

# A STRATEGY FOR NORTH WALSHAM





## **Shaping the Future:**

This is the time for the Town Council, working with you, the residents of North Walsham, to develop a strategic proposal for the town over the same 20 year time period as the new 'Local Plan' proposed by District Council (2016-2036). This Local Plan will set out the planning framework for the whole district, and the town now has a great opportunity to contribute constructively to it, to address many of the basic requirements we know the town will need in order to accommodate the existing infrastructure and future growth.

To do this, we need your views on the town, as it is now and as you want it to be in the future. Everyone associated with the town – residents, businesses, interest groups, representatives – is being asked to have their say in shaping and guiding how North Walsham should look and feel in the future, in terms of:

- **The type of new homes to be built, where they will be built and what they will look like,**
- **The maintenance and enhancement of green spaces and the natural environment,**
- **The type of new retail and business development and opportunity, and where it might be sited,**
- **The enhancement of the existing built environment,**
- **The enhancement of the town centre to promote and protect its historic and cultural interest by making it more pedestrian and disabled friendly, also a place to relax and converse as well as to shop and do business,**
- **The strengthening of our community by improving transport infrastructure, leisure and recreational facilities, community services and education**
- **The provision of improved, up to date facilities for our young people to encourage them to remain, and to attract young families,**
- **The provision of improved facilities and infrastructure to support our older residents,**
- **Aspiring to become a low carbon footprint town and encouraging industry and technology that helps to achieve this**

**This, then, is your OPPORTUNITY to help shape the future of North Walsham.** All of these things can and will be fed into the development of the Local Plan, and where necessary will be translated into the basis of a Neighbourhood Plan that will by law have to be taken into consideration where future development is proposed.

## **Key Priorities:**

We need to establish what the town's priorities will be, how we do things, what our goals are. We propose:

### **Housing and Environment**

- To minimise the impact of development on our environment.
- To provide appropriate housing
- To protect our green spaces
- To minimise our carbon footprint
- To maintain design quality
- To maintain existing premises

### **Economy**

- To revitalise the town centre
- To revitalise the precinct
- Indicate available land for business development
- To encourage tourism
- Pedestrianisation of the town centre

### **Education**

- Address pressures caused by planned development
- Support local education facilities
- Build on achievements of Paston College

### **Community**

- Improving local parks and amenities
- Improve community and leisure facilities
- Address the additional requirements of the diverse age range of residents
- Encourage utilization of the town centre
- Improve and increase access to leisure facilities

### **Transport and Infrastructure**

- Traffic management throughout the town and surrounding areas
- Free parking availability
- Congestion caused by buses
- Safer pavements and provision for cyclists

## **Help us to develop a vision for the future**

**Q1: Looking at the priorities listed on page 4, please indicate on a scale of 1 to 5 how much you are in favour of them.**

(1 being strongly in favour, 5 being strongly against)

1

2

3

4

5

**Q2: Is there anything you would like to add or take away from these statements?**

# Housing and the Environment

## WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE

A Minimise the impact of development on our environment

B Provide an appropriate mix of housing

C Protection of our green spaces

D Minimise our carbon footprint

E Need for design quality

F Maintain existing premises

## OUR SUGGESTED APPROACH

Ensure new developments are in keeping with the character of the local area; promote low density and low risk developments, incorporating open spaces, trees etc

Promote a greater mix of housing types and sizes

Maintain national standards for the protection of wildlife habitats and trees, preserve the green and rural appearance of our surroundings and create and protect wildlife areas

Ensure all new developments comply with environmental standards

Ensure developments meet high architectural standards, with consideration of both internal and external features.

Ensure quality maintenance of existing public premises and environment including support of Dilham Canal restoration.

### Q3: Housing and the Environment

Please rate these points on a scale of 1-6  
(1 being the most important, 6 being the least important)

A    B    C    D    E    F

Are there any points that we have missed?

# The Economy

## WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE      OUR SUGGESTED APPROACH

A      A revitalised and thriving town centre	Rejecting change of use away from retail and supporting investment into new ways to secure retail unit availability. Expanding the weekly market to draw more people into the town centre and the surrounding area
B      A revitalised precinct that is safe, attractive and accessible	Improve the hard landscaping, promote use as an outdoor events location, and promote retail use of units
C      “Open for business”: site allocations in the Local Plan to indicate land for business use such as a retail park and office park	Retain existing businesses and attract new inward investment. Encourage the creation of employment and apprenticeships
D      Generate more economic activity by bringing tourists into the town	Promote the town’s historic, leisure and retail attractions; provide signing and information for tourists
E      Partial pedestrianisation of the town centre	Not universally popular, but the status quo is not working in the town’s favour

### Q4: The Economy

Please rate these points on a scale of 1- 5  
(1 being the most important, 5 being the least important)

A     B     C     D     E

Are there any points that we have missed?

## Education

### WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE      OUR SUGGESTED APPROACH

A	Address pressures on local schools due to planned housing growth	Ensure growth in new housing is matched by the provision of new educational facilities
B	Supporting local schools and Paston College, providing opportunities for our young people	Work closely with schools and local business to encourage employment and apprenticeship opportunities.
C	Build on the excellent achievements of Paston College	Assist the college by improving amenities, transport links, free parking and access.

#### Q5: Education

Please rate these points on a scale of 1-3

(1 being the most important, 3 being the least important)

A       B       C

Are there any points that we have missed?



## Community

### WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE      OUR SUGGESTED APPROACH

A	Opening up and improving access for all, to local parks and amenities	Provide safe educational and adventure play areas with access for all
B	Improving community and leisure facilities for younger people	Provide a broad spectrum of new and improved facilities for young people
C	Address the additional requirements of the diverse age range of residents	Ensure inclusion in planning for the provision of sufficient GP surgery, care home and sheltered housing accommodation
D	Encourage greater utilisation of the town centre	Pedestrianisation of more areas within the core central area would improve movement of pedestrians. Ensure universal access for public and assisted transport.
E	Improve and increase access to leisure facilities	Support clubs/organisations through town grants, maintain the towns existing facilities including development of external community gym equipment.

#### Q6: Community

Please rate these points on a scale of 1-5

(1 being the most important, 5 being the least important)

A     B     C     D     E

Are there any points we have missed?

# Transport and Infrastructure

## WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE      OUR SUGGESTED APPROACH

A	Traffic management that is appropriate to the narrow road infrastructure of an historic market town and reduces the flow of HGVs through the town	Ensure by-pass/link road is incorporated into future plans. Investigate necessity of additional one way routes to relieve congestion
B	Free parking availability	Address the very limited free parking availability. Pursue district council to reinstate free parking thus addressing the congestion and obstruction caused by those looking to avoid parking charges.
C	Address congestion caused by buses	Continue with funding for purpose built bus shelters. Actively pursue plans for a purpose built bus interchange to relieve congestion
D	Safer pavements and provision for cyclists.	Existing pavements should be made safer and maintained for pedestrian use. Additional pavement requirements in areas of limited access to be provided. Cycle lanes and anchorage to be provided for cyclists.

### Q7: Transport and Infrastructure

Please rate these points on a scale of 1-4  
(1 being the most important, 4 being the least important)

A     B     C     D

Are there any points that we have missed?

**Q8: Are there any other issues that you specifically would like to raise**

**Q9: Please rate how you consider the content of this paper overall, indicating on a scale of 1 to 5, how strongly you support the development of a strategy/strategic vision for the town.**

(1 being strongly support, 5 being strongly against)

1       2       3       4       5

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY**

