

Date	14 th August 2019
Time	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Venue	The Church Institute, Church Road, Old Newton
Attendees	Heather Thomas Janet Pearson Libby Brooks Sekhar Pillai Tony Arnold
Apologies for absence	Mike Helliwell (Parish Councillor) Jon Miller (who has expressed a wish to attend meetings whenever possible) (Parish Council Chair)
Support	Paul Bryant Neighbourhood Planning Officer – Mid Suffolk

Paul Bryant went through points from his presentation (attached) and at times members of the group asked specific questions:-

Q Which takes priority, a Neighbourhood Plan or the District Plan?

A A Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with both national planning legislation and with District level planning. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it is a statutory document. Before adoption but after examination it is a document for material consideration in planning matters.

Q What sort of matters can the Neighbourhood Plan cover?

A It must deal only with land use planning matters. It must add value and have a “golden thread” of vision and objectives. The policies set out in the plan should all link to that golden thread. A plan cannot say that no development should take place, it must accept that some will occur but can specify where this should be. The plan should discuss non-designated heritage assets and landscapes to be preserved. Green spaces can be identified. Aspirations for community assets can be included even if not directly linked to policy. The plan can specify environmental considerations in development such as requiring energy conservation/renewable energy and rainwater harvesting.

Q Can the plan set out the density of proposed housing developments?

A The density of housing is set out by central government but a plan can specify something such as that plot sizes and spacing should be similar to those in the surrounding area. The plan can suggest the total number of dwellings and where they should be.

Q For how long is an adopted plan applicable?

A 20 years.

Paul explained that the first formal stage is to designate the area the plan will cover. Nearly all plans so far have covered the entire Parish (Haughley is an exception). There is a form to apply for the neighbourhood area to be defined and this should be submitted by the Parish council. If the area is the Parish only then no consultation is required. However if it is multiple Parishes then consultation is needed. The Planning department will help with preparing the map that is needed to accompany the form. It is necessary to illustrate on the form that this is being done for the community by the community.