April 2021 District Councillor report

 for

Chevington Parish Council

The link below takes you to the Rural Service Network, their website contains a wealth of information, of which a short extract is printed below

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-april-2021>

# **WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING?**

[COMMUNITY PLANNING](https://rsnonline.org.uk/tag/community-planning)[COMMUNITY](https://rsnonline.org.uk/tag/community)[NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING](https://rsnonline.org.uk/tag/neighbourhood-planning)

A successful neighbourhood plan must be based on evidence and an understanding of the place they relate to. Communities need to gather a range of evidence and local knowledge before writing their plan. We have collated a selection of evidence, which may be useful to communities in starting to shape their evidence base.

##### [**Click here to view your individual local authority neighbourhood planning page**](https://rsnonline.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning-menu)

Are you interested in shaping your local area?  Do you want to help decide where new homes, shops and other facilities should go and what they could look like?

Getting involved in neighbourhood planning can be very rewarding and there is a range of help and assistance available to you.

The Localism Act, which received Royal Assent on November 15 2011, introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare neighbourhood plans.

Neighbourhood Planning can be taken forward by two types of body, town or parish councils, and ‘neighbourhood forums’ for areas without parishes.

Local authorities will continue to produce Local Plans (or Core Strategies) to set the strategic context within which neighbourhood plans will sit, however neighbourhood plans can contain detailed policies to guide local authority decisions about planning applications.

There is a process which must be followed before a neighbourhood plan can be put to a community referendum and legally come into force.  Moreover, it must take account of national planning policy and it must align with strategic policies in the Local Plan or Core Strategy.

The basic stages in developing a neighbourhood plan are:
1.    Set up a neighbourhood planning group and have the plan area designated
2.    Collect evidence about your area and gather local views about priority issues
3.    Identify which issues you want to produce policies for
4.    Write a draft neighbourhood plan for your area
5.    Formally consult local residents and other interested parties with the draft
6.    Submit a final version of the plan to your local authority for its examination and then a referendum

##### **First Steps…**

In the first instance, contact your local authority’s Strategic Planning team.  They will be able to provide you with information about the requirements for putting your plan together.  They can also help you to understand all of the development and planning issues that may affect your plan.

The plan must be based on a robust evidence base which has considered a broad range of social, economic and environmental data and information, to ensure that it is sound and is accepted at examination.

A wide range of evidence may already be available for you to consider, for example:

•    The evidence base that your local authority produced for its Local Plan or Core Strategy.
•    Previous work you have done for a Parish or Town Plan
•    SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) from the local authority
•    Information on listed buildings from English Heritage
•    Information on rivers and flood risk from the Environment Agency
•    Where you are in a National Park or an AONB, plans and information for those areas (note that National Park Authorities produce their own Local Plans)
•    Environmental Management Plans

You may wish to conduct a survey of local residents to gather their views about issues and priorities.  Some communities may also wish to undertake a local housing needs assessment, to identify what types of homes are needed and demand for affordable housing.

##### **How can we help at the Rural Services Network?**

We have put together a selection of data which can be used to set the context for your local parish/community.

Please note, that any plan will need to gather a wide range of evidence and this is just a selection of key facts and figures available at ward and parish level as a starting point for the plan.

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 **There are a number of websites and organisations who can provide you with assistance in this process and point you towards funding possibilities to support you on your journey:**

###### [**www.planningportal.gov.uk**](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/)

###### [**www.locality.org.uk**](http://www.locality.org.uk/)

###### [**www.neighbourhoodplanning.org/**](https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/)**(Brought to you by Locality - Shape the future of your local area by creating a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order)**

###### [**https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/supporting-pages/neighbourhood-planning**](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/supporting-pages/neighbourhood-planning)**(Govt guidance on giving communities more power)**

###### [**http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/your\_place\_your\_plan\_guide.pdf**](http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/your_place_your_plan_guide.pdf)**(Town and Country Planning Association guidance on Neighbourhood Planning)**

###### **To view the 'Notes on Neighbourhood Planning' newsletters produced by DCLG -**[**click here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notes-on-neighbourhood-planning)

[**Wrong** items in “recycling” cost Suffolk taxpayers £1m](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/210407-EADT-P1-and-2-Wrong-items-in-recycling-cost-Suffolk-taxpayers-1m.pdf) – Thousands of tonnes of recycling waste in Suffolk are rejected each year because of contamination from the wrong items being put in bins, it has been revealed. Story from the Suffolk Waste Partnership. This misplaced waste must be hand sorted seriously impacting the automated process of waste management

[**Businesses show** “vote of confidence” in Bury St Edmunds as empty units fill up](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/210407-EADT-P5-Businesses-show-vote-of-confidence-in-Bury-St-Edmunds-as-empty-units-fill-up.pdf) – Empty units in Bury St Edmunds are filling up as the town gears up to bounce back from the pandemic – and its historic high street will soon be fully let.

[**Abbeycroft Leisure** is ready for reopening.](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/210407-BFP-P13-Abbeycroft-chief-ready-for-reopening-of-centres.pdf) The chief executive of Abbeycroft Leisure has spoken about the strain on the leisure industry during the pa ndemic and his excitement at the prospect of reopening facilities on 12 April. West Suffolk Council is mentioned.

[**Parking permit** review launched](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/210407-BFP-P23-New-collection-box-damaged.pdf) – A long-awaited review into the heavily-oversubscribed Bury St Edmunds parking permit scheme has been launched.

[New collection box damaged](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/210407-BFP-P23-New-collection-box-damaged-2.pdf)– A collection box which was installed in the Abbey Gardens just weeks ago has been vandalised.

**Vandals** damage windows on new housing in Haverhill - The developers behind a new housing scheme being built in Haverhill have slammed the 'deplorable' vandalism that left five houses damaged over the weekend. The vandals scaled security fencing to get on to the site in Manor Road before hurling rocks at five of the houses, causing extensive damage. The development on the land once occupied by Westfield Primary School is being undertaken by Barley Homes, the development company set up by West Suffolk Council.

[**Ambitious plans** are afoot for pioneering dementia care](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/HE20210401-P3-dementia-care-plan.pdf). A new planning application has been submitted for a dementia care village in Haverhill.

[**Bungalow in Haverhill** was flattened due to safety fears.](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/HE20210401-P4-demolished-bungalow-planning-app.pdf) A follow up on a story explaining that the developer who owns the site demolished the derelict property because of concerns for safety. A planning application has now been submitted for four houses on the site.

[**Funding for retail s**tart-ups greeted as a welcome boost.](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/HE20210401-P10-high-st-funding.pdf) Local response to the SIGIF high street funding announcement

**Bury St Edmunds St Andrew's Street South to shut for two days to allow 18-metre-high crane to be assembled for Post Office redevelopment -** A major road in Bury St Edmunds town centre will be closed for two days next week when an 18-metre-high tower crane will be assembled for the redevelopment of the former Post Office

**An Autistic Apprentice has overcome years of anxiety and sleep deprived nights as a teenager, to reap professional success.** West Suffolk Council apprentice Bradley Farthing-Kiff <https://www.fenews.co.uk/press-releases/66044-autistic-apprentice-overcomes-years-of-anxiety-and-sleep-deprived-nights-as-a-teenager-to-reap-professional-success>

[**Suffolk sets** out big changes to Covid testing.](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/EADT-20210327-p1-and-8-new-testing-centre-facilities.pdf) Mobile units and town centre sites are being introduced as the use of home testing kits increases.

[**Traffic ban e**xtended to help cafes and restaurants.](https://intranet.lan.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/upload/EADT-20210327p18-Abbeygate-St-closure.pdf) About a six-month trial which sees Abbeygate Street closed from 8am to 6pm.

Mike Chester

District Councillor Chedburgh and Chevington Ward