



Successful exhibition

Over 120 people visited our event on 12 November, and we received a lot of positive feedback. The neighbourhood character appraisal attracted plenty of attention, and information on all the upcoming housing proposals was much appreciated.

Post-it comments received at the pop-up stand have been processed, and show traffic concerns to be a continuing priority, with slightly more emphasis on parking — possibly prompted by the photomontage showing double yellow lines outside the Co-op! The need for retirement housing has also come to the fore.

Many of the displays have been put on the website, at

<http://www.woolpit.org/WNP/docs.html>

as well as the slide presentation, which was presented jointly by members of the Steering Group.

The event was reported in the Bury Free Press of 15 November. In case you missed this, the article can be read online. Link at the bottom of this page.

The pop-up stand was at the Green Fair on 19 November, where some useful contacts were made. We hope these will enable rapid progress of the Neighbourhood Plan over the coming months.

Woolpit schoolchildren consulted

The children at Woolpit Primary Academy have been asked to think about neighbourhood issues as part of their class work. In particular, they were asked to say what they would like to see in the village in the future. No doubt this led to some interesting discussions, with parents as well as with classmates and teachers!

The Neighbourhood Plan has just received their views, and we will be analysing these as part of our community consultation programme.

A community questionnaire in preparation

The first nine months of the neighbourhood planning project have been spent in fruitful preparation, consulting with stakeholders and finding out everything we need to know about the parish.

To conclude this first stage, the Steering Group have decided to conduct a formal survey of the residents by means of a questionnaire. It will take some time to decide the scope and focus of the questions, and hammer out the precise form and wording. We must be sure to get all of this right.

We expect to carry out the survey in the early spring. Once the results have been analysed, we can start to draft Woolpit’s Neighbourhood Plan. Consultation and feedback to the community will continue throughout this second stage.

Then, when the draft has reached its definitive form, the final phase of the Neighbourhood Plan can be triggered. The local authority, and an independent examiner, will scrutinise the plan; modifications will be made, if necessary; and the plan will be put to the community in a referendum.

<http://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/news/woolpit-s-neighbourhood-plan-moves-on-a-pace-as-hundreds-of-homes-proposed-for-village-1-7681030>



Proposed housing developments

Glebe land

As already reported on our website, an application for outline planning permission to build 79 houses on the glebe land next to Lady's Well has been registered with Mid Suffolk District Council.



There are in fact two applications; the second, made jointly, is to create a green area in the western half of the site. This will be used for a surface water management scheme, and to enhance wildlife.

About 60 people attended a meeting of Woolpit Parish Council on 5 December, where the glebe land proposal was the main subject for discussion. Many members of the public spoke, and all objected to the plan, while recognising that there was potential benefit for the village if a number of conditions were fully met. These included pedestrian, cyclist and road access, enough affordable housing, respect for wildlife and the historical setting. The loss of good farmland was deplored by several speakers. While recognising the opportunities, the Parish Council decided that the proposal was unacceptable in its current form, and both applications were unanimously rejected.

Green Road

A modified plan for this site has been published on Mid Suffolk's website. Changes to the layout include replacing one 2-bed affordable home with a children's play area; and moving the road entrance north onto the bend in Green Road. The internal road layout has been adjusted to conform with this alteration.

Significant changes are proposed for the Green Road pinch point between the junctions with Drinkstone Road and Mill Lane. These involve widening the pavement and raising the kerb; an informal priority system for traffic; and alterations to parking arrangements around the Pump triangle.



Mid Suffolk District Council are inviting comments until 28 December.

Let the Steering Group know what you think about either or both of these proposals — just go to

www.woolpit.org/WNP/contact.html