

## **Report to Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council Meeting 28 April 2021 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

**Examination.** Janet Cheesley, the appointed Examiner had completed her draft report on 6<sup>th</sup> April and issued it to the District Council and Parish council for fact checking before making the document public. However, CDC have been informed by Natural England that a further Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) is now required for the NP. This is because of concerns over the accumulative impact on fresh water supplies in the North Sussex area from extraction at Hardham Pulborough and the potential adverse impact on the sensitive Arun Valley SPA, SAC and Ramsar.

Therefore CDC must undertake a second HRA on our NP. They have advised this should be completed by the end of this week. CDC have informed the Examiner of the situation and she has withdrawn her draft report until such time as the new HRA is available and she can assess the implications, if any on the NP. The Examiner will then re-issue a draft report.

Therefore unfortunately we have yet further delay in proceeding.

### **Steering Group Meeting**

No SG meetings are currently planned. With the resignation of Paul Reynolds numbers on the SG are depleted and both new Parish Councillors have been invited to join the NP Steering Group. The Chair is to meet with Cllr. Griffith to outline what is involved with a view to him joining the group.

### **VDS**

CDC have advised that due to work load they will not be able to move to adopt the VDS until later this year or next year. CDC Conservation Officer will review his work load in August and advise on a timetable then. The Officer has indicated it is a high quality document and does not anticipate issues with the consultation process. Valarie Dobson is aware and should inform the Examiner, references to the VDS in the NP will need to remain as given 'emerging VDS'.

**Sara Burrell**

**Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**