

Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan

Draft Vision and Objectives – consultation

We need your help!

We welcome and need your views. All responses will be appreciated – whether to confirm that the Vision and Objectives are on the right track or by making suggestions.

As a reminder, a Neighbourhood Plan is a way of helping a community to influence the planning of the area in which they live. The plan is primarily about land use and can be used to develop a shared vision and associated objectives for the neighbourhood.

Consultants, funded by a government grant, have been used to support the development of Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan. Two reports have been drawn up by chartered Landscape Architect, Lucy Batchelor-Wylam: a *Landscape Character Assessment* of the parish and a *Fringe Sensitivity Assessment* of areas close to the built village (available on the website below). Members of Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have also gathered data about the village including, for example, on housing demand and current dwelling types.

All the information gathered from the Landscape Architect's studies, the community questionnaire and data assembled by the Steering Group was considered at a meeting led by planning consultants on the 4th March. The outcome enabled the development of a draft Vision and Objectives for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has reached a stage where your views are essential before proceeding to the next stage. The Vision and Objectives for our parish will underpin any local policies drawn up. Local policies in an *approved Neighbourhood Plan* and policies within *East Cambs Local Plan 2015* are used by planning officers to judge whether a planning application should be permitted or refused.

Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan – Draft Vision and Objectives

Draft Vision

To ensure that Swaffham Bulbeck, set in a parish of varied rural landscapes, remains a village whose diversity, community spirit, distinctive and attractive built heritage and green spaces can be enjoyed, protected and enhanced whilst supporting biodiversity and proportionate development to meet local needs.

Draft Objectives

Objectives within the Neighbourhood Plan are priorities which are above and beyond any priorities which are already covered by the policies of East Cambs Local Plan 2015. Objectives will therefore need their own local policies.



Objective 1 Retain the existing and distinctive village character by:

- maintaining a dispersed but cohesive settlement with open, green spaces and corridors
- protecting the Cambridge Green Belt and village conservation areas
- protecting the wider landscape character and setting of the village
- securing a diverse stock of housing
- ensuring that the density of any new dwellings is appropriate to its context and proportionate to site and location.

Objective 2 Promote a positive approach to growth delivery which provides at least the minimum number of dwellings required by East Cambs through:

- increasing housing stock which is accessible to younger families by building affordable houses and low cost market houses
- ensuring that new development takes into account size, affordability, design, layout and tenure to meet local needs
- ensuring that new development is proportionate to the size of the village.

Objective 3 Encourage a thriving village which retains a diverse range of age groups and a community which promotes sustainability through:

- retaining and enhancing facilities, services and employment opportunities as required
- encouraging low carbon emission strategies such as in building construction and provision of car charging points
- conservation initiatives and the active promotion of new biodiversity schemes to enhance the parish's natural capital, for example by tree planting and wild flower areas.

Priorities which fall outside the Neighbourhood Plan:

These could be included as appendices in the Neighbourhood Plan to influence future changes:

- traffic volume
- public transport

How to comment

Your comments are very welcome. These should be emailed to the contact details below or posted to the Clerk to the Parish Council. Please include your name, address and contact details.

Plans to hold a drop-in weekend to view and comment on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan have been put on hold due to current restrictions.

Contacts: clerk@swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk PO Box 3330, Ely, CB7 9GF or

Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan at sbulbecknp@gmail.com

Information: www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk

Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Mark Bretscher, Margaret Chadwick, Tim Harvey-Samuel, Guy Marsden, Sally Pearson, Peter Raby, Sue Romero, Mary Smith, John Trapp

