Lytchett Matravers Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Monthly Report – June 2026

Working Group Objective:
To prepare a new Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan (LMNP) with a target to have the plan ratified and adopted by the end of 2027.

Working Group Participants:
Rob Aspray, Jackie Baker, Alf Bush, David Ireson, Ken Morgan, Ralph Watts (Chair), Peter Webb

Background:
The Lytchett Matravers NP (LMNP1) was adopted in 2017. A review of the effectiveness of NP1 in Dorset Council Planning Decisions in 2018 (the first full year after adoption) identified a number of areas for improvement. In addition, there have been a number of significant changes since 2017 in local government in Dorset and in the National Planning Framework.

The Purbeck Local Plan was adopted by Dorset Council in 2024, identifying3 allocated sites in Lytchett Matravers, which will deliver a total of 150 new homes. The emerging Dorset Local Plan is expected to deliver a further 500 to 600 new homes in addition.

Dependencies:
- Planning Policies in the emerging Dorset Local Plan – Draft due to be published in August 2026
- New Design Code for Dorset, expected to be adopted at the same time as the Local Plan
- New CIL Schedule for Dorset, expected to be adopted at the same time as the Local Plan

Conflicts of Interest:
- Two participants live adjacent to Housing Opportunity Sites in the Local Plan
- One participant is a Trustee of the Village Hall

Status/Next Steps:
1. Jo Witherden continues to provide advice, subject to funding by LMPC.
2. A Set of Objectives has been developed for the Neighbourhood Plan from which policies will be derived.
3. Work is underway to develop policies in a range of topics areas(Heritage, Employment, Climate Change, Nature Recovery, Design Code, Travel, Village Centre, and Sports & Recreation), with an evidence base supporting each policy. The target is to have as many draft policies with supporting evidence prepared by mid July, added into the 4th draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, to provide a 5th draft that can be reviewed by Jo to provide feedback on changes to improve its effectiveness in planning decisions, and areas of weakness that might be challenged through examination.
4. Achievement of the timeline set out in the new NP Project Plan is seen as a challenge.
5. Discussions are underway with the Dorset Council with the aim of securing Section 106 contributions towards Village Centre developments
6. A series of meetings with "Delivery Partners" (including the Village Hall Trust, the Youth & Community Hall Trust, the Football Club, Scouts, and the ACF) to develop a clear understanding of their future facility requirements and agreement on delivery of relevant parts of the Village Centre Development Plan.
7. Continue to engage with local developers, with an aim to influence designs for Housing Opportunity Sites.

Financial Forecast: **(£000's, excluding VAT)**		**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**
Expense to date		5		
Forecast	Local NP Consultant Sundries		10	10
Total		5	10	10