

## **Update on the Local Plan**

**The consultation** concentrating on the discussion of the Major Modifications required by the Inspector ended on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The next round of consultations will concentrate on the Development Brief Template. See following note from Andrea McMillan the Senior Development Planner

The consultation on the Development Brief Template is on the proposed format/template for the Development Briefs, not on the detailed content for specific sites. Through the consultation, the Council is seeking views on the scope, aims and design of the draft template. The template will then be used to prepare development briefs for selected residential site allocations from Local Plans in East Suffolk (i.e. the adopted Waveney Local Plan and the emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan which is anticipated to be adopted in due course).

The briefs will be prepared to better assist in understanding how precisely sites could/will be developed, in other words adding a little flesh onto the Local Plan allocation bones. We do not yet have a timetable for the production of the individual Development Briefs. Parish Councils are therefore welcome to respond to the current consultation on the format/template of the Development Briefs, but Briefs for individual sites will not be produced until later. Clearly when they are, Parish Councils will be kept fully informed and will be an important consultee. Any future consultation on the individual Development Briefs will not be an opportunity to question the principle of development on any sites. The basic details of the allocated sites and appropriate infrastructure requirements, mitigation etc will already be set out in the relevant Local Plan policy for the site (with other Local Plan policies covering general matters like design, housing mix etc).

The current consultation on the Main Modifications to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan is a separate consultation. The Main Modifications consultation forms a part of the current ongoing Examination into the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. The Inspector has received, and has considered, the representations that were submitted in relation to the Final Draft Local Plan in January / February 2019. Following the hearings held in August / September 2019, the Inspector has identified modifications which he considers are likely to be required in order for the plan to be found 'sound'. Before the Inspector can reach his final conclusions, consultation is being held on the proposed Main Modifications, along with a Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum and an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment of the modifications.

Alongside the consultation on Main Modifications, consultation is also being held on proposed Additional Modifications which are generally minor clarifications and corrections of factual errors. Consultation is also being held on proposed changes to the Policies Maps to take into account 'Main Modifications' and 'Additional Modifications' and to make factual or presentational amendments. These changes are not before the Inspector but will be considered by the Council.

## **Community Partnerships**

There have been meetings around the District to gain an understanding of the needs of the communities.

The four priorities approved by the Communities Partnership must be the focus of funding allocation. Some opportunities can align with more than one priority at a time. Below are some examples to begin the discussion. These suggestions come from active work within the community with various groups, hidden needs and other data, and discussions with local residents.

The four priorities are;

1. Reducing social isolation and loneliness
2. Environmental care and sustainable transport
3. Helping people to age well
4. Traffic and road safety

### **Planning Committees**

We have now found a way to hold Planning Committee meetings and meet the legal requirements. It is achieved using ZOOM for the members and speakers with access via telephone apps for anyone in the community. We have now held, successfully, four such meetings (two in the North and two in the South.)

### **Civil Parking.**

East Suffolk has now taken over full responsibility for civil parking arrangements within the District. This includes parking controls and administration as well as setting the parking charges throughout District Controlled car parks.

### **Coronavirus Lock Down**

As you will be aware, our local Councils (East Suffolk and Suffolk) have been very busy over the lock down period supporting and helping local people (e.g. loneliness, financial problems and assistance with financing local businesses. They are now assisting local towns and communities to return to their original levels of business. As we know, this is going to be no easy task.

As a consequence of this, our coffers are running near empty. Across Suffolk our Councils will have lost an estimated £35 million in income alone (excluding the impact of council tax and business rates) over the 2020/21 period. This is in addition to the net £22m of direct COVID-19 costs (for the 20/21 financial year) we are left with AFTER taking account of Suffolk's share of the £3.2 billion Government COVID allocation. We have of course been hit as hard as any business, while our priority, rightly, has focused on helping our communities and businesses.

The Public Sector leaders for the Suffolk councils have written to all local MPs detailing the predicament asking for help to carry on doing business. A copy of this letter is attached below.

Tony Fryatt

6<sup>th</sup> July 2020