

**Local Neighbourhood Plan community consultation deadline extended**

**The Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan covers the next 20 years of development across seven parishes and two local authority areas. The ‘Issues and Options’ community consultation survey was launched on July 21st, and asks local residents to have your say about where you think new housing should go, and what type of housing is most needed across the area. The deadline to take part has been extended to Sunday 23rd August.**

Thanks go to those who have completed the survey so far, around 600 responses have been received. This represents less than 1 in 10 households in the area covered by the Plan, and all local residents are urged to take part so that their views are heard. You can find the survey online at [www.ddnp.info](http://www.ddnp.info/), and for those unable to go online printed copies of the surveys are available on request, and can be hand delivered/collected locally if needed. Please contact your local Parish Clerk (contact details are shown on local Parish Council noticeboards) to request a copy, or if you know someone who’d like a paper survey you can request one on their behalf. Completing the survey is anonymous, and there's also a chance to enter a prize draw to win shopping vouchers.

“It is imperative that we get a return rate on this consultation that is representative of the local communities involved in the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan area,” confirms Cllr David Burn, Chair of the Plan’s Steering Group, comprising Parish Councillors from the seven parishes involved. “Whether people are for or against development, or have views on other topics included in the survey such as protecting dark skies, improving footpath and cycleways, protecting views and local historical assets, we encourage and welcome their comments, and will be sharing the results with South Norfolk Council as well as the local community.”

Cllr David Burn was also interviewed by Park Radio on Thursday August 6th. In this interview, he explained how neighbourhood plans can stipulate where housing should go and how it should look, based on what the local community has said in consultations such as the one currently underway. “We understand that people are wary of development,” he says, “but the Government sets housing targets, often just a minimum number which may increase, and we are obliged to meet these targets. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, development to meet these targets can take place wherever the local planning authority considers the best place, and this may well be at odds with what the community think. That is why we want and need as many people to give their views on the proposed sites in Diss and some of the parishes in the Plan that have been put forward from the wider Greater Norwich Local Plan consultation.”

The deadline to complete the survey is SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST, 5pm.

END

Contact for more information: contact@ddnp.info or David Burn, Chair of the DDNP Steering Group: d.burn@ddnp.info / 07889 391414

Or Cllr Simon Olander, 07855 742843.

**Additional information for Editors**

The DDNP area comprises Diss, Roydon, Palgrave, Brome & Oakley, Burston & Shimpling, Stuston and Scole. It is a complex and composite Neighbourhood Plan, one of the most complex undertaken in the UK, and covers an area of just over 7,000 households and is home to around 14,000 people. Diss Town Council started the process several years ago, but it was soon realized that the best approach was to invite local neighbouring parishes to join forces to produce a single Plan. The project has received Government funding and the Plan will be written following this latest consultation. It will then be consulted on again early 2021.

Various approaches have been taken to publicise the consultation survey: postcards with information about how to take part have been delivered to homes across the Neighbourhood Plan area; the survey has been promoted via [www.ddnp.info](http://www.ddnp.info/) website and the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page; information has been shared on local community groups and parish council sites; and volunteers have been out across their parishes putting up posters telling people about the survey and delivering printed surveys on request.