



Sutton Poyntz Society

Neighbourhood Planning

Newsletter 1 - February 2016

The Sutton Poyntz Society is proposing that a *Neighbourhood Plan* should be written for the village of Sutton Poyntz. This Newsletter explains what a Neighbourhood Plan is, and how you can help.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a development plan for a local area:

It gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area;

It is produced by local people:

The Plan is written by volunteers living or working in the Neighbourhood;

It goes through a formal adoption process:

It is validated by an Inspector, and then voted on by the area's population;

It is enforced by Local Planning Authority:

It then becomes Policy - planning applications are judged against the Neighbourhood Plan policies.



What area will the Plan cover?

The Plan will be for the village of Sutton Poyntz and its surrounding countryside - the map here shows our proposal.

The northern half of the boundary is the boundary between Weymouth & Portland and West Dorset. For technical reasons in the Localism Act, we cannot include the 8 houses at the top of Plaisters Lane, which are in West Dorset.

The southern boundary is less obvious. We have drawn a boundary that includes the important green spaces between Sutton Poyntz and Preston, which make Sutton Poyntz a village. We would welcome comments on the details of this.

What are the benefits?

A Neighbourhood Plan would have far more weight than other documents such as our Village Survey and Village Pan.

The Society already has a Planning Policy, but it has no legal status. For example, we have a Policy on building styles - so does Cerne Valley, but theirs is applied for them by the Planning Authority. Similarly our Policy on green spaces could gain the force of law, as will the Loders Parish plan when approved.

Our Policies, agreed by a majority of the village's population, thereby become a real way of deciding how the village should evolve. That is the local power that has been granted by the Localism Act.



How will the Plan be produced?

Drafting:

A group of local volunteers, working as a "Neighbourhood Forum", will produce a Vision statement, and write the Plan;

Communications:

Wide consultation with people in the village (living and/or working there) is important. This Newsletter is the first step and there will be further Newsletters as well as Open Meetings. We plan to use electronic communications as much as possible - for more information (including a more detailed map) see suttonpoyntz.org.uk/neighbourhood;

Timescales:

There is a lot to do, and drafting will take at least a couple of years. We aim to have our Neighbourhood Plan adopted well before the Borough's Local Plan next revision.



Next steps:

We would welcome comments on this proposal. In particular, we would welcome volunteers willing to help with writing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please respond in writing to 106 Sutton Road, or by email at neighbourhood@suttonpoyntz.org.uk. Also let us know if you are happy to get future Newsletters by email.

Comments by 21st March, please.