

# HARTEST AND BOXTED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

One hundred years ago Hartest and Boxted had a population of around 900 with numerous shops and most people worked in the local area. (This dropped to around 350 in 1971.)

Today the population is approaching 600. Some of our residents work at home or locally, but many travel further away to work. This has radically altered the character of the village.

In 10 to 15 years time there will be more changes, but what will they be? Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan gives us the chance to shape those changes. We want your views and ideas to help us make this happen. We have set down some suggestions to help stimulate some thoughts. When responding, think about these basic questions:

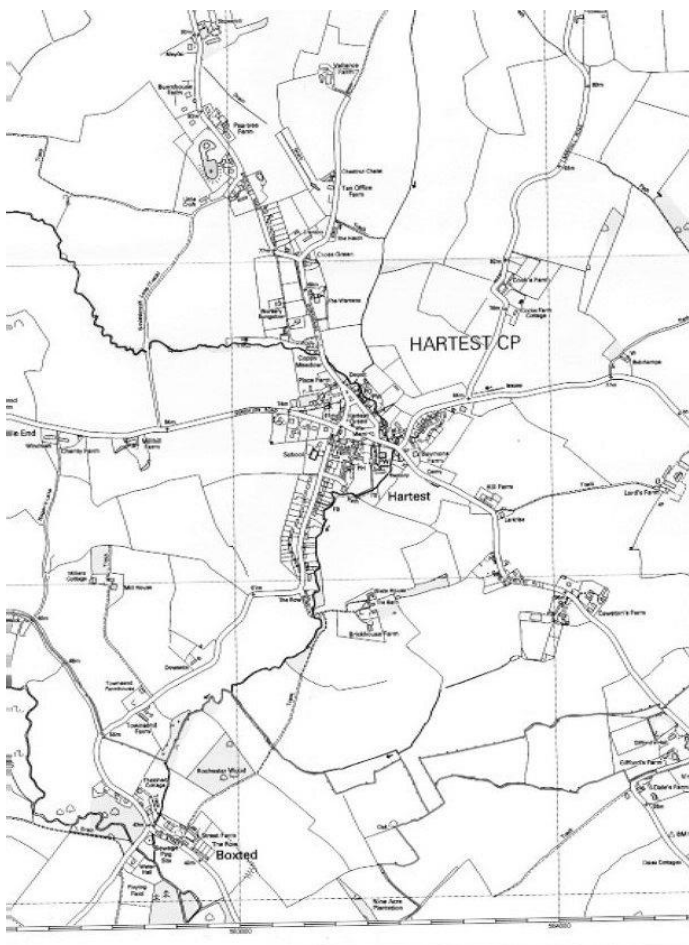
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HARTEST AND BOXTED ?

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT HARTEST AND BOXTED ?

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO KEEP THE VILLAGES ALIVE AS RURAL COMMUNITIES ?

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES ?

On the back page we give a brief introduction to what Neighbourhood Plans are all about. You will see that for the first time we have the potential to influence and control what happens to our communities. Please let us know what you think. Use the questionnaire in the inside pages to give us your response. (The questionnaire is also available on the website at [Hartest.com](http://Hartest.com))



*How can we make our villages better places to live in, to work in and enjoy?*

*Give us an idea of YOUR aspirations for the future.*

## For your responses . . . and your ideas

These two pages are for you to complete and give your responses so that we get as much feedback as possible from residents of Hartest and Boxted. We want your ideas to help shape the Plan. We put forward a few ideas to get you thinking. There is plenty of scope for you to write about anything extra which you think the Plan should address. You can do this either in the blank section on this form or on separate sheets of paper. Finally, please tell us what is MOST important to you.

### HOUSING

- *Does your home meet your needs?  
If not, how would you want to change it?*
- *Do you think new houses would be appropriate for our villages?  
What sort of new houses should be provided?*

### BUILDINGS USED BY THE PUBLIC

- *Do existing buildings used by the public serve your needs?  
(say which you refer to)*
- *Do we need additional public buildings or services?  
(e.g. shop, business facilities, other) Would you use them?*

### ROADS AND PARKING

- *Are they suitable for car users in 2013?*
- *If not, what changes would you like to see?  
(e.g. speed control measures, more parking)*

### GREEN SPACES

- *In what way do you value our green spaces?  
(e.g. the Green, Hartest Wood?)*
- *Should we provide more and if so what?  
(e.g. playgrounds for children, sports areas)*

### FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

- *Is the footpath network extensive enough as a means of walking around our villages?*
- *If not, should we have more paths or bridleways?  
(e.g. to link Hartest and the Wood)*

### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

- *Are existing bus services and broadband speeds adequate?*
- *Should these links be improved?  
(e.g. car sharing/car clubs, better mobile signal, faster broadband)*

**BUSINESS AND WORK**

- *Do you work in the village?  
What facilities could improve this?*

- *Would you like to work in the village?  
What facilities might make this possible for you?*

**SHOPS AND OTHER FACILITIES**

- *Are you happy with existing provisions?*

- *What other facilities would improve your village for you?  
Would you support them regularly?*

**COMMUNITY HELP AND SUPPORT**

- *Are current provisions adequate for your needs?  
What are you most likely to require?*

- *Would you like some support services more locally based?  
(e.g. resident nurse or care worker)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

- *Do you have access to enough land for your food and fuel needs?*

- *Would you support more provision -  
(e.g. for allotments, orchards, woods and hedges for fuel)  
Would you like to see community energy projects considered  
and if so what?*

**IDENTITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- *Now think about the identity of your village and tell us  
what you feel it is. Could this change in the future and how?*

- *Do you feel your village is sustainable and if not,  
what would you change to make it more so?*

*Write your further ideas or comments here (or on another sheet)*

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*You can choose to remain anonymous or give your name if you wish to identify yourself. Once the individual surveys have been returned, we will work on developing some of the ideas through further discussions with different individuals and groups. This is likely to continue during the later part of 2013, so please help if you can.*

## So what is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Coalition Government is committed to 'giving local people more power over development in their area'.

Communities like Hartest and Boxted, for the first time since 1948, have the chance to plan for a future that meets their needs. This might, for example, include some small scale new housing that can be afforded by local people (either owned or rented), a village shop, sports facilities, allotments and orchards or indeed anything else we feel we need as a community.

Babergh District Council is keen to work with groups like ours which are preparing neighbourhood plans. For many years we have had the right to respond to planning applications but neighbourhood plans "give communities the power to set the priorities for local development". This is a much more proactive approach that allows us to set the agenda for the future and influence the way our villages look and work.

Hartest Parish Council and Boxted Parish Meeting have formed a subgroup which is preparing a neighbourhood plan that responds to YOUR needs. Our first task is to find out from local people what they value about Hartest and Boxted and what changes they might like to see in the next 10 to 15 years.

Once the plan is completed it will be subject to a local referendum. If local people support the Plan it will be adopted as part of Babergh's Local Development Framework (LDF). The voices of Hartest and Boxted will be heard once more!

We will collect your responses **between 15 and 30 May**. Then on Saturday 22 June, from 10 am to 12 noon, we shall be in the Boxted and Hartest Institute talking to anyone who wants to come and see some of the early ideas and tell about their own hopes and dreams for our villages.

We are always pleased to have more volunteers in the group so if you are interested in taking part please tell us when you complete your reply.

If you would like to speak to anyone about the questionnaire, and share your ideas or raise any queries that you may have, we have an existing core group of people working on the plan. Send us an e-mail ([ralph@hartesthill.com](mailto:ralph@hartesthill.com)) [*updated May 2014*] and we will put you in touch with someone near you to talk to.

For more information on Neighbourhood Plans go to:

**<http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/The-Roadmap.pdf>**

Key features to consider are:

- *The Localism Act (2011)*
- *Purpose of a neighbourhood plan*
- *How communities can have more influence*
- *Ownership of the Neighbourhood Plan*