

# ***Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan***

***Shaping The Future Of Our Community Together***

**Newsletter No. 4**

**November 2017**

Since our last newsletter your Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working on the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation. We have drafted a 'Place Appraisal' and two further surveys: a Stage Two Survey and a Housing Needs Survey.

## **Key themes research and evidence**

Hand in hand with the production of a Place Appraisal, theme sub-groups have been researching and gathering evidence on the six topics the first survey identified. Here is a summary of just some of the work we have done:

### **Biodiversity and the Natural Environment**

- Drawn up a suggested list of special green spaces
- Undertaken and updated key ecological surveys
- Researched new building methods to attract wildlife
- Mapped important biodiversity features
- Identified measures to reduce flooding

### **Employment, Business and Tourism**

- Researched how best a village shop could be created
- Identified challenges in attracting new cottage businesses (communications, parking, planning consent, location)

### **Getting Around and Transport**

- Surveyed bus usage
- Established dialogue with transport providers
- Commissioned traffic survey by Dorset Highways to measure both level and speed of traffic along Plaisters Lane
- Surveyed the public footpaths

### **Heritage**

- Drawn up a list of heritage assets which should be protected
- Researched what protections already exist and their effectiveness

### **Housing and Planning**

Identified the key issues relating to housing such as:

- Building design and style of housing,
- Appropriateness of development boundary
- Brownfield development opportunities
- Level of housing growth

### **Sports and Recreation**

- Engaged with Wessex Water regarding the community benefits of their site
- Assessed capacity of current facilities
- Identified a list of potential Assets of Community Value

### **Place Appraisal**

- Identified five key character areas of the village
- Drawn up a suggested list of important views out from, and into, the village
- Assessed key landscape features including a green corridor
- Researched village demographics
- Summarised development history

### **General**

- Identified and made contact with landowners and stakeholders
- Researched other neighbourhood plans
- Held a day workshop with our planning consultants
- Studied the Local Plan, the Local Plan review and the National Planning Policy Framework

## **Stage Two Survey**

Drawing on the feedback received from the first opinion survey in October 2016 and from the Place Appraisal, we have prepared a further opinion survey - "Stage Two Survey". This extra detail will be vital in helping us shape draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan and also identify some action points for our community to take forward in other ways.

**Remember that the Neighbourhood Plan will eventually form part of the Weymouth & West Dorset Local Plan and will determine how the village develops up until 2036. It is important that everyone gives their views.**

## Housing Needs Survey

You will see that in the Stage Two Survey there are several questions about housing and planning. In addition, our planning consultants, Brian Wilson Associates, have produced a separate, Housing Needs Survey, which is to be completed by those households (not individuals) who are in housing need now or envisage being in housing need within the next 5 years.

The results will enable the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to draft policies which will influence the type of housing that is built in Sutton Poyntz so that it meets local need.

## When will I receive my surveys?

You will receive both surveys through your door between 1st and 5th December. Two copies of the Stage Two Survey and one Housing Needs Survey will be delivered.

**It is recommended that you read the Place Appraisal prior to completing the Stage Two Survey.**

We would like your surveys returned no later than Friday 5th January 2018.

## What is a Place Appraisal and where can I see a copy?

This is a document which attempts to identify what is important about Sutton Poyntz, its setting, history, people and buildings. It gives a collective view of the village's character and qualities, drawing on the community feedback from the first survey.

Copies will be available for viewing or borrowing at the Friday coffee morning on Friday 1st December. You can also borrow a copy from any Steering Group member. The draft document will be emailed to those on the village email circulation and can also be available on our website:

**<http://suttonpoyntz.org.uk/neighbourhood>**

At the coffee morning, members of the Steering Group will be present to talk to you and answer any questions.

## How do I contact the Steering Group?

Meetings are normally held in the Blue Duck Bar at the rear of the Springhead Pub at 19:30 on the third Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public.

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