

Waterbeach and Neighbourhood Planning.

The Parish Council is proposing that Waterbeach should develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This will be a major 'strategic' piece of work which will deliver a document which will guide the way that the village is developed in the future and will be adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council as part of their Planning Policy. A Neighbourhood Development Plan must involve all members of the community, the residents, the businesses, the landowners and groups representing particular sections of the communities such as resident's associations. Indeed it is fundamental to the development of the Plan that most of the input comes from the communities of Waterbeach and Chittering and that it is not just a Parish Council exercise.

To explore the interest in the community in assisting with the development of such a plan this newsletter will be delivered to all households and businesses in the parish of Waterbeach and Chittering to seek their support and involvement in the project. The Waterbeach Neighbourhood Development Plan can designate the area it covers and it may be advantageous to also work with neighbouring parishes.

What are the benefits of a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

- Better control of and access to monies resulting from development in Waterbeach Parish
Communities with a Neighbourhood Development Plan get a significantly greater proportion of monies such as the Community infrastructure levy. Otherwise more of the monies would go to SCDC and would not necessarily benefit Waterbeach.
- More say in planning decisions relating to Waterbeach Parish
Neighbourhood Development Plans are particularly important in parishes with potentially major developments. And yes that includes Waterbeach! The plan must be consistent with South Cambridgeshire's development framework and cannot reduce the amount of development in the area but can influence how sites are developed and ensure local knowledge of specific issues in an area is reflected in any future planning permissions.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

A Neighbourhood Development Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It is about the use and development of land and may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. A Neighbourhood Development Plan may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (including housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues only. These may be issues relevant to the whole neighbourhood or to specific parts of the designated area.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan can:

- propose more development than the Local Plan
- identify the most suitable sites for development
- help to determine what type and design of development should take place

- help to ensure adequate open space and play areas are included in developments
- help to ensure the character of the parish is maintained
- help to ensure access to existing footpaths and bridleways and the creation of new public footpaths, bridleways and open spaces as appropriate

A Neighbourhood Development Plan cannot:

- propose less growth than in the Local Plan
- prevent any development from ever taking place in an area
- be prepared without community input and support
- be in conflict with local, national or EU policies

What areas can be addressed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Waterbeach area?

The initial idea is that the plan will set out a plan for the future for Waterbeach for the next ten to twenty years which is supported by all sections of the community. It will probably comprise a number of sections concentrating on specific aspects such as:

- an overall vision of how the area may develop in the future
- the community
- housing and demography
- commerce
- heritage and conservation
- transport
- recreation and leisure
- general infrastructure (eg drainage, communications)
- environment

and outline how the facilities and infrastructure which are needed to support future development of the area (and aligned with SCDC policies) can be delivered to the community. The plan can cover various periods of up to 20 years. Once it is in existence it can be updated and extended at intervals to ensure it still reflects the community's priorities. The plan must take account of development already included in South Cambridgeshire District Council's Local development Framework but can include community requirements to help the integration of new housing while seeking to maintain the existing village facilities and businesses. With larger developments phasing of the delivery of infrastructure before significant development is vital.

Anyone who is interested and willing to contribute to the development of such a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Waterbeach should please contact the clerk at council@waterbeach.org.uk. A meeting will be held in September for all those interested in helping to draft the Plan to explain the process and, hopefully, to make a start.

Some parishes already have Neighbourhood Development Plans, in South Cambridgeshire Histon and Impington, and Linton and Hildersham have started the process and other parishes are investigating the potential for their communities. Elsewhere some Neighbourhood Development Plans have been completed and there is a wealth of resources on the internet. The following links may be of interest

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/supporting-pages/neighbourhood-planning>
- <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/inyourarea/neighbourhood/>

- <http://locality.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-roadmap-guide/>
- <http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/>
- <http://www.scams.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

Public meeting

School Hall – 4th September 2014 – 7.30pm

Jo Mills, Director of Planning and New Communities for SCDC, will be speaking on 4th September 2014 at 7.30pm in the school hall about the decision and implications of the appeal decisions on Cody Road and Bannold Road. The process that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is undertaking to select a development partner for the Barracks site will also be covered.

Following on from this there will be meeting to discuss the development of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Waterbeach.

Representatives from

- SCDC
- CCC
- Parish Council
- Organisations in the village such as residents associations and Keep Waterbeach Rural.

will introduce themselves briefly before an ***open discussion*** on the desirability of, and support for the development of a Waterbeach Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Working together the Waterbeach community can influence the way the parish is developed over the next twenty years. Please come and be involved. If you cannot attend the meeting remember you can contact the Parish Council clerk at council@waterbeach.org.uk