



Acton Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

September 2023

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Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1.1 The Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan is a community-led document for guiding the future development of the parish. It is the first of its kind for Acton and a part of the Government's current approach to planning. It has been undertaken with extensive community engagement, consultation and communication.
- 1.2 The Consultation Statement is designed to meet the requirements set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 for Consultation Statements. This document sets out the consultation process employed in the production of the Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan. It also demonstrates how the requirements of Regulation 14 and 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have been satisfied.
- 1.3 The Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (ANPSG) has endeavoured to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the desires of the local community and key stakeholders and has sought to engage widely from the outset of developing the Plan.
- 1.4 This consultation statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 1.5 Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a consultation statement should contain:
 - a) Details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.
 - b) Explains how they were consulted.
 - c) Summarises the main issues and concerns that were raised by the persons consulted.
 - d) Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.6 This consultation statement will also demonstrate that the process undertaken to produce the Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan has complied with Section 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This sets out that before submitting a Neighbourhood Plan to the Local Planning Authority (in this case Babergh District Council) a qualifying body (in this case the Parish Council) must:
 - i. Publicise, in a manner that it is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live or work within Acton civil parish,

- ii. Provide details of the proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- iii. Provide details of where, how and when the proposals within the Plan can be inspected.
- iv. Set out how representations may be made; and
- v. Set out the date for when those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date from when the draft proposals are first publicised.
- vi. Consult any consultation body referred to in Para 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body may be affected by the proposals for a Neighbourhood Plan.
- vii. Send a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Local Planning Authority.

1.7 Furthermore the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) at paragraph 15, requires that the qualifying body should be inclusive and open in the preparation of its Neighbourhood Plan and to ensure that the wider community:

- is kept fully informed of what is being proposed,
- can make their views known throughout the process,
- has opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- Is made aware of how their views have informed the draft Neighbourhood Plan or Order

2. Context for the Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 2.1 The idea of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Acton, had been under consideration for some time during the latter half of 2021, and an initial awareness arising event was held in September to gauge whether there was sufficient support for a Neighbourhood Plan. The process began formally in October 2021 when the Neighbourhood Areas was designated. **(see Appendices 1 and 2).**
- 2.2 A Steering Group was formed to oversee and guide the Plan preparation process and the Group acted as an Advisory Committee of Acton Parish Council. A formal Terms of Reference for the Steering Group was drawn up and approved **(See Appendix 3)**. A key purpose of the Steering Group was to engage the local community to ensure that the Plan is truly representative of the ambitions of Acton and to maximise support for the approach taken in the Neighbourhood Plan by ensuring high levels of community engagement throughout the plan-making process.
- 2.3 The Terms of Reference also set out two key principles to guide the work of the Group as follows:
- 1) The Steering Group will undertake the process in a democratic, transparent and fair fashion, encouraging widespread participation and giving equal consideration to opinions and ideas from all members of the community.
 - 2) All plan decisions made shall be fully evidenced and supported through consultation with the local community.
- 2.4 The Steering Group comprised a mix of local residents and between 2-3 Parish Councillors. The Parish Council appointed an independent planning consultant to help the Steering Group and guide them through the process. The Group was keen to be as democratic and open as possible.
- 2.4 A key driver for the Neighbourhood Plan was to give residents a voice in the sustainable development of the Parish, by developing a Plan that is inclusive, innovative and bespoke to the needs of the parish. By undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group aimed to :
- Give a voice to local residents to manage and shape development to the benefit of the whole community.
 - Ensure that new development is sensitive to the local character, heritage and environment
 - Maintain the existing sense of rural community
 - Help identify the community's priorities for developer contributions.

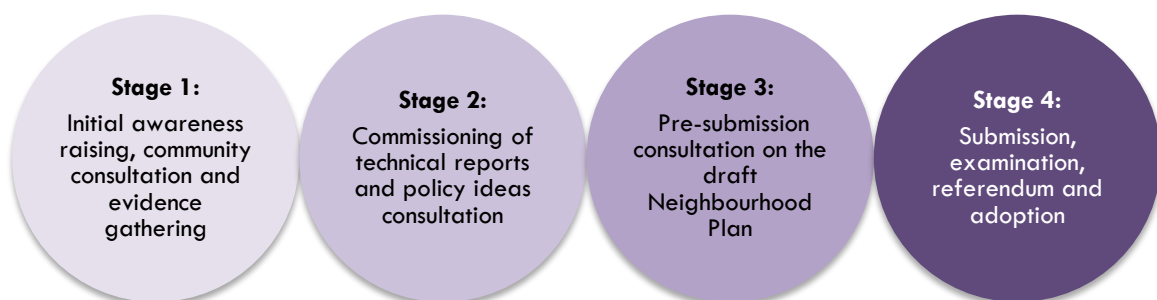
- 2.5 To spread the word about the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group agreed engagement needed to be effective throughout the process if it were to result in a well-informed plan and a sense of local ownership. Communication is dealt with in **Section 5** of this report.

3. Designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 3.1 Acton Parish Council applied to Babergh District Council for the entire parish to be designated a Neighbourhood Plan area on 29th September 2021. The application was approved on 26th October 2021. The Acton NDP Area Designation Application, the Neighbourhood Area Map and Designation Statement can all be found on the Acton page of the Babergh website:
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-babergh/acton-neighbourhood-plan/>
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan area application and Map can be found in full at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Area Decision Notice can be found in full at **Appendix 2**.

4. Community Engagement Stages

- 4.1 The Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group led on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, and it is hoped that the document reflects the community's vision and aspirations for the future of the parish.
- 4.2 In order, to create a Plan that represents the needs and aspirations of residents, the Steering Group has undertaken four broad stages of community engagement/consultation, and these are shown below:



- 4.3 The Steering Group have drawn upon a number of sources including evidence gathered through the various stages and as a result of stakeholder and community input.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- 4.4 As mentioned above, the day-to-day management of the Neighbourhood Plan process has been undertaken by the Steering Members themselves with support from the Parish Council and other local residents as required. The Steering Group has consisted of average of between 7-8 members who are all local residents. The Steering Group has been supported through the process by an independent consultant who was appointed in early 2022.
- 4.5 The Steering Group has met regularly throughout the process although there have been periods when the Group have met in smaller working groups undertaking specific tasks depending on workload and the stage of the process reached.
- 4.4 There is a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/> which contains details of the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, together with copies of the consultation materials and exhibition boards used for consultation events together with feedback from those events. The website has been updated regularly to provide information to residents about the process and as well as advance notice of any consultations or

events and any write ups from those events.

- 4.5 In addition there is a Neighbourhood Plan page on the Acton Parish Council website: <https://actonparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan> which contains details of the Steering Group Terms of Reference and the contact email for the Steering Group. This page also guides users to the main Neighbourhood Plan website.
- 4.6 The parish council publishes a newsletter several times a year which is available electronically on the Parish Council website as well as on the village noticeboards and distributed to households. Neighbourhood Plan updates and articles have featured in the newsletter, where timing has allowed. (*Extract from March 2023 newsletter below*).

Acton Neighbourhood Plan

We are pleased to report that the preparation of our first ever Neighbourhood Plan is now nearing its final stages. The NP steering group have built on local information and your views given so far through the survey and events to create a Plan of the required format.

They are aiming to share the draft in April. This will be a formal consultation stage of six weeks and details on how to comment will be publicised soon. Look out for leaflets delivered to homes as well as on-line notices on social media and on the NP website at actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk. This will be your chance to read through your community's plan, to say what you think and help spot any errors or omissions. The team thanks everyone who's made time to contribute so far and we all look forward to getting it over the line.

SAVE THE DATE for...

Acton's Coronation Celebration!

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 8TH MAY 2023

11AM - 2PM ACTON VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELDS

BOUNCY CASTLES, CRAFT TENT, TRADE STALLS, REFRESHMENTS, FREE ACTIVITIES, RAFFLE, AND SO MUCH MORE!!

www.actonparishcouncil.gov.uk tel 07931 381751
clerk@actonparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 4.7 Details of all consultation events were publicised using social media – both the Acton Parish Neighbourhood Plan *Facebook* page and the Acton Massive village *Facebook* page were used. Posters, banners and flyers were also used to publicise events. Feedback from the consultation events indicated that these were all effective forms of communicating and promoting the Neighbourhood Plan events. An update for the Parish Council on Neighbourhood Plan progress was presented at every meeting.



Stage 1: Initial Awareness raising, community consultation and evidence gathering.

- 4.5 **Initial Exhibition:** As mentioned above, the purpose of the first Neighbourhood Plan event was to raise awareness. A drop in style exhibition as held at Acton Village Hall on 25th September 2021. The purpose was to explain what a Neighbourhood Plan was, what it could achieve and establish whether there was support in the parish for a neighbourhood Plan. Over 70 people attended the Exhibition. (See **Appendix 4 for Event publicity and Appendix 5 for Exhibition content**). The outcome of the event was that it was considered that was sufficient support for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Acton and the Neighbourhood Plan Area designation application was subsequently submitted and approved in October 2021.
- 4.6 Between January and June 2022, the Steering Group members undertook conversations with local groups, local businesses and began to collect statistical evidence about the characteristics of the Parish. This evidence was compiled into the Data Profile for Acton Parish which is a document containing key data about the parish to inform policy writing. The Data Profile has been updated as appropriate during later stages of the Plan process.
- 4.7 **Neighbourhood Plan Issues Survey:** The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group launched the survey with a *'Have your say day'* held outside in the community on March 19th 2022. The launch day was widely publicised in the parish and those who came along were treated to pancakes whilst they filled in their forms and chatted with Steering Group members, who were available to answer questions. The Survey was hand delivered to every household by the Neighbourhood Plan 'Street Champions' in hard copy as well as being available on the website. The forms were also available for the Primary School children. Over 200 surveys were returned, of which 90 were online and 110 in person, with a further 47 form returned by the Primary School . The survey sought feedback on the key issues relating to future development in the parish such as housing, environment, community facilities, access and transport. The survey results are shown at **Appendix 6**.



Stage 2: Commissioning of technical reports and policy ideas consultation

- 4.8 In order to provide some specific evidence to support policy development, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group commissioned two specific pieces of work using

the Locality Technical Support packages. These were used to provide a Housing Needs Assessment and a Design Code specifically for the parish.

- 4.9 **Housing Needs Assessment:** This was completed in November 2022 by consultants AECOM. The report is an independent assessment of the housing needs of the parish undertaken as desk top research. The report looked at the likely future housing requirement of the parish in terms of housing size, type and tenure. This also included the need for affordable housing and any specialist forms of housing e.g. for older people.
- 4.10 **Design Code:** This piece of work was also undertaken by Consultants AECOM and resulted in the Acton Design Guidelines and Codes, which was completed in December 2022. The Design Code provides specific guidance on a range of design elements (e.g. materials, design, layout, scale) and covers the main built-up parts of Acton. The design work has influenced initial policy ideas and also the design policy of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.11 The Steering Group analysed all of the early feedback from the community (including the initial exhibition, the results of the survey, the statistical evidence, feedback from stakeholders and also the emerging findings of both the Housing Needs Assessment and the Design Code) and established a Vision, some key objectives and some draft policy ideas. The Steering Group undertook to test these with the local community and held the Policy Ideas consultation in October 2022.
- 4.12 **Policy Ideas Consultation:** This was held in the form of another drop-in style exhibition held at Acton Village hall between 11am and 3pm on 2nd October 2022. Over 100 people attended the exhibition, which asked for feedback on the draft objectives and policy ideas established by the Steering Group. Visitors were also asked to identify any potential Local Green Spaces, Non-Designated Heritage Assets or important public views by placing coloured flags in maps of the parish. The exhibition boards were also placed on-line on the Neighbourhood Plan website for a further fortnight to allow participation by those unable to attend the exhibition A further 10 online responses were received. **(See Appendix 7 for Policy Ideas Consultation publicity, content and results)**. The results of the Policy Ideas Drop-in were published on the website.
- 4.13 Analysis undertaken of the results of the exhibition sessions revealed a high degree of support for the draft policy ideas and the general direction of the Neighbourhood Plan. The headline results were as follows:
- Concerns over coalescence with other parishes – particularly where large-scale new development is planned close to the parish boundary e.g. Chilton Woods development
 - Acton to retain its own distinct identity e.g. remain a village and ‘not a suburb’

- Acton has already received a high level of development recently e.g. Tamage Road
- New development should reflect the character of Acton better than recent developments in the village
- Support for environmental measures in new developments
- Support for a mix of housing types and tenure
- Support for measures to improve wildlife and biodiversity
- Landscape setting and views into and out of main part of Acton seen as important.
- Existing landscape between the village and the employment area to be retained.
- Desire for a footpath between Acton village and the employment area
- Concerns around the levels of HGV traffic transiting the parish
- Support for improved footpath connections.



Stage 3: Pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

Acton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Over to you!

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready and your comments are invited by the 22nd of May

To find out more:

visit the website:
www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

or attend the drop-in:
 16th April, 10am to 1pm at the Village Hall

and look out for the flyer in your next Acton Link

- 4.14 The results of the public exhibitions and the evidence base were considered in detail by the Steering Group during the late 2022 and work began on drafting the pre-submission version of the Plan. Pre-submission consultation on the draft plan was undertaken between 3rd April and 22nd May 2023. The consultation period was longer than the statutory 6 weeks period to take account of the bank holidays including the coronation.
- 4.15 The consultation began, with a hard copies of the Plan, being available for view in 'Costcutter'. The Steering Group also held a drop-in session where any questions could be raised by members of the public on Sunday 16th April at the village hall. Hard copies of the Plan were available at this session as well as copies of the response form.
- 4.16 Electronic copies of the Plan , the response form and all supporting documents were available on the Neighbourhood Plan website together with details of how to

respond to the consultation. <https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>. The consultation was publicised using the Acton Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page, a flyer was delivered to every household and posters were erected around the village.

- 4.17 Notification letters were sent to the owners of proposed Local Green Spaces and Non- Designated Heritage Assets. **(See Appendix 8)** ahead of the formal consultation. A copy was also sent to Babergh District Council who included details of the consultation on the Acton page of their Neighbourhood Plan webpages. <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-babergh/acton-neighbourhood-plan/>
- 4.18 Notifications of the consultation and details of how to view the draft plan and submit and return comments were sent to a wide range of consultees. **(Appendix 9)** The list of consultees is shown at **Appendix 10** and the response form is at **Appendix 11**.
- 4.19 Following the closing date of the Pre-Submission Consultation, responses had been received from 15 members of the public and 3 local landowners. In addition, responses had also been received from the following consultees:
- Babergh District Council
 - Natural England
 - Historic England
 - Suffolk Wildlife Trust
 - Anglian Water
 - National Grid
 - Suffolk County Council
 - National Highways
 - Defence Infrastructure Organisation
- 4.20 All responses were acknowledged, and respondents informed that their comments would be considered by the Steering Group and the Parish Council in due course. All comments have received consideration. The response table is at **Appendix 12**. Each individual comment has been logged and assessed. The table shows each individual comment made together with the response of the Steering Group and any proposed changes to the Plan.

Summary of key issues raised.

4.21 The key issues raised during the Regulation 14 consultation exercise can be summarised as:

- General support for the plan and its policies
- Concerns raised in respect of Policy ACT1 and the identification of 'buffers'
- Additions suggested for design criteria in Policy ACT2.
- Clarification sought over Housing Mix Policy ACT3, and Rural Exception Sites
- Support for biodiversity issues
- Support for, and objection to, identified important views (Policy ACT5)
- Comments in respect of identified Non-Designated Heritage Assets (Policy ACT7)
- Objection to the identification of 3 Local Green Spaces (Policy ACT11)
- Suggested wording amendments to Policy ACT 12
- Other minor wording suggestions
- Requests for factual updates and corrections of errors.

4.22 Following consideration of these representations the following key changes were made to the Neighbourhood Plan policies:

- Amended wording to Policy ACT1 to reinforce the need to prevent coalescence and removal of identified buffers and associated maps.
- Additional criteria included in Policy ACT2
- Amendments to the wording of Policy ACT3 to aid clarity
- Inclusion of specific justification for each identified important view (Policy ACT5).
- Inclusion of additional view at Waldingfield Road
- Inclusion of two further NDHA (Policy ACT7). Owners of both buildings were contacted prior to the making of the decision to include.
- Removal of 3 Local Green Spaces from Policy ACT11
- Minor wording changes to Policy ACT12.



Stage 4: Regulation 16 (Submission)

- 4.23 Following consideration of the revised Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 20th September 2023, Acton Parish Council approved submission of the amended Neighbourhood Plan (and supporting documents) to Babergh District Council.
- 4.24 The documents together with this Consultation Statement and the Basic Conditions Statement can be viewed on Babergh's Neighbourhood Plan pages of their website:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-babergh/acton-neighbourhood-plan/>

5. Communication

- 5.1 Good communication is key to the local community feeling included and informed about the progress and content of the Acton Neighbourhood Plan. The 'Terms of Reference' of the Steering Group reinforced the importance of good community consultation and the need for continuous communication in order to produce a Plan that was representative of and supported by the local community.
- 5.2 As mentioned above a specific website was created for the Neighbourhood Plan in addition to the Neighbourhood Plan page on the Parish Council website. It was important that there was a clear link between the two pages as either could be used by local people seeking information. A specific Facebook page for the Neighbourhood Plan was also created
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=acton%20parish%20neighbourhood%20plan>
 This page was linked to the website and kept updated as the Plan progressed. New information was included to publicise upcoming consultations as well as the results of the consultation exercises including exhibition and consultation material, Neighbourhood Plan documents and contact details.
- 5.3 To spread news of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group used:
- Neighbourhood Plan website
 - Social media – Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page, Whatsapp Groups
 - Flyers delivered around the parish delivered by 'Street champions' and Steering Group Members

- Event posters which went up throughout the Parish
- Updates to the Parish Council
- Articles and updates in the Parish newsletter
- Updates and postings on the 'Acton Massive' Village Facebook page

5.4 Copies of the exhibition boards for the drop-in sessions and consultation documents were placed on the website so that anyone unable to attend the events was able to view the information. The results of each stage of consultation have also been placed on the website to provide an overall picture of comments received.

6. Conclusion

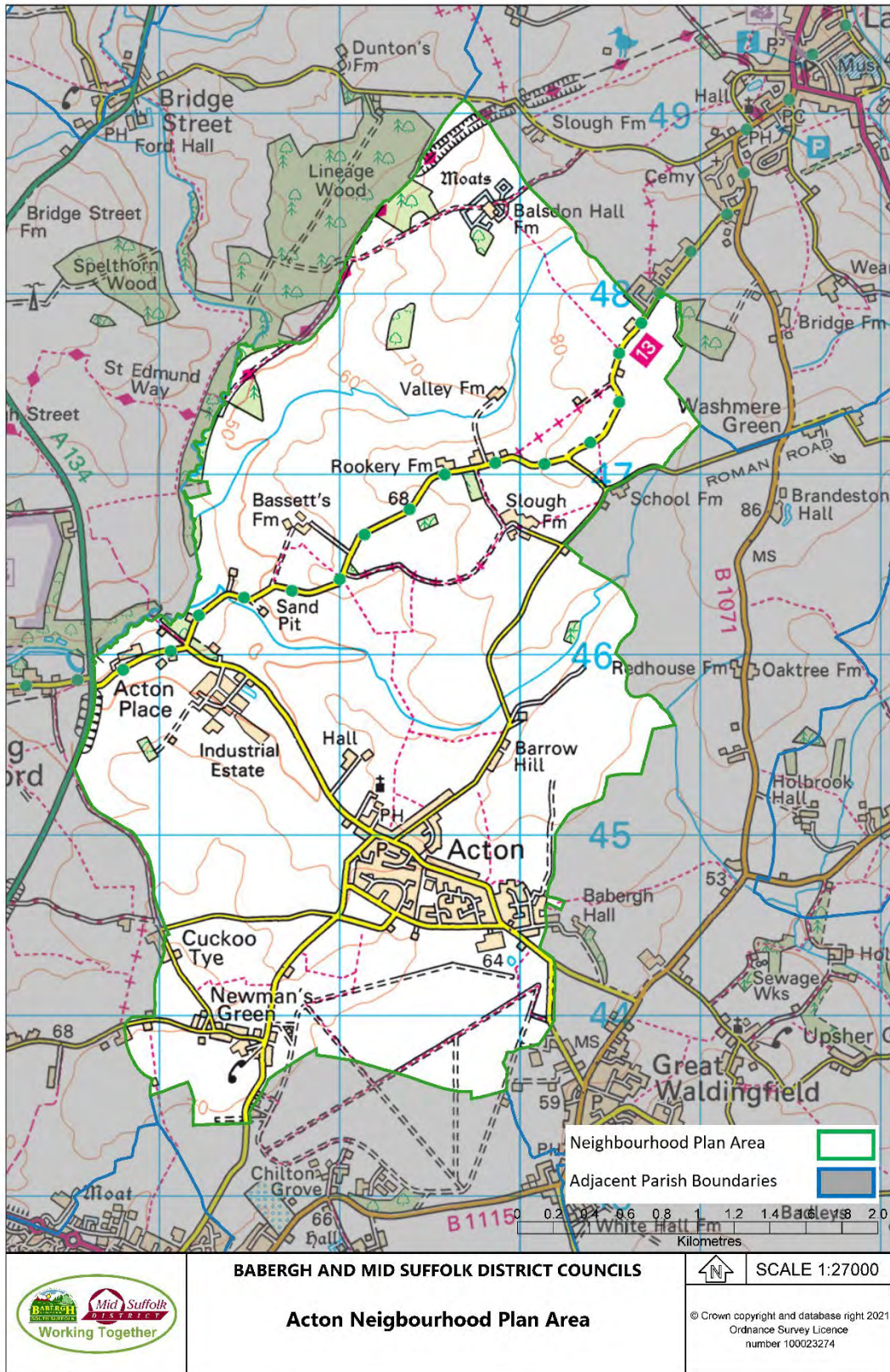
- 6.1 The programme of community engagement and communications carried out during the production of the Acton Neighbourhood Plan used a range of mechanisms and sought to reach a wide range of the local population and provided opportunities for many parts of the local community to input and comment on the emerging policies.
- 6.2 The comments received throughout and specifically in response to the policy ideas exhibition and the consultation on the REG14 Pre-Submission draft of the Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan have been addressed, in so far as they are practical, and in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the development plan for Babergh and the emerging Babergh-Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.

APPENDICES

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Appendix 1 Neighbourhood Area Designation Map



Appendix 2 Decision Notice for Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation



AREA DESIGNATION NOTICE

ACTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Babergh District Council received an application from Acton Parish Council (the 'Relevant Body') to designate the whole of the parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area on Wednesday 29th September 2021

The application was made under Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). A copy of the application and a map which identifies the area to which this relates can be found on the District Council website at:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/ActonNP>

Regulation 5A states that ... *"where (1)(a) a local planning authority receives an area application from a parish council" and "(1)(b) the area specified in the application consists of the whole of the parish council's area, (2) the local planning authority must exercise their powers under section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to designate the specified area as a neighbourhood area."*

Regulations 6 and 6A relating to publicising an area application do not apply in this instance. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 5A(2) and 7(1) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), Babergh District Council hereby give notice that it has designated the parish of Acton as a Neighbourhood Area in order to facilitate the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan by the Parish Council.

Tom Barker

Assistant Director - Planning for Growth
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council

Dated: Tuesday 26th October 2021

Babergh District Council
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000
SMS Text Mobile: (07827) 842833
www.babergh.gov.uk

Mid Suffolk District Council
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000
SMS Text Mobile: (07827) 842833
www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Appendix 3 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

- a) The purpose of the Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (an advisory committee of Acton Parish Council) is to oversee the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan for Acton in order that this will then progress to Independent Examination and a successful community referendum and ultimately be adopted by Babergh District Council to become planning policy.
- b) The Steering Group will engage the local community to ensure that the Plan is truly representative of the ambitions of Acton. The Group will maximise support for the approach taken in the Neighbourhood Plan by ensuring high levels of community engagement throughout the plan-making process.

2. Principles

- a) The Steering Group will undertake the process in a democratic, transparent and fair fashion, encouraging widespread participation and giving equal consideration to opinions and ideas from all members of the community.
- b) All plan decisions made shall be fully evidenced and supported through consultation with the local community.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- a) In order to achieve this, the Steering Group will together have the following responsibilities:
 - o To be accountable for steering and providing strategic management of the Neighbourhood Plan for Acton;
 - o To produce, monitor and update a project timetable;
 - o To produce a consultation and engagement strategy, showing how the public will be involved throughout the process;
 - o To regularly report back to the Parish Council for endorsement of decisions taken;
 - o To undertake analysis and evidence gathering to support the plan production process;
 - o To actively support and promote the preparation of the Acton Neighbourhood Plan throughout the duration of the project;
 - o To identify sources of funding;
 - o To liaise with relevant authorities and organisations to make the plan as effective as possible;

- o To gather data from a wide range of sources to ensure that the conclusions reached are fully evidenced and that the aspirations and issues of all residents are understood;
 - o To consult as widely and thoroughly as is possible to ensure that the draft and final Neighbourhood Plan is representative of the views of residents;
 - o To prepare, subject to agreement by the Parish Council, a final submission version of the Acton Neighbourhood Plan.
- b) At the first meeting, the Steering Group will elect the Chair, and other key roles if suitable candidates are available. Written descriptions of the roles shall be produced for guidance and common understanding.
- c) The Steering Group will identify and allocate further specific roles over time as understanding of the work required develops.

4. **Membership**

- a) The Steering Group will consist of members from a cross-section of volunteers from the community, including Parish Councillors.
- b) To reflect the priority of community opinion the Steering Group will seek to maintain a majority of non- councillor volunteer members and the position of Chair will be drawn from these.
- c) New members can be added to the Steering Group by decision of a Steering Group meeting.
- d) The desired Steering Group membership is 8-15 people for optimal management and decision- making. Should the membership fall outside this range, the Steering Group will take reasonable steps to address the matter in a timely manner.
- e) If an ongoing role should become vacant, the Steering Group will elect an alternative post-holder.

5. **Decision Making**

- a) The Steering Group has delegated authority from the Parish Council to manage the process of preparing the plan up to and including publication of the Consultation Draft Plan. The Group will report to the Parish Council setting out progress on its work. The Parish Council will approve the final draft Neighbourhood Plan and submit it to the local planning authority prior to publication for consultation and independent examination.

- b) The plan-making process ultimately remains the responsibility of the Parish Council as the qualifying body. All publications, consultation and community engagement exercises will be undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council and this will be made clear in relevant material communications associated with the project.

6. **Meetings**

- a) Steering Group meetings will take place as and when required subject to an annual minimum of 6 meetings.
- b) Where possible, all meetings should be held within the Parish. The dates of future meetings will be made publicly available on suitable online platforms, in addition to village noticeboards.
- c) Meetings will be publicly accessible and up to 10 minutes will be reserved for public comments at the beginning of each meeting.
- d) The Secretary shall keep a record of meetings and circulate notes to Steering Group members and the Parish Council in a timely fashion. Minutes shall be made publicly available on the Acton Parish Council website, either directly, or through a link to the Acton Neighbourhood Plan website as and when available.
- e) At least 3 clear days' notice of meetings/agendas shall be sent to members via email, or an alternative agreed communication method.
- f) Decisions made by the Steering Group shall be made by consensus at Steering Group meetings. Where a vote is required each member shall have one vote. A minimum of 4 members shall be present where matters are presented for decisions to be taken. A simple majority vote will be required to support any motion. The Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, shall have one casting vote.
- g) Where there is a conflict of interests for a member in a vote, they should not take part in the vote and leave the room for the vote. If participating in the meeting online, they should log out from the meeting for the vote.

7. **Working Groups**

- a) The Steering Group may establish working groups, made up of volunteers from the community to aid them in any Neighbourhood Plan related work.
- b) Each working group should have a lead person on the Steering Group.

- c) Members of the community will be encouraged to participate in the process at all stages.

8. **Finance**

- a) All grants and funding will be applied for and held by the Parish Council, who will ring-fence the funds for Neighbourhood Development Plan work.
- b) The Steering Group will notify the Parish Council, advising them of any planned expenditure before it is incurred.

9. **Conduct**

- a) It is expected that all Steering Group members abide by the principles and practice of the Parish Council Code of Conduct.
- b) Whilst Members as individuals will be accountable to their parent organizations, the Steering Group as a whole is accountable to the wider community for ensuring that the Plan reflects their collective expectations.
- c) The Steering Group will achieve this through applying the following principles:
- Be clear and open when their individual roles or interests are involved;
 - Treat everyone with dignity, courtesy and respect regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion and belief; and
 - Actively promote equality of access and opportunity.
- d) If a Steering Group member is unable or unwilling to conduct themselves appropriately, the Steering Group may move to dismiss them from the Steering Group.

10. **Changes to the Terms of Reference**

This constitution may be amended with the support of at least two-thirds of the membership at a Steering Group Meeting and with the approval of the Parish Council.

Appendix 4 1st drop-in session – publicity

Your chance to help
Shape the Future of Acton

Come And Chat About How

Find out how we can influence local development with
A Neighbourhood Plan
made for and by the people of Acton

Drop-in between 2pm and 4pm
Saturday 25th September
Acton Village Hall

Our Village, Our Future

Everybody Welcome!

Free Refreshments and Activities*

*Weather permitting

Appendix 5 1st drop-in exhibition content

A Neighbourhood Plan Can...



...Let us Shape Village Development

A Neighbourhood Plan process reveals what's needed in terms of local housing and businesses, and becomes a tool to make that happen.

- Defining where new homes are built, and where not
- Sustaining the village, planning homes for all life-stages
- Providing design guidance on acceptable build styles
- Opening opportunities for new community or self-build options
- Improving physical connectivity within the neighbourhood
- Giving legal force to our wishes once the plan is adopted






A Neighbourhood Plan Can...



... Influence Transport and Employment

- Allocating areas for new commercial premises for local jobs
- Ensuring people can safely and reliably get to work e.g. new cycle paths
- Considering economic infrastructure e.g. identifying business utility needs
- Advancing greener transport options with public electric vehicle charging or cycle shelters
- Proposing traffic measures like HGV restrictions or speed calming designs
- Identifying weaknesses in public transport and addressing them



Why Make a Neighbourhood Plan ?

Because:

- **It Enables Community-Led Development**

It's built on what we who live or work in Acton need and want, giving more control over the type, location, size, pace and design of development. It's proactive not reactive, bottom-up not top-down.

- **It Builds Community Links**

Participants will not only need to come together to make the plan, but working with all the local stakeholders and organisations can develop useful connections for working together in the future.

- **It Releases More Infrastructure Funding**

Only Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan can directly receive 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy from new sizeable developments, rather than up to 15%.

- **It Can Help Assess and Improve Facilities**

Creating the development plan will reveal how facilities are valued and any improvements that people want.



- **It Is The Only Community Plan With Legal Force**

It has statutory status and influences planning application decisions. As such, it is our best defence against any inappropriate and unwanted future developments.

- **It Can Protect Environmental Features**

The plan can identify and safeguard green spaces and key habitats and give more decision making powers in design of developments to improve biodiversity.

- **It Safeguards Unique Local Character**

The process can identify what makes the place where we live unique and help ensure that its distinctive characteristics are protected and enhanced.

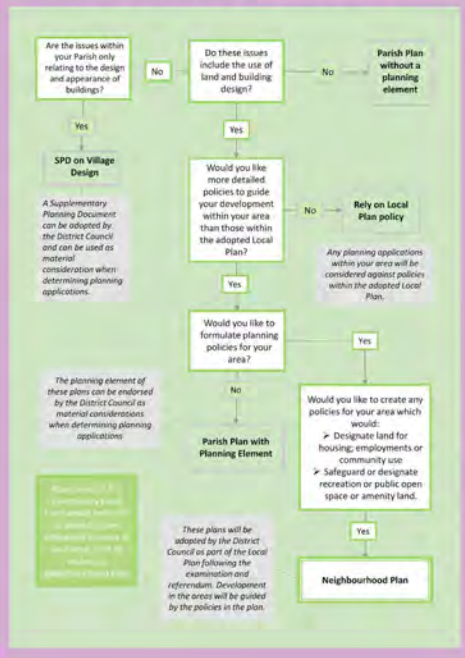
- **It Can Influence Transport Options**

How people move between parts of the neighbourhood and between Acton and other towns and villages can be influenced by the plan - think bus-stops, crossings, cycle paths and electric car charging.

- **Not Having One Could Make Us A Development Target**

As more areas create their Neighbourhood Plans those without might prove easier targets for speculative developers in the future.

Is It What's Needed ?



How Do We Make a Plan ?



A Neighbourhood Plan Can...



The Neighbourhood Plan process provides an opportunity to identify and protect local flora and fauna.

... Safeguard the Local Environment

- Identifying and protecting green spaces for well-being into the future
- Protecting bio-diversity, including indigenous wildlife and plants
- Building-in measures to limit emissions
- Pre-empting climate change effects
- Influencing housing design to help e.g. integrating batboxes in builds
- Planning that sees new development sit in our environment, not on it !



What is a Neighbourhood Plan ?

In simple terms, a Neighbourhood Plan is:

A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area - planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications.

Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than a desktop study by the Local Planning Authority !

A powerful tool to help ensure the community gets the right types of development.



Acton Parish

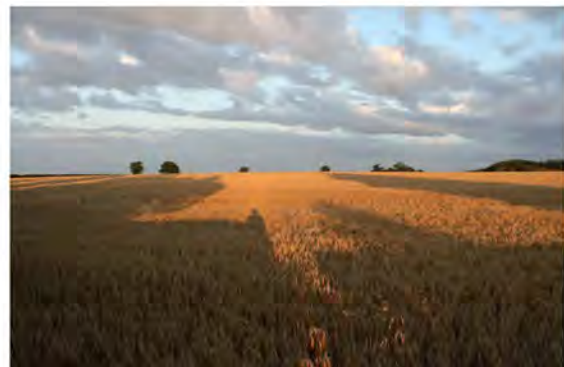


What It's Not:

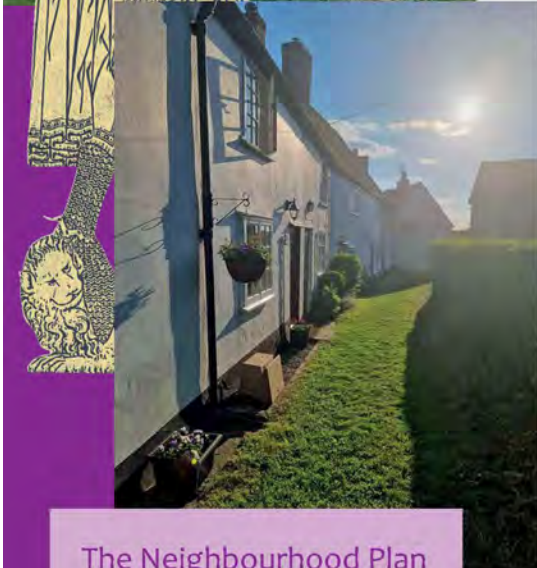
- A tool to retrospectively change existing planning decisions
- A document which can be at odds with the Babergh Local Plan
- Something which fails to meet Babergh's housing target for Acton

If you live or work in Acton Parish then you can help shape future plans for our area, including housing, businesses, roads and green spaces, by getting involved with the Acton Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan will be developed over the next 2 to 3 years through consultation with local people and support from experts in Neighbourhood Planning.



A Neighbourhood Plan Can...



The Neighbourhood Plan process provides an opportunity to identify what makes the place where we live unique.

... Identify and Protect Unique Local Character

- Recording the story of our village's development over the years
- Identifying and protecting important historic buildings
- Informing decisions on design and development
- Revealing any distinctive land characteristics to be protected and enhanced



A Neighbourhood Plan Can...



A Neighbourhood Plan process involves asking local people what they believe is needed and brings that into a plan with good visibility and legal status.

...Guide Improvement of Local Facilities

- Allocating sites for different kinds of activity like housing, shops, workplaces, leisure and community uses
- Permitting release of more of the Community Infrastructure Levy from new developments of scale to be spent directly on local initiatives
- Helping us to identify what we want to add or retain, from allotments to playgrounds, adult outdoor gyms to MUGAs



Item	Good	Bad / Change / Improve	Important planning consideration	Total mentions	Total mentions (rank)
Development - Number of developments / loss of land to developments		89	79	168	1
Friendly / community spirit	149			149	2
Quiet / rural / country views and related	115		4	119	3
Shop / Post Office	110			110	4
Open / green spaces and playing field	56		36	92	5
Pub	84			84	6
Traffic - speed		65	1	66	7
Pavements / safe paths within Acton / to GW / LM / Sudb		28	33	61	8
Walks	59			59	9
Footpaths incl maintenance		24	25	49	10
Buses	18	24	3	45	11
School / Playgroup	45			45	11
Separate from larger urban area and village identity	11		34	45	11
Tidyness	10		29	39	14
Traffic calming / crossings		38	1	39	14
Village hall	33			33	16
Traffic - volume		29	3	32	17
Protect Green Spaces and wildlife generally			31	31	18
Something for youth to do		24	6	30	19
Nature reserve	29			29	20
Dog mess including provision of bins		23		23	21
Facilities including allotments	21	2		23	21
Parking		18	4	22	23
Health facilities - improve			21	21	24
Street lighting		18	1	19	25
Clubs and activities	14	3		17	26
Crime rate	17			17	26
Planting		14	3	17	26
Roads - Improve incl maintain			17	17	26
Affordable / accessible housing required			14	14	30
Church	14			14	30
Infrastructure (general) at / beyond capacity / needs to be improved			14	14	30
School - increase capacity			12	12	33
Sports / leisure/play facilities		11	1	12	33
Protect Barn Owl Field			10	10	35
Wildlife	10			10	35
Accessibility and related			9	9	37
Drainage		7		7	38
Broadband		3	3	6	39
Cycle paths to nearby villages / Sudbury			6	6	39
Development - environmental considerations re new builds e.g. solar panels			6	6	39
Development - Speed at which new houses are being built		2	4	6	39
Pollution / environmental concerns		3	3	6	39
Charging points		5		5	44
Acton Amblers	4			4	45
Seating		4		4	45
Book Swap	3			3	47
Cycle Lanes - Improve		3		3	47
Development - to be in keeping with existing			3	3	47
Employment opportunities		3		3	47
Fresh air	3			3	47
Post Boxes		3		3	47
Puzzle Library	3			3	47
Cricket Team	2			2	54
Historic features to be maintained			2	2	54
Acton Wombles	1			1	56
Business opportunities		1		1	56
Community events incl how they are communicated		1		1	56
Power supply		1		1	56

Appendix 7: Policy Ideas Consultation





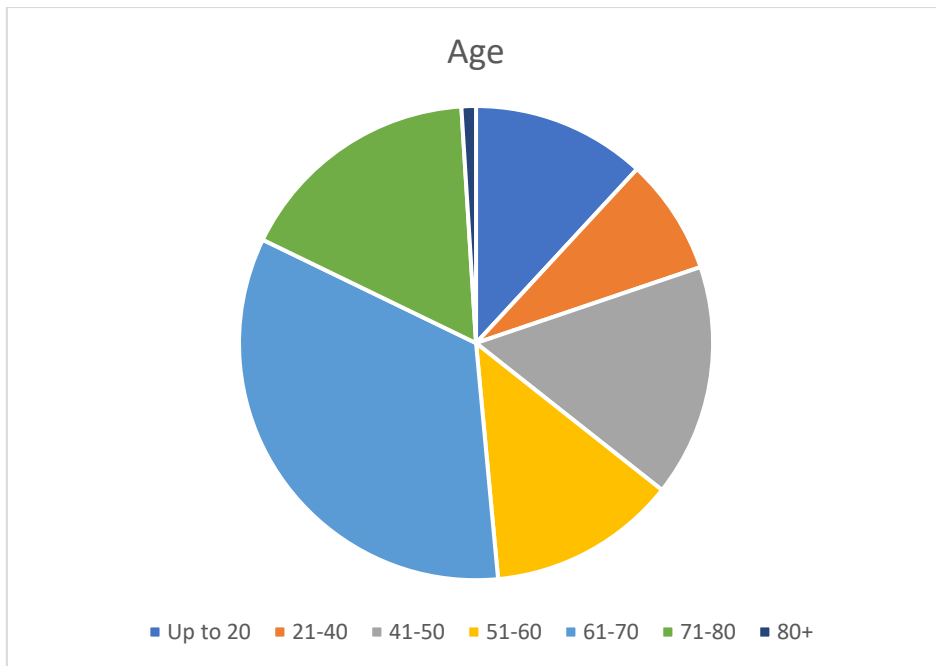
**Acton Neighbourhood Plan
Policy Ideas Exhibition
Held on 2nd October 2022**



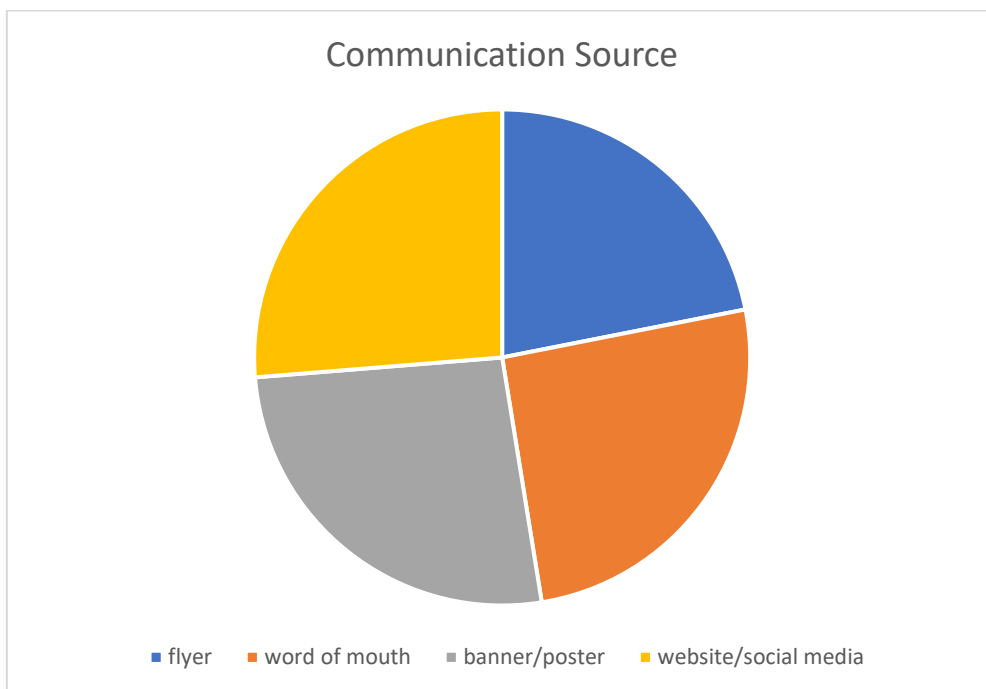
Results

Number of attendees = 101

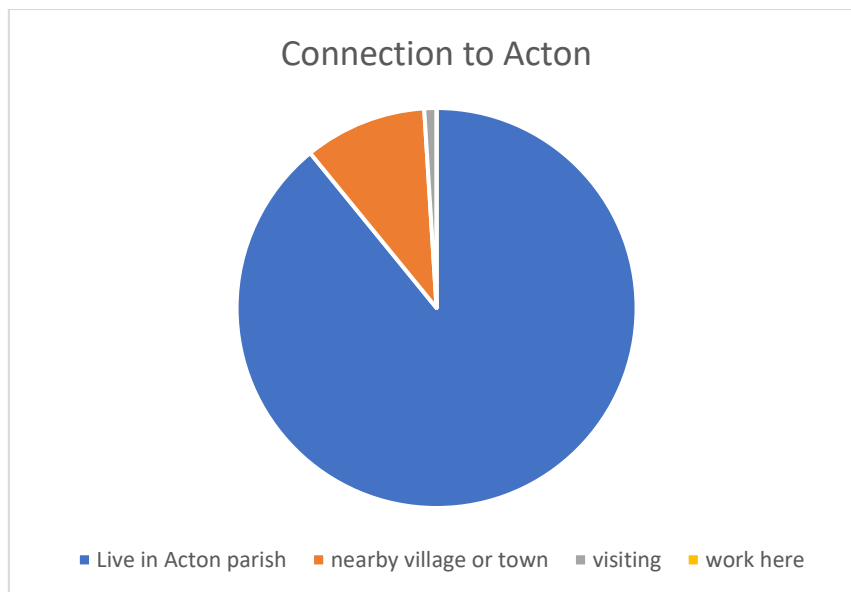
Age



Communication Source

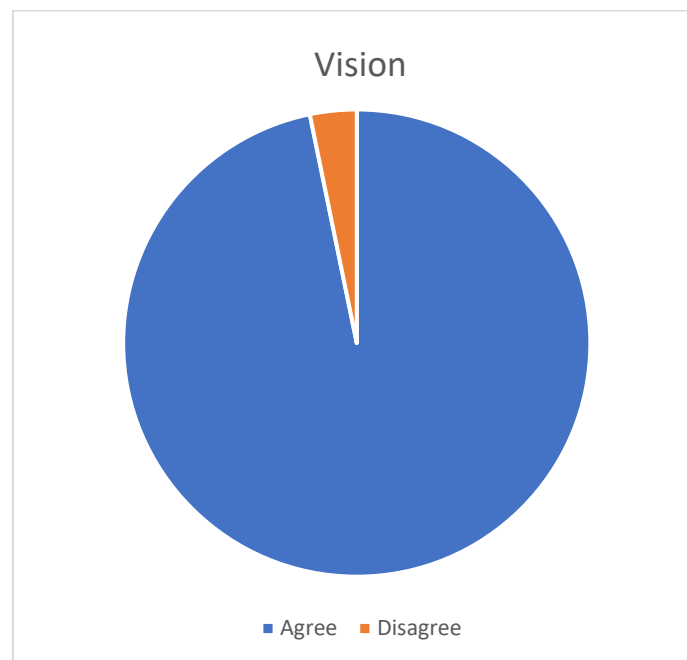


(137 dots)
Connection to Acton



(101 dots)

Vision



(93 dots)

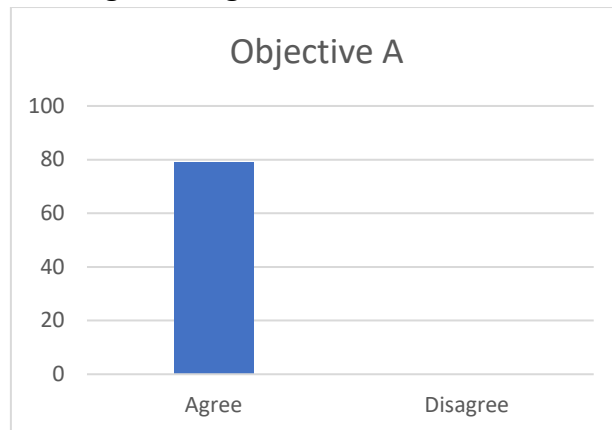
Comments

1. Access other than by the private car is very problematic +1
2. Well connected - yes please. Will road infrastructure be upgraded by 2037
3. Green spaces and wildlife take priority where justified
4. 30mph should be 20mph
5. How are you going to achieve this? +1
6. Sudbury Road desperately needs traffic calming measures to prevent excess speeding. Restrictions should be 30mph
7. It's well connected but the problem lies with the amount of 'through' traffic which causes a danger to pedestrians at times. Maybe a traffic calming area could be placed in Vicarage Road?

8. Development benefits the community and not just developers.

Housing

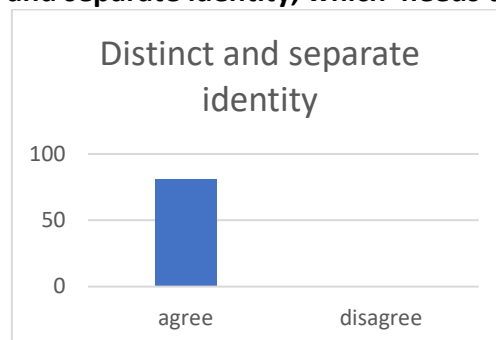
Objective A: To maintain the distinct and separate rural identity of Acton and avoid physical coalescence with neighbouring settlements



(79 dots)

POLICY IDEA 1: NEW HOUSING

Acton has its own distinct and separate identity, which needs to be maintained

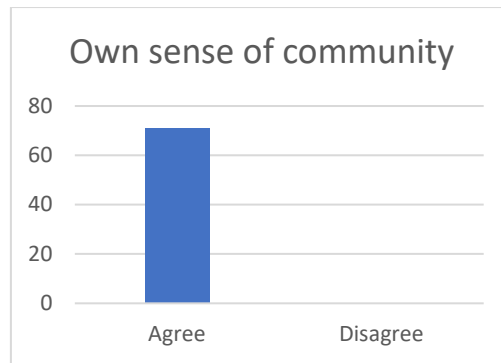


(81 dots)

Comment:

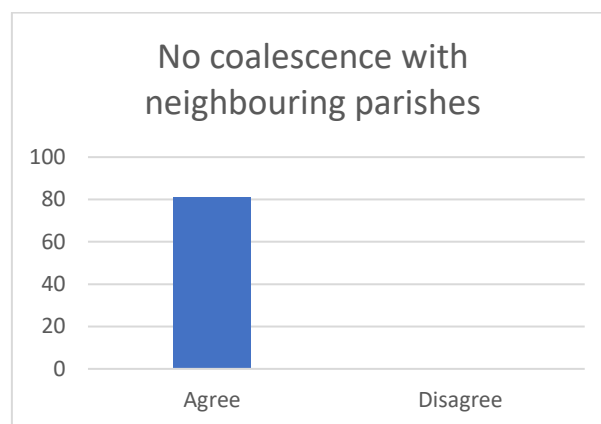
1. That identity is 'distinctly' Elizabethan - Elizabeth II

Acton should retain its own sense of community and continue to be somewhere people enjoy living



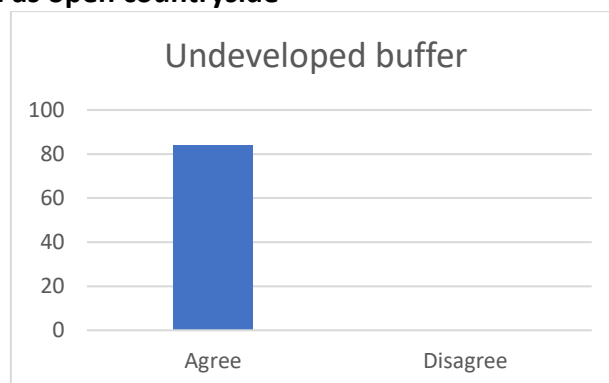
(71 dots)

New development should not result in the joining up (or coalescence) of parts of Acton with development in neighbouring parishes



(81 dots)

Existing green/undeveloped 'buffer' between Acton and Sudbury/Gt or Lt Waldingfield should be maintained as open countryside

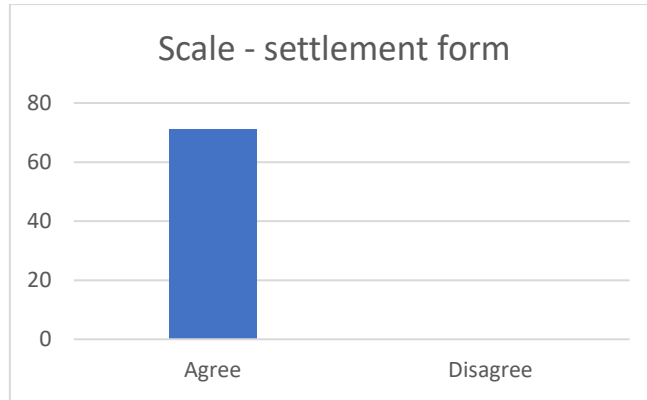


(84 dots)

Comment:

1. The track record of BDC planning is not good when collaborating with landowners who find houses more profitable than cereals and beet

The scale of new development in Acton should be proportionate to the existing scale and form of the settlement

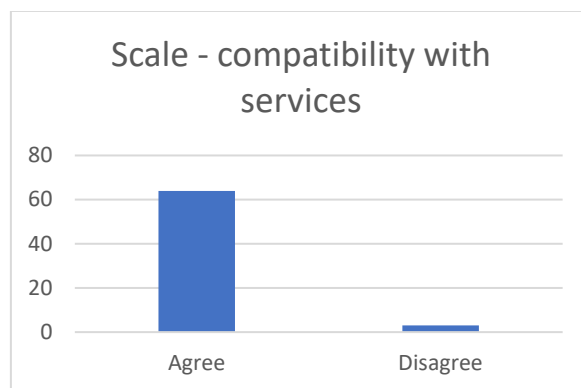


(71 dots)

Comment:

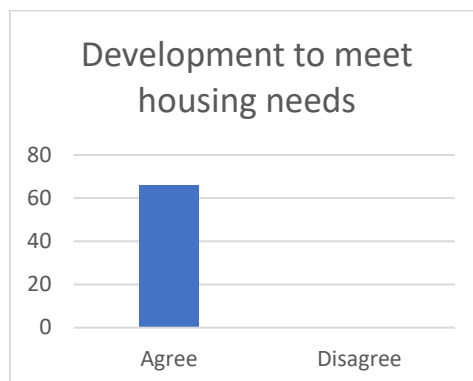
1. Keep this a village not a suburb

New development within Acton should be of a scale that is compatible with the level of services and facilities in the village



(67 dots)

New development should aim to meet local housing needs (within Acton or for those with a local connection to Acton) rather than general housing needs of a wider area

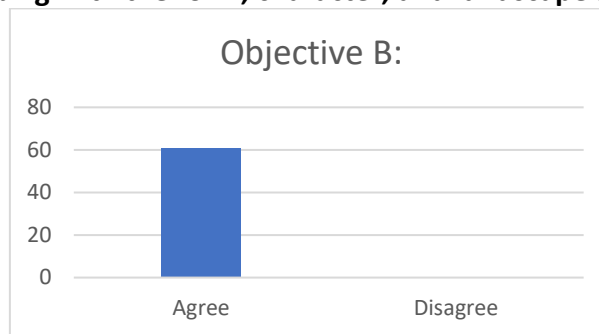


(66 dots)

Comment:

1. Unless the village owns the housing that can be hard to achieve

Objective B: To ensure that the design of new development is of a high quality and is well designed to be in keeping with the form, character, and landscape setting of the village



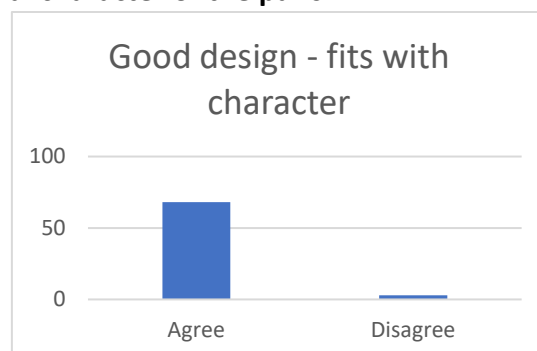
(61 dots)

Comments:

1. Don't just copy existing design, new and modern to be considered. New house near shop is a great design and should inspire
2. BDC not the best at listening to people who live here. They will find a way around if they want to.
3. I think the development of housing has reached its capacity . The village does not need any more houses, whether its good quality or either +2

POLICY IDEA 2: Character and Design of new development

To ensure that new development is well designed, is of good quality and 'fits in' with the existing spacious and rural character of the parish

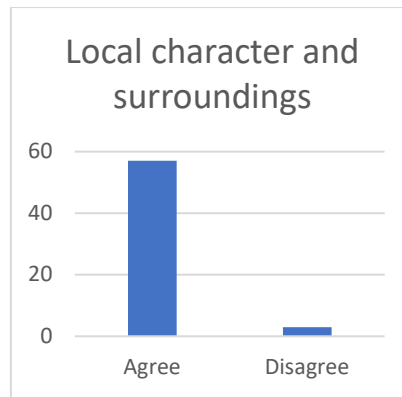


(71 dots)

Comments:

1. Joined up footpaths over airfield to Sudbury
2. Bloor added >10% houses this is too high to be repeated
3. The village is now untidy and unclean 25 years ago it was lovely. The paths were nice but now!! +1
4. Any development should already have adequate access and not involve creating a dangerous junction +3
5. Spacious?

New development should reflect local character and immediate surroundings; not houses that could be anywhere

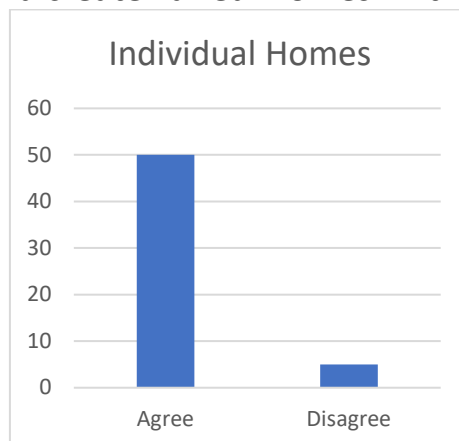


(60 dots)

Comments:

1. Builders build what they can sell
2. The new housing development already does not reflect the character of the village and the surroundings +2
3. Most of our estate houses, Lime Tree Estate could be anywhere! + 1

New development should create varied 'homes' with individuality

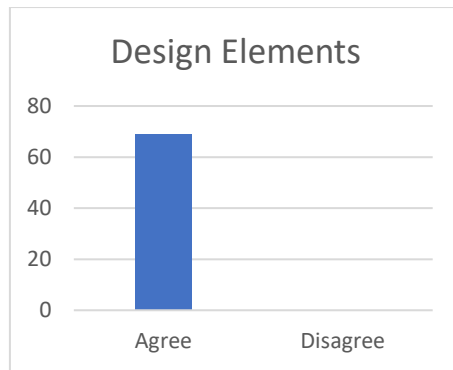


(60 dots)

Comments:

1. We do need to be forward thinking and allow more 'green' homes and architectural designed . We don't want every house the same
2. Be bold where appropriate . New modern design should be supported

Policy to consider matters such as Garden size, Materials, Design, Layout/density, Amenity, Boundary treatments, Parking, Storage e.g. for bins



(69 dots)

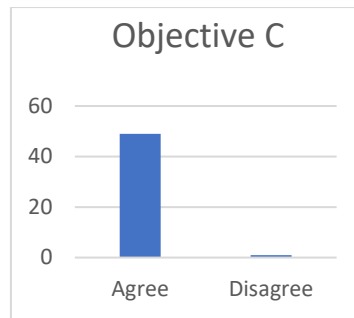
Comments

1. Storage for bins and bicycles

Additional Suggestions for a Design Policy:

1. Infrastructure (sewerage, drains, doctors) +16
2. Infrastructure needs to cope +2
3. Environmental/Eco - yes!
4. Sewerage parking, schools, doctors, health, needs +8
5. Noise levels
6. Road capacity with speed limits outside the main village
7. External lighting should not be allowed to light across the countryside causing light pollution like the current business areas/business parks do
8. High energy efficiency - insulation above building regs. Solar panels, charging points
9. Upgraded sewage system needed
10. Some houses on the parish boundary do not have mains water - too expensive to connect
11. Light pollution should be eliminated
12. Parking is important however much we want to be greener. The public transport is not suitable. Multi-generational houses have more than one car +1
13. Maintain views of surrounding countryside to be considered. View to Melford

Objective C: To provide homes of an appropriate size and type which meet the current and future needs of all sectors of the Acton community



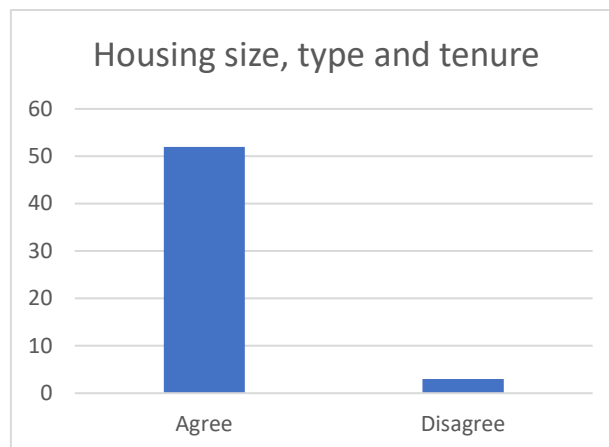
(50 dots)

Comments:

Acton does not need 100 more new houses ; maintain its current size

POLICY IDEA 3: Housing Size, Type and Tenure

Policy will set out the preferred size, type, and tenure of all forms of new housing to be built in the parish

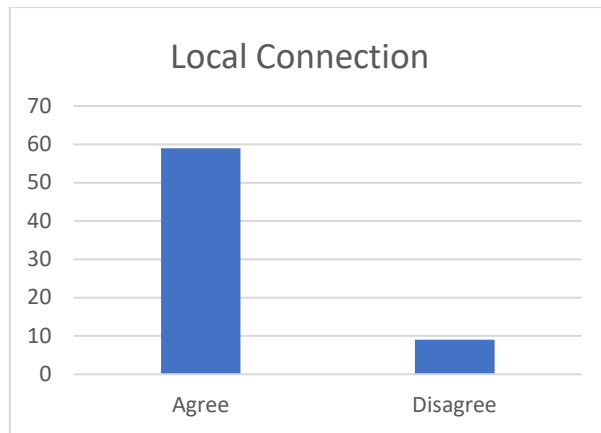


(55 dots)

Comments:

1. More bungalows and first-time houses; if any
2. Any more development will always impact the environment . The village is large enough. We now have 'the Chiltern project' underway. That is enough housing for the immediate population +4

Policy can require that affordable housing should be for people with a local connection to the parish

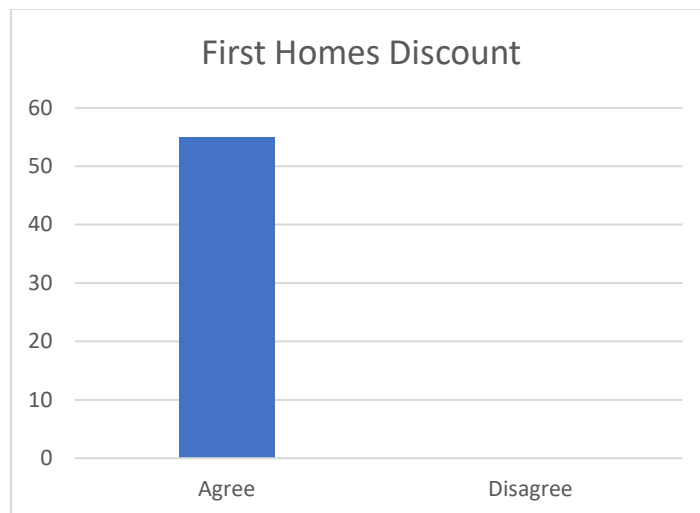


(68 dots)

Comments:

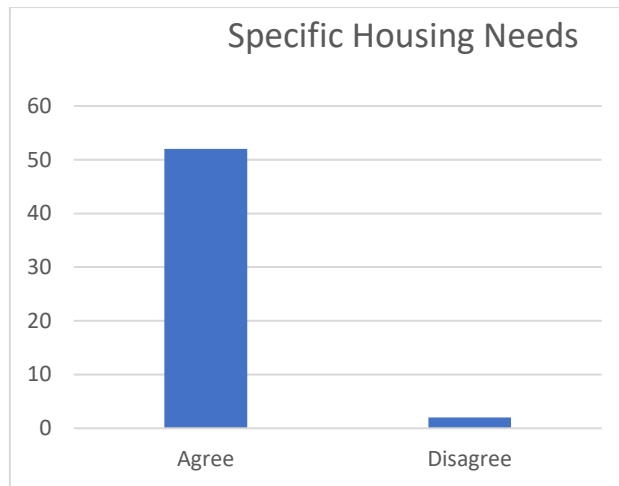
1. Can? Should? Will? (or 'must')
2. Village will go stale if new people do not move to the area

Policy is able to set the discount level for 'first homes' (30-50%) to make it affordable for local people



(55 dots)

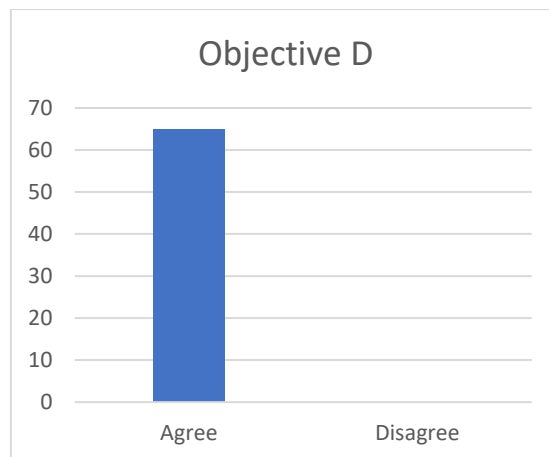
Policy will identify any specific housing needs within the parish e.g. sheltered housing, housing with care etc



(54 dots)

Environment

Objective D: To ensure that new development adequately protects, maintains, and enhances the wide diversity of wildlife habitats, features, and species resident in the parish



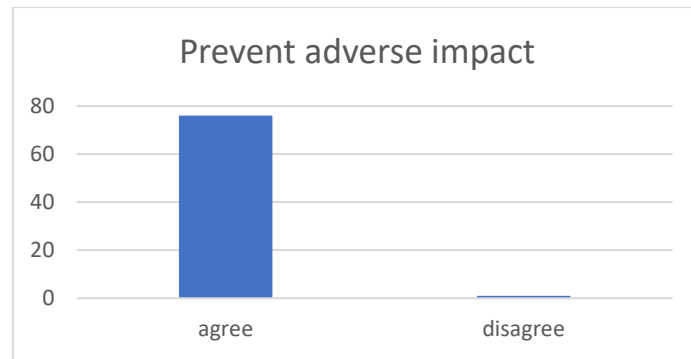
(65 dots)

Comments:

1. Will BDC planning comply? A very poor record of doing so

POLICY IDEA 4: Wildlife and Biodiversity

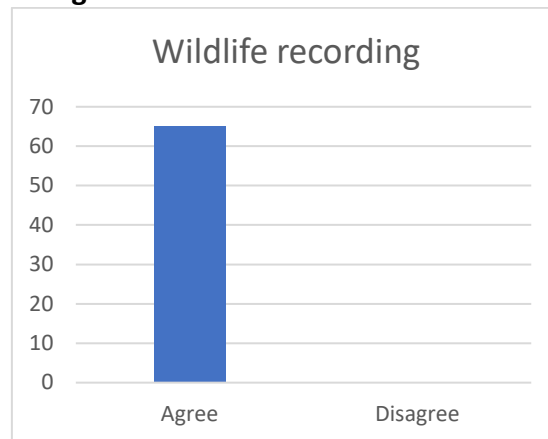
To ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on the wildlife already present in the parish



(77 dots)

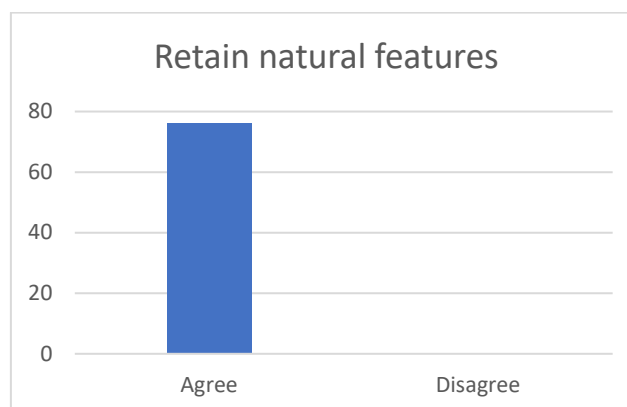
1. Yes enhance biodiversity
2. All development should 'add' not be 'neutral'
3. Positive impact not just adverse impact

Policy will set out the requirements for recording/ protecting wildlife present on sites ahead of construction starting



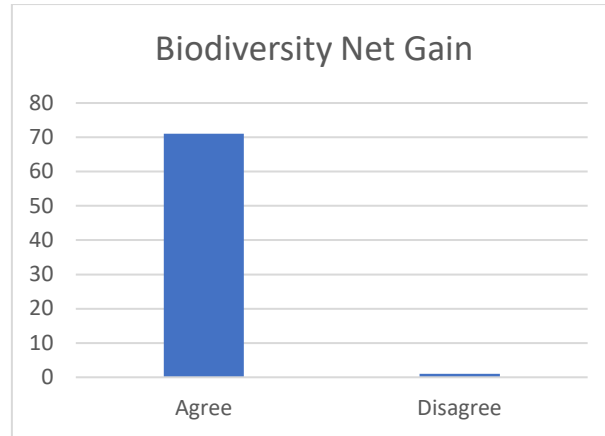
(65 dots)

Policy to require that existing wildlife features e.g. ponds/ hedges/trees are retained on site



(76 dots)

Policy will require replacement of any natural features that are lost and that there should be an overall 10% net gain for wildlife from the development through creation of new hedgerows, ponds, wildlife corridors and new planting.

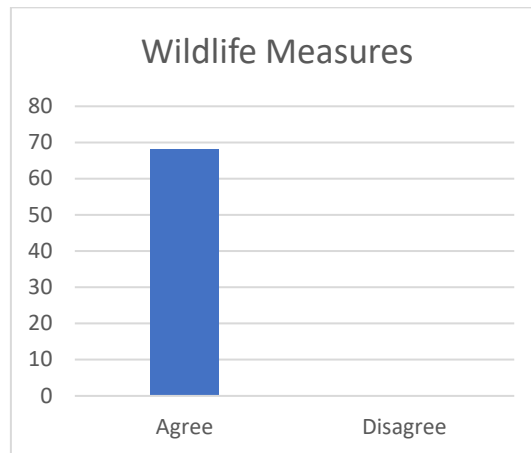


(72 dots)

Comments:

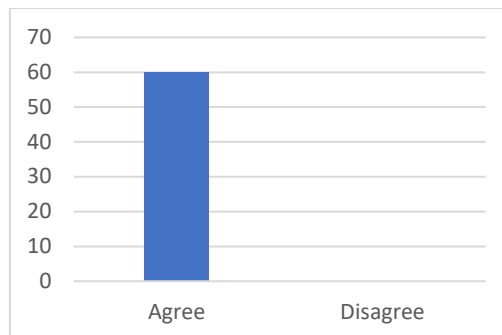
1. Replacement not always effective
- 2.

Policy will require incorporation of wildlife friendly measures e.g. bat/swift boxes/insect bricks/hedgehog doors etc



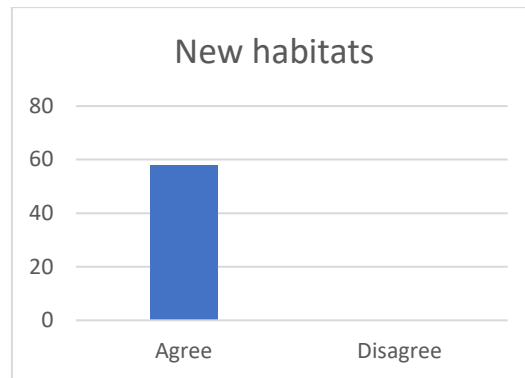
(68 dots)

Policy to require site boundary treatments to be soft landscaped and include native species in the planting.



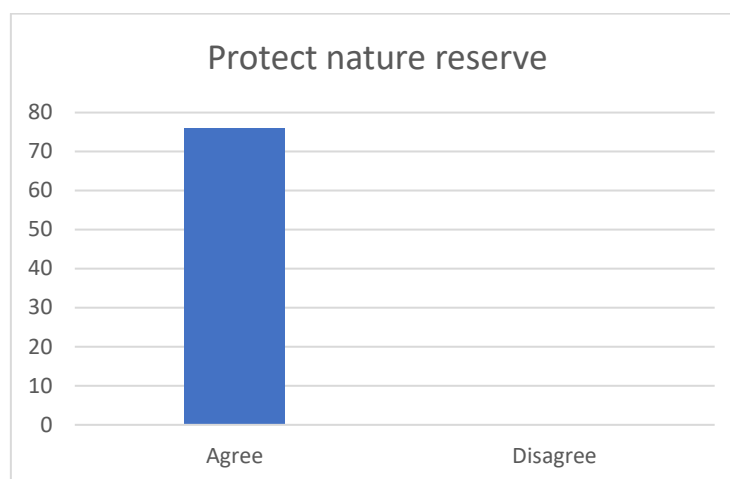
(60 dots)

Encouragement for creation of wildflower meadows/new woodlands



(58 dots)

The existing nature reserve on Barrow Hill to be protected

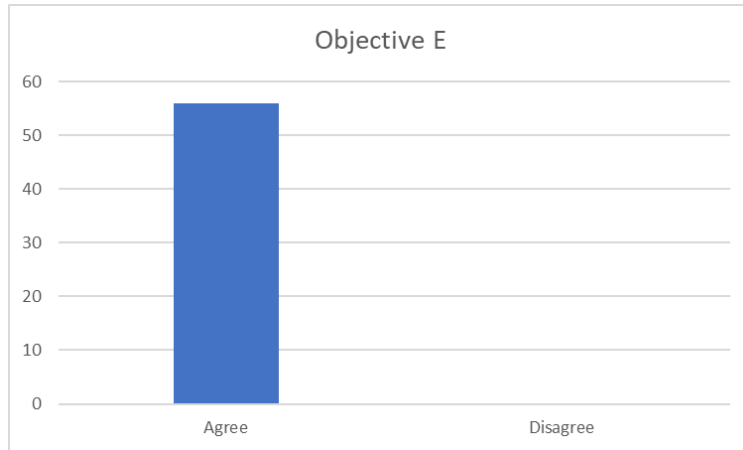


(76 dots)

Comments:

1. New woodland? Where? What about allotments? The current wildlife area is on allotment land that has not been legally reverted to my knowledge +1
3. Plant more trees for the village
4. Helpers needed at wildlife for reserve - please pick up a leaflet form the end table (near the snails)
5. We must actively encourage youngsters to see the real value of maintaining health of local wildlife
6. Protected and expanded consider more sites for similar
7. Footpaths?

Objective E: To preserve and enhance the landscape setting of the parish by identifying and protecting important views and vistas that contribute to the landscape character of the parish.



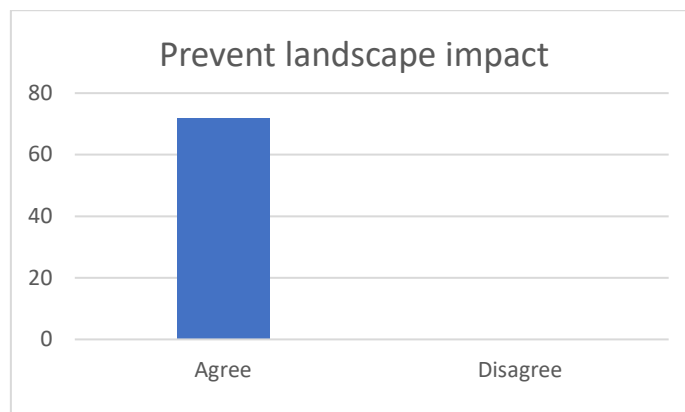
(56 dots)

Comment:

1. The tree in our garden is demolishing our home – TPO

DRAFT POLICY IDEA 5: Landscape Setting and Important Views

To ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on the landscape setting or important views of the parish

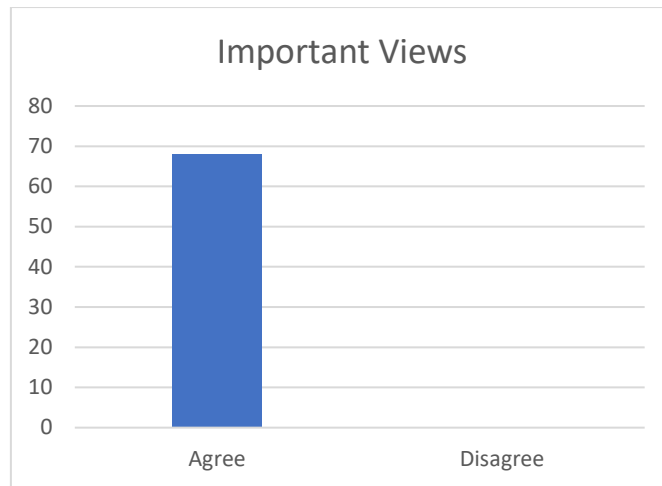


(72 dots)

Comment:

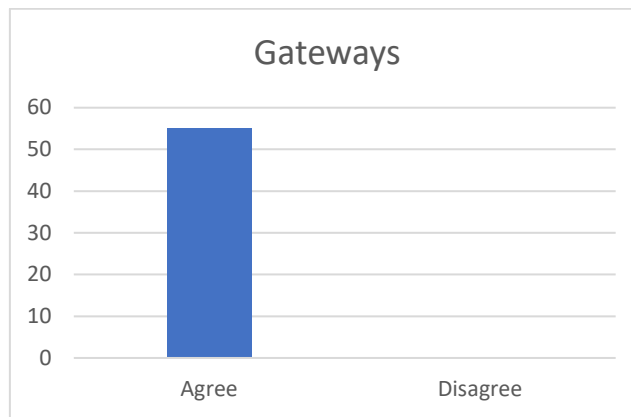
- 1.As far as Tamage Road concerned, coach and horses driven through with support of Babergh planning

Policy will identify important public views (both towards the village and looking out of the built-up area) to be protected from development



(68 dots)

Policy will identify specific gateways/ entrances to the settlement that should be protected

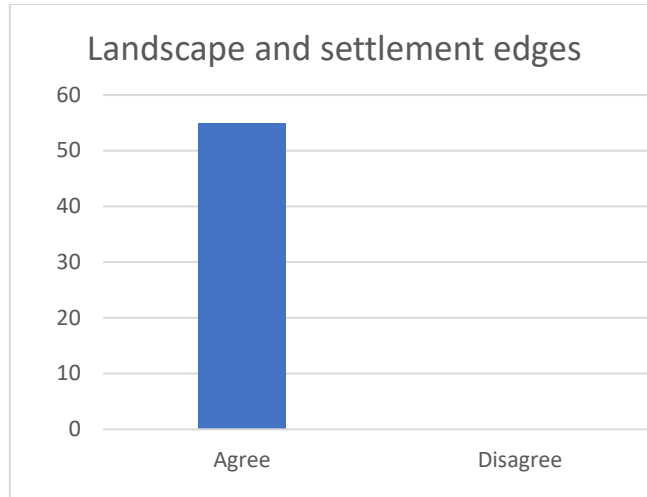


(55 dots)

Comment:

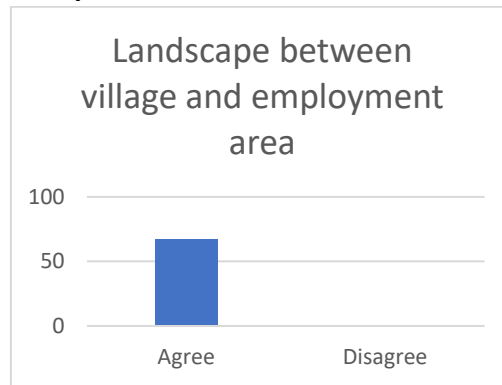
1. All public areas, roads, access to be adopted by local authority, not management company

Policy will ensure that development at settlement edges is appropriate in scale, design, and location to the landscape setting of the parish



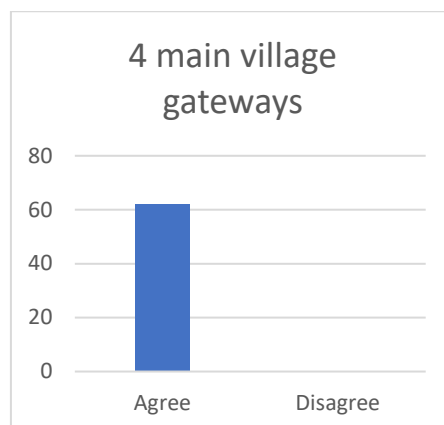
(55 dots)

Policy to ensure that existing landscape break between the village and the employment area is maintained as undeveloped



(67 dots)

Development at the four main village gateways should not be supported

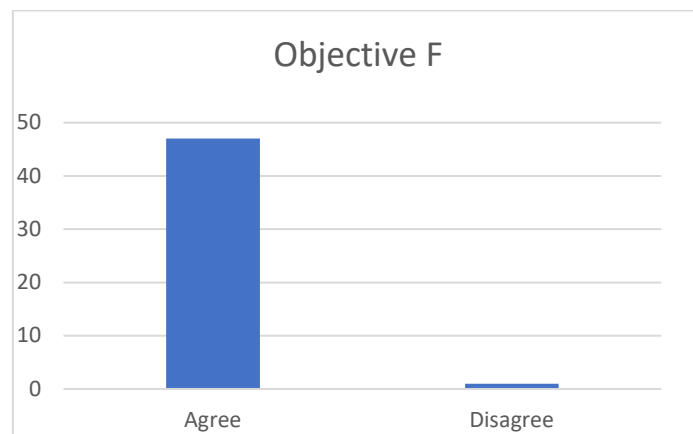


(62 dots)

Suggestions for Important Public Local Views (see Map)

1. Barrow Hill looking over towards the church and field behind, kept as it is cut for hay
2. From Barrow Hill allotment towards All Saints Church and Long Melford
3. Hedges need trimming down Sudbury Road +1
4. View of across the church and across to Melford church at the top of Barrow Hill +2
5. View from public footpath near allotments across to Acton Church and to Lavenham Church
6. View from Crown towards Sudbury Road
7. The road in Acton is narrow and untidy. Help! Barrow Hill cars - cars
8. The view up Barrow Hill across to the Waldingfield Church . The airfield and the walk around the outskirts of the village should be protected
9. The field opposite the Acton Crown
10. Sheep field on Sudbury Road should stay a field and have views across maintained.

Objective F: To safeguard the future of the parish through the promotion of environmentally sustainable measures within all new developments



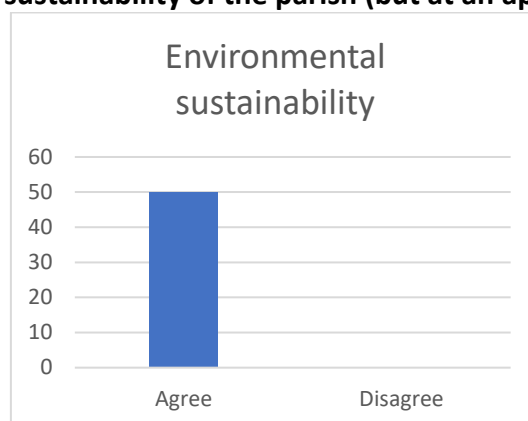
(48 dots)

Comments:

1. Solar panels +1

DRAFT POLICY IDEA 6: Environmental Sustainability

To encourage the future sustainability of the parish (but at an appropriate scale)

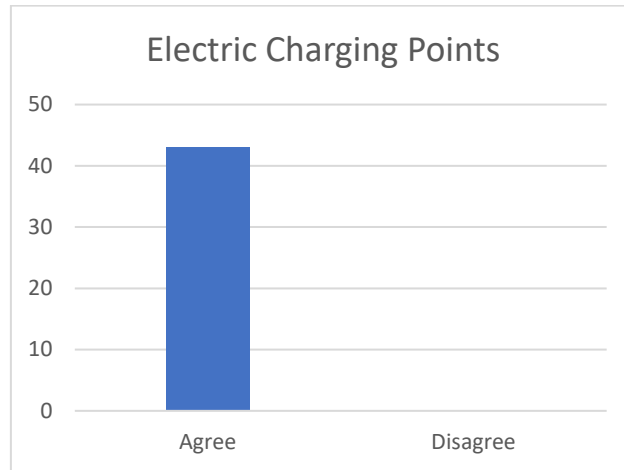


(50 dots)

Comment:

1. Solar panels on all new builds and house extensions

Promotion of new fast public and home- based electric charging points

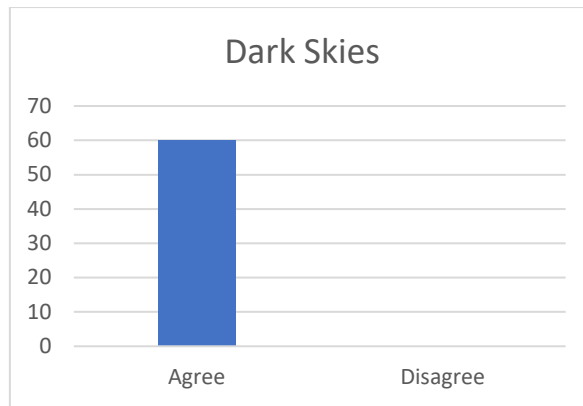


(43 dots)

Comments:

1. Electric car charging points (at the village hall) for public use very important (GW has them)

Ensure that new lighting is managed sensitively and encourage dark skies

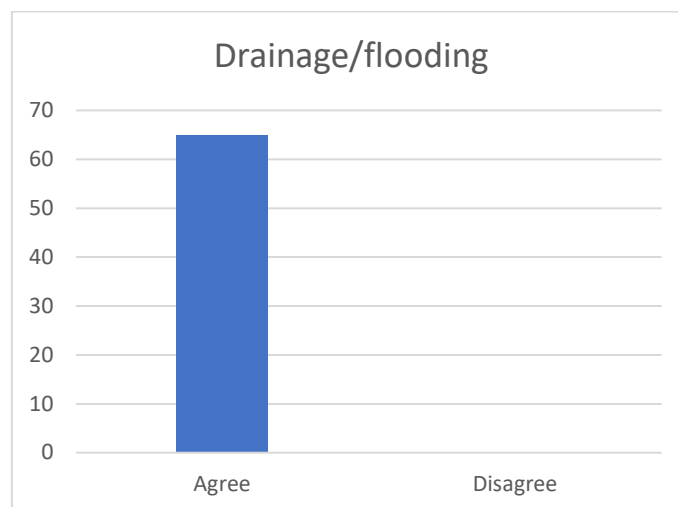


(60 dots)

Comments:

1. External lighting levels should not glow across countryside as current business area
2. Cooler, less blue, new LEDs

Ensuring that new development does not exacerbate existing or create new drainage/flooding problems

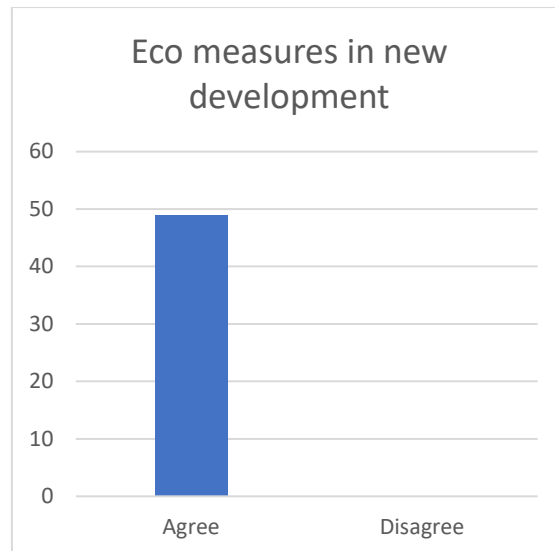


(65 dots)

Comments:

1. Very important
2. power and broadband provision must be considered
3. why is the new flood ditch always flooded? Even at the height of the drought

Support for 'eco measures' to be included in new development e.g. air/ground source heat pumps/solar panels etc

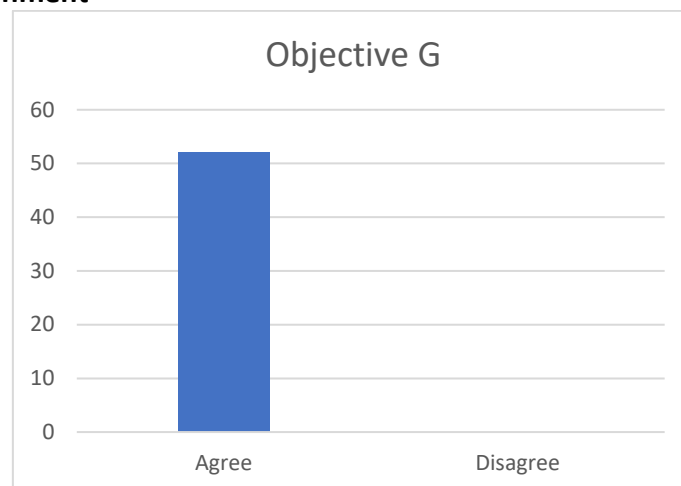


(49 dots)

Comments:

1. There is a lobby by developers to delay changes to building regulations

Objective G: To ensure that new development respects and protects Acton's built heritage and historic environment



(52 dots)

Comments:

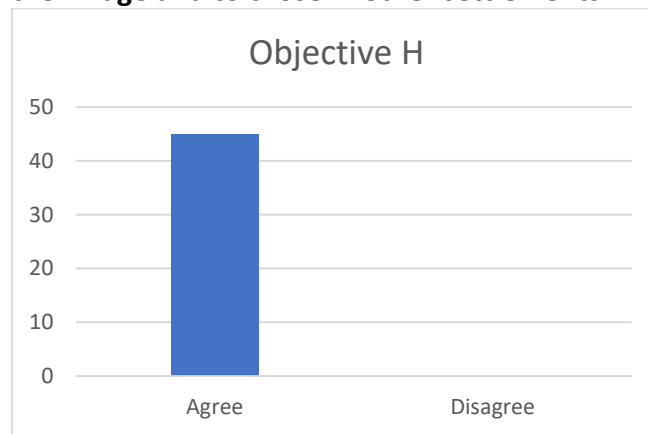
1. How do you propose to identify what constitutes Acton's built heritage and historic environment

Suggested Unlisted Buildings (see Map)

1. Victorian Cottages on High Street
2. Old School
3. The pink cottages on Vicarage Lane
4. Cobbled walls on High Street

ACCESS AND COMMUNITY

Objective H: To ensure that Acton residents have good access and safe connections to services both within the village and to those in other settlements



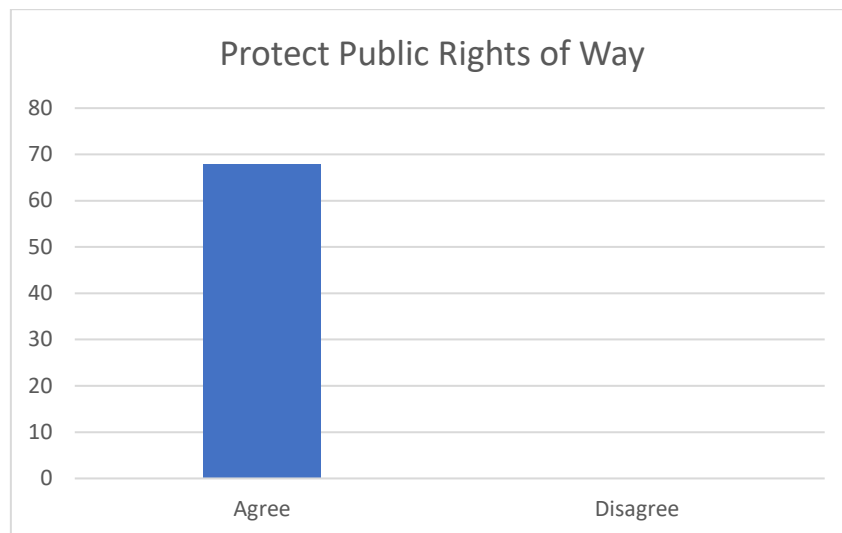
(45 dots)

Comment:

1. Access by foot cycle and public transport, not just by private car

DRAFT POLICY IDEA 8: Accessibility/Connectivity

Protect the existing public rights of way network in the parish from loss or harm and enhance it where possible

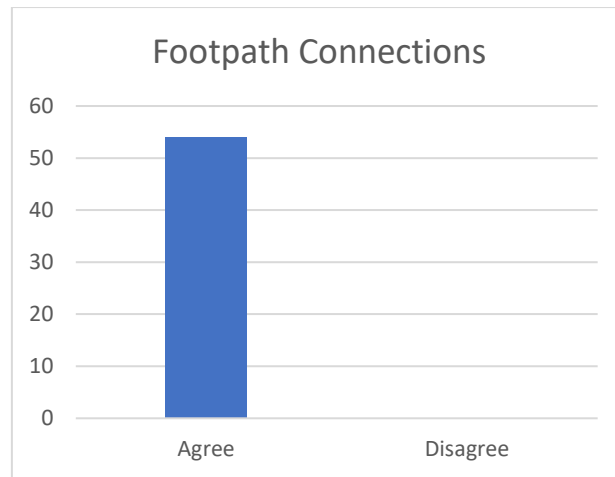


(68 dots)

Comment:

1. And to maintain and improve. Upgrade public footpaths to stop mud pools in winter. Barrow Hills to Church; Airfield to Waldingfield Road.

Identify particularly gaps or missing links in the network, where new paths/routes could be created to provide a more comprehensive network

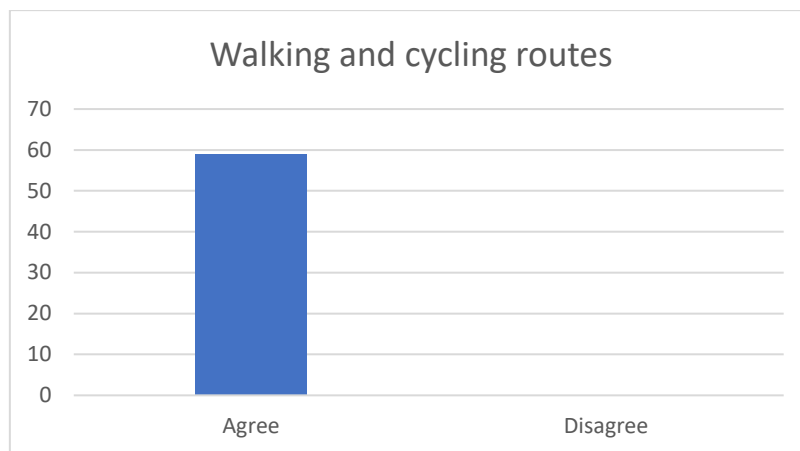


(54 dots)

Comments

1. Widen road to Great Waldingfield as footpath/cycle way
2. No footways out of village to Great Waldingfield or Long Melford + 2
3. Footpaths and cycle ways to Waldingfield. Sudbury and Melford

Promotion of walking and cycling routes, including safe routes to school and health benefits of walking and cycling

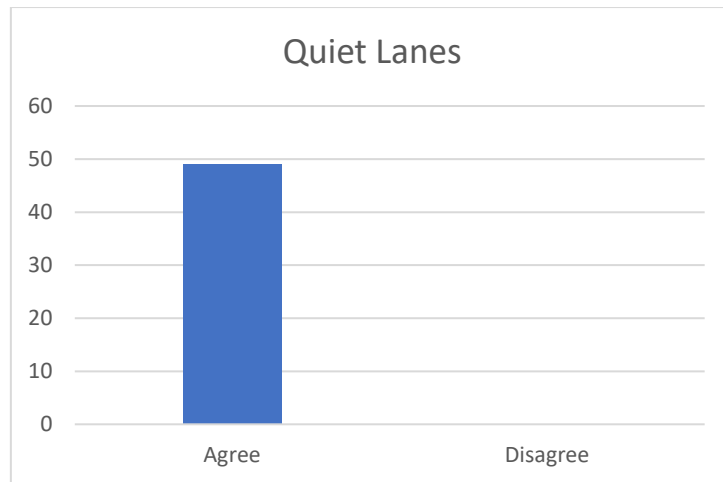


(59 dots)

Comments:

1. We need a footpath out of the village to connect us to GW and Sudbury as a safe walking routes +1
2. Footpaths to Bull and Acton Lane Industrial Estate also to Waldingfield
3. Where is the signage for these?

Respect the existing Quiet Lanes in the parish and identify any further routes

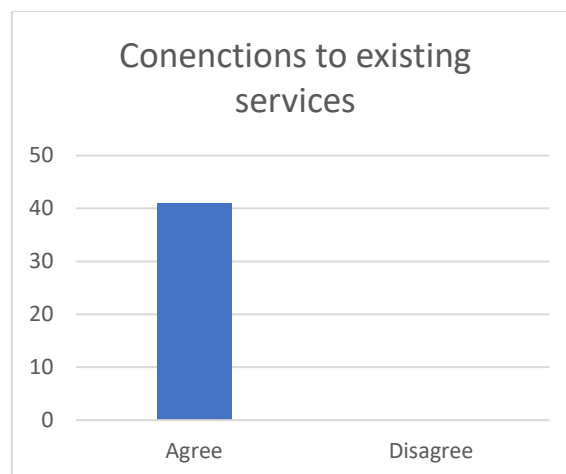


(49 dots)

Comments:

1. We haven't got any. Why not? Barrow Hill (Ask APC!)
2. Create more Quiet Lanes e.g. Barrow Hill and up to airfield at Newman's Green
3. Only Quiet Lanes currently are in Newman's Green
4. Barrow Hill all the way from the national speed limit sign all the way up to the main road (towards Lavenham)

Ensure the integration of new development by connecting it to the existing services and facilities in the village

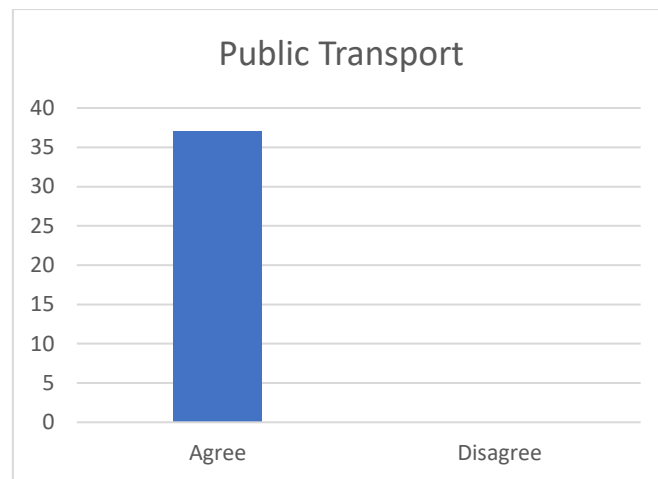


(41 dots)

Comment:

1. Infrastructure cannot cope at present

Promote good public transport for the industrial areas



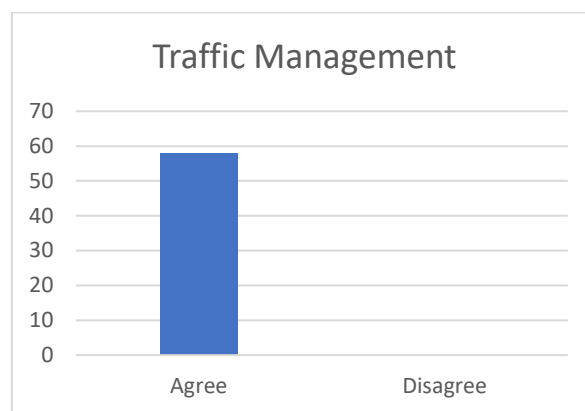
(37 dots)

Comments:

1. And to Sudbury and local villages
2. Including a bus stop/shelter

DRAFT POLICY IDEA 9: Traffic Management and Safety

To ensure that new development does not cause unacceptable traffic impacts – e.g. traffic generation or highway safety

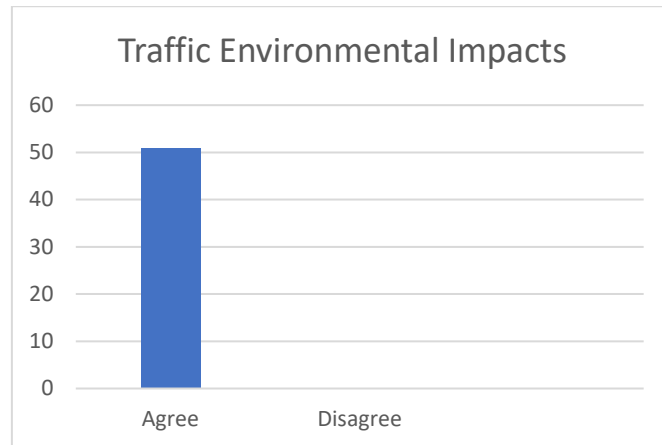


(58 dots)

Comments:

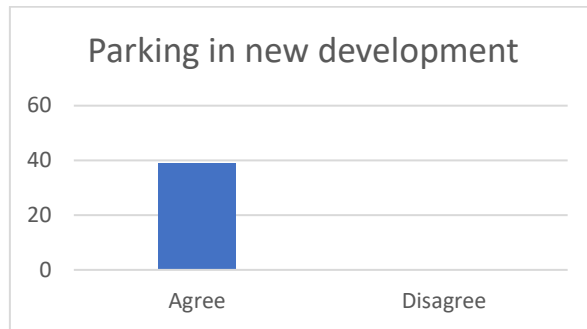
1. Traffic calming on Vicarage Road
2. Calming measures on Sudbury Road
3. Width restrictions on Waldingfield Road to stop the rat run of commuter traffic +3
4. Calming measures from Tamage new houses up to the pub
5. Bull Lane Junction
6. Barrow Hill junction
7. Soft place

Ensure the environmental impacts of traffic are managed e.g. pollution, vibration



(51 dots)

To manage parking in new developments (crossover with design policy)



(39 dots)

Comments:

1. Speed restrictions should be extended to include new housing development . Traffic calming measures required on Sudbury Road especially on bends where vision is restricted +1
2. Need to stop parking in narrow/dangerous areas slow down speed
3. Stop parking on main road opposite Barrow Hill junction

To support appropriate traffic calming measures in the village

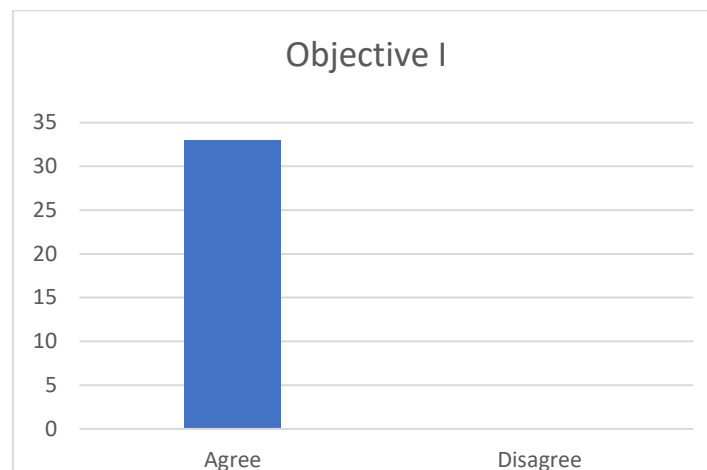


(45 dots)

Comment:

1. To have sleeping policeman at roads into village to slow traffic down
2. sleeping policeman , cause pollution, vibration and damage to vehicles. Use signage instead.

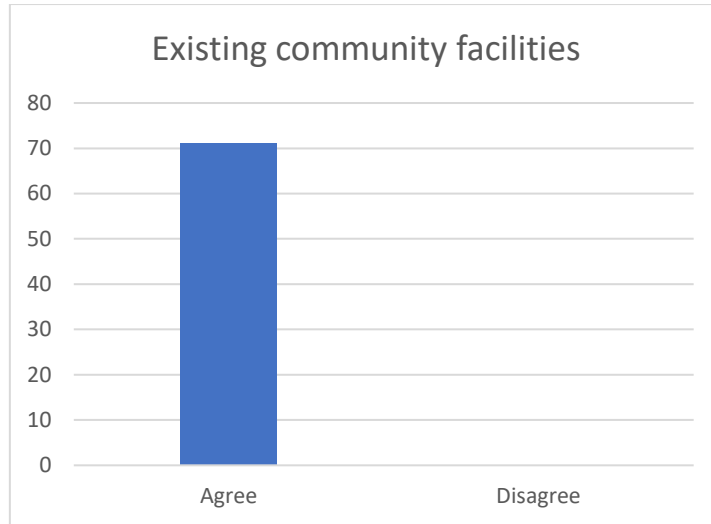
Draft Objective I: To protect the existing important community services and facilities in the parish and support their improvement or expansion



(33 dots)

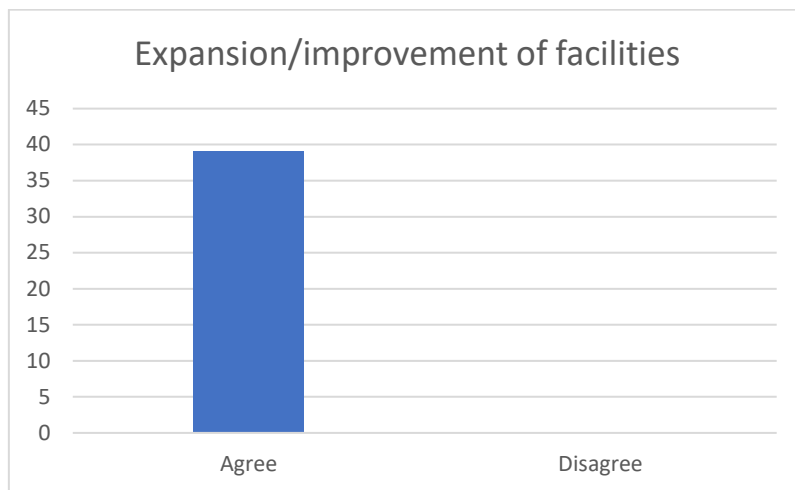
DRAFT POLICY IDEA 10: Community Facilities

Protect the existing community facilities in the parish e.g. hall, pub, shop, school, church, sports pitches etc from development that may adversely affect them



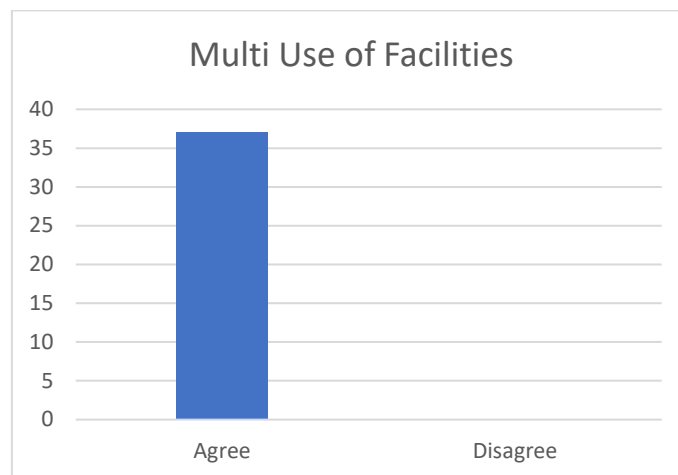
(71 dots)

Support for expansion/improvement of existing facilities (where required/ appropriate)



(39 dots)

Encouragement of wider use/multi use of existing facilities to provide other services e.g. health outreach, social care



(37 dots)

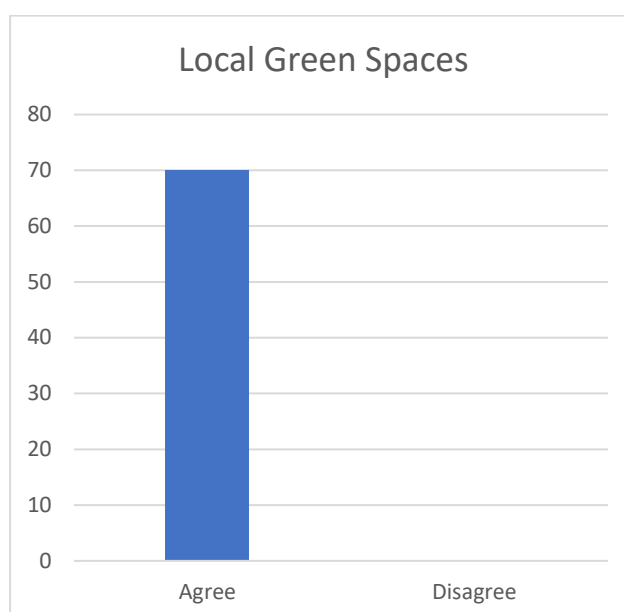
Comments:

1. Warm space - this winter +2
2. Village Hall should be used for blood donation , outreach health, screening etc

DRAFT POLICY IDEA 11: Local Green Spaces

Protection of existing green spaces in the parish that are important to local people in terms of recreation, wildlife, amenity, tranquility, heritage, or community value.

Policy will identify specific spaces e.g. school field, play areas, sports pitches amenity grassland etc



(70 dots)

Comment:

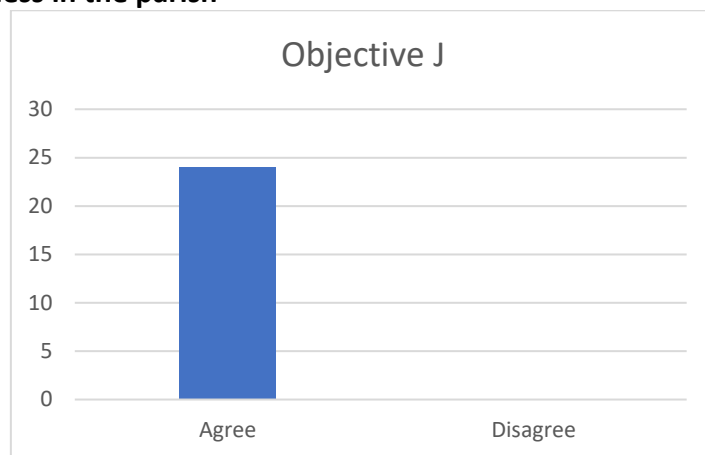
1. Owl Field' used all day from 6am to late pm by dog walkers. An asset to our community

Local Green Space Suggestions (see Map)

1. Land between Vicarage Lane and the Old Vicarage - massive Badger sets. Bloor has eyes on it +4
2. Village Hall playing field
3. Lime Tree Green
4. Allotments
5. Keep the Barn Owl Field +6
6. Better and permanent SIDs at gateways
7. The Sheep and Barn Owl Fields +5
8. All surrounding fields, plus the Owl field
9. Barn Owl Field Please
10. Sheep Field
11. Sudbury Road
12. Owl Field +2

BUSINESS

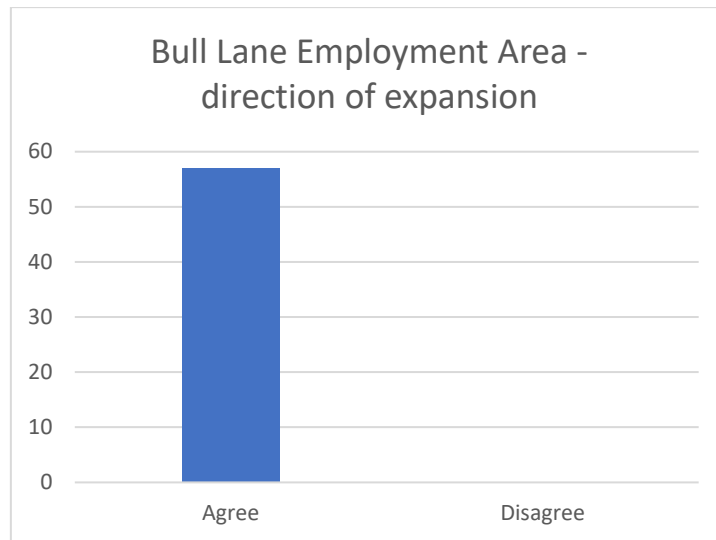
Draft Objective J: To support the appropriate development and expansion of suitable new and existing business in the parish



(24 dots)

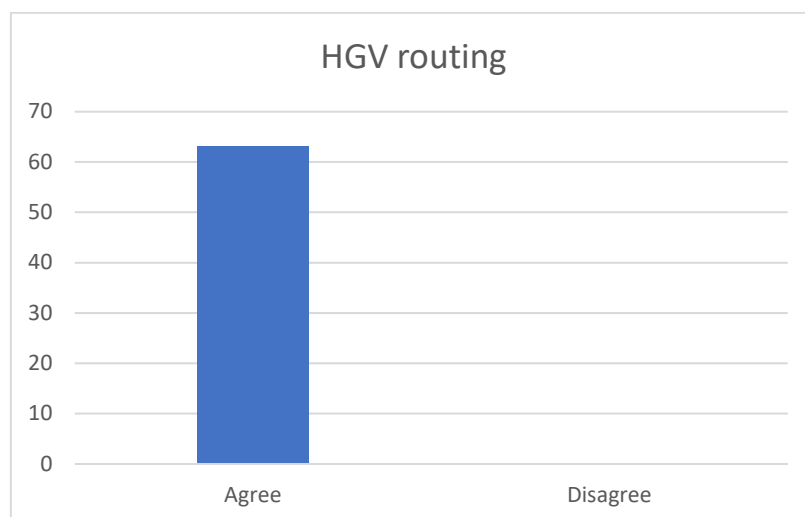
DRAFT POLICY IDEA 12: Bull Lane Employment Area

To ensure that any expansion of the Bull Lane employment area is directed to the west and away from the village



(57 dots)

Ensure that HGV movements generated by new development at Bull Lane are not routed through the village

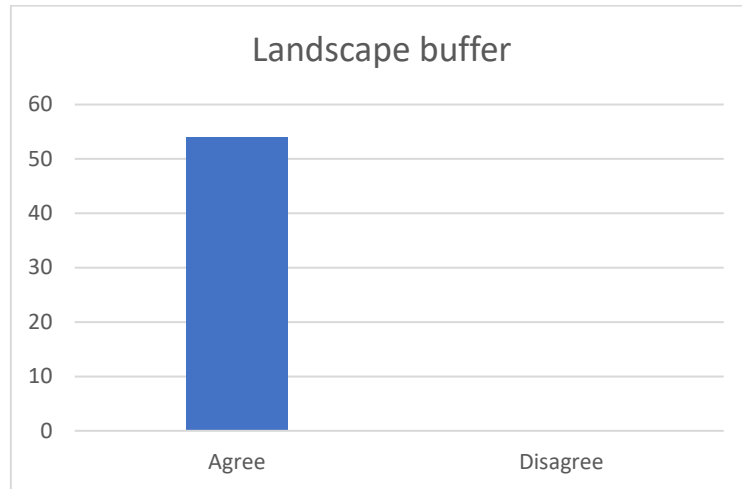


(63 dots)

Comment:

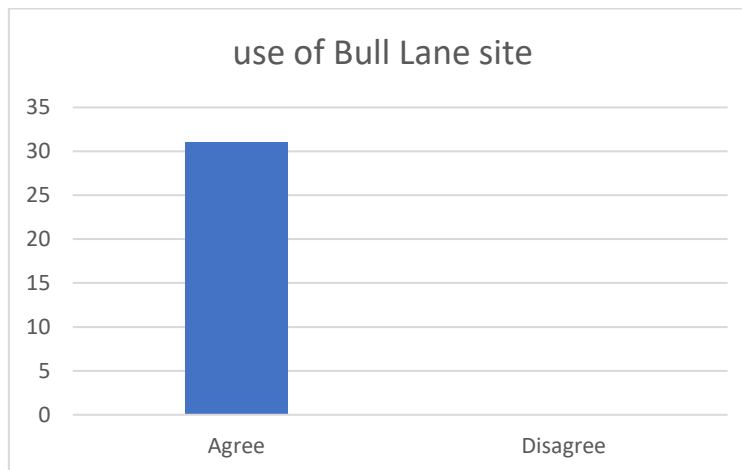
1. Why didn't the Parish Council participate in the Suffolk Highway HGV review? There should be a 7.5-ton limit on our ungraded road

Existing landscape break/undeveloped area between the village of Acton and the employment area to be retained



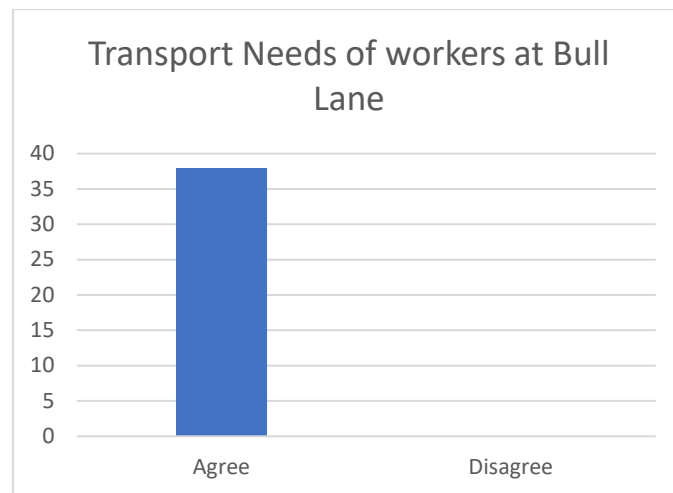
(54 dots)

Support for expansion of existing businesses at Bull Lane which result in better use of land within the site



(31 dots)

New development should accommodate the transport and commuting needs of workers e.g. public transport/bus stops, parking, cycle parking, electric charging points

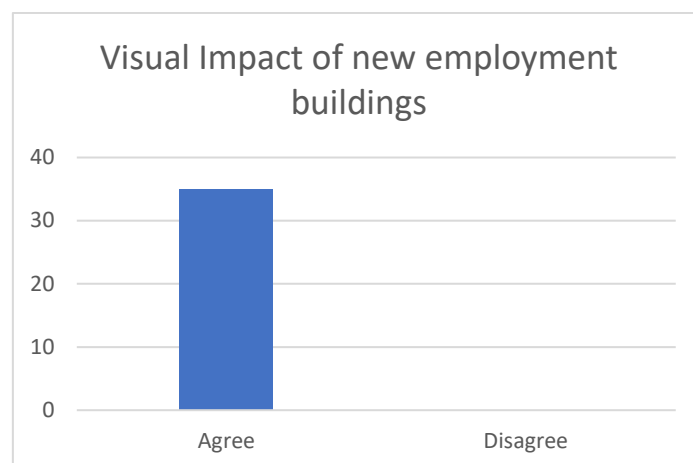


(38 dots)

Comment:

1. Footpath to Acton

Visual impact of new buildings including height, design, and landscape impact to be considered carefully.



(35 dots)

Comments:

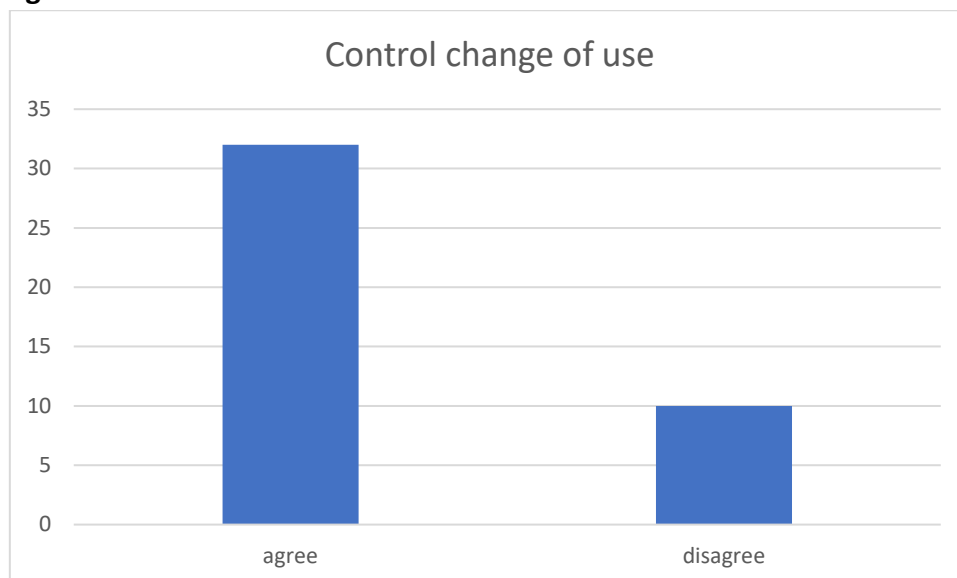
1. This district produces light pollution across countryside to Clay Hall
2. Light pollution should be limited

Support for small and medium business rather than large scale uses with retail functions



(43 dots)

DRAFT POLICY IDEA 13: New business outside of the Bull Lane Employment Area
Support for change of use of agricultural buildings where it is proven that it is no longer required for agricultural use and where there is no adverse impact upon highways, amenity, or the environment and where it does not result in non-agricultural uses dominating the overall site.

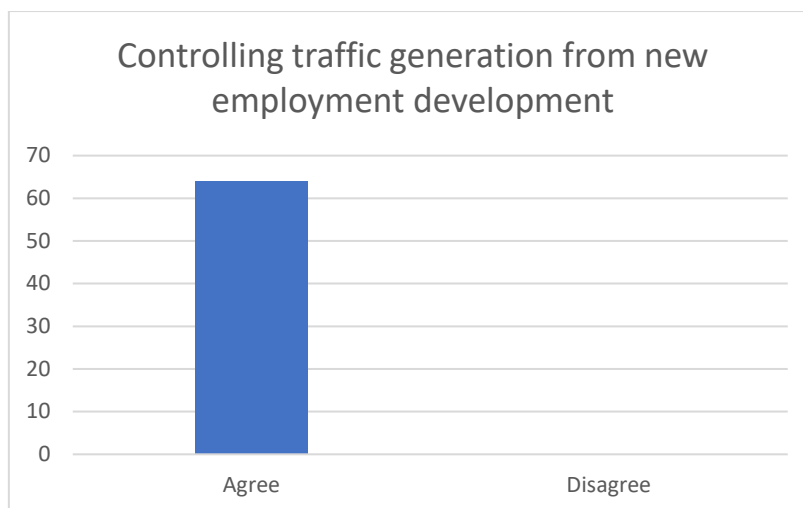


(42 dots)

Comments:

1. Not to housing
2. Weight restrictions
3. Too many buildings which could be supportive to small businesses turned to housing

Traffic generated by new development should not result in unacceptable HGV/delivery use, of quiet lanes; encourage these to be routed away from the village

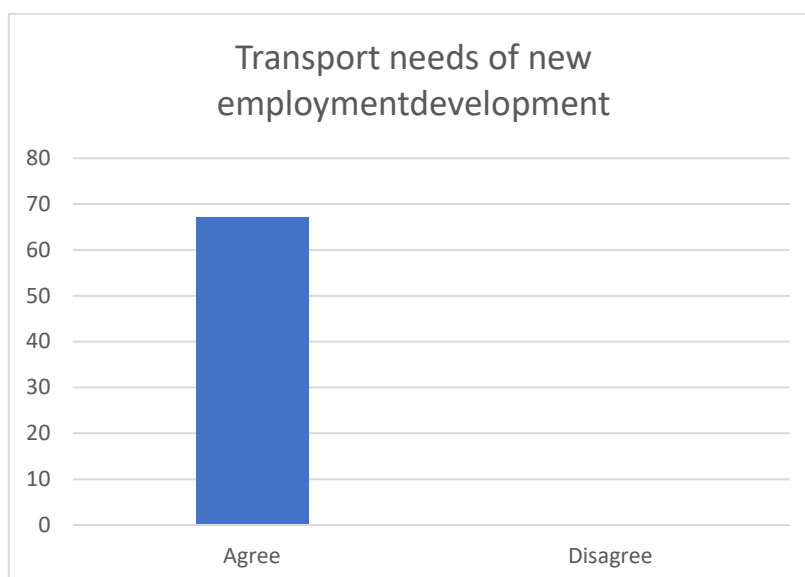


(64 dots)

Comments:

1. Closer control for construction traffic and protection of road. Prevent and then repair damage
2. What does away from the village mean?

New business development to provide for the transport needs of workers; parking provision to be well screened

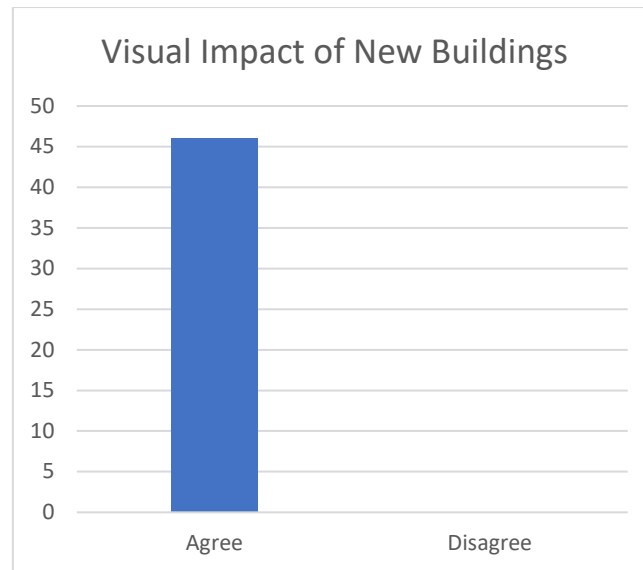


(67 dots)

Comments:

1. Is there existing traffic volume data available? Baseline needed

Visual impact of new buildings e.g. height, design, landscape to be carefully considered

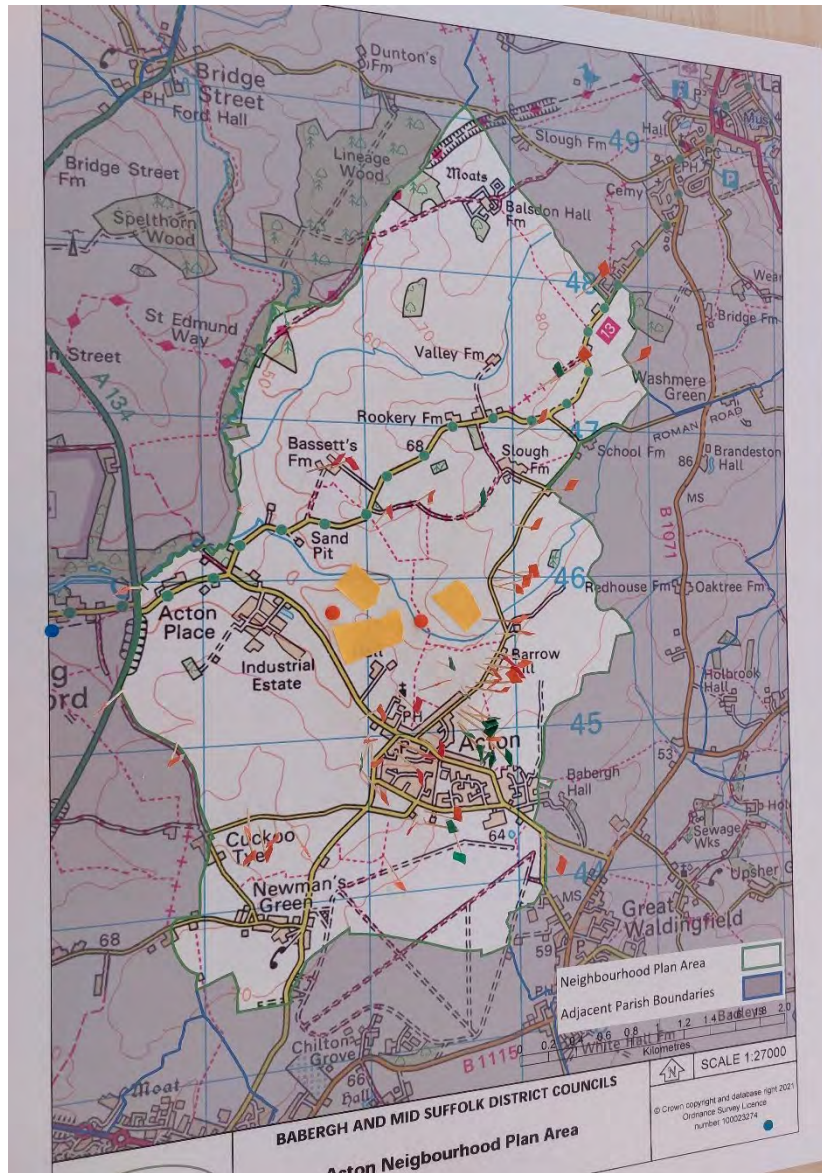


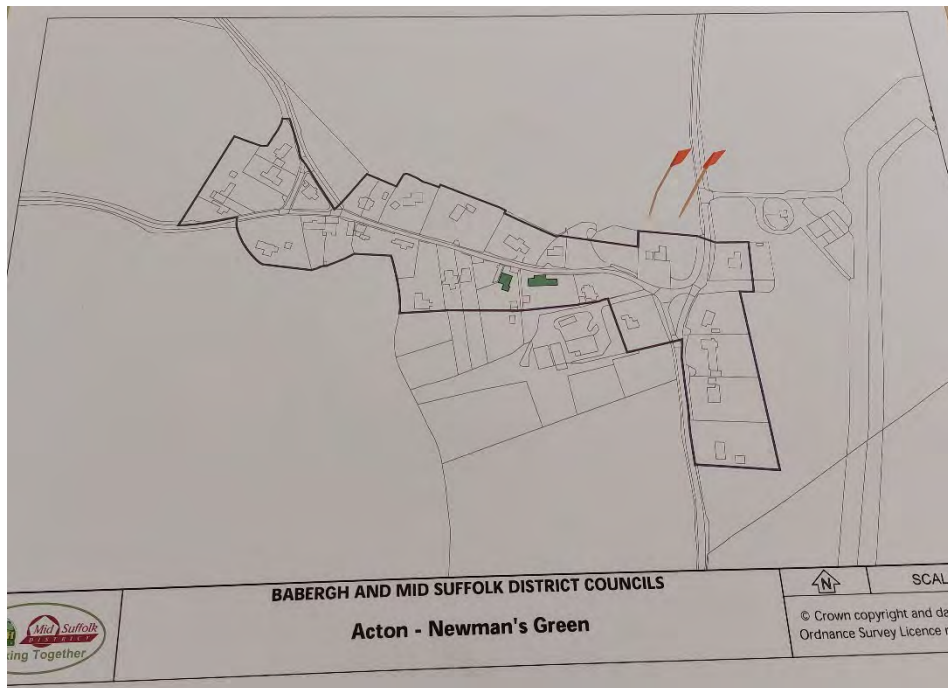
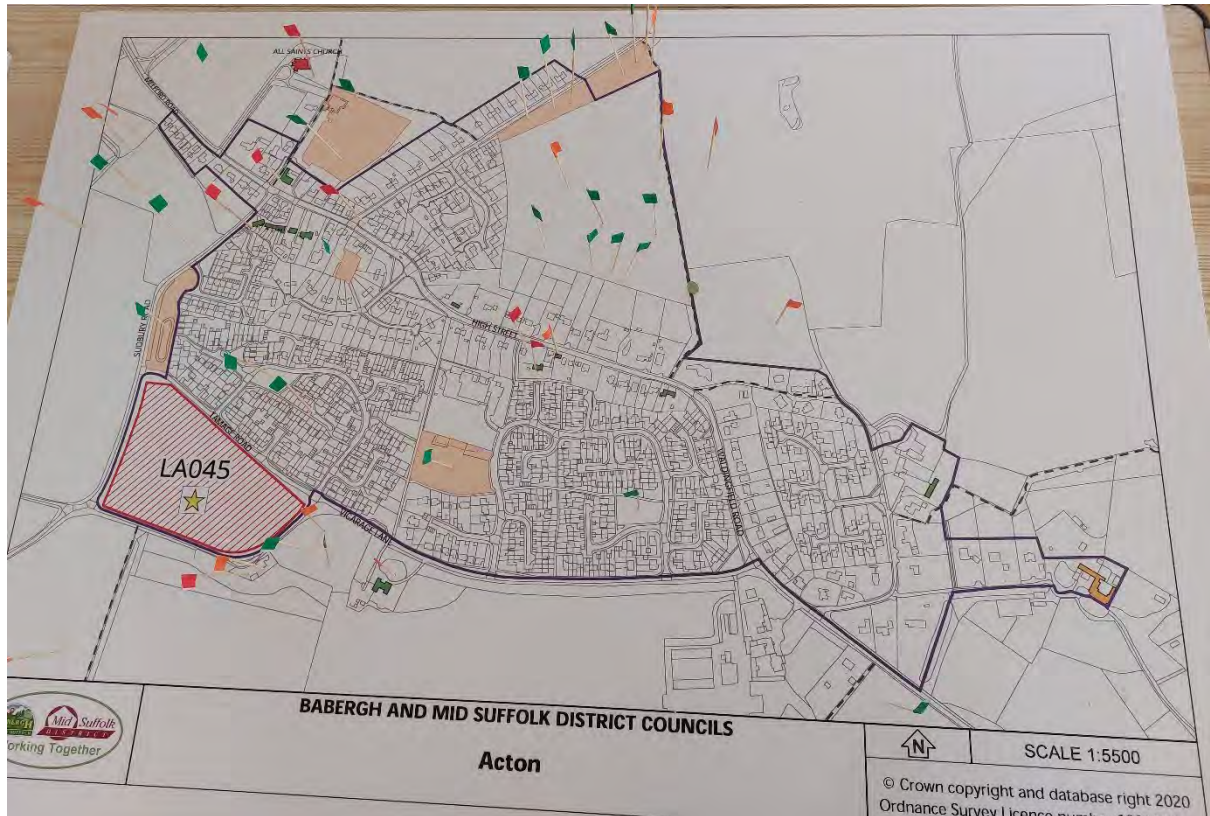
(46 dots)

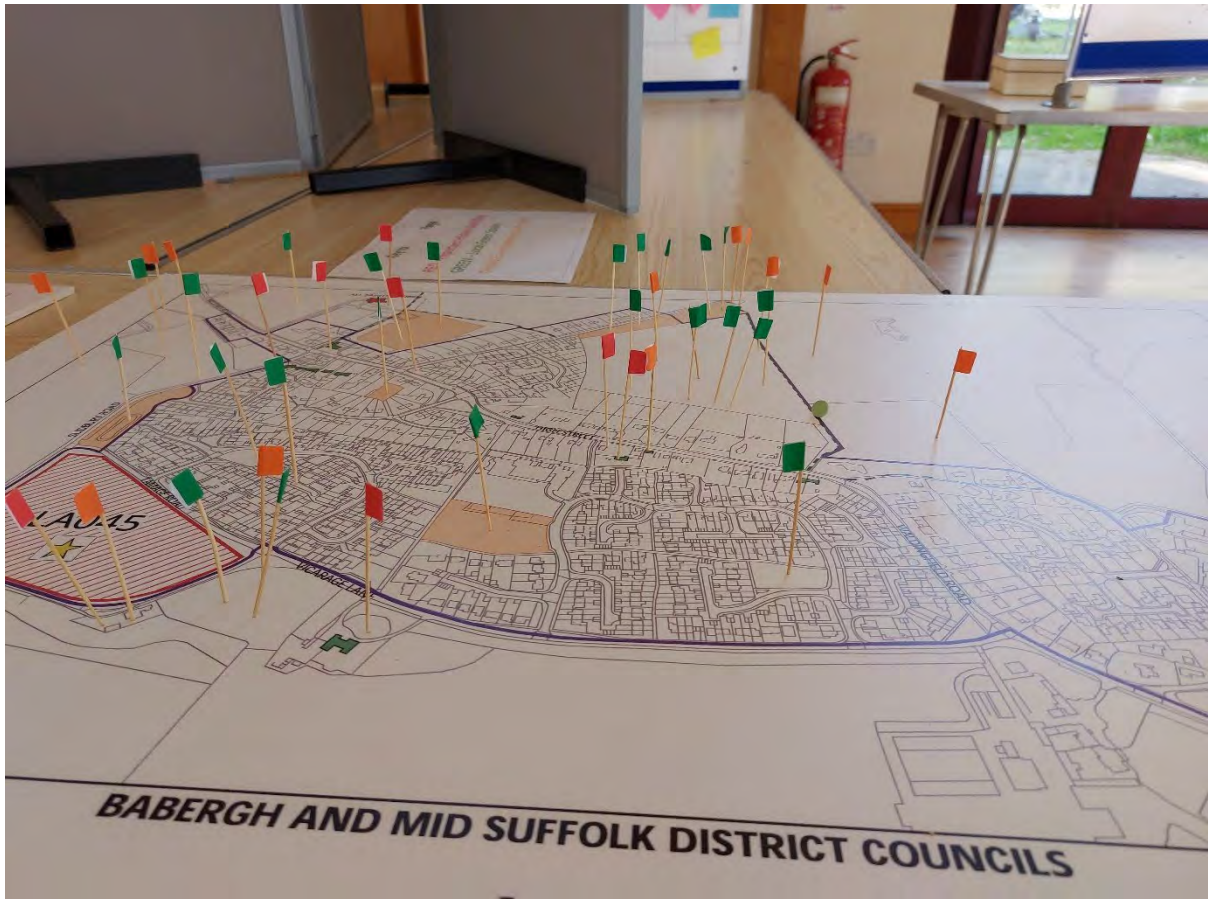
What have we missed?

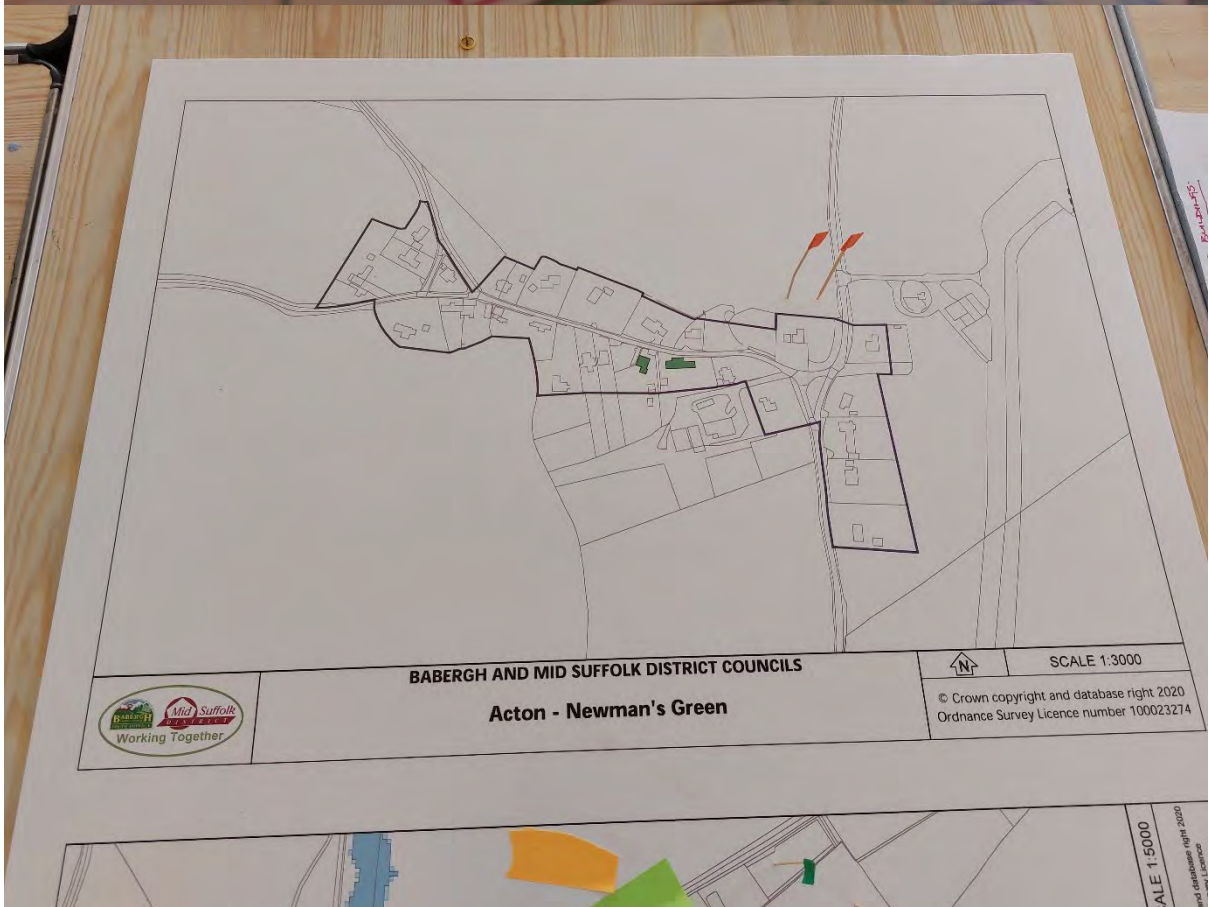
1. Please install suitable footpaths along Melford Road and Sudbury Road too.
2. Cycle lanes
3. Set up register of uneven pavements 'Trip Advisor'
4. Except for access- weight limit on lorries. Some are using this route to their property instead of correct routes e.g. TM Transport
5. Pavements all the way to Sudbury, Gt Waldingfield and Bull Lane Industrial Estate +2
6. Yellow Lines needed opposite end of Barrow Hill
7. Return of the Post Box - removed from Old Shop
8. Need for speed restrictions throughout Acton. High Street is too narrow for permanent on road parking.
9. Infrastructure to keep up with what we have now
10. Consider health and wellbeing improvements and not just building and traffic.
11. What is being considered for growth of residents.

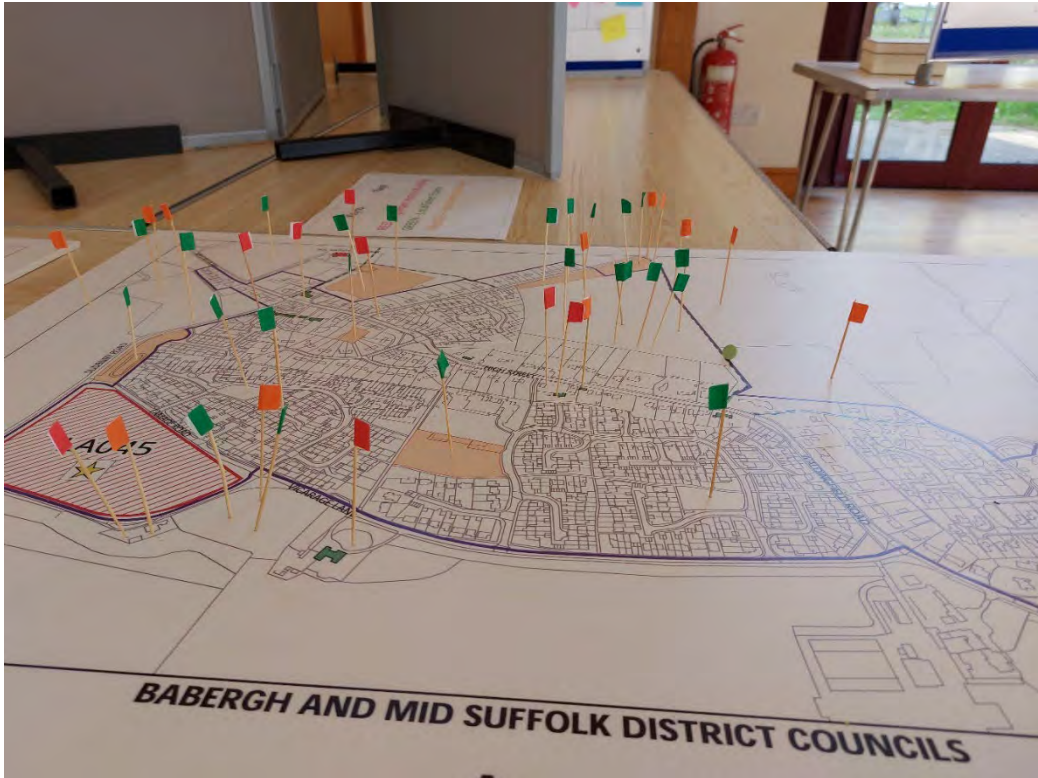
Maps

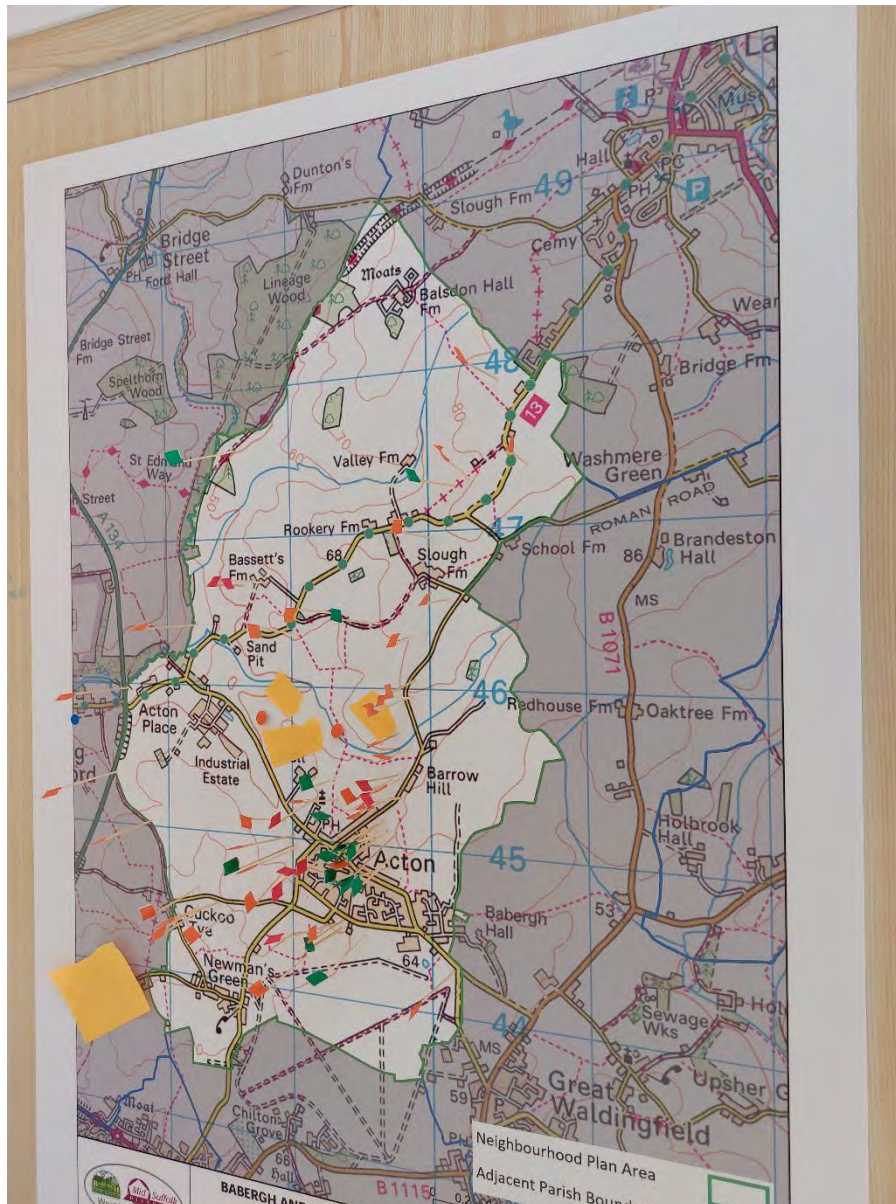


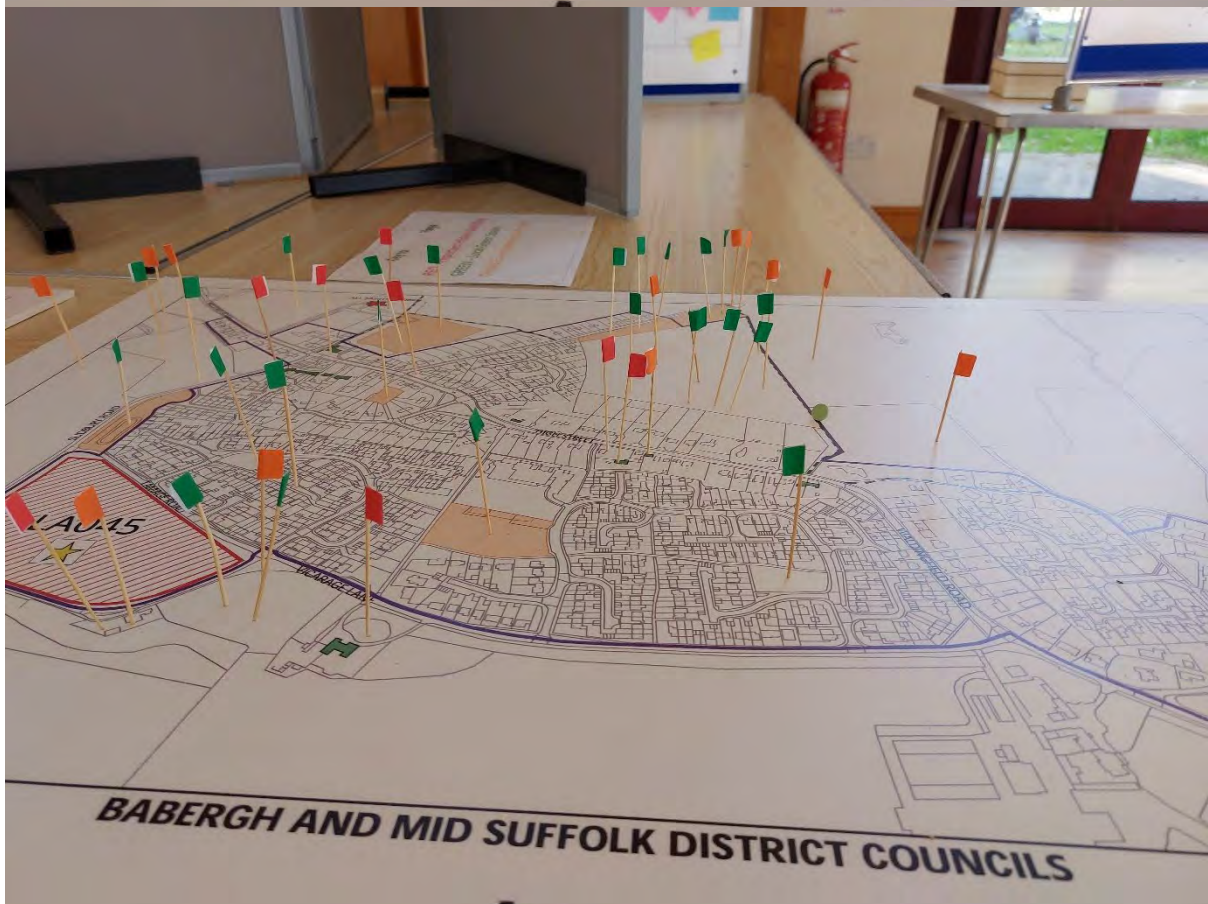
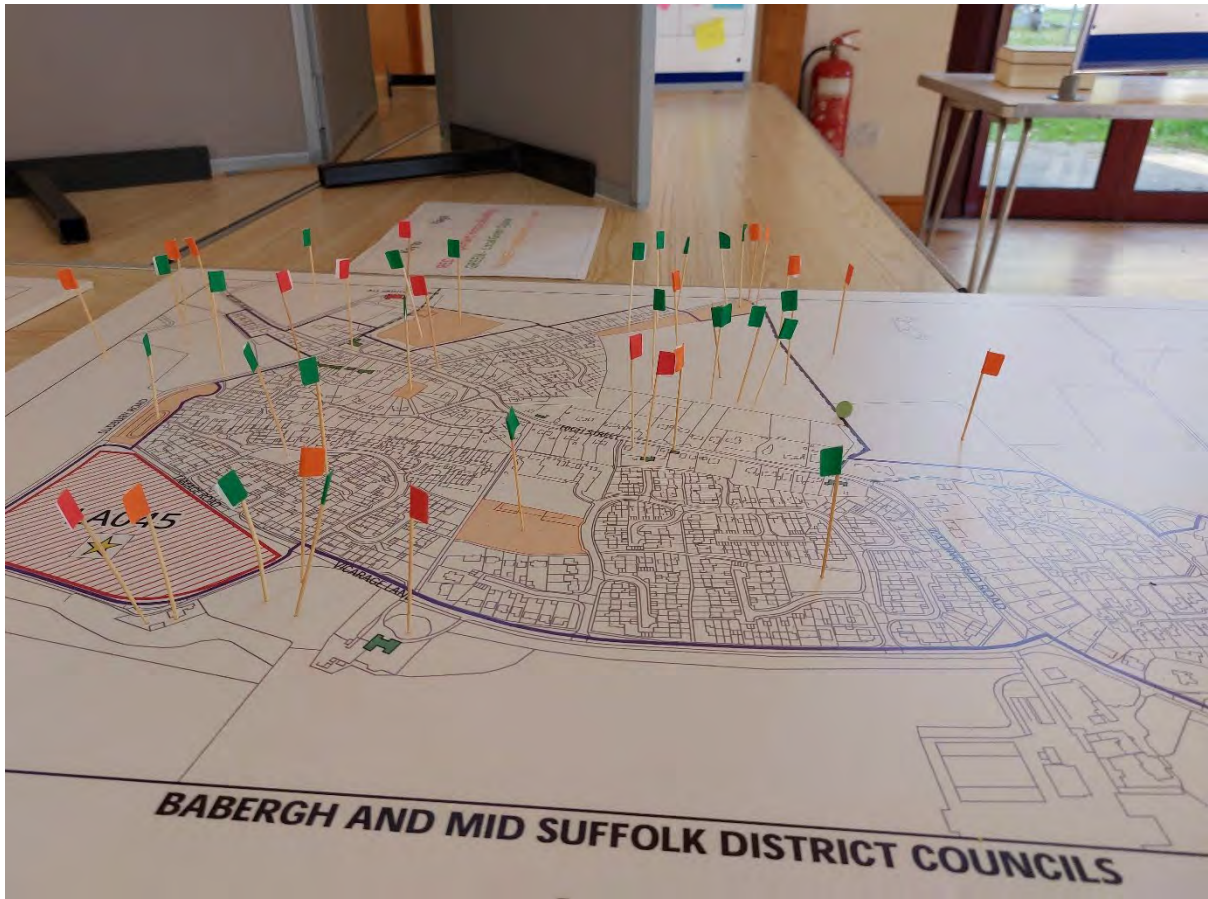




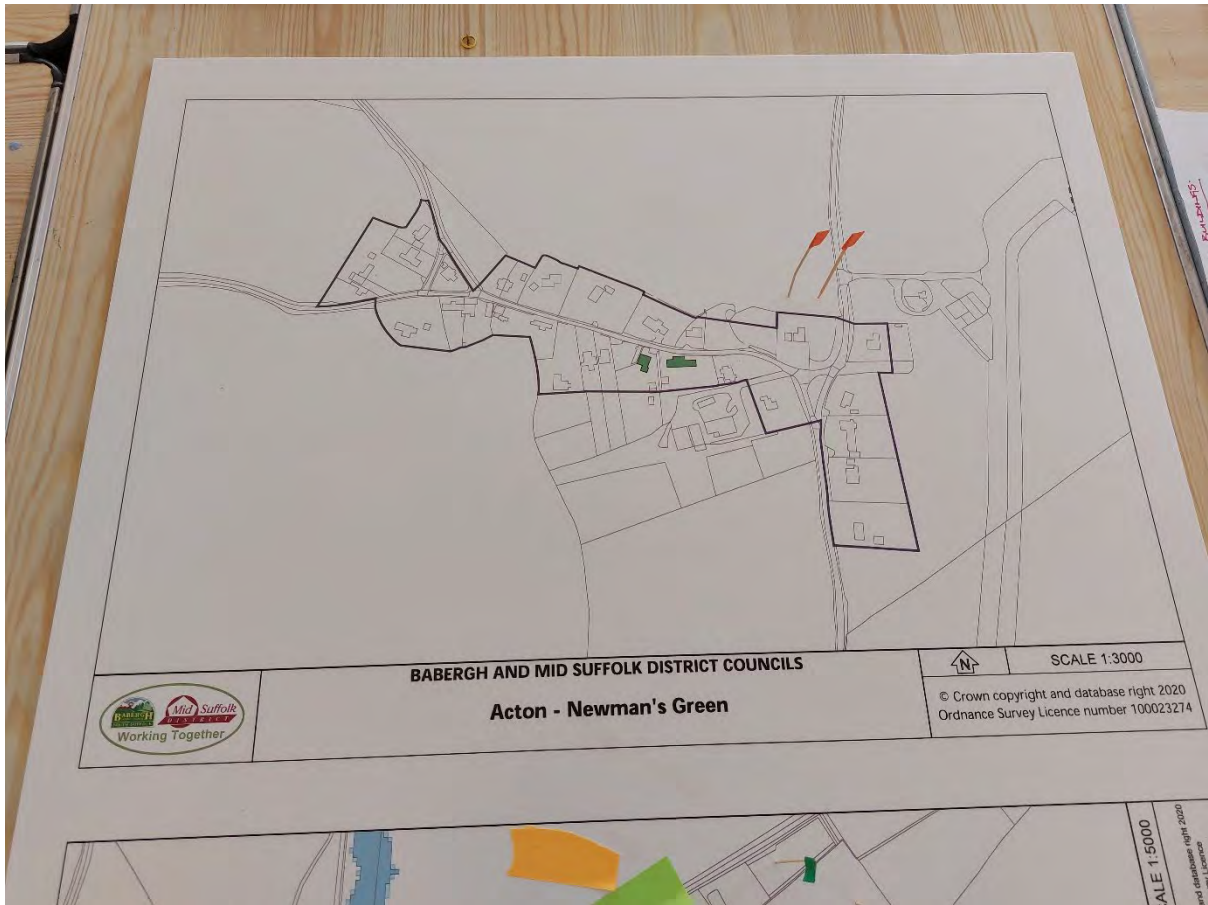












Appendix 8: NDHA and LGS notification letters**Acton Neighbourhood Plan****Consultation: 3rd April to 22nd May 2023**

Dear Property Owner,

Non-designated Heritage Assets

This letter is to advise you that the draft Acton Neighbourhood Plan will be published for public consultation on 3rd April with a six-week public consultation period lasting until 22nd May 2023

The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared on behalf of Acton Parish Council. It is a planning policy document which will guide future development in the area. More information can be found here: <https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

We are writing to you because a building you own/have an interest in, has been suggested for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan as a Non-designated Heritage Asset (Important Unlisted Building).

A Non-designated Heritage Asset is a building or structure that is locally important to the community because of its age, rarity, aesthetic interest, group value, historic association, landscape interest, landmark status or social/communal value. These do not have the same protection or restrictions as those on the national list of Listing Buildings.

If a building is identified as a Non-designated Heritage Asset, it does not mean that it cannot be altered or amended in anyway nor does it mean that there are additional regulations or consents required to undertake any works to it. It simply means that any proposals that already require the benefit of planning permission that may affect your property should take your building's architectural or historic significance into account. We are keen to include Non-designated Heritage Assets in the Neighbourhood Plan, to ensure that that some of the important characteristics of Acton are recognised.

The draft list and maps of possible Non-designated Heritage Assets for Acton are as follows:

- 1] Higher Ground, Vicarage Lane.
- 2] Cuckoo Tye Farm Cottage
- 3] Cuckoo Tye Barn
- 4] WW II buildings at Acton Place, off Melford Road

- 5] Bassetts Farm, off Lavenham Road
- 6) Acton Hall, off Melford Road
- 7) 1 & 2 Orchard Cottages
- 8) 1 & 2 Elder Cottages
- 9) The Old School Hall and School House
- 10) Hill View and Ivy Cottage
- 11) Barrow Hill Farm.
- 12) Valley Farmhouse and Barn
- 13) Redbraes, Lavenham Road
- 14) Primrose Lane Cottage

The list of Non-designated Heritage Assets is in draft at present. More details can be found in Appendix B of the Neighbourhood Plan. We are seeking your views as to whether you think your building should be included in the final version of Neighbourhood Plan and whether the information is correct. We would be grateful therefore if you could email: consultation.actonnp@gmail.com

by the closing date of the consultation, which is midnight on **22nd May 2023** with your views. If you have any questions, please contact us before this date.
Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Non-Designated Heritage Assets Justification

Criteria: Age, Rarity, Architectural and Artistic Interest, Group Value, Archaeological Interest, Historic Interest and Landmark Status

01] Higher Ground, Vicarage Lane.

Timber frame and rendered lath. Originally Glebe Cottage, built sometime in the 1700s, opposite Acton's glebe fields. Has been used as servants' quarters for the Old Vicarage. Sold by the Church Commissioners in the 1950s, subsequently much rebuilt/extended. The garden incorporates a former brickworks, which became a village rubbish dump and is now an private orchard. (**age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, group value (with Old Vicarage) archaeological interest, landmark status**)

02] Tye Fam House

Dated 1842 with flint finish, many extension phases. (**age, architectural and artistic interest**)

03] The Granary

(Dated 1842), Granary and cart-shed - flint built, early Victorian. Cart shed recently converted to dwelling. (**age, architectural and artistic interest, group value (with cart shed), historic interest**)

04] Acton Place WW II buildings

Various Nissen huts still in use. eg Wally's Café, vehicle repairs and single dwelling (**age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, group value, historic interest**)

05] Bassetts Farm

Timbered with lath and plaster, of great age (possibly 1400s) but modified pre-WWII with a large extension. Adjacent Victorian brick farm buildings, one of which is converted to a dwelling. **(age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, historic interest)**

06] Acton Hall, off Melford Road –

Associated with adjacent Acton Hall Farm. Victorian with adjacent brick farm buildings. The setting incorporates the remains of a moat indicating far older foundations. **(age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, group value (with farm and adjacent buildings), archaeological interest, historic interest, landmark status)**

07] 1 & 2 Orchard Cottages

Brick/slate. Late Victorian. **(age, historic interest, group value ,as a pair)**

08] 1 & 2 Elder Cottages

Pair of old, renovated cottages, possible now one house –adjacent to ‘Mondice’ off High Street. **(age, architectural and artistic interest, group value (as a pair), historic interest)**

09] The Old School Hall & School House

Former village school and teacher’s house, built in flint. **(age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, group value (when taken together), historic interest, landmark status)**

10] Hill View & Ivy Cottage

Old brick/flint front boundary walls wall – opposite the old school, where similar style exists. **(age, architectural and artistic interest, group value (as a pair), historic interest)**

11] Barrow Hill Farm

Rendered farmhouse and adjacent flint farm building and wall – indeterminate date(s) and all much altered. **(age, architectural and artistic interest, group value (with farm buildings and wall), historic interest, landmark status)**

12] Valley Farmhouse and Barn

Both good examples of centuries-old timber frame construction, worthy of a Heritage listing **(age, architectural and artistic interest, group value (farmhouse and barn), historic interest, landmark status)**

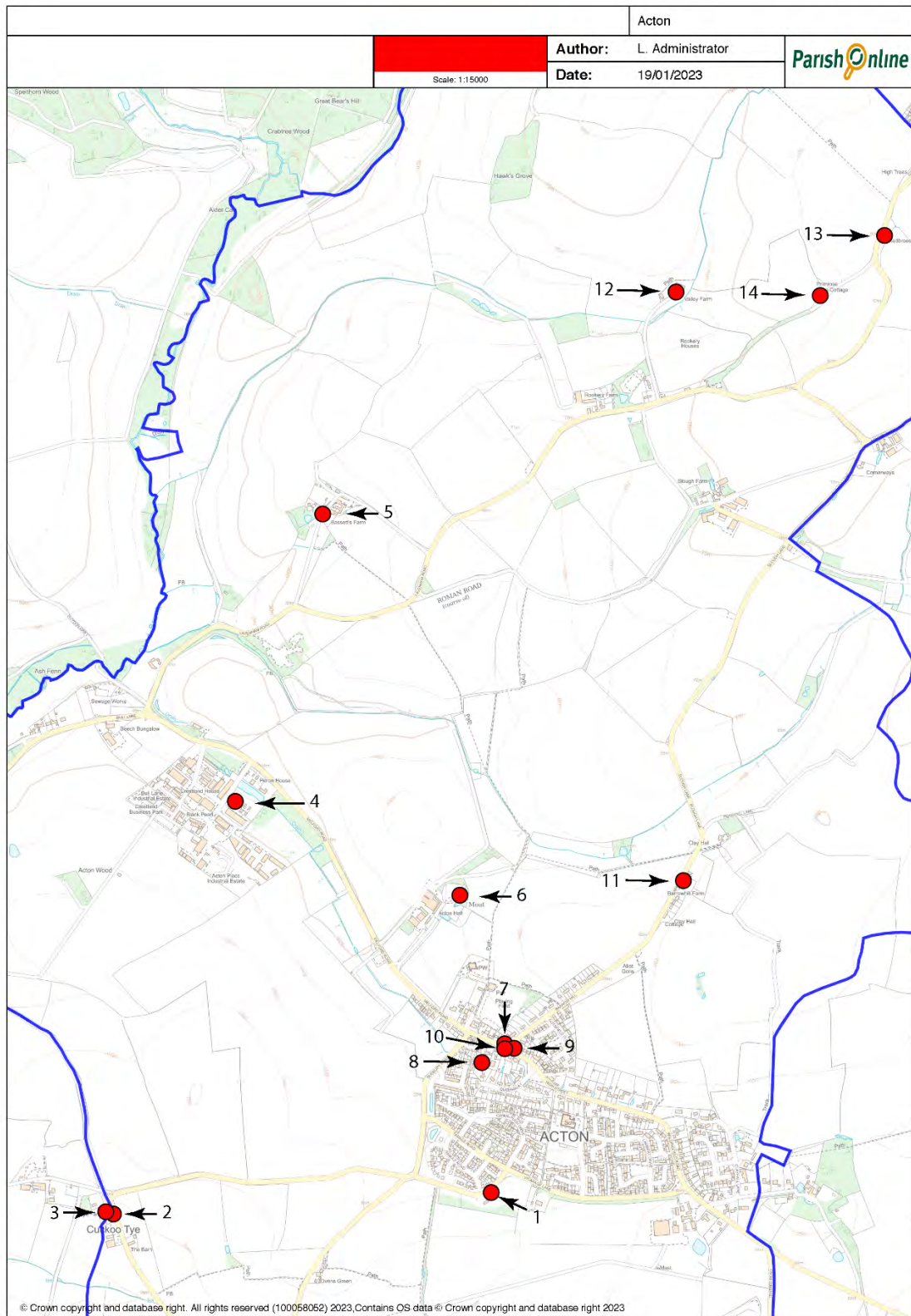
13] Old Stamp House (Redbraes)

Formerly ‘the old Stamp Collectors House’, probably 19thC timber frame with lath and plaster, completely rebuilt and extended at least 25 years ago. **(age, historic interest)**

14] Primrose Lane Cottage –

Timber frame with lath and plaster, probably over 150 years old, completely rebuilt and extended over last 30 years. **(age, historic interest, landmark status)**

Map of Proposed Non-Designated Heritage Assets:





Acton Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation: 3rd April 2023 to 22nd May 2023

Dear Landowner,

Local Green Spaces

This letter is to advise you that the draft Acton Neighbourhood Plan will be published for public consultation on **3rd April 2023** with a six-week public consultation period lasting until **22nd May 2023**.

The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared on behalf of Acton Parish Council. It is a planning policy document which will guide future development in the area. More information can be found here: <https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

A piece of land that you own/have an interest has been suggested for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan as a Local Green Space.

Please note that this is a draft plan and therefore we are seeking your views before the Plan is finalised later this year..

Local Green Space designation allows local communities to protect green spaces of local importance. We are keen to include Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan, to ensure that some of the important characteristics of Acton are recognised and protected. If the spaces meet the following criteria, they will receive protection equivalent to green belt land, once the Neighbourhood Plan is approved.

The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a. in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b. demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c. local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

(National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 102)

[Promoting healthy and safe communities - National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/promoting-healthy-and-safe-communities-national-planning-policy-framework-guidance.pdf)
(www.gov.uk)

A draft list of candidate Local Green Spaces for Acton is as follows:

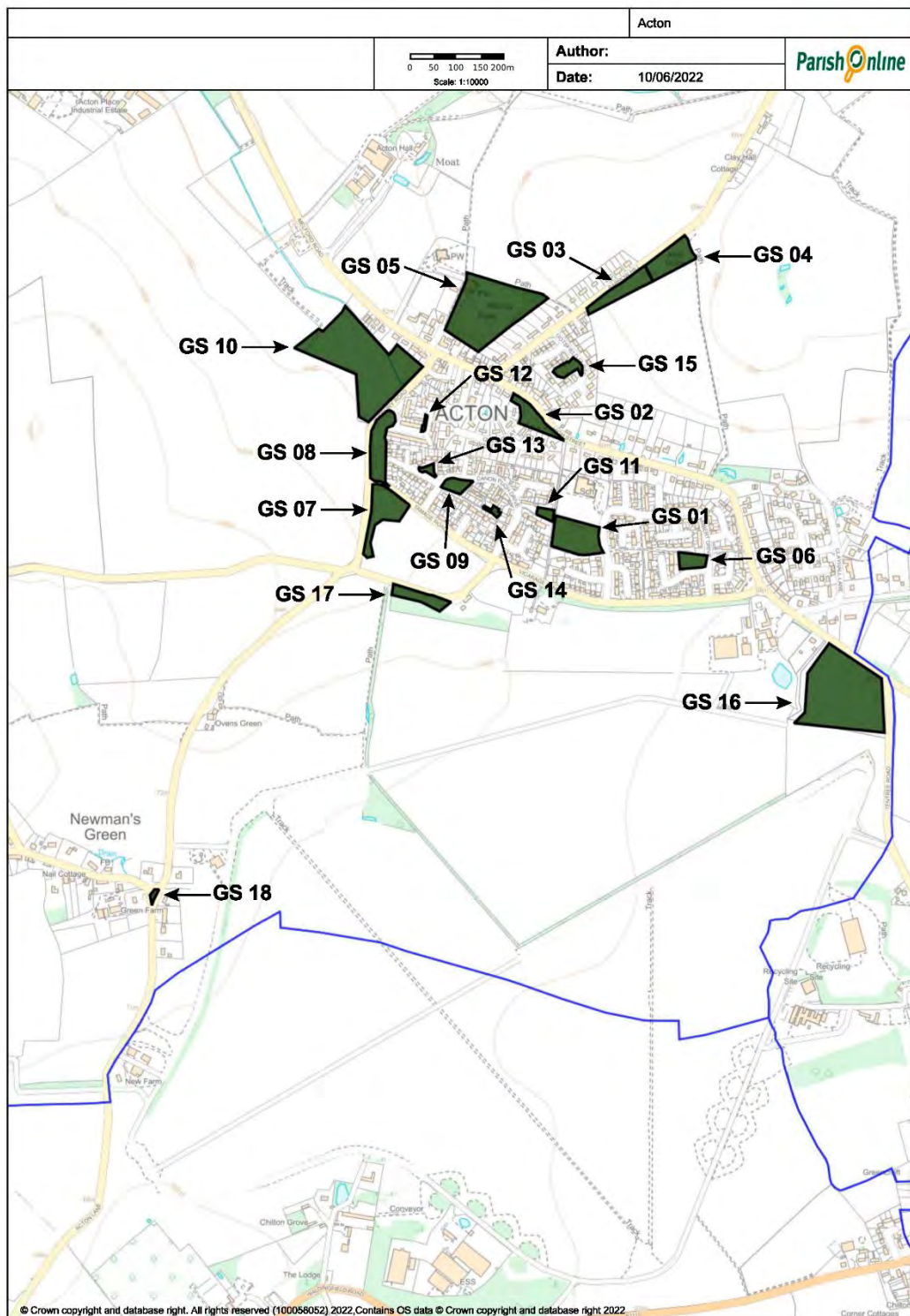
1. Lime Tree Green
2. Queensway - Village Green
3. Acton Wildlife/Nature Reserve
4. Allotments Barrow Hill
5. Sports Field
6. Babergh Close/Lime Walk
7. Tamage Estate
8. Marsh Walk
9. Canon Pugh
10. Sudbury Rd (Sheep Field)
11. De Bures Walk
12. Coblers Way
13. Browns Close
14. Lime Walk/Jubilee Way
15. Gotsfield Close
16. Waldingfield Road
17. Vicarage Lane
18. Newman's Green junction

The list of Local Green Spaces is in draft at present and full details are included in Appendix C of the Neighbourhood Plan. We are seeking your views as to whether you think your land should be included in the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan. We would be grateful therefore if you could email consultation.actonnp@gmail.com by the closing date of the consultation which is 22nd May 2023 with your views. If you have any questions, please email before this date and we will respond as quickly as we can.

Thank you.

Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Map of proposed Local Green Spaces



Appendix 9: Consultation notification emails : statutory consultees and landowners



Dear Statutory Consultee,

Pre-submission consultation on the Acton Neighbourhood Plan

We are delighted to inform you that the pre-submission consultation on the Acton Neighbourhood Plan begins on **3rd April 2023** and concludes at midnight on **22nd May 2023**.

Details of the consultation including how to make comments on the plan a can be found on the Acton Neighbourhood Plan web page:

<https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

The Pre-Submission Consultation Draft NDP and the accompanying supporting documents can also be viewed using this link.

Completed response forms should be emailed to:

Consultation.actonnp@gmail.com

Kind Regards

Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Dear Landowner

Pre-submission consultation on the Acton Neighbourhood Plan

We are contacting you because you either own or have an interest in land within the civil parish of Acton.

A Neighbourhood Plan for the parish is currently being prepared by a group of local residents working on behalf of the Parish Council. A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document prepared by a local community. Once complete, the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will be used to determine planning applications within the parish. You may therefore have land that could be affected by policies/proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan and therefore your views on the draft Neighbourhood Plan are welcomed.

Pre-submission consultation on the draft Acton Neighbourhood Plan begins on **3rd April 2023** and concludes at midnight on **22nd May 2023**.

Details of the consultation including how to make comments on the plan can be found on the Acton Neighbourhood Plan web page:

<https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

The Pre-Submission Consultation Draft NDP and the accompanying supporting documents can also be viewed using this link.

Completed response forms should be emailed to:

Consultation.actonnp@gmail.com

Kind Regards

Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Appendix 10: List of consultees

MP for South Suffolk	James Cartlidge
County Cllr for Melford East Division	Suffolk County Council
County Cllr for Sudbury & Waldingfield Division	Suffolk County Council
County Cllr for Cosford Division	Suffolk County Council
Ward Cllrs to Long Melford	BDC
Ward Cllrs to Lavenham	BDC
Parish Clerk to	Lavenham
Parish Clerk to ...	Gt Waldingfield
Parish Clerk to ...	Chilton
Parish Clerk to ...	Long Melford
BMSDC Community Planning	Babergh & Mid Suffolk DC
SCC Neighbourhood Planning	Suffolk County Council
Transport Policy	Suffolk County Council
Planning Obligations Manager	Suffolk County Council
HR Manager - SOR, Children and Young People	Suffolk County Council
Transport Policy	Suffolk County Council
Planning Obligations Manager	Suffolk County Council
	The Coal Authority
Area Manager, Norfolk & Suffolk Team	Homes & Communities Agency (HCA)
Land Use Operations	Natural England
Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk Sustainable Places Team	Environment Agency
East of England Office	Historic England
East of England Office	National Trust
Town Planning Team	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

	National Highways
Stakeholders & Networks Officer	Marine Management Organisation
	Vodafone and O2 - EMF Enquiries
Corporate and Financial Affairs Department	EE
	Three
Estates Planning Support Officer	Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG & West Suffolk CCG
	Transco - National Grid
Consultant	Wood Plc (obo National Grid)
Infrastructure Planner	UK Power Networks
Strategic and Spatial Planning Manager	Anglian Water
	Essex & Suffolk Water
	National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
	Norfolk & Suffolk Gypsy Roma & Traveller Service
	Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Chief Executive	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Senior Growing Places Fund Co-ordinator	New Anglia LEP
Strategy Manager	New Anglia LEP
Conservation Officer	RSPB
Senior Planning Manager	Sport England (East)
	Suffolk Constabulary
Senior Conservation Adviser	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Director	Suffolk Preservation Society
	Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People
	Suffolk Preservation Society
	Landowners; owners of NDHA and LGS

	Dedham Vale Society
	Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB
	Theatres Trust
	Internal Drainage Board
	Lawson Planning Partnership
	James Bailey Planning Ltd
Community Development Officer – Rural Affordable Housing	Community Action Suffolk
Senior Manager Community Engagement	Community Action Suffolk

Appendix 11: Regulation 14 Response Form



Pre-Submission (REG14) Consultation Response Form

Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Monday 3rd April to Monday 22nd May 2023

Please use this form to submit comments about the pre-submission draft Plan. We would prefer to receive responses using this form, which is available to download from the web site. If this is not possible then please complete this paper copy. Further copies are available in Costcutter, High Street, Acton, during opening hours.

Please submit your completed form in one of the following ways:

- 1) Email as an attachment to consultation.actonnp@gmail.com
- 2) Hand deliver as a paper copy to the Neighbourhood Plan box in Costcutter.

The document being consulted on may be viewed online at:

<https://www.actonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/> or borrowed from Costcutter.

This public consultation begins on **3rd April 2023** and will run for just over **6 weeks ending at midnight on 22nd May 2023**. Responses received after the closing date may not be considered. Please expand the boxes as necessary or attach additional sheets. Clearly mark any **additional** sheets with your name, details and the part of the Plan your comments relate to.

You do not have to answer every comment box but the more you tell us the more we can ensure the Plan represents local views. Please let us know about the things that are important to you.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
ORGANISATION / CLIENT YOU'RE REPRESENTING (Where applicable)	

YOUR EMAIL (optional)	
------------------------------	--

CONSULTATION RESPONSE	
<i>Please continue on a separate sheet if the box isn't big enough</i>	
I am generally in favour of the Plan	AGREE / DISAGREE
I would like to see changes to the Plan	AGREE / DISAGREE
General comments on the Plan	
Do you have any comments on Chapters 1 – 4?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with the Vision and Objectives (Chapter 5) or Policies/Projects (Chapter 6) ?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you have any general comments on Chapter 7 – Housing?	YES / NO
Comment	

Do you agree with Policy ACT1: New Housing Development	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT2: Design and Character	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT3: Housing Mix?	YES / NO
Comment	

Do you have any general comments on Chapter 8 : Environment ?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT4: Biodiversity?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT5: Landscape Character and Important Public Views?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT6: Environmental Sustainability?	YES/NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT7: Heritage Assets?	YES/NO
Comment	
Do you have any general comments on Chapter 9: Access and Community?	YES/NO
Comment	

Do you agree with Policy ACT8: Accessibility and Connectivity?	YES/NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT9: Traffic Management and Safety?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT10 : Community Facilities?	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT11: Local Green Spaces	YES / NO
Comment	
Do you have any general comments on Chapter 10: Business?	YES/NO
Comment	

Do you agree with Policy ACT12: Bull Lane Employment Area?	YES/NO
Comment	
Do you agree with Policy ACT13: Business and Employment uses outside of defined employment areas	YES/NO
Comment	
Do you have any general comments on the supporting documents: Housing Needs Assessment, Data Profile or the Design Guidelines?	YES/NO
Comment	
Do you have any other comments ?	YES/NO

Thank You!

Appendix 12

Acton Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Response Table**General comments**

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
1	General	Individual 1	<p>I have no overall negative comments.</p> <p>I have huge concerns with the increasing level of traffic especially commercial transiting the village. My other concerns relate to Biodiversity.</p> <p>I would like to see width restriction gates at either end of the village, one on Waldringfield Lane and another on Melford Road to temper the excessive speeds recorded by the Acton Speed Watch Team.</p> <p>The junction of Sudbury Road/Melford Road is a dangerous junction not helped by the parked cars. This junction is very busy and will only get worse with the increase in traffic from the new Chilton Woods development. The Chilton Woods development does not have a well thought out access route on and off the estate. I would like to see Sudbury Road closed between Newmans Green and the Chilton Woods development to prevent Sudbury Road/Acton Lane becoming an overused rat-run for commuters of the Chilton Woods Estate. Sudbury Road/Acton Lane is a narrow C class road with narrow pinch points in various places. It cannot take a vast increase in commuter traffic. Closing of Sudbury Road/Acton Lane to motorised transport will turn this road into a walking cycling access route between Acton and Sudbury. At present</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>This is not within the scope of the NP but could be taken forward by the PC working with SCC/BDC.</p>	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			there is not a paved route, only a muddy footpath not suitable to invalid or pushchair users.		
2	General	BDC	We remind you that if you decide to make substantive changes to this version of the Plan in response to comments received, it may be necessary to repeat this Regulation14 consultation exercise and also the environmental screenings prior to formal submission.	Noted	No change to Plan
3	General	Individual 3	I think this is an excellent plan, really well researched and written and will do a great deal to preserve what is good about the parish and make improvements.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
4	General	Individual 11	A fine piece of work by much dedicated villagers.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
5	General	Anglian Water	<p>Thank you for inviting comments on the neighbourhood plan. Anglian Water is the statutory water and sewerage undertaker for the neighbourhood plan area and is identified as a consultation body under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>Anglian Water wants to proactively engage with the neighbourhood plan process to ensure the plan delivers benefits for residents and visitors to the area, and in doing so protect the environment and water resources.</p> <p>Anglian Water welcomes the opportunity to comment and wish the Parish Council and Steering Group every success in taking the neighbourhood plan forward to submission</p>	Comments noted	No change to Plan
6	General	BDC	We have no comments at this time on policies: ACT6, ACT7, ACT8, ACT10, ACT11, and ACT13	Noted	No change to Plan
7	General	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Thank you for sending us details of the Acton DRAFT Neighbourhood Plan, please see our comments below:	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>Suffolk Wildlife Trust welcomes the plan and considers it to be a great example in terms of its consideration of the natural environment and protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value as well as County Wildlife Sites and Priority Habitats and Species within the parish.</p> <p>Overall, we consider Acton Neighbourhood Plan to be great example of how wildlife and the environment can be protected within a Neighbourhood Plan. We welcome the level of detail which is provided regarding the habitats and species present within the parish within both Section 2. Acton and Section 8. Environment. The Acton Neighbourhood Plan is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of habitats and species present throughout the parish, which will also help to highlight their presence to developers and ensure their protection for future generations.</p>		
8	General	National Highways	<p>Thank you for your correspondence, dated 27 March 2023, notifying National Highways of the above-mentioned consultation under Regulation 14.</p> <p>National Highways is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England on behalf of the Secretary of the State. In the area within and surrounding the Acton Neighbourhood Plan, we have responsibility for the trunk roads, A14 (located on the north and east), A12 (located on the southeast), and A120 (located on the south).</p> <p>The vision statement outlines and proposed policies on housing, environment, access & community, and business within this draft neighbourhood plan 2021-2037 would not have any predicted adverse impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN).</p>	Comments noted	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			The area and location that are covered by this proposed draft Neighbourhood Plan are remote from the SRN. Consequently, these draft policies set out are unlikely to have an impact on the operation of the trunk road and National Highways offer No Comment. We do not have any more comments on this.		
9	General	Popham Planning Consultants for Mr Smith	Please refer to entries elsewhere in this form ACT 1 proposed designation "b) Buffer between Acton Village and Great Waldingfield" is unevidenced and unjustified and should be deleted ACT 11 proposed designation GS 16 is unevidenced and unjustified and should be deleted.	Noted. Responses to specific points are dealt with under the relevant sections	See below
10	General	Lanpro for Chilton Grain Limited	Lanpro Services Limited ('Lanpro') has been instructed by Chilton Grain Limited ('client' or 'landowner' depending on context) in relation to their interests at Chilton Airfield, Tentree Road, Great Waldingfield, Suffolk, CO10 0SD (the 'Site' or 'landholding'). Part of the landholding is located within the designated Great Acton Neighbourhood Plan Area. The same part of the Site is also the subject of an application for full planning permission (Ref: DC/23/02191) for the erection of a commercial unit subdivided into 5 individual units for Class E(g), B2 and B8 use, which is currently under consideration by the Local Planning Authority, Babergh District Council. We note that the Parish Council has provided a consultation response to the application. Although the response does not amount to an objection, it raises a number of issues including that the Site lies outside the perimeter of the Great Waldingfield Business Park, where capacity exists for expansion, and it also states that there is no justification for this development on agricultural land in the open countryside.	Noted. Responses to specific points are dealt with under the relevant sections	See below

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			In the context of the above, our client has instructed Lanpro to submit a response to the Acton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation.		
11	General	Lanpro for Chilton Grain Limited	Our client supports the principle of the Neighbourhood Plan. It recognises the significant efforts which it takes to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, specifically from the Parish Council and local residents. It therefore intends to reiterate its support at the Regulation 16 stage and is willing to assist the Parish Council in other ways if welcomed.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
12	General	Individual 15	Thank you for all your efforts. A wonderful result so far .	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
13	General	Individual 14	I have recently had the pleasure of viewing the Acton Neighbourhood Plan Reg 14 Pre-submission Draft 2021-2037 [March 2023]. Whilst I am pleased to see that the Plan has a general chapter that includes "Biodiversity and geodiversity" [covering paragraphs 2.26 to 2.32], and an Environment chapter [that includes Biodiversity, Ecological Corridors and Policy ACT4], I consider that a proper ecological evaluation of the parish has not been undertaken. Reference has been made to data provided by the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) including the adjacent Lineage Wood which lies within Long Melford Parish, but information that can be gleaned from prime sources such as the MAGIC Map is not clearly presented, in particular Priority Habitats covering Deciduous Woodland, Traditional Orchards and Woodpasture and Parkland and designations in the National Forest Inventory. In turn the maps should be much better presented so that Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites can be clearly identified in the Plan.	Noted. Detailed points are picked up in specific representations below.	No change to Plan
14	General	Individual 16	I wish to write to offer my support to the draft copy of the Acton Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan. I believe in the	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			objectives that it is striving to achieve. Having lived in the village for more than 20 years, I wish to see the unique qualities of Acton village life being respected and protected in the years to come. I feel that the Neighbourhood Plan will be a way to ensure that the wishes of the community can be heard and taken into consideration with future plans.		
15	General	Defence Infrastructure Organisation	<p>It is understood that Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are undertaking a pre-submission consultation regarding their Neighbourhood Plan draft under Regulation 14. This document will guide the future development of the parish.</p> <p>The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a statutory consultee in the UK planning system to ensure designated zones around key operational defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites are not adversely affected by development outside the MOD estate. For clarity, this response relates to MOD Safeguarding concerns only and should be read in conjunction with any other submissions that might be provided by other MOD sites or departments.</p> <p>The MOD may be involved in the planning system both as a statutory and non-statutory consultee with statutory involvement stemming from consultation occurring as a result of the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded aerodromes, technical sites and military explosives storage areas) Direction 2002 (DfT/ODPM Circular 01/2003) and the location data and criteria set out on safeguarding maps issued by Department for Levelling Up</p>	Comments noted. Babergh is the local planning authority responsible for determination of planning applications and therefore is the body that will consult on those applications. Babergh already has the MOD on its consultee list for qualifying applications .The NP does not need to replicate this as the PC are not the determining body.	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in accordance with the provisions of that Direction.</p> <p>Copies of these plans, in both GIS shapefile and .pdf format, can be provided on request through the email address above.</p> <p>The MOD have an interest within the area covered by any Acton Neighbourhood Plan, as it contains areas that are washed over by safeguarding zones that are designated to preserve the operation and capability of defence assets and sites. Wattisham Station, located to the North-East, benefits from safeguarding zones drawn to preserve the airspace above and surrounding the aerodrome to ensure that development does not form a physical obstruction to the safe operation of aircraft using that aerodrome. New development may have detrimental impacts depending on site location relative to safeguarded sites and assets. Additionally, Wattisham Station is washed over by a statutory bird strike safeguarding zone, designed for bird strike risk to be identified and mitigated.</p> <p>Within the statutory consultation areas associated with aerodromes are zones that are designed to allow bird strike risk to be identified and mitigated. The creation of environments attractive to those large and flocking bird species that pose a hazard to aviation safety can have a significant effect. This can include landscaping schemes associated with large developments, such as green and/or brown roofs/roof gardens on flat roof buildings, as well as the creation of new waterbodies. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) additionally provide an opportunity for habitats within and around a development. The incorporation of open water, both permanent and temporary, and associated ponds and</p>		

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>wetlands provide a range of habitats for wildlife, including potentially increasing the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation. In addition, and where development falls outside designated safeguarding zones, the MOD may also have an interest, particularly where the development is of a type likely to have an impact on operational capability by virtue of scale, height, or physical properties. Examples of these types of development include renewable energy development such as the installation of wind turbine generators or solar photo voltaic panels, or any development that would exceed a height of 50m above ground level. Both tall (of or exceeding a height of 50m above ground level) structures and wind turbine development introduce physical obstacles to low flying aircraft.</p> <p>Solar PV development can compromise the operation of communications and other technical assets by introducing substantial areas of metal that degrade signals and, depending on the location of development, may produce glint and glare to the detriment of aviation safety. Wind turbines may impact on the operation of surveillance systems such as radar where the rotating motion of their blades can degrade and cause interference to the effective operation of these types of installations, potentially resulting in detriment to aviation safety and operational capability. This potential is recognised in the Government's online Planning Practice Guidance which contains, within the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy section, specific guidance that both developers and Local Planning Authorities should consult the MOD where</p>		

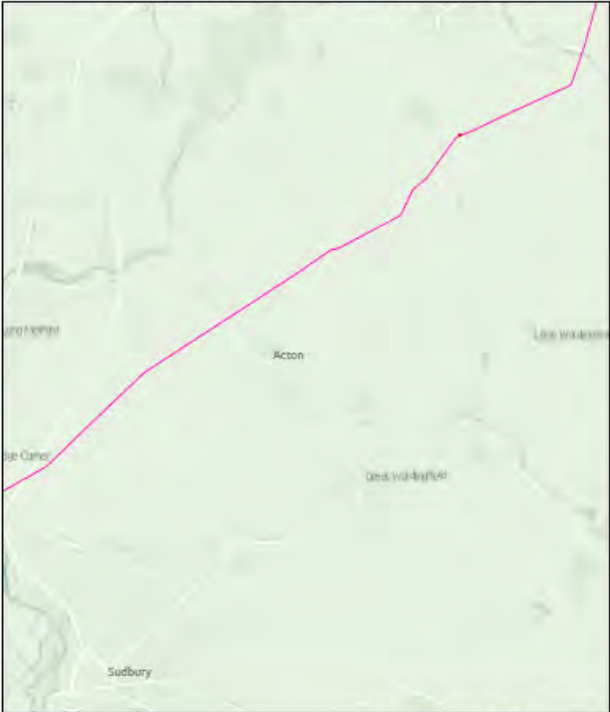
Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>a proposed turbine has a tip height of, or exceeding 11m, and/or has a rotor diameter of 2m or more.</p> <p>The MOD should be consulted within the Acton Neighbourhood Development Plan of any potential development within the statutory technical safeguarding zones that surround Wattisham Station which consists of structures or buildings exceeding statutory safeguarding height criteria, or any development in the statutory bird strike safeguarding zone surrounding Wattisham Station which includes schemes that might result in the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation in order that appropriate assessments can be carried out and, where necessary, requests for required conditions or objections be communicated.</p> <p>I trust this clearly explains our position on this update. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to consider these points further.</p>		
16	General	Individual 6	<p>The number and detail required in commenting on the Neighbourhood Plan mean that the template suggested is never going to be adequate. The author is providing a detailed, tabulated report on the entire Plan in its Pre-Submission Draft form.</p> <p>Although the group have made a very good start on a draft Plan they lack in-depth local knowledge that comes from years of residence and noting changes made by Babergh DC. I am used to producing documents and drawings based on rigorously checked facts, missing from certain parts of the Plan. Babergh DC's Planning Department has a very poor record for accurately filing updated drawings. For this reason, we suggest that any reference to Babergh DC source</p>	Comments noted. See BDC rep (43) which sets out how the emerging Local Plan should be referred to.	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			data/drawings is qualified by stating that it relies on plans and data supplied from a third source (Babergh), pointing out known inaccuracies.		
17	General	SCC – Minerals and Waste	<p>Safeguarded Sites</p> <p>For information, there are no safeguarded sites within the Plan Area; however, there are four safeguarded sites in parishes neighbouring Acton. These safeguarded sites are outlined in the table below:</p> <p>10 https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/minerals-and-waste-policy/suffolk-minerals-and-waste-development-scheme/</p> <p>SAR23 Secondary Aggregate Recycling Claydon Skips Ltd, Masons Landfill SAR28 Secondary Aggregate Recycling Chilton Concrete Recycling Facility WTF31 Waste Transfer Facilities Gt Waldingfield Waste Transfer Station AW81 Anglian Water Site Gt Waldingfield STW</p> <p>These sites can be found in the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2020 and can also be found on our Interactive Map of Waste Locations of Interest¹¹.</p> <p>Minerals Consultation Zone</p> <p>The whole of the settlement sits within the minerals safeguarding/consultation area. This means that Policy MP10: safeguarding of the Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2020 will apply. This area can also be viewed on the Interactive Map of Waste Locations of Interest by enabling the “consultation area” overlay (this can be activated via the tab in the lower right corner).</p>	Comments noted.	No change to Plan
18	General	Historic England	Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on the above consultation. We welcome the production of this neighbourhood plan in principle and note the extensive and	Comments noted	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>detailed references to the historic environment. We welcome the approach you have taken however owing to staff vacancies, we do not currently have capacity to provide detailed comments. For general advice we refer you to our detailed document on successfully incorporating historic environment considerations into your plan, alongside advice on planning policy writing and some useful case studies, which can be found here: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-yourneighbourhood/.</p> <p>For further advice regarding the historic environment and how to integrate it into your neighbourhood plan, we recommend that you consult your local planning authority conservation officer, and if appropriate your local Historic Environment Record.</p> <p>There is also helpful guidance on a number of topics related to the production of neighbourhood plans and their evidence base available on Locality's website: https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/, which you may find useful. To avoid any doubt, this letter does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed plan, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.</p> <p>Please do contact us, either via email or the number above, if you have any specific queries relating to the historic environment in your plan area or a particular issue, and we will endeavour to respond as soon as we can to assist.</p>		
19	General	Natural England	Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 27 March 2023. Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our	Comments noted	No change to Plan

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.</p> <p>Natural England does not have any specific comments on the Action Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p>		
20	General	Avison Young for National Grid PLC	<p>National Gas Transmission has appointed Avison Young to review and respond to Neighbourhood Plan consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regard to the current consultation on the above document.</p> <p>About National Gas Transmission. National Gas Transmission owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use.</p> <p>Proposed sites crossed by or in close proximity to National Gas Transmission Assets</p> <p>Following a review of the above document we have identified the following National Gas Transmission assets as falling within the Neighbourhood area boundary:</p> <p>Asset Description</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>A reference to the existence of transmission assets within the parish can be added in the parish chapter</p>	<p>Add note in Chapter 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>Gas Transmission Pipeline, route: STOWMARKET TO BRAINTREE</p> <p>A plan showing details of National Gas Transmission's assets is attached to this letter. Please note that this plan is illustrative only.</p> <p>National Gas Transmission also provides information in relation to its assets at the website below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.nationalgas.com/land-and-assets/network-route-maps 		

Rep No.	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p style="text-align: center;">Acton Neighbourhood Plan National Gas Asset Map</p>  <p>19/05/2023, 15:04:13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gas_Assets_7520 — Gas_Assets_6495 ■ Development_Plan_Monitoring_v2_977_5701 <p style="text-align: right;">0 0.3 0.6 1.2 mi 0 0.5 1 2 km</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">1:35,034</p>		

Chapters 1-6

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group Response	Action/Plan amendment
21	Chapters 1-4	Individual 1	I would like to see Acton remain a “Hinterland” designated village in the emerging plan.	Comments noted. The identification of Acton as a ‘hinterland village’ is a function of the Joint Local Plan, which looks at the overall district wide settlement hierarchy. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are confined to the Neighbourhood Area only. This will be a matter for the PC to respond to once Part 2 of the JLP is published in draft.	No change to Plan
22	Para 1.2	BDC	Front cover needs updating to reflect the 2022 - 2037 plan period stated in paragraph 1.2	Noted.	Cover updated accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Paragraph 2.4	Individual 6	Page 8. Section 2.4 Typing error: The oldest building is believed to be All Saints Church. It is listed Grade 1	Noted. This will be corrected in the next version of the Plan	Amend Para 2.4 to refer to Grade I listing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Para 2.8 and 2.9	Individual 13	Acton Hall was home to Dame Alice de Bryne in the 14-15 th century. See attached extract from David Johnson ‘A History of Acton’. Barrow Hill was home to Caroline Graham author of the books and TV series Midsomer Murders and based on.	Agree to include reference to Alice de Bryne in this section. Suggest only include if this can be substantiated	Amend 2.8 accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Paragraph 2.14 and 2.15	SCC - Health and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing Adaptable homes and an ageing population SCC welcomes reference to the population data detailed in paragraphs 2.14, 2.15, Figure 5, and reference to the age	Comments noted. See also BDC response in respect of updated census figures. All figures will be updated accordingly.	Figures to be updated accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group Response	Action/Plan amendment
			structure of the population in 7.38. It is suggested to refer to Suffolk Observatory for more recent data and additional indicators. Suffolk Observatory's mid-2020 estimate denotes a population for Acton village as 1,868. Of these, 23.3% of residents are aged 65+ which is above the England average of 18.5%, which clearly displays an ageing population.		
26	Paragraph 2.14	BDC	The last sentence in para 2.15 should read: "...this information can be seen in Figure 5 below." In para 2.34, the third sentence should read: "... as seen on the map in Figures 9a and 9b..."	Comments noted. Amend accordingly	Amend para 2.15 and 2.34 accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Paragraph 2.16	Individual 13	This paragraph contradicts itself.	Agree this could be an interpretation . Agree to amend paragraph to include updated figures where known which may aid clarity	Amend para 2.16 to include census 2021 figures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Paragraph 2.24	SCC- Libraries	Libraries SCC notes that the local library for Acton is Long Melford, which is currently closed but is looking for a new location and requires investment. We, strongly recommend that this Neighbourhood Plan states that there will be a need for CIL money from any development in Acton to support the re-establishment and expansion of the library in Long Melford to ensure that residents within this catchment have access to a library. Paragraph 2.24 is suggested to be amended, as follows: "[...] Acton has no library, the nearest in Long Melford, has recently closed. Developers will be expected to contribute financially (through CIL) to support the re-establishment of Long Melford Library, to provide for Acton residents. However, a weekly mobile library service exists, which parks	Comments noted , however the view is that it should be District level CIL contributions used to fund this facility as it is outside the Neighbourhood Area and therefore is a matter for Babergh and Suffolk CC.	No change to Plan

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			near to the shop, and there is a book swap and a puzzle library.”		
29	Paragraph 2.27	BDC	Amend the first sentence as follows to avoid repetition: ‘There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Acton parish at Lineage Wood & Railway Track, which is a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which runs along the northwest perimeter of the parish and continues into the adjacent parish of Long Melford.’	Comments noted. Amend accordingly	Amend 2.27 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Para 2.28	Individual 4	<p>We have had a quick first pass through your N.P. It looks good and reads very well. Maybe you could help us? We could not see any reference to two Endangered or Critically, Priority Species that we had previously mentioned.</p> <p>1) Torilis Arvensis - Spreading Hedge Parsley. 2) Scandex Pecten-veneris - Shepherd's needle.</p> <p>Further correspondence: 16th April 2023 There is an existing BAP on Torilis Arvensis, and Scandex Pecten-Venetia is critically endangered, so would it be possible to put them into your main NP document? Have you any other endangered species? The SBIS BSBI measure / compare decades so the fact that those screen shots sent to you for 2010 to 2019, is understandable.</p>	Support welcomed. Agree to include these references. (see also SWT and BDC reps). Agree to include footnote links to the BAP but it is not appropriate to include the full BAP in the NP.	Amend para 2.28 accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Paragraph 2.28	BDC	For legibility, recommend putting Latin names in brackets, or deleting them. Also, check word spacings, e.g., 4th line ...’ excelsior, Wych Elm Ulmus minor ...’	Comments noted. Remove Latin names for conciseness,	Amend para 2.28 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32	Paragraph 2.30	Individual 4	Page 15. Section 2.30. Typing error - R missing from Reserve.	Noted. This will be corrected in the next version of the Plan	Amend para 2.30 accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group Response	Action/Plan amendment
33	Paragraph 2.30	SCC	There is a typographical error in paragraph 2.30, it should be amended to read “Acton has one Roadside Nature Reserve”.	Noted. This will be corrected in the next version of the Plan	Amend para 2.30. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
34	Paragraph 2.34	SCC	Paragraph 2.34 refers to Figure 8, however, it should be referring to Figures 9a and 9b, which display the flood zones.	Noted. This will be corrected in the next version of the Plan	Amend para 2.34 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
35	Paragraph 2.35-2.38	SCC - Transport	SCC, as the Local Highway Authority (LHA), has a duty to ensure that roads are maintained and safe as well as providing and managing flood risk for highway drainage and roadside ditches. Paragraphs 2.35 - 2.38 The mention of the lack of footways and pedestrian connections in Acton is noted. SCC as LHA will always work to procure highway improvements (such as footway and cycle route enhancement) from developments wherever possible to mitigate the effect of development on the local highway network and improve facilities for the existing community.	Comments noted. See also representation 1 above.	No change to Plan
36	Paragraph 2.37	Individual 6	Page 18. Section 2.37 It should be noted that the section of the High Street fronting Spe Dives, Marigold and Spring cottage barely meets the Department of Transport minimum width (5.5m) for public transport use.	Noted. However, the width of an existing highway lies outside of the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan. See also SCC representation 135 below.	No change to Plan
37	Figure 12 Paragraph 2.39	SCC – Public Rights of Way	The Plan refers to the extensive PROW network throughout, which is welcomed. Figure 12 is welcomed as well as the inclusion of the PROW network on the Policies Map.	Support welcomed.	No change to Plan
38	Paragraph 2.41	Individual 6	Page 22. Business 2.41 There is an employment area at the Bull Lane Industrial Estate (2.2 km) to the west of the main built-up part of the village along Melford Road. Not totally correct. There are two Industrial estates; Bull Lane estate has been extended under separate ownership. The other is Acton Industrial Estate, commonly referred to as	Comments noted. The paragraph can be amended for clarity.	Amend para 2.41 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			Acton Place which shares a boundary with the Bull Lane Estate. Neither is linked together by a footpath or a public/private road. The third and biggest employment area adjoining Acton Place is Webb Hydraulics which is not mentioned.		
39	Chapter 2	SCC - Education	Education SCC, as the Education Authority, has the responsibility for ensuring there is sufficient provision of school places for children to be educated in the area local to them. This is achieved by accounting for existing demand and new developments. SCC, therefore, produces and annually updates a five-year forecast on school capacity. The forecast aims to reserve 5% capacity for additional demand thus the forecasting below may refer to 95% capacity. The information below is to inform the Neighbourhood Planning Group's understanding of educational provision in the Plan Area and does not need to be included in the Plan.	Comments noted. (see representation 41 below)	No change to Plan
40	Chapter 2	BDC	2021 Census data is now available so provides an opportunity to bring the content of paragraphs 2.14 to 2.17 up to date. See: Build a custom area profile - (ONS.gov.uk) and follow the on-screen instructions.	Comments noted. Figures to be updated as appropriate.	Amend Plan and data profile throughout to refer to census 2021 figures where available. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41	Chapter 2	SCC - Education	Early Years Acton is situated within the Long Melford Ward where there is the following Early Years provision. Acton Playgroup Sessional Pre-school, Little Woodland Tribe at Long Melford, Long Melford School Nursery	Comments noted.	No change to Plan.

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group Response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>Any further housing in this area would require an assessment of provision, as the Government has announced an expansion of the funded childcare offer in the budget of 15 March 2023.</p> <p><i>Primary Education</i> Based on the current forecast, which includes all approved housing in the catchment area, Acton CEVCP is forecast to exceed 95% capacity during the forecast period. However, the forecast deficit of places is not sufficient to warrant an operationally viable expansion of the school. The school has a proportion of pupils attending from outside of the catchment area. Pupils arising from growth within the catchment area may take priority over those pupils who have historically been able to access the school from outside of the catchment area over time. This will be regularly monitored as housing comes forward to ensure the appropriate number of places are available.</p> <p><i>Secondary Education</i> Based on the current forecast, which includes all approved housing in the catchment area, Ormiston Sudbury Academy is forecast to have surplus places for 11-18 year old pupils at the end of the forecast period based on 95% capacity. However, Ormiston Sudbury Academy announced in January 2021 that the sixth form would be temporarily closed to new entrants from September 2022, although it is not yet confirmed whether this will be a permanent closure at this stage. As the sixth form accommodation is included in the capacity calculations, this does somewhat impact these calculations in terms of available accommodation for 11-16 pupils. The school has also been included in the Department for Education's School Rebuilding Programme, which will</p>		

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			result in refurbishments and potential rebuilding of accommodation at the school. SCC will be liaising with the Department for Education to ensure the appropriate number of places are available at the school as part of any planned changes to the existing accommodation through the School Rebuilding Programme, considering current and future forecast information.		
42	Figure 9b	Individual 13	Rivers and parish boundary both shown in same colour (blue)	Agree to review to see if better mapping can be used although both are from the parish online Ordnance Survey base.	Map has been reviewed and amended. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
43	Paragraph 3.2	BDC	<p>Para 3.2: For clarity, we recommend the following sentence be amended as follows: ‘Part 1 with modifications was published for consultation in March 2023.’</p> <p>Para 3.7 now requires modifying to put the text into its current context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend first two sentences so that they read: ‘The draft BMSJLP (Nov 2020) identified Acton as a core village... The draft BMSJLP also indicated that core villages are were expected to account for...’ • Amend fourth sentence to read: ‘The submitted BMSJLP did not include 	Comments noted. Agree to amend accordingly	Amend para 3.2 and 3.7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
44	Paragraph 3.5	Individual 6	<p>Page 24. Local Planning Policy Section 3.5</p> <p>Not strictly correct: ‘and the emerging Joint Local Plan looks to 2037’. Reason: the word ‘emerging’. The main part of the plan (Part 2) will deal with Settlement Hierarchy. This is one of the most critical aspects of the Joint Local Plan and is not due for consultation until 2025. It is not even planned never mind ‘emerging’ in a form that can be safely included in a Neighbourhood Plan</p>	Comments noted. However, the JLP is in two parts – Part 1 which contains the majority of the strategic and development management policies is at an advanced stage. Part 2 is to follow however BDC have suggested appropriate wording	No change to Plan

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				to refer to the JLP. See representation 43 above.	
45	Paragraph 3.6	Individual 6	<p>Page 25. Figure 15 There is no key on this map and Acton Building area is defined in the adopted Core Strategy. Not correct. See comments on Page 18, Section 3.6 If you are going to keep this plan in then it should be pointed out that it is inaccurate and the reason why.</p> <p>“However, evidence submitted to the Joint Local Plan Inspectors” It should be stated who submitted the evidence, when, and what that that evidence was.</p>	Comments noted. Figure title can be amended to refer to key. This figure provides context only. See also representation 49 below)	Amend Figure 15 accordingly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
46	Paragraph 3.6	SCC- Minerals and Waste	<p>Minerals and Waste</p> <p>Suffolk County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Suffolk. This means that SCC makes planning policies and decisions in relation to minerals and waste. The relevant policy document is the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan10, adopted in July 2020, which forms part of the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>National and Local Plan Context</p> <p>In the National and Local Context section, there is no mention of the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2020. As this forms part of the Local Development Plan for the county, SCC considers that this should be mentioned underneath paragraph 3.6.</p> <p>As the Minerals and Waste Local Plan forms part of the Local Development Plan it should be a policy consideration, foremost because it has safeguarding policies which will be relevant (MP10: safeguarding).</p>	Comments noted. A reference to the Minerals and Waste Plan can be included in para 3.5.	Amend para 3.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
47	Paragraph 3.6	Individual 6	<p>Page 18. Section 3.6</p> <p>Figure 15: Acton Building area as defined in the adopted Core Strategy, based on Babergh DC information. If you are going</p>	Figure 15 is included for context only and has been overtaken by the passage of time. It is the current adopted inset map for	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group Response	Action/Plan amendment
			to keep this plan in then it should be pointed out that the Core Strategy is inaccurate and the reason why. Reason: Shows open green area running north of the High Street from 'Cost Cutters' to the 'Secret Garden'. On the south side of the High Street, east of Vicarage Walk is another green area, where Spe Dives, Marigold Cottage & Spring Cottage are situated. Two of the three are Grade II listed. The east side of Clayhall Lane also shown as an open green area. Properties run the full length, including a Grade II building	Acton. However, the Neighbourhood Plan makes it clear that for the purposes of its policies it has defined a new boundary as shown on the policies map.	
48	Figure 15	Individual 13	No key on figure 15. Green shaded area. Some are green area and some are houses!	The figure title may be amended to include a key.	Review figure title <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49	Paragraph 3.7	Individual 6	"Emerging BMSJLP identifies Acton as a Core Village" The main part of the plan (Part 2) will deal with Settlement Hierarchy. This is the most critical aspect of the Joint Local Plan, which is now not due for consultation until 2025. The Planning Inspectorate made it clear to BDC that they would not accept that part of the Joint Local Plan until it had been completely revised. It is inaccurate to state planned never mind emerging.	Comments noted. However, this paragraph provides context. BDC have suggested amended wording to reflect the current position. See representation 43 above.	No change to Plan
50	Chapters 5-6	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	Agree with the vision and objectives.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
51	Chapters 5-6	Individual 3	I agree with the vision and objectives	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
52	Page 33	BDC	To avoid unintended repetition, we suggest: Objective B: To ensure that the design of new development is of a high quality and is well designed to be in keeping with the form, character, and landscape setting of the village.	Agree to amend as requested	Amend objectives accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group Response	Action/Plan amendment
			Objective E: To preserve and enhance the landscape setting of the parish by identifying important views that contribute to the landscape character of the parish and protecting them from development.		
53	Paragraph 5.4-5.5	SCC	There are two paragraphs labelled 4.4 and 4.5, SCC believes this is due to a formatting error under Section 5 Vision and Objectives	Noted This will be corrected in the next version of the NP.	Amend 5.4 and 5.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
54	Chapter 5 – Vision	SCC – Natural Environment	Vision Statement SCC notes that the Vision Statement puts the protection of green spaces, landscape features of importance and wildlife conservation at its centre. This is most welcome but could be strengthened by including a more active approach for wildlife and habitat enhancements and improvements. Whilst this is implied, it is not detrimental to explicitly state this.	Noted. Agree to add ‘and enhanced’ after protected in para 2 of the vision	Amend vision accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
55	Chapter 5 – Objectives	SCC – Natural Environment	Objectives We note that Objectives A (prevent coalescence), B (landscape setting), D (biodiversity) and E (landscape setting and views) are relevant for the landscape character and the natural environment and indicate that these themes are important for Acton and this is welcomed.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
56	Chapter 6 Policies	SCC - Transport	The issues raised in paragraph 6.6 are noted, as is Objective H, and both are supported by SCC.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Chapter 7 – Housing

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
57	Chapter 7 – Housing	Individual 1	<p>The new Tamage Road development has a to high housing density for the development. Aerial photos such as on the cover or the Neighbourhood Plan show an area of high-density housing that does not merge or sit well with the rest of the village. There is no large green spaces or tree lined avenues such as can be seen on the Lime Tree Estate close by. If there are to be new housing, then it should be of a lower density and more in keeping with other estates in the village.</p> <p>All new development MUST take into consideration the very limited infrastructure available in the village. The problems are: limited primary school places and no secondary school, small C class roads which are single width in places, no paved walking access routes into or out of the village, limited electricity supply, an oversubscribed mains drainage system, limited broadband availability, only one general grocery store, limited bus route timetable, no health service in the village,</p>	<p>Comments noted. The purpose of the Design Code (and Policy ACT2) is to raise the overall standard of design in the parish and for it to better reflect the existing character.</p> <p>Noted. The NP is not making any specific allocations for new development. These points will need to be raised once Part 2 of the JLP is published for consultation</p>	No change to Plan
58	Chapter 7 Housing	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	<p>It is noted that the Neighbourhood Plan has not provided any allocations on the basis that there is no need for housing within the Neighbourhood Plan area. It is suggested that this approach may be somewhat short-sighted and make the NP susceptible to unplanned development when the District Council is unable to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF discusses this point and it is recommended that the NP considers this position</p>	<p>Noted. However, BDC currently has a 7.13 year land supply. Part 2 of the JLP will deliver development required to meet the assessed district wide housing needs up to 2038. However it is acknowledged by BDC that 90% of that requirement is already committed. The Acton HNA produced by</p>	No change to Plan

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				independent consultants AECOM, also indicates that the local housing need for the parish has already been met for that period. Should further housing in the district be required then suitable sites will be found on the basis of the settlement hierarchy in place at the time, beginning at the top.	
59	Chapter 7 Housing	Individual 3	I support the arguments made in this section in relation to the land off Barrow Hill.	Support welcomed.	No change to Plan
60	Chapter 7 Housing	SCC - Archaeology	Site allocations With regard to Tamage Road DC/19/03126, archaeological works have been completed and development has commenced. With regard to Barrow Hill DC/20/05361/OUT, planning has been approved with conditions for archaeological investigation, reporting and archiving. No archaeological work has been commenced on this site to date.	Noted. However, the NP does not make any site specific housing allocations. The site at Tamage Road was allocated in the Adopted policies. The planning permission at Barrow Hill has now expired.	No change to Plan
61	Para 7.7 e)	Individual 13	Should read 2021 at end of 4 th sentence	Amend accordingly	Amend para 7.7 e) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
62	Chapter 7 Housing	BDC	'Indicative' housing number for the Acton NP Area It is made clear that a key driver for preparing this Plan has been local concern over the number of new homes being built in the parish [e.g., paragraph 7.9]. We have also exchanged	Comments noted. Paragraph 7.9 reports back on community consultation that took place after work on the	The updated position in respect of Land at Barrow Hill

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>correspondence on the ‘indicative’ housing requirement figure for Acton. There is a reference to this in paragraph 3.7 and at various points throughout Chapter 7.</p> <p>As explained in paragraph 7.4, the uncertainty that now exists over the ‘Land south-east of Barrow Hill’ site (which had accounted for 100 of indicative 213 dwelling figure) has complicated matters.</p> <p>We also note that, in paragraph 7.79 (e), mention is made of the landowner having recently contacted the Parish Council to explore alternative non-housing land uses, but no other details are provided.</p> <p>For this, and other reasons, we see in paragraph 7.12 that the Steering Group have concluded that this Plan does not need to “make specific allocations for new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan as it believes the local housing requirement for the plan period has already been met by virtue of the Tamage Road development.”</p> <p>While we accept that the ‘indicative’ figure has no legal weight, we cannot rule out the possibility that further allocations may need to be made in Acton through the Joint Local Plan (JLP) Part 2.</p>	<p>Plan had begun and therefore the comment slightly misrepresents the position.</p> <p>However, the planning permission at Barrow Hill has now expired. Despite being extended. There has been very little developer interest in developing the site and it is not unconstrained despite previously being given permission. If BDC need to find further sites in Part 2 of the JLP to meet their assessed need they will need to find suitable sites, beginning at the top of the proposed settlement hierarchy. Any sites would also need to be viable and deliverable.</p> <p>Part 2 of the Local Plan will need to justify any allocations it proposes to make in Acton which would include why Acton is a suitable location , and why any site chosen is</p>	<p>has been included in para 7.7e)</p>

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				suitable in terms of both viability and deliverability. The updated position in respect of the land at Barrow Hill has been included.	
63	Paragraph 7.7	SCC	There is a typographical error on page 39, part e) should say "2021" instead of 202 and could be re-structured slightly to improve clarity to the reader, such as "[...] Outline permission was subsequently renewed in 2021."	Noted. This will be corrected in the next version. See also BDC representation 62 above.	Amend para 7.7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
64	Policy ACT1	Popham Planning Consultants for Mr Smith	<p>The last two paragraphs of Policy ACT 1 read as follows: "The local distinctiveness and separate identity of the different parts of Acton parish should be maintained and proposals for new development should not result in the joining up or coalescence of parts of Acton with development in neighbouring parishes. In order to prevent the coalescence of individual settlements and loss of their distinct identity through the encroachment of new development, the following existing green/undeveloped buffers (as shown on Figures 21-23) in the parish shall be kept free from such development and maintained as open countryside: a) between the built settlement of Newmans Green and Sudbury b) between the built settlement of Acton Village and Great Waldingfield c) Between Acton Village and Bull Lane employment area."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Figure 22: b) Buffer between Acton Village and Great Waldingfield" shows an extensive tract of land (circa 104 hectares) shaded in purple • There is no supporting text/commentary associated with it and absolutely no evidence of the need for this proposed designation 	Noted. See also BDC representation 66 below. This policy is to be amended in accordance with other comments.	No change to Plan

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further, there is no justification for proposing it • The land within this area is countryside and therefore benefits from all of the usual protections that apply to countryside to strictly control new development (set out in government policy and the development plan) • There is simply no need for this ill thought out, unjustified proposed designation • Further still, while separate areas within the parish have been proposed to become Local Green Spaces, what is being proposed here is an area that the qualifying body would like to protect in the same way as a Local Green Space • The paragraph 102 of the NPPF is clear that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land • Planning Practice Guidance on “Local Green Space designation” (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014) makes clear that: “blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. In particular, designation should not be proposed as a ‘back door’ way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name.” • This kind of unnecessary protection, even though it has not been termed a Local Green Space, is therefore clearly completely inappropriate • It is further clear that designating large areas of land as buffers to prevent coalescence of settlements and to protect the individual character of settlements is a district wide consideration and must be addressed as a strategic policy: 		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green buffers go far beyond what should properly be regarded as neighbourhood planning issues and far beyond what is relevant to a neighbourhood plan area - Neighbourhood plans by their nature are meant to address local issues within the neighbourhood plan area - They should not seek to impose strategic policies and, instead, should be in conformity with them - The issue of settlement separation is a district wide issue not something that is specific to Acton or nearby settlements - Were this part of the policy to form part of any future neighbourhood plan it would give rise to a strategic level policy that is specific to a neighbourhood plan area (a clear contradiction) - Notwithstanding the fact that strategic policies should be provided by the development plan, not a neighbourhood plan, there is no strategic policy at development plan level that would underpin this part of draft Policy ACT 1, let alone that it would be in conformity with - This part of draft Policy ACT 1 therefore goes beyond the lawful remit of neighbourhood planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, while draft Policy ACT 1 purports to be a housing policy the last two paragraphs of it have nothing whatsoever to do with housing delivery in the neighbourhood plan area • Instead they are a blatant attempt to prevent development over large swathes of land, allowing for no exceptions • They are contrary the development plan and the NPPF (it is noted that all development – not just housing development – is proposed to be prohibited within these green buffers) and go above and beyond the polices of the existing and emerging development plans that already specifically seek to prevent coalescence 		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wording of these paragraphs are not therefore capable of support at any level in terms of conformity with strategic planning policy or the NPPF • ACT 1's proposed designation "b) Buffer between Acton Village and Great Waldingfield" is thus unevidenced and unjustified, and in all probability is unlawful, and should be deleted. 		
65	Policy ACT1 New Housing Development	BDC	Policy ACT1 identifies three buffer zones and states that these should be 'kept free ... and maintained as open countryside'. These zones are shown in Figures 21 – 23 but are not replicated on any of the Policy Maps.	Comments noted. See response to representation 66 below	No change to Plan.
66	Policy ACT1 New Housing Development	BDC	<p>A presumed awareness of a similar proposal put forward in the submission draft version of the Long Melford Neighbourhood Plan1 point to a likely inspiration for these buffer zones. Further scrutiny of the Final Report on that plan should also have highlighted that the examiner was critical of the policy wording (as drafted) and of the lack of justification for area that had been mapped out. However, she did accept that there was some justification for a policy on coalescence, noting that the land in question was already subject to countryside policies. So, how does this relate to ACT1?</p> <p>No evidence is put forward in this Plan, or in a separate evidence document to justify how the areas shown in Figures 21 - 23 have been derived at, and why they should be given extra protection. As such, they simply come across as an attempt to block development and for these reason alone, we cannot support them, and they should be deleted from Plan.</p> <p>Turning to the policy wording itself ... the last two paragraphs in ACT1 ...</p> <p>and taking inspiration from the now adopted Long Melford example, the following text offers a compromise solution:</p>	Comments noted. Agree to amend this policy and associated mapping. The policy can be reworded as suggested. In addition, further wording to reinforce the short distances that exist between parts of settlement and the need to prevent coalescence will be added to the supporting text.	Amend policy accordingly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New supporting text added at new para 7.11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>“The local distinctiveness and separate identity of the different parts of Acton parish - the village, the Bull Lane Employment site, and Newmans Green - should be maintained. Individually or cumulatively, new development proposals that would result in reducing the visual and/or physical separation of these distinct areas from each other or from developments in neighbouring parishes will not be permitted.”</p> <p>---</p> <p>1. https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Neighbourhood-Planning/Long-Melford-NP-Sub-Draft-July21.pdf [pages 58 - 59]</p> <p>2. https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Neighbourhood-Planning/Long-Melford-NPEXam-Report.pdf [pages 27 - 30]</p>		
67	Paragraph 7.21	BDC	Minor observation only. Amend the first line to read: ‘... identified in the Design Guidelines and Codes Report indicate that ...’	Noted. Amend accordingly	Amend para 7.21 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
68	Policy ACT1 New Housing Development	SCC – Natural Environment	<p>Policy ACT1 – New Housing Design (Preventing Coalescence)</p> <p>The prevention of coalescence between Acton and neighbouring settlements is being given a high priority in the Plan, and Objective A (the first objective) is dedicated to this. Policy ACT1 seeks to prevent coalescence by designating "undeveloped buffers", shown in Figures 21 - 23.</p> <p>As these figures are quite ‘zoomed in’, the wider context does get a bit lost. SCC notes that the buffer zones are not shown on the Policies Maps and recommends that they should be added in order to provide context as to how they relate to the rest of the parish.</p>	Noted. This policy is to be amended as a consequence of other representations see BDC representation 66 above.	No change to Plan
69	Policy ACT2 Design & Character	Anglian Water	<p>Policy ACT 2 Design and Character</p> <p>Anglian Water welcomes this policy to influence the design of new development in the parish. We support the policy requirement that proposals should be consistent with the</p>	Comments noted. The Neighbourhood Plan is not permitted to require environmental standards	Amend Policy ACT6 and supporting text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			<p>Acton Design Guidelines and Codes, which references Code SU.01 Low Carbon - this specifically addresses energy efficient homes that emphasise water management such as more ambitious water efficiency standards.</p> <p>We would support policies that require greater water efficiency standards in areas of serious water stress, given the pressing need to conserve our precious water supplies. The Parish Council may wish to include more ambitious water efficiency targets of 100 litres per person per day achieved through a fixtures and fittings approach. The Government's Environment Improvement Plan sets ten actions in the Roadmap to Water Efficiency in new developments including consideration of a new standard for new homes in England of 100 l/p/d where there is a clear local need, such as in areas of serious water stress. Whilst this provides a strong indication that such measures are likely to be introduced, the neighbourhood plan could provide greater certainty in this regard.</p> <p>We also support the requirement for sustainable drainage systems and permeable materials for new surfaces which help to minimise surface water run-off and impacts on our water recycling network.</p>	<p>above and beyond those already in place.</p> <p>However, the supporting text and Policy ACT6 could be amended to include reference to and support for water efficiency targets.</p>	
70	Policy ACT2 Design & Character	SCC - Flooding	<p>Flooding</p> <p>SCC, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, has the responsibility for managing flood risk arising from surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses. The Environment Agency</p>	Comments noted.	Amend criterion f) of Policy ACT2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>has the responsibility for managing flood risk from main rivers and the coast.</p> <p>SCC suggest the following amendment to Policy ACT2 Design and Character:</p> <p>“f) Sustainable Drainage Systems should be integrated into development to manage drainage but also to provide gains for amenity and biodiversity value, in accordance with the Suffolk SuDS Guide.”</p> <p>This amendment will align the Policy with the Suffolk SuDS Guide2 (Appendix A of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy3), which sets standards that outline how to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems in a way that could lead to positive local impacts elsewhere.</p>	Amend criterion f) accordingly	
71	Policy ACT2	BDC	<p>Our Public Realm Team have recommended the inclusion of the following: as part of the ‘Landscape and Open Space’ section “e) Green spaces: Where these are to be provided, careful consideration should be given to their function, location, and connections both to existing and new development. Provision of public open space should have regard to the Fields in Trust guidance”. See: https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf</p>	Comments noted. Amend criterion e) accordingly	Amend criterion e) of Policy ACT2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
72	Policy ACT 2 Design and Character	SCC - Transport	Policy ACT2 – Design and Character	Support welcomed.	Amend criteria c) and

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			<p>Part a) Connectivity is supported, and the LHA will work with the Local Planning Authority to provide this wherever feasible.</p> <p>Part c) Parking should be amended to state that all parking provisions should accord with “Suffolk Guidance for Parking (2019) and any successor documents”.</p> <p>For part d) Storage, it should be noted that adequate provision for cycle and refuse storage are typically subject to planning conditions recommended by the LHA.</p> <p>Part o) Electric Charging Points should accord with Suffolk Guidance for Parking (2019), and Building Regs Part S, and should be in accordance with SCC’s policy for electric vehicle charging points</p>	<p>Agree to amend criterion c)</p> <p>Noted. However, by including this in policy, it enables a developer to design this into the scheme at an early stage rather than amending it post submission of an application.</p> <p>Noted. Amend criterion o) accordingly.</p>	o) of Policy ACT2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
73	Policy ACT2	Lanpro for Chilton Grain Limited	<p>Draft Policy ACT2 – Design and Character</p> <p>Whilst our client supports the aims of draft Policy ACT2, which seeks to ensure that all new development in Acton should be of a scale and design appropriate to the character of the immediate surrounding area, it wishes to raise a concern about the policy requirement that development proposals should be consistent with the guidance laid out in the Acton Design Guidelines and Codes, given the significant level of detail included in this guidance. Design policies in Neighbourhood Plans can help ensure that new development</p>	<p>Comments noted. However, it is considered that the current wording provides clarity as to the status of the Design Codes document which is supported by the NPPF.</p>	No change

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>aligns with the character and identity of the local area, promotes high-quality design, and enhances the built environment. However, it is important that the level of detail in design policies and / or guidance should strike a balance. On one hand, detailed design guidance can provide a clear steer to developers and help maintain the desired character of the neighbourhood. However, on the other hand, overly prescriptive and rigid design guidance can hinder development and potentially stifle architectural diversity. Our client wishes to suggest that the wording of draft Policy ACT2 is revised slightly to allow a balance to be struck between the design of new development being shaped by guidance and allowing for flexibility and creativity in the development process. To this aim, we suggest the following revisions to the draft policy wording:</p> <p>“Policy ACT2 Design and Character”Proposals for all new development in Acton should be of a scale and design appropriate to the character of the immediate surrounding area. Development proposals should <u>have regard</u> to be consistent with the guidance laid out in the Acton Design Guidelines and Codes”. [text to be deleted shown as struck-through, new text shown in red]</p>		
74	Policy ACT2 Design and Character	SCC – Natural Environment	<p>Policy ACT2 – Design and Character (Landscape and Open Space)</p> <p>SCC supports that Policy ACT2 anchors some design principles for landscape and open space provision for new</p>	Noted. Agree that sub-heading should be amended to refer to ‘landscaping’ rather than	Amend sub heading and criterion h) of Policy ACT2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			developments. This Policy sets out, in a clear format, parts that relate to landscape and open space, although, this appears to relate to landscaping more than to landscape. Parts e) and f) are welcomed. In regard to part h), new planting, the call for the use of native species is welcome, especially for structural/landscape scale planting, that provides the backbone for Green Infrastructure; however, in most developments there will also be the desire/need for ornamental plants for the amenity within the public realm. Some of these are also providing good food sources for pollinators. SCC notes that given the climate change challenges, the planting palette may also need to be revisited as non-native species may become increasingly important due to their increased climate resilience and ability to cope with emerging weather patterns. A preference for native plants, where possible, should however remain the aim.	'landscape' which is covered by another policy. Noted . Criterion h) can be amended to include a preference for native species and a recognition that climate change will influence the choice of some species.	
75	Policies ACT 2 and 3	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	Agree with these policies	Support welcomed.	No Change to Plan
76	Policy ACT2 Design and Character	SCC – Active Travel	Active Travel SCC welcome the provision for cycle storage within Policy ACT2, part d), however, it is suggested to insert “secure” in regard to cycle storage. We recommend including the following paragraph within Policy ACT2, to encourage the incorporation of Health and Wellbeing strategies in Development applications:	Noted. Amend to include ‘secure’ . Agree to add this requirement to Policy ACT2	Amend Policy ACT2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			"Proposals of 10 dwellings or more should be accompanied by a Building for a Healthy Life Assessment."		
77	Policy ACT2 Design and Character	SCC – Public Rights of Way	Policy ACT2 Design refers to connectivity and linkages with the existing PROW network, which is welcomed.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
78	Policies ACT1,2 and 3	Individual 3	I support these policies	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
79	Chapter 7 Housing	Individual 11	Agree with all objectives would like to emphasise about keeping local children in the village with cost effective housing	Support welcomed. Policy ACT3 seeks to achieve this.	No change to Plan
80	Policy ACT3 Housing Mix	SCC- Health and Wellbeing	<p>With respect to the population data, it is important to ensure the needs of all residents are catered for, recognising the likely increase of co-morbidities as people get older. It is suggested that there could be provision for homes that are adaptable to M4(2) standards. This can help meet the needs of elderly and frail residents, allowing them to maintain independence for longer, but without restricting the needs of younger people and families. We recommended the following minor amendments to Policy ACT3:</p> <p>"Proposals that provide for smaller homes (1-2 bedrooms) that are adaptable and accessible (meaning built to optional M4(2) standards) or including bungalows will be particularly supported."</p> <p>https://www.greensuffolk.org/app/uploads/2023/04/Final-Published-Suffolk-LFRM-Strategy-February-2023.pdf</p> <p>4 http://www.suffolkobservatory.info/</p>	Noted. Agree to include these references.	Amend Policy ACT3 accordingly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
81	Policy ACT3 – Supporting text	SCC – Health Wellbeing	We suggest an inclusion, in the supporting text, for the needs of residents who are living with dementia in the community, and the potential for making Acton a "Dementia-Friendly community". The Royal Town Planning Institute has guidance on Town Planning and Dementia	Noted. This could be included in the supporting text.	Amend supporting text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=dementia-friendly-communities#.ZBr4w8LP3qI https://www.rtpi.org.uk/practice/2020/september/dementia-and-town-planning/		
82	Para 7.33	BDC	<p>The Councils Strategic Housing Team have raised concerns about how some aspects of this Plan deal with affordable housing issues. We set these out below and suggest that a follow-up conversation is needed to find a mutually acceptable way forward.</p> <p>Supporting paragraph 7.33</p> <p>This paragraph is an incomplete explanation of the position set out in the Acton Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) report. The HNA balances the point made in paragraph 7.33 of the Plan with the following: “households who may need social housing often move away to areas where their needs are more likely to be met (either because there is social housing available or more private rented housing). This means it is difficult to identify need for social/affordable rented housing within Acton.” i.e., reduced affordable housing provision in some locations can mask the need for affordable housing as families move away. As such, it is not straight forward to say that demand for additional affordable homes is likely to be less than 34 units.</p> <p>Whilst the proportion of affordable housing to be delivered will be governed by District-wide planning policy, the wording in the Acton NP should not be taken to mean that affordable housing is not needed, to meet the needs of the parish or the wider District. The HNA helpfully states, in paragraph 5.67, that “it is worth emphasizing that this HNA finds there to be robust evidence of need for Affordable Housing in the NA, and every effort should be made to maximise delivery where viable.”</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Agree that the policy wording and supporting text would benefit from clarification and will be amended.</p>	<p>Amend Policy ACT3 and supporting text at paras 7.32-34 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

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			It would be helpful if the supporting text was clarified to show that this Plan is not be taken as justification for reduced affordable housing provision.		
83	Policy ACT3	BDC	<p>Policy ACT 3</p> <p>The first part of this policy, which requires the mix of new housing to reflect local needs and maintain the current broad balance of house sizes and types is supported.</p> <p>We are, however, concerned by the provisions relating to affordable housing. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prescription of a tenure mix 2. A lack of clarity regarding Rural Exception Sites 3. Requiring a local connection to the parish in the allocation of affordable housing. <p>1. Tenure Mix</p> <p>Whilst the proposed tenure mix is based on the SHMA (as explained in the HNA, para 1.20), it is not recommended that specific proportions are expressed in policy. District-wide evidence may be updated in future, and this policy would not take account of any changes in the evidence. In this respect it could be considered to be inconsistent with the strategic policies of both the emerging and adopted local plans, which allow for the underlying evidence to be updated.</p> <p>The SHMA is a calculation of housing needs at a fixed point in time, and is the starting point for determining affordable housing needs. At present, with the ongoing cost of living concerns, the Council is prioritising affordable rented properties (75% of affordable housing secured) and shared ownership (25%)</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>Agree that the policy wording would benefit from amendment. The HNA presents localised evidence than the overall District work and the NPPF allows for differences in policy where this can be justified by more recent and more local evidence. Government policy sets out a requirement of 25% for First Homes which is reflected in the policy. However the policy could be worded to refer to a 'minimum of 50% for affordable rented properties to bring it closer to the emerging strategic policies.</p>	Amend Policy ACT3 accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
84	Policy ACT3	BDC	Rural Exception Sites	Agree that the issue of rural exception sites	Amend Policy ACT3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>The policy refers to ‘affordable housing to be provided in the parish on the basis of meeting a proven identified need’. This follows a section which refers to ‘affordable housing provided as part of a wider scheme’ and, allied to some of the bullet points which follow, implies that it is referring to the potential provision of a Rural Exception Site(s), being distinctive from affordable housing secured via planning obligations. This should be clarified, and alternative wording can be suggested if helpful.</p> <p>3. Parish connection requirement</p> <p>The approach set out in the paragraph 7.43 is not consistent with the District allocation’s policy, which has regard to employment connections and the needs of care leavers and members of the armed forces. The wording is unclear as to what would constitute a family connection. For example, the reference to a historical connection suggests that ancestors could be used as a justification for housing. This would be very difficult to prove and administer, and would mean those in the highest housing need would receive less priority than those whose ancestors lived in the village.</p> <p>- Qstn: Is it intended that the cascade applies to the criteria listed? Affordable housing secured through the planning system is justified on the basis of District-wide needs and individuals rarely stay in the same parish for their entire lives. As such, the District’s allocations policy promotes a requirement for a connection to the District of Babergh.</p> <p>Where a Rural Exception Site or Community Land Trust is proposed, it will be those dwellings that may allow for these to remain in perpetuity for those with a local connection.</p> <p>First Homes</p>	requires clarity. Policy to be amended accordingly.	

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			The proposal to require a discount of 50% on First Homes, based on affordability, is welcomed, but have the viability implications of this requirement been tested? An unintended consequence of this admirable objective might be that the viability of development proposals changes and less affordable housing can be delivered overall. If this measure can be viably implemented with 35% affordable housing, then a 50% discount on any First Homes would be strongly supported.		

Chapter 8 – Environment

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
85	Chapter 8 Environment	Individual 1	Acton has a great many protected species of fauna and flora. These should be protected to make the parish of Acton a beacon for wildlife.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
86	Paragraph 8.9	SCC	There is a typographical error in paragraph 8.9, remainder should be “remainder”.	Noted. This will be corrected for the next version of the Plan	Amend para 8.9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
87	Chapter 8 Environment	Brooks Lenev obo Acorn Farms Ltd	This section includes a Policy relating to Important Public Views, which refers to the land known as Sheep Field (west of Sudbury Road). It is not clear within the description why View 3 is an important view – the view itself is limited by the hedgerow running along the western side of Sudbury Road, which is owned and maintained by our client, Acorn Farms Ltd. The hedge appears to have been kept lower to the northern end, however not by the landowner. The image included within the NP appears to have	Noted. Further justification for the identification of this as an important view is to be provided.	Additional justification for all views has been included to precede policy ACT5

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			been taken from a raised position, giving a false impression of the view across the land.		
88	Figure 26	Individual 6	Page 57. Figure 26. Acton Village to Chad Brook Blue Corridor. Incomplete and partly inaccurate. From Pool House (more correctly Pools Cottage) to Secret Garden most of the open ditch as shown has been filled over the years. Only two sections remain: Orchard End and Amberlea. These two are linked via a land drain passing through Oak Lodge's curtilage. This old system was replaced when SCC replaced the High Street ditch (north side) with a storm water drain/culvert from Pool House to Secret Garden.	Agree that this is not an open water corridor as the water course is hidden in part. However there is a continuous corridor here. Text and map to be amended.	Amend map and text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accordingly
89	Paragraph 8.6	Individual 6	Page 58. First paragraph Although in parts of this corridor, surface water flows via culverts under roads and housing, the evidence of wild otters in the garden ponds in the central Queensway area is open to challenge. There are no ponds in the Queensway area. The nearest pond is in the grounds of Orchard End, the High Street.	This section is to be amended (See above response)	See above response <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
90	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 1	There is no comment or policy about the land on Bull Lane that was recently sold at auction, yet the forthcoming sale of this land had been known about for some time before this Neighbourhood Plan was published. This wooded parcel of land is shown in Figure 23:C yet there is no mention of it or its significance to the Acton biodiversity wetland corridor running along Melford Road/Bull Lane. This is an area of land that has had a planning application submitted and then withdrawn due to the negative comments from the various consultants. This wooded area is very rich in fauna and flora. There is a water course running through the property that connects to the ponds at the Bull Ind Est. The water course links a wildlife corridor from Acton into the Chad Brook and on into Long Melford. These ponds support various critically protected species such as Otter and European Eel.	This piece of land is outside of the settlement boundary and located within the 'buffer' identified in Policy ACT1. Although amended the policy still seeks to prevent development in this area that would lead to the coalescence of the main part of Acton village and the employment area. Part of the land referred to is covered by the 'blue' ecological corridor.	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
91	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	BDC	We support the inclusion of the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement. In line with Government guidance, and as referenced in para 8.2, you may wish to emphasise that this should be delivered on-site in the first instance.	Noted. Amend policy to refer to onsite delivery of BNG	Amend Policy ACT4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
92	Policy ACT 4 Biodiversity	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	<p>Policy ACT4 -</p> <p>We are particularly pleased to see the identification of ecological corridors within the parish and the recognition of the importance of these corridors for wildlife, as well the protection these areas are afforded in Policy ACT4. The NPPF (2021) (Section 179) identifies that plans should 'Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them' and 'promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species...' Considering that the NPPF highlights the importance of plans restoring and enhancing priority habitats and ecological networks, we would recommend highlighting the green and blue corridors as areas where Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and enhancement from local development could be targeted to help improve ecological networks within the parish.</p> <p>Furthermore, considering that the mapping of green and blue corridors within the parish can have a dual purpose of protecting these areas, as well as highlighting them as areas where BNG and enhancement from development could be targeted to improve ecological networks, we recommend including habitats along the Chad Brook. There are several Priority habitats along the Chad brook including deciduous woodland, wet woodland, hedgerows, and ponds which form a green corridor connecting with habitats within the Lineage Wood SSSI. These habitats also provide a</p>	<p>Support welcomed.</p> <p>Agree in principle to including some suitable wording in this section. It should be noted</p>	Amend text as requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			<p>function in maintaining the good water quality of the Chad Brook which in turn allows rare species such as white-clawed crayfish, water vole and bullhead to continue to thrive in the Chad Brook. Whilst we recognise the point made within the plan text that these areas are unlikely to be directly affected by development, they would be ideal areas where off-site habitat creation and enhancement required for BNG could be targeted to provide significant benefits for wildlife. Considering that there are also public footpaths and bridleways close to the Chad brook within Acton and the neighbouring parish of Long Melford, any improvements made for wildlife in this area would also benefit local people using these rights of way.</p> <p>We are also pleased to see that Policy ACT4 highlights specific species which wildlife friendly measures within development could be targeted towards. However, we query the inclusion of adder within the local list of species as we are unaware of any records of adder locally and this species has not been mentioned elsewhere in the plan text. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to change this to reptiles, as there are a significant number of grass snake, slow worm and common lizard records within the parish.</p>	<p>that achieving this aim will be dependent upon the co-operation of landowners.</p> <p>Agree to amend reference..</p>	
93	Biodiversity Net Gain Policy ACT 4	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain -</p> <p>The new Environment Act 2021 requires development proposals to achieve a 10% net gain in biodiversity; whilst not yet required in law, this level is already being implemented as good practice across the country. The Wildlife Trusts, as well as other organisations, are advocating for 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) where this is possible and setting an aspiration for achieving a higher percentage of net gain could help to ensure that the biodiversity assets of Acton are conserved and enhanced for future generations. Suffolk County Council's recent commitment to</p>	<p>Noted. Whilst the principle of a higher % of BNG is supported. The JLP Part 1 (with which this NP is required to be in general conformity at Policy LP16 requires a minimum of 10% BNG. However it is agreed that a 20% net gain is a target that should be aimed for.</p>	<p>Amend policy to refer to 20% BNG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>‘deliver a further 10% biodiversity net gain in aggregate across the housing programme, in addition to the 10% biodiversity net gain that will be required on each site.’¹, suggests that it is reasonable to include this aspiration within the Acton Neighbourhood Plan. West Suffolk also considering a greater than 10% requirement for BNG in their recent preferred options consultation on their Local Plan.</p> <p>There are further examples of district councils outside of Suffolk requiring more ambitious BNG requirements within their Local Plans and these have been evidenced with viability studies. For example, Swale Borough Council completed a viability study and found that doubling the percentage of biodiversity net gain from 10% to 20% increased the cost of delivery by just 19%, so then included a minimum 20% BNG requirement in their local plan². The Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan also includes a requirement for a minimum 20% BNG³. Policy ACT4 could include a statement in support of development where 20% BNG can be demonstrated in Acton. Delivering 20% BNG ensures there is more certainty that a significant and meaningful uplift in biodiversity will be achieved, which will help protect the high-quality biodiversity assets and ecological networks within Acton.</p>		
94	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 14	<p>I note that Ecological Corridors have been covered in paragraphs 8.6 to 8.8 and cross-referenced to Policy ACT4, but they are only shown in a portion of the Parish in Figs.24-26 and have not been properly evaluated. A supporting Biodiversity Evaluation Report has not been provided and in this respect the Acton Neighbourhood Plan compares unfavourably with the recent Hoxne Neighbourhood Plan Reg 16 Submission consultation (15 Feb to 31 Mar 2023) which contains a 45 page Evaluation Report:</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Detailed points are addressed below.</p>	No change to Plan

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			<p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Neighbourhood-Planning/Hoxne-NP-SD8-Landscape-Biodiversity-Evaluation.pdf The omission of a supporting Biodiversity Evaluation Report / Ecological Assessment / Parish Biodiversity Action Plan with the Pre-Submission Plan is disappointing and fails to recognise the national concerns expressed by Sir David Attenborough and others highlighting that "nature is in crisis" and the desire for local action. I have become increasingly concerned that some Parish Councils may choose [perhaps on the grounds of financial expediency, insufficient time or lack of ecological expertise] not to use or give sufficient weight to the relevant biodiversity guidance and tools at their disposal. Biodiversity regrettably appears to still remain a soft option that may often give rise to negative responses both from Parish Councils and their professional advisors. I make a number of objections to the Reg 14 Pre-submission Draft [https://irp.cdn-website.com/847f5dc5/files/uploaded/Acton%20NP%20Pre-Submission%20FINAL%20March%202023%20%28Reduced%20file%20size%29.pdf], all of which relate to biodiversity.</p>		
95	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 14	<p>Objection 1 The Pre-Submission Plan fails to properly recognise or relate to national concerns that "nature is in crisis". Refer: United Nations Environment Programme [https://www.unep.org/facts-about-nature-crisis]. UK's People's Plan for Nature [https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/04/attenborough-people-s-plan-nature-uk/].</p>	<p>NP policies must be concerned with the NP area only and must have regard to the NPPF and be in general conformity with the NPPF and LP policies without repeating them. The LP and NPPF reflect the national and district position. (See also responses from SCC – Natural Environment, SWT and NE none of which make</p>	<p>Amend text to include relevant references, footnotes and links. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
				the same criticism. However the text can be amended to make reference to 'nature in crisis' and include the relevant footnotes and links	
96	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 14	<p>Objection 2</p> <p>The Parish Council has not provided adequate up-to-date biodiversity information with their Pre-Submission Plan, including parish-wide ecological / wildlife corridor network maps. The Plan therefore does not accord with the relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework [namely Paras 8, 28, 31, 174, 175 and 179].</p>	There is no statutory requirement for NP content. Chapter 2 contains parish level biodiversity data obtained from SBIS supplemented by local observation. The Data Profile which supports the Neighbourhood Plan is to be updated where appropriate.	No change to Plan
97	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 14	<p>Objection 3</p> <p>The Parish Council has not provided evidence that it is accurately assessing and promoting "the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species." The Pre-Submission Plan therefore does not accord with the relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework [namely Paras 8, 28, 31, 174, 175 and 179].</p>	The NP contains an objective (D) which ensures that new development adequately protects , maintains and enhances the side diversity of wildlife habitats, features and species resident in the parish. In addition Policy ACT4 identifies sites to be protected and enhanced including 2 specific corridors and a range of habitats. The Plan is consistent with the relevant NPPF paras including 28 which states: 'this <i>can</i> include...conserving and	See SWT response above.

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				enhancing natural ...environment'. There is no statutory content for NPs and they should not repeat policy from national of district level. However, in response to other representations (From SWT above the Plan is to be amended to include an aspiration for a 20% BNG.	
98	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 14	Objection 4: The Parish Council has not provided appropriate evidence supporting the core policy covering biodiversity [Policy ACT4] . The Pre-Submission Plan therefore does not accord with the relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework [namely Paras 8, 28, 31, 174, 175 and 179].	(See response to representation 97 above) It is considered that the policy is consistent with NPPF paras. See also responses from SWT, NE, SCC and BDC .	No change to Plan (See other responses)
99	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 14	Objection 5 The Pre-Submission Plan should give greater regard to the challenge of climate change and its implications for biodiversity in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework [namely Paras 8, 11, 98, 131 and Section 14 "Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change"]. Footnote: A key theme emerging currently in Neighbourhood Plans is "climate change" and the "climate emergency". "Neighbourhood Planning Toolkits & Guidance - How to write a neighbourhood plan in a climate emergency" [February 2020] provides a very useful guide to policy writing and community engagement for low-carbon neighbourhood plans. Reference:	Para 8.19 -8.21 make reference to climate change but could be amended to include a reference to the climate emergency	Amend supporting text to refer to 'climate' emergency'. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/how-to-write-a-neighbourhood-plan-in-a-climate-emergency/		
100	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	Individual 4	If the Parish Council is able to address the objections that I have raised it will establish a much stronger policy framework for emerging development proposals that may impact upon the wider biodiversity resource of the Parish, in particular priority habitats and the interconnecting ecological network . Finally it will help ensure that the Plan is consistent with national policy, by enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.	Noted	No change to Plan
101	Policy ACT4 Biodiversity	SCC – Natural Environment	<p>Policy ACT4 – Biodiversity</p> <p>Policy ACT4 Biodiversity requires biodiversity features to be retained. SCC suggests that the Policy could explicitly state that these should also be enhanced, even though this may be implied in the requirement to achieve BNG. The Policy includes references to the green and blue corridors to CWS, RNR and other features, which is welcomed.</p> <p>Green infrastructure is mentioned in connection with biodiversity and community facilities. Wildlife Corridors are mentioned in paragraph 8.6 and anchored in Policy ACT4, which is welcomed.</p> <p>The biodiversity section of the design code relies heavily on what can be achieved in private gardens. This is hard to enforce and can only be seen as a welcome addition to the backbone of Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>Further, Figures 24, 25 and 26 detailing the parish’s green and blue wildlife corridors are appreciated.</p>	<p>Agree the Policy could use ‘enhance’ in respect of features.</p> <p>Support welcomed.</p>	Amend Policy ACT4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Policies 4, 5 6 and 7	Individual 3	I support these policies	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
103	Paragraph 8.17/Figure 28	SCC	The title for Figure 28 notes that it identifies views 1-17, however, it lists all 18 views.	Noted. This section is to be amended as a consequence of other representations	No change to Plan
104	Paragraph 8.18	Individual 6	Page 69. Figure 29. Important Public Local Views. Source: Parish online At present here is one view that has been omitted. South from the top corner (north) of the 'Barn Owl' field which gives a view over most of Acton including the roofs of the houses on the Bloor. Estate.	This is View 4. As a consequence of other representations, the views section is to be amended to include further justification for each view.	No change to Plan
105	Policy ACT5	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	As stated above, there is no justification for View 3 to be included as an 'important view' and should be removed from the policy.	Noted. The views section is to be amended to include further justification for each proposed view. It is considered that this particular view is justified.	No change to Plan
106	Policy ACT 5 Landscape and Important Public Views	Individual 12	More of the important views from the PRoW route 9 across the village/High Street should be recorded.	Noted. As a consequence of other representations, the views section is to be amended to include further justification for each view. The views suggested is covered by View 4.	No change to Plan
107	Policy ACT5 Landscape and Important Public Views	SCC – Natural Environment	Policy ACT5 – Landscape Character and Important Views This Policy aims to protect the visual scenic value of the landscape and countryside of the parish and refers to Policy ACT1 which stipulates three large landscape buffers to prevent coalescence between settlements. The first sentence of the policy reads more as an objective rather than a policy and seems difficult to enforce. SCC suggests the following wording:	Noted	Amend Policy ACT5 accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>“Development proposals that would have adverse impacts on the visual scenic value of the landscape and countryside within the parish outside of the defined settlement boundaries will be resisted..”</p> <p>Figure 28 shows the important views (1-18) and SCC notes that gateway view 13/14 as displayed in Figure 29 shows the view from outside of the Parish boundary. SCC would seek clarification of the exact location of this viewpoint, as Neighbourhood Plans cannot implement policies outside of their Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area.</p> <p>The Policy lists the Important Public Local Views and Village Gateways and affords them a good level of protection without seeking to prevent development. The term “soft” in regard to entrances would benefit from clearer definition and examples.</p>	<p>Agree to use this wording.</p> <p>Noted. Amend map to move the numbers 13 and 14 inside the parish boundary for clarity.</p> <p>The policy wording can be amended for clarity</p>	<p>Amend Policy wording accordingly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
108	Policy ACT5	BDC	<p>Policy ACT5 identifies 10 Important Public Views and 8 Village Gateways.</p> <p>Beyond the photographs in Figure 28, and a nod to this in paragraph 8.17, no evidence is provided to justify why these views have been selected, or to explain what makes them so important. If that evidence exists, it should be made available now or, at the very latest, at the submission stage.</p> <p>For now, we make the following general observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given that policy ACT5 appears to have three distinct sub-parts, this could be better reflected in the title: ‘ACT5: Landscape Character, Important Views, and Village Gateways’ • It would be helpful if the policy included a cross references to Figures 28 and 29. 	<p>Agree that this policy and the supporting text would benefit from further justification and explanation along the lines suggested</p>	<p>Amend policy and supporting text accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to implementation of our suggestion below, the title on page 62 should read 'Figure 28 (1-18)' • You could simplify the Village Gateway numbering as shown below but still illustrate these with the twin-headed arrows in Figure 29. Village Gateways: 11. Village Gateway at Melford Road 12. Village Gateway at Waldingfield Road 13. Village Gateway at Sudbury Road 14. Village Gateway at Barrow Hill		
109	Paragraph 8.22	Anglian Water	Paragraph 8.22 - Anglian Water notes the reference to Anglian Water with regard to developers to liaise with us regarding upgrades or improvements to the sewer network. We do encourage developers to discuss their proposals with us at an early stage so we can provide information on likely requirements. In terms of surface water, we encourage developers to address surface water run-off on site through sustainable drainage systems. Connections to a public sewer should only be considered where all other options in the drainage hierarchy can be demonstrated to be unachievable. We will then require the developer to pay for modelling of the network to ensure there is capacity for flows, and for any upgrades required.	Noted	No change to Plan
110	Policy ACT6 Environmental Sustainability	Anglian Water	Policy ACT 6 Environmental Sustainability Anglian Water supports the aims of the policy with regard to flood risk, which promotes the use of SuDS and the multi-functional benefits than can be realised from nature based solutions. It is the Government's intention to implement Schedule Three of The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to make SuDS mandatory in all new developments in England in 2024. However, we welcome this policy to ensure SuDS are incorporated in new	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			developments, until the Schedule is formally implemented and the necessary measures are in place.		
111	Policy ACT6 Environmental Sustainability	SCC – Natural Environment	Policy ACT 6 – Light Pollution Light pollution is captured in the bigger framework of environmental sustainability and anchored in Policy ACT6. The wording for Light Pollution seems reasonable; however, the Policy could have set stricter parameters.	Comments noted. Some examiners have removed detailed criteria for light pollution and therefore the current wording is considered appropriate	No change to Plan
112	Policy ACT6 Environmental Sustainability	Individual 1	Although Suffolk County Council have said that the implementation of SuDS into any new development is essential, there is no guidelines as to the landscaping and visual softening of these ugly structures in the landscape.	A SuDS Design Guide has been produced by SCC https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/as-set-library/2023-sf3967-scc-suffolk-flood-risk-appendix-a2.pdf which covers all aspects of SuDS proposals. The policy could usefully include a reference to it.	Include reference to Suffolk CC SuDS guide. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
113	Policy ACT6 Environmental Sustainability	Individual 6	Page 69 Policy ACT 6 “Where new development is proposed, provision should be made for the incorporation of domestic scale low carbon/sustainability measures, such as encouraging air/ground source heat pumps and solar panels within new developments (including residential and other uses).” Be specific i.e. Industrial and farm buildings.	Noted . Reference to farm buildings could be included in the Policy	Amend Policy ACT6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
114	Policies ACT6 and ACT7	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	Agree with these policies	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
115	Policy ACT7 Heritage Assets	Individual 3	Dear Neighbourhood plan group	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
	NDHA: 11 Barrow Hill Farm		<p>Thank you for your letter re consultation on Acton's non-designated heritage assets. We are content for Barrow Hill Farm to be included as an asset and request the following changes to the description.</p> <p>Barrow Hill Farm: 17th century timber frame and plaster farmhouse, with Georgian brick rear extension. Adjacent barn, cartlodge and flint wall in group - all much altered. I have a number of resources given to me by the former owners of Barrow Hill Farm relating to the history of the property and also the neighbouring properties on this section of Barrow Hill – noting that 'The Cottage' is also a 17th century property. I'd be happy to share any of this with the neighbourhood plan team if helpful?</p>		
116	Policy ACT 7 Heritage Assets NDHA: 7 1 Orchard Cottage	Individual 5	I would like our cottage (1 Orchard Cottage, High Street) included in the neighbourhood plan. I saw a draft copy at our local coffee morning Wednesday and was pleased to see our cottage photo.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
117	Policy ACT7 Heritage Assets	Individual 12	Page 72, paragraph 8.33 should remove reference to an individual.	Noted. This reference will be removed from the next version of the Plan	Remove personal reference in paragraph 8.33. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
118	Policy ACT 7 Heritage Assets NDHA: 8 1 & 2 Elder Cottage	Individual 7	<p>Good Afternoon</p> <p>Thank you for your correspondence in respect of the Acton Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>I am just contacting you to let you know that i have no problem with you including my property in the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan though would like further information as to what may be involved.</p>	Comments noted. Update Appendix B to refer to two properties	Amend Appendix B accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>I can confirm that No 1 Elder Cottage and No 2 Elder Cottage are two separate properties and have not been one property for many years. I am aware that my property is not a Listed Building from when i moved to Acton in July 2021. I am currently considering having some work done to the cottage i.e. Lime render/paint to improve the breathability of the cottage and the overall appearance.</p> <p>I hope that this information will be useful for the Acton Parish Council in their efforts for The Neighbourhood Plan.</p>		
119	Policy ACT 7 Heritage Assets NDHA: 12 Valley Farmhouse and Barn	Individual 8	<p>We raise concerns in relation to the consultation and the manner in which this has been undertaken as follows: -</p> <p>It is not clear to us why Valley Farm has been proposed as a non-designated heritage asset (NDHA). The rationale provided is vague.</p> <p>It feels that the approach taken to engage with us has been undertaken in bad faith. We have been given less than one working day to respond to you prior to the consultation period commencing. We also understand from [name redacted] (from his email of this afternoon) that you are away until Tuesday, the day after the consultation commences. This provides limited ability to make our representations prior to the proposed commencement of the consultation period.</p> <p>We live in a remote and secluded location. We believe it is unacceptable for 4 men to park on our private driveway for an extended period of time without any prior engagement and then for all 4 men to exit the vehicle at once and approach a lone female at an isolated property without visible identification. The experience was extremely intimidating and upsetting. This occurred on the 16 June 2022, noted in a text sent at the time to</p>	<p>Email reply sent 31/03 and 03/04 explaining the process and that time-period for responding was over 6 weeks in which to reply. Email also apologised for any distress. No further response received.</p> <p>Follow up email sent 27/6 and 28/7 but no response received.</p> <p>SG resolved to retain the assets in the NDHA list due to the quality of the building and how well it scores against the Historic England criteria</p>	No change to Plan

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			her friend. Following the receipt of today's letter, we make the assumption that this event is related to the consultation. It is our view that there should be a change in the approach taken by the those involved in the consultation, particularly in relation to NDHAs.		
120	Policy ACT 7 Heritage Assets NDHA: 14 Primrose Lane Cottage	Individual 9	Thank you for you letter. I live and own property 14 Primrose Lane Cottage. From what I can understand this seems like a positive scheme but I cannot access Appendix B that you have referenced. Can you send me a link or a copy document. I think Primrose Lane Cottage is a landscape and Aesthetic interest.	Support noted [Link to full document sent on 31/03]	No change to Plan
121	Policy ACT7 Heritage Assets	Individual 6	Page 73 There is no list of Listed buildings although they are noted on the map on Page 8.	Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan is not designating or changing the status of any listed buildings. It therefore does not need to list them – these are all on the Historic England website. There is a map in the parish chapter for context.	No change to Plan
122	Policy ACT7 Heritage Assets	SCC - Archaeology	Archaeology SCC acknowledges that the Heritage section of the Plan has been well-considered and that the History and evolution of Acton is well researched. Further, we welcome that the Suffolk Heritage Explorer has been referenced here as well as the inclusion of Appendix B for the Non-designated Heritage Assets Justification. With regards to below-ground heritage, SCC recognises that archaeology is mentioned in the glossary under the definition of	Support welcomed.	Add text to follow para 8.35 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
123	Policy ACT 7 Heritage Assets	Individual 13	Perhaps consideration could be given to the inclusion of the farmhouse at Slough Farm and Orchard House in the High Street	Noted. Investigations into Orchard House have revealed very little information. It is not on the 1885 map and is believed to be turn of the century. Given the lack of information this has not been pursued as a possible NDHA. Slough Farm is already a listed building.	No change to Plan

Chapter 9 – Access and Community

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
124	Chapter 9 Access and Community	Individual 11	There should be a footpath along the roadside to connect with our neighbouring villages and especially to the industrial estate.	Noted. Agree to make specific reference in the Policy to the need for a route to connect the industrial estate and the main part of the village.	Amend policy to include reference <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
				(See also SCC representation 35)	
125	Chapter 9 Access and Community	Individual 6	Transport Connections The Plan does not mention (as far as I can see) the Sustrans South Suffolk Cycling route. This should be added. It is also worth noting that the Lime Tree Estate provided dedicated areas for parking – parking courts which are now heavily disfavoured by the police. These are not marked. Possibly they should be.	The route is shown on Figure 11 on page 20. The maps are used generally to delineate where there is a policy or proposal only. This is not the case with the suggested parking courts	No change to Plan
126	Chapter 9 Paragraphs 9.5, 9.9-10, 9.19-20	BDC	We support the aspiration for improved active travel connectivity. It would be beneficial to include reference to the District Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in this section to further strengthen the point. There is a hint of repetition in paragraphs 9.4 and 9.5. Can these be merged. i.e., retain the first sentence of 9.4 and then start the next sentence with 'The results of ...'? We also suggest that the following wording could be added at the end of paragraph 9.5 or inserted afterwards as a new paragraph: "This need is also captured and supported by the Babergh District Council Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which has assessed the Bun Meadow PRow improvement scheme as a short term priority for walking, and the need for a segregated	Noted Agree to include reference to BDC Cycling and Walking Strategy	Amend this section Paras 9.4 and 9.5 accordingly . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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			cycle and footpath alongside Acton Lane towards Sudbury as a medium term priority for both cycling and walking.” Other paragraphs within Chapter 9 might also benefit from being merged, e.g., 9.8 - 9.9, and 9.19 - 9.20.	Agree to review.	
127	Chapter 9: Access and Community Para 9.7	Individual 13	New footpaths to connect with other villages would be useful. ‘unpaved road’ would generally refer to a road that has not been reinforced with concrete/tarmac. Roads without footpath would be cleaner and more direct. Link between FP7 and FP13 to the south of The Kennels would be useful.	Noted. Agree that ‘roads without footways’ may be a better phrase to use. The potential for such a link to be reviewed at a future point.	Amend wording of para 9.7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
128	Chapter 9 Access and Community	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	Please see comments in respect of Local Green Space designations	Comments noted. See representation 143 below	See below
129	Chapter 9 Access & Community	Individual 3	Strongly support the proposal to introduce new PROWs – and agree with all those suggested. More circular walks will encourage more amblers / dog walkers to come to Acton and use the amenities such as the pub – and will reduce car journeys for residents out of Acton to other villages with better circular walks.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
130	Paragraphs 9.3 and 9.6	SCC – Active Travel	SCC supports paragraphs 9.3 and 9.6 with references to walking and cycling. We recommend building on this, adding the following to 9.3: “Encouraging and facilitating active and sustainable travel can reduce vehicles on the road, and therefore pollution and poor air quality, and can help to improve	Noted. Amend paragraph 9.3 accordingly	Amend para 9.3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			mental and physical health and create a stronger sense of place.”		
131	Paragraph 9.6	SCC – Natural Environment	The reference to the Green Access Strategy is welcomed	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
132	Policies ACT8-13	Individual 3	Strongly support these policies	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
133	Policy ACT8 – Accessibility and Connectivity	SCC- Active travel	Reference to health and wellbeing in Policy ACT8 is welcomed. SCC suggest adding some text in continuation of the first paragraph: “Frequent benches should be sited to aide those with mobility difficulties to walk more easily between places. This could include “Chatty Benches” ⁹ , which could help to make an elderly population feel more included as part of the community and reduce isolation of vulnerable groups.”	Noted. Agree to amend supporting text to Policy ACT 8 accordingly. It should be noted that Acton Parish Council have recently installed a number of benches across the parish including near to the shop. These are set out in the Parish Council Action Plan.	Amend supporting text to Policy ACT 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
134	Policy ACT8 Accessibility and Connectivity	SCC – Public Rights of Way	Policy ACT8 Accessibility and Connectivity is well-detailed and is welcomed by SCC. More information on PROW can be found here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk	Noted. More detailed information on PROW is included in Chapter 2 and the data profile.	No change to Plan
135	Policy ACT8 Accessibility and Connectivity	SCC - Transport	Policy ACT8 – Accessibility and Connectivity It is suggested that there could be a reference to LTN1/2014 as guidance for the design of new cycle facilities, and the following addition is suggested: “All new developments should contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents by encouraging increasing levels of walking and cycling through the provision of	Noted. Agree to add new text to Policy ACT8	Amend Policy ACT8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes and crossings, which are suitable for all users, including those with wheelchairs/mobility scooters and child buggies <u>and should be in accordance with LTN1/20.</u> "		
136	Paragraph 9.26	Individual 6	Page 81 9.26 The parish is identified in the adopted Core Strategy as a Hinterland Village but only is Core status mentioned in the emerging BMSJLP as a Core Village. The main part of the plan (Part 2) which will deal with Settlement Hierarchy. See comments on Page 25, above. The most critical aspect of the Joint Local Plan is not due for consultation until 2025. So there is no emerging plan and certainly not one based on existing published documents.	Comments noted. See also BDC response to the status of the emerging JLP above	No change to Plan
137	Policy ACT9 Traffic Management and Safety	Individual 1	I have huge concerns with the increasing level of traffic especially commercial transiting the village. I would like to see width restriction gates at either end of the village, one on Waldringfield Lane and another on Melford Road to temper the excessive speeds recorded by the Acton Speed Watch Team. The junction of Sudbury Road/Melford Road is a dangerous junction not helped by the parked cars. This junction is very busy and will only get worse with the increase in traffic from the new Chilton Woods development. The Chilton Woods development does not have a well thought out access route on and off the estate for the large numbers of commuters. This development of 1200 houses, potentially producing 2000+ commuters each day will have only one main	Noted. The Chilton Woods development (predominantly) lies outside of the Neighbourhood Area and therefore outside of the scope of the NP. It is a strategic allocation and therefore its impacts are dealt with by the District through the application process.	No change to Plan

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			<p>access route via Aubrey Way. This will result in commuters trying to find an alternative route.</p> <p>I would like to see Sudbury Road/Acton Lane closed between Newmans Green and the Chilton Woods development to prevent Sudbury Road/Acton Lane/Mills Lane becoming an overused rat-run for commuters off the Chilton Woods Estate. Sudbury Road/Acton Lane is a narrow C class road with narrow pinch points in various places. Mills Lane is a single lane farm track with few passing places. These lanes cannot take a vast increase in commuter traffic. Closing of Sudbury Road/Acton Lane to motorised transport will turn this road into a walking cycling access route between Acton and Sudbury. At present there is not a paved route, only a muddy footpath not suitable to invalid or pushchair users.</p>		
138	Policy ACT9 Traffic Management and Safety	SCC - Transport	<p>Policy ACT9 – Traffic Management and Safety References in paragraph 9.17 to the Suffolk Lorry Network is noted, however, levels of HGVs on the displayed survey results in Figure 38 are not considered a cause for concern in this regard.</p> <p>SCC acknowledges the speeding and highway safety detailed in paragraphs 9.18 and 9.19 and the desire to tackle these issues in paragraph 9.21 is noted and SCC, as the Local Highway Authority, will procure these provisions from new developments wherever possible. However, the LHA works within the confines of NPPF 2021 paragraph 111, with regard to only objecting to a</p>	The levels of HGVs using the parish roads is a clear cause for concern for local people given the fact that this is not an identified suitable lorry route. The survey results, which reveal 14 HGVs an hour accessing the village. There are no necessary destinations within h village for this level of HGV traffic and therefore it is clear that the parish is	

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			<p>new development where it may have a significant detrimental impact on highway safety. Any application for the development of greater than 50 dwellings or equivalent should be accompanied by a Transport Statement or Assessment, however, this is unlikely to occur in Acton.</p> <p>The following amendments are proposed to Policy ACT9: “Proposals for new development should maximise opportunities for sustainable transport, including public transport provision, walking and cycling. <u>Any new roads and streets should be provided in accordance with the Suffolk Design: Streets Guide 2022, or any successor documents.</u> <u>All parking provisions within new developments should be in accordance with the Suffolk Guidance for Parking 2019, or any successor documents.</u> <u>Proposals should be supported by a Transport Statement and/or Assessment sufficient information, proportionate to the scale of the development, which will allow adequate assessment of potential transport impacts.”</u> The references to the significance of the existing Quiet Lanes in ACT9 is welcomed.</p>	<p>being used as a transit route and this is therefore unacceptable.</p> <p>Agree to include this wording.</p>	<p>Amend Policy ACT9 accordingly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
139	Policy ACT9 Traffic Management and Safety	BDC	<p>While the expectation for development to take into account Quiet Lanes and respect them is appropriate, it is not the responsibility of new development to ‘expand’ the Quiet Lanes. If there is a community aspiration to designate further roads as Quiet Lanes this could appear in the supporting text in paragraph 2.40.</p>	<p>Noted. Agree to amend the policy as requested.</p>	<p>Amend Policy ACT9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			We recommend updating the final section of ACT9 to read: "Development proposals should take into account the purpose and location of the existing Quiet Lanes of the parish which will be respected. and expanded. "		
140	Policy ACT10 – Local Green Spaces	SCC – Active Travel/Health and Wellbeing	Policy ACT10 – Community Facilities Paragraph 9.22 is welcomed, referencing health and wellbeing. The Community facilities policy is welcomed and supported. The references to the usage of the village hall for community groups is particularly supported, as this can help to reduce social isolation in particularly the elderly, but also across all age groups.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
141	Policy ACT 11 Local Green Spaces	Anglian Water	Policy ACT 11 Local Green Spaces Anglian Water has sewer and water pipes adjacent to or within some of the proposed local green spaces identified on Figure 39. However, we do not consider that the policy would prevent operational development needed to maintain or repair our assets.	Noted.	No change to Plan
142	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces/Paragraph 9.31	SCC – Health and Wellbeing	Local Green Spaces The importance of Local Green Space on physical and mental health as mentioned in paragraph 9.31, is welcome. We suggest adding the below text to enhance the significance: "[...] These can vary in size, shape, location, ownership and use but such spaces will have some form of value to the community. Particularly for benefits to mental and physical health and wellbeing, giving opportunities for social interaction, space for recreation, habitat for wildlife and help define what makes that specific settlement what it is."	Noted. Suggested wording can be added to the supporting text.	Add text to para 9.31 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
143	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces GS10	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	<p>The field to the west of Sudbury Road (named Sheep Field in the NP) is included within the designation to be a Local Green Space. Paragraph 102 of the NPPF sets out the instances where the Local Green Space designation should only be used. It is accepted that the land is in reasonably close proximity to the community, however it is unclear whether the land complies with the requirements of points b and c of Paragraph 102. The Local Green Spaces Justification, included as Appendix C, seeks to explain why the land is “demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance”. The assessment states that the “rural nature and tranquility contribute immensely to the village character” and that the “extensive views...provide a health and wellbeing connection to the open countryside” and “of special value are the setting sun views across the site and close location to several of Acton’s historic listed buildings”. The justification for designating the land as ‘Local Green Space’ is considered to be weak and does not explain why the land is ‘demonstrably special’. The assessment does not explain why the land holds a particular local significance. The land is an unremarkable field on the edge of the settlement, with no public rights of way. The land is generally seen within the context of the rear boundaries of properties fronting Melford Road, which are made up of a variety of boundary treatments including low hedges, post and wire fences and timber close-boarded fences. The land is</p>	<p>In the light of this representation a review of the proposed LGS against the criteria has been undertaken. Following the outcome of this review proposed LGS GS10 is to be removed from the policy, the map and the appendix.</p>	<p>Remove GS10 from policy, map and appendix.☑</p>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>generally flat and left to pasture and has no significance to the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There is no access permitted on the land and the lawful use of the land is for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>There is no recreational value to the land, whilst the land is not of a particular beauty or historic significance. The land may be tranquil, on occasion, but given its proximity to Sudbury Road and the surrounding residential properties, this is suggested to be limited. On this basis, it is suggested that the NP has not shown that the land is “demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular significance”.</p> <p>The designation does not, therefore, accord with the requirements within Paragraphs 101 and 102 of the NPPF and should be removed from the NP.</p>		
144	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces GS16	Popham Planning Consultants for Mr Smith	<p>These comments relate to proposed Local Green Space “16. Waldingfield Road” (herein “GS16”)</p> <p>Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Practice Guidance on “Local Green Space designation” (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014) states that: “the qualifying body (in the case of neighbourhood plan making) should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as Local Green Space” • Mr Smith received a letter on 9 April this year notifying him that: 	<p>In the light of this representation a review of the proposed LGS against the criteria has been undertaken. Following the outcome of this review proposed LGS GS16 is to be removed from the policy, the map and the appendix.</p> <p>However, as part of the review it has been concluded that there are important public views from the public</p>	<p>Remove GS16 from policy, map and appendix. Include additional important view in Policy ACT5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>“a piece of land that you own/have an interest has been suggested for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan as a Local Green Space”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter also explains that: “the draft neighbourhood plan will be published for public consultation on 3rd April 2023 with a six-week public consultation period lasting until 22nd May 2023” [NB As can be seen from the above, the landowner notification letter was received by Mr Smith three days after the public consultation had started] • It is clear from the Acton Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan website that this is a pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation • The qualifying body did not therefore contact Mr Smith at an early stage about proposals to designate part of his land as a Local Green Space – he found out about the proposed designation at the same time as, if not after, all other members of the community who are not part of the Parish Council or Steering Group • The qualifying body did not therefore follow the relevant guidance • Had they done so, Mr Smith could have raised the matters that this response now raises much earlier, and could have saved time and effort and avoided misleading the local community and any other interested parties • Further still, the qualifying body did not provide Mr Smith with any notification of his land’s inclusion within the proposed “Buffer between Acton Village and Great 	<p>footpath (FP16) over this land including view towards the gateway on Waldingfield Road and the Church at Gt Waldingfield therefore the area will be included as an additional important view in Policy ACT5.</p>	

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			<p>Waldingfield” set out in Policy ACT1, despite its potential to be equally constraining to Mr Smith’s future use of his land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In her e-mail to Mr Smith of 4.5.23, Consultant for the Acton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group explains that: “The land was identified as a potential LGS at the Policy Ideas Exhibition held at the village hall on 2nd October 2022. Attendees at the event were asked to identify any potential LGS by placing a flag in a map.” • That exercise is not in any way sufficient to satisfy the “demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance” NPPF paragraph 102 criterion • Further, no indication of the number of people who placed a flag on what is now proposed to be GS 16 has been provided by Andrea Long in her correspondence with Mr Smith nor is stated in the Acton Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission draft (herein “ANP”) • The only evidence of this “flagging” exercise is Figure 27 of the ANP, but the photograph cuts off the land that is the subject of proposed allocation GS 16 so it cannot be seen how many (if any) flags were placed on it • It is not therefore possible to determine whether, even by popular opinion, the land that is covered by proposed designation GS 16 is in any way special (not that proof of popular opinion would meet the above criterion in any event) • Further, quite apart from how many people may have identified GS 16 as suitable for designation as a Local 		

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>Green Space, there is no evidence of what those people who did identify it (if any) had to say about it and why it was important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All we have are a handful of sentences produced by the authors of the plan with nothing to demonstrate that they reflect, in any way, the views that may (or may not) have been expressed by members of the local community • The Planning Practice Guidance on “Local Green Space designation” (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014) states that: “Areas that may be considered for designation as Local Green Space may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.” • Much of the main text put forward as justification for the proposed designation GS 16 focuses on the footpath running to it and through it (PRoW 16) • While the proposed designation is not a linear corridor it does seem to be heavily based on the presence of the footpath, which does not require protection • In addition to the many other reasons why the proposed designation GS 16 is ill founded and flawed, it would appear therefore that the proposed designation is testing the limits of the guidance in this regard <p>Factual issues The below points relate to the GS 16 entry in “Appendix C: Local Green Spaces justification”</p>		

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As far as we have been able to establish, the photograph shown is not taken from the land covered by proposed allocation GS 16 at all • There are no views of the church at Great Waldingfield from the land covered by proposed allocation GS 16 • The photograph appears to be taken from further along Footpath 16 (from which there are views of the church at Great Waldingfield) • The main text of the entry is not clear that there are four identified Acton Village Gateways and this is only one of them • The former RAF Sudbury airfield is described as “abandoned” when in fact parts of it have been repurposed and are in industrial use (“abandoned” has the potential to conjure intrigue and nostalgia and suggests peace and tranquility, where, with industrial use, the opposite is likely true) • Referring to the footpath running through the land covered by proposed designation GS 16, the main text of the entry states: “extensive views from PRoW across the site provide glimpses of the Church at Gt Waldingfield” • As above, there are no views of the church at Great Waldingfield from the land covered by proposed allocation GS 16 • Even if there were, such glimpses of buildings are not of themselves any basis for seeking to designate an agricultural field exceeding 7 acres as a Local Green Space that needs to be “demonstrably special to a local 		

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>community and holds a particular local significance” (paragraph 102 of the NPPF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further, the “Appendix E: Policies Maps – Inset Map 1: Acton Village” identifies no views to, from or across the land covered by proposed allocation GS 16 • Further still, paragraph 8.17 of the ANP states that: “The Steering Group have been mindful that any policy which sought to protect views should focus on those that are important to the overall landscape character of the parish and should also be enjoyed from publicly accessible locations e.g. footpaths, public highway, an existing open space or through a gap between buildings. Some rationalisation of the original list has therefore been undertaken and the following have been identified...” • The views referred to do not include any views to, from or across the land covered by proposed allocation GS 16 • It is therefore the case that the claimed “extensive views from the PRoW across the site” are not important views as far as the overall landscape character of the parish are concerned • The main text of the entry also states: “The site also contributes to the Acton Village Gateway, providing a clear separation between the settlement boundary and open countryside” • This is clearly incorrect • The land covered by proposed designation GS 16 is part of the open countryside and cannot therefore be, 		

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			<p>as a matter of fact, an area of transition between the countryside and the settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The separation is provided by the mature planted boundary between the land and the property to the immediate northwest • The text finishes with: “Route and views provide a health and wellbeing connection to the open countryside from the walking route” • This is suggestive rather than factual and has no evidential basis • The route provides a footpath connection to the open countryside – any perceived attributes or benefits are subjective only and should not be used to justify any proposed designation <p>Assessment issues</p> <p>The below points relate to the GS 16 entry in “Appendix C: Local Green Spaces justification”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 102 of the NPPF stipulates that: “The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves. b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and 		


Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key parts of these stipulations are considered below with respect to GS 16. <p>Reasonably close proximity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By referring to “Appendix E: Policies Maps – Inset Map 1: Acton Village” it can be seen that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The land covered by proposed designation GS 16 lies outside the settlement boundary – it is one of only six of the proposed LGSs to do so ▪ Four of the other five have at least half of their boundary contiguous with the settlement boundary, the other has nearly half of its boundary contiguous ▪ The land proposed to be designated as GS 16 has only a very small proportion of its boundary contiguous with the settlement boundary - It is therefore hard to argue that the site is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves <p>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Appendix C: Local Green Spaces justification” does not provide any evidence or justification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How the land was identified as a proposed allocation in the first instance ▪ How or why it was decided to propose it as a Local Green Space designation ▪ Its specialness or particular local significance - Instead it makes a number of unevicenced/unsubstantiated assertions 		

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			<p>- The main body of the GS 16 entry in Appendix 16 states that: “Its rural nature and tranquility contribute immensely to the setting of the area”</p> <p>- It makes no reference to nor provides evidence of any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ landscape and visual assessment ▪ assessment of recreational value ▪ assessment of the land’s value to the community ▪ assessment of noise <p>- The land is not, nor contains any of the examples cited in the Planning Practice Guidance on “Local Green Space designation” (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014), or anything akin to them</p> <p>Not an extensive tract of land</p> <p>- At 7.2 acres the parcel of land that is the subject of GS 16 clearly is an extensive tract of land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ it is the largest of the 18 proposed LGs ▪ it is significantly larger than any of the green spaces that currently exist in the village <p>- This is contrary to paragraph 100 of the NPPF, which is clear that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all of these reasons it can be seen that the proposed designation does not meet the NPPF paragraph 102 requirements and should not be designated as a Local Green Space 		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This designation is a substantial interference with the rights of the owner • The effect of a Local Green Space designation is akin to designating the land as Green Belt (paragraph 103 of the NPPF, and as is clear from the wording of policy ACT 11 itself) • It is quite clear that this draft policy, as with the green buffer elements of policy ACT 1, have the purpose of preventing development beyond the settlement boundary at this point • The land is currently countryside and is subject to development restraint policies which provide sufficient and appropriate safeguards for it • There is no need nor justification for the designation of the land covered by GS 16 as part of policy ACT 11 • ACT 11's proposed designation GS 16 should therefore be deleted 		
145	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces GS16	Individual 12	Page 112 GS 16 , typo 'routes' not routs Barn Owl Field should be designated as Green Space and there are more special views than listed ACT 5.	Noted. As a result of other representations, proposed LGS GS16 is to be removed and the area identified as an important view under Policy ACT5. Barn Owl field does not meet the LGS criteria 2 and 3 .	No change to Plan
146	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces	SCC – Natural Environment	Policy ACT11 – Local Green Spaces SCC welcomes the 18 Local Green Spaces in Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces - and shown on the Policies Maps -	Support welcomed.	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>as this supports the ongoing work to make Suffolk the Greenest County¹².</p> <p>The Local Green Space Appraisal is presented in Appendix C of the Plan and provides clear evidence. It is welcome that not all Local Green Spaces are concentrated in Acton itself, and that there are some in the other settlements.</p>		
147	Policy ACT 11 Local Green Spaces GS16	Individual 2	<p>Good Afternoon</p> <p>Have received your Letter, unfortunately with no nominated individual to reply to. With Ref to GS16 I can confirm I do own this parcel of land. Not sure why it's been suggested for inclusion certainly I have never mentioned it. The Land is ear mark for Hay production this year. It's certainly not a green space. The Land in question forms part of my Estate and being written in to trust for my grandchildren .</p> <p>Since Covid and the extra footfall of walkers the current footpath has taken a hammering, Last year the Parish Council applied a layer of Material to stop this becoming worse in the winter. I don't believe there is an access to the footpath running across my property other than the road.. but everyone uses the grass verge bordering mine, Sunset house and Cherry Trees boundaries. The suggestion of making GS16 a green space in your Neighbourhood Plan unfortunately is unacceptable as it's used for agricultural purposes. Acton is very well served with plenty of green spaces in proportion to the actual size of the village and its Boundaries.</p>	<p>See response to representation made by Popham Planning Consultants above (144).</p> <p>Proposed LGS GS16 is to be removed from the NP.</p>	See above

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
148	Policy ACT 11 Local Green Spaces GS17	Individual 6	<p>Thank you for this message : it came as a complete surprise. A personal approach would have been a bit less confrontational don't you think ?</p> <p>.</p> <p>I can confirm I am the freeholder of the agricultural land marked G17.</p> <p>However. the scale of the map makes it difficult to see if you have included adjoining land which has always been 'garden' (of which I am also the freeholder.)</p> <p>None of them meets criteria (a) and (c).</p> <p>Indeed, (a) is particularly badly worded, because it implies privately owned land is in some way 'available' to 'the community it serves'. True of public open space, but not of privately owned land.</p> <p>When I assisted with the Employment survey for the Neighbourhood Plan, you will recall that 'farming' was excluded, although 5 of the farming businesses in the Parish have diversified to include non-agricultural activity associated with agricultural land..</p> <p>.</p> <p>GS 10 is used for agriculture. GS16.is not currently used for agriculture nor the considerable acreage used as an airstrip running parallel to Vicarage Lane.</p> <p>Missing from the plan is the most contentious piece of 'potential housing' land in the village which it has been for 50 years. That is next to the Old Vicarage and my land/garden. It was mentioned in the Planning Consent</p>	<p>Noted. Additional larger scale map has been provided to respondent.</p> <p>The criteria for LGS are set out in the NPPF. Private land can be included as LGS provided it meets the three criteria. In the light of this representation a review of the proposed LGS against the criteria has been undertaken. Following the outcome of this review proposed LGS GS17 is to be removed from the policy, the map and the appendix.</p> <p>Noted. See also representations 144 and 147 relating to GS16 above.</p> <p>This area is not considered to meet the NPPF LGS criteria.</p>	Remove GS17 from the policy, the map and the appendix. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>for the Tamage Road housing estate as 'future development'.</p> <p>The land which has become known as the Barn Owl Field is also not marked, although it does meet the criteria mentioned.</p> <p>It is my wish that the land G17 is removed from this Plan as it does not meet the criteria stated.</p>	<p>This area is not considered to meet the NPPF LGS criteria.</p> <p>Agree to remove GS17 as outlined above.</p>	
149	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces GS17	Individual 6	<p>Page 84/85. GS 17. This is not open public space but part of Higher Ground's private garden. It should be removed from the list.</p> 	<p>See above. GS17 to be removed from the NP</p>	See above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
150	Policy ACT11 Local Green Spaces	Individual 6	<p>However, there is a notable omission from the list and it should be clarified if this is an error or deliberate. There is no inclusion of the parcel of land on the corner of</p>	<p>Noted. This area of land does not meet the NPPF LGS criteria (2 and 3).</p>	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			Vicarage Lane with Tamage Road between the Old Vicarage and Higher Ground. The Tamage Road development plans show adjacent utilities marked 'for future development' i.e. under the road and to service possible future housing on that land. As a wildlife area with easy access to the village, this must be included.		

Chapter 10 - Business

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
151	Chapter 10 Business	Individual 1	All new development should be towards the west of the current Bull Lane Ind Est. I have concerns about the recently acquired parcel of land to the east that could be developed. This wooded area is of huge significant to the Acton biodiversity and wildlife of the area.	Comments noted. The land in question lies outside of the defined employment area (as shown in the emerging Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. Any proposals for development here would be contrary to those policies	No change to Plan
152	Policy ACT 12 Bull Lane Employment Area and Policy	Lanpro for Chilton Grain Ltd	Whilst draft Policy ACT12 relates to the future expansion of the Bull Lane employment area, draft Policy ACT13 relates to new small-scale businesses	See also BDC response below. It should be noted that this area is not proposed to be	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
	ACT 13 Business and Employment Uses outside of defined Employment Areas		<p>appropriate to a rural area outside defined employment areas.</p> <p>The Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 41-009-20190509) requires that a draft Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force if it is to meet the basic conditions, as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended) as applied to Neighbourhood Plans by S38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is important to emphasise that our client's Site, the subject of a current planning application (Ref:DC/23/02191) for the erection of a commercial unit, forms part of the Tentree Road, Great Waldingfield industrial site designated for employment use in the adopted Babergh Local Plan Alteration No2 under Policy EM14.</p> <p>Local Plan Policy EM14 was 'saved' in 2016 following adoption of the Core Strategy in 2014, and remains one of Babergh District Council's "live" policies. In this context, the Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with strategic policies of the development plan in force, including our client's Site's allocation under Local Plan Policy EM14. Failure to do so could render the Neighbourhood Plan being found to not meet the required basic conditions.</p> <p>The Planning Practice Guidance also explains that although a draft Neighbourhood Plan is not</p>	<p>taken forward in Part 1 of the emerging JLP, March 2023.</p> <p>Do not agree with the suggested wording amendments to the policy in respect of reference to the Design Code.</p>	

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>tested against the policies in an emerging local plan, the reasoning and evidence informing the Local Plan process is likely to be relevant to the consideration of the basic conditions against which a Neighbourhood Plan is tested.</p> <p>Draft Policy ACT12 Bull Lane Employment Area is considered to be in general conformity with draft Policy SP05 (Employment Land) of the emerging Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (BMSJLP) given that Bull Lane is listed in the policy as one of the strategic employment sites. However, the proposed Modifications to the emerging BMSJLP consulted upon during March 2023 include a number of revisions to the wording of draft Policy SP05 supporting text which would have a bearing on the Neighbourhood Plan's position regarding business and employment uses outside defined employment areas.</p> <p>The proposed Modifications include new supporting text to BMSJLP draft Policy SP05 which states that whilst the baseline land forecast indicates modest employment land requirements, it is important that there is sufficient policy flexibility to meet sustainable economic demands over the Plan period. The new supporting text states that, at the same time, it is also important to continue to support the retention and improvement of the network of established sites of varying sizes located across the Districts. The new text also states that flexibility to accommodate net growth, to enhance the employment provision for uses that cannot be accommodated upon the existing strategic employment</p>		

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>sites, is important to securing the future prosperity of the area. In line with the above, we would therefore suggest that Neighbourhood Plan draft Policy ACT13 is expanded to additionally support new employment floorspace required for the improvement of established employment sites. This would reasonably include our client's Site forming part of the established Tentree Road, Great Waldingfield industrial site.</p> <p>To this aim, we suggest the following revisions to the draft Policy ACT13 wording:</p> <p>"Policy ACT13 Business and Employment Uses Outside of Defined Employment Areas.</p> <p>New small-scale businesses appropriate to a rural area, particularly those that result in the reuse of redundant or unused historic or farm buildings will be supported only where all of the following criteria can be satisfied:</p> <p>a) It can be demonstrated that the proposed building is no longer required for agricultural use.</p> <p>b) The overall non-agricultural activities on the site remain ancillary (in terms of scale and operation) to the main agricultural/farming uses.</p> <p>c) The proposal would not have a significant adverse impact upon the character or landscape of the area.</p> <p>d) The proposal would not have a significant adverse impact upon the amenity of adjoining residents.</p> <p>e) The proposal would not result in an unacceptable increase in traffic generation or the likelihood of</p>		

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>increased HGV, service or delivery traffic travelling through the narrow lanes in the parish.</p> <p>Where a new farm building is to be permitted, a condition should be imposed on the permission, which requires the building to be removed should it be no longer required for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>Where new business and employment development is proposed including through the conversion of an existing building, provision should be made to accommodate the transport needs of workers. Any new parking provision should be well screened to minimise its visual impact.</p> <p><u>Proposals for new business and employment development whose purpose will be to retain and improve an established employment site outside of a defined employment area will be supported in principle.</u></p> <p>See also the specific detailed guidance in All Development proposals in Acton should have regard to the Acton Design Guidelines and Codes <u>Proposals for all new development in Acton and should</u> be of a scale and design appropriate to the character of the immediate surrounding area. [text to be deleted shown as struck-through, new text shown in red]</p>		
153	Policy ACT12	BDC	This policy could be considered quite restrictive. The District Council supports extensions of existing general	Agree to reword the policy but not along the lines suggested but instead to include	Amend wording of Policy ACT12

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<p>employment land. The first paragraph could be reworded as follows:</p> <p>“The future expansion of the Bull Lane employment area (as shown...) will be directed to the west in order to should retain the existing landscape break between the main built-up area of Acton and the employment area.</p> <p>It should minimise the level of travel (including commercial vehicles particularly HGVs and delivery vehicles) needing to use existing narrow rural lanes or pass through the village.”</p>	reference to the need for future development in this location to be set well back from the road (to mirror that of the existing development) to retain the established character of the area.	accordingly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
154	Policy ACT12 Bull Lane Employment Area	SCC- Health and Wellbeing	Policy ACT12 – Bull Lane Employment Area Policy ACT12 is supported, referencing amenity needs for employees, as well as the considerations for sustainable travel to work.	Support welcomed	No change to Plan
155	Policy ACT12 Bull Lane Employment Area	SCC - Transport	Paragraph 10.3 and Policy ACT12 The issues with connectivity to Bull Lane Employment Area are noted and will be considered in any future proposals to expand this employment area.	Recognition of this issue is welcomed	No change to Plan
156	Policies Act 12 and 13	Brooks Leney obo Acorn Farms Ltd	Agree with these policies	Support welcomed	No change to Plan

Appendices and Maps

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
157	Appendix B NDHA:	Individual 6	Page 95. Valley Farm House and Barn. It is of note that the barn is a centuries old timber-framed structure, of significant merit in its own right.	See response No 119 Agree to retain.	No change

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
158	Appendix B NDHA	Individual 6	Page 96. The oldest house in the village, but not Listed is on the Bridleway between the High Street and Clayhall Lane. This should be included in the list of Heritage Assets.	This was further investigated as a potential NDHA and the property owners were contacted in July 2023. Owners confirmed they were happy to be included as NDHA	Clay Hall House added to list of NDHA in policy, in appendix and on map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
159	Appendix B NDHA	Individual 13	Typo Tye Farm House	This will be corrected in the next version of the Plan	Amend typo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
160	Appendix C LGS	Individual 6	Page 97 onwards. It may be helpful to include areas in hectares as well as acres.	Noted. Descriptions can include both hectares and acres.	Include hectares within the descriptions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
161	Appendix C LGS	Individual 6	Page 103. GS 07. Description: 'Open grass area with attenuation pond.' It is more correct to describe this as an attenuation retention basin. You state "Its open nature contributes to the character of the area..." The wording of this should be revised. Bloor have completely changed the topography of the whole area by dumping in excess of 650 tons of clay sub soil in the area, placing the children's play area behind yellow railings perched on top of this artificial hill and have erected a knee-high barrier (of no use as a safety barrier next to a childrens' play area all the way round the basin. The barrier detracts from the open nature. And A location map on the same page as the photographs would give greater clarity to this section.	Noted. The description could be amended to refer to attenuation 'basin'.	Amend description <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
162	Appendix C LGS	Individual 6	Page 106. GS10 and Page 112, GS16. There seems to be no criteria given to 'extensive tract of land'. These fields are in excess of 5 acres and are being compared to areas of 0.1 acres.	The criteria for Local Green Spaces are set nationally by the NPPF – paragraph 102. There is no formal definition of 'extensive tract of land'. This is because the criteria may differ between settlements depending on their physical size and population. What may be considered to be extensive in a rural area may not within the context of a town and therefore a judgement has to be applied. The areas would normally be fairly self-contained with clearly-defined edges. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. There is a no minimum size limit for LGS. Each proposed LGS is assessed individually against the LGS criteria not against other spaces.	No change to Plan
163	Appendix E	Individual 6	Page 120 Appendix E: Policies Maps - Inset Map 1: Acton Village. This is not correct.	The existing adopted settlement boundary for Acton is that shown in Figure 15 (the Core Strategy). The	No change to Plan

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Settlement Boundary north of the High Street is in the wrong place. You show it on the line of the old village boundary where the ditch was, and still exists on two of the properties. An additional piece of land (the whole length) was purchased by the residents (1969/70) to safe guard their privacy in case the land was ever developed for housing. •The 'Sheep Field' is within the Settlement Boundary and has been earmarked for housing by Babergh DC since the 1970s, even though the eastern part is part of the flood plain. The recent Planning refusal is just a step in the journey. 	<p>proposed new settlement boundary is that shown in Appendix E on Inset Map 1. Settlement boundaries are policy tools that define where a specific policy applies. They do not always follow property ownership or land boundaries. The proposed settlement boundary north of The Street follows the line of the existing adopted settlement boundary and deliberately excludes the rear gardens and land to the rear of the houses along the north side of The Street as further development here is not considered to be acceptable.</p> <p>The 'Sheep field' is not within the proposed or adopted settlement boundaries.</p>	
164	Acton Village Inset & Policies Map	Individual 10	On Pages 120 & 122 Acton Primary School is referred to as an Academy. It is not. It is Church of England Voluntary Controlled	Noted. This will be corrected in the next version of the Neighbourhood Plan	Amend Map keys accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
165	Policies Map	SCC	SCC notes that on the Policies Map that the settlement boundary drifts into the adjacent Parish, and would like	Noted. The Policies map will be amended to correct this.	Amend policies map to remove

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			to raise that Neighbourhood Plans cannot designate outside of the Designation Area Boundary.		SB notation outside the Neighbourhood Area.

Supporting Documents

Rep No	Paragraph or policy number	Respondent	Response	Suggested Steering Group response	Action/Plan amendment
166	Supporting documents: Design Guidelines and Codes	Individual 1	Please no more ugly high density housing estates as can be seen on the front cover. I refer to the new Bloor estate on Tamage Road.	Comments noted. New development will be required by the Neighbourhood Plan policies to be consistent with the Design Guidelines and Codes document, once the Plan is made.	No change to Plan
167	Supporting documents: Design Guidelines and Codes	SCC - Transport	<p>Design Guidelines and Codes</p> <p>It is recommended that the Design Code should refer to “the Suffolk Design: Streets Guide 2022 or any successor document”, in particular regarding surface types and treatments (noting that permeable paving is not adoptable by LHA).</p> <p>In regard to surface treatments, please note that the Suffolk Design: Streets Guide indicates that permeable paving will not be adoptable by the LHA.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>AECOM were asked to update the Design Code accordingly</p>	Design Code amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

			<p>Concerning drainage/SUDS, the LHA will adopt certain types of roadside swale as set out in Suffolk Design: Streets Guide.</p> <p>Tree-lined streets and tree requirements are included within Suffolk Design: Streets Guide.</p> <p>The Public Space section (page 46-49) does not all accord with Suffolk Design: Streets Guide regarding road layouts and setbacks, SCC request that this is rectified. Any parking, including cycle parking and garage sizes, should be in accordance with the Suffolk Guidance for Parking 2019 (or any successor document).</p> <p>SCC has concerns regarding Code: ID.03 Architecture on Page 45. Concerning specific conditions for plots with parking to the side, SCC does not agree with a 3m depth of front gardens and a setback for a garage, as this results in cars parking in front of the garages and overhanging footways, which is not acceptable, and SCC as LHA will object to any proposals integrating this.</p> <p>All cycle routes should be in accordance with LTN1/20 standards. Bin storage and presentation locations are required by the LHA and should be located on-plot and outside of the public highway where they may present an obstruction to highway users.</p>		
168	Supporting Documents: Data Profile	BDC	<p>There are formatting issues within this supporting document, e.g., contents page, removed sections, difficult to read images (speed watch data) etc. Please can these be addressed prior to this document being formally submitted alongside the Plan. See also our comment above re 2021 census data now being available.</p>	<p>Noted. The Data Profile is to be updated prior to submission</p>	<p>Update Data Profile with latest figures as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

