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The Neighbourhood Plan Issues & Options Questionnaire

The future of West Bergholt will be influenced by a Neighbourhood Plan and it is important that you complete this questionnaire and shape the future development of the village and wider parish area. The Neighbourhood Plan will influence the level, type and location of building development as well as identify future projects for the area. Please ensure you have your say on our future.

**Our village and parish life in your hands.
Don't miss this opportunity to have your say
Please, fill this out now.**

This questionnaire covers the issues and options for change that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group feel are relevant to our community. These have been deduced from a number of sources including previous surveys from 2013, evidence from published sources and the Steering Group's own ideas. If you need to view information about any of these matters prior to filling out the questionnaire, please visit <http://www.westbergholt.net/neighbourhood-plan/> or alternatively come to our meetings and exhibitions, the dates of which are on the front of the Village Bulletin.

Please complete the questionnaire as an individual. An interactive online version of this questionnaire is available at <http://www.westbergholt.net/neighbourhood-plan/> If you have internet access, use of the on-line survey is encouraged as this enables analysis of responses to be collated efficiently and quickly. Additional paper copies are available from: the Post Office or <http://www.westbergholt.net/neighbourhood-plan/>.

**Please place completed paper questionnaires in the boxes at
Ash's, the Co-op (Post Office area) and Doctors' Surgery**

Returned questionnaires are eligible for entry into a prize draw with a chance to win a hamper, courtesy of the Co-op. See final page for details.

Support for the Neighbourhood Plan

Having read the leaflet, web pages or visited the exhibition, how important do you feel it is to have a Neighbourhood Plan?			
Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not important

Which of the components of the Neighbourhood Plan do you consider most important (tick all those that apply)				
	Very Important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not important
Potential benefit				
Giving the community a say in the future of our area				
Deciding where new development could be located				
Encouraging more employment				
Developing new facilities such as new sports areas or a new community centre				
Influencing those who look after highways or transport				
Protecting the environment				

Our proposed vision for the Neighbourhood Plan

“By 2025 West Bergholt will be a prosperous community which has taken control of its destiny through local decision-making, which has achieved a sustainable mix of development, and where the combination of the natural environment and the quality of the built provide an attractive location for residents, businesses and visitors alike .”

Do you agree with this vision statement?	
Yes	
No	

Can you improve it? If so let us have your suggested rewording.

Community: clubs, societies, volunteering and mechanisms to strengthen the community

Our Objectives

To improve and extend opportunities for all age groups to take part in a wide range of activities both recreational and as volunteers. Promoting and raising awareness of these to increase participation.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- With the increasing pace of life and pressure on our time, it becomes harder for existing volunteers to maintain their roles and to persuade others to take up duties providing services that are taken for granted by so many.
- Across the UK communities need to consider how they step in where traditional providers such as councils withdraw their support due to funding cuts.
- There is a need to enable all sections of the community to participate in activities that reduce social isolation, strengthen communities and create opportunities for interaction.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- Create a means of identifying when an organisation is struggling for support.
- Create a database or contact list of people so that a growing pool of volunteers can be developed.
- Co-ordination of meeting venues to enable groups to meet easily.
- Further opportunities for older children and young adults.
- More publicity for existing groups.
- Examine funding opportunities.
- Maintain and enhance community centre(s) or similar.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Environment: the quality of our built and natural environment, its protection, enhancement and improvement

Our Objectives

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.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- It is essential that future proposals do not adversely affect the positive aspects of the existing environment that we all enjoy. In addition, they should provide the opportunity for improving our environment.
- The quality of the built, manmade and natural landscape should not be taken for granted and our plan needs to provide a balance between preservation, functionality and enjoyment.

Have we identified the main issues ?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- Policies to protect what we have (including existing areas of public open space, woodland in private ownership, special landscape areas to the south east of the village).
- Projects to improve what we have (e.g. additional footpaths or the need for further areas of open space).
- Design guides to ensure new developments enhance the environment.
- A community register to protect important community buildings.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Planning and Housing: the quantity, quality and provision of new dwellings in the parish

Our Objectives

To support limited expansion in the parish and involve the local community in all aspects of development through consultation and active involvement to determine new housing needs.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Concern about infill.
- Concern about the village sprawling over its natural boundaries towards Colchester.
- How to control and influence the type, quality and location of any new dwellings.
- Being able to influence the number of new dwellings proposed.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Options

1. **Maximising the control the community has over the type of development provided.** Up to 25 new dwellings to be accommodated within the existing village envelope. Additionally, outside the village envelope, up to 75 new dwellings of type, style and numbers deemed necessary to meet the Parish's needs.
2. **Maximising the control the community has over the type of development, but allowing a greater number of dwellings.** Up to 25 new dwellings to be accommodated within the existing village envelope. Additionally up to 125 houses to be accommodated by extending the village envelope in several locations to accommodate small areas of new housing; dwellings of type, style and numbers deemed necessary to meet the Parish's needs.
3. **Allowing developers to put forward their own plans** for the type of dwellings they wish to provide. Up to 200 houses to be accommodated by one or two larger extensions to the village envelope.

Do you support these proposals?		
	Yes	No
1		
2		
3		

Any comments or suggestions?

Transport: moving around in the parish

Our Objectives

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

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Poor environment for cycling with lack of cycle ways.
- Car dominated environment with parking and safety issues.
- Basic but sometimes unreliable bus service; a poor standard of highway maintenance.
- Lack of pedestrian road crossing points; missing lengths of footways and many in poor repair.
- Lack of information on the local public rights of way.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- **Possible bus service proposal:** Real time information on bus stops saying when the next bus will arrive; some form of bus discount scheme linked to increased usage.
- **Possible motorised transport proposals:** parking restrictions at key road junctions and possibly one way streets; progressively introduce 20mph streets or zones; a parish register of road defects to discuss with the highway authority.
- **Possible walking proposals:** new footways along Chapel Lane, New Church Road, Colchester Road and School Lane; promotional leaflet covering public rights of way and cycling.
- **Possible cycling proposals:** links to cycle routes in the area towards the station and Eight Ash Green; a quiet circular cycle route for youngsters to safely learn cycle-craft.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Business & Commerce: creating opportunities to work and trade locally

Our Objectives

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.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Some business park areas are at the limit of their existing footprints.
- No zoned areas for expanded employment opportunities exist in the parish.
- Pubs are at risk from closure without local support.
- There is no real plan for influencing retail areas in the village.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- Identify the business parks in our plan with land zoned for expansion.
- Promote businesses on the website.
- Maintain a community building register which includes local pubs and other important community buildings.
- Promote enhanced retail opportunities within the village as these present themselves.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Village and Parish Facilities: creating opportunities for the community to interact

Our Objectives

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

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Meeting areas for all uses are fragmented and there is no central co-ordination booking system.
- Village halls are at near full capacity.
- Broadband service needs to be enhanced.

Have we identified the main issues issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- Remove the deadlock to expansion by moving and consolidating ball game and recreational sports areas.
- Larger village halls to meet future demand shortfall.
- Enhancements to the church & chapel halls and scout hut.
- A broadband service providing sufficient bandwidth for all.
- Weatherproof “meet and greet” facilities at Bluebells and Heathlands.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Sport & Recreation: promoting increased opportunities to get active and participate in sport

Our Objectives

To provide new areas of open space for formal and informal sport and recreation to promote healthy living and lifestyles.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Existing facilities inadequate for future needs or growth.
- Facilities established by chance of history not strategic planning.
- Limited Growth – unlikely to meet future demand as it currently stands.
- Football dominates the available recreation fields.
- Lorkin-Daniell playing field has limited free capability.
- Football is noisy and needs space – at odds with the current setting.
- Children’s play areas - expansion & enhancement limited by space.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- New consolidated and dedicated sports field – minimum of 10 acres, located close to the village.
- Dedicated sport and fitness pavilion and changing facilities.
- Relocate existing football areas to make room for enhanced children’s play activities.
- Introduce a skate park.
- Promote the many footpaths on our doorstep through circular walk guides to enable improved access to Essex Way, Fordham Community Forest and neighbouring parish areas.
- Recreational cycling opportunities, perhaps converting some footpaths to bridleways to enable cycling as well as walking or introduce permissive paths with the agreement of like-minded landowners.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Community Safety: create an environment which promotes a feeling of safety whatever the circumstances.

Our Objectives

To 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.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Perception about crime and safety are as important as reality.
- Information about crime is important to you.
- Past incidents of anti-social behaviour have been cause for concern.
- Neighbourhood Watch scheme has dwindled.
- Police response times are important.
- There are concerns about road safety, crossing the roads, especially for children.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- Seek to progressively introduce 20mph zones and streets.
- Liaise closely with the police on crime trends to inform our community about emerging threats.
- Inform Safer Colchester Partnerships of growing issues.
- Work with voluntary groups to identify vulnerable households.
- Revive interest in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Communications: keeping the community informed through a wide range of media and promoting two-way dialogue

Our Objectives

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 involved and consulted on village affairs.

Do you agree with the wording of this objective?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Identified Issues

- Over 50% of those participating considered that greater publicity is required on the range of village and parish activities and how to participate.
- Less than half of residents felt involved in decisions.

Have we identified the main issues?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

Proposals

- Broadband delivery to the village and ideally to every home.
- Increased community volunteer participation.
- Explore the opportunities, and use existing outlets, that have modern media electronic displays i.e. chemist & doctors' surgery.
- Annual community event that involves everyone!
- More volunteer affiliated groups to support the Parish Council.
- A notice board in Pocket Park on the Truman site.

Do you support these proposals?	
Yes	
No	
In part	

Any comments or suggestions?

ABOUT YOU

There is some information about you which would be useful to assist with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. We ask the questions below to be able to tell whether those who respond are a representative sample of the community, or because people in different age groups have different opinions and needs. None of the information will be made available to third parties, and it will be impossible for individuals to be identified as a result of filling in the questionnaire.

1. Please indicate your gender: Male Female Prefer not to say

2. Which age group do you belong to?

Under 18 18-24 years 25-34 years
35-44 years 45-54 years 55-64 years 65 +

3. If you consider yourself to have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 please select the options that apply to you?

Physical / mobility Sensory Mental Health Learning difficulty
Long-standing illness or health condition

4. How would you describe your ethnic or cultural origin?

White British White Other Asian / Asian British
Black / Black British Mixed background

5. How long have you lived in the village or parish of West Bergholt?

less than 1 year 1 – 5 years 6 – 15 years 16 – 25 years
26 -50 years 51+ years

6. What is your employment status?

Working full time Working part time Self-employed Unemployed
Retired Full time education

7. Your postcode or street

Thank You

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire. Your views will help shape and develop a shared vision for your neighbourhood. The views collected will be analysed on an anonymized basis and no individual will be named. **Your completed questionnaire should be placed in the special boxes at the Co-op (Post Office counter), Ash's and the doctors' surgery by no later than 30th April 2015 to ensure your views are recorded.**

Prize Draw

If you would like to enter our prize draw with a chance to win a Co-op food hamper, please enter your contact details below. These details will be separated from the returned questionnaire upon receipt, to prevent your answers being associated with your name and contact details.

Name

Contact telephone or email.....

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