



PARISH MEETING

9th October 2017 at 8.00 pm

Wickham Skeith Village Hall

Paul Wright, Chairman of the Parish Council
Andrew Stringer, Councillor for Mendlesham Ward

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan Consultation Document

Overview - This public meeting will provide some information about the Joint Local Plan being composed by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. The Plan has reached the public consultation stage (full details at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan). All members of the public are invited to put forward their comments, views and ideas but please note that public consultation closes on 10 November 2017.

The Plan covers 4 main topics – Housing, Economy, Environment and Healthy Communities/Infrastructure however, this meeting will focus on Housing only.

MSDC has failed to meet its planned housing quotas since 2008, which has led to some large scale and speculative housing proposals. The Plan is designed to address future housing needs up to 2036 – assessed at 9,951 houses or about 450 per year over 22 years (since 2014). The Plan is not inflexible and will be reviewed regularly.

The District is split into 4 settlement types – Urban and Market Towns, Core Villages, Hinterland Villages and Hamlets/Countryside.

Wickham Skeith – We are designated a Hinterland Village and, as such, the proposed allocation of housing is between 5% and 15% depending on which of the 4 options is finally selected (details of these options are on the website quoted above). What this means in practice is that the Plan may allow between 10-20 houses to be built in Wickham Skeith up to 2036. The Plan also calls for a review of Settlement Boundaries and the map overleaf shows the draft proposed Settlement Boundaries. The Plan allows for these Settlement Boundaries to be redrawn (last boundary review was 20 years ago).

No one wants uncontrolled development and, without the Plan, the village is at risk of major developers seizing an opportunity to force through their own building programmes – this is happening elsewhere. The Plan represents our opportunity to defend against unwelcome development and to give us a say in what future development will look like.

Parish Council – the Parish Council has a duty to care for our village, its environment and its future. We should participate in the Plan and accept that some development will take place. The Plan will allow us to have some control on the where, the what and the how many! Everyone is welcome to express their comments and ideas directly to MSDC however the Parish Council would like to create a consensus which we will submit to MSDC on behalf of the village. To help us reach this consensus, we ask you to answer the following questions,

1. Do you agree with the need for some new houses in the village?
2. Do you think the village can accommodate between 10-20 new houses over the next 18 or so years?
3. The proposed Settlement Boundaries shown on the map overleaf are draft only – do you want to alter the boundaries? If so, please indicate your ideas on the map overleaf.
4. Do you have a view on the type of houses that may be built, e.g. affordable, starter, market, sheltered, self-build, eco?
5. Do you have any suggestions for potential sites for new housing? If so, please indicate your ideas on the map overleaf.
6. Would you like to make a comment? (ie, regarding infrastructure)?

Please support the Parish Council and let us have your answers/comments – please submit these at the meeting or, if you are not able to attend, please email clerk.wspc@btconnect.com or submit written comments to Broadway House, Broadway, Wickham Skeith, c/o Parish Clerk.

Please come to the meeting – the Plan is important, everyone’s view is important - Thank you

Joint Local Plan Consultation Document

(Aug 2017)

Online Mapping:

Wickham Skeith Proposed Settlement Boundaries – extract taken from <https://baberghmidsuffolk.opus4.co.uk/planning/localplan/maps/consultation>

