



# West Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan

## ISSUES & OPTIONS CONSULTATION

March & April 2015

A Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for West Bergholt Parish Area. We want your views on whether we have identified the relevant objectives, issues and proposals for our community's future requirements over the next 15 years.

Our village has changed greatly over the past 50 years and further changes can be expected. Changes will affect the countryside, housing levels, where people can work locally, the shops and amenities on offer and the quality of the environment. We could leave all change to chance or to local Councils, or we could shape our destiny together as a community. Without a plan in place the shape and fabric of our built and natural environment is uncertain.

### What do Neighbourhood Plans Contain?

Neighbourhood Plans can take many forms but they must include the following:

- *Proposals and policies covering land use*
- *Plans for development, be these for housing or employment or for sporting or recreational areas*

#### **Plans may also contain**

- *Ideas for projects that a community may wish to see undertaken*



## Our Aspirations & Proposals

We intend to have proposals for new development, changes to our open spaces and community projects. We have grouped these under nine headings of our plan:

We wish to achieve the following objectives:

- *Social and Community: To improve and extend opportunities for all age groups to take part in a wide range of activities both recreational and as volunteers and promote and raise awareness of these to increase participation to maintain a thriving community support network.*
- Proposals include: a contact list of volunteers; enhancements to community centres; more opportunities for younger people.

**Environment:** To maintain the distinctiveness of the Parish and its identity by protecting the natural and built environment for the enjoyment of future generations and to explore opportunities to create new areas of recreational open space.

- **Proposals include:** policies to protect sensitive areas of open space and countryside; new open spaces; register of important community buildings.

**Community Safety:** Maintain the feeling of a safe community where crime and perception of crime is low and where the chance of being the victim of a traffic related accident is minimised.

- *Proposals include: 20mph zones; bulletins of crime levels; work to protect vulnerable groups; neighbourhood watch scheme.*

**Community Amenities:** To provide improved community facilities which support local groups especially in the areas of community buildings, telecommunications and meeting areas.

- *Proposals include: enlarged village hall; improved broadband; further meeting places and halls.*

**Business & Commerce:** Seek to examine controlled expansion of existing employment opportunities or new opportunities if scope exists; maintain and where practical enhance the existing offer of retail and eating and drinking facilities.

- **Proposals include:** zoned areas for expansion of employment land; promotion of local businesses; enhanced retail opportunities.

**Sport & Recreation:** Provide new areas of open space for formal and informal sport and recreation to promote healthy living and lifestyles.

- **Proposals include:** new areas of land for sports to take place; re-organisation of activities on Lorkin Daniell and Poors Fields.

**Communications:** To improve communications through a range of activities with our website and social media at its core to provide residents with a means to be consulted on village affairs

- **Proposals include:** community events; more volunteering to support the Parish Council and the NP; electronic noticeboards; increased use of social media.

**Housing & Planning:** To support limited expansion in the village through sympathetic changes to the village envelope and involve the local community in all aspects of development through consultation and active involvement to determine new housing needs

- **Proposals include:** a range of ideas for new housing from 25 new dwellings to 200; mandatory design guidance for developers.

**Transport & Highways:** To maintain and improve existing accessibility by bus, walking and cycling. Introduce 20mph zones or streets. Improve maintenance of our highways, pathways and verges

- *Proposals include: new footways and cycle ways; parking restrictions; real time bus information.*

## Have Your Say

This leaflet is only a summary: view more and fill out a questionnaire at

[www.westbergholt.net/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.westbergholt.net/neighbourhood-plan)

The future of West Bergholt will be influenced by our Neighbourhood Plan and it is important that you complete a questionnaire and help to shape the future of the village and wider Parish Area.

Please ensure you have your say on our future.

## Get Involved

Who are we? The NP is overseen and produced by a Steering Group made up of people in the community. The plan is supported by the Parish Council and Borough Council. NPs only become statutory documents after they have been formally agreed by the Councils, and pass the rigours of a referendum and an Examination in Public overseen by a Planning Inspector. Our Plan needs many supporters if it is to become a reality. Here are some of the ways you can become involved

- *Join the main Steering Group*
- *Join the wider group commenting on the plan as it evolves*
- *Express an interest in a particular part of the plan, perhaps where you have a skill, some knowledge or an interest*
- *Steering Group meets every third Weds at 8pm in the John Lampon Hall*