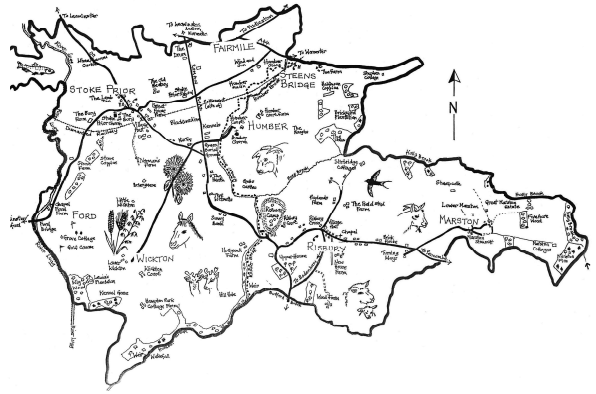


Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

A Neighbourhood Development Plan



Our chance to set planning policies for our own community

- What do you want our community to look like in 5 or 15 years' time?
- Risbury and Stoke Prior will have to grow by about 15% by 2031: where should these new developments be built?
- What should new development look like?
- What other planning policies should be in place for our parishes' villages and countryside?

Neighbourhood Planning is a new opportunity for us. Until now all planning policy was set by central government or Herefordshire Council. Parish councils are consulted on planning applications but have had no power to shape or set local planning policy. All this has changed under the government's Localism Act and the new planning framework.

Our community now has the opportunity to set planning policies for our parishes by devising its own *Neighbourhood Development Plan*. Without this plan, policies and decisions on development will continue to be out of our hands for years to come, and there will be fewer restrictions on development in our community.

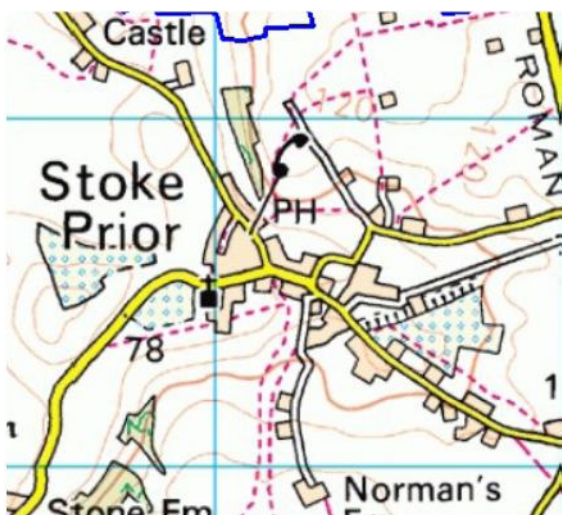
The Parish Council needs your backing to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Development Plan, so please return the response slip inside this leaflet.

We also need people to join a Steering Group and help in other ways.

We need EVERYONE to reply: return your response slip by 20 September.

The new planning framework for Herefordshire

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a short document replacing thousands of pages of detailed rules. It removes many of the old planning restrictions and encourages development. So what is there to control such development? Each area will have a 'Local Plan' which specifies its planning policies. For us, the key document is the **Core Strategy** which was approved by Herefordshire Council in July. Although the Core Strategy still has to go through independent examination, it is effectively already our new county planning policy. However, it only sets broad policies. Also, all previous 'settlement boundaries' for villages have disappeared, so there are now fewer restrictions on where building can take place.



How does the new Local Plan affect our parishes?

Under the Local Plan's Core Strategy, both Stoke Prior and Risbury are identified as villages which should grow by approximately 15% between now and 2031. This is a change from the old county plan: Stoke Prior was one of the villages in which only 'in-filling' of gaps within the village were permitted, and Risbury was defined

as open countryside in which new development was strictly controlled (sometimes too strictly, not allowing essential housing for local people).

This, plus the absence of any definition of the village boundaries, leaves few restrictions on development in, around or outside any of our villages or hamlets. The Core Strategy says that our group parish will have about 30 new houses over the next 18 years, but there is nothing to say exactly where or how this will be phased, or what such new housing will look like.

Similarly for other policies, such as transport, business growth, green energy and community facilities, the Core Strategy sets broad policies – but says little or nothing about what is needed in our own community.

“There are now fewer restrictions on where building can take place.”

A Neighbourhood Development Plan might include issues and policies such as:

- Sites for new homes, including affordable homes
- Design guidance for what new buildings should look like
- Provision for businesses, services and shops to set up or expand
- Expansion or improvement to the school and village halls
- Infrastructure and services, such as utilities and drainage
- Community sites, such as play areas, sports fields
- Protection of local buildings and services such as the pub
- Promotion of renewable energy schemes and projects
- Restricting some types of development

Our Neighbourhood Development Plan: planning policies we set

The Localism Act gives local communities the opportunity to set their own planning policies, which become part of the Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Development Plan could define exactly how the broad provisions of the Herefordshire Core Strategy apply to our parishes, including where the new homes should go. Its policies would be those which planning officers and planning committees would have to follow in making decisions.

Hundreds of towns and villages in England are working on or have completed their Neighbourhood Plan. In Herefordshire 48 parish and town councils have already said they are going to produce one.

Producing our Neighbourhood Development Plan

A Neighbourhood Development Plan must be led by the Parish Council and involve the whole

community. People other than councillors should be actively involved in leading the work, with every resident of whatever age contributing their views. The Parish Council has already taken the first enabling step towards having a Plan for our parishes by successfully applying for designation as a Neighbourhood Area; the next step would be to set up a Steering Group to start working on the project. This group would manage the project, organise consultations with residents, and eventually draft the plan. It is likely to take up to two years to create a plan and have it approved: after the community has devised its plan it would be submitted to an independent inspector; if the



inspector thinks it is workable then it would go to a referendum of the people of Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior – if more than 50% of those who vote are in favour, then the plan would be adopted as part of Herefordshire's Local Plan.

It will take a lot of work to produce a plan, but we can call on free professional support from the Neighbourhood Planning team at Herefordshire Council and can also apply for government funding to help meet other costs.

You can find out more about Neighbourhood Plans at www.planningportal.gov.uk/inyourarea/neighbourhood

For information about the Herefordshire Local Plan go to: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/local-plan or phone 01432 260500

For more information about a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior, contact the Clerk to the Council, Philip Brown on 01885 400696 or email philip@greatmarston.plus.com

We need your support and your help to go ahead with a Plan

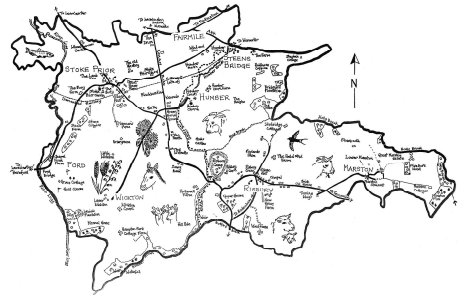
With a Neighbourhood Development Plan we, the residents, will determine and write the planning policy for our parishes.

Without a Neighbourhood Development Plan all planning policy and decisions will be out of our control, and our community may be vulnerable to unwanted development.

To go ahead with a Plan, the Parish Council needs a strong mandate from you, the residents. We also need volunteers to join a Steering Group and help in other ways.

Please reply by returning the enclosed response slip or emailing the Parish Council to say if you want the Council to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan.

**Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council
Great Marston Farmhouse, Risbury, Herefordshire HR6 0NJ**



A Neighbourhood Development Plan

Please return this response sheet to:

- the person who delivered this leaflet; *or*
- one of your local parish councillors (see noticeboards around the parish); *or*
- the drop-box at Stoke Prior Post Office or Risbury Village Hall; *or*
- the Clerk to the Council: Philip Brown, Great Marston Farmhouse, Risbury, HR6 0NJ

or send an email to the Council at: philip@greatmarston.plus.com

**Do you want the Parish Council to start work on a Neighbourhood
Development Plan for our group parish?**

YES

NO

Comments:

I would like to help with producing a Neighbourhood Plan by:

Serving on the Steering Group

Preferred role, if any?

Other volunteer work:

Delivering leaflets

Helping at consultation events

Collecting questionnaires

Other

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email