

Rural Settlement Group Report

There has been much debate of late concerning the **Local Development Framework** and the options for housing targets in the future.

Councillor Jenny Fairfax and John Kelly attended the recent 'call in ' meeting held on Tuesday 28th September 2010. After much debate, 3 recommendations were made which did not dramatically change anything.

Councillor Peter Spearink will bear witness that these recommendations were finally voted through by Full Cabinet in 6 minutes. Everyone should be clear that these options are purely figures for MBC to model against. We are some time off from reaching a final figure. Staplehurst Parish Council (SPC) and the Rural Settlement Group are to keep a watching brief.

The **Rural Settlement Group** hope to meet sometime during the week starting Monday 18th October 2010. It is now time for this Group to work up a provisional 'wish list' for any future Section 106 monies or Government Levy. The Group can use research within the HealthCheck and that resulting from the Rural Workshops as a starting point. It is imperative that SPC have a 'wish list' ready for 2011.

Everyone is waiting for the outcome of the Spending Review on the 20th October 2010.

The **Staplehurst Housing Survey** was successfully delivered on to all households. As of Friday 1st October 2010 some 350 surveys had been returned which is a very good response. Councillors are reminded to keep marketing the Survey and note that the cut off date is 13th October 2010.

A full report on the current situation will be completed in due course.

Councillor John Kelly

4th October 2010