved that Ash Parish Council would create a Neighbourhood Plan to cover the whole Ash Parish area. We are working with contractor Oneill Homer (ONH), decided upon as they have supported the delivery of over 200 Neighbourhood Plan projects, including areas covered by the Guildford Local Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a local planning document that covers a specific local area. Once passed a Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of planning policy in the local area and works in tandem with the broader Local Plan to influence and shape development in a way that aligns with the community's priorities and needs. The Neighbourhood Plan works on a closer, local level, identifying areas and needs that would be outside of the strategic policies of the Local Plan.

Since first meeting in June 2024, the Ash Neighbourhood Plan committee has so far agreed a number of policy areas we intend to cover. These areas were determined by agreement of the committee, working with ONH and in tandem with information received during an early informal engagement period that took place during September 2024 that took the form of in-person drop-in sessions and an online survey.

The Policy Areas we have agreed upon include a Spatial Strategy, Design Principles for Ash, Ash Vale and Ash Green, District and Local Centres and Dispersed local shops, Employment Locations, Development Opportunities (Brownfield), Housing Mix, Type and Tenure, Existing and New Local Community Assets, Green and Blue Infrastructure, Local Green Spaces, Thames Basin Heath SPA and Active Travel. We as a committee have also undergone various mapping exercises and visual surveys of the Ash Parish area, alongside ONH and AECOM, to facilitate the information gathering in these areas.

We are set to undergo our next informal engagement period, to commence March 31st, 2025, and lasting for a period of two weeks. More information about how to get involved more will be announced before it gets underway, and announcements will be made on the Ash Parish Council website, social media pages and information boards in the Parish.

Councillor Michael Moriarty

Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee