



Neighbourhood Plan

our town, our future

#GOFARNP



Neighbourhood Planning in Godalming & Farncombe

23rd January 2014

Why are we here?

- The Town Council sees value in a Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming & Farncombe...
- ...but not without the support of the community
- Tonight is about establishing how much interest there is
- We want to **inform, enthuse** and ultimately get **commitment** from you

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- It is a land-use plan to direct future development in Godalming parish
- Plan for new development (and supporting infrastructure)
 - type
 - location
 - appearance

**IT WILL
HAVE TEETH**

Status of a Neighbourhood Plan

- Part of development plan for determining planning applications
 - But final decision on applications still rests with borough planners...
- What goes in the Neighbourhood Plan is in your hands, not the borough planners'

“Haven’t we had something like this before?”

- Never
- **This is an unparalleled opportunity**



Dispelling myths

“Isn’t this just a way of the Borough Council making us do all the work?”

- No
- WBC 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!



Dispelling myths

“Isn't this just the
Town Council's plan?”



- No
- The Plan has to be facilitated by the Town Council
- But it can only be effective if it reflects what the majority of people want
- Shaped by local people and businesses

The small print

- This is the community's plan, it seeks to deliver what you want...
- **...but it does not automatically mean everything the community wants can go into the plan**
- Landowners, developers, Waverley BC have a say
- Plans must be **deliverable**

The small print

- Cannot use the plan to say 'no'
- The plan is not about concreting over Godalming...
- ...but it is not about trying to stop development that will happen anyway
- Ultimately a good plan recognises the needs of all and can **manage change** as you want to see it



“What happens if we don’t produce a plan?”

- Who knows?
- But you will have very little say in it
- Only the Borough Council’s plan will be used to determine applications in Godalming
 - You won’t have an influence on **what**
 - You won’t have an influence on **where**



Any Questions?

So how do we produce a Plan?



What does a sustainable Godalming look like in 15-20 years' time?

So how do we produce a Plan?

1. What are the **issues** we want to address?
2. What **evidence** do we need?
3. What are the possible **options** for addressing each issue?
4. What is the **preferred option** for each issue?



Engagement

- This plan can only reflect what you want if you tell us
- Meetings, surveys, workshops
- Keep your eye out:
 - Town Council newsletter (VantagePoint)
 - Surrey Advertiser
 - Town Council website
 - **facebook**
 - Posters around the area



What are the issues that could be covered?

1. Housing
2. Transport & Traffic
3. Retail and Employment
4. Education
5. Health
6. Environment, energy and conservation
7. Recreation, arts and culture

Example - housing

- Waverley emerging Core Strategy classed Godalming as one of the four main settlements
 - 642 dwellings between 2012 and 2028
- But emerging Core Strategy withdrawn
 - Housing numbers too low
- Godalming's housing number likely to go up
 - Neighbourhood Plan could help to inform what an appropriate scale of growth is

Example - housing

- **What type** of housing is needed?
- **Where** should they be built? Are there any suitable sites?
- What should they **look like**?
- What **community facilities** can be provided on housing sites that will address local needs?

What are the issues of importance
to you in Godalming?

How can I get involved?

- Tell us you want to get involved
 - What issue(s) is of most importance to you?
- You can be on more than one working group
- Sign up tonight before you leave
- You can still sign up after tonight:
 - office@godalming-tc.gov.uk
 - Tel: 01483 523575



“Will this take up a lot of my time?”

- No
- Each group will meet 4 or 5 times over a 6-8 month period
- Collect evidence between meetings
- Each group will have a lead person



“But I don’t know anything about planning”

- You don’t have to
- You focus on the issues
- You will be given guidance
- You will not have to write the policies that support your solutions



How the Working Groups will work

- Working Party has to be a minimum of 4 (including the lead person)
- Working Party members are either residents, have a business, own a property or own land in the parish
- Each Working Party is responsible for its own secretarial services

Any Questions?

Next Steps

- Give us your details tonight and tell friends
- The Town Council will put together Working Groups and set up initial meetings
- You can then get started!



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