

Dear Everyone

Neighbourhood Plan notes for December

1 Progress with the Consultation draft of the plan

Thanks to everyone who commented. The comments have been noted and we are in the process of making quite a lot of revisions to the Plan. Details will be on the website soon. The next stage is to produce a version of the Plan for consideration by South Somerset Policy Officers to ensure it dovetails with the South Somerset Plan and the National one. It will be vetted by an external adviser. We hope this will happen early next year.

2 Barratt Homes planning application

Barratt had their statutory village consultation meeting last month. They want to put about 120 houses on the two fields between Coat Road and Hills Lane where they already have lapsed permission for 96. They have not yet formally submitted the application. When they do the Parish Council Planning Committee will, I'm sure, consult the village at an open meeting, probably in the school.

It is possible to get an automatic notice when any planning application is made by going to the [south somerset planning webpage here](#). At the bottom you will see a link to sign up for the weekly list of applications. Click on the link and follow the instructions. They email a list automatically each Sunday.

3 Request for flood photographs in the fields near Hills Lane and Coat Road

A request from Gordon Swindells, our flooding coordinator. If you have any photographs of floods near the proposed new Barrett Estate in the Coat Road/Hills lane area, please can you send us them. They are important evidence to persuade planners and drainage boards to take us seriously. Send to me and I'll forward them.

4 Farmers' Market

There will not be a Neighbourhood Plan stall at this week's farmers market as there is nothing new to report this month.

5 And finally, something to do when you're walking off Christmas

We are still very interested in all kinds of biodiversity data - in particular where are the best habitats around the village. We will be producing a Martock Environment Manual as an annex to the Plan. Here are some helpful links.

- The MartockOnline [footpath map page is here](#).
- How to report habitats to us using maps and/or a camera [is here](#).
- And [here you can download](#) something to help your children recognise footprints in the Christmas mud. (Strangely they have missed out the water vole. Its got a star shaped front footprint like a wood mouse but a bit bigger. In stream mud. We'd be very interested - particularly if you find one near the Barratts site)

Have a really good Christmas.

Andrew