

Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Update to Parish Council meeting, 26th January 2015

Background: A Neighbourhood Plan is a document generated by a local community, in which the community's wishes for the future of the local area are outlined. Once formally adopted, following a majority Yes vote in a referendum, the document holds some weight in council decisions that affect the area (although it may not go against any defined local or national policy). Thus, for example, although a community cannot dictate how much development takes place in the area, it gets a say in where it should go and what it should look like.

The process of generating a Neighbourhood Plan for Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish is now beginning. With the help of the community, we can generate a plan for our neighbourhood that represents the views of the majority. To achieve this, it is essential that we gain input from as many people as possible.

A Steering Group has been set up to lead the process, and is now calling for volunteers to sit on a number of working groups to consider particular topics.

Detail: Three informal public consultation meetings were held in 2014 to obtain the community's views on the area, including what makes it a special place to live. Comments have been collated and assigned to five themes on which further discussion is required (*Table 1*). A working group is to be set up on each of these themes.

We are seeking 4-6 people to sit on each working group, which will be led by a member of the community and will also include a Parish Council representative (*Table 1*). Each group will manage the discussion of that topic and devise a range of suggestions to maintain or improve that aspect of the local community, on which the public will be asked to vote.

Working groups will meet regularly, and all meetings will be open to the public, so anyone is free to have their say, even if not a core member of the working group.

Table 1: Working Groups of the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Theme	Scope	Lead	Parish Council representative	Other members
Housing	Location & style of new housing development etc.	[Vacant]	Val Ranger	Could this be you?
Traffic & Transport	Speed & volume of traffic, public/sustainable transport etc.	Matt Coppell	Hazel Jeffery	Could this be you?
Employment & Services	Local businesses, broadband, mobile phone signal etc.	David Zirker	Maureen Cook	Could this be you?
Environment, Sport & Leisure	AONB, common, walking/cycling routes, footpaths, sports, recreational classes etc.	Gill Cameron Webb	Makala Tillotson	Could this be you?
Health & Wellbeing	Physical & mental health, spiritual matters etc.	Anita Kemp	Maureen Cook	Could this be you?

There will shortly be an area on the Parish Council website

(<http://www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk/NP-Parish-Council/Default.aspx>) that is dedicated to the Neighbourhood Plan. In this area, you will find information on meeting dates, update reports, agendas and minutes of meetings. Please visit regularly to find out the latest information.

If you are interested in becoming a member of one or more working groups, or even just contributing your views on a single occasion, please email the Steering Group on NPH-NPlan@outlook.com or 01395 567457, contact a Parish Councillor or simply turn up to one of our meetings, where you will be made very welcome.