

**Wickhambrook Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Working group meeting**  
**7.00 to 9.00 pm Thursday 21st July 2022 – ONLINE**  
**NOTES**

1: Attendance:

- Those present: Tracey (Chair), Sandra, Tara, Penny, Emily, Roger, Di, Maro, Sue and Richard
- Apologies: Jamie

2: Minutes of previous meetings

- We agreed these as a fair record and there were no matters arising

3: Preparation of Report to Parish Council Meeting 28th July 2022

This was a single-issue meeting to prepare a report and possible recommendations for the Parish Council relating to consultation with the village around the Neighbourhood Plan and West Suffolk's proposed site and housing numbers under the Preferred Options phase of the Local Plan. We reviewed the range of consultation strategies we have deployed during a six-month period between February and July 2022:

- a questionnaire, delivered to every household in the village on paper but available to complete online
- two in-person opportunities (at the Jubilee Picnic and the annual Flower Show) to review the results from the questionnaire and West Suffolk's Preferred Options proposal and to offer face-to-face discussions with members of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan working group
- a paper leaflet, again delivered to every household in the village, setting out West Suffolk's Preferred Options proposal for housing development on a preferred site in the centre of the community and inviting comments
- two opportunities to complete quick and simple survey tools online, the first using questions initially used at the Jubilee Picnic display and the second simply inviting responses to West Suffolk's Preferred Options proposal
- open opportunities available on an ongoing basis to contact the clerk to the Parish Council, members of the Parish Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, by email, by phone or in person, with any comments.

We noted that there were many responses to the questionnaire. In fact, we received returns from almost half the households in the village – a very impressive response rate. Large majorities of those respondents were in favour of protecting natural environments in and around our community; preserving the rural character and historical legacies of the village; and avoiding large-scale or mass housing development in the parish.

Responses to the in-person events and brief online surveys were much less convincing. Only 5% of village residents (a total of 69 people) responded to the final survey of views about West Suffolk's proposal under Preferred Options. These

respondents were divided in their opinions about the proposed site (3% of villagers were against and 2% were in favour) and about the numbers of new houses proposed.

In the light of these divided opinions and statistically insignificant numbers of responses, we agreed that we were unable to make any clear recommendation to the Parish Council about the village's views in relation to West Suffolk's proposals. We concluded that the overwhelming majority of village residents did not feel motivated to express opinions, either for or against, the Preferred Options site or the number of houses proposed.

We made some amendments to Tracey's draft Neighbourhood Plan update and agreed with the proposal to recommend:

- continuing with the preparation of a development plan for the site proposed by West Suffolk
- preparing further consultation events, in partnership with the Parish Council, to present to the village and review the design codes, the development plan for the proposed site and the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

4: Date and time of future meeting

- To be arranged