

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Update for November 2024

1. LUC are looking at the current policies to see how they can be brought up to date.
2. During the course of the Mid Suffolk District Council's Town & Parish Liaison meeting held on 17th October the subject of the Joint Local Plan was raised, and specifically the proposed changes to the NPPF which appear to increase the housing targets for Mid Suffolk from 535 to 753. This represents a 41% increase. The government's preference is that brown field sites are used; however, there are no such sites in Mid Suffolk. The question was raised regarding what figures should be used by Councils who are currently reviewing their Neighbourhood Plans – the advice was, bear in mind the 41% likely uplift and plan accordingly.
3. LUC were consulted on this matter and the following advice was given:
 - a. Evidence should be gathered to support the Parish Council's original wish that no additional sites should be included.
 - b. The Parish Council should plan to include at least one additional site, in case Mid Suffolk advises that this is required.
 - c. There is no need to undertake a call for sites as Mid Suffolk have just undertaken one as part of the work for Part 2 of the Joint Local Plan.
 - d. The Parish Council should apply for funding to carry out assessments of the sites put forward to Mid Suffolk. Note: carrying out the assessments does not commit the Parish Council to including any additional sites.
 - e. LUC have looked at the possibility of producing some "common codes" that apply to all sites and then some site-specific codes depending on the sites included in the plan. This would be instead of a full Design Code. A meeting is taking place shortly to discuss this option.
4. Recommendation for way forward:
 - a. The Parish Council applies for Technical Support from Locality and once the funding is approved, the site assessment work should be commenced by LUC.
 - b. LUC will prepare a quote for the common design code work. The Parish Council should apply for Technical Support from Locality for the work and the steering group will work with LUC to produce draft codes for full Council review as part of the revised plan.
 - c. Suffolk County Council to be chased to see if they can confirm a housing target looking at the capacity of the two schools and any other information which could help with identifying a housing target.
 - d. Evidence to be gathered on the likelihood of the current sites coming forward within the next 12 years.