

Press statement Jan 2019-01-14

Dear subscriber,

We have hopes that this year will finally see the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is fair to say that those of us who have been there since the beginning will be relieved!

We feel quietly confident that the timetable should look as follows;

The final independent report – the Strategic Environmental assessment should be received and integrated into the draft report by mid March . We aim to have the six week public consultation on the draft from Thursday 21st March until Friday 3rd May. We then have to rely on Amber Valley BC for the next part of the process culminating in the document being submitted to an independent examiner for report by October. The final document should be ready for final submission to AVBC and a referendum held in November 2019.

Meanwhile other planning activity in the parish seems to have begun. There have been public consultations about plans for the North and East Mills and a planning application has been submitted. A proposal by McCarthy and Stone for a retirement development on part of the North Derwent Street site was submitted to AVBC in January 2019, both hopefully for consideration at the February Planning Board. It is pleasing to see building progressing on South Derwent Street for the redevelopment of Ada Belfield and the Library.

Challenges continue to previous decisions regarding Bullsmoor and Belper Lane, with them now being considered by the Secretary of State. We hope to hear some final determination in the next few weeks.

The Green Belt review has also resurrected the refused application for the Crich Lane site. There was a widely attended public meeting on 15th January to discuss this and coordinate a challenge. The appeal is being heard on February 6th at Ripley Town Hall.

All of these developments have invited comments from the NP Working Group and the Town Council. The evidence collected for the NP and the draft policies have all helped us to support developments that work with the NP outline and challenge those that don't. This will be strengthened when we finally have an NP which has been supported by a referendum.