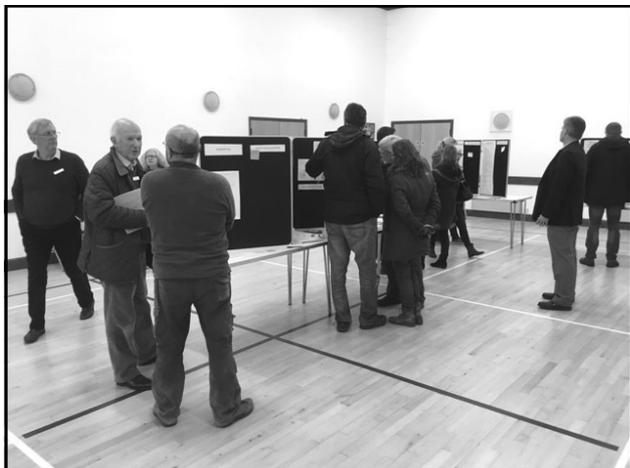


# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

## Drop-in Meeting

The Neighbourhood Plan Drop-in Session was held on Saturday 14th January. It was attended by seven members of the Working Group and by Mark Deas, the Rural Housing Enabler from ACRE.



The Village Hall was set up with notice boards showing all the comments made by residents in our 2015 survey. These were organised into the various topics which may be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan and visitors were asked to add their own comments.

There was additional information on affordable housing and other villages Plans along with a video presentation on historical views of the various houses in the village.

Thirty-six people from the village visited the meeting and left their comments which are produced in this Newsletter. These comments

are very similar to those of the original survey with more comments being raised on cycle ways and footpaths to adjacent villages. All comments will be very useful when the Working Group compile a Character Assessment of the village as the next step.

It was disappointing that the turnout was not better as it was a fine day and the event turned out to be quite sociable with free refreshments available.

## Housing Needs Survey

The Housing Needs Survey envelopes have been delivered to every property in the Parish.

If you need an additional survey form for other family members who have alternative housing needs, please call Trevor Hall on Tel 290559 and one will be delivered to you.



The completed forms will be collected by members of the Working Group and it is hoped that the collection will be completed by the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

Alternatively, completed survey envelopes may be returned to the postbox in the old telephone box in West Wickham. You will notice that each envelope has been numbered so we can tell if you have returned your copy, this will avoid unnecessary return visits by the Working Group members.

The contents of the survey are confidential and will not be seen by members of the Working Group but will be passed directly to Cambridgeshire ACRE who are undertaking the analysis of the information collected.

**We would emphasise that it is important that we have a good response both from people needing alternative housing needs within the next 10 years as well as from those people who do not expect to be needing alternative housing requirements.**

## **Comments left at the Drop-in Meeting**

### **New Homes**

1. If houses built on Maypole Croft or opposite, we would be looking at moving away as it would affect Maypole Croft residents unduly.
2. Sites between 26 and 64 High Street are logical for village development
3. It looks as though there would be sufficient land for housing using infill only but would it be affordable. Exception sites may be more controversial.
4. Infill only. Moved to rural location for a reason. Like countryside and access. Additional development would change the nature of the village.
5. I do not see an exception site as sustainable with our limited amenities.
6. Please protect village character and rural nature.
7. Infill only within current boundaries and extremities.
8. Infill I feel would be best, and most importantly affordable housing to encourage diversity within the community to encourage younger families that will use existing amenities (pre-school etc.) More communal amenities to support a social community, Local connections should be given a priority as growing up in West Wickham is a great experience.
9. Infill only. I like the current village boundaries and open feel of the countryside.
10. Any development should be sympathetic to the general nature of our small village. Please NO MORE "council type" building devoid of character.

### **Street Lighting**

1. No more street lighting
2. Please NO street lights. We enjoy the stars and low light pollution (Pity about Haverhill J)
3. Stick with no more street lighting.

### **Speeding**

1. Speed calming measures need to be considered in Streetly End
2. Enforce 30mph speed restrictions through the village especially agricultural vehicles and delivery vans.

### **Roads, Cycle paths, Footpaths and Bridleways.**

1. Cycle path to Balsham and Horseheath so youngsters (6<sup>th</sup> formers) can avoid the dangerous bits of road – Streetly End to Balsham Road
2. Our footpaths and bridleways are much valued and should continue to be so.
3. The Fleam Dyke/Roman Road path goes through our village which is great.
4. Create a cycle path to Haverhill?
5. Create a cycle path along the Roman Road to Cambridge
6. Cycle path to ..... anywhere really! Balsham would be great.

### **Parking**

1. Parking issues near the bottom of the village. Not sure how the school bus gets through sometimes – emergency vehicles need an easy path!

### **Amenities**

1. A Shop and Broadband.