

I. WELCOME

Thank you for visiting the Hartest Neighbourhood Plan Drop-in event today. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information about neighbourhood plans and we'd like you to give us feedback on your thoughts and aspirations for our village.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a new kind of planning document designed to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area. It can guide the development and conservation of the village. It can, for example, also identify proposals for:

- Improving areas;
- Providing new facilities;
- Sites for new development;
- Protecting sites of environmental or historic quality;

When complete, it will form part of the statutory development plan for the area, meaning that Babergh District Council and Planning Inspectors will have to take note of what it says when considering development proposals.

Community Involvement is a major part of the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and it must be approved in a local referendum before it can be used.

Why we're doing it

The Neighbourhood Plan provides us with an opportunity to decide locally how our village will respond to pressures for change over the next 15 or so years.

It's an opportunity to have a plan produced locally for the village

How it's prepared

There are a number of stages that have to be completed, as illustrated. Some of these stages are governed by the regulations for preparing neighbourhood plans and so there is no short cut. Most of the work will be prepared by the Working Group advised by specialists when necessary. We encourage YOU to get involved too, either with the Working Group or at the various consultation stages like today.



2. BACKGROUND

Planning in Hartest

The plan must take account of the national planning policy and the Babergh Local Plan – it cannot contradict or restrict policies which are already set. It can provide more detailed guidance and suggest further growth if local people think this is a good idea.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in 2012 with the aim of making the planning system less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment and to promote sustainable growth.

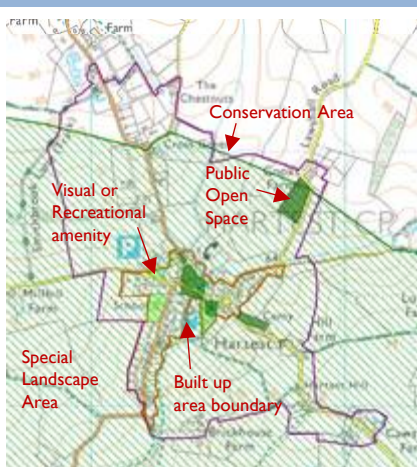
It encourages local people to “shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area”

Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. Outside these strategic elements, the neighbourhood plans is able to shape and direct sustainable development in the area.

Babergh Local Plan

The Babergh Core Strategy designates Hartest as a “Hinterland Village” that will accommodate some development to meet its own needs. The strategy directs most new development to the towns and larger villages.

Work on the Site Allocations Local Plan is at a very early stage, although designation as a hinterland village suggests that there would not necessarily be sites identified for development in the village.



Local Plan Village Map
The current map identifies the built up area boundary and other designations

Policy CSI I of the Core Strategy provides flexibility on the location of development in villages like Hartest.

It states (in summary)

“Developmentwill be approved where proposals are able to demonstrate a close functional relationship to the existing settlement on sites where the relevant issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the local planning authority (or other decision maker) and where the proposed development:

- i) is well designed and appropriate in size / scale, layout and character to its setting and to the village;*
- ii) is adjacent or well related to the existing pattern of development for that settlement;*
- iii) meets a proven local need, such as affordable housing or targeted market housing identified in an adopted community local plan / neighbourhood plan;*
- iv) supports local services and/or creates or expands employment opportunities; and*
- v) does not compromise the delivery of permitted or identified schemes in adopted community / village local plans within the same functional cluster.*



3. PREVIOUS WORK

2013 Household Survey

In May 2013 we carried out a household survey of Hartest and Boxted prior to the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Subsequent to the survey it was decided only to prepare a Plan for Hartest.

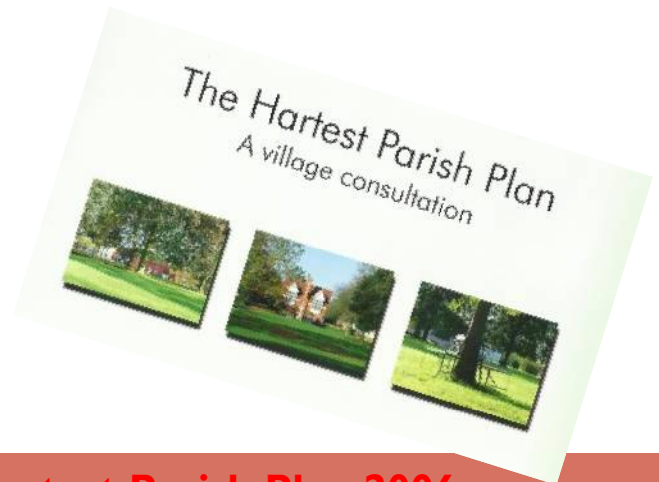
The survey asked questions about:

- Housing;
- Buildings used by the public;
- Roads and parking;
- Green spaces;
- Footpaths and bridleways;
- Transport and communication;
- Business and work;
- Shops and other facilities;
- Community help and support; and
- Environmental and community projects

The response rate was only 28% and so we can't rely on the results alone to guide what goes in the Plan. The results can be viewed online at the Neighbourhood Plan website.

Throughout this display, reference is made to the results of the survey.

Today's event will help add to the information previously gathered.



Hartest Parish Plan 2006

In Spring 2006 a Parish Plan was prepared by residents in the village with the support of Suffolk ACRE. The Plan contained 16 recommendations relating to:

- Leisure
- Community help and support
- Religion
- The school and the community
- Parish Council and local government
- Transport and communication
- The village environment
- Business or work based in a Hartest
- Retail and allied facilities

Today's questionnaire provides an opportunity for you to comment on these responses.

We want to know if the recommendations in the Parish Plan are still relevant today.

Please complete today's questionnaire and let us know.

4. HARTEST

Characteristics

The village is located some 7 miles to the north-west of Sudbury and 8 miles south of Bury St Edmunds, both towns representing the main employment, shopping and centres for residents. It is set mainly on the west bank in the valley of a tributary of the River Glem, which flows south from here to join the River Stour, although there are a few groups of houses spread elsewhere around the parish. Much of the village and the surrounding countryside is designated as a Conservation Area., which places added planning controls on the nature and type of new development that can take place.

The Green provides a distinctive heart to the village, with the medieval parish church, the primary school, the Institute, doctors' surgery and Crown public house all in close proximity.

The countryside around the village centre is of high quality and provides important views into and out of the village.

2013 Household Survey comments

ALLOTMENTS & ORCHARDS

- have more land (for growing food)
- development of community projects (e.g. as allotments or community orchard)
- new houses being built around an allotment area

What do you cherish about the historic and natural environment of Hartest and the surrounding area?

What areas need improving?

2013 Household Survey comments

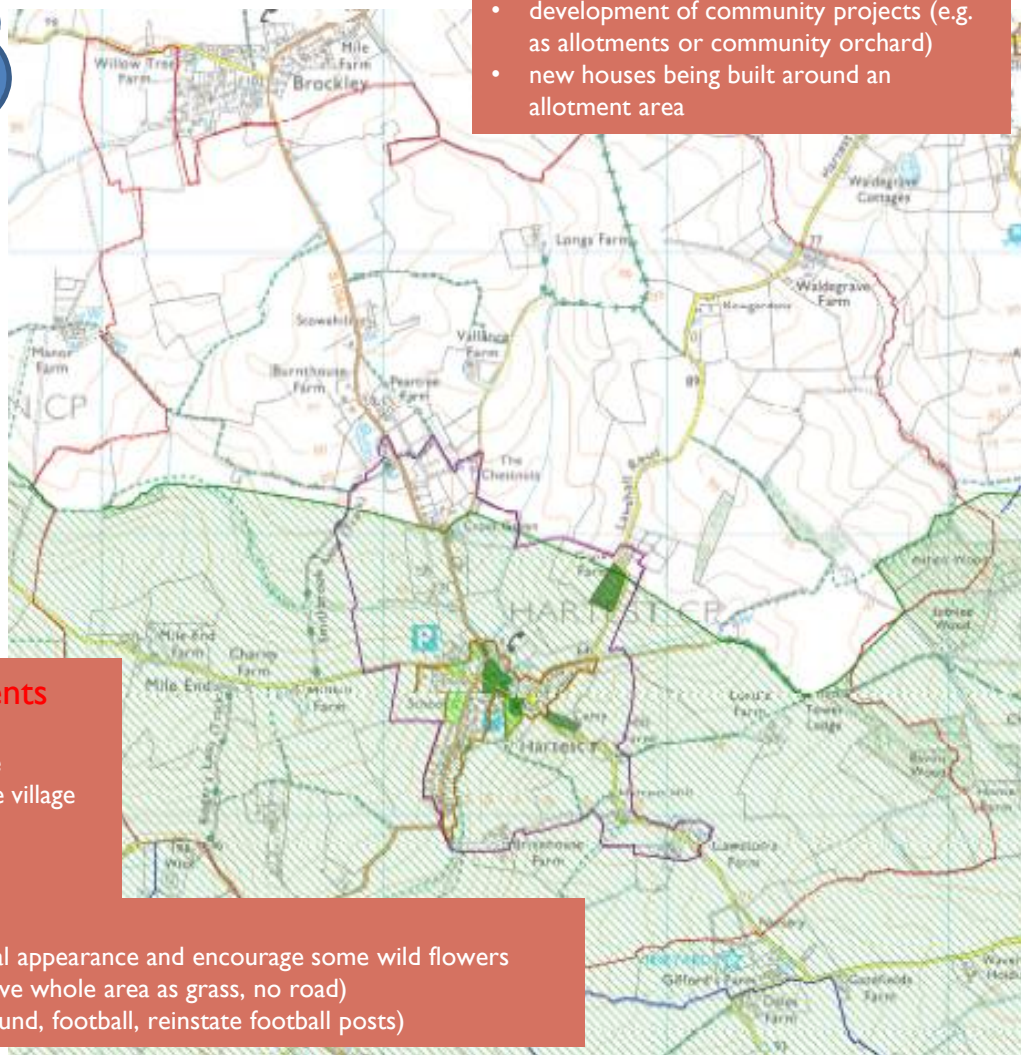
WOODS, FUEL & ENERGY

- support the potential for harvesting more wood from hedges or woodland
- importance of appropriate management of hedgerows
- comments on pros and cons of wind turbines + solar panels
- community energy projects

2013 Household Survey comments

THE GREEN

- “focal point” of the village, “is” the village
- protect at all costs as historic core of the village
- Over-zealous mowing resulting in sterile appearance / over manicured / becoming “suburbanised”
- need for more sympathetic management
- area of longer grass to give more informal appearance and encourage some wild flowers
- remove avenue of pink chestnuts (and have whole area as grass, no road)
- encourage more use by children (playground, football, reinstate football posts)



5. ENVIRONMENT

We've been doing some initial assessments of important views, buildings and green spaces in and around the village. Our initial conclusions are illustrated here. This work, including the identification of potentially important wildlife habitats, will continue to be developed as we work towards preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan.



6. STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

The Working Group has given consideration to the current situation in the village and produced the following analysis. We want to know if you agree with our thoughts and whether we've missed anything.

STRENGTHS

- Attractive location (immediate topography / wider geography)
- Contours, with many fine views
- A desirable place to live
- Quality buildings (individual / groups)
- The Green
- Community activities / organisations
- Strong volunteering
- Village church
- Pre-school / Primary school
- Doctors' surgery
- The Institute and The Crown pub
- Motor garage / butcher
- Farmers Market
- Village Fete
- Trees / hedgerows (with high species diversity)
- Footpaths network
- Hartest Wood
- The river
- No street lighting
- Parish Council

THREATS

- Inappropriate new development
- Development actioned before Neighbourhood Plan approved
- Damage to views / natural environment
- Limited public funding available
- Sustainability of current services
- Increasing house prices
- Unviable Primary school pupil numbers
- Closure of doctors' surgery
- Closure of The Crown pub as a commercial facility
- Endangered viability of village church
- Decline in volunteering
- Through traffic (amount / speed)
- Heavy vehicles on narrow roads
- Ugly energy generation
- Damage caused by wild deer

Do you agree with these?

Are there additions that you would suggest?

WEAKNESSES

- Above average house prices
- Lack of "affordable" housing
- High proportion of older residents
- Lack of children's play facilities
- Lack of other recreational facilities (eg Tennis / 5-a-side football)
- No general store / post office
- Through road traffic (amount / speed)
- Heavy vehicles on narrow roads
- Limited regular bus service
- Poor mobile phone / broadband services
- Inadequate drainage (surface / foul)
- Overhead cables

OPPORTUNITIES

- Scope for additional housing (including "affordable")
- Creation / support of local employment initiatives
- Increased community care
- Community transport provision
- Community shop
- Attracting people to Hartest (tourism)
- Amelioration of traffic issues
- Creation of public children's play / general sports facilities
- Wider church community use
- The Crown pub as a centre of the community
- Community energy generation
- Creation of Community Land Trust
- Exploitation of available public / charitable funding



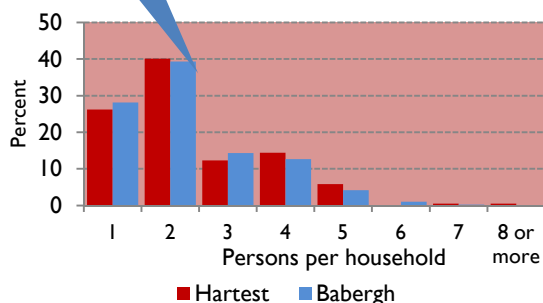
7. HOUSING & POPULATION

In 2011 the population of the village was 446 having grown by 4.5% since 2001. By comparison, the population of Babergh district grew by 5.1% in the same period.

Looking back over 100 years, the population in 1851 was 832 so the population has declined significantly since that time. More recently, the population has increased from a low of just 290 in 1971.

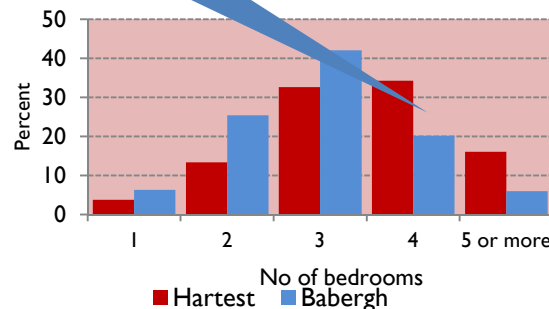
Over 65% of the village live in 1 or 2 person households

Persons per household 2011

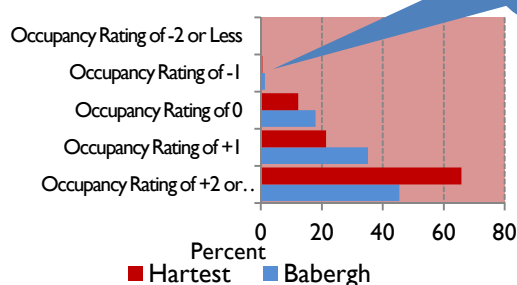


50% of the houses in Hartest have 4 or more bedrooms

House sizes

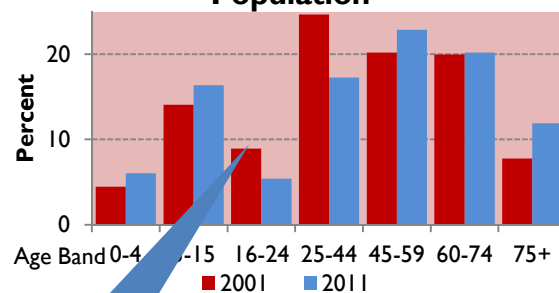


House Occupancy Rate 2011



There is little evidence of overcrowding in the village

Comparison of 2001 & 2011 Population



The proportion of people aged 25-44 is decreasing

Occupancy rating provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or under occupied. The number of bedrooms required is subtracted from the number of bedrooms present to obtain the occupancy rating. An occupancy rating of -1 implies that a household has one less bedroom than required, whereas +1 implies that they have one more bedroom than the standard requirement.



8. HOUSING GROWTH



The new homes built in the village over recent years have primarily been single houses within the built up area. The average has been just over 1 a year, which is not uncommon in a village the size of ours.

In 2011 there were 187 homes in the village representing an average occupancy rate of 2.4 people

If the growth rate of the last 8 years continued, there would be an additional 22 new homes in the village by 2031.

New homes built since 2007

2007-08	4
2008-09	0
2009-10	1
2010-11	3
2011-12	0
2012-13	1
2013-14	1
2014-15	1
TOTAL	11

How many new homes do you think should be built in Hartest over the next 15 years?

- Less than 10
- Between 10 and 22
- 22
- More than 22

What type of new housing DEVELOPMENT would you like to see in the village?

- ✓Single Infill
- ✓Groups of 4-5
- ✓A small estate of say 10 homes

2013 Household Survey

Many considered their home does not meet their needs.

- Need extensions, additional facilities, more space
- Need to downsize
- General acceptance that new houses might be needed for future.
- Many comments with regard to the nature of the houses. Some clearly oppose further developments.

What type of new homes do you think should be built over the next 15 years?

- ✓ 1 -2 bedroom homes?
- ✓ 3-4 bedroom homes?
- ✓ 5+ bedroom homes?
- ✓ Care homes for elderly?
- ✓ Affordable homes for local people?



9. TRAVEL

2013 Household Survey

speeding - concerns and suggestions for traffic calming

- use technology to control speed / flashing signs / speed bumps to slow traffic at start of village + within village / enforce speed controls / speed cameras
- avoid traffic islands, pinch points etc - too suburban and not in character of village
- 20 mph limit

size of vehicles

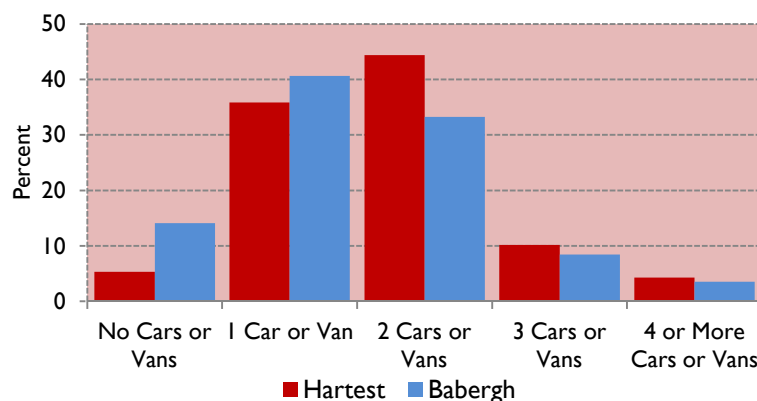
- need for restrictions - large lorries and farm machinery (cause damage and too large for roads)
- weight limit for vehicles

parking

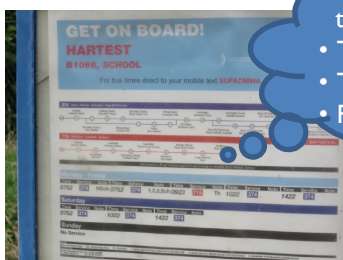
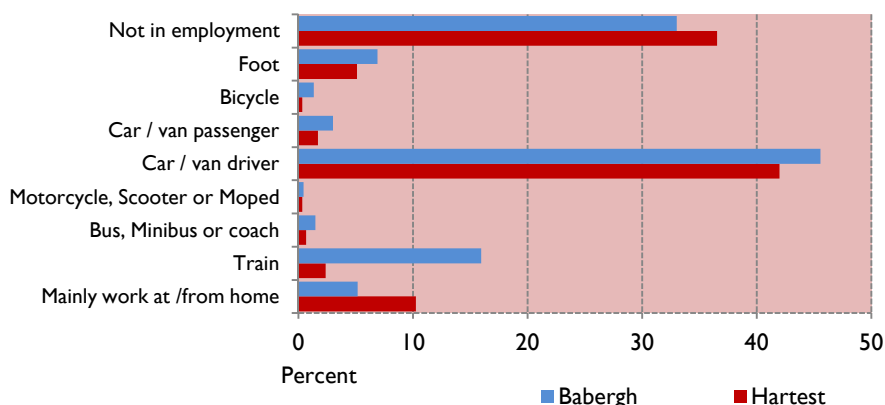
- some need for more parking, particularly in The Row
- conflict between available parking places and “look” of the area
- suggestions for parking site near centre of village
- improvement needed near school
- need to protect grass verges on narrow roads

other comments and suggestions

- need for sensible bypass
- concept that village is a “people-centred” area
- some refer to maintenance, potholes, winter gritting



Method of travel to work 2011



Do you experience difficulties travelling out of the village:

- To work
- To shop
- For other journeys?

Do you experience difficulties travelling around the village?



2013 Household Survey FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS

- excellent network of footpaths, but welcome more (including link between wood and village + other possible links)
- maintenance, cutting of vegetation, dog mess, difficulties with push chair
- sometimes difficult when path goes across ploughed field but appropriate uncultivated field edges and their potential use
- prepare village footpath map for display + useful to highlight where more links could be developed
- some adverse use by horse-riders and motor bikes



10. FACILITIES & SERVICES



2013 Household Survey COMMUNITY HELP AND SUPPORT

some responses indicated people feel they are fine at the moment but recognise they are likely to need more later (as they get older)

- currently strong support for doctors' surgery and nurse facility in surgery and need to keep them
- general appreciation of need for care workers (for older people) + support to enable people to stay in their home
- drop in location for health visitor and childcare an issue for some
- need for "neighbourliness" and community network
- suggestions for neighbourhood watch / anti-theft officer / village bobby
- need for shop and post office (see other sections)

2013 Household Survey

SHOPS AND OTHER FACILITIES

- need for community shop and a post office
- recognise that shop also provides focus for social interaction especially if community shop is run as a voluntary project
- range of suggestions for what it (the shop) would sell + provide - coffee / tea + other facilities
- appreciate previous efforts but worth another try
- aware of difficulties + changes in shopping habits
- variable responses on how far people would support shop (or other facilities)
- recognise value of butcher and garage (currently in the village)
- suggestions for allotment area



What do you think of the existing services and facilities in the village?
How often do you use them?

2013 Household Survey

PLAYGROUND AND OTHER FACILITIES

- support for children's playground
- some calls for sports facilities (including tennis court) though recognition that village population is small to support this fully
- some suggestions to work more closely with school (including use of swimming pool)
- suggestions for community allotments, community orchard



2013 Household Survey HARTEST WOOD

- valued, but some comments indicate under-used, too far from village
- some calls for enlarged wood + features to enhance wild life



Would you like to see more jobs provided in the village?



2013 Household Survey BUSINESS AND WORK

- some work in Hartest or surrounding villages, or part-time, or occasionally
- need for post office / parcel collection point / community shop as drop off point
- could encourage "hub of activity" if more people worked in village
- development of small scale / "rough and ready" units for local work (but not large scale industrial development)
- need for improved broadband



II. WHAT NEXT

We'd like to hear your thoughts and ideas

- Can you spare some time today to discuss your thoughts and aspirations for Hartest?
- We'd like to hear what you think about what Hartest will look like in the future
- What additional services and facilities do you think the village could support?
- Are there areas of the village that should be protected from development?
- Are there community activities that you'd like to be involved with?
- Would you like to help out with the Neighbourhood Plan?

Housing Needs Survey

Today we're launching a comprehensive survey that will ask every household in the village what needs exist now or are likely to exist in the near future for new homes. The information gathered in the survey will be important to determining how the neighbourhood plan can provide a framework for meeting these needs.

Please help us by sparing the time to complete the questionnaire and returning it to us.



Vision and Options

The outcome of today's event, plus the information gathered through research and surveys will help us come up with a Vision for the Neighbourhood Plan and some draft Options for its content. We'll test these with you, the community, before we proceed with the next stage.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Once the above stages have been completed we'll start preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Once complete, we'll undertake formal consultation for a period of six weeks which will allow anyone to make comments that will be considered by an independent Examiner appointed by Babergh Council to examine the Plan.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME
TODAY**