



Newsletter No 1
April 2014

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Put simply it is a land-use plan to direct future development in Godalming & Farncombe. The plan can address the type of new development (and supporting infrastructure) in our community, its location and its appearance. The Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside Waverley Borough Council's Local Plan and Waverley will need to give legal weight to the Neighbourhood Plan when it determines planning applications. It represents an unparalleled opportunity to influence the future development of our town. Waverley BC still has to produce the high level (strategic) plan but the local detail can be determined by those who know best...and that is YOU!

What's this Newsletter for?

The process for developing a neighbourhood plan is a lengthy one; more than 60 volunteers are working on the detail and hundreds more have said that they are interested in knowing what's going on. We hope many, many more will get to hear about it over the next two years and this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date on what's happening.

Key Milestones so far

16 July 2013 – the neighbourhood area was designated as being the same as that covered by Godalming Town Council – broadly speaking that's the area covered by the GU7 postcode.

23 January 2014 – a launch meeting was held in the Borough Hall. Close to 300 people attended, and around 80 others watched it online; even if you didn't it is still possible to watch the video of the meeting on the Town Council's website at www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/gofarnp.

27 February & 7 March 2014 – four briefing meetings were held for volunteers interested in helping with the plan

21 March 2014 – 62 willing volunteers have been organised into six working groups and, with the support of Chris Bowden from Navigus Planning and staff from Godalming Town Council, are starting to prepare the plan – the working groups will be identifying issues, collecting evidence and identifying options.



The Working Groups

The working groups are looking at six main themes, these are:

Community & Infrastructure (which will cover education, health services, crime, utilities, arts & culture, sports, social activity);

Economy (looking at commerce/industry, retail and homeworking);

Heritage & Design (which will cover the built environment and what it looks like);

Housing (looking at the quantity, type and location of current and future housing);

Environment & Water Management (looking at the natural environment, landscape integrity, recreational open spaces, water courses and sewage and waste water)

Transport (which will cover the capacity of roads and public transport, issues of design and safety and parking)

(Note that the issues that the groups will look at are not an exhaustively listed and there will be significant cross-over between the groups).

What can I do?

The working groups are each relatively small (between seven and fourteen people in each one) their work has to take place in consultation with the wider community. We hope that there will, in effect, be an on-going conversation between the volunteers working up the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan and the rest of the community that will be affected by the plan.

If you are not on one of the working groups you should look out for all opportunities to have your say in the process. The Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow will be out at events in and around the town this summer. Alternatively if you'd like someone to come and present the work of the Neighbourhood Plan so far to your community group just get in touch.

Dates for your Diary



The Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow will be at the following events:

Saturday **7 June 2014** – The Godalming Town Show

Saturday **5 July 2014** – The Summer Food Festival

Saturday **9 August 2014** – The Family Party in the Park

For more details on these events, venues and timings check the events diary on the Godalming Town Council website www.godalming-tc.gov.uk

Any questions?

Just ask, contact Louise Goodfellow on 01483 523575, at townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk or tweet your question to @GOFARNP