SUMMARY

Our vision for Woodford cum Membris in 2029 is of a safe, friendly and welcoming village with a mixed community of young and old, families and singles, local workers and commuters with as many resources for local people as possible within the village. It has a heritage of agriculture, village life and its railway history which we value and seek to maintain.

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1. Introduction

This chapter explains how the neighbourhood plan was conceived, the area covered and some basic facts such as its location, population and number of homes.

It goes on to say what the village has in the way of shops, businesses, schools, churches, medical facilities etc. There follows a brief history of the village, how it sits geographically and that it is surrounded by agriculture. Two maps are provided to help locate features referred to in the plan.

2. Why is the plan important?

This Section explains that the neighbourhood plan has had to go through several inspection processes. It has been written by people who live in the parish and has to go through two informal consultation processes within the village. An official Inspector then has to pass the plan to ensure that it satisfies State legislation. Finally, there has to be a referendum before the final plan can be accepted. The consultation process means that the plan genuinely reflects what the villagers want and the referendum ensures that everyone has their say.

This Neighbourhood Plan, once agreed, is a legally recognised document which will be used to ensure that the needs, views and priorities of the local community are fully considered when assessing future planning applications and proposed development within the area.

3. This chapter explains the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

At the examination the examiner will assess whether the plan meets the basic conditions of the Localism
Act, something all neighbourhood plans must do, if they are to be formally made part of the development plan.

The basic conditions are:

1. Is the Woodford cum Membris NDP in line with national planning policy and guidance and does it promote sustainable development?
2. Is the Woodford cum Membris NDP in general conformity with the strategic planning policies for the area?
3. Is the plan compatible with European Union obligations?

If the examiner decides the answer to these questions is “yes” the Woodford cum Membris NDP will be subject to a local referendum. The referendum will give all eligible voters in the parish the opportunity to vote and decide if the Woodford cm Membris NDP should, in future, be used to help determine planning applications. The final decision, therefore, rests with the people of Woodford cum Membris and will be a straight forward majority of those voting in the referendum.

4 Community Consultation

This Chapter details the consultation process from initial mail shot to every single house in the village which received 370 responses and identified the 3 main issues to be Roads traffic and car parking, Health facilities, Shopping and Retail, to the request for involvement of the Parishioners in the Jan 2016 issue of the WOW, and then on to the second informal consultation, called the 6 week consultation which will run from 3rd October to 11th November. Official response forms will be available on line or from the Parish Clerk.

5. Key Issues.

The Strategy Team used all of your data and comments to create the first draft. In short, the Woodford cum Membris NDP will seek to:-

A. Develop a shared vision for the parish that will deliver the sustainable development we need by meeting the Government’s core planning principles
B. Support a prosperous rural economy
C. Deliver a wide choice of high quality homes
D. Require good design
E. Promote a healthy community
F. Conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment.

6. Our Vision Statement for 2031 is:

“Our vision for Woodford cum Membris in 2029 is of a safe, friendly and welcoming village with a mixed community of young and old, families and singles, local workers and commuters with as many resources for local people as possible within the village. It has a heritage of agriculture, village life and its railway history which we value and seek to maintain.”

In order for us to achieve this Vision and to address the key issues we have identified in chapter 5 of this
plan, we have established the following key objectives for the Woodford cum Membris NDP:

**OBJECTIVE 1** – To preserve and enhance local natural and built heritage assets
**OBJECTIVE 2** – To manage future housing growth in Woodford Halse village and the wider parish
**OBJECTIVE 3** – To promote good quality development
**OBJECTIVE 4** – To protect and enhance local community assets and facilities and ensure there is an appropriate level of infrastructure in place
**OBJECTIVE 5** – To promote safe roads and streets for all users

7. Neighbourhood Development Plan policies.

This section details how we are going to achieve these Objectives and focuses on the things that we wish to preserve and enhance whether they be man-made or natural. It describes how any newly proposed developments, should fit within the pre-ordained and agreed parameters stated in the plan. It describes our aspirations to have a pleasant environment with safe roads and an appropriate level of infrastructure and employment.

Finally, we must stress that this is your plan, but it can only work if you get involved and have your say. Please take the opportunity to make suggestions as to how the plan can better represent your views. You have until November 11th.

*Robert Snedker,*
*Chairman of the Woodford cum Membris Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategy Team.*