**H A R T E S T N E I G H B O U R H O O D P L A N**

In 2012, following consultation with all residents, the Parish Council decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Hartest. A group of volunteers was established with a remit of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Government encourages parish councils to produce their own Neighbourhood Plans enabling local people to have a say in how the neighbourhood grows and develops.

**Further Consultation on Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

We have previously consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan on two occasions, but following the discovery that there may be uncertainties that the Plan could proceed to village referendum, we temporarily paused progress. This was particularly wise given the progress being made with the new Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan, which our Neighbourhood Plan must conform.

We have taken the pause to review the content of the Neighbourhood Plan, bring it up-to-date and include new planning policies that we feel will help maintain the special qualities of our village.

The new draft Neighbourhood Plan is now available for consultation. Given the current Covid19 pandemic restrictions on contact and meetings, we have decided to extend the consultation period to 8 weeks, between Monday 18 January and Monday 15 March (inclusive) to enable a better opportunity to view and respond to the Plan. It also allows the external bodies, such as Natural England and the Councils, more time given that many are home working and have staff absences.

**Consultation**

Under normal circumstances, we would have held a drop-in event at The Institute for residents to see details of the Plan and find out how to comment. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold such an event this time. We feel that extending the consultation period to 8 weeks will help to provide opportunities to find out about the Plan in other ways.

This is your opportunity to comment on the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is very different to previous versions and, even if you’ve previously commented, we would urge you to comment on the new version, even if you totally agree with it.

We would prefer comments being submitted online using the link below. Comments must be received no later than **Monday 15 March.** If you know someone that would like to comment but doesn’t have access to a computer then we can arrange to get a copy of the Plan and a comments form sent to them. Just contact our chairman, Ralph Carpenter (ralph@hartesthill.com) or 01284 830251. Paper comments forms can also be picked up from him at “TOP O THE HILL”, SHIMPLING ROAD, where they can also be returned.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HartestNP/>

Download Comments Form

**What next?**

Following the completion of the consultation, we will review comments received, make any necessary amendments to the Plan and then submit it to Babergh District Council in order that it can proceed to examination and village referendum at a later date.

**Future Stages**

Submission of amended Plan to Babergh District Council (Planned for May 2021)

Further Consultation by Babergh District Council (Spring 2021)

Independent Examination of Plan (Summer 2021)

Village Referendum (Autumn 2021)

Making (adoption) of Plan by Babergh District Council (as soon as possible after a successful referendum)

**View previous versions of the Plan**

March 2017 Draft Neighbourhood Plan

March 2018 Draft Neighbourhood Plan