

7.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
NDP meeting in the Village Library.

Neil Pearce was invited to Harbury to explain how  
Avon Planning Services could help residents prepare their  
Neighbourhood Plan.

Present: Andrew Patrick, Jenny Patrick, Roger Gardner, John Stringer, Sally Stringer, David Winter, Julie Fowler, Hazel Turner, Janet Thornley, Marian Millington, Paul Quinney, Samantha Allen and Pat Summers.

Neil Pearce from Avon Planning Services had been approached by Samantha Allen to speak about his experience in developing Neighbourhood Plans for other communities and explain how he could help Harbury. WALC paid for this visit.

Neil is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and holds an Honorary Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Diploma in Town Planning.

He has over twelve years experience in Development Management matters including working for three local planning authorities in the midlands and one on the south coast. Previous employment involved senior positions at Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Wychavon District Council.

Neil has been an independent planning consultant primarily for public sector clients since 2007 through his company, Avon Planning Services.

Neil gave a brief explanation of how he was helping other councils and the role of Avon Planning Services. He answered questions from the audience as he went along.

Many Councils spent their budgets on producing expensive logos, banners, illustrations, questionnaires and photographs. Final drafts would also incur expense in the collating of information and producing the end result. He suggested that local people could make contributions to this process if they had the skills – and advertising for help was the way to achieve this.

Neil said that there was still a lot of work to be done on Harbury's NDP and suggested it would take eighteen months. He believed that Harbury should make use of the data from the community consultations in 2013 and 2014 if they wanted to keep the costs down – and use some information from previous plans.

He stated that an NDP costs between £20,000 and £30,000. (but he would not give an estimate for a parish such as ours – “Keeping It Simple”)