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For more survey information - please visit our website and click the survey link

If you've any views on the issues raised we'd like to hear from you - either at the above email address or you can post on our Facebook page.
Or leave a message at the council office
01473 612632



The Neighbourhood Plan Boundary

Following Suffolk Coastal's public consultation which closed in March, SCDC have approved the Martlesham Neighbourhood Plan boundary. However SCDC have excluded these areas:-

1. Seckford Heights, Woodbridge FC site, Dukes Park, and the south side of California. This area will be dealt with by the Woodbridge Neighbourhood Plan (this doesn't mean these areas will move out of our parish - the parish boundary remains unchanged).
2. The whole of the BT site (ie the area known as Adastral Park within the BT security fence) plus the residential development land next to BT. SCDC say that this area is of district wide significance and hence is inappropriate for consideration in a Neighbourhood Plan

However, SCDC's decision notice says that "Any grant of planning permission (*for the BT site*) will be subject to a condition requiring a masterplan to be produced. The community would have input into the masterplan.....The combined neighbourhood plan / masterplan approach is considered to provide a strong local input / influence and a strong framework to ensure the physical and social integration between existing and future communities, service provision and land uses over the next 15 to 20 years."

Very recently we had a useful and productive meeting with BT and their consultants, and agreed that we will work collaboratively to achieve the above.

The NP will influence development in the rest of the parish, and will aim to protect our open spaces and woodlands and maintain the quality of life we all appreciate and enjoy.

Can you help?

Do you have experience in any of the following areas?

- *Planning Policy*
- *Environmental monitoring (ie air quality, noise, lighting)*
- *Public relations, press releases etc*
- *Project planning*
- *Housing design*

If you do, and are able to give some of you time to help please contact us via the email address above or leave a message with the Parish Council on 01473 612632

Getting about - a hot topic

This topic drew a lot of comments and the team has been using your feedback to help identify policies for our Neighbourhood Plan. These should then help to guide future developments in our parish in a way which is in line with the view of the residents.

Examples of some of the planning policies that we are considering:

- Development proposals should include schemes which enhance the attractiveness of walking, cycling and use of public transport.
- Any new cycle paths should be for cyclists only rather than shared use by pedestrians and cyclists
- No new planning applications for retail developments or change of use should be granted unless enough parking provision is provided
- Further development of the Retail Park must include the provision of adequate facilities to enable safe and easy pedestrian and cycle access both to and within the retail area



Interestingly 71% of those surveyed had concerns about traffic speeds within the parish but only 22% thought that traffic calming measures should be introduced. Is it possible that people equate traffic calming with speed bumps? There are other equally effective ways of reducing the speed of vehicles without resorting to the sledgehammer approach of speed bumps. Your views on this topic are welcomed!

HOUSING

The main point that came out of the responses was that apart from the Adastral development and Bloors no further land in the parish should be allocated to housing development.

Our Neighbourhood Plan would also need to consider the possibility of smaller scale sites within existing housing areas and the likelihood that alterations and extensions to existing properties will be made.

The general consensus was that these would need to respect the existing houses so we would need protections such as no infilling of gardens or currently protected open spaces, new or altered homes should match neighbouring existing properties in terms of style, heights, materials and densities and not reduce the amenity of neighbouring properties. We should also look to the future so that properties should be accessible, allowing for life time usage, comply with the highest possible environmental standards and be less dependent on private motor transport.

Although the Adastral Park development is outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan the local community will be consulted on the Master Plan which will guide the project and the Parish Council will be consulted on the individual planning applications which will make the development a reality. The views of residents gathered through our consultations will be fed into this process to promote the highest standards of development.

Many responses spoke of the need for smaller starter homes, and smaller homes suitable for downsizing; this implies a higher density of housing. Conversely many responses (sometimes the same ones) opposed higher densities and the buildings which could achieve this.

There were also suggestions that we need to provide more retirement homes and possibly sheltered accommodation so that our elderly residents can continue to live in Martlesham. So, where do we stand on types of homes and housing densities?

Environment and the A12

Our survey showed that 43% of households felt that road noise was intrusive; in Martlesham Heath this figure rose to 62%, suggesting that the A12 is the culprit. Given the increased traffic resulting from the proposed development this problem can only get worse. Since the A12 is deemed to be national infrastructure our Neighbourhood Plan cannot directly influence it. However it is hoped that if we work collaboratively with SCDC, SCC and the developer we can try and reduce the impact that the increased traffic will have.

Air pollution from the A12 also registered as a concern. This will also worsen with increased traffic volumes. We need to understand how any new proposals to control traffic will impact on this. For example, would the increase in stop/start traffic which would arise if traffic lights replace the roundabouts result in more pollution? Which traffic schemes would result in the lowest increase in air pollution and would this make access onto the A12 more difficult for residents? There are already EU laws governing air quality and it might be that we have to push to ensure that they are complied with in our Parish.

Recreation

The survey confirmed that the open spaces and woodland areas are well used and much appreciated. We are working on creating policies which will protect these areas from development in the future.

There are several play areas in the Parish and all are well used. There is however a need for updating and extending the range of equipment. Sports facilities are limited and we will try to encourage the provision of more equipment and possibly a sports centre.

Our community buildings are all well used and are acceptable for most uses. There is a need to update Old Martlesham Village Hall. We aim to support the future protection of existing facilities.

Retail and Industrial

There were mixed responses to the emergence of the Retail Park. A fair proportion of residents welcomed its convenience, but just as many were concerned about the traffic it generates and the parking situation. SCDC's local plan states that "further expansion of the Martlesham Heath Retail Park is not a reasonable option" and our evidence supports that view. Many people were concerned about the future viability of the local shops in the face of competition from the Retail Park. Many elderly people rely on easy accessibility to the local village shops, and for postal services, newspaper delivery etc.

We need a plan which protects local shops so that the Retail Centre complements rather than competes with our local shops.

Two specific examples raised by quite a few people were the need for a DIY store, and a local coffee shop (in Martlesham Heath village centre for example). Also many people were keen to see the continuing existence of the garden supplies shop.

A preliminary survey of the business park suggests that many tenants would prefer that it continues to be home to a wide variety of types and sizes of businesses. Our vision includes the provision of more small starter units elsewhere in the parish like those at Bridge Farm.