

The first Open Day on the Highclere Neighbourhood Plan was attended by more than 100 people last Saturday Feb 15th at Highclere Village Hall, despite the awful weather.

Planning policy has a significant impact on every community, and this event was aimed at learning how the Highclere community wants to shape the next fifteen years. There were maps and aerial photos of the Parish for useful reference, stands displaying possible themes for policies to be included in the Plan, and a rolling slide show of all displays. A copy of those slides is on the Parish Council website.

Attendees were invited to share their opinions on over twenty topics covering the planning aspects of housing, environment, community, business and sustainability. The hundreds of individual comments recorded will be analysed to guide the direction of the Plan's policies.

Colin Wall, Chairman of the Steering Group said:

"The day was a great success and we have started to record and analyse all the opinions expressed, though this may take a little while! Those opinions, along with the results of further planned engagements will help to set the direction in which the Neighbourhood Plan develops in the coming months."

"A Neighbourhood Plan is a powerful tool for communities to influence local planning outcomes over the long-term. Our Draft Vision for Highclere will be further developed to reflect the wide spectrum of local views which we have gathered today."