

February update



Thank you for all your comments on our Regulation 14 draft. Although each of the policies and actions received almost universal approval, we are carefully looking through your comments to see how the draft can be improved. We also received lots of very detailed comments from consultees outside the parish (such as Essex Police, Essex Fire Service, Natural England etc) that we need to respond to.

Subject to funding, we hope to press ahead with a full Landscape study to provide robust evidence for our policies to protect the amazing countryside in which we live. Please could you photographers out there, send us your pictures! We have also started discussions with the Home Office regarding an Airbase Master Plan for the future and have commissioned a consultant to see if the Airbase should be designated as a Conservation Area.

We are working with Finchingfield and Wethersfield Parish councils to put in place the 14-point Action Plan in our Neighbourhood Plan and have also been talking to neighbouring parishes, Toppesfield and Shalford, as they work on their own Neighbourhood Plans. It is great to see that we all share the same ideas about what we really value.

The next stage is Regulation 15 - finish our changes to our policy document, submit it to both Parish Councils for approval and then send it to Braintree District Council. Given the uncertainties about the future of district government boundaries, it is very important that we finish our Neighbourhood Plan. We had hoped to complete this by early spring but as there is quite a lot (well actually lots and lots) of work still to do, it now seems May or June is more likely.

We will try to keep you informed as we go and you can also pop along to your monthly parish council meetings for an update. If you have any questions, please email us at fwnpteam@gmail.com, contact us via Facebook or check out our website <https://www.fw-np.org/>.