

**Town & Country Planning Act 1990**  
**Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) Regulations 2012**

**Hartest Supporting Statement**

**Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires a statement to explain why the proposed neighbourhood plan area is considered appropriate to be designated.**

The neighbourhood plan Area proposed by the Parish Council is appropriate for the following reasons:

The Hartest parish boundary has been proposed as the neighbourhood plan Area as it covers the whole parish of Hartest. In defining the whole Parish it makes the Neighbourhood Plan most understandable to local people. Furthermore, the parish boundary conforms exactly to the electoral base that will be consulted in order to achieve a referendum outcome. The village is well related to the parish boundary and is therefore an appropriate and logical existing boundary to use.

**Intention of the Hartest neighbourhood plan and further background**

The purpose of the plan is to provide an approved, legally recognised, planning document. This will describe how Hartest might develop as a sustainable, mixed, thriving community of residents and businesses over the next 30 years.

The Parish Council sees the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan as a positive planning exercise and an opportunity to prepare a visionary masterplan, which has at its core the real needs of the local community. The Parish Plan produced in 2006 identified a range of issues that were important to the community, and a Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity to encourage real progress in these areas.

Hartest Parish Council has delegated the development of the Plan to a working group consisting of Parish Councillors and residents. The Hartest Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has a wide range of local knowledge, skills and expertise in creating sustainable living environments. Any residents can attend formal meetings, while non-residents may be invited specifically to add expertise during the process. Details of meetings are available from the Hartest Parish Council neighbourhood plan [webpage](#)

The Hartest Neighbourhood Plan Working Group intends to use the [Parish Plan](#) along with the questionnaire from 2013 as the foundation to the community engagement. The Group is continuing to consider further community engagement. The children of Hartest Primary School are being encouraged to undertake an Easter holiday project, and a Facebook page has been launched to gather more views. The Group is proposing an event in conjunction with the village farmer's market and looking at ways of involving the older members of the parish.

The plan will include a summary of views, needs and planning aspirations of all residents regarding a wide range of aspects of the village environment. It will identify:

- The predominant 'Character' of the various areas within the Parish, including a physical description of surrounding landscapes and the houses;
- The demographic development of the village over the past 30 years and consider likely changes in the future;
- The likely requirements for the range of accommodation needed for a sustainable mixed community of businesses and homes;
- Those valued environmental, material and social assets that must be protected;
- The planning restrictions necessary to protect the character of the village, and possible locations which may provide suitable sites for development.

The provision of a community shop has been identified, both in the Parish Plan and subsequently in the 2013 questionnaire, as having significant importance to residents. The community shop and the provision of homes for villagers with a range of needs, will be addressed by the Plan, alongside transport; education; health and wellbeing; leisure; employment, energy and communications requirements needed to support our community in the future.

Hartest Parish Council recognises that the plan will only be valid and successful if it is created by the people who live and work in the village and it reflects their majority view. It is intended that the whole community will be invited to take part in a variety of activities to achieve this objective.

The application process requires The Hartest Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to indicate if the community is likely to utilise Neighbourhood Development Order and Community Right to Build alongside a Neighbourhood Development Plan. While there is no direct mandate from the community regarding these rights at this time, it was felt appropriate to include these options in case they become relevant as community engagement progresses. The Group has been advised by the District Council that there are no implications to the process if these rights are not subsequently taken up.

A summary report of the questionnaire and the terms of reference of the working group are available on Hartest Parish Council neighbourhood plan webpage.

ENDS

**Nick Price**

Co-opted member of Hartest Parish Council

15 April 2014

<http://hartest.onesuffolk.net/neighbourhood-plan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hartestplan>