**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 30.10.17**

**REPORT: AGENDA ITEM 12**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Agenda item 12 asks you to consider the future of the NDP.

As your Clerk and RFO I need to report on and seek approval for all expenditure.

As you know, UPC has been working on producing a Neighbourhood Plan for 3 years. The completion of the plan is likely to take another 1-2 years to complete.

External funding has been applied for and approved twice; however, when not spent within 6 months of receipt, the funding (or remaining funds) must be returned.

I am currently working on an 'end of grant' report and will be returning a significant portion of the last grant (£4,500) received – a similar action was taken for the first grant funding.

I understand it is only possible to apply for funding up to 3 times so the next time is likely to be the last opportunity to get grant funding, therefore the ongoing cost of the NP may fall to the Parish Council.

There is £4,800 left in the PC budget (£2,800 c/f from 2016-17 plus £2,000 put into the 2017-18 budget).

Ahead of the PC meeting, please can you consider the benefit of an Upton NP, the part it will play in future planning consideration, what the outcome would be of not having a plan in place, versus the cost both in terms of financial and time spent.

The Parish Council is some way behind where it should be in the process of writing the first part of the plan; if Members decide that work on the plan should continue a strenuous effort has to be made to catch up on lost time – this will mean devoting much more time on the task than previously.

If you consider that a NP is vital in Upton, please could I also ask if you would consider becoming part of the steering group?'