

ROCKLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

What are we doing?

The Parish Council is working with Breckland, within the framework of the emerging Local Plan, to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to express our needs and aspirations as a community. In conjunction with the new Breckland Local Plan, which is expected to come into force later this year, the Neighbourhood Plan will attempt to establish a suitable framework that will be used to guide the course of future improvements and developments in our parish.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood planning provides a statutory right for local people and businesses to plan for the future of their neighbourhood in a sustainable and fair way. Crucially, it is designed to enable local people and communities to strongly influence how development will occur locally.

Neighbourhood plans are about improving and developing neighbourhoods in a sympathetic and sustainable way, not completely stopping growth.

Neighbourhood planning has the potential to:

- make improvements, not just to housing, but to travel, health and wellbeing, community amenities – such as recreational facilities and communal green spaces, and the local economy
- give our community a bigger say over the type, location, size, pace and design of development coming forward
- tackle long term trends or challenges affecting our community
- foster progressive relationships between our community, developers and local authorities
- provide our neighbourhood with more influence on how these things are delivered and implemented

Our Neighbourhood Plan cannot propose less development than the Breckland Local Plan, but it can propose such things as alternative sites or higher design standards for buildings. In short, it has an intensely local focus and can be as ambitious or modest as the community decides.

When made, and following a successful referendum of the local community, our Neighbourhood Plan, together with the Breckland Local Plan, becomes a primary planning reference for our Parish, and will be used to determine planning applications and improvements to our services and amenities.

What Happens Next?

Rocklands Parish Council would like to know what you think of our parish. What do you like about our area, and what would you change? What do we do well, and what could we do better?

To enable you to have your say, we will be distributing a leaflet very soon to everyone in the Parish. This will provide more information, and a place to write down your initial thoughts. Leaflets will also be available in our Community Shop – where you can post your comments into a 'Neighbourhood Plan Suggestion Box'.

The Parish Council will be organising a series of briefings, meetings and questionnaires during the weeks and months ahead – including a series of meetings at Rocklands Village Hall – to keep everyone up to date on how the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. Your voice counts, so please help us to help you by actively getting involved.

Thank you from Rocklands Parish Council.

