

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PRESENTATION

The Parish Council has been asked by a parishioner to look again at a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) being adopted by Burstall.

The Council itself doesn't have the resources to undertake such a project but would be fully supportive of a team of parishioners, should you decide to go ahead.

A NP should set out a positive vision for how an area can develop in ways that meet identified local need and may include policies relating to specific areas, e.g. allocating site(s) for new homes, employment or community facilities, or protecting important local green space. A successful NP has statutory weight and status. When adopted, it becomes part of the districts 'development plan' and will be used to help determine relevant planning application in the area.

A NP **CANNOT be used to stop growth or promote less development than the district authorities' Local Plan.** They must also meet the following basic conditions:

- Have regard to National Policy
- Be in general conformity with the strategic elements of the Local Plan
- Contribute towards sustainable development.

This is a brief outline of the stages of the process:

1. **STAGE 1: Designation of the NP area (Reg. 5)** – as the 'Qualifying Body' only a Town or Parish Council in Babergh/Mid Suffolk may make an application to designate a NP area. For Burstall, the area will be determined without the need for consultation.
2. **STAGE 2: Preparing the draft NP** – this stage requires a considerable amount of research, community engagement and effort by the NP Group. The district council's role is to provide help and support but will not do the work.
3. **STAGE 3: Pre-submission Publicity & Consultation (Reg. 14)** – the Town or Parish Council consults on its draft Plan for a minimum period of six weeks. As a statutory consultee, BMSDC will respond highlighting any concerns etc. This stage may have to be repeated.
4. **STAGE 4: Submission of NP (Reg. 15 and Reg. 16)** – the Parish Council formally submits its Plan to BMSDC who check that it meets basic requirement before consulting on it for a minimum of six weeks.
5. **STAGE 5: Independent Examination (Reg. 17)** – The examiner will consider whether the Plan meets the Basic Conditions etc. The NP may be accepted, accepted with modifications, or rejected.
6. **STAGE 6: - Referendum (Reg. 18)** – The question is '*Do you a NP to be used to help the decisions of planning applications to be made in Burstall?*' A simple yes/no vote.

- 7. STAGE 7: - Making (adoption) of NP (Reg. 19 & 20)** – If the Referendum delivers a majority ‘yes’ vote, BMSDC are obliged to formally adopt the NP as part of its Development Plan Framework.

Neighbourhood Planning is a **regulatory process**. The majority of the work and costs of preparing a plan rest with you, the local community. The cost of producing a NP will depend largely on scope, complexity and size of the plan. The latest Government estimates suggest that plans could cost **between £20,000 and £86,000**, and on average take 2 to 3 years to complete.

The question to answer is, “***What can your NP do to add real value at the Local level?***”

If you wish to form a Burstall NP group, the Parish Council will be happy to put you in touch with the Babergh Officer.