



WARE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

News Release

28 January 2021

Ware Neighbourhood Plan takes another big step forward

Alison Eardley and Chris Bowden appointed as consultants

The steering group set up to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan for Ware has appointed two leading planning policy advisers to help keep the drafting process on track.

Working in tandem with Chris Bowden at Navigus Planning, Alison Eardley will help bring a new focus to the group's existing policy documents and ensure that the town's draft Plan is compliant with guidelines laid down in the Locality Act.

Ware's Plan cannot be submitted to the local planning authorities unless it has won approval at a local referendum and has been vetted by independent examiners.

Eardley and Bowden will help the steering group negotiate those hurdles.

The Covid-19 crisis has made it increasingly difficult to stick to a schedule originally outlined in late 2019, but the group still hopes to have a Plan ready for adoption in the first half of 2022.

Eardley has worked on several Neighbourhood Plans since setting up her consultancy in 2010.

Steering group chair Jan Stock said:

"We're really pleased we can now call on the expertise of Alison and Chris. They'll help us finesse our draft policies as we look forward to a second round of public consultation this spring."

ENDS

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Notes

1. The steering group (its full name is Ware Neighbourhood Plan Forum) was set up in 2019 and conducted its first public consultation in March 2020.

<https://www.wareneighbourhoodplan.com/>

2. Alison Eardley <https://www.yourfriendlyplanner.co.uk/> is an Associate Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

3. Chris Bowden is the Founding Director of Navigus Planning.

<https://navigusplanning.co.uk/> He has twenty years' experience in this sector, having previously worked for three of the leading planning consultancies in the UK

4. For further information on Neighbourhood Planning in general, see the guide published by Locality [here](#). Also [this GOV.UK hub](#) offers a more in-depth summary of the legislative framework.

Associated attachments

1. **JanStock_credit_stevebeeston.jpg** - high res pic of Jan Stock, chair, Ware Neighbourhood Plan Forum. Please credit Steve Beeston.