

## Hilperton Neighbourhood Plan – Community Engagement

1.0 The first Hilperton Neighbourhood Plan public meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (at which two officers from the LPA were present) and is described below. This produced a large turnout and a good response in terms of what the community wanted to see change about the area, and what it most valued. See article:

<http://www.hilperton.info/?p=2381>

1.2 The meeting explained, to an audience of over 100 residents, what a Neighbourhood Plan was and what it could do. The meeting concluded with a 'stick a Post-It' session to ascertain the thoughts of those present, broadly what the residents did want and what they did not. These thoughts, together with an initial analysis, are given as Appendix 1 below.

### 1.3 Themes from Initial Meeting

Analysis of comments from the November 2015 meeting was completed in three stages.

i. Comments written down in two lists 'Things we want' and 'Things we don't want'.

ii. Comments from each list broken down into the following evident themes:

- Environment
- Housing
- Business
- Transport
- Other
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1.4 Finally the planning consultant took the outputs of the above exercise and fed them into a policy table – the output being a column showing the possible policy areas that an NDP could cover based simply on the comments made. The column, combined with research from the Scoping stage, will form the basis of the first draft policies.

1.5 It is clear that there is a strong desire in Hilperton to retain the 'gap' between the village and Trowbridge and to foster the 'village' as opposed to 'town' identity that Hilperton has. 30% of residents expressed this view in terms of gap / identity comments combined. This is partly an identity / cultural / social issue and partly one of townscape and landscape.

1.6 It was felt that the gap should be retained as an open space, although a few more trees would be welcomed. Additional tree planting would be welcome green spaces for community use (e.g. formal and informal recreation).

- 1.7 Transport issues were the next most common theme of responses. These covered a number of matters, like speed control and routing of HGV's, that are beyond the land use remit of formal NDP policies. However, there was also appetite for a better cycle and footpath network and improved public transport as well as more parking being provided in new developments.
- 1.8 Employment was a common theme with the community generally welcoming closer employment opportunities (e.g. small, light engineering or business sites. These included the creation of a small business park.
- 1.9 Improved infrastructure and facilities including shopping, entertainment and things for young people were frequently mentioned. These included a GP / Dentist, a pub, better play areas and an administrative 'hub' for all services. A number of people spoke of the need for improved educational facilities including an expanded primary school and new secondary school. The point was made that facilities should be provided for Hilperton Marsh and not just Hilperton village and policies in the NDP should reflect this.
- 1.10 In terms of Housing policy, there was a feeling that development should be controlled in terms of numbers and especially in the Gap. In terms of design, the height of new buildings in the gap was considered an issue as was density. However, the community is not against all development. It was thought that housing for families, older people and for those unable to afford market housing should be provided.

## Comments from members of the Hilperton community at Meeting 26 November 2015

### Things we want:

- Why not make a lake in the Gap? It would attract all kinds of wildlife and school children could learn so much regarding country life and living.
- Keep the Gap green and make the village street 'no go' to all heavy lorries except for access.
- Save the Gap!
- Controlled housing in the Gap to preserve green areas.
- Encourage young families to come here.
- Crossing for school.
- Mobile phone mast.
- We need to maintain a village identity or we will be swallowed up by Trowbridge.
- Better public transport, e.g. on Sunday.
- Provision for cycle & footpaths.
- I like the idea of a village Green in the Gap.
- Provision of green areas.
- Affordable housing.
- Leisure facilities.
- New school or enlarge existing schools?
- District heating plan and renewable energy.
- Status quo!
- Is it possible to turn the Gap or part of it into village green status?
- A village green.
- Traffic calming on Wyke Road.
- Keep the village a 'village', a 'Destination'
- Improve pub, shop?
- Better on-street parking.
- Traffic calming.
- Any increase in housing needs substantial investment in alternative transport, cycling, buses to reduce cars!
- Need to keep some green space in the Gap that is not manicured highway verge.
- 20mph limit, 7½ ton limit on lorries from L&F to end roundabout?
- Preserve the Gap green belt.
- Preserve the boundary of Hilperton village.
- Better parking!

## Appendix 1: Continued. Early Community Engagement:

### Public Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Comments

- Senior school.
- GP/dentist practice
- Village green/country park on Hilperton Gap.
- Build on Hilperton Gap & leaving part for Gap on Hilperton side
- More wooded areas.
- Wyke Road one way with traffic calming.
- Historical buildings and artefacts.
- Want to retain open green space.
- If development, housing suitable for older generation – bungalows.
- Pedestrian crossing across new road & reduction in 50 mph speed limit.
- More community facilities.
- Better bus service.
- Shops.
- Hilperton marsh has no recreational facilities except for the footpaths across the fields. If this new planning forum consists of mainly Hilperton village people, will our area get recognition?
- Does Hilperton need an 'administration hub' where surgeries, parish council, cab etc. can be contacted – without journeying around the county.
- Keep Hilperton gap as an open recreational area.
- Decent public transport! Trowbridge is already becoming more congested.
- Where are the proposed houses to go?
- Light industry supporting the community.
- After the gasworks, is there any plan for traffic calming?
- Hilperton gap to become a nature reserve.
- More trees planted.
- What would be the ideal quota of housing/building?
- Keep Gap as a nature reserve.
- If it is necessary to build houses on the Gap then it would be nice to have a nature park type walk wide green area behind the church yard and school as there is already a footpath through there. Similar to the one by the river alongside Tesco – Biss Meadow.
- Close off one end of Devizes Road.
- More diversity – young/old etc. facilities to attract families.
- Alternative or improved route through Staverton.
- Traffic calming Hill St./ Church St.
- Better more efficient public transport.
- Attractive green spaces.
- Local support for local small businesses.
- Local jobs to support growing population and reduce people leaving for work!
- Make Devizes Road for residents only, i.e. no through traffic.
- No three-storey housing in the Gap. Keep the Gap as status quo.

## Appendix 1 Continued. I Early Community Engagement:

### Public Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Comments

- Would like to preserve the Gap's 'rural' value which could be used as an educational tool in terms of agriculture, local cultural history (wool trade etc.). Existing farm buildings (e.g. the Pound Farm Dairy) might be developed as a centre to promote these aims.
- A secondary school.
- identify all the areas that can become designated green spaces that Wiltshire Council should adopt if a significant percentage of residents so request.
- Designated play areas for children.
- A few local shops would be welcome.
- Increasing the number of residents increases the number of residents who need a job/career to pay for their property. We need businesses, not large factories, so a mini business park is desirable.
- The transport system needs to be researched and potential road improvements (e.g. widening bends or opening up lanes) should be investigated.
- The Gap needs to be kept a green space to prevent Hilperton being absorbed into Trowbridge. Wonderful green space I use every day.
- Hilperton community has village hall, village fête, village panto – don't want to lose our identity.
- Traffic calming on The Down by Bellfield School.
- The Gap kept as green space.

### **Things we don't want.**

- No houses built up to the edge of the gardens at back of Wyke Road.
- Heavy engineering/industrial.
- Limit on density of housing.
- No through traffic from Devizes Road.
- Close Devizes Road to stop the 'rat' run and get traffic to use the new road so not go through Hilperton village.
- Apart from W. Ashton 2500, how many houses must Hilperton take?
- Housing on the Hilperton side of the Gap road.
- Don't want more strain on doctors' surgeries, pharmacies and schools as more people are accommodated due to extra houses.
- Limit the use of the village road to be a rat run for through traffic!

Initial Analysis of Comments (Breaking down into themes)

**Environment**

Identify Green Spaces

In Gap: Lake

Village green or Country Park

More trees

More woods

Green corridor around Churchyard and down behind school

**Housing**

Controlled housing in Gap

Affordable housing

Housing for older generation

Investigate ideal quota

No 3 storey houses

No houses behind Wyke Rd and Horse Rd

Limit on density of houses

No houses on Hilperton side of Elizabeth Way

**Business**

Light industry and local jobs

Mobile phone mast

District heating plan and renewable energy

Shop(s)

GP/Dental practice

Initial Analysis of Comments (Breaking down into themes)

**Transport**

Better public transport, especially Sundays

Weight limits

School Crossing

Cycle paths and footpaths

Traffic calming in village and Wyke Rd

Better on street parking

Reduce car use

Pedestrian crossing on Elizabeth way

Close one end of Devizes Rd to stop "rat run" through village

20mph for Trowbridge Rd

Improve route through Staverton

Road improvements – corners, widen lanes

Wyke Rd one way

**Other**

Maintain village identity

Leisure facilities, including youth

New or enlarged school

Senior school

Historical buildings and artifacts

More community facilities in Hilperton Marsh

Pound Farm Dairy to become centre for education in local history and ecology

Play areas

Administrative Hub

Pubs

Encourage more families

## Appendix 1 Continued. Early Community Engagement: Public Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### Initial Meeting November 2015 Policy Table

The following table attempts to draw out from the verbatim comments (above) made on post-it notes at the initial meeting in November 2015, and initial analysis (also above) and thus describe the planning issues and how these might relate to possible policies.

Generic Comment	Issue	Planning Issue	Possible Policy
Limit housing in gap.  Housing on Trowbridge side – Hilperton side keep open  Keep gap for nature.	Keep gap open as physical separator.  Maintaining village and <b>community identity separate from Trowbridge</b> (6% of all comments)	Development Strategy  (Overall location of development)	24% of comments Gap related  <b>DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY POLICY</b>
Affordable housing needed  Older people's housing  No houses behind Wyke Rd and Horse Rd  No houses on Hilperton side of Elizabeth Way  Family houses	Control type and location of housing	Housing	Joint 12% comments  <b>HOUSING POLICY</b>
No 3-story houses  Limit on density of houses	Control layout and height of housing	Design	Joint 12% comments  <b>DESIGN POLICY OR DESIGN ELEMENT OF HOUSING POLICY</b>
Light industrial development welcome  Employment wanted  Mini Business Park?  No heavy industry	Create appropriate development opportunities (e.g. sites)	Employment	13% of comments  <b>EMPLOYMENT POLICY / SITES</b>

Generic Comment	Issue	Planning Issue	Possible Policy
<p>Impose HGV weight limits</p> <p>Traffic Calming</p> <p>School Crossing Needed</p> <p>Pedestrian Crossing – Elizabeth Way</p> <p>Control Traffic Flows</p> <p>Reduce traffic speeds</p> <p>Widen lanes, improve corners</p>	<p>Control traffic and improve safety and community's environment</p>	<p>Transport - Highways</p>	<p>Joint 26% of comments</p> <p>These are non-planning matters but could form <b>NON-PLANNING ASPIRATIONS</b>.</p>
<p>Improve public transport – especially Sundays</p> <p>Improve footpath and cycle path network</p> <p>Reduce car use</p> <p>Better on-street parking</p>	<p>Encourage use of sustainable – e.g. by upgrading infrastructure</p>	<p>Transport – Sustainable and safety</p>	<p>Joint 26% of comments</p> <p><b>TRANSPORT / DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY</b></p>
<p>Identify Green Spaces</p> <p>Better facilities for young people</p> <p>Village green</p>	<p>Protect existing Green Spaces / create new ones</p>	<p>Leisure, Recreation Green Local Space</p>	<p>Joint 32% of comments</p> <p><b>POSSIBLE GREEN SPACE POLICY</b></p>
<p>Lake / Village green or Country Park in Gap</p> <p>More trees</p> <p>More woods</p> <p>Green corridor around Churchyard and down behind school</p> <p>Landscaping in Gap</p>	<p>Keep gap open for landscape reasons</p> <p>Protect landscape / townscape quality and views</p>	<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Joint 32% of comments</p> <p><b>LANDSCAPE POLICY</b></p>
<p>Protect historical buildings</p>	<p>Protect heritage</p>	<p>Heritage</p>	<p>1 comment</p> <p><b>HERITAGE POLICY</b> (e.g. non-listed Landmark buildings)</p> <p>Or</p> <p><b>NON-PLANNING ASPIRATION</b></p>

<b>Generic Comment</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Planning Issue</b>	<b>Possible Policy</b>
Create centre for ecology at Pound Farm	Conserve species and habitat	Biodiversity and Habitat	1 comment <b>NON-PLANNING ASPIRATION</b>
More / better shops wanted GP / Dentist wanted Pub wanted Improve / enlarge school Senior school needed School Crossing Needed More facilities in Hilp. Marsh Better play areas Administrative hub for all services Better mobile signal	Improve facilities and Infrastructure	Facilities, Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	11% of all comments <b>RETAIL POLICY or</b> <b>SHOP / PUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY and /or</b> <b>DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY</b> <b>NON-PLANNING ASPIRATIONS</b>
District Heating Plan and Renewable energy wanted	Facilitate use of renewable energy	Renewable Energy / Climate Change	1 comment <b>RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY</b> <b>NON-PLANNING ASPIRATIONS</b>

The above analyses will be fed into the draft Neighbourhood Plan as it emerges. This will, together with Scoping research being carried out by volunteers led by the neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, guide, inform and determine the actual policies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Further comments or suggestions from the community are welcome at any time.