Lytchett Matravers Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Monthly Report – July 2027

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, Alf Bush, David Ireson, Ken Morgan, Ralph Watts (Chair), Peter Webb

Background:
The Lytchett Matravers NP (LMNP1) was adopted in 2017. The Working Group has determined that a major revision of the NP is needed.

The Purbeck Local Plan was adopted by Dorset Council in 2024, identifying3 allocated sites in Lytchett Matravers, delivering a total of 150 new homes. The emerging Dorset Local Plan is expected to deliver a further 500 to 600 new homes by 2042, increasing the population from ~3,700 now to ~ 5,200.

Dependencies:
- New NPPF – expected September/October 2026
- Planning Policies in the emerging Dorset Local Plan – Draft delayed until Q1 2028
- New Design Code for Dorset, draft expected by end of 2026
- New CIL Schedule for Dorset, draft delayed until Q1 2028

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. The 5th Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan includes ~90% of the Introductory Sections and 80% of the Policy Areas.
3. The 6th Issue of the Project Plan forecasts submission of the draft NP to the Dorset Council for a Regulation 14 Referendum in the second half of 2027.
4. Drafts of the remaining Policy Areas are expected by the end of September, with the exception of the Design Code, where the work programme has been delayed by changes to the timetable for the Dorset Design Code.
5. Achievement of the timeline set out in the 6th Issue of the NP Project Plan will be challenging given the forthcoming new NPPF, and changes to the Dorset Local Plan and Design Code timetables.
6. Discussions are underway with the Dorset Council with the aim of securing Section 106 contributions towards the Neighbourhood Centre Development Plan.
7. A meeting with the Football Foundation and the Dorset FA has indicated that the potential for grant funding for the proposed new Sports Complex is slim. The Sports Field Working Group are considering alternative proposals.
8. Given the changes to the Local Plan timetable engagement with local developers will be put on hold.

Financial Forecast: **(£000's, excluding VAT)**		**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**
Expense to date		5	1	
Forecast	Local NP Consultant Sundries		10	10
Total		5	10	10