



## Neighbourhood Plan gets the green light

Mid Suffolk District Council have officially approved our Neighbourhood Plan Area. This means that we can go ahead with the preparation of our Neighbourhood Plan.

This is an important step because we can now really make progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. We have already launched our community engagement programme (see below), and we can start to build our evidence base and prepare a questionnaire.

You can download the map which shows the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan Area from the website at

[www.woolpit.org/WNP/docs.html](http://www.woolpit.org/WNP/docs.html)

## Community engagement programme

As explained in the last newsletter, the main focus of the Steering Group over the next few months is to give a voice to everyone who has a stake in the Neighbourhood Plan. This means letting all parts of the community have their say: young and old, residents and businesses, those who support new housing development and those who feel threatened by it.

We have created an interactive pop-up stand, and we plan to engage with the public at a number of events in Woolpit during the summer. The stand will display information and updates about the Neighbourhood Plan, and provide a way for everyone in Woolpit to voice their opinions, and have a say in shaping the Plan. You'll be able to talk to volunteers from the neighbourhood planning group, and share your views on a comment board. We have included some activities for children as well.

We were at the Garden Club Plant Sale on 21 May. Our next planned event is the Festival Day on 18 June. For July we have a busy fixture list:

Borley Green	3 July 1.30 - 3.30 pm
Flower Show	9 July
Wrights Way	16 July 10 am - 12 pm
The Heath	23 July 11 am - 1 pm

I hope you can join us on one of these occasions.

## Pop-up consultation at the Plant Sale

Volunteers manned our pop-up stand for 3 hours at the Garden Club Plant Sale in the Institute on 21 May. The launch was very successful, as we were able to talk with an estimated 60 visitors, and record their views on issues ranging from Traffic to Green Spaces.



Photos Jane Foster

Many visitors wrote their own comments on post-it notes which were added to the display. The 94 comments we have collected will form part of our evidence base, and help the Steering Group devise a questionnaire which will be circulated in the autumn.

*Good housing is only good if supported by the infrastructure. Traffic flow and adequate roads / access / parking etc are essential to a successful development.*

*The Church, Institute and Village Hall are excellent venues for meeting and socialising. Keeping and updating facilities in all should be flagged up.*

Just two of the 94 post-it comments made. Traffic and Housing predictably received the most comments (33 and 20 respectively).



**Proposed housing developments**

There have been signs that developers are interested in other sites in Woolpit, apart from the two planning applications mentioned below.

Some weeks ago Persimmon Homes cleared the small trees and undergrowth on the old allotments site off Rags Lane. And as reported in February, the church is seeking to sell the glebe land south of Lady’s Well, although at least part of this lies within the conservation area and is therefore subject to more constraints. Surveyors have recently been seen on the land around Hay Barn Meadow. All this activity has increased public concern.

**Old Stowmarket Road**

The public consultation period for this application for 120 homes has ended. Mid Suffolk District Council will reach a decision on this application not later than 1 July.

**Green Road**

The application by Artisan-PPS for 50 homes on the Green Road site appeared on Mid Suffolk’s website on 26 May. You can find it by searching the monthly list for May 2016, Woolpit ward at

<http://planningpages.midsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

The last newsletter highlighted some of the documents you may wish to read. The two new key documents are the Planning Statement and the Design and Access Statement.

The consultation period is quite short; **comments must be received by MSDC not later than 15 June**. As we have said before, please do copy the comments you make to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as well, via

[peggy.woolpitpc@btinternet.com](mailto:peggy.woolpitpc@btinternet.com)

The more comments we receive, the better the picture we can form of the concerns people have regarding future development in Woolpit.

**Reaching out and networking**

The Business team are making contact with businesses and self-employed on the business parks and in the village. We have a Utilities team listening to any concerns that utility providers wish to express. The Liaison team are working with Mid Suffolk District Council, who have appointed an officer to assist with our Neighbourhood Plan. A networking meeting is planned for 16 June with neighbourhood planning groups from other villages in Mid Suffolk.

As well as our web pages on the Woolpit village website, you can now visit our Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/groups/WoolpitNPSG/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WoolpitNPSG/)

**Our volunteer helpers**

Already many of our volunteer helpers have become involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. Some have been invited to join one of our focus groups: Liaison with MSDC, Publicity, Community engagement, Business, Utilities, or Health and welfare. Others helped to man the pop-up stand at the Plant Sale, and we will soon be asking for helpers at the other upcoming events.

If you would like to be involved, and have not already provided information about your interests and experience, please contact

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If you would just like to be kept informed and receive updates by email, please contact Richard Mawhood in order to be put on the mailing list.