

## TEN SIMPLE STEPS TOWARDS TAKING CHARGE OF OUR OWN DESTINY



### 1. Parish Council appoints Steering Group

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group and its sub-groups have been appointed. We refer to those various groups as “the NDP team”.

### 2. Parish Council applies to District Council to designate a specific ‘neighbourhood area’

Our proposed ‘neighbourhood area’, of the entire Pitstone Parish, has been approved by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

### 3. Build the ‘evidence base’ to support the NDP that is eventually produced

This is what the NDP team has been working on since Christmas: investigating every aspect of our community, and assessing how the village might develop over the next 15 years.

### 4. Community engagement

The NDP team has talked extensively to local landowners, local businesses, local schools, neighbouring villages and their NDP teams, and to various local community organisations, sports clubs, interest groups and so forth. We have met on various occasions with those at Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council who have responsibility for matters concerning Pitstone. And we have now talked to the community via our two highly-successful Community Engagement Days, which took place on 22 and 28 March and were attended by in excess of 200 local residents. Thanks to all who came along!

### 5. Prepare draft Neighbourhood Development Plan

Work has already started on the next, highly important stage of the project. Feedback received from members of the community is currently being analysed so that it can be factored-in to our ‘evidence base’. We will shortly be taking active steps, in conjunction with our planning consultants, to start drawing up the first draft of the document that will eventually constitute our formal Plan. This is an exciting step as the document will pull together the results of many months of hard work by a dedicated team of volunteers, and very soon we will start to see a vision emerging for Pitstone over the coming 15 years.

### 6. Pre-submission consultation

Formal consultation, lasting 6 weeks, with the community (and various other bodies) about the draft NDP.

### 7. Revise and finalise NDP

Responses received during the consultation phase are taken into account in a revised, finalised NDP.

### 8. Submit NDP to District Council

The proposed NDP is then submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council. They publicise it for a six-week period after which it is sent for formal ‘examination’. All being well, AVDC will then recommend that the proposed NDP proceeds to a referendum.

### 9. Referendum!

A referendum takes place in the community to which the proposed NDP relates (here, Pitstone). If at least 50% of those voting are in favour, the District Council is required to bring the NDP into effect.

### 10. “We have our NDP!!”

Our plan will at this point have legal effect and will be the basis upon which planning applications for any form of development in Pitstone are considered by Aylesbury Vale District Council. (When a new Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VAP) is also in place – expected to be Spring 2016 – the VAP, and our NDP, will have equal weight when planning applications are considered by AVDC.)