

Rural Settlement Group – Report to Staplehurst Parish Council 04.01.11

The Rural Settlement Group (RSG) last met at 2000 hrs on Tuesday 14th December 2010.

Detailed discussion took place around the following items:-

- Staplehurst Housing Survey - Section 1 and 2 - draft
- Staplehurst Development Contributions Document - draft
- Maidstone Borough Council - Core Strategy and the LDF – latest situation

Staplehurst Housing Survey

Questions and issues raised by the group were discussed and logged.

These will be forwarded to Tessa O'Sullivan of the Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

Tessa has agreed to attend the next meeting on Wednesday 12th January 2011, in order to answer any outstanding issues/questions.

Councillor John Kelly continues analysis work on comments made in response to Q.4 of Section 1 regarding Infrastructure.

It is intended to present this Survey to the Parish Council on Monday 7th February 2011.

Staplehurst Development Contributions Document

The first draft was discussed in some detail and consensus reached on a number of areas. However there is still work to be done on some areas before presenting to Parish Council.

This document would eventually form part of the Staplehurst Development Plan.

Agreed – Councillor John Kelly to continue working on the document.

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) – Core Strategy and LDF

Councillor Arger and Kelly were due to attend the MBC Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 22nd December 2010 when it was hoped we would hear the preferred option on housing targets and spatial distribution.

However this matter was deferred to the 12th January 2011, in an apparent attempt to reach consensus across the council on the preferred option.

We have yet to hear any further detail on MBC carrying out specific consultation with Staplehurst in late January/February 2011. The above deferral can only add to the delay.

Future Meetings

It was agreed that we would continue to meet monthly on a Wednesday, unless otherwise stated.

Councillor John Kelly to map out dates for 2011.

Meeting concluded at 2220 hrs.

Next meeting – 1930 hrs on Wednesday 12th January 2011.