

# Welcome to the Poringland Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter



September 2018

## Planning for the future

### *Why we need a Plan for Poringland*

Did you know that since 2012, local communities have been given the power to shape how they'd like to see the area they live in be developed? Neighbourhood Plans were a key part of the Localism Act 2012, and since then over 500 communities have successfully had their Neighbourhood Plans accepted. This means that local authorities must refer to the plans to assess the suitability of planning applications - be it for 2 houses or 200.

#### ***Can a Neighbourhood Plan stop building in this area?***

No, it can't stop it but it can influence decisions relating to what is built, and where. The Government has identified that 300,000 new homes need to be built in the UK each year to meet the housing need. Local Authorities must find the land to develop this new housing. Villages like Poringland will be evaluated for suitability for development, and it is therefore vital that we have a Neighbourhood Plan in place to help influence building in the decades to come.

#### ***What does a Neighbourhood Plan contain?***

Each one is different and relates to the local area, but all of them have a number of **policies** relating to things like housing, transport, infrastructure, environment and protecting the character of the village or town. These policies have been shaped by the feedback received from the Community, so your continued input is VITAL to the success of the project!



The Poringland Parish Council is the body leading on development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Once adopted, it has legal status as a planning document that developers must refer to.



**Over 500 surveys completed**

*That's around 1 in 5 households!*

*The results, which will be displayed at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> events were key in identifying the Vision Statement, four overarching themes and shaping the Plan's Policies*

*Come along and see them and give your comments*

## What's coming next?

### September events: Policy preview dates are set, and you are invited!

Your Parish Council is hosting two public consultation events at the Poringland Community Centre (just behind Bugden's supermarket) for residents of Poringland and anyone else interested in this important local project to come along and find out more about the Plan.

#### Invitation!

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 10am to 1pm

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2am to 6pm

"We are a friendly bunch of people and we have lots of information to share!" says Committee Chairman John Henson, pictured here.



We'd like to see as many people drop in as possible, read them and give us their views on the first drafts. It's important as these are what form the basis of the Plan. It gets voted on by the community next year so it has to reflect what local residents told us they wanted for this area. These events are very informal, and all are welcome. The Centre has plenty of parking, and free refreshments will be available"

The Poringland Neighbourhood meet monthly at the Community Centre and are using the services of a local consultant to help draw up the Policies that will make the Plan. Minutes and Agendas are available on line at the Parish Council Website to browse, and meetings are open to the public.

## What Are Policies?

The Poringland Neighbourhood Plan currently has 21 policies around four key themes – and they reflect what people said they liked and wanted to keep about the local area

Policies are the building blocks of the Plan, and give planning guidelines on things that directly affect the look and feel of the village and its surrounding countryside.



They are based on the evidence gathered from the survey and consultation events so far, plus other evidence such as census data and information from other agencies.

We have policies on housing, the environment and character of the village, street lighting, traffic and much more – come along and find out more at either of events at your local Community Centre in September



Find out more on our dedicated webpage:  
[www.poringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.poringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan)

Want to be added to our mailing list to receive regular updates on the Plan?

Email the Plan's Project Officer:

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