

Hitcham
Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Statement

To accompany Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan
submission version, for examination

December 2024

Contents

1. <u>Introduction</u>	Page 3
2. <u>Community engagement stages</u>	4
3. <u>Communication approach</u>	8
4. <u>Conclusion</u>	9
<u>Appendices</u>	
<u>APPENDIX 1: Designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area</u>	10
o 1(a): Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan area designation application	
o 1(b) Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan designation notice	
o 1(c): Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan area map	
<u>APPENDIX 2: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members</u>	15
<u>APPENDIX 3: Terms of Reference for Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</u>	16
<u>APPENDIX 4: Stage 1 – Community consultation to establish key planning issues</u>	19
o 4(a): Flyer for the initial consultation	
o 4(b): Results of the initial consultation	
<u>APPENDIX 5: Stage 2 – Further data collection</u>	30
o 5(a): Poster for household survey	
o 5(b): Results of the household survey	
<u>APPENDIX 6: Stage 3 – Pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan</u>	68
o 6(a): Poster/flyer for pre-submission consultation	
o 6(b): Banner for pre-submission consultation	
o 6(c): Consultation response form (also online)	
o 6(c): Log of comments and responses to pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14)	

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and consultation requirements

1.1.1 Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document for guiding the future development of the parish. It is the first of its kind for Hitcham and a part of the Government's current approach to planning. It has been undertaken with extensive community engagement, consultation and communication.

1.1.2 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 Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan. It also demonstrates how the requirements of Regulations 14 and 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have been satisfied.

1.1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has endeavoured to ensure that the Plan reflects the desires of the local community and key stakeholders, who have been engaged from the outset of the process.

1.1.4 Part 5, Section 15(2) of the Regulations sets out that a Consultation Statement should:

- a. Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- b. Explain how they were consulted;
- c. Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- d. Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.¹

1.2 Designation as a Neighbourhood Area

1.2.1 Hitcham Parish Council made an application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area on 7th January 2020. Babergh District Council approved the area on 20th January 2020 (see Appendix 1).

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/regulation/15/made>

2. Community engagement stages

2.1 The recruitment of a Steering Group

2.1.1 Hitcham Parish Council agreed to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan and that a Steering Group of interested residents should be formed to guide and produce the Plan. See Appendix 2 for Steering Group members.

2.1.2 The Steering Group developed Terms of Reference, see Appendix 3. All Steering Group members completed a Declaration of Interest form.

2.2 Community engagement

2.2.1 In April 2022 Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group appointed project support and agreed a further communication plan and community engagement plan. Communication is dealt with in section 3 of this report.

2.2.2 There are three stages in which residents of Hitcham and key stakeholders were engaged. This section gives an outline of each stage. Full details can be found in the appendices. The names of individual respondents have been removed.

2.2.3 Stage 1: Initial work and key issues consultation (September and October 2022).

- Key issues drop-in consultation (10am to 3pm on 22nd October 2022 at Hitcham Village Hall) – Appendix 4: The purpose of the consultation was to identify key issues and themes in the parish. 86 people attended and all comments left were written up and used to inform the objectives and policy writing.
- Data profile for Hitcham (November 2022): document containing key data for the parish, to inform policy writing.
- Character appraisal (September and October 2022): Steering Group split the built area of the parish into distinct character areas and described them in detail. The work fed into the Hitcham Design Guidelines and Codes.

2.2.4 Stage 2: Commissioning specialist reports and household survey (November 2022 to April 2023).

- Household survey delivered (November 2022) – Appendix 5: paper survey sent to households in the parish and available online through November into December 2022. 112 household responses were received out of a possible 399, a 33 per cent response rate.

- Housing Needs Assessment (January 2023): an independent assessment of housing needs for the parish, undertaken by AECOM. The report identifies suitable tenure, affordability and the need for Affordable Housing, type and size of housing need, and specialist housing for older people. Used to inform policy writing.
- Hitcham Design Guidelines and Codes (April 2023): design codes for the five character areas covering the built up parts of Hitcham. Undertaken by AECOM, to support the Neighbourhood Plan policies.

2.2.5 Stage 3: Policy drafting and pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (regulation 14) (March 2023, then September 2023 to February 2024) – Appendix 6.

- Policy drafting began in March 2023, with the identification of objectives and key policy areas, although work stopped in April 2023 until the Locality Funding was secured in September 2023.
- Environmental Screenings were undertaken by Babergh District Council on the emerging Plan policies.
- Draft Neighbourhood Plan was out for pre-submission consultation (from 12th July 2024 until 30th August 2024). Sent to statutory agencies and available for residents to comment.
- Consultation launched with an exhibition on 13th July at the Village Hall including consultation response forms. Subsequently the documents and response form were available at All Saints Church, the Village Shop and on the Parish Council website.
- The pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan was sent to statutory agencies, local organisations, businesses and available for residents to comment. The Neighbourhood Plan was sent to:
 - Anglian Water
 - Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils
 - Bildeston Parish Council
 - Brettenham Parish Council
 - British Telecom
 - Buxhall Parish Council
 - Chelsworth Parish Meeting
 - Combs Parish Council
 - Communities & Environmental Services
 - Community Action Suffolk
 - Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley
 - Dedham Vale Society
 - Defense Infrastructure Organisation
 - Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
 - District and County Councillors
 - East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board
 - EE
 - Environment Agency

- Essex & Suffolk Water
- Forestry Commission
- Freeport East Parish Council
- Gt Finborough Parish Council
- Highways England
- Historic England
- Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG & West Suffolk CCG
- James Bailley Planning Ltd
- Kettlebaston Parish Council
- Lawson Planning Partnership Ltd
- Lt Finborough Parish Meeting
- Marine Management Organisation
- Mid Suffolk District Council
- MP for Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket
- MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
- MP for South Suffolk
- National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- National Gas Transmission
- National Grid
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- Rector of our Benefice, Sharon Grenham-Thompson
- Ringshall Parish Council
- RSPB
- Sport England (East)
- Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
- Suffolk Coast & Heath National Landscape
- Suffolk Constabulary
- Suffolk County Council
- Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service
- Suffolk Preservation Society
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- The Crown Estate Office
- The Theatres Trust
- Thorpe Morieux Parish Council
- Three
- UK Power Networks
- Vodafone and O2 - EMF Enquiries
- Wattisham Parish Council

2.3 Environmental screenings

- 2.3.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening report was prepared by LUC on behalf of Babergh District Council in May 2024. Consultation on the SEA Screening Report was carried out with the

Environment Agency (EA), Historic England (HE), and Natural England (NE). The EA response does not specifically comment on SEA matters. HE have concluded that, on the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. NE have concluded that, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely.

- 2.3.2 In the light of the SEA Screening Report and having considered the responses to this from the three statutory consultees, it was determined that the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.3.3 A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening report was prepared by LUC on behalf of Babergh District Council in May 2024. Consultation on the HRA Screening Report was carried out with the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE). The EA response does not specifically comment on HRA matters. NE have concluded, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on Habitats sites, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.
- 2.3.4 In light of the HRA Screening Report (May 2024) it was determined that the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan is 'screened out' from further assessment under the Habitats Regulations 2017 and that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

3. Communication approach

- 3.1 Good communication has been key to residents and businesses feeling informed and involved in the production of Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 Central to the Neighbourhood Plan process was the Neighbourhood Plan webpage on the parish website, www.hitchamsuffolk.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan. It was updated during each phase in the development of the Plan. It contained updates and consultation material.
- 3.3 To spread news of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group used:
- The Neighbourhood Plan website.
 - Posters displayed around the parish.
 - Flyers delivered to households and businesses.
 - Banners.
 - Articles in the parish magazine 'Roundabout'
 - Facebook, Hitcham Noticeboard.
 - Updates at Parish Council meetings.
- 3.4 Prior to the Referendum, the Steering Group intend to write a short summary of the Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The programme of community engagement and communications carried out during the production of Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan was extensive and varied. It reached 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.
- 4.2 The comments received throughout and specifically in response to the consultation on 'Pre-submission draft of Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan' have been addressed, in so far as they are practical, and in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework, and the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.

APPENDIX 1: Designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area

APPENDIX 1(a): Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan area designation application.

Application to Designate a Neighbourhood Plan Area

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)**

Publication of applications on the Babergh / Mid Suffolk District Council websites:

Please note that the information provided on this application form may be published on the Authority's website. If you require any further clarification, please contact: communityplanning@babergmidssuffolk.gov.uk

** Indicates a mandatory field*

1. Town / Parish Clerk details		2. Additional contact (if different)	
* Title	Mrs	Title	Mr
* First Name	Doreen	First Name	James
* Last Name	Neun	Last Name	Morgan
* Prop name / no.	Meadowcroft	Prop' name or no.	██████
* Address 1	The Causeway	Address 1	██████
* Address 2		Address 2	
* Address 3		Address 3	
* Town	Hitcham	Town	Hitcham
* County	Suffolk	County	██████
* Postcode	IP7 7LJ	Postcode	██████
* Email	parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk	Email:	████████████████████

3. Relevant body:

Please confirm that you are the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in your area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Act and section 5C of the 2012 Regulations.

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 50px;">x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	x	No		* District: Babergh District Council
Yes	x				
No					

If 'Adjacent LA / Parish has been selected please provide details

4. Name of the Neighbourhood Area:

Please give a name which your neighbourhood area will be formally known: *

Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan

5. Extent of the area:

Please indicate below the intended extent of the area: *

- Whole parish boundary area
- Part of the parish
- Joint with neighbouring parish

Reminder: Your application needs to be accompanied by an OS plan showing the area. We can produce this for you so please ask if you have not already done so.

Would you like our assistance producing an OS plan? (if you haven't already been provided with one) *(Already have one)*

Yes	
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

To satisfy Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a statement is required to explain why the proposed neighbourhood plan area is considered appropriate in order for it to be designated. Please provide a statement below that explains why you consider the extent of the neighbourhood area appropriate *

Whilst the village centre is somewhat more developed than the other parts of the parish, the remainder of the area consists of occasional small groups of houses amidst fields, so the parish is quite uniform in the issues which need to be considered. Apart from farming which remains important throughout the parish, there is no other sizable industry or the likelihood of any. We have therefore concluded that for the purposes of producing the neighbourhood development plan the parish should be considered as a whole.

6. Intention of Neighbourhood Area:

Please indicate which of the following you intend to undertake within your neighbourhood area: *

- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Neighbourhood Development Order
- Community Right to Build Order

Please provide support for your choice below. For example, which parish and community meeting has the above choice been discussed at? Are the community aware of what is being proposed and why? Do the community support the choice selected? *

Neighbourhood Development Plan – the Parish Council is about to start a detailed consultation with the village but so far discussions with local residents and businesses have indicated that the issues facing the village are those which are best addressed through the more comprehensive process of producing a neighbourhood development plan. Once the consultation process is under way we will review this decision to confirm it remains appropriate.

7. Adjoining parish clerk details (multi-parish area):

If you are applying with an adjoining parish or parishes please give the clerk's details for each parish:

Not relevant

8. Declaration:

I/we hereby apply to designate a neighbourhood area as described on this form and the accompanying plan.

Name(s) *	James Morgan (Hitcham Parish Councilor) Doreen Neun (Parish Clerk acting on behalf of Hitcham Parish Council)
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Date (dd/mm/yy) *	07/01/2020
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APPENDIX 1(b): Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan designation notice.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA DESIGNATION NOTICE HITCHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Babergh District Council received an application from Hitcham Parish Council (the 'Relevant Body') to designate the whole of the parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area on the 7 January 2020.

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/HitchamNP>

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 Hitcham as a Neighbourhood Area in order to facilitate the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan by the Parish Council.

Tom Barker

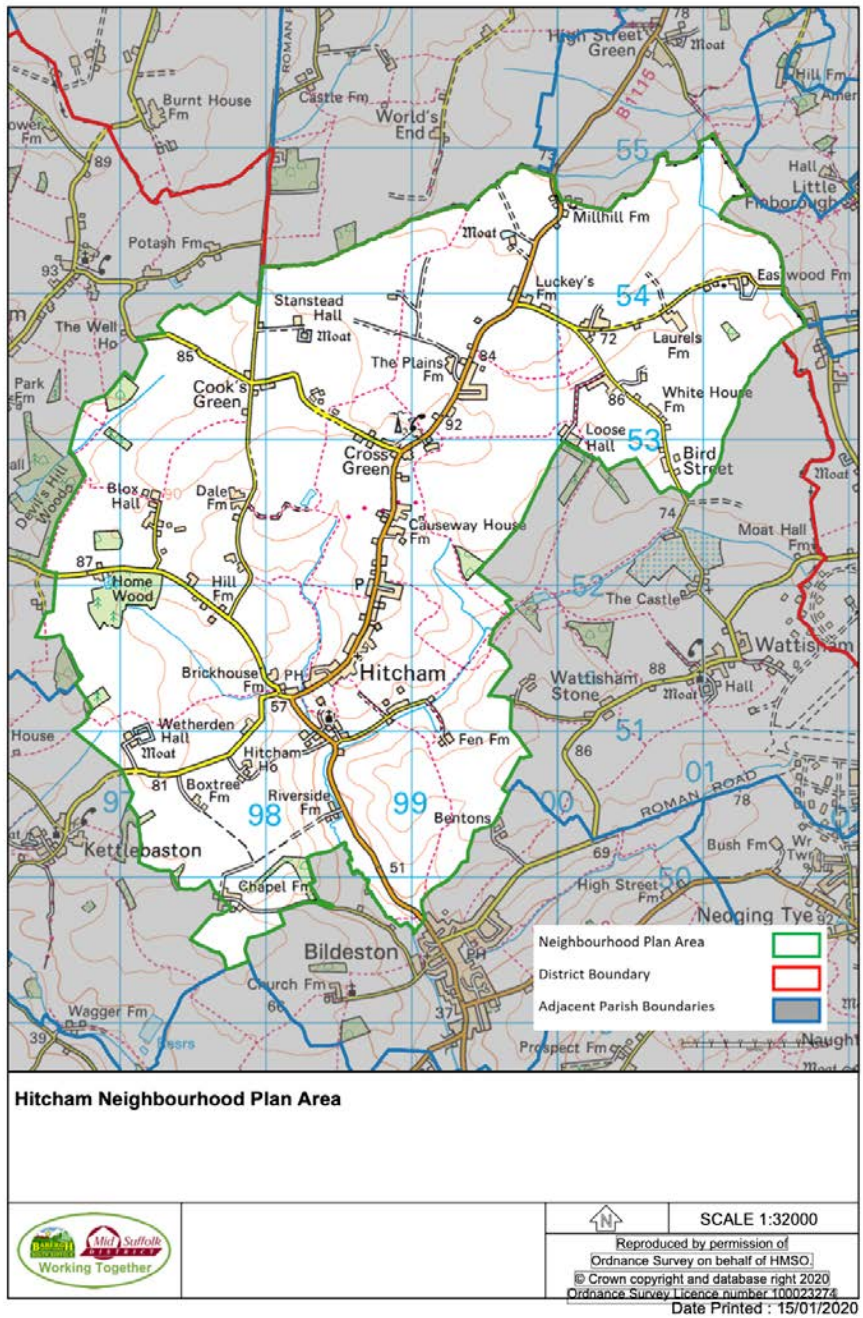
Assistant Director - Planning for Growth
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council

Dated: 20 January 2020

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 1(c): Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan area map.



APPENDIX 2: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members

The Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group included the following members:

- Hilda Bull, local resident and Parish Councillor
- Malcolm Currie, local resident and Chairman of the Parish Council
- Ruth Crockett, local resident and business owner
- Jane Pickett local resident (member of Steering Group until November 2023)
- Deborah Saw, local resident, District Councillor and Chair of Steering Group
- Duncan Selby, local resident (member of Steering Group until Summer 2023)
- Allan Scott, local resident, former Chairman of the Parish Council

This Neighbourhood Plan is dedicated to the memory of Allan Scott, former Parish Council Chairman and valued Steering Group member who sadly passed away in 2023.

Supported by:

- Emma Harrison – Independent consultant (data and environmental assessment) for the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Rachel Leggett – Project Manager and independent consultant (consultation and layout) for the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Andrea Long – Independent consultant (policy) for the Neighbourhood Plan
-

APPENDIX 3: Terms of Reference for Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan Terms of Reference

Purpose

The main purpose of the Steering Group is to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, on behalf of the Parish Council, in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, which sets out policies and proposals that seek to address the community's aspirations for the area.

In undertaking this role, the Steering Group will:

1. Ensure that Neighbourhood Planning legislation, as set out in the Localism Act 2011, as well as the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, are followed in the preparation and submission of the Neighbourhood Plan.
2. Set out a project timetable, featuring key milestones, and a budget for preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. Seek appropriate funding to meet the costs of developing the plan.
4. Plan, manage and monitor expenditure incurred in the preparation of the plan and report back to the Parish Council on these matters.
5. Report regularly to the Parish Council on progress with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and make recommendations on any proposed content of the Plan.
6. Seek to gather the views of the whole community, including residents, groups, businesses, landowners etc., in order to inform the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
7. Liaise with East Suffolk Council and other relevant authorities and organisations in order to make the plan as effective as possible and to ensure that it remains in conformity with local, national and European planning legislation.
8. Be responsible for the analysis of evidence gathered from the community and elsewhere, development of local policies, and the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Membership

The Steering Group will include up to 4 members, including representatives of the Parish Council and any interested members of the community, as approved by the Parish Council.

At the first meeting the committee will elect: a chairperson and a vice-chair.

All members of the Steering Group must declare any personal interest that may be perceived as being relevant to any decisions or recommendations made by the group. This may include membership of an organisation, ownership or interest in land or a business or indeed any other matter likely to be relevant to the work undertaken by the Steering Group.

Meetings

The Steering Group shall meet every month, or as may be required. Notice of Steering Group meetings shall be given to its members, by email or post, at least five working days in advance of the meeting date. Notices must include details of the matters to be discussed.

Decisions on operational matters (relating to the process of preparing the Plan) shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Steering Group members present and voting. In the case of an equal number of votes, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Decisions on matters relating to proposed content of the Plan shall be made by the full Parish Council, following consideration of recommendations made by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group may decide the quorum necessary to conduct business – with a minimum of five members.

The secretary shall circulate minutes to members of the Steering Group not more than 14 days after each meeting.

Working Groups

The Steering Group may appoint such working groups as it considers necessary, to carry out functions specified by the Steering Group. Each working group should have a nominated chair but this person does not have to be a member of the Steering Group.

Working groups do not have the power to authorise expenditure on behalf of the Steering Group.

Finance

The Parish Clerk shall keep a clear record of expenditure, where necessary, supported by receipted invoices. Members of the Steering Group, or a working group, may claim back an expenditure that was necessarily incurred during the process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan. This could include postage, stationery, telephone calls, travel costs, childcare costs etc. The procedure for claiming and rates for these expenses shall be drawn up by the treasurer and agreed by the Steering Group.

The Parish Council will report back to the Steering Group on planned and actual expenditure for the project.

Changes to the Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference may be altered and additional clauses added by agreement, shown by majority votes, of the Steering Group.

APPENDIX 4: Stage 1 – Community consultation to establish key planning issues

Appendix 4(a): Flyer for the initial consultation.



Appendix 4(b): Results of the initial consultation.

Results of the first Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan consultation
10am-3pm on Saturday, 22 October 2022, drop-in event at the Village Hall

The purpose of the initial consultation event was to identify key issues and themes in the parish.



Attendees

Age

- 0-10 years old: 2
- 11-20 years old: 1
- 21-30 years old: 1
- 31-40 years old: 4
- 41-50 years old: 2
- 51-60 years old: 17
- 61-70 years old: 31
- 71-80 years old: 25
- 81+ years old: 3
- TOTAL: 86 attendees

Who are you?

- Hitcham resident: 71
- Hitcham business owner: 7
- Work in Hitcham: 3
- Visitor to the area: 0
- None of the above, just interested: 0

How did you hear about today?

- Facebook: 12
 - Flyer: 40
 - Word of mouth: 24
 - Parish Council website: 2
 - Poster: 6
 - The Roundabout magazine: 11
-

Introductory information



Comments on the draft Vision

- o Accommodation for young adults to be able to leave family homes and live in village, flats, council property
- o Affordable housing
- o Affordable housing
- o Better broadband
- o Change name from 'Affordable Housing' to 'Starter homes'
- o Conservation to homes to downsize into
- o Fibre to property
- o More affordable starter homes
- o More starter homes needed
- o Need more affordable/starter homes
- o Need more modern services – fast broadband, community heating, solar panels
- o Need smaller properties as starter or downsizing homes, too many new executive homes
- o Pub
- o Starter homes for locals – tied. Not for renting
- o Underground electricity
- o We should keep our green spaces to protect the village integrity



What is special about Hitcham?

- o A mix of ages, aptitudes (working and retired) which make for a community. People are friendly but do not invade privacy. Great place to live
- o A place for families to grow up
- o Active village hall, lots of diverse activities and well run
- o Affordable homes. Maintaining green belt. Sympathetic development
- o Beautiful countryside, lovely walks, friendly villagers, great activities in the hall
- o Being a village, open spaces, small countryside, wilderness, the church
- o Best points – people, village hall, village shop, church, community spirit
- o Character properties



- o Community spirit
- o Community spirit, village shops, church, active village hall
- o Countryside, enjoy the space, wildlife, farmland, lovely walks
- o Countryside. Lovely walks. Wildlife. Lovely footpaths (we are so lucky). Church. Village hall
- o Excellent footpaths, amazing views
- o Fabulous walks around the village. The shop workers
- o Friendly folk! Impressive church!
- o Good diversity of various property styles
- o Good spread of houses not on top of each other
- o Great community spirit and support
- o Great location, walks, properties, only missing a pub!
- o Great to have ability for children to have houses near their parents
- o Historic houses, community, lovely church, great walks
- o Historic landscape
- o Historic link to Hanslow
- o It is still a 'village' with a character, not just a row of houses on a main road
- o It's a rural village in beautiful countryside surrounded by working farms. Circular walks, village shop, beautiful church, proper village hall
- o It's history with Roman villa sites and Anglo Saxon Chapel
- o Keep open countryside and green spaces
- o Lovely countryside, lovely church, shop, historic connections
- o Lovely village shop and hall with kids area
- o Lovely walks and views. Variety of properties. Friendly village shop
- o Open spaces
- o Open spaces and spacious housing
- o Plenty of open spaces and walks
- o Really enjoy variety of properties in the village
- o Rural, largely unspoilt open spaces, walks, history, people
- o Shop, Post Office, village hall, freedom to walk, views, welcoming
- o Views
- o Village in pretty countryside
- o Welcoming – church, village hall, shop, all welcoming

Housing & design: What do we want for Hitcham?

- o A place where people of all ages and all financial means can live
- o Affordable/starter family homes, fewer 5/6 bedrooms
- o Development in keeping with village/existing housing styles
- o Ditto!
- o Houses that are just for first time buyers
- o Individual properties not housing groups/estates
- o Keep local
- o Limited development
- o Local, affordable housing to enable youngsters to stay in the village
- o No 'large' development, individual houses
- o No development!!
- o No large development at all
- o No large developments – small scale housing – sympathetic to landscape



- No large developments, maintain open fields and keep hedgerows. Ditto!
Ditto again
- No large developments, small scale if any, keep hedgerows and trees
- No large housing development. Negatively impacting quality of residents
- No large scale developments – new housing should be in keeping with style of the village, preserving the open spaces and farmland
- No more development
- Preserve our fields, once gone they're gone!
- Protect the village character as it is. No major development
- Retain the village character with development of suitable sized housing
- Small affordable housing within keeping of Hitcham
- Small development which must include affordable starter homes
- Small scale individual developments, not large number of developments
- Style of houses to be in keeping with the village character
- Variety of small quality housing
- Village need new property to survive – should be small houses for younger buyers and downsizing oldies!

Housing

Thinking about the delivery of housing over the next 15 years...

- Where should housing go in Hitcham parish?
 - Affordable housing only would be good
 - Affordable housing, no large executive houses
 - Be conscious of existing views and walks
 - Full consideration given to access for vehicles
 - Housing in block areas away from main road and preserve views on main road. No more open development. Prefer on east side where hidden
 - If it doesn't impact on village, I think houses should be allowed or the village will slowly die
 - In areas which do not spoil existing views and farmland. Ditto ditto
 - Infill
 - Infill
 - Infill if neighbours agree
 - Infill, not behind existing line of houses
 - Maintain protection of the Hitcham hall and church area and environs. No more development on that area. Protect and extend County Wildlife area
 - May be square of affordable housing may be even 2 bed flats e.g. on slope behind Oxford landing
 - No more housing development in back gardens
 - Not on farmland
 - Not on farmland or nature areas
 - Small development on farmland and off the main street, e.g. behind some existing prosperities with land
 - Some suitable farmland. Small development only
 - Strip infill only
 - Use brownfield sites where possible



- Within developed village limits
- What type of housing should there be to meet local needs?
 - A few large homes to bring disposable income
 - A good range from affordable to bigger properties
 - Affordable, especially bungalows, to downsize and the elderly
 - Finishing homes (sheltered)
 - Housing for people who want to stay in the village
 - Housing that meets the needs of all ages especially families and young couples
 - Housing to meet needs of people living in village
 - If necessary in keeping with cottage style, bungalows for the old
 - Properties for local residents of all ages
 - Range of housing, not large or large scale
 - Small character houses not modern
 - Sympathetic development and environmentally good small development
 - Sympathetic development. So many lovely old houses already. Do not spilt this environment
 - Thoughtfully designed property, no large developments
- How should new housing be designed?
 - Affordable, well insulated, practical, in keeping with existing
 - Appropriate development within boundaries of existing large properties of suitable style
 - Build to high environmental standard – i.e. solar panels, heat pumps, full insulation
 - Downsizing, bungalows for existing residents (sheltered housing?)
 - Environmentally friendly
 - Environmentally friendly efficient
 - Environmentally friendly housing where possible
 - House design should fit in with established neighbouring properties. Not housing estate style properties should be allowed (like Oxford Meadows)
 - In keeping with neighbouring properties, parking spaces, hedgerows and trees!
 - Individual, not mass repetitive sites
 - Mixed style in keeping with village
 - Mixed styles in keeping with existing property. Affordable with parking
 - Need development need to be environmentally sustainable i.e. solar panels, ground heat pumps
 - New developments to have landscaping and hedgerows and trees
 - No ultra-modern designs
 - Sympathetically
 - To be in keeping with existing properties, not dwarf them. Environmentally sustainable
 - Traditional

Community infrastructure: What do we want for Hitcham?

- A club for young people to attend, this is so needed
- A pub that everyone uses would be nice
- A well-used church
- Allow village shop to grow/better parking/café
- Better public transport for the starter homes
- Better public transport, ditto, ditto again
- Better transport
- Bus service very important
- Clear agree on secondary school catchment area and school transport
- Clear path to Bildeston
- Dog bins! Ditto
- Encourage local businesses
- Energy plan, local generation
- Enhance village shop
- Footpath between village and hamlets
- Footpath from PO to Ranch
- Free church, village days, café, reading room
- Good broadband
- Ideas on how to grow a sense of community in a long linear village
- Improve bus service
- Keep post office and shop, play area, pathways
- Keep village shop people! Ditto
- Lights on paths
- Maintain existing services (shops etc) well maintained footpaths, traffic calming on Bury Road
- Maintain post office, village shop and play area
- Maintain shop/PO and church. Footpath along main road to allow access for all inhabitants
- Maintain thriving social events
- Maintain village shop and Post Office
- More bus services
- More support for village events and village shop
- No street lighting
- Outside community centre point (Meadow next to Village Hall ideal point)
- Path from Hitcham to Bildeston
- Play spaces
- Pub
- Pub
- Pub, well maintained and updated place space, keep shop
- Pub!
- Public transport and footpaths for school children
- Speed bumps to control fast driving
- To retain open spaces
- Traffic calming on B1115!
- Variety of social events
- Variety of uses of church
- Youth club



Business & employment: What do we want for Hitcham?

- A place where self-employed, small businesses can thrive.
- Broadband
- Anything that supports a village centre
- Better broadband for home working
- Better broadband for outer areas of the village
- Better broadband to encourage ability for home working.
- Keep shop/PO – heart of community
- Broadband improvement
- Community services, wind turbine, solar farm, community heating
- Encourage a car repair business/garage
- Encourage small businesses and provide opportunity. Resist housing on business sites
- Fibre to the premises, high speed
- Fund Hitcham broadband improvement
- Good broadband
- Keep the village shop and PO! Ditto
- More opportunities and space for small businesses to development and thrive
- None thanks
- Reduce road closures
- Small business units
- Small businesses – car repair, mend/fix, small units/garage businesses
- Speeding through village
- Super-fast broadband. Ditto
- Super-fast broadband
- Support village shop and keep it going
- Thriving village shop
- To support local village shop and PO. Encourage other small businesses
- Village shop
- Village shop and post office to remain



Access & movement: What do we want for Hitcham?

- 20 mph from church to PO
- Better public transport
- Better public transport
- Better public transport. Speed cameras
- Bury road speed limit 30
- Causeway to ?, a path all the way along
- Cycle paths to Bildeston
- Horse, walking, riding, paths
- I would like better public transport; however this is a problem as bus companies enable to provide on economical service
- Maintain our excellent playground
- Maintenance of footpaths. Better public transport
- More buses. Agree
- More enforcement of speed limits on all road
- More measures to stop speeding in village
- More measures to stop speeding in village
- More speed cameras on causeway



- o More traffic calming measures. Agree
- o No more vehicle access onto causeway
- o Proper and regular maintenance of footpaths, ditto
- o Public transport, speed control, footpaths
- o Small local buses
- o Speed calming measures
- o Speed limit extended to beginning of village passed Lunkey's Corner
- o Traffic calming measures 'urgently'
- o Traffic calming, speed cameras
- o Transport and paths on main road
- o Working speed cameras

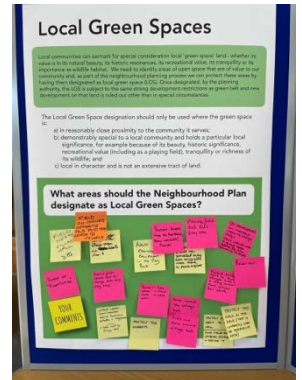
Natural environment: What do we want for Hitcham?

- o A 2 way dialogue with our farmers so we can support them supporting us
- o Creation of Suffolk County Council Wildlife Sites
- o Develop solar farms for greener Hitcham
- o Dog poo bins – more needed to avoid mess on footpaths (cross green area)
- o Duck crossing, signs, wildlife
- o Ensure people only use proper footpaths
- o Green and open spaces
- o Help locals to ensure clean and greener areas. Information on how to do this
- o Keep fields and hedgerows
- o Maintain open spaces and farmland
- o More ponds
- o No solar farms. Ditto
- o No wind turbines or solar farms. Maintain the green belt fields
- o People to follow the countryside code, i.e.. take litter/dog poo home, dogs on leads etc
- o Preserve and maintain footpaths
- o Protect and preserve open spaces/footpaths etc
- o Protect nature areas
- o Protect open spaces
- o Protect open spaces. Encourage people to respect the countryside
- o Provide open spaces for owls to hunt
- o Signage needed for some tracks/field edges to indicate they are not public footpaths. Ditto
- o Update play area
- o Wind turbine to help power the local area?



What areas should the Neighbourhood Plan designate as Local Green Spaces?

- o Adult exercise equipment in the play park
- o All current open spaces in the village area inc Hobbets
- o Area around the village hall
- o Field and area around the village hall
- o Field next to village hall
- o Field next to village hall. Ditto
- o Field on corner opposite old pub that leads to church
- o Green spaces should be situated away from busy roads where there is peace and quiet
- o No development on meadow next to village hall. Thus would make a great open space for the community to enjoy
- o Playing field and kids play area
- o Protect all footpaths
- o Protect areas used as footpaths/dog walking/fishing
- o Protect field next to the village hall and plat area. More space for sports
- o Protect nature area/meadow behind Causeway Estate and Doghouse
- o Protect play area and field near village hall
- o Protect the Hobbets
- o Reservoir



What should the Neighbourhood Plan identify as Non-designated Heritage Assets?

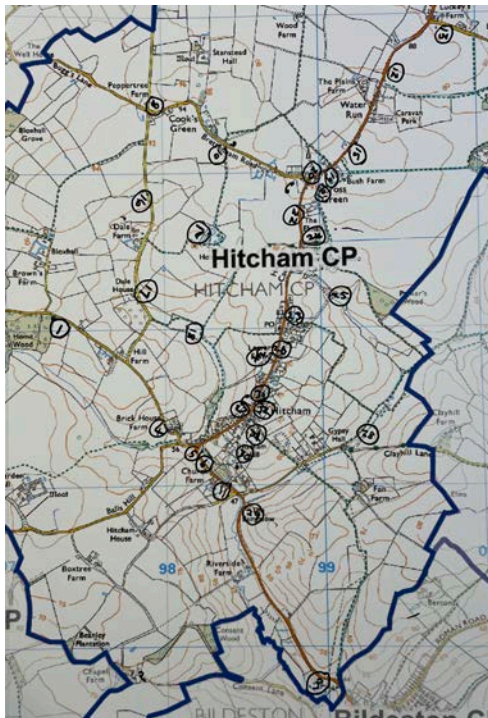
- o Assembly Rooms
- o Church
- o Church
- o Church
- o Church
- o Church
- o Collection of cottages opposite Brettenham turning
- o Educate 'newcomers' as to their village and history when they arrive, e.g. intro leaflet
- o Nice to see Old School rescued – would like to see the same with Assembly Rooms
- o Our church
- o Protect historic areas and give information – Buryland area, Rowman Villa site, Old ?site, rear of White House, Water Mill site, Brick House Farm area, Roman Roads, Hobbets
- o Protect the Church and churchyard
- o Roman villa road and site
- o The Assembly Rooms



Flags in maps

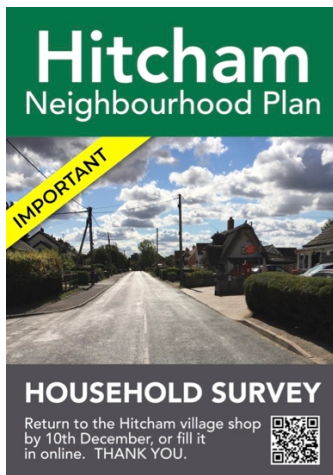
1. Deer crossing signs
2. Private road. Not rate run for Brideston Road works
3. Pocket park
4. 20mph speed limit here and warning
5. Bus stop signage
6. Ancient Meadow
7. Private fishing lake

8. Flood problem
9. Walkers leaving vehicles in gate ways!
10. New dog waste bin coming
11. Flood
12. Foot path to here
13. Farm pond
14. 30mph limit in Bird Forest ?
15. Please can we have a poo bin at cross green concrete pad
16. Roadside nature reserve
17. Ditch maintenance important
18. Rewilding
19. Assembly Room development huge concern - all around me!
20. Historic Assembly Rooms proposed redevelopment
21. SPAB Assembly Rooms
22. Keep open space, no development
23. Flood
24. Footpath from here
25. Meadow please keep
- 26: Hobbit House
27. Poo bin needed
28. Any development between Fen ? and The Causeway has to be limited because of access challenges
29. 20mph speed limit here and turning tight bend
30. Menslow Meadow
31. Farmland not built on
32. Speeding
33. Drug use in village hall car park
34. No more building here



APPENDIX 5: Stage 2 – Further data collection

Appendix 5(a): Poster for household survey.



Appendix 5(b): Results of the household survey.

112 households responded out of 399 total households in Hitcham, a 33% response rate.

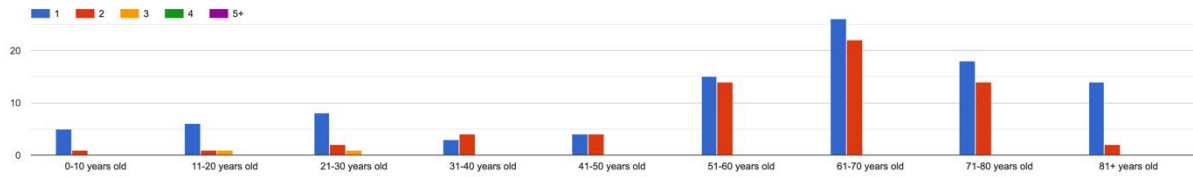
ABOUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD

(1) Age of people in your household.

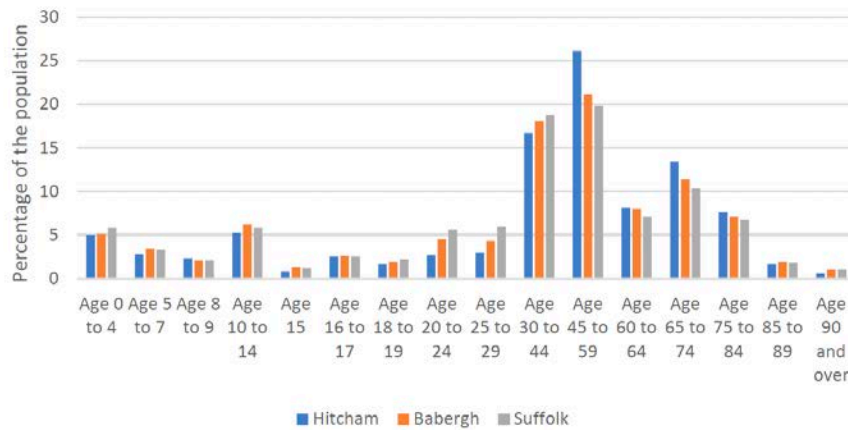
Summary of the data: Similar age distribution to the population of Hitcham (see Census graph, from page 11 of the Hitcham Data Profile). Considerable number of respondents have indicated that they are the only resident in their house. Overall, data shows that we have heard from a cross section of the population.

Total across households: 230 respondents

- 0-10 years old: 7 respondents
- 11-20 years old: 11 respondents
- 21-30 years old: 15 respondents
- 31-40 years old: 11 respondents
- 41-50 years old: 12 respondents
- 51-60 years old: 43 respondents
- 61-70 years old: 67 respondents
- 71-80 years old: 46 respondents
- 81+ years old: 18 respondents



Age structure of the population of Hitcham, Babergh and Suffolk. Census 2011.

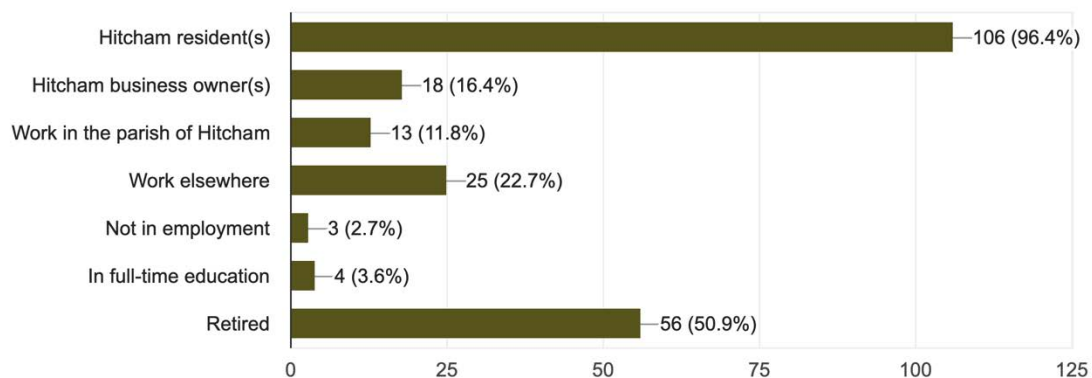


(2) Please tell us about yourselves

110 responses

Summary of the data: Note, households could tick more than one box. Most respondents were residents of the parish (96.4% of respondent households). It may be that the remaining 3.6% ticked another box instead, but are also residents, or it maybe they were completed by businesses owners that are not resident in Hitcham.

A small number owned businesses (16.4%). More work elsewhere (22.7%) compared to work in the parish (11.8%). A small number said they were not in employment (2.7%). Others were in full-time education (3.6%), far less than the 28 people recorded as being 0-20 years old. A further 56 of respondents said they were retired (50.9%).



Other (also specified)

- Community
- Community involvement revolving round the Church and Village Hall resulting in many friends.
- Community spirit and friendliness of residents
- community village
- Countryside
- Countryside
- Countryside
- Direct Access to country walks.
- Farm land
- Friendly
- Friendly interaction with young and older generation
- Friendly people - nice houses.
- Geographical position within Suffolk - clear of major roads
- Great place to live
- How quiet it is
- I've lived in Hitcham for over 60 years and so it's "Home" with friends and family
- Immediate access to open countryside with many public footpaths
- It is a small village that's quiet and hasn't got street lights
- It still is a village with village values
- Its footpaths
- Its history and living within a caring friendly community
- Its location
- Its rural location
- Lived here all my life
- Living in a quiet village rather than a noisy, built up town.
- living in the countryside
- My home
- My home having lived in Hitcham 77 years
- My views front and rear of my house
- Not surrounded by lots of housing estates & roads that can't cope
- open view across open countryside
- Our open spaces of precious countryside
- Peace & quiet
- Peace and quiet
- Peace and quiet of the countryside and wonderful views.
- Peaceful not too busy, beautiful countryside location with wildlife all over
- Peaceful open spaces
- Peaceful surroundings, sense of community
- Post office and shop
- Post office and shop
- Post office/shop
- Proximity to the countryside
- Public footpaths - countryside views and wildlife
- Quiet and peaceful village.
- Quiet country village
- Quietness
- Rural location and tranquility
- Rural open spaces
- Rural quiet
- Rural setting

- o Rural village life.
- o Sense of peace and community
- o Shop / PO
- o Shop & village hall
- o Shop and Post office
- o Shop, Church, Village Hall
- o Situation, community, countryside, shop,+PO (It is difficult to choose one)
- o Small, quiet, not too many people + post office
- o Space
- o The beautiful countryside on my doorstep.
- o The beautiful surrounding countryside from right outside the doorstep
- o The community
- o The countryside and it is not over populated
- o The countryside and open spaces
- o The countryside and small community
- o The countryside around the village
- o The countryside around us
- o The countryside views and rural location
- o The green space of the countryside
- o the lovely old buildings
- o The open countryside and footpaths with wonderful views. Not over developed
- o The open, rural setting of the village.
- o The peaceful beauty
- o The peaceful tranquility of the area the SMALL, close knit community. Unspoiled countryside!
- o The quiet
- o The Quietness
- o The sense of community
- o The sense of community here; the kindness of most people makes you feel safe and welcome.
- o The Shop
- o The shop
- o The shop /post office
- o The surrounding countryside
- o The village shop
- o The village shop /post office
- o The village shop and our 3 acre garden
- o The village shop, the hall and the church.
- o The wildlife and seclusion of where we live
- o Tranquility
- o Very friendly atmosphere
- o Village character but not far from Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury and Stowmarket- central for these.
- o Village feel
- o Village Hall activities
- o Village Hall and Post Office/Shop and events during the year
- o Village life
- o Village Shop
- o Village Shop and kindness of people
- o Village shop/post office"

- Availability of more affordable housing
- Better bus service
- Better drainage of rainwater on the Causeway
- Better public transport
- Better public transport facilities.
- Bus service
- Bus service
- Bus service
- Bus service to Stowmarket
- Community participation and spirit
- Continuous pavement on Causeway
- Encourage the use of more sensitive outdoor lighting
- Enforcement of speed limit
- Footpaths
- Footpaths
- Footpaths/cycle routes that cover outskirts of the village bringing them safely to the centre i.e. Village Hall/Shop/Church
- get a pub
- Get street lights throughout the village
- Have a pub
- Housing provision for the fullest range of residents
- I really can't think of anything
- I would restrict the helicopters from Wattisham flying over houses at midnight.
- Improve the epicentre of the village - at present it is blurred!
- Increase speed limit, Increase the availability of starter homes, increase job opportunities
- Increased involvement by newcomers to the village to spread the load keeping the community alive.
- Install street lights
- It would be good to see new and younger faces on the Parish Council, to better reflect diverse viewpoints within the village.
- Its appearance - it should look more welcoming (flowers everywhere!)
- Less housing and green spaces taken for housing. Some beautiful views spoiled recently next to the shop where several large houses were built. Devastated that another public view across the fields is gone forever.
- Locals to be informed of all major decisions
- Mains sewage at Fen Lane
- More involvement from the wider village community- a lot is done by the same small group of volunteers.
- More affordable housing for existing residents
- More for younger people
- More road safety measures near the post office; children crossing signs and speed bumps.
- Need a village (or district) nurse
- Needs a pub, but the long distribution of the village means that there is no real 'centre'. The pub 'failed' and is now a private dwelling. There is no realistic prospect of new pub in Hitcham.
- No more building
- Nothing currently
- Off road parking, especially in the area near the shop
- Paths and street lighting

- Pavements
- Pavements and speed cameras
- Pavements to allow access by foot to the amenities from all parts of the village
- pavements.
- Pedestrian walkways and Road
- Perhaps the following could be passed on to the Parish council:- 15mph speed limit and rumble strips either side of the shop and also in the narrow part of the water run. These are very dangerous parts of road, also the 30mph sign moved to the Stowmarket side of Luckeys corner as it can be a problem coming out of Wattisham road.
- Pub
- Pub or other social centre, e.g. café
- Public Transport
- public transport
- Public transport
- Public transport
- Public transport
- Reduce heavy duty vehicles from minor roads - Hares Road, Dale Road, Buggs Lane, Brettenham Road, Bury Road. Verges already eroded and getting worse, leaving nowhere safe to walk.
- Reduce speeding / more traffic calming measures
- Reduction of speeding traffic.
- Reopening the pub
- Road calming measures
- Roadside footpaths
- safe footpath & cycle path to Bildeston
- Shop to be larger with parking to prevent obstruction. Footpaths - need clearing (by the church) and maintaining
- slow traffic down - vehicles often break the speed limit
- Speculative development that does not meet the needs or preferences of village residents
- speed limit
- Speed limit enforcement
- speed of traffic
- Speed restrictions. Not just the B1115 but more importantly the side roads which have no provision for pedestrians / dog walkers. (Too many road users have no respect for these).
- Speeding through the village
- Speeding vehicles through the village
- Street lights , speeding through Hitcham
- the centre of the village
- The drains on roads
- The provision of more affordable housing.
- The speed limit needs to be extended past Luckeys Corner to the Parish boundary.
- The speed of traffic
- There are areas of poor mobile phone reception
- traffic calming
- Traffic calming
- Traffic slowing measures

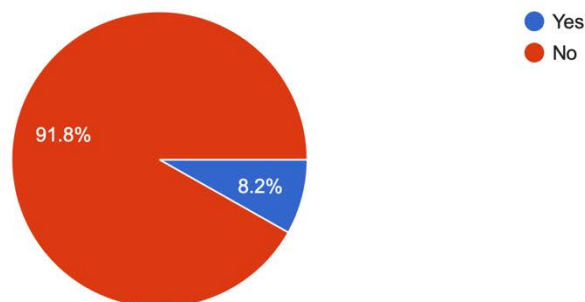
- Traffic speed through village
- Transport links
- Transport links as there is no bus service
- Transportation (very long village) to the centre (The Causeway) to facilitate access to buses to surrounding towns
- Village hall
- Village needs a car repair garage, otherwise should be to leave it as it is. Not to have a major development in visible location.
- Younger opportunities

HOUSING, DESIGN, HERITAGE

(5) Within the past five years has anyone in your household had to move away or stay living with you due to a lack of suitable housing in the village?

110 responses

Summary of the data: The majority of households (101) said they did not have a member of those household who had to move away or stay living with them due to a lacks of suitable housing in the village. 9 households said they did. The majority of reasons given were due to affordability of housing.
 Action: Compare data with Housing Needs Assessment report and develop a policy around of housing needed within the parish.



If yes, please specify why?

Raw data

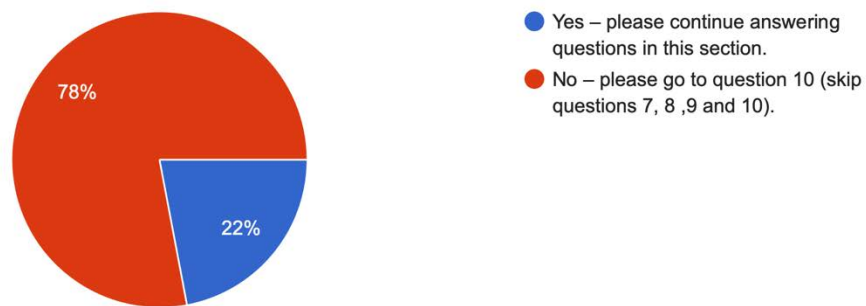
- Because there is absolutely NO affordable housing in this area
- Both daughters had to move away from Hitcham to find any houses that was remotely affordable
- Lack of affordable housing
- Move away for larger house, then move back later for to 4 bed
- Moved away as work for professional people only in London. Encourage council to move back to Hadleigh.
- No affordable housing
- No affordable housing
- No reasonable available priced houses to purchase
- Not enough social housing

- o Yes, would be first time buyers eventually moved to live in France permanently as property so much cheaper.

(6) Are you or a member of your household (i.e. yourself, older children or dependents etc.) likely to be in housing need within the next five years?

109 responses

Summary of the data: The majority household responses are not likely to be in housing need within the next 5 years (78%). 22% say they are likely to be.
Action: Compare data with Housing Needs Assessment report and develop a policy around size of new properties.

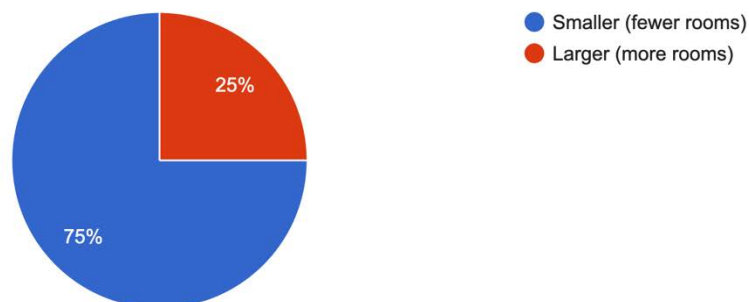


(7) Are you looking for a bigger or smaller place to live? (Please tick ✓)

20 responses

Summary of the data: The majority were looking to move into a smaller property (75% of respondent households) rather than larger property (25%). This may reflect the older age of many of the respondents (and the population) who are perhaps looking to downside.

Action: Compare data with Housing Needs Assessment report and develop a policy around size of new properties.

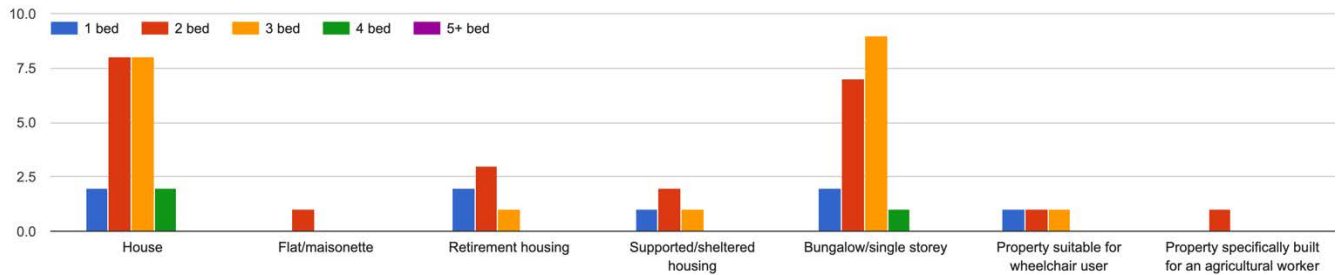


(8) If you, or a member of your household, are seeking a new home in Hitcham within the next five years, what type of property do you think you would be looking for? (Please tick ✓ the kind of property that would best suit your needs).

Summary of the data: Of those looking to move within the next 5 years, there is particular interest in:

- 2 and 3 bedroom houses
- 2 and 3 bedroom bungalow/single storey homes

Action: Compare data with Housing Needs Assessment report and develop a policy around type of housing needed within the parish.



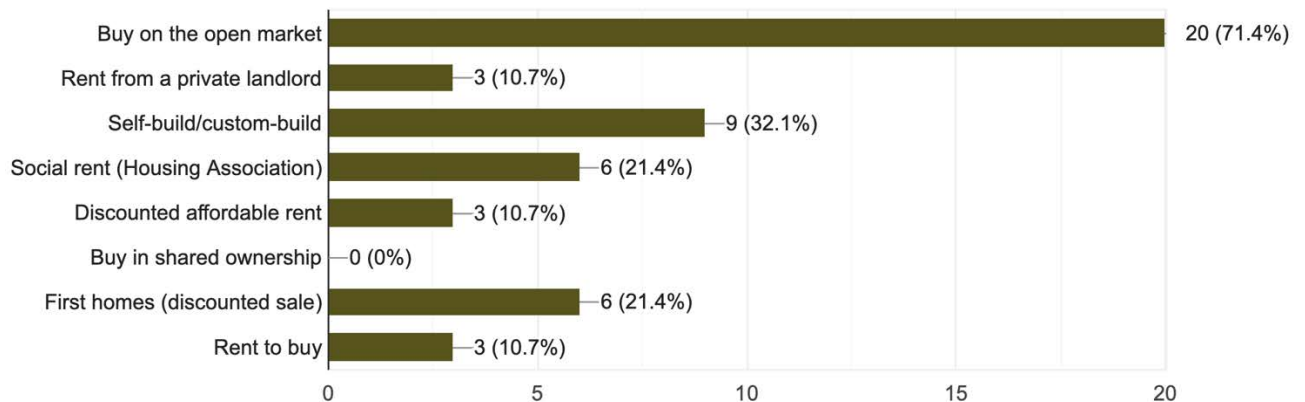
(9) If the following were available in Hitcham, which would you be looking for? (Please tick ✓ one or more boxes)

28 responses

Summary of the data: Particular interest in

- Buying on the open market (71.4%)
- Self-build/custom-build (32.1%)
- Social rent (Housing Association) (21.4%)
- First homes (discounted affordable rent) (21.4%)

Action: Compare data with Housing Needs Assessment report and develop policy around type and tenure of housing needed within the parish.



(10) If Hitcham had to accommodate more housing development in the future, where would be the most appropriate location(s)?

92 responses

Summary of the data: a variety of answers came from respondent households

- o Causeway
- o Adjacent to the Causeway
- o Behind new development on the Causeway
- o Centre of the village
- o Brownfield sites
- o Infill
- o Others

Action: develop a policy about location (specific or otherwise) locating potential development area(s).

Sorted data

Causeway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Along the causeway o Along the road connecting Hitcham and Bildeston o The Causeway o The Causeway o The Causeway o The Causeway land between Fairway and Town Cottage - Woodview and Causeway House Farm - Elmtree Cottage and Brettenham Road o Continue linear development along the village o Main roadside of the village where there are still gaps NOT the surrounding fields beyond o On the causeway
Adjacent to the Causeway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adjacent to the Causeway o At the far end of Causeway Estate/on the field beyond the five houses on the Causeway o Continuation of the causeway estate that was originally planned years ago or meadow next to Mowles. o Continue the originally planned loop to the Causeway Estate back round to main road o Either side of High Rd (Main St) o In land area behind Causeway estate to Village Hall on Eastern side of Causeway. Close to shop but not visible from the main Road. Also N.W of Cross Green o Causeway estate - make it bigger o in land behind the main road existing housing o Meadow behind causeway estate, any spare land around post office/village hall area to create more of a central hub. o Probably the area already considered behind the Causeway Estate - as long as the access issues could be sorted out. (They are what stopped the affordable housing development last time)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The land between the Elms and Cross Green (East Side) - the land on the North side of the Causeway Estate- If Ranch was to be extended, on land to the north.
Behind new development on the Causeway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Behind the current new development ending at village hall ○ Behind the last set of houses that have just been built along beside the post office ○ Behind the new houses next to the shop; individual infill houses if sufficient room for both existing and new build to have decent garden areas ○ Behind the new houses which have just been built on the causeway ○ ○ ○ In the area of the 6 new houses in order to focus the village epicentre around the shop and Village Hall ○ Meadow behind causeway estate, any spare land around post office/village hall area to create more of a central hub. ○ Near areas that have already had multiple homes developed on. ○
Centre of the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central to the village ○ Central to the village to maximise use of local facilities. ○ Centre of village ○ Any future development should be restricted to the current nucleus of the village. Hitcham is a very 'long' village and does not need to be stretch any further. Footpaths are restricted to the centre of the village which serves the central services of the village shop/hall and the childrens playground. The main road is extremely busy so any development outside the central hub would be dangerous particularly for children and the elderly. ○ Long the housing line between the shop and Brettenham Road ○ Near the amenities
Brownfield sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there any "Brown Sites"? Small fields not viable for cultivation ○ Brown field and suitable infill ○ Brown sites ○ Brownfield sites - redundant farm buildings or further up The Causeway, opposite Causeway House Farm where there is access from the road. Land opposite houses on Fen Lane ○ Brownfield sites rather than agricultural land. ○ Large Gardens, plots of land and brown field sites off the causeway.
Infill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ between houses already there ○ Infill gaps between existing housing plots ○ Infill ○ infill & behind existing houses in the middle of the village ○ Infill along the Causeway - Brettenham Road - Water Run ○ infill and centre of the village near facilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infill between existing properties ○ Infill on main road (B1115) ○ Infills - no more green land use ○ Infills only ○ No one main area - small gaps used between existing housing most appropriate ○ Existing in-fill sites, although detrimental to views etc, are preferred to taking even more farm land out of production. Not more than 6 houses on a site to prevent the creation of an 'estate'. ○ Garden Infill or along main thoroughfare ○ In fill between existing properties and possibly at end of properties NE of Causeway Estate ○ Shall developments as infills and characteristic to surrounding building ○ Small developments ideally along main road running through Hitcham rather than on single carriageway areas ○ Small developments infilling along main road ○ Strictly confined to the current village envelope/development boundary. ○ There are no appropriate locations other than infill ○ Within main village boundary ○ Within the main village - without changing the vista or encroaching on too many other properties. Properties for downsizing would benefit those wishing to stay in the area
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A plot for affordable housing has been available for 15 years . All permissions were in place but provider says there is no money. ○ Areas 98 and 99 nearing Bildeston ○ Depends greatly on the specific number of houses 'required' or mandated! ○ Between Hitcham and Bildeston ○ Bildeston Road ○ Bildeston, Great Finborough ○ Brettenham road ○ Fen Lane or infill sites. Dale Road, Brettenham road ○ If more properties were built, you would have to take into consideration Doctors and schools, we are only a small village. ○ Land opposite houses in Fen Lane- Bethel church site ○ Meadow land on the rise out of the Water run towards Stowmarket. ○ Near a transport link ○ North East of the Water Run ○ NOT by building houses in gardens. Gardens should be preserved as original size to preserve green spaces. ○ On the B1115 ○ Opposite Pauline Squirrels farmhouse ○ Outskirts ○ The field to the right of The Rocking Horse house as you face it

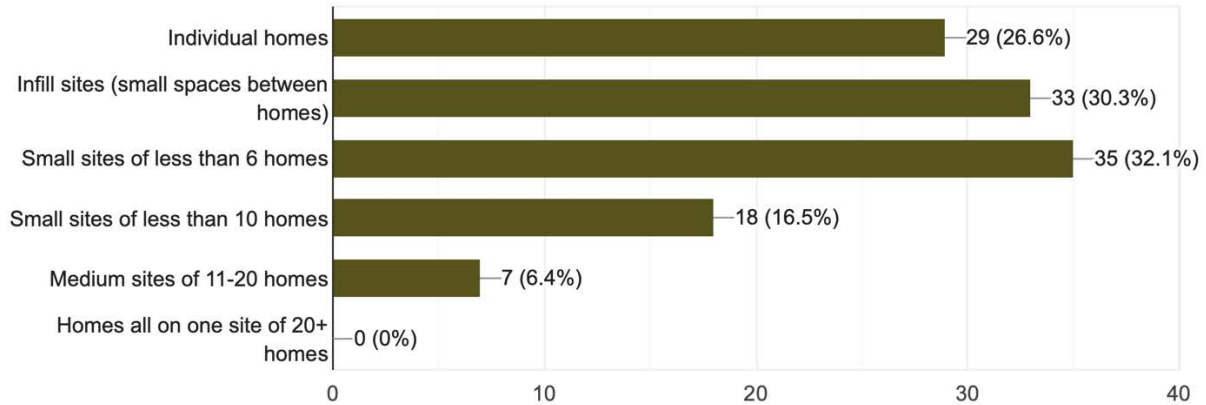
<p>No more development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I don't want anymore houses in hitcham ○ If Hitcham is to stay as a nice, picturesque village, no more houses need be built. Too much build up already has ruined much of the views for everyone. ○ It's a small village and shouldn't be developed. The towns close by all have more than enough development we need to maintain small villages as they are, not everywhere needs to be developed and turned into small towns ruining the countryside ○ Not in hitcham! ○ Not in the village ○ Preferably not ○ Question 12 had the comment on paper ""No new development!"" ○ There is NONE (underlined three times). If you keep putting houses down, eventually there will be nowhere for rain to soak into the grounds:- FLOODING!!! ○ There should be NO more housing in Hitcham imposed (underlined) by the District Council. Let them build in Hadleigh or Stowmarket! ○ Towards Finnbourgh ○ Waste land near church
<p>Don't know</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not know ○ Don't know ○ Not known ○ Not sure ○ Unknown

(11) If Babergh allocates more housing to Hitcham in the future, how should the housing be distributed in the parish? (Please tick ✓ one box)

109 responses

Summary of the data: Most of respondent households (31.1%) stated 'small sites of less than 6 homes', followed by 'infill sites' (20.3%) and 'individual homes' (26.6%). Less support for larger sites, and no support for 20+ homes.

Action: Compare data with Housing Needs Assessment report and feed results into Design Code work. Develop a policy of size of developments.



(12) What features would you like to see included in any new housing development?
 (Please tick ✓ one or more boxes)

110 responses

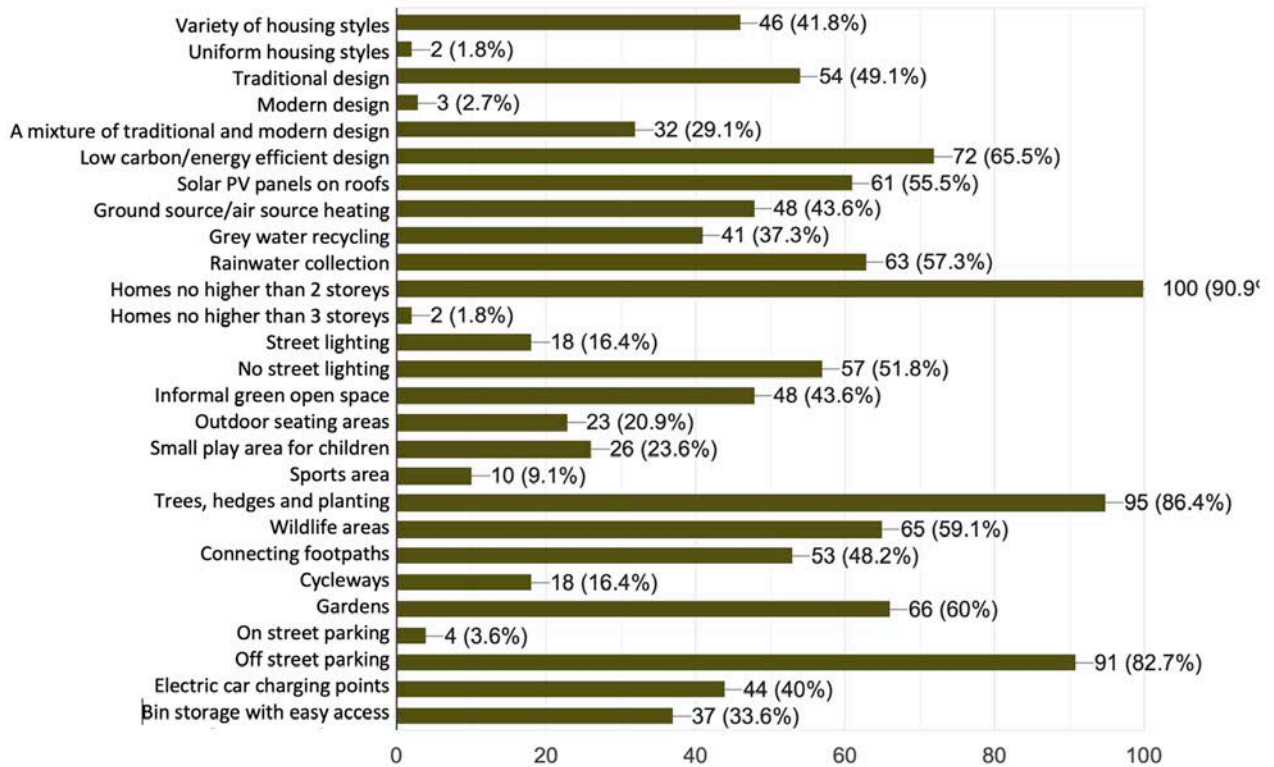
NOTE: answers to this question should be considered alongside answers to question 13.

Summary of the data: Particular support for

- Homes no higher than 2 storeys (90.9%)
- Trees, hedges and planting (86.4%)
- Off street parking (82.7%)
- Low carbon/energy efficient design (65.5%)
- Gardens (60%)

Least support for uniform housing (1.8%), homes no higher than 3 storeys (1.8%), modern design (2.7%) and on street parking (3.6%)

Action: Feed in comments to Design Code work.



(13) Are there any other design criteria that new development should include for Hitcham?

55 responses

Summary of the data: Some support for affordable housing, gardens and village feel.

Action: Feed in comments to Design Code work.

Raw data

- o A Public house
- o A selection of house sizes
- o Adequate green space, tree planting
- o Affordable homes for families to enable a younger demographic to live in Hitcham
- o Affordable homes is the main criteria in this village
- o Affordable housing most important
- o Affordable housing/starter homes
- o Appropriate relationship of house to garden, (not huge house with little garden)
- o Architect designed 2 and 3 bed houses but only build them with the first 1 or 2 bedrooms so that they are affordable as starter homes. The extra rooms can be added later in accordance with the already agreed design 'as and when' the occupants have a larger family and a bit more income.
- o Blend in with existing housing
- o Brick build if rendered should be Suffolk pink
- o Bungalows
- o Confirmation that there are appropriate facilities ie. Health, Schools with vacancies

- country village ethos/style
- Cycle safe storage area
- Dog park
- Each house should be located with a good size plot, ensuring a decent size garden.
- Everything that has been built in Hitcham fits well into the village, any new builds should be energy efficient but with traditional looks.
- FTTP broadband.
- Future house design should be of a similar design style but not all identical!. (we currently have a too diverse style of housing). Any new housing should be as eco friendly as possibly but not include solar roof panels(they are aesthetically very un pleasing). It should not include street lighting as this adds to light pollution. Footpaths are also critical, as the main road through the village is so busy.
- Good surface water drainage
- House should not all look the same.
- Houses with gardens
- Ideally bungalows and wildlife areas to support what we have already.
- If any new homes bungalows should be built.
- If people are designing and building their own individual new houses, it is a mater of personal choice for them, not something imposed on them by others who think they know better!
- Important that any houses have off street parking to avoid cars being everywhere like Bildeston.
- Key elements: traditional design with high insulation and EPC score. Can be done, even for affordable homes which are needed, but, surprisingly, are not mentioned here.
- New development should be in keeping with current look of village- no way out, supermodern designs!
- New houses should be more adaptable depending on the age of the residents. Hitcham has a lot of elderly residents.
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No further removal of existing hedgerows than absolutely necessary.
- None
- Not that I can think of.
- Not to be visible from main road. No more ribbon development like Oxford Meadow which was a disproportionate loss for a few houses.
- Off Road parking
- Off street parking for 2 cars, Footpaths to be continuous
- Play area
- Priority to affordable homes , even if development is denser
- Replanting of dead trees lining pathways, removal of stumps.
- Retaining as much water as possible
- Should be sympathetic to local existing housing
- Should not damage the aspects/positioning of heritage buildings. Use traditional material - not upvc
- Small business units

- Small to Medium size homes
- Spacious plots in-keeping with existing homes in the village, i.e. new builds shouldn't be crammed into small spaces between existing plots.
- Sufficiently large gardens to maintain rural character
- The houses to mimic the style of those already in the village
- They must be in keeping with the village- so they 'blend in'
- To be sympathetic to existing buildings, include areas for the parking of 2 vehicles, Not HGV's
- To fit in with "village feel"
- Village green, create a centre for the village, plus access to school places and doctors

(14) There are 57 listed buildings in Hitcham (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk). Do you know of any buildings or features which are NOT already listed, but which have significant local heritage value due to their age, rarity, aesthetic interest, archaeological interest, historical association, landmark status or social and communal value?

52 responses

Summary of the data: Buildings or features noted for their local heritage value (need checking):

- Assembly Room
- School house
- Village shop

Action: Check above list against Listed Buildings list. Consider other buildings also. Undertake assessment of their heritage value using the Historic England criteria for Non-designated Heritage Assets.

Raw data

- All buildings pre dating 1900 should be listed. They are an important part of our history.
- Assembly Hall
- Assembly room
- Assembly rooms if not protected- restore to community or low impact commercial use
- Brickhouse should be increased to 2* listing to protect its immediate environs
- Hitcham School
- I would like to see the village shop listed to preserve its uniqueness/ quirkiness and social value..
- No
- no
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- no
- No
- No

Summary of the data: Suggested areas:

- o Footpaths
- o Around the church
- o Meadow next to village hall and play area
- o Woodland
- o Hobbets
- o Others

Action: Consider all green spaces. Undertake assessment as 'Local Green Spaces' as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Raw data

All/general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All o All o All o All o All o All o All o All farmland o All green areas. o All green spaces within the village o All green spaces, no green no place for rain to disburse, already now happening on road into Stowmarket. Flooding (underlined twice) o All of them o All of them o All of them o All the surrounding fields and meadows that are currently accessible via public footpaths, beyond the current roadside housing line. o All, At least create an orchard, beavers would help retain the water through the summer o Any areas that are of natural beauty, wildlife etc o Any woodland areas and meadows o Areas that have easy access to members of the village. I do not have the knowledge to name any. o As many as possible o As many as possible o As much as possible o We have lots of green areas, mostly agricultural, these give the village the charm most of the residents enjoy. It will be disappointing to loose too much of this land to too much development that is not essentially needed.
Footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Access to well kept footpaths for recreation o Local footpaths o Footpaths o The permissive path from the village hall to the dale. o Walk down to the reservoir and back o Footway area behind the Village Hall and the meadows beyond o The local park and footpaths

<p>Around the church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Area around church, o around the church o Church Green o Church Green, Church Yard o Green by the church o Walks in the church area o Church green o Layby on left of lane leading to Church which has been illegally encroached by adjacent landowner.
<p>Meadow next to village hall, play area and land behind Causeway Estate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Area around the village hall o Area next to village hall- playing field. It would be helpful if the council could buy this land and make it a permanent park o Around village hall o Meadow beside the village hall; field behind Browns Close o Area behind Doghouse, next to Causeway Estate o meadow near causeway estate behind the dog house o Meadow next to the Village Hall o Meadow next to Village Hall o Meadow next to Village hall o Meadow next to Village Hall; wild meadow o Meadow, play area behind village hall and field where fetes are held. o Village hall field and all local footpaths o Village hall, playing field and play area o The Village Hall Green, the meadow next to Causeway Estate o The Meadow (behind the Village Hall); all existing footpaths; woodland area around the church o The meadow (long meadow) o The meadow and fields surrounding/behind the village hall and the reservoir. They house so much wildlife. o the meadow at the back of bridge cottage and the natural area behind this o The meadow next to the village hall o The meadows, although it seems the local farmers (Squirrels) doing a good job overseeing with longer term vision o The play area and meadow near the village hall. The meadow down from the village hall that connects through to Dale Road. o Behind the shop/close to playing field o Field beside the Village Hall o Field by Village Hall o Field next to village hall o Fields around the churchyard, up to Squirrels coaches o Next to village hall and any spaces behind peoples houses o Open land next to village hall. (privately owned) o Wildlife area next to village hall. o field adjacent to Village Hall o Field area next to village hall. o Field at back of new houses, next to Village Hall o Land next to the village Hall

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Land to the right of the village hall where fetes have taken place o near village hall o area around Village Hall o Playing field next to village hall, orchard on causeway, green space behind causeway estate o We don't feel we can fairly comment here as we are new to the area but the Village Hall & surrounding green space & playing areas definitely need protection o Behind the Causeway either side
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Woodland , meadows o Woodlands o woodlands, meadowland, road verges/hedges, field hedges, copses, creating more blue space o Woods and maintain footpaths o Maximum farm and woodland
Hobbets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hobbets area o The Hobbets
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Views around Hitcham and the Water Run. o The dale are and wildflower fields there. o Both side entrances to Browns Close as both 'triangles' are covered in wild orchids in early Summer. These areas should not be mown in early Summer, as was done this year, otherwise the orchids are cut down before they are allowed to flower. o Falls Meadow. o In particular, ancient hedgerows (one has already been comprehensively vandalised) and woodland. Efforts have been made to preserve rare species in the graveyard - but again, one foolish and uninformed person has done huge damage there by mowing preservation areas without permission. o Need to protect all green spaces visible from main road, particularly church/Hitcham Hall/White horse area including old chapel site. And views from Northern approach. Also Falls area. o The field in the dale that has the public footpaths going through it. o Views around Hitcham and the Water Run. o Water Reservoir Area o The ponds along The Causeway. These are ponds that were used by farms for livestock and are part of our rural heritage. They are also havens for wildlife
None/not sure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o None o None o none o Not sure o Don't know

(16) Are there any views or vistas within the parish that we should look to retain?

110 responses

Summary of the data: variety of views suggested.

Action: Develop a policy around views/vistas of community importance.

Raw data

- All
- All
- All
- All
- All
- All (Doggie poop bag dispensers at start of some walks -free?)
- All if them
- All of them
- All that are current
- All the views
- All the views across rolling hills & farmland
- All views and vistas. A beautiful one next to the shop has now bene ruined.
- All views behind peoples houses
- all views behind the houses off the main road
- All views from the B1115
- All views should be cherished, this much became clear during lockdown.
- Already been destroyed on the Causeway
- Any existing views from current footpaths
- Approach to the village from Bury road. The Causeway (Finborough end)
Views from the footpaths
- Around church- Views from main road near Squirrels farm
- As many as possible
- As many as possible that exist now.
- As many as possible, particularly over the fields to Parker's Wood.
- As many views and vistas should be retained as possible for the wellbeing of our community
- Back of the Causeway Estate (where bench is)
- Behind Post Office
- Behind the stretch of road between Browns Close and the shop. - Bench behind Causeway estate.
- Behind Village Hall and green"
- Browns Close
- By the lake area (back of Dales Farm - across road) - looks back at Hitcham Village and across as far as Kersey.
- church views, meadowland views from village hall
- Community park
- Don't know
- Farm land Bury Road
- Follow the footpath behind Causeway Estate, there is a bench at the hilltop that overlooks the farm, horses and a couple of cottages.
- From Bury road across the falls to the village
- From Causeway across to Wattisham and Brettenham
- From Dale's Farm Reservoir looking down to Hitcham.
- From reservoir. From back of Village. From footpath running behind Causeway on Wattisham side.

- From the B1115 across the Dale. From behind Causeway Estate across to Wattisham.
- From the Causeway towards Brettenham - around the church- Dale Road towards Brettenham
- From top of Balls Hill overlooking the Church and village.
- Hitcham Vale views
- In particular, views across the valley towards Dale Road and towards Wattisham, which are the signature views of the village.
- No
- no
- None
- Open fields
- Parkers Wood and Fen lane
- Protect views to rear of existing properties. ie no second line of housing behind existing homes
- Ruined by new houses!!
- Several from main Causeway road
- The area around the church should remain undisturbed to maintain the peace and tranquillity deserving of such an establishment.
- The childrens playground position should be preserved away from the immediate danger of the main road and with the feeling of a natural environment (not crowded by housing) good for the nurturing of young children."
- The Dale, East and West of B1115, Views from Hobbits.
- The view behind the post office across the valley
- The view from the causeway towards Dale Road
- The views across the valleys on either side of the main road
- The views in Hitcham are beautiful and should be retained.
- There are good views from the main Causeway in both directions. Some of these might have to be sacrificed. New houses might gain these views. Building always blocks views.
- Towards Hitcham Falls
- Various views from near the reservoir at The Hobbits
- View fro Water Run, Cross green, Causeway across to Wattisham Nedging and Naughton.
- View from behind Village Hall
- View from The Causeway, starting at The Falls and all the way up to The Hobbet.
- View from the church and surrounding fields
- View from the meadow near the village hall.
- View from the walk from the back of The Causeway estate to Fen Lane/Loose Hall"
- Views across to Dale Road and Brettenham. - West of Causeway and east across to Wattisham.
- Views from Balls Hill.
- Views from existing properties that outlook onto farmland.
- Views from near the post office across the valley from near the new houses, which have ruined that particular view form the road, but that's progress?
- Views from the main Road into and out of Hitchamvillage both from South and North inc. church and Hitcham Hall area - particularly protect western side of Causeway Views

- Views from the reservoir
- Views from village hall across fields and along Bury Road
- Views of any listed building
- Views of the valley behind the village hall / play area.
- Views on both sides of road that give vistas across valleys and fields
- Views to North of Causeway
- We are a rural village surrounded by countryside with wide ranging views generally. New development should be very sensitive to this open nature of the village
- we like it all as it is
- We should not give up any views or vistas, they make the parish what it is
- Yes
- Yes (did not actually put any down)
- Yes, looking over the falls - oh there's so much. There are wonderful views from the footpaths and behind the houses on both sides of the road.

COMMUNITY & SERVICES

(17) What community facilities do we need more of in Hitcham?

77 responses

Summary of the data: community facilities were particularly identified as needed:

- Public transport/bus service
- Café
- Public house

Action: Develop a policy and possible projects around community infrastructure.

Raw data

- A childrens play area with swings etc.
- A much improved public transport service for people/ families with one car leaving families 'abandoned' in the village during the daytime and for people without a car probably/possibly older people who may need to get to the doctors surgery based in the next village.
- A pub.
- A regular bus service to Bury St Edmunds.
- a tea room, exercise swimming pool for community
- Additional footpaths.
- Allotments
- Better bus service
- Better bus service including to Stowmarket and Hadleigh
- Better regular buses and one which goes to Stowmarket station.
- Bus route - at least on certain days
- Bus service
- Bus service
- Bus service
- Bus service beyond the causeway
- Bus service to Stowmarket - Fibre broadband wifi
- Bus services
- Buses (transport)
- Cafe/Restaurant

- Car parking to improve the use of the facilities in the epicentre of the village.
- Cinema nights
- Community green - (like the one by the VH)
- Dog waste bins- especially at Cross green/Brettenham Road end of village
- Ensuring the future of the village shop
- Existing facilities adequate for size of village anything added may not get uses and waste of money.
- Football field; Pub; Farm shop; Café/restaurant
- Garage
- Health centre, youth club
- Horse riding paths
- Improved bus service/community transport, traffic calming measures, parking area for shop, street lights along main thoroughfare. (Community Speed Watch)
- It's the people, not buildings that make these.
- Larger village shop. Part-time shared banking facility. Hopper bus service into neighbouring towns
- Local Pub
- Local pub, local tea room/restaurant
- Local shops
- Medical
- Meeting places and café/pub. Communal outside area
- More dog bins. Signs to make clear where the footpaths are and are Not.
- More for under 40
- More recycling facilities
- Need to keep shop and post office"
- None
- None
- Not sure
- Open "public spaces" other than footpaths
- Outdoor community area - not a play area (we've got one)
- Probably sufficient.
- Pub
- pub
- Pub
- Pub
- Pub
- Pub
- Pub
- Pub and buses
- Pub or a café. A picnic area in the summer
- Pub or Café or other social centre
- pub or eating establishment.
- Pub, cafe
- Pub/coffee shop/restaurant
- Public House
- Public House
- Public house
- Public House.
- Public transport

- o Public transport
- o Public transport, faster broadband in certain areas
- o Public transport. To work in nearby towns probably means having a car.
- o Something for the young people - community transport
- o Space for sports and outdoor activities.
- o Sportsfield, football goal, Cycle paths, pub/cafe, better signposting for paly area/community space
- o Street lighting right through village
- o Tea room/ public house, a place for residents to meet and have lunch etc.
- o There is nothing for young people - no youth club
- o Toilets, pub
- o Traffic calming speed ramps or alternating 'islands' through the central nucleus of the village.
- o Transport
- o Transport into town
- o Transport links , Police patrols
- o Transport services
- o Transportation services - car share, buses
- o Updated and modernised shop/post office, faster broadband, bus service
- o Village Green
- o We don't need any more but we do need more volunteers to help with existing ones.

(18) What current community assets in Hitcham need protecting?

101 responses

Summary of the data: current community assets in Hitcham that need protecting:

- Village hall
- Church
- Village shop/Post Office
- Play area
- Footpaths

Action: Develop a policy and possible projects around protection of current community assets.

Raw data

- o All views and vistas, they play area, village hall field. All areas with public footpaths should NOT have housing built along them or through them.
- o Around the church
- o Church and other places of worship
- o Church, Village Hall, Shop, Play area, foorpaths
- o Church
- o Community Hall, Shop, Church, children's play area
- o Community play area and village hall.
- o Expand shop with parking
- o Hall, shop and church
- o Hitcham shop

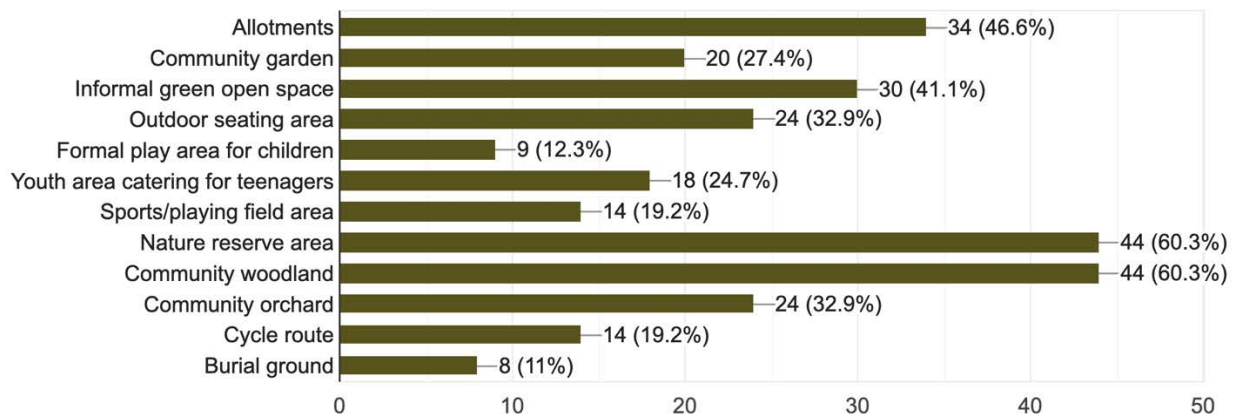
- o It's ruralness
- o Local shop
- o Nice friendly community / village hall
- o None
- o Our views
- o Our village shop and Village Hall
- o Parish church, village hall.
- o Park
- o Play area, Village Hall, shop/post office
- o Play group/nursery
- o PO
- o Post office
- o Post office , village hall
- o Post office /shop, Village hall, Play park
- o Post Office and shop
- o Post Office and Shop, all green areas
- o Post office and shop, village hall
- o Post office, Village hall, Bus service
- o Post office/banking"
- o Post Office/Shop, Village Hall Also make better use of church as community venue
- o Shop
- o Shop
- o Shop , Church, Village hall
- o Shop & Hall
- o Shop, church village hall, village green
- o shop, church, bus service, playgroup
- o Shop, church, village hall, children's play area.
- o Shop, hall
- o Shop, Post Office, Village Hall, Church.
- o Shop, village hall
- o Shop, Village Hall Church - Re-open White Horse
- o Shop, Village Hall, church
- o Shop, village hall, church playing field footpaths
- o Shop, Village Hall, Church, Free Church, Children's Play Area
- o Shop, Village Hall, Church, Walks
- o Shop/PO - Village hall/playing field - Church and its graveyard
- o Shop/post office, village hall and churches.
- o Shop/Post Office, Village Hall, Play area, Church
- o The children's playground
- o The countryside
- o The local post office and shop
- o The post office/village shop. The village hall and green
- o The shop
- o The shop
- o the shop and post office
- o The shop, all footpaths and the mobile library.
- o The Shop!!! Village Hall and its playing field
- o The Village Hall and the shop
- o The village hall, that provides many diverse activities every day of the week used by the village as well as surrounding villagers.

- o The village hall, the village shop, the church
- o The village shop
- o The village shop and post office
- o The village shop and the village hall.
- o The village shop, the chapel, the Church and it's overflow car park.
- o The village shop/post office!! An absolute lifeline in the villagers.especially those without their own transport and the elderly.
- o Village hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village hall
- o Village hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village hall
- o Village hall
- o Village Hall
- o Village hall
- o Village Hall - Church - Shop
- o Village hall , post office
- o Village hall and adjacent meadow, village shop and post office
- o village hall and local shop and post office
- o Village Hall and Post Office
- o Village Hall and Post Office
- o Village hall and shop
- o Village Hall and Shop
- o Village Hall and shop
- o Village hall and village shop
- o Village hall, church
- o Village Hall, Church.
- o Village Hall, Post Office and Shop. Play area, footpaths, use of meadow next to Village Hall
- o Village Hall, Shop
- o Village hall, shop and Church.
- o Village hall, shop and Post Office, church
- o Village Hall, Shop, Church
- o Village Hall, Shop, play area and field at side of village hall. Public Footpaths.
- o Village hall, Village shop and Hitcham All Saints Church.
- o village hall, village shop and playground
- o Village Hall; Post Office; Shop
- o Village Hall; Post Office
- o Village Hall; Post Office and Shop
- o Village Hall. Shop and PO.
- o Village Shop
- o Village shop , Village hall
- o village shop, needs maintaining and expanding, church
- o Village Shop, Village Hall and Church
- o Village Shop; Church; Village Hall
- o Village shop; Village Hall; Play area
- o Village shop/post office

(19) If some new outdoor open space is available for the community, what would you like to see it used for? (Please tick ✓ one or more boxes)

73 responses

Summary of the data: Most interest in 'nature reserve area' (60.3% of household respondents), 'community woodland' (60.3%), and 'allotments' (46.6%).
 Action: Develop a policy and possible projects around new outdoor open space. Feed in comments to Design Code work.



Others

4 responses

Raw data

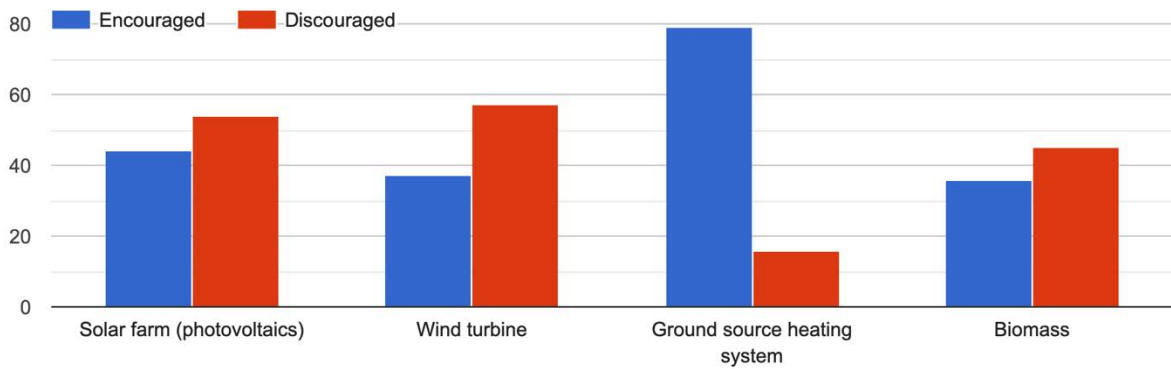
- Are there any youths in the village? (If not, this is clearly not necessary)
- Several of these are already in place so not applicable
- Secure area for dogs to exercise
- Bird Hide

(20) Should the following be encouraged/discouraged in Hitcham for community energy generation? (Please tick ✓ one or more boxes)

Summary of the data:

- Encouraged: ground source heating system
- Discouraged: solar farm (marginal), wind turbine and biomass (marginal)

Action: Develop a policy and possible projects community energy generation.



Raw data

- o anaerobic digester
- o biofuel
- o Comments on above answers: Solar farm discouraged was ticked three times. Wind Turbine encouraged but only if it goes up on the hill by the mast which has already spoiled the countryside, so it won't have much impact!T
- o District Heating Schemes
- o Ground source heating system not realistic for size of village
- o If there were enough support from residents the Parish Council could reasonably look at community upgrading schemes to help residents paying hugely increased prices for oil and gas to switch to more economical alternatives. Sadly the scattered nature of the village precludes a community scheme like Bildeston's. Wish it didn't.
- o None
- o Should be (19): Insert - Informal green open space + Nature Reserve + Community Woodland + Tree Planting + Other; Would like to see an official Footpath on the inside of the hedge, along the full length of Fen Lane, in view of recent increased traffic and the speed derestriction from The Cottage onwards.
- o Solar farms are detrimental to arable farming which is 'best use' of Hitcham farmland.
- o Solar panels on new builds and older suitable homes

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

(21) Is there a need for more employment opportunities in Hitcham?

Summary of the data:

- o Some support for offices, small business park, small business units, café.
- o Where there is not support it was because there is a feeling that there is employment opportunities elsewhere, and that is a residential village.

Action: Develop a policy regarding appropriate employment opportunities/sites in the parish.

Yes, please specify what

43 responses

Raw data

- o A building where office facilities could be shared
- o A small business park to offer a wider range of employment opportunities
- o A variety of jobs to suit all ages
- o Any rural enterprise using redundant buildings
- o Anything if suitably positioned within the village
- o Café - vehicle repair, but only if affordable housing built to encourage young families to stay and work
- o cottage industries, small businesses
- o Cottage Industry
- o Don't know - Do we have an unemployment group in the village? If so, my answer is yes.
- o Encourage small businesses to offer local employment to keep our young in the village.
- o Facilities for small businesses
- o For the young. - in general trades.
- o For young people who can't yet commute, shop jobs.
- o For younger local people.
- o Gardening and maintenance services
- o Hubs where people could form partnerships with others
- o Improved broadband will allow homeworking.
- o jobs for young people
- o Light Industrial Units.
- o Local cottage industries based in the village.
- o No
- o No jobs at all except Post Office
- o Not sure
- o Office units, pub
- o outlying properties need efficient broad band
- o Possibly Small Business Park?
- o Probably yes, but there are few business premises
- o Retail and small industry
- o Small business units to be created for start ups
- o Small businesses
- o Small businesses
- o small units for office or industrial use
- o Sole / Small trader Workspace - Farm hand/ worker
- o Working from home, agricultural employment. But only industrial buildings would be unsuitable.
- o yes
- o Yes
- o Yes
- o Yes
- o Yes - no comment on form
- o Yes - nothing specified on form
- o Yes, but did not specify
- o yes, probably agricultural or outdoor, light commercial
- o Young people to learn a trade.

No, please say why

34 responses

Raw data

- Adequate employment opportunities elsewhere
- Again there are large towns close by providing opportunities. Small villages should be left as they are and not ruined by development. It's the main reason most people move to places like this
- Against office/factory development.
- Bringing more business to the village would diminish the rural feel of the village which is a large part of the attraction to the village.
- Don't know
- Don't think it would be viable in a rural area such as this with no public transport to speak of.
- Hitcham had loads of business to supply all our needs till the supermarkets opened up, which took all the trade.
- Hitcham is a residential village
- Hitcham is a residential village NOT a business hub.
- Hitcham is primarily an agricultural area, farmed by at least 4 different farms. Most of its residents are either commuters or retired. People move here for the peaceful environment whether they are in employment or retired. If they wish to be closer to the workplace or a busier life style they will choose to live in a alternative town. Businesses would be much better placed to establish themselves in nearby towns of Stowmarket, Hadleigh or Sudbury where there is a more ready workforce supply. People move away from Hitcham if they wish to either to be nearer their workplace or want to be nearer a more bustling life style ie more shops and night life pubs/ restaurants.
- I came here for peace and quiet.
- Instead I believe we should encourage home workers to take up residence. They will live here and shop here, and be more actively engaged with the community - we've already seen this happening.
- It would almost certainly mean industrial units or offices would need to be built and with easy access to Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Hadleigh and Stowmarket for employment there really isn't, the need.
- It would encourage more crime.
- It's a village not an industrial area
- Leave us as a village
- No
- No - but no reason given
- No - reason not given
- No answer
- No, not part of why people would live here
- No, there are opportunities in Stowmarket, Bildeston and Hadleigh.
- People are able to get to surrounding areas for employment
- Plenty of opportunities nearby.
- Small rural village with a number of surrounding towns offering employment opportunities.
- The village is ideal for those wishing to run a self-employed/ small business from private homes. Those wishing to seek employment is alternative establishments have a range of local towns within a 30-40minute commute of the village
- There is a greater need for homes and transport facilities first.
- There is plenty of work in local areas
- There's plenty opportunities close by.

- These seems to be enough employment in the local towns so I see no need for encouraging commercial enterprises into the village
- This would require development- Hitcham is farming land
- Unlikely to be ever viable
- Village not big enough and demographic of village
- With all due respect I would say that there is not any need for this.

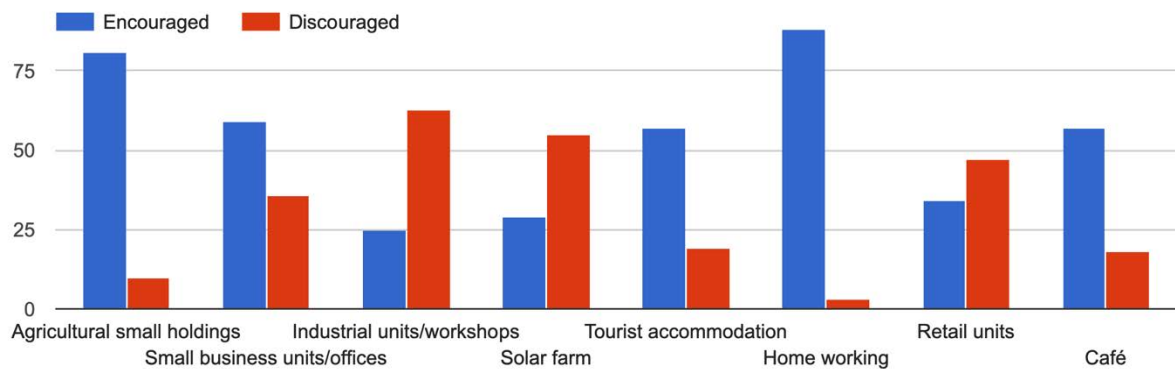
(22) Should the following be encouraged/discouraged in Hitcham? (Please tick ✓ one or more boxes)

Summary of the data:

More encouraged: agricultural small holdings, small business units/offices, tourist accommodation, home working and café

More discouraged: industrial units/workshops, solar farm, retail units

Action: Develop a policy and possible projects around business support.



Other, please specify

Raw data

- A19 Nature Reserve, woodland/orchard
- Comments on answers: have plenty of tourist accommodation already; solar farm and retail units ticked many times each; Café, if someone wants to open one, why not?
- No reason for standing in the way of these although imagine most not realistically worthwhile business to have in Hitcham. Something like a café would only really work as say part of a farm shop!
- None
- None of the above
- Not sure- Agricultural small holdings, industrial units, Solar farm,
- Pub
- Pub
- Pub brought back to village
- Pub which can double up as Coffee shop, and community hub
- Public House
- Residential Home park should be encouraged

(23) Are there any sites in the village that would benefit from development/change of use? Is so, please state where.

40 responses

Summary of the data: The Assembly Room and free church are mentioned.
Action: Develop policy around opportunity sites.

Raw data

- o alongside & behind village hall up to post office
- o Assembly Room (?)
- o Assembly room to Housing
- o Assembly Rooms
- o Assembly rooms site should be developed.
- o Bird Street Farm (privately owned)
- o Free Church - for café - NOT HOUSING or work unit
- o Hitcham Free church, Bus depot
- o I know of no 'brownfield' sites that could be developed for new industrial units and no redundant farm buildings.
- o Land at the rear of Barley Lodge, Syers Farm, The Causeway.
- o Less game shooting - too close to residential areas
- o More residents expansion of village
- o no
- o No
- o No
- o No
- o No
- o No more development
- o None to my knowledge
- o Not aware of any
- o Not sure.
- o Not that I can think of
- o Not that we can think of
- o old buildings into storage/workshop units
- o Remove unused/redundant metal tower on corner of Brettenham Road
- o Return the white horse to a pub
- o Small parcels of land between Causeway and Fen Lane
- o Squirrells' Bus Garage - but, since it's privately owned it's up to them what they do with it!!
- o The assembly hall at Cross Green
- o the assembly rooms
- o The Assembly Rooms property.
- o The Assembly Rooms.
- o The land north of the Causeway estate
- o The Old White Horse should be a Pub again and the Post Box there reinstated.
- o There should be an opportunity for residents to comment on draft plan and comments considered before the plan is put to referendum.
- o Upgrade of village hall
- o Use of unused out buildings/barns
- o We don't really know the Village well enough to comment

- o Yes - the new houses should be knocked down.
- o Yes- playfield to become village owned.

UNDER 18s ONLY

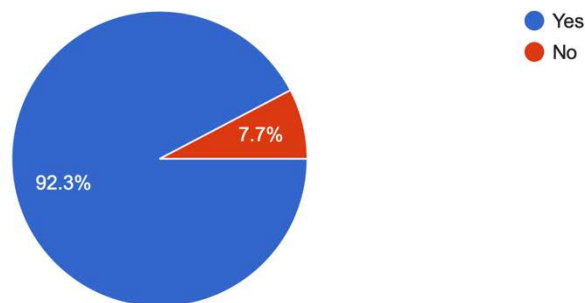
(23) Do you think you will want to stay living in Hitcham as an adult?

13 responses

(note: some responses may not be under 18s)

Summary of the data: The majority of young people want to stay living in Hitcham as an adult (92.3%).

Action: Consider data alongside other data collected from young people.



(25) If you continue living in Hitcham in the future, what would you hope to see?

15 responses

Summary of the data: An appreciation of what Hitcham offers now, with some desire for a pub and more facilities.

Action: Consider data alongside other data collected from young people.

Raw data

- o A home that I can afford to buy
- o A pub because the village does not have a hub for people to meet socially.
- o A Pub!! More varied use of Village Hall for younger people/music/film venue
- o A thriving community in a country setting
- o Better public transport, village cafe/coffee shop
- o Cheaper housing, more to do
- o Chip shop
- o Footpaths
- o Hitcham staying a peaceful place to live
- o Hitcham staying as a real village with a feeling of care and community and the shop/post office as its hub
- o NO GREAT CHANGE
- o Preservation of rural life with no threat of over development
- o Sense of community and better broadband for home working

- Sustainable communities, kids growing up and able to live near their families, easy to travel for school, college or work. Local shop, Post Office, café, childcare. Safe to walk and cycle.
- To stay the same

APPENDIX 6: Stage 3 – Pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 6(a): Posters/flyers for pre-submission consultation.



Appendix 6(b): Banner for pre-submission consultation.



Appendix 6(c): Consultation response form (also online).

HITCHAM

Neighbourhood Plan

DRAFT Neighbourhood Plan

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Consultation period: 13th July to 30th August 2024.

The Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan is a planning policy document written by the community to guide future development in the area until 2036. The Steering Group want to know your views on the draft Plan.

Please use this form to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, or comment online www.hitchamsuffolk.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan, so we can make amendments before submitting it for examination.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a formal stage of consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan before it is submitted to Babergh District Council. Comments received will be reported in a Consultation Statement which will be submitted alongside the Plan, and which will include your organisation (if applicable) and comments. The Consultation Statement will be publicly available online.

On submission of the Neighbourhood Plan, Hitcham Parish Council is required to share personal details of those that have commented on the document with Babergh District Council so that they can discharge their legal duties in relation to publicising the submission of the Plan, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations. By submitting a consultation response at this stage, you authorise Hitcham Parish Council to legally collect and share your data in this manner. You can view the Parish Council's Privacy Policy on the Parish Council website.



BY 30th August, PLEASE DELIVER YOUR FORM TO: Hitcham Village Shop
OR EMAIL: hitchamplan@gmail.com
OR COMPLETE ONLINE: www.hitchamsuffolk.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan

Name	
Email address (or postal address)	
Organisation name (if appropriate)	

1

HOUSING policies				
HIT1: New housing development	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT2: Housing mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT3: Affordable Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				

DESIGN policy				
HIT4: Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				

ENVIRONMENT policies				
HIT5: Built heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				

HIT6: Non-designated Heritage Assets	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT7: Local Green Spaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT8: Landscape and important views	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT9: Dark skies	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT10: Natural assets	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				
HIT11: Accessibility and connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments				

COMMUNITY AND SERVICES policy	
HIT12: Community facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments	

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT policy	
HIT13: Business and rural diversification	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments	

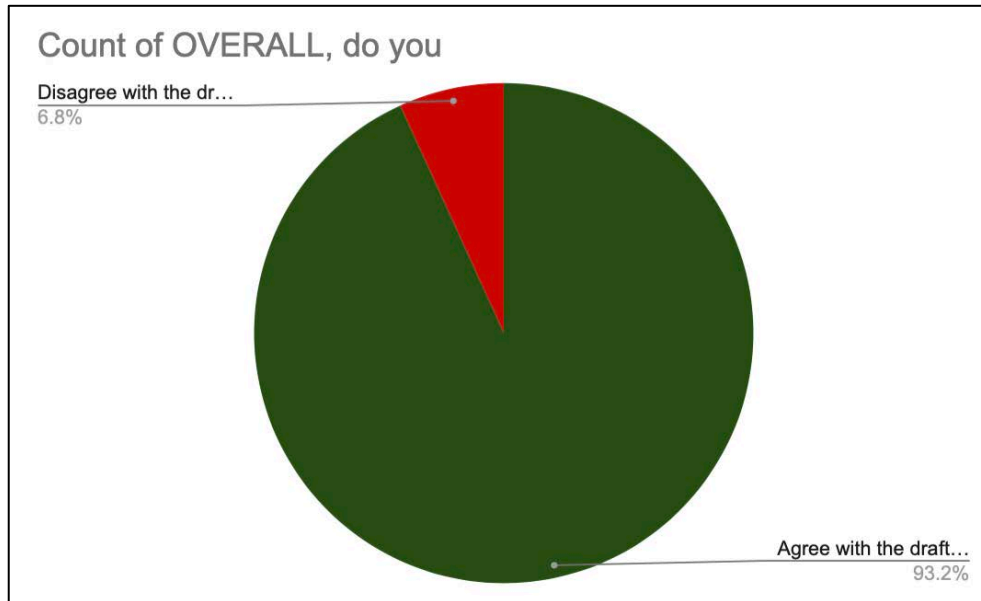
DESIGN GUIDANCE AND CODES	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Comments	

<p>OVERALL, do you</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree with the draft Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disagree with the draft Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Any further comments about the draft Neighbourhood Plan</p>
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Please note, if you have any further comments, you are welcome to add another page of comments, or email hitchamplan@gmail.com. **THANK YOU.**

Appendix 6(d): Log of all comments and responses to pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14).

The pie charts in the document show the results of those that completed the Consultation Response Forms (paper and online combined).



GENERAL COMMENTS

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
1	Suffolk County Council	General	Archaeology Overall the historic environment has been given thorough consideration in the plan and SCC welcomes	Support noted	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			the passion shown by the community about their heritage.		
2	Suffolk County Council	General	NPPF referencing – Please note that the NPPF is currently under a consultation, ending 24th September 2024, and therefore paragraph numbers may change. Any references to specific paragraph numbers in the plan may need to be updated.	Noted. References to the NPPF will be updated to be the most current at the time of writing – December 2024	Update NPPF references as required
3	Dedham Vale National Landscape	General	I am the planner for the Dedham Vale and Suffolk and Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscapes and I have been consulted on the Pre Submission draft of the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14) .. The Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan Area lies outside the Dedham Vale National Landscape and outside the Stour Valley Project Area boundaries. These are our core areas of work. Thank you for consulting the team , but as the Neighbourhood Plan area falls beyond these areas, the National Landscape team has no comment to make on the Pre Submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. Good luck with the rest of the project.	Noted	No change
4	Environment Agency	General	Thank you for consulting us on the pre-submission plan for the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, we have assessed those authorities who have “up to date” local	Noted	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>plans (plans adopted within the previous 5 years) as being of lower risk, and those authorities who have older plans (adopted more than 5 years ago) as being at greater risk. We aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment, and with consideration to the key environmental constraints within our remit, we have then tailored our approach to reviewing each neighbourhood plan accordingly.</p> <p>A key principle of the planning system is to promote sustainable development. Sustainable development meets our needs for housing, employment and recreation while protecting the environment. It ensures that the right development, is built in the right place at the right time. To assist in the preparation of any document towards achieving sustainable development we have identified the key environmental issues within our remit that are relevant to this area and provide guidance on any actions you need to undertake. We also provide hyperlinks to where you can obtain further information and advice to help support your neighbourhood plan.</p>		
5	Environment Agency	General	<p>Environmental Constraints We have identified that the Neighbourhood Plan Area will be affected by the following environmental constraints:</p> <p>Flood Risk Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The constraints raised are covered by Part 1 Joint Local Plan</p>	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area along the River Brett.</p> <p>On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless, we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk. Allocation of any sites and any windfall development delivered through the Plan period should follow the sequential approach. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 167 sets this out.</p> <p>Water Resources Being in one of the driest areas of the country, our environment has come under significant pressure from potable water demand. New developments should make a significant contribution towards reducing water demand and mitigate against the risk of deterioration to our rivers, groundwater and habitats from groundwater abstraction. We recommend you check the capacity of available water supplies with the water company, in line with the emerging 2024 Water Resources Management Plan which is due to be published in 2023. The Local Planning Authorities Water Cycle Study and Local Plan may indicate constraints in water supply and provide recommendations for</p>	<p>policies and do not need to be repeated in this plan.</p>	

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>phasing of development to tie in with new alternative strategic supplies.</p> <p>New development should as a minimum meet the highest levels of water efficiency standards, as per the policies in the adopted Local Plan. In most cases development will be expected to achieve 110 litres per person per day as set out in the Building Regulations &c. (Amendment) Regulations 2015. However, a higher standard of water efficiency (e.g. 85 l/p/d) should be considered, looking at all options including rainwater harvesting and greywater systems. Using the water efficiency calculator in Part G of the Building Regulations enables you to calculate the devices and fittings required to ensure a home is built to the right specifications to meet the 110 l/p/d requirement. We recommend all new non-residential development of 1000sqm gross floor area or more should meet the BREEAM 'excellent' standards for water consumption.</p> <p>Developments that require their own abstraction where it will exceed 20 cubic metres per day from a surface water source (river, stream) or from underground strata (via borehole or well) will require an abstraction licence under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991. There is no guarantee that a licence will be granted as this is dependent on available water resources and existing protected rights. The relevant abstraction licencing strategy for your area provides information on water</p>		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>availability and licencing policy at Abstraction licensing strategies (CAMS process) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p> <p>Contaminated Land</p> <p>For land that may have been affected by contamination as a result of its previous use or that of the surrounding land, sufficient information should be provided with any planning application to satisfy the requirements of the NPPF for dealing with land contamination. This should take the form of a Preliminary Risk Assessment (including a desk study, conceptual model and initial assessment of risk), and provide assurance that the risk to the water environment is fully understood and can be addressed through appropriate measures. This is because Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan Area is a source protection zone 2 and 3 as well as on a principal Aquifer. For any planning application the prior use should be checked to ensure there is no risk of contamination.</p> <p>Informatives</p> <p>We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. For your information, together with Natural England, Historic England and Forestry Commission, we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: How to</p>		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>consider the environment in Neighbourhood plans - Locality Neighbourhood Planning</p> <p>Source Protection Zones Your plan includes areas which are located on Source Protection Zones 2 and 3. These should be considered within your plan if growth or development is proposed here. The relevance of the designation and the potential implication upon development proposals should be considered with reference to our Groundwater Protection guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. Identifying sites for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain could lead to habitat improvements in your area. Biodiversity Net Gain is a system that delivers habitat improvements on any local sites including Local Wildlife Sites to ensure that there is no loss of habitats from new development. Identifying areas that could benefit from management for conservation within your area could enable habitat to be created closer to development sites in your plan area, providing local ecological enhancement.</p>		
6	Ministry of Defence	General	It is understood that Hitcham Parish Council are undertaking a consultation regarding their Hitcham draft Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 consultation.	Noted.	Reference added at para 2.36 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>This document will guide and shape 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>Paragraph 101 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) requires that planning policies and decisions take into account defence requirements by '<i>ensuring that operational sites are not affected adversely by the impact of other development proposed in the area.</i>' Statutory consultation of the MOD occurs 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 to Local Planning Authorities by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and</p>	<p>We can add a reference in Chapter 2 to the safeguarding zones</p>	

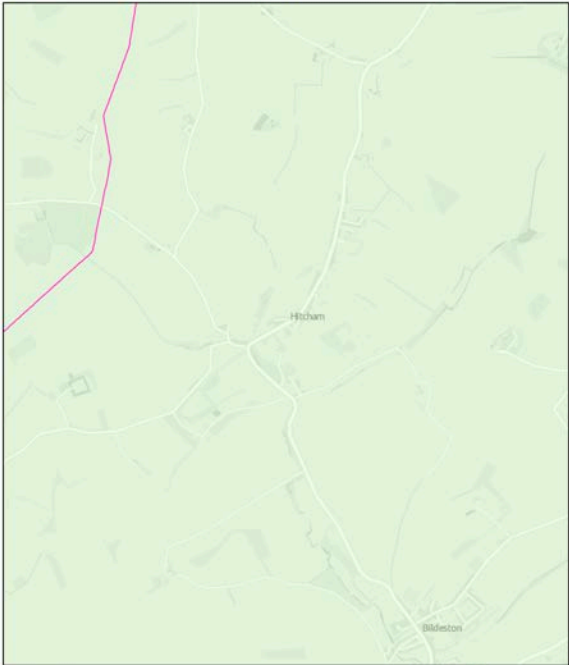
No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>Local Government (MHCLG) in accordance with the provisions of that direction.</p> <p>The review or drafting of planning policy provides an opportunity to better inform developers of the statutory requirement that MOD is consulted on development that triggers the criteria set out on Safeguarding Plans, and the constraints that might be applied to development as a result of the requirement to ensure defence capability and operations are not adversely affected.</p> <p>The area covered by any Hitcham draft Neighbourhood Plan will both contain and be washed over by safeguarding zones that are designated to preserve the operation and capability of defence assets and sites (including Wattisham Station and the Eastern WAM Network).</p> <p>Eastern WAM (Wide Area Multilateration) Network is a new technical asset, which contributes to aviation safety by feeding into the air traffic management system in the Eastern areas of England. There is the potential for development to impact on the operation and/or capability of this new technical asset which consists of nodes and connecting pathways, each of which have their own consultation criteria. Elements of this asset pass through the Hitcham draft Neighbourhood Plan area of interest.</p>		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>The Safeguarding map associated with the East 2 WAM Network has been submitted to MHCLG for issue. As is typical, the map provides both the geographic extent of consultation zones and the criteria associated with them. Within the statutory consultation areas identified on the map are zones where the key concerns are the presence and height of development, and where introduction of sources of electro-magnetic fields (such as power lines or solar photo voltaic panels and their associated infrastructure) are of particular concern. Wherever the criteria are triggered, the MOD should be consulted in order that appropriate assessments can be carried out and, where necessary, requests for required conditions or objections be communicated.</p> <p>To provide an illustration of the various issues that might be fundamental to MOD assessment carried out in response to statutory consultation, a brief summary of the main safeguarding areas of concern is provided below. Depending on the statutory safeguarding zone within which a site allocation or proposed development falls, different considerations will apply.</p> <p>The airspace above and surrounding aerodromes is safeguarded to ensure that development does not form a physical obstruction to the safe operation of aircraft using that aerodrome. Colour coded zones are marked on safeguarding maps that provide heights which, if proposed development would reach or exceed them, would trigger MOD consultation. These</p>		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>zones also indicate areas where development might reduce the capability or otherwise compromise the operation of technical assets such as communications, navigation, or surveillance systems including radar. In addition to permanent physical development within these zones, the change of use of land to allow/facilitate flying activities; and the use of cranes, piling rigs or other tall plant or equipment to implement development may also be of concern.</p> <p>Birdstrike safeguarding zones with a radius of 12.87km are designated around certain military aerodromes and marked on safeguarding maps with a heavy dotted line. Aircraft within these zones are most likely to be approaching or departing aerodromes and would be at critical stages of flight. Within these statutory consultation zones the creation or enhancement 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the landscaping schemes associated with developments including the provision of green/brown roofs, and/or the creation of new waterbodies such as reservoirs, wetlands, ponds and/or attenuation basins and other elements associated with sustainable drainage systems. • This would also include both on and off-site provision of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Where off-site provision is to provide BNG, the locations of both the host development and any other site 		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>should both/all be assessed against statutory safeguarding zones and MOD consulted where any element falls within the marked statutory safeguarding zone.</p> <p>Technical assets that facilitate air traffic management, primarily radar, navigation, and communications systems are safeguarded to limit the impact of development on their capability and operation. The height, massing, and materials used to finish a development may all be factors in assessing the impact of a given scheme. Developments that incorporate renewable energy systems may be of particular concern given their potential to provide large expanses of metal at height, for example where proposals include a wind turbine or roof mounted solar PV system. 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>		
7	National Gas Transmission	General	<p>About National Gas Transmission</p> <p>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>Noted</p> <p>A reference can be added to Chapter 2 to refer to gas transmission assets.</p>	<p>Reference added at para 2.37 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<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 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 <p>Please see attached information outlining guidance on development close to National Gas Transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>Distribution Networks Information regarding the gas distribution network is available by contacting: plantprotection@cadentgas.com</p>		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p style="text-align: center;">National Gas Asset Map</p>  <p>27/08/2024, 09:43:25</p> <p>1:18,017</p> <p>0 0.15 0.3 0.6 mi 0 0.25 0.45 0.9 km</p> <p>Gas_Assets_6495 Development_Plan_Monitoring_v2_977_5701 Development_Plan_Monitoring_v2_977</p> <p><small>Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023 Contains data from OS, Zoomstack</small></p> <p><small>With Apple/Google for ArcGIS Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023</small></p>		
8	National Grid Electricity Transmission	General	<p>About National Grid Electricity Transmission National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and Wales. The energy is then distributed to the electricity distribution network operators, so it can reach homes and businesses.</p>	Noted	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>National Grid no longer owns or operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. This is the responsibility of National Gas Transmission, which is a separate entity and must be consulted independently. National Grid Ventures (NGV) develop, operate and invest in energy projects, technologies, and partnerships to help accelerate the development of a clean energy future for consumers across the UK, Europe and the United States. NGV is separate from National Grid's core regulated businesses. Please also consult with NGV separately from NGET.</p> <p>Proposed development sites crossed or in close proximity to NGET assets: An assessment has been carried out with respect to NGET's assets which include high voltage electricity assets and other electricity infrastructure. NGET has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area. NGET provides information in relation to its assets at the website below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _www2.nationalgrid.com/uk/services/land-and-development/planning-authority/shape-files/ <p>Please also see attached information outlining guidance on development close to NGET infrastructure.</p> <p>Distribution Networks Information regarding the electricity distribution network is available at the website below:</p>		

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			www.energynetworks.org.uk		
9	National Highways	General	<p>Thank you for your correspondence, received on 08 July 2024, notifying National Highways of the consultation above.</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 Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan area, National Highways have responsibility for the trunk road A14, part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN).</p> <p>We have completed review of the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2037; Pre-Submission Draft dated July 2024. The location of the proposed Neighbourhood plan area is remote from the nearest SRN.</p> <p>National Highways do not have any comment on the proposed vision, objectives, and proposed policies within this Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	Noted	No change
10	Natural England	General	<p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our 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>	Noted	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan. However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following information.		
11	Individual 1	General	I think the Neighbourhood plan is in complete contradiction with the proposals in the current Jan/Feb 2024 "call for sites" for Babergh as a large amount of agricultural land adjoining listed and historic properties has been put forward - mostly at Cross Green. This is worrying as any development in this area would substantially alter the character of this rural settlement - some of it being outside the settlement boundary. This area of the village is not within walking distance from the shop and village hall. It is also concerning because most of the proposed land belongs to the largest land-owner of the parish, with a key partner being on the parish council. This clash of interest brings doubts over the long-term future of the community.	Comments noted. The Call for Sites was undertaken as the first stage of the preparation of Part 2 of the Local Plan. It does not automatically follow that sites put forward as part of that process will be identified as suitable for development, even if overall housing numbers	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
				change. See also 12 below. An explanation has been sent to the respondent 17/12	
12	Individual 2	General	<p>The Neighbourhood plan, despite it's best intentions has (hopefully inadvertently) put barriers in the way to the most suitable sites in the village being developed in the future. This would include most importantly areas suitable for affordable and social housing.</p> <p>Virtually every single site along the core area of the village, where facilities and community are situated nearby, are now non viable sites for one reason or another.</p> <p>I believe that the Plan should have designated the most favourable sites for development in the village to meet the Local Authority housing requirements, based on short medium and long term development aspirations, and the areas most suitable should be put into the village planning envelope, and designate them as favoured (but provisional) development sites.</p> <p>Sites in the village have recently been submitted by various landowners to the Draft Local Development</p>	<p>Noted. See also 11 above.</p> <p>Currently there is no local housing requirement identified for Hitcham.</p> <p>Community consultation undertaken at the early stages of the Plan process identified limited support for new housing</p>	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			<p>Plan SHLAA, and it seems pertinent for your committee to comment on these and approve or disapprove these sites that have been put forward. Otherwise Babergh may well take a dim view, of ignoring the realities of what our county's housing requirements are, and approve development to go somewhere the committee might not want it.</p> <p>I believe a plan of numbers of houses that ought to be built in the short medium and long term should be THE main reason for having a Neighbourhood plan, otherwise in the years to come our assets and facilities will not be supported enough by the local community to stay viable.</p> <p>The village will slowly die without new development supporting the assets the village has and young families in affordable housing is a significant part of keeping the village community thriving, so it doesnt turn into a retirement home for the wealthy!</p>	<p>in the parish due to the limited services available. However the NP does allow for infill and community led housing and provides criteria for assessing the suitability of new sites.</p>	
13	Individual 4	General	I agree with most aspects of the plan however I don't agree that the focus of the housing should be on affordable homes.	Comment noted	No change
14	Individual 5	General	Very expensive and not really needed.	Noted	No change
15	Individual 6	General	I feel that the plan is an expensive exercise and most of it covers the obvious and was not needed.	Noted. The NP is grant funded through Locality. Responses to	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
				consultation to date have been largely supportive of the principle	
16	Individual 13	General	Apologies for the very late eleventh-hour submission of our responses	Noted	No change
17	Individual 14	General	The aim of the plan is apparently good and honest, but in teh current political situation somewhat naive. The Labour Govt has, in short tenure demonstrated that they will override any such local plans if they wish. I am most definitely a 'nimby' so I'm in the sights of the Green-Socialist fanatics, as anyone who wants to protect our countryside is. I attached to my initial survey docuemnt a comment which was anonymous. I re-submit it in my name (see separate attachment)	Comments noted. The most recent Government announcements have indicated that new housing growth will continue to be 'plan led'	No change
18	Individual 15	General	Agree subject to comments above . Impressed generally with the quality , detail and proposals in the plan. Using AECOM to help develop the plan gives more weight.	Support noted	No change
19	Individual 16	General	Agree subject to my comments above.	Noted	No change
20	Individual 17	General	We would be keen to view the settlement boundary plan for Cross Green when available thank you.	Comments noted. The NP does not propose a new settlement	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
				boundary for Cross Green. It is not considered to be a suitable location for new development. Explanation sent to respondent 17/12	
21	Individual 19	General	Development of the plan runs concurrently with a 'Call for Sites' which has revealed 6 sites owners who would like to develop. All are outside of the proposed settlement boundary. 4 out of 6 of the sites are in Cross Green(!) - one of the hamlets the distinctive character of which the plan PROMISES to maintain. In my opinion and as a resident of Cross Green any plan we agree to adopt needs to be consistent , here's how the proposed plan isn't: 1) It is stated in the objectives "green spaces, the natural environment and the distinctive character of the individual hamlets will be maintained' I find it difficult to reconcile this with offering up arable land in ours for residential development that will potentially swamp the small number of existing houses in Cross Green.. The proposed neighbourhood plan proposes a 'settlement boundary' for Hitcham that covers the middle of the Causeway only. Only one of the sites submitted is actually within the proposed 'settlement	Noted. Call for Sites submissions are by their very nature outside of the settlement boundary as they are seeking allocation. Sites within the settlement boundary would already be acceptable	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
			boundary'. How do we reconcile the Call for Sites result with the Neighbourhood Plan when the sites proposed contradict the objectives?.	in principle. The Call for Sites are related to the Local Pan process they are not being promoted by the Neighbourhood Plan. Explanation sent to respondent 17/12	
22	Individual 20	General	I came to my conclusions prior to election for new PM. Wonder now if all this hard work is of use now as it appears residents concerns are less likely to be taken into account under new governments ideas.	Noted. The regulations and process for Neighbourhood Plans are not proposed to be changed.	No change
23	Individual 21	General	We would be keen to view the new settlement boundary plan for Cross Green when available - thank you	Comments noted. The NP does not propose a new settlement	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
				boundary for Cross Green. It is not considered to be a suitable location for new development. Explanation sent to respondent 17/12	
24	Individual 23	General	Although i agree in principle to most of the plan, I think it should be realised that over the centuries villages have evolved and changed. Nothing stands still. Easy to be come too rigid	Comments noted. The NP does allow for change	No change
25	Individual 26	General	May be worth considering any particular assets of the village, be it natural or historic should be emphasised - in connection with maintaining the village's country 'feel' especially in new property.	Comments noted. Both natural and historic assets have been identified and the Design policy is based on character	No change
26	Individual 27	General	Very well considered and comprehensive draft plan.	Support noted	No change

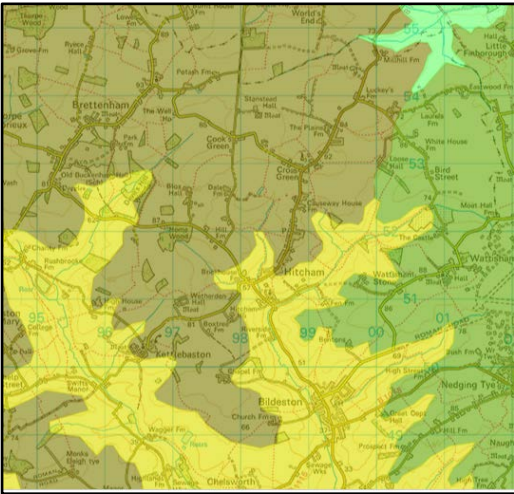
No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
27	Individual 33	General	For the ordinary person the language used is too longwinded and not in plain simple English. What is said would be condensed down into half a dozen pages.	Comment noted. The NP is a statutory document which will ultimately be used to determine planning applications and therefore needs to use appropriate terminology. However we can review to see where more user friendly language can be used and also if it can be shortened.	Review language and length where possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Individual 40	General	I must say I feel this to have been very well thought out - looking to the future in a positive way and in a practice way	Support noted	No change
29	Individual 41	General	More emphasis should be put on energy generation	Comments noted. Energy policy is	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
				largely dealt with by the NPPF and the Local Plan. Policy HIT13 makes reference to energy generation. There may be scope for the promotion of localised energy generation working jointly with neighbouring parishes as a future project when resources allow	
30	Individual 42	General	The Plan should be sure it does not turn Hitcham into a parish whilst is too big for the infrastructure to cope with	Comments noted. The NP does not make any additional allocations for housing	No change

No	Respondent	Para or policy number	Summary of comment	Suggested Response	Action
31	Individual 47	General	A well thought out plan which seem proportionate for our small village	Support noted	No change

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTERS


Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
32	Babergh District Council	Chapter 1: Introduction	<p>Please note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Para 1.2 gives the plan period as 2022 to 2037. The cover states 2024 to 2037. Amend, as necessary. Para 1.6: There is a typo towards the end, where it refers to the BMSJLP not being able to deal with issues across 'three' districts. Should this be '.. <u>the</u> districts'? 	Comments noted	Amend cover and para 1.6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
33	Babergh District Council	Chapter 2: Hitcham Parish	<p>An informative chapter that borrows heavily from the 'Data Profile'.</p> <p>Regarding Figure 7 (page 13), the 'suffolklandscape.org.uk' website does allow you to zoom into the map and show an Ordnance Survey base. With screen snipping tools it's possible to create a more tailored map [our example below]. Of course, a</p>	<p>Comments noted. The purpose of the Data Profile is to support the parish chapter.</p> <p>Map to be reviewed</p>	Review Map

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>key will need to be added, and the map source retained.</p>  <p>Example of Suffolk Landscape Assessment map with added OS base layer.</p> <p>Para 2.27: For clarity, it might be helpful to name the SSSI sites</p> <p>Para 2.31: To avoid repetition, address the grammar, and add clarity we suggest that the first sentence be amended to read: 'Parts of the parish are located within areas at risk of flooding. These are shown in the map below (Figure 9).'</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			Similar edits to those above may be appropriate in para 2.33	Noted Noted. Para to be reviewed	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
34	Babergh District Council	Chapter 3: National and Local context	<p>Para 3.5: No decision has been made on the plan period end date for JLP Part 2. For now, it is probably best to delete the sentence that refers to this being 2038. The preceding sentence would also benefit from a modification to improve grammar and a new sentence is added for additional context:</p> <p>'Work began in early 2024, <u>with a timetable for submission</u> in summer 2025 and <u>adoption</u> in 2026. <u>That timetable is currently under review</u>. Once Part 2'</p>	<p>Noted. However NPPF para 22 requires Local Plans to look ahead over a 15 year period from adoption – therefore in reality the Part 2 will need to be at least 2038 and more likely beyond.</p> <p>Noted. Amend as appropriate</p>	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>Para 3.6: To avoid misunderstanding, we recommend that you delete the 'Adopted Local Planning Policy' sub-heading that precedes para 3.6. The 'Policy framework for [the] Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan' heading is sufficient. Also, to provide better context, para 3.6 should be amended so that it read as follows:</p> <p>3.6 Hitcham <u>was</u> identified as a 'hinterland village' in the settlement hierarchy of the Babergh Core Strategy (2014). This <u>indicated</u> that hinterland villages <u>would</u> accommodate some development to help meet the needs within them. It was <u>also</u> originally intended that allocations to meet housing and employment needs would be <u>set out</u> in <u>a</u> Site Allocations document where circumstances <u>suggested</u> this approach <u>was</u> necessary. However, <u>that</u> document was never progressed and <u>it</u> was overtaken by work in the emerging BMSJLP. <u>With regard to a built-up area boundary [the settlement boundary] the Core Strategy carried this over from the 2006 Babergh Local Plan [see Figure 12].</u></p> <p>With regard to para 3.7, please note the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend 1st sentence to read: ' parish will be proposed <u>and/or whether</u> the precise delineation of 	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>the 'settlement boundary' (which replaces the former BUAB) <u>will change</u>.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd sentence, delete the comma after March 2021 • 7th line, add punctuation as follows: ' ... The Drive, identifying them as 'hamlets'. <u>However</u>, these no longer have ...' • Last line on page 21, amend to read: ' ... <u>have been or are</u> being constructed.' • First line on page 22, amend to read: ' ... a main transport corridor, <u>and it has</u> experienced a ...' <p>Para 3.8: This would read better if it said: ' ... managing the impacts of <u>any</u> proposed growth ..' ?</p>	Noted	Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
35	Babergh District Council	Chapter 3: National and Local context	<p>Figure 13 (Settlement Boundary): The proposed settlement boundary correlates well with our understanding of recent development in Hitcham. That said, two adjustments are needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the area adjacent to the property known as Mizpah, extend the settlement boundary out to include the property known as Roxburgh Place and also the four dwellings which our records show as having been constructed under DC/18/01147/FUL. See image below left. 2. Include the property known as Walnut Lodge within the settlement boundary, i.e., follow the line proposed in the November 2020 Reg 19 Pre-submission draft BMSJLP. See image below right. 	Noted Agreed to amend the proposed boundary to include the completed dwellings.	Amend Figure 13 accordingly

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
					
36	Babergh District Council	Chapter 5: Vision and Objectives	<p>Objective 1: Would 'appropriate' be a better word than 'smaller', and would 'homes' be a better word than 'units'?</p> <p>If you do make this change, don't forget to update the same objective text at the start of Chapter 7]</p>	Noted: Agree to substitute 'homes' for 'units'. However smaller dwellings are a finding of the HNA	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37	Babergh District Council	Chapter 6: Policies	<p>Para 6.1: Referring back to Fig 22, and looking ahead to Chapters 7 and 8, these show that 'Housing' and 'Design' are separate themes. Para 6.1 should therefore read: ' ... <u>five</u> themes: Housing; Design; Environment; [etc] ..'</p> <p>Figure 23 (Policies Map): The following need to be added to this Policies Map and its Key. An Inset Map, on</p>	Noted	Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

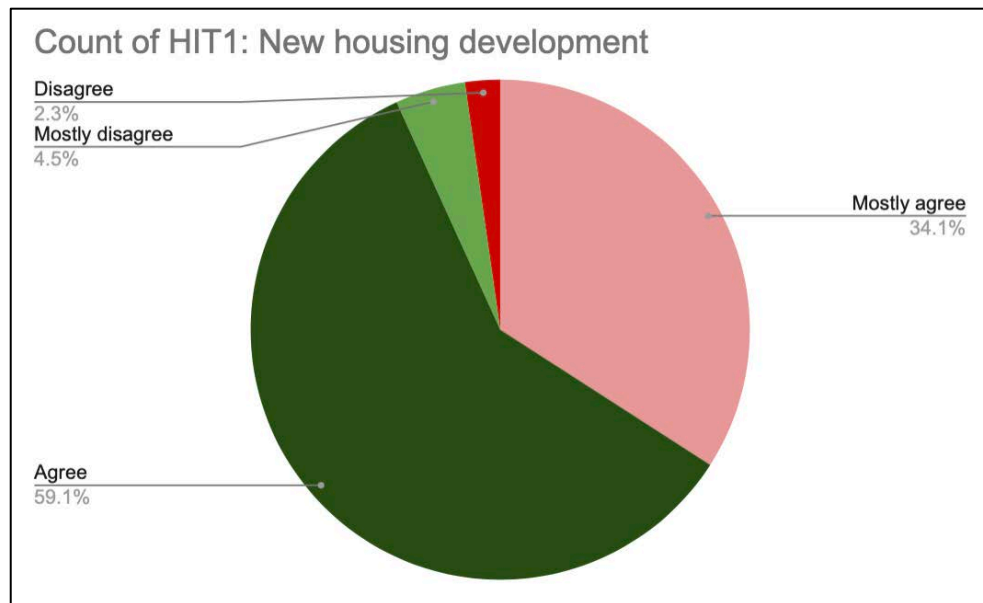
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			a suitable OS base map, may also be required to show an appropriate level of detail. a) Settlement Boundary (HIT1] b) Community Facilities (HIT12)		Amend Policies Map accordingly
38	Suffolk County Council	Vision	Natural Environment Vision – SCC welcomes that the vision is detailed, and the natural environment is anchored into it, sitting alongside other requirements for development.	Comments noted	No change
39	Suffolk County Council	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 – This chapter provides a good history of Hitcham, including archaeological sites and artefacts in 2.4. Figure 4 showing the designated heritage assets is also very useful. This could be enhanced by a search of the Suffolk HER and the inclusion of a map showing the results of the search within this chapter would be a useful addition to show all heritage assets (above and below ground) in the area.	Comments noted. HER Map to be included	Include HER Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
40	Suffolk County Council	Chapter 3	Minerals and Waste 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 Plan4 (“SMWLP”), adopted in July 2020, which forms part of the Local Development Plan. Section 3: National and Local Context – SCC notes that this section includes no mention of the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan when discussing the local plan policy and the development plan. In the same way that the Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan forms part of	Noted. Agree to include reference	Include reference to SMWLP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>the development plan, so does the SMWLP. It is an approved local plan that covers this area and planning decision-makers are under a duty to consider and adhere to its policies. The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan sets out all policies for minerals and waste developments and operations within the county and also allocates and safeguards sites and land.</p> <p>Boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan – There are no minerals or waste sites safeguarded under the SMWLP within this neighbourhood plan's boundary. However, a significant portion of the area is within the minerals consultation area meaning safeguarding policies will apply, specifically 'MP-10 Safeguarding'. This can be seen using SCC's Safeguarding and Proposals Map²</p>		
41	Suffolk County Council	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 – SCC welcome that protecting the local heritage has been included in the vision for Hitcham.	Comments noted	No change
42	Suffolk County Council	Paragraph 2.8	Paragraph 2.8 – This paragraph refers to West Suffolk Council as "West Suffolk County Council". Please note that in Hitcham, Suffolk County Council is the county council and West Suffolk Council is the district council.	Noted. However Babergh is the District not West Suffolk and this reference is to the councils in place pre Local Govt	No change

² <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/imported/minerals-and-waste-safeguarding-and-proposals-map-reduced.pdf>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				reorganisation in 1974	
43	Suffolk County Council	Policies map	<p>Policies Map – Figure 23 is named as being the Policies Map. Whilst Figure 23 does display some of the relevant components of a Policy Map, it is not sufficiently detailed to be classified as the Policy Map for the plan. The purpose of a Policies Map is to clearly display the important features mentioned within the plan policies in once clear and consolidated image. Inset maps may be used to show closer detailed parts of the parish, where identified features would be lost and/or hard to read on the overall Policies Map.</p> <p>SCC notes that Policy HIT1 states: “The focus for new development will be within the adopted settlement boundary of the main built-up part of the village, (as defined on the Policies Map).” However, the Settlement Boundary is not displayed on Policy Map Figure 23, but it is displayed in Figure 13.</p> <p>Therefore, it is recommended that this image is amended to include: settlement boundary (as displayed in Figure 13), community facilities (as stated in Policy HIT12, i.e., church, village hall, post office etc), PROWs, and any other important features or facilities of the parish.</p>	<p>Noted. However the policies map does comply with the requirements.</p> <p>Agree to amend policy map to include SB and community facilities. In addition the settlement boundary map has been moved to be next to the policy.</p>	<p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amend map to include community facilities</p>
44	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	County Wildlife Sites	Suffolk Wildlife Trust are happy to see that the four County Wildlife Sites in the parish are identified and	Noted	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			clearly mapped within the draft plan (a National Planning Policy Framework1 requirement).		
45	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Objective 3	Environment Objectives Suffolk Wildlife Trust support Objective 3, however by including that protecting biodiversity could be added in addition to enhancing biodiversity would reference the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy and improve the plan.	Noted	Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
46	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT1	<p>Policy HIT1: The third paragraph refers to settlement boundaries (plural). This draft NP only defines the one settlement boundary around the main village. Amend the text, as necessary. [See also our related comment on para 7.40 below].</p> <p>Para 7.7 (and the Glossary): Not an issue at present, but a cautionary note to point out that the NPPF consultation document (July 2023) is proposing some a change to the definition of affordable housing. If those changes are carried through to the new NPPF (publication date unknown at this time), they may need to be reflected in this neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>Para 7.8: The reference to 'usually ten dwellings [etc]' requires clarification. We also note that no mention is made here of affordable housing delivery via the Community Land Trust route. Our suggested re-wording of para 7.8 is set out below. Including a reference to community-led schemes here would also then link through to para's 7.22 and 7.38 of the plan.</p> <p>7.8 Affordable housing is generally delivered through the planning system, either as a proportion of the total number of dwellings coming forward on a major housing development site (see Glossary for definition) or via the rural exception site route. The first mechanism is generally used to provide housing for those in most need from across the</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The glossary has been amended to reflect the 2024 NPPF</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p><u>district, while</u> the second <u>option</u> can be more tailored to meeting localised housing need including those with a local connection to the parish. <u>Exception sites can be delivered by a Registered Housing Provider or by a Community-led Housing Trust.</u></p> <p>Para 7.9: Suggest that it might be helpful to set out the date of the HNA report, i.e., '... and the final report <u>(January 2023) provides supporting evidence</u> for this Neighbourhood Plan.'</p> <p>Para 7.34: For clarity, we suggest ... 'has exceeded its <u>indicative (2023)</u> housing requirement figure'</p>	Noted	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
47	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT1	<p>Policy HIT1 – SCC notes that conversion of barns and farm buildings have been included here, we would recommend adding that proposals for the conversion of historic agricultural buildings should be accompanied by a heritage statement including internal and external photographs.</p> <p>In addition, SCC Archaeological Service have been reviewing farmsteads throughout Suffolk, as part of a project funded by Historic England which could be of use regarding identifying historic rural buildings. Entries from the project can be seen via the Suffolk Heritage Explorer³.</p>	<p>Noted. This is more appropriate for text rather than policy.</p> <p>Noted</p>	Added as footnote <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

³ <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/farmsteads>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
48	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT1	<p>Transport</p> <p>SCC, as the Local Highway Authority, 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.</p> <p>Policy HIT1 – This policy includes a brief reference to parking, and could helpfully include a reference to Suffolk Guidance for Parking (2023 or as superseded in future)⁴.</p>	Noted.	Added as footnote <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49	Individual 1	Policy HIT1	<p>As a linear settlement with a village shop / post office and village hall at its core, any new development should be within walking distance of these amenities. I strongly disagree with any "infill" within the various hamlets. Not only are they geographically isolated from the core of the village but also offer no communal services and require the use of cars. Besides, they are mostly formed from listed buildings and therefore have invaluable historical and cultural value.</p>	Comments noted. The plan does not define a settlement boundary for these hamlets for that reason	No change
50	Individual 2	Policy HIT1	<p>Consideration that permitted development rights will usurp village plan policy with regards to farm buildings. Government and local authority housing policy may dictate that you will have to find the most suitable sites to develop</p>	Noted. All planning policies are only enacted where something require the benefit of planning	No change

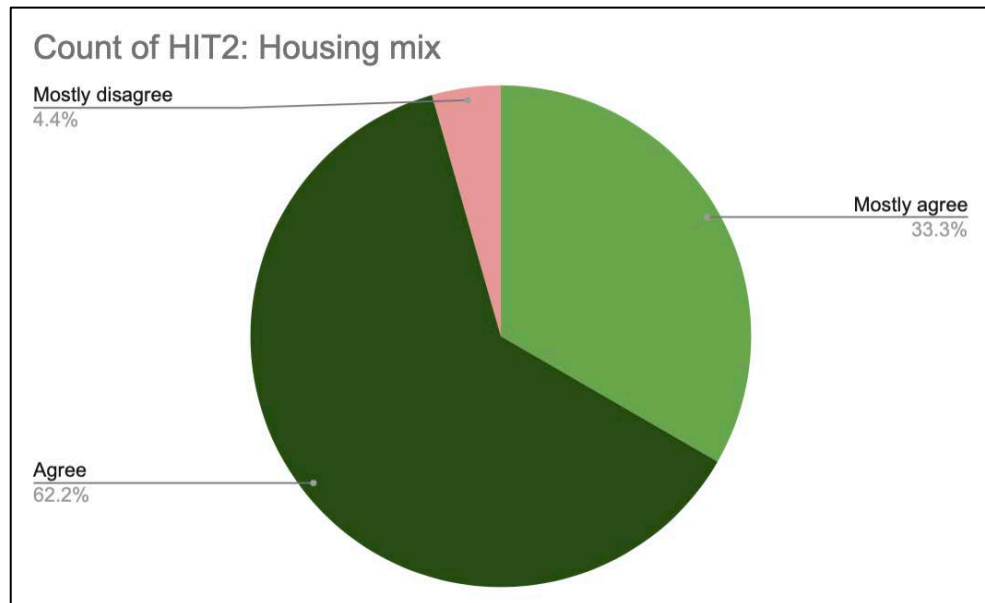
⁴ <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/Suffolk-Guidance-for-Parking-v5.1.pdf>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				permission. If a proposed development is 'permitted development' then the policies of the NP (and the LP) are not applicable.	
51	Individual 3	Policy HIT1	I think it is important to retain the linear nature of the village and avoid backfill at all costs	Noted	No change
52	Individual 6	Policy HIT1	The present system does not need to be changed	Noted	No change
53	Individual 10	Policy HIT1	Would like not to have too many extra houses, I like Hitcham as it is	Noted	No change
54	Individual 11	Policy HIT1	Would like not to see too many extra houses, would like to keep Hitcham small	Noted	No change
55	Individual 13	Policy HIT1	In the past we have seen some councils approve dwellings that are completely out of character with the surrounding properties. All new developments must be in keeping with the village	Noted. Policy HIT4 seeks to raise the quality of design in new buildings	No change
56	Individual 14	Policy HIT1	How do you know that the Parish needs 'smaller affordable units, have you identified local residents who are looking for such properties but are being forced to look elsewhere?	Noted. This has come through the Housing Needs Assessment but also through community consultation.	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
57	Individual 17	Policy HIT1	We have concerns that infill development should be considered and supported by the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan for the smaller hamlets in Hitcham where appropriate (Cross Green)	Noted. The NP is not proposing a settlement boundary for Cross Green and therefore infill would only be appropriate in exceptional circumstances	No change
58	Individual 21	Policy HIT1	We have concerns that infill development should be considered and supported by the Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan for the smallest hamlets in Hitcham where appropriate (Cross Green).	Noted. The NP is not proposing a settlement boundary for Cross Green and therefore infill would only be appropriate in exceptional circumstances. Explanation sent to respondent 18/12/24	No change
59	Individual 23	Policy HIT1	Would have been helpful to have a map that defined the possible planning envelope.	Noted. Figure 13 performs this function however it could useful be	Move Figure 13 next to Policy HIT1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				relocated to next to this policy	
60	Individual 26	Policy HIT1	So important to have the right mix of new housing and accessibility to amenities such as medical, social and work. Therefore a transport plan is important but I believe difficult to implement without subsidy.	Noted. A Transport Plan would sit outside of the NP process	No change
61	Individual 28	Policy HIT1	The village is very long and any attempt to build outside the adopted settlement boundary should be prohibited. Any new houses should be sympathetic to existing houses.	Noted. The NP seeks to achieve this	No change
62	Individual 29		Affordable housing is very important	Noted, The NP seeks to address this in HIT2	No change
63	Individual 32	Policy HIT1	Any development must include the creation of a roadside pavement on B1115, especially north of the village shop towards Cross Green and the infrastructure (sewage etc) must be able to cope	Noted. Whilst the principle of a safer connection is supported in practical terms it is unlikely to be achievable due to the width of the road and the verges	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
64	Individual 40	Policy HIT1	Try and keep future housing to new builds of 1s and 2s NOT 4s and 5s	Noted. Policy HIT2 sets out a preference for smaller dwellings	No change
65	Individual 44	Policy HIT1	Shame no actual sites for affordable housing	Noted. Although Policy HIT3 sets out the criteria for suitable sites.	No change

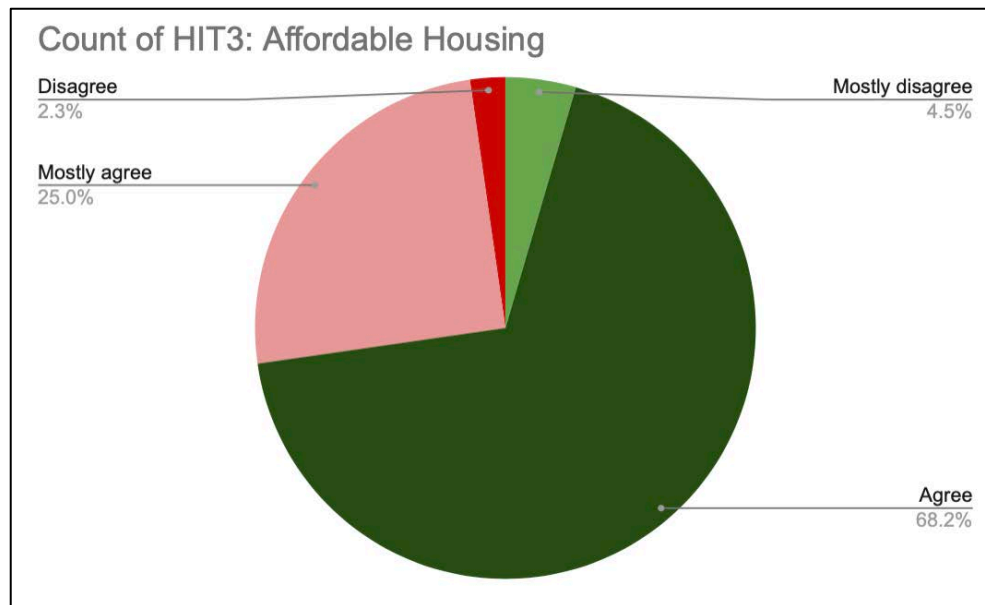


Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
66	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT2	Policy HIT2: To correct the grammar, we suggest amending the first bullet point to read:	Noted	Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Small and medium sized, two-bed and three-bed homes suitable for families' 		
			<p>Para 7.38: While alluded to in para 7.39, the subtle differences between where a rural exception sites and where a community-led [housing] development might come forward could be better explained. Our suggested re-wording of the first part of this paragraph is set out below:</p> <p>7.38 As mentioned above <u>a</u> common mechanism for delivering affordable housing is through the use of 'rural exception sites' or 'community-led development sites'. <u>Depending on the delivery mechanism, these are sites outside of but otherwise well related to the settlement boundary or are sites immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary. In other words, they are sites that would not otherwise be policy compliant.</u> The former usually require .. [etc].</p>	Noted	Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				Noted	Correct error <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			Para 7.40: This Plan only defines the one settlement boundary [para 3.9 refers]. The first two sentences need amending accordingly. i.e. 'boundary' rather than 'boundaries', and 'it' rather than 'them'.		
67	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT2	Health and Wellbeing <i>Meeting the needs of an ageing population</i> SCC welcomes that the plan mentions the ageing population, and supports the mentions of adaptable housing in the second bullet point of policy HIT2 Housing Mix.	Support noted	No change
68	Individual 2	Policy HIT2	Developers will not entertain building just social housing in a building project, there will have to be a housing mix to sweeten the pot and make it financially viable for landowners and developers to do this	Noted. Much depends upon viability. However HIT2 is specifically aimed at mixed developments	No change
69	Individual 4	Policy HIT2	I don't believe that Hitcham has the local facilities or suitable public transport to support small sized homes. These would be better suited to larger towns.	Noted. It is acknowledged that Hitcham has few facilities and therefore new housing should be limited	No change
70	Individual 13	Policy HIT2	Again, must be in keeping with existing properties and the village as a whole	Noted	No change
71	Individual 14	Policy HIT2	As above, there seems to be great reliance on the AECOM HNA report, since it uses phrases like 'lived	Noted. The HNA is a desk based	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			experiences' I m nervous about it immediately. The general message seems to be one of social engineering rather than natural development of the village.	survey and the views of the community as expressed through the survey have also influenced policy development	
72	Individual 17	Policy HIT2	We particularly support the proposal for development of new bungalows in the village including hamlets	Support noted	No change
73	Individual 20	Policy HIT2	Doubtful, if some expectations could be provided i.e. pavements on the road	Noted	No change
74	Individual 21	Policy HIT2	We particularly support the proposal for development of new bungalows in the village including hamlets.	Noted	No change
75	Individual 26	Policy HIT2	Strongly agree there has to be the right mix to cater for the present and future period of the plan.	Support noted	No change
76	Individual 28	Policy HIT2	Referring to the demographic graph people with young/growing families tend not to reside in Hitcham. Lack of transport, schools, doctors and work choices should be considered,	Noted. The limited services in Hitcham will be a factor in the level of new housing	No change
77	Individual 40	Policy HIT2	Yes to cater for all needs	Noted	No change
78	Individual 41	Policy HIT2	Houses bigger than 3 bedrooms should be built	Noted. The policy does not preclude larger dwellings, it	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				expresses a preference.	
79	Individual 42	Policy HIT2	Should include low cost	Noted. The policy includes affordable dwellings	No change



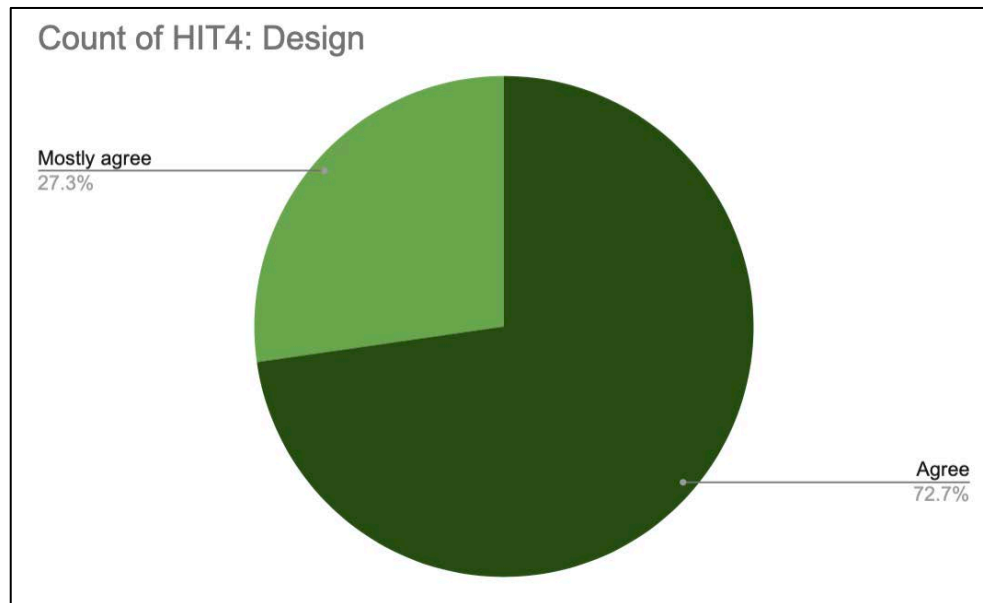
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
80	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT3	<p>Policy HIT3: Linked to our comment on para 7.38 above, see below our suggested amendment to the first paragraph of this policy:</p> <p><i>“Proposals for the development of small-scale affordable housing schemes on sites <u>outside of but immediately adjacent to or otherwise well related to the settlement boundary</u> will be supported where:”</i></p> <p>Criterion b. would benefit from additional text to be clear about what ‘local connection’ means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The housing is offered in the first instance to people with a demonstrated local connection to the parish of Hitcham <u>as set out in the Gateway to Homechoice (Choice Based Letting Scheme) Allocations Policy 2022 (or successor document).</u>’ <p>For the locational requirement criterion [d. to j.] there does appear to be some overlap. As a suggestion, perhaps consider the following re-worked list:</p> <p>d. <u>The site is self-contained, has logical natural boundaries, and constitutes a logical natural extension to the built-up area of the village</u></p> <p>e. The proposal is well designed and landscaped, and is appropriate in terms of size/scale, layout, and character to its setting and to <u>the rest of</u> the village</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Agree this would assist with clarity</p> <p>Agree to rationalise the criteria however the proposed wording would exclude some of the key criteria.</p>	<p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>f. Effective pedestrian and cycle connections between the site and the village services and facilities (<i>i.e., the shop and the village hall</i>) can be provided</p> <p>g. The <i>proposal</i> would not have an unacceptable impact upon the historic or natural assets of the parish</p> <p>h. The <i>proposal</i> would not have an unacceptable impact upon highway safety</p>		Amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
81	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT3	<p>Policy HIT3 – With regard to point f., SCC Transport Strategy would usually be consulted and if any proposal had an unacceptable impact upon highway safety (clearly not in accordance with NPPF 115), we would object and seek mitigation to address the issues or recommend refusal if the issues could not be mitigated.</p> <p>Similarly with regard to point j., SCC Transport Strategy would be consulted and would look to procure sustainable travel improvements from development wherever possible.</p>	Noted	No change
82	Individual 1	Policy HIT3	Public transport is extremely limited and there are no schools or medical services available to support	Noted. It is acknowledged the limited services in the	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			affordable housing. The elderly can be very isolated whilst young families may struggle with public transport.	parish will affect the level of new housing	
83	Individual 2	Policy HIT3	The stipulations to this mean that there is an extremely limited area that "fits the bill" in the village. Prime housing areas won't be sacrificed for affordable housing when alternative sites are available. How many more times does it need to be proved that affordable housing is required, as well as other development. This has been going on for decades, and the same answers are given.	Noted. This policy is specifically aimed at affordable housing	No change
84	Individual 4	Policy HIT3	I agree that housing should be within the defined area however don't agree that the focus should be on affordable housing. I don't believe that this suits Hitcham or that there are adequate facilities and public transport to support it.	Noted. However the overall demand for affordable housing including affordable homeownership is increasing . The policy seeks to provide guidance for a suitable site should one become available.	No change
85	Individual 6	Policy HIT3	developers(as I was told) will not build affordable/social houses without private ones as well. Not cost affected.	Noted. This policy is aimed at sites which would not be permitted for open market housing and therefore there is a benefit to a	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				developer/landowner for such sites	
86	Individual 13	Policy HIT3	Definitely NO flats/apartments or HMOs. We have witnessed the detrimental impact this can have on communities	Noted.	No change
87	Individual 14	Policy HIT3	This is the crux of the matter. If local government is sympathetic to national government policies as with our red-green coalition at the moment - then i can see no way of stopping a nice new estate being built at the Causeway, to be populated by people dropped in from anywhere.	Noted. This Policy and the form of housing suitable under it is dependent upon local connections	No change
88	Individual 20	Policy HIT3	Housing developers cannot be trusted to put affordable houses up even if agreed.	Noted. It is incumbent on the District Council to ensure that there is rigorous viability testing if the affordable housing requirement is to be reduced	No change
89	Individual 23	Policy HIT3	Affordable housing has to have some incentive for the landowner, i.e mixed development	Noted. The criteria around community led development allow for this where it is required to make a development viable.	See also Babergh comment at 80 above
90	Individual 26	Policy HIT3	Accessibility again important, especially pavements which are non-existent in some rural areas Important issue highlighted here.	Noted	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
91	Individual 40	Policy HIT3	This will help the younger generation	Noted	No change
92	Individual 42	Policy HIT3	Should be for local residents, especially young. People who wish to stay in Hitcham	Noted. The Policy includes a local connection criterion.	See also Babergh comment at 80
93	Individual 44	Policy HIT3	We should have some affordable housing and bungalows so older people can downsize	Noted . This is specifically mentioned in HIT2.	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
94	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT4	<p>Policy HIT4 is a long and detailed policy, with the majority of the criteria drawn from the Design Guidelines & Codes document. While that approach seems sensible, some repetition has crept in, i.e., the 2nd paragraph and criterion a. both refer to an 'understanding of the relevant geographical area'.</p> <p>Qstn: Could the introductory paragraphs be redrafted so that they refer generally to the Design Guidelines & Codes document and then let the criteria speak for themselves?</p> <p>Please also note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In criterion g., the word 'codes' at the start of the 4th line should begin with a capital letter • criterion j. appears to be derived from Code DV.04 (page 26) of the Design Guidelines document. Should the words '... and variety' be deleted? 	Noted. Policy can be reviewed to be made more succinct and reduce duplication	Review policy wording and amend as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
95	Anglia Water	Policy HIT4	<p>Policy HIT4: Design Drainage</p> <p>o. Parking</p> <p>It is suggested that the term "permeable surfaces" rather than "porous materials" be used to refer to the design of new developments, in order to reduce surface water run-off from the introduction of hard-standing areas such as for vehicle parking.</p>	Noted. Agree to use suggested term	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>p. Sustainable Drainage</p> <p>Anglian Water is supportive of measures to address surface water run-off, including the preference for this to be managed using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and requiring permeable surfaces for new areas of hardstanding within developments to align with the drainage hierarchy. Such measures help to avoid surface water run-off from entering our foul drainage network, and connections to a surface water sewer should only be considered where all other options are demonstrated to be impracticable. Any requirements for a surface water connection to our surface water sewer network will require the developer to fund the cost of modelling and any upgrades required to accept the flows from the development.</p> <p>Anglian Water encourages the use of nature-based solutions for SuDS wherever possible, including retrofitting SuDS to existing urban areas to enhance amenity and biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan area and contribute to green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>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/ 2025. However, we welcome this policy to ensure SuDS measures are incorporated within new</p>	Support noted	

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			<p>developments, until the Schedule is formally implemented and the necessary measures are in place.</p> <p>Environmental Design v. Water efficiency measures Anglian Water is pleased to note that water efficiency is referenced within the neighbourhood plan. As a region identified as seriously water stressed, we encourage plans to include measures to improve water efficiency of new development through water efficient fixtures and fittings, including through rainwater/storm water harvesting and reuse, and greywater recycling. Measures to improve water efficiency standards and opportunities for water reuse and recycling also reduces the volume of wastewater needed to be treated by our water recycling centres. This will help to reduce customer bills (including for other energy bills) as well as reduce carbon emissions in the supply and recycling of water.</p> <p>The Defra Integrated Plan for Water supports the need to improve water efficiency and 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 litres per person per day (l/p/d) where there is a clear local need, such as in areas of serious water</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>	

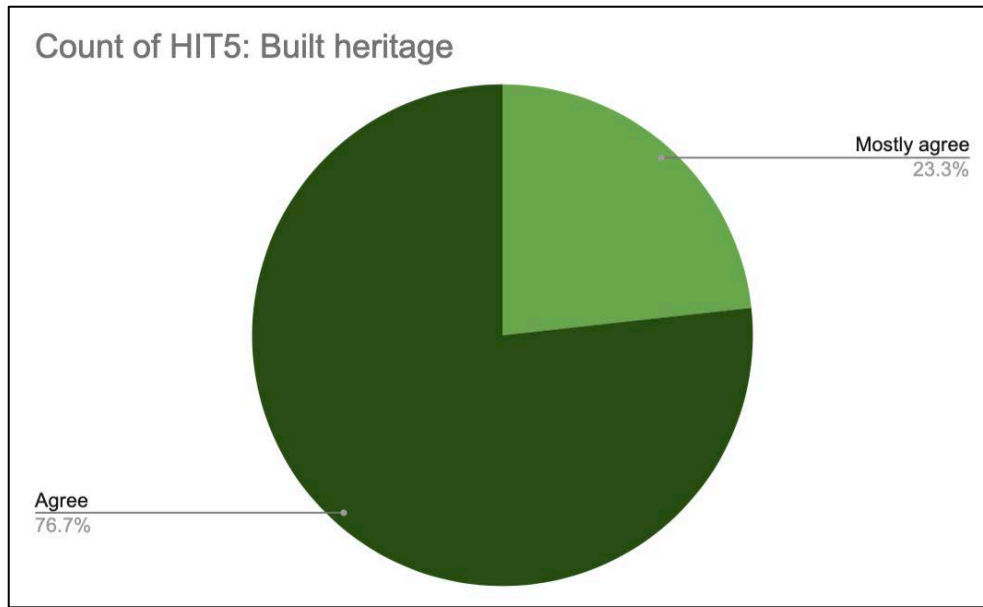
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			stress. Given the proposed national approach to water efficiency, Anglian Water encourages this approach.		
96	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT4 - flooding	Flooding SCC, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, has the responsibility for managing flood risk arising from surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses. The Environment Agency has the responsibility for managing flood risk from main rivers and the coast. SCC welcomes the inclusion of reference to Sustainable Drainage Systems ("SuDS") under point p. of HIT4. We consider that the Draft Design Code could usefully include mention of SuDS and provide that they shall be multifunctional, delivering benefits for flood risk, water quality, biodiversity and amenity, among others.	Noted. Design Code can be amended to reflect suggested wording	Amend Design Code accordingly
97	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT4	Policy HIT4: Design – This policy could reference Suffolk Design: Streets Guide ⁵ with regard to any new development street layouts. Connections and parking (points q – t) – this section could refer to Suffolk Guidance for Parking (2023 or as superseded in future) and include support for cycle storage provision and EV charging. We support the need for good connectivity to new developments and would look to procure sustainable travel improvements from development wherever possible.	Noted. Appropriate reference can be included. Support noted	Include reference to documents as requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

⁵ <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/suffolk-design-guide-for-residential-areas>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
98	Individual 1	Policy HIT4	Any new dwelling should be designed with a low roofline, in keeping with the majority of buildings in the village. Materials should also look right. As rural housing, gardens should be a good size.	Noted. The height of buildings and their roofline will be influenced by the character of the surrounding development	No change
99	Individual 2	Policy HIT4	endorse every single statement	Support noted.	No change
100	Individual 9	Policy HIT4	Don't want to see faux victorian developments like everywhere else.	Noted. The policy encourages innovation whilst respecting existing character	No change
101	Individual 10	Policy HIT4	Buildings should be kept in character with the area	Noted. The policy seeks to achieve this	No change
102	Individual 11	Policy HIT4	Keep housing in the older styles	Noted	No change
103	Individual 13	Policy HIT4	Well-designed and aesthetically pleasing dwellings usually encourage the upkeep and good maintenance of properties	Noted. The policy seeks to achieve this.	No change
104	Individual 14	Policy HIT4	i.e. the new housing should be if possible unique in design, like that proposed by Brick House Farm but rejected by the Councils, and exactly not how the mix	Noted. The NP policies look forward and	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			uses on the Causeway are but supported by the Councils.	cannot be retrospectively applied.	
105	Individual 17	Policy HIT4	We feel that any new development should avoid ultra modern new design.	Noted	No change
106	Individual 20	Policy HIT4	Not convinced by heat pumps	Noted	No change
107	Individual 21	Policy HIT4	We feel any new development should avoid ultra modern design.	Noted	No change
108	Individual 23	Policy HIT4	As long as District Council stick to the submitted plans (has been an issue in the past).	Noted.	No change
109	Individual 24	Policy HIT4	Any new developments should require solar heating when built.	Noted. Building regulations are evolving greatly over time	No change
110	Individual 26	Policy HIT4	Yes green features and environmental issues very important. Any developments need to maintain village 'feel' and historic and natural aspects.	Noted . It is acknowledged there is a balance to be struck	No change
111	Individual 32	Policy HIT4	Not higher than two storeys is very important	Noted. Height will be dependent upon the surrounding character, however the majority of Hitcham is two	No change

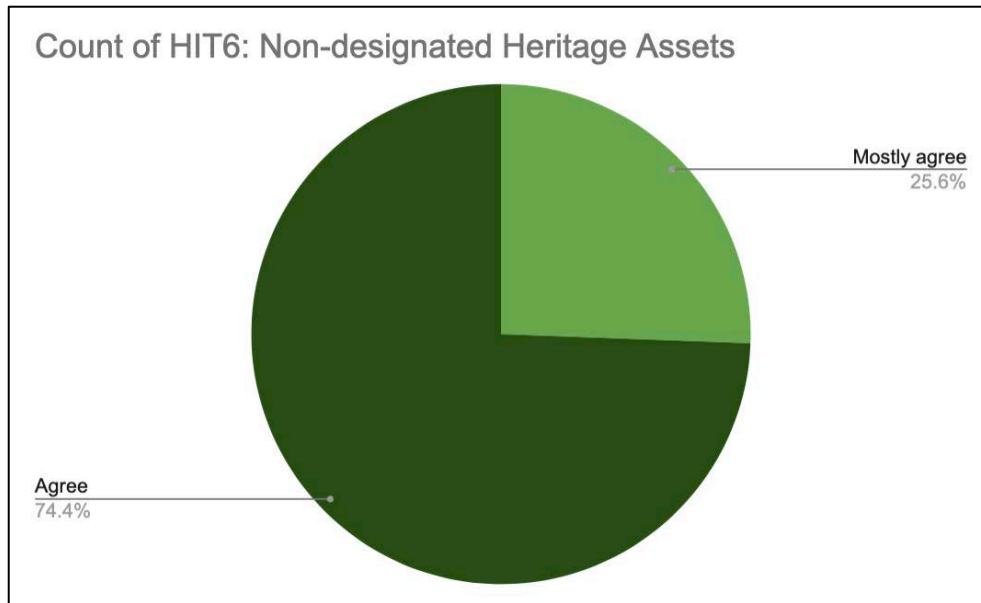
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				storeys or below.	
112	Individual 35	Policy HIT4	Really must make sure new development or permission adjacent to road should as a pre requisite have to construct a pavement	Noted. Connections to an from new development are important and covered by criterion g.	No change
113	Individual 36	Policy HIT4	Consideration should be given to design of housing to encouraged back swift/house martins/swallows to rest. Example white rendered house on site of garage near village hall has house martins resting (I've never seen them before here in 18 years) because they like white buildings and overhanging eaves. Don't make all the houses red and pink!	Noted. Biodiversity enhancements are an important feature and are covered in Policy HIT10	No change
114	Individual 40	Policy HIT4	You will not change the character of the village by building housing of very modern styling etc	Noted	No change
115	Individual 41	Policy HIT4	New buildings should be of their time and not mimic the past	Noted	No change
116	Individual 42	Policy HIT4	All designs should be in keeping with the village. As not to be a blot on the landscape	Noted. The Policy emphasises the rural character of the area.	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
117	Suffolk County Council	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 – SCC welcomes this thorough section dedicated to the historic environment which includes both and above and below ground heritage. This section would benefit from adding a note along the lines of: “Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (“SCCAS”) advise that there should be early consultations of the Historic Environment Record (“HER”) and assessment of the archaeological potential of any potential development site at an appropriate stage in	Noted. Reference can be added to supporting text	Amend supporting text accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>the design stage, in order that the requirements of NPPF and Babergh Mid Suffolk Local Plan are met. SCCAS as advisors to Babergh Mid Suffolk Council would be happy to advise on the level of archaeological assessment and appropriate stages to be undertaken.”</p> <p>Having something along the lines of the above would provide clarity to developers for any future development sites. In addition to this, the plan could also highlight any level of public outreach and public engagement that might be aspired from archaeology undertaken as part of a development project, as increased public understanding of heritage sites is an aspiration of the NPPF.</p>		
118	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT5	Policy HIT5 – SCC welcomes that a heritage statement has been included here and that it includes archaeology. To reinforce that archaeology (below ground heritage) is included in this policy it could be renamed to “Built and Historic Environment” for clarity.	Noted Agree to amend policy title	Amend policy title <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
119	Individual 2	Policy HIT5	As long as it is easier to protect (and in that sense including change of use and alterations) to those assets becoming non designated heritage assets, then I agree. Easiest preservation is often to change it's use, otherwise redundant assets fall into disrepair	Support noted	No change
120	Individual 14	Policy HIT5	Unfortunately, the current Labour govt in the hands of Ms Rayner do not have the slightest intention of supporting such views and would rather destroy its	Noted.	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			heritage than see it remain in the hands of the 'wealthy'. Their aim is levelling down.		
121	Individual 36	Policy HIT5	I think all new houses must be designed for solar panels and low carbon measures. Orientation of roofs should be considered. Make all the green measures mandatory so that bills are affordable and the impact on the environment is less or at least design houses with grooves pointing in the right direction for PV.	Noted. This is covered by Policy HIT4	No change
122	Individual 41	Policy HIT5	All new buildings should have to generate 50% of their own electricity. Existing buildings should be put through a retrofit programme, led by the village.	Noted. Whilst the NPPF provides support for retrofitting it would need to be a project rather than a policy. The PC does not have the resources to lead this but would be supportive in principle.	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
123	Babergh District Council	Paragraph 9.8	<p>Para 9.8: A couple of suggestions below for context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the last sentence to read: 'The list <u>was</u> revised and <u>those</u> candidates <u>were</u> assessed against the criteria shown in Appendix B.' Add the following (or similar) as a new last sentence to para 9.8: '<u>Policy HIT6 below identifies eight Non-designated Heritage Assets across the</u> 	Noted.	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<u>parish that have been deemed worthy of protection through this plan.'</u>		
124	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT6	<p>Policy HIT6 / Figure 25 / Appendix B: See our comments / suggestions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the cross-reference in Policy HIT6 to the correct map (i.e., Figure 25). • If it is not possible to have Fig 25 and its title on the same page, consider moving Policy HIT6 so that it appears after para 9.8 and then follow on with Figure 25. • Within Appendix B, consider including a more detailed location map on a suitable OS base to better show the location / extent of each NdHA. In particular, the precise location of the Ancient Burial Land opposite Brick House Farm is hard to pinpoint from Figure 25. 	Noted	<p>Amend accordingly</p> <p>Map amendments</p>
125	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT6	<p>Policy HIT6 – This policy provides a good and diverse list of non-designated heritage assets which have been identified and we welcome that it includes both built heritage and archaeological sites. We also note that high-quality research has gone into the assessment of these assets in appendix B.</p>	Support welcomed	No change
126	Suffolk County Council	Paragraph 9.20	<p>Paragraph 9.20 – With regard to historic farmsteads, it might be of interest to the parish council to look at the Farmsteads project undertaken by SCCAS mentioned above.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Refence can be included</p>	<p>Include reference to farmsteads project in footnote <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
127	Historic England	Policy HIT6	<p>Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft of this Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>We welcome the production of this neighbourhood plan but do not consider it necessary for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of your strategy at this time.</p> <p>We are, however, pleased to note the historic environment features throughout the Plan. We also welcome the inclusion of archaeology within the proposed Non-Designated Heritage Assets shown in Appendix B.</p> <p>We would refer you to our advice on successfully incorporating historic environment considerations into your neighbourhood plan, which can be found here: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/.</p> <p>For further specific 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 the Historic Environment Record at Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>To avoid any doubt, this letter does not reflect our</p>	Support noted	No change

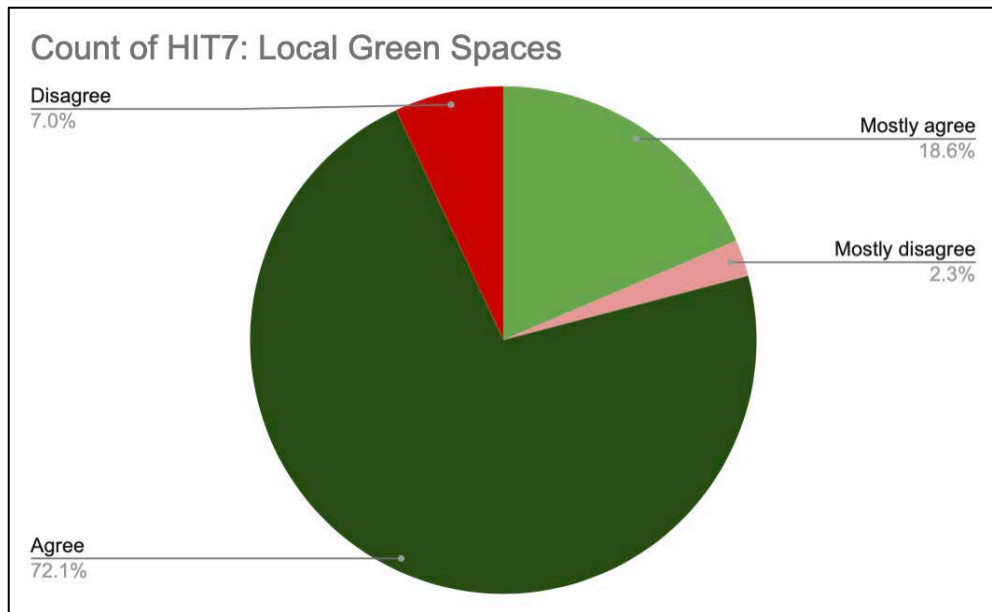
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed plan, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.</p> <p>Please do contact me, either via email or the number above, if you have any queries.</p>		
128	Individual 1	Policy HIT6	<p>School House has lost any original features because of extensive rendering.</p> <p>The Raised pavement is hardly attractive.</p>	Noted. However both are considered worthy of NDHA identification	No change
129	Individual 2	Policy HIT6	<p>As long as it is easier to protect (and in that sense including change of use and alterations) to those assets becoming non designated heritage assets, then I agree. Easiest preservation is often to change it's use, otherwise redundant assets fall into disrepair</p>	Noted	No change
130	Individual 13	Policy HIT6	<p>Do not have an issue with this, however, we would not wish to see any future additional restrictions brought in on any such assets (including our property); we are assuming this is NOT the thin end of the wedge to pave the way for future limitations and regulations?</p>	Noted. NDHA designation does not introduce the need for additional consents	No change
131	Individual 15	Policy HIT6	<p>Have the Assembly Rooms at Cross Green been considered?</p>	The buildings already had	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				a planning permission to demolish which has now been implemented	
132	Individual 16	Policy HIT6	Have the Assembly Rooms at Cross Green been considered.?	See 131 above	See 131 above
133	Individual 24	Policy HIT6	Karner raised pavement needs to be painted (railings) and checked for damage/dangerous concrete	Noted. The maintenance of assets is an issue for the owners who are SCC	No change
134	Individual 49	Policy HIT6	<p>I tried phoning you last week but you were away. I hope you had a good holiday!</p> <p>We have not quite completed the Consultation Response but thought, in the meantime, we should just rectify a few inaccuracies in The Plan in reference to Hitcham Hall, which you may be interested in changing before the final version is submitted:</p> <p>Hitcham Hall has never been a 'Former Rectory'. It was originally part of a farm once belonging to John Harper (previously the tenant farmer at Hitcham Hall) 1820-1854. Hitcham House was at that time The Rectory.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>This is a reference to the character area descriptions on the Design</p>	Amend page 23 of Design Code accordingly

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>Also, the reference to Hitcham Hall as having a 'Double Fronted Bay' is incorrect, and this clearly refers to Hitcham House, as can be seen today.</p> <p>Hitcham Hall Top Meadow (Wild Flower Meadow) was never Henslow's Meadow.</p> <p>This is hearsay; please remove this connection from The Plan. In view of the fierce opposition by the tenant farmers to Rev. Henslow's aim to educate the village children, it is very unlikely John Harper would have agreed to Henslow (1837-1861) using his land for this purpose.</p>	Code (page 23) and will be amended accordingly	

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
135	Individual 50	Policy HIT6	<p>I am the owner of the property Oak Tree Farm. Having read the information provided on the website, it's clear this discussion has been going on for some time but we haven't received any information. We also didn't receive any notifications that the drop in session was taking place on 13th July other than the communication which was received via post (which we assume was sent whilst we were away 5th July - 15th July).</p> <p>We have a few questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who/how was the Steering Group membership decided upon in August 2022? 2. Who are the consultants? How were they selected and what qualifications do they have? (I can't make this out from the public information provided) 3. We are also interested to understand what significant factors in our property suggest it should be listed for consideration? <p>We look forward to hearing from you.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The notifications of the drop in were sent out in advance, however it would seem the respondent was away for the date. The consultation period was 6 weeks to allow time for response.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Steering Group were drawn from volunteers. 2. Through a tender 	No change to Plan

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				<p>process with relevant planning and design qualifications 3. The NDHA letter sent to notify owners explains the position. The details of the property are shown in the Appendix.</p>	



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
136	Individual 51	Policy HIT7	<p>Re proposed green spaces in Hitcham</p> <p>You sent me an email in July asking for my views on the green space you /committee are proposing for Hitcham.</p> <p>I wish to express my objection to the idea of enforcing restrictions on pieces of land somebody might happen to own. We have no intention of building on the land next to the Village Hall but the act of taking that right away from me I certainly do not agree with.</p>	<p>Comments and the intention not to develop the land is noted. The Plan does not restrict a landowner's ability to submit a planning application which they are</p>	<p>No change to Plan</p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>I can see that the majority of people in the village would think it is a wonderful idea but I am sure if they owned the land they would think differently.</p> <p>My family over the years have I feel done a lot for the village, my Grandfather donated the land for the village hall (now coming back to affect us) we offered some land for social/affordable housing some years ago that was never seen through and have allowed the grass by the hall to be used for various village functions ie Honey Bees ,fetes etc.</p> <p>Some of the other pieces of land you propose for green spaces are all a bit farcical as I am sure nothing could be done with them anyway! (little triangles of grass!)</p> <p>Destinating the playground as a green space??</p> <p>I am sorry if that does not fit in with your plans, but you asked for my views. If you go head with the green spaces I hope you go through the correct procedures to enforce it.</p> <p>As for the neighbourhood plan in general my view is that it is a complete waste of money as a lot of it is stating the obvious and people should be allowed to put in a planning application if they wish, be it one house in their garden or something bigger and it being looked at by the Parish Council and Babergh District Council and</p>	<p>able to do at any time. The piece of land in question was originally identified in the November 2020 version of the Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan as open space</p> <p>The land meets the criteria for LGS designation and is supported by the community as it was a suggestion made in the Household Survey.</p>	

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<i>amended , approved or deemed not suitable as it is presently.</i>		
137	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT7	<p>Policy HIT7 / Para 9.13 / Appendix C: We have no comments at this stage on the eight proposed local green spaces themselves. A more succinctly worded version of para 9.13 (our suggestion below) would lead more naturally into paragraph 9.14. Alternatively, this and para 9.14 could be combined:</p> <p><i>'The Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey included a question on Local Green Spaces. It sought support for their designation in principle as well as suggestions for potential candidates.'</i></p> <p>Within para 9.14, the reference should be to Figure 26, and not Figure 30 as stated.</p> <p>Within Appendix C, consider including a more detailed map on a suitable OS Base for each LGS, or at least LGS4 and LGS8</p>	<p>Noted. Text can be amended accordingly</p> <p>Correct error</p> <p>Individual maps can be included in Appendix C</p>	<p>Amend supporting text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Correct error</p> <p>Include individual maps in Appendix C</p>
138	Anglian Water	Policy HIT7	<p>Policy HIT7: Local Green Spaces The policy designates a number of areas of Local Green Spaces (LGS) within the neighbourhood plan area. It is noted that the supporting text (para 9.10) states that managing development within a</p>	<p>Noted. The text can contain reference to</p>	<p>Include need for maintenance of water assets in the</p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>LGS should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts as set out in paragraphs 104 – 107 of the NPPF (current 2023 version).</p> <p>Anglian Water does have assets forming part of our water and water recycling network (e.g., rising mains and sewers) located in or in the vicinity of these designated areas of local green space. For example, there are underground pipes which are located with sites 5 and 8. We do not consider that the policy should prevent any operational development that may be needed to manage, maintain or repair our assets.</p> <p>For information, maps of Anglian Water’s assets detailing the location of our water and water recycling infrastructure are available at: www.utilities.digdat.co.uk</p>	the need for maintenance	supporting text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
139	Suffolk County Council	Paragraph 9.14	Paragraph 9.14 – This paragraph refers to “figure 13” in reference to Local Green Spaces, however this should be “Figure 26”, as Figure 13 shows habitats.	Noted. Error to be corrected	Correct error <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
140	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT7	<p><i>Local Green Spaces and Facilities</i></p> <p>SCC welcomes the reference to health and wellbeing included in paragraph 9.11 in relation to Local Green spaces. There are proven links between access to green outdoor spaces and the improvements to both physical and mental health and wellbeing for the population as a whole, including increasing the quality</p>	Support noted	No change

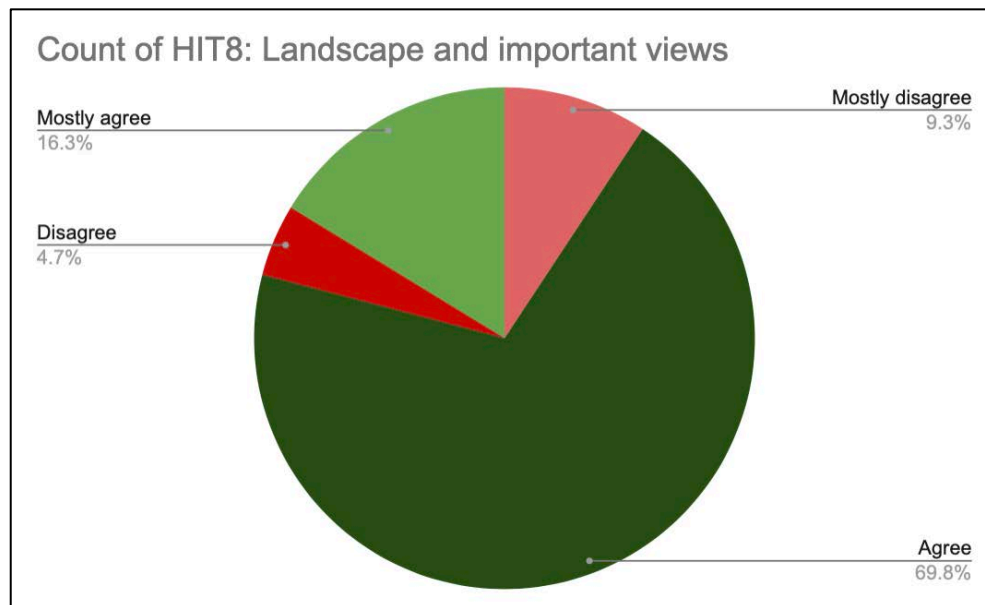
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			of life for the elderly, working age adults, and for children.		
141	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT7	<p>HIT7 – SCC welcomes the designation of Local Green Spaces (“LGSs”) in HIT7: Local Green Spaces, shown on Figure 26 (not Figure 30 as highlighted in para 9.14 of the main text), and the reference to the NPPF paragraph 105-107 - as this supports the ongoing work to make Suffolk the Greenest County⁶. This is provided in Appendix C: Local Green Spaces justification. It provides photos and sets the proposed sites against the NPPF criteria.</p> <p>However, some entries are vague, especially under the criteria for size and proximity of the LGSs to the community. SCC has concerns about the following proposed LGSs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2. Community Play area: The justification suggests it might be better designated as a ‘Community Asset’ than an LGS. • 3. Hobbets: This is located at a remove from the settlement. Within the justification table no information is given about the local character and size of the area, which is necessary to show that it meets the NPPF criteria. • 8. Browns Close Bellmouth entrance: This area displays more the characteristics of a verge than of an LGS. SCC is generally opposed to the designation of highway verges as LGSs because this may compromise SCC’s ability to carry out its powers of maintenance and improvement of the highway network in a scenario 	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Clarification of size can be added to the Appendix</p> <p>This fits the criteria. See BDC response 137</p> <p>Further justification on the archival and archaeological merits of Hobbets to be added.</p>	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			where permitted development powers do not apply. Given that wild orchids grow there, this area could be considered instead for a Suffolk County Council's Roadside Nature Reserve, which would then introduce a suitable maintenance regime.	After consideration is has been resolved to retain the bellmouth as LGS rather than as a RNR	
142	Individual 2	Policy HIT7	No consultation with landowners as to land being designated as green space. Other areas could well have been more suitable, that would provide more significant benefits to the community and biodiversity	Noted. The consultation on the draft plan is the consultation with landowners and other interested parties. Landowners were specifically notified by letter ahead of the consultation The household Survey asked for suggestions for LGS and	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				those identified which fit the criteria are contained in the policy .	
143	Individual 5	Policy HIT7	The younger children already have a designated play area and their are sport facilities for older children at Stowmarket and Hadleigh.	Noted. The policy aims to protect the existing spaces	No change
144	Individual 6	Policy HIT7	enforcing rules onto landowners is not a good idea!	Noted. The consultation is seeking their views	No change
145	Individual 9	Policy HIT7	Unless owned by the parish they can't be designated green spaces	Noted. However, this is incorrect. Private spaces can be included where they meet the NPPF criteria	No change
146	Individual 10	Policy HIT7	I think we should also keep the meadow parallel with Causeway Estate for wildlife, insects etc.,	If this relates to the land next to the village hall this is LGS1	No change
147	Individual 11	Policy HIT7	Keep the meadow parallel with Causeway Estate for wildlife, insects etc.,	See 146 above	See 146 above
148	Individual 13	Policy HIT7	We do need to keep and increase, where possible, our green spaces; it's why we moved here!	Noted	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
149	Individual 29	Policy HIT7	So important is the countryside. Excellent that this has been taken into account.	Support noted	No change
150	Individual 36	Policy HIT7	Why isn't the bottom field included? It's probably the most biodiverse part of Hitcham	Sg discussion: does this meet the criteria? I would guess not if it's a field	No change
151	Individual 37	Policy HIT7	Would love to see Browns Close, Bellmouth landscaped to stop people parking on it.	Noted. It is possible it could become a road side nature reserve	No change
152	Individual 40	Policy HIT7	Very important to the well being of the village	Noted	No change
153	Individual 41	Policy HIT7	The bottom field meadow should be included as well.	See 150 above	See 150 above
154	Individual 42	Policy HIT7	Green spaces should be kept to a minimum	Noted. However this does not reflect the views of the wider community	No change
155	Individual 49	Policy HIT7	"Having lived here for 32 years and successfully created a valuable wildflower meadow, as well as reinstated the grounds for footpath users to enjoy, we are reluctant to enter into any other commitments which may materially compromise our rights as landowners. The Hall has	Noted After further consideration it has been resolved to remove	Remove LGS 5 and 7 from map, policy and appendix

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>2 public footpaths running through the proposed Green Spaces (numbers 5 and 7) which already provide walkers with paths to enjoy nature and are a valuable legacy to the village.</p> <p>We therefore do not see the necessity for LGS designation to two sections of our land and request their removal from The Proposed Plan."</p>	proposed LGS 5 and 7	



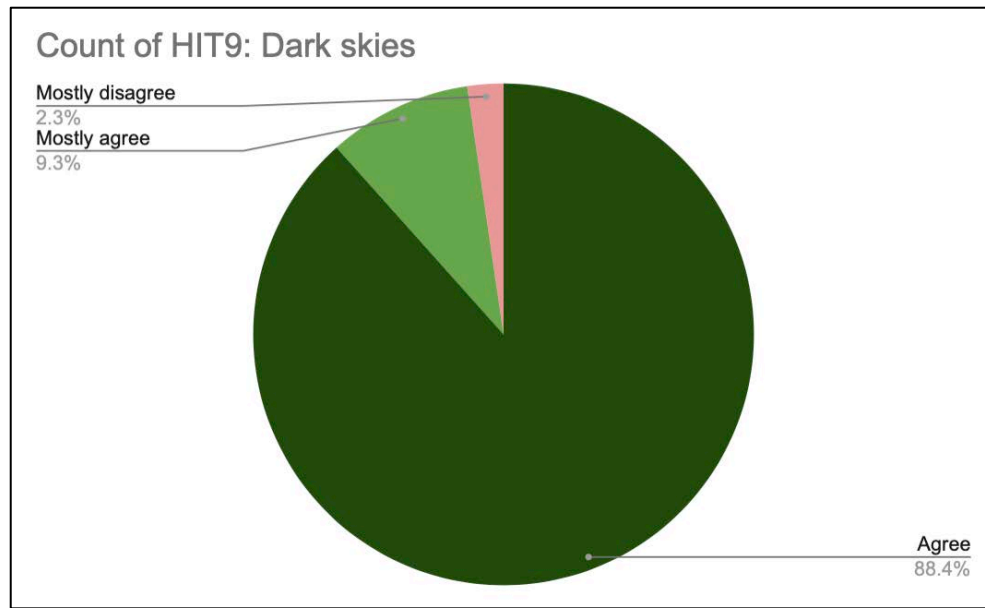
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
156	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT8	<p>Landscape character – The assessment and description of the local landscape character remains limited to paragraph 9.28, while the text beforehand summarises the findings of the Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance 2015. It would have been interesting to see how representative Hitcham is for the three landscape character areas it straddles, and where it differs from them.</p> <p>Important views – 6 important views have been identified by Steering group members on the Character Appraisal and the Design Guidelines and Codes or as a result of suggestions from the local community through the Household Survey. They are all publicly accessible. Figure 27 provided photos for each view, and Figure 28 provides a parish map shown the locations and viewing directions of the views. The views are also shown on Figure 23, Policies Map. Important Public Local Views are anchored in Policy HIT8: Landscape and important views. SCC notes what appears to be a typographic error in paragraph 9.30 ('waw' should be replaced with 'was').</p> <p>Settlement Gaps – Settlement gaps are not mentioned or identified in this NP draft. But the prevention of coalescence is anchored into Policy HIT8: Landscape and important views.</p> <p>As this seems an important issue to the parish, it may be worthwhile to formally identify settlement gaps on the policies map and within the policies.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Support noted.</p> <p>Typo to be corrected</p> <p>Noted. The policy is explicit about the distinct separation of hamlets. However BDC have</p>	<p>Correct typo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				traditionally objected to the mapping of settlement gaps in Neighbourhood Plans (e.g. Acton,) because it results in the inclusion of large areas of land and creates uncertainty as to the necessity for it if development outside of settlement boundaries is already restricted.	
157	Individual 1	Policy HIT8	Views are generally excellent throughout the settlement not just from the viewpoints mentioned. Any development will impact those views.	Noted	No change
158	Individual 2	Policy HIT8	The view restricts the amount of land available for development significantly. It would mean other less suitable sites would be left to be considered.	Noted.	Amend view 2

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			Point 2 is not marked on the map correctly vs whats described	This error to be corrected	
159	Individual 6	Policy HIT8	View 2 marked in totally the wrong place	See above 158	Amend view 2
160	Individual 9	Policy HIT8	We believe the views from Browns close are important.	The views in Brown's Close are to the rear of properties and are private views not available to the public. They are therefore not eligible for protection under this policy	No change
161	Individual 11	Policy HIT8	All the views in Hitcham are important to keep	Noted. However only public views can be included	No change
162	Individual 13	Policy HIT8	Any policy to protect our exceptional views and vistas should be strictly adhered to	Noted	No change
163	Individual 14	Policy HIT8	Surely view 1 has already been obliterated by the new houses.	Whilst development has changed the original view, there is	No change

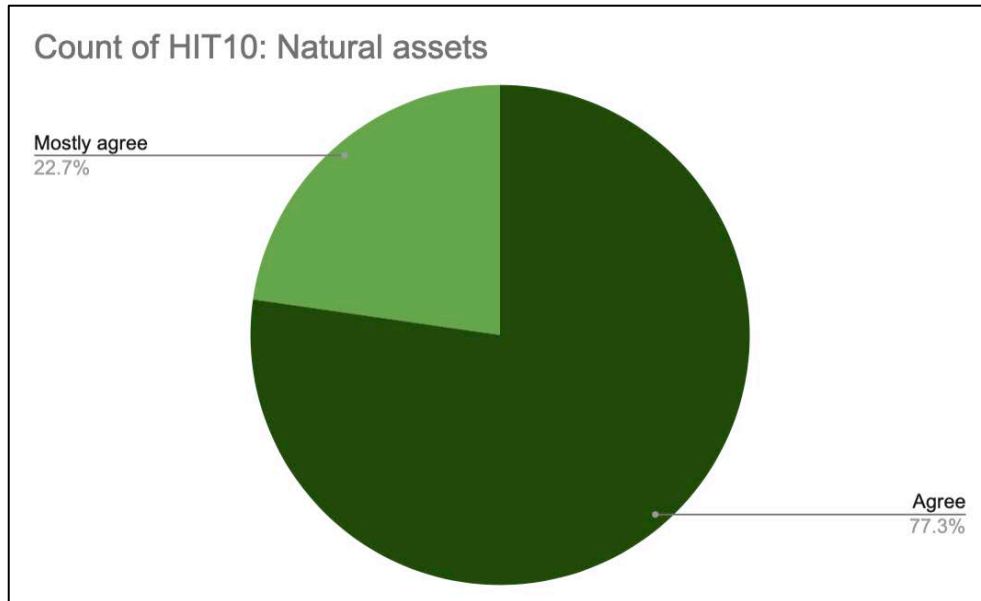
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				still a remaining public view which is worthy of retention	
164	Individual 15	Policy HIT8	Important not to show any more roadside ribbon development along the Causeway, taking away the view.	Noted	No change
165	Individual 20	Policy HIT8	Unfortunately no one owns a view	Noted. This is correct in relation to private views however, public views can be afforded some consideration in planning applications	No change
166	Individual 26	Policy HIT8	Very important to maintain these aspects are integral to the feel of the village and contribute to its character.	Noted	No change
167	Individual 30	Policy HIT8	Point 2 on the map is in the wrong place	See 158 above	Map to be amended
168	Individual 32	Policy HIT8	Point 2 is in the wrong place on the map	See 158 above	Map to be amended
169	Individual 36	Policy HIT8	This feels a bit NIMBY. Houses should be designed with correct proportions and styles to minimise the impact on	Noted. It is a balance between	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			views but protecting views should not overuse the need for housing	protecting the most important views and ensuring that new development is well designed to take account of them	
170	Individual 41	Policy HIT8	I feel that if development is appropriately proportioned/designed it could be placed anywhere	Noted.	No change
171	Individual 47	Policy HIT8	Point 2 is in the wrong place on the map	See 158 above	



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
172	Individual 10	Policy HIT9	I do not think we should ever have street lights	Noted	No change
173	Individual 11	Policy HIT9	Important not to have street lighting	Noted	No change
174	Individual 13	Policy HIT9	It's important that the council resists all requests for additional lighting that would detract from our beautiful dark pollution-free skies	Noted	No change
175	Individual 14	Policy HIT9	This should also be applied retrospectively to houses with intrusive 'safety' lights, activated by movement.	Noted. However , NP policies cannot	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			One of the best aspects of life in Hitcham is the non existence of streetlights.	be retrospectively applied.	
176	Individual 15	Policy HIT9	Dark sky policy should apply to existing development - prohibiting bright security lights that are kept on all evening/night	See response to 175 above. It cannot be retrospectively applied.	No change
177	Individual 16	Policy HIT9	The policy only refers to new development. What about existing development? Prohibition of bright security lights that are kept on all evening/night should be considered.	See response to 175 above. It cannot be retrospectively applied.	No change
178	Individual 20	Policy HIT9	No street lights if we want to keep our dark skies, which are already being spoilt by other local large estate builds.	Noted	No change
179	Individual 23	Policy HIT9	Already exists	Noted	No change
180	Individual 26	Policy HIT9	Important to maintain dark skies aspect for nature and its creatures.	Noted	No change
181	Individual 39	Policy HIT9	No obvious street lighting please	Noted	No change
182	Individual 40	Policy HIT9	Not only important to village but also the wild life	Noted	No change
183	Individual 42	Policy HIT9	High powered outside lights should be kept to a minimum if people don't like the dark, though shouldn't move to the country	Noted	No change
184	Individual 43	Policy HIT9	Controlled lighting at night, village hall v houses	Noted	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
185	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT10	<p>Policy HIT10 / Para 9.38</p> <p>The Council supports a positive approach to addressing biodiversity matters as set out in Policy HIT10. However, we also wish to comment as set out below.</p> <p>The statement in para 9.38 that "Babergh District Council requires 20 per cent biodiversity net gain" (BNG) is factually incorrect. We remind you that:</p>	Noted. Reference to be corrected	Amend supporting text accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JLP Policy SP09[4] sets out that, “through BNG, all development will be required to protect and enhance biodiversity”., and that JLP Policy LP16[e] seeks measurable net gains, equivalent to 10%, in line with national guidance. <p>Our only reference to 20% BNG at this time is in the consultation draft Supplementary Planning Document on Biodiversity & Trees, but only there in the context of “encouraging applicants to deliver at least 20% BNG where possible”. Encouraging is not the same as requiring. Paragraph 9.38 should therefore be amended or deleted.</p> <p>Some additional text, either within para 9.38 or as new glossary entry to explain to the more casual reader what the purpose of BNG is would also be helpful.</p> <p>With regard to coverage of biodiversity matters in general, and aspects of Policy HIT10 in particular, we also set out below the thoughts provided by our Biodiversity Project Manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy HIT10 reads as a generic policy. Point iv. refers to the installation of bird and bat boxes, hedgehog holes, etc. While of value, we reminded that these features do not count towards BNG calculations. Strictly speaking, it is therefore incorrect to suggest 	<p>Additional explanation can be included</p> <p>Noted. Some more specificity can be included.</p>	<p>Add Priority Habitats Map and text, together with</p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>that BNG delivery can be achieved using these features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of Figure 30, which identifies particular habitats is welcomed but there is no assessment of their current (baseline) condition. Other NPs have included a biodiversity audit as part of their evidence base which records habitat and features (such as ancient and veteran trees) of note within the parish. That audit allows for better targeting of where measures to support and enhance biodiversity should be delivered. • Policy HIT10 mentions creating new habitat, enhancing and restoring existing habitat, and reconnecting habitat, without any indication of where this could take place. For example, it may be that a future development proposal offers new habitat creation on a convenient site elsewhere within the parish, ignoring the potential on the development site to deliver much more. • Identification of what is important to the parish (regardless of whether it is a designated site or not) in terms of its condition and threats to existence, based upon site assessments rather than online and potentially out-dated information, would provide a much more robust approach, enable identification of where new development would be most damaging and where new habit creation or restoration would be most beneficial." 	<p>There is no requirement to include this . However more detail scan be included</p>	<p>reference to Nature Recovery Strategies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>We also recognise that these same comments could equally be applied to any number of other NPs but, with so much attention being paid to biodiversity matters, this is an area where a neighbourhood plan could add real value at the local level.</p> <p>Assuming that the Steering Group have not looked into this already, commissioning a biodiversity audit now and then incorporating the outcomes of that into this draft plan will have implications for its timetable. If that is not possible, could the Plan set out a 'Community Action' to carry out such an assessment, either alone or with support from relevant organisations?</p> <p>Accessibility (page 71): Within this section, consider including a link back to the PRoW map (Figure 6). We suggest either as part of the last sentence in para 9.40, or within para 9.46.</p> <p>Para 9.43 refers to making "key connections between existing routes". While this Plan may not be able to deliver those connections, no other details are provided as to where these gaps are. Qstn: Is it worth recording them here, perhaps as a Community Aspiration?</p>	<p>PC will review in the future as a possible project when resources allow.</p> <p>Include reference to Figure 6</p> <p>There are no obvious connections missing so text to be clarified</p>	<p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
186	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT10	<p>Objective 3 – SCC welcomes the inclusion of this environmental objective and suggest that the wording around biodiversity could be strengthened. Instead of saying: “built heritage landscape and enhancing biodiversity,” it could read: “built heritage, landscape, and providing a measurable increase in Biodiversity Net Gain.”</p> <p>Paragraph 9.38 – SCC recommends that the parish council check with Babergh District Council that local plan policy requires 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (“BNG”) or whether this is an aspiration. SCC has been unable to find this requirement in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (“BMSJLP”); in fact paragraph 15.12 of the BMSJLP states that proposals will be required to meet a minimum of 10% increase or in line with Government requirements if greater. The requirement remains 10% under the Environment Act 2021. Additionally, although it is a relatively minor point, the statement that the Environment Act 2021 came into force fully in April 2024 is not strictly correct. As of that date, it is in force for minor and major sites; however, the requirement for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects has not been implemented.</p>	<p>Noted. Objective to be amended</p> <p>The 20% is to be clarified . See BDC response at 185 above.</p>	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
187	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT10	<p>HIT10 – The policy states that: “Biodiversity net gains in new development may be delivered through: [...] the incorporation of appropriate wildlife-friendly measures in all new developments</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>See response to BDC 185 above</p>	Amend accordingly

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>applied on a proportionate basis such as the installation of swift and/or bat bricks or boxes; hedgehog-friendly fencing to enable hedgehogs and other small mammals, amphibians, etc., to move freely and where such measures are located for optimum effectiveness/success."</p> <p>It is worth mentioning that BNG under the Environment Act is a habitats-led approach, not a species-led approach, and specifically excludes features such as bat and bird boxes from counting towards BNG. Because these features will not score on any metric (and therefore cannot be used to deliver a measurable increase in BNG), SCC suggests that the policy is reworked to draw a distinction between measures which would increase a development's BNG metric and which measures are supported on a more general basis. An additional minor change suggested by SCC would be the removal of "species of" under point ii. for clarity.</p>		
188	Anglia Water	Policy HIT10	<p>Policy HIT10: Natural assets</p> <p>Anglian Water supports the policy and prioritising the delivery of biodiversity net gains within the neighbourhood planning area to support habitat recovery and enhancements within existing and new areas of green and blue infrastructure. We would also support opportunities to maximise green infrastructure connectivity including through opportunities to minimise surface water run-off from existing urban areas through the creation of rain gardens for example.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Reference to Nature Recovery can be included</p>	<p>Include reference to nature recovery in text and policy as appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>Anglian Water has made a corporate commitment to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10% against the measured losses of habitats on all AW-owned land.</p> <p>As the neighbourhood plan progresses, there may also be benefit in referencing the emerging Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - Suffolk County Council) which will identify priority actions for nature and map specific areas for improving habitats for nature recovery.</p>		
189	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Policy HIT10	<p>Policy HIT10</p> <p>The policy is clear in pushing new development to follow the mitigation hierarchy, including that enhancement for biodiversity is required. Reference is made to this as a general enhancement, including features such as bat and bird boxes, but also through a measured net gain calculated and demonstrated using Biodiversity Net Gain, underpinned by <i>The Environment Act 2021</i>⁶.</p> <p>Supporting information (para. 9.38) includes reference that Biodiversity Net Gain in Babergh & Mid-Suffolk should deliver 20%, put forward within the <i>Biodiversity and Trees SPD</i> consultation in May 2024³. Reference to Biodiversity Net Gain within HIT10 states that delivery should be in line with national policy, a minimum of 10% net gain.</p>	The 20% net gain aspiration is to be clarified as per Babergh's comments at 185 above	No change

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

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			<p>However, Babergh & Mid-Suffolk Council's ambition to deliver a net gain of at least 20% could be reflected more in the supporting text for HIT10 showing that the parish of Hitcham believes that Biodiversity Net Gain should go beyond the minimum level to offer confidence of genuinely positive outcomes for biodiversity. It is important to remember the evidence presented by DEFRA consulting on the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain into the planning system made clear that an increase of 10% would be the absolute minimum necessary to ensure confidence that a net loss in biodiversity would be avoided; <i>"In simple terms, [10%] is the lowest level of net gain that [DEFRA] could confidently expect to deliver genuine net gain, or at least no net loss, of biodiversity and thereby meet its policy objectives."</i>⁷⁸</p> <p>Suffolk Wildlife Trust believe that there is significant evidence supporting the ambition for net gain to go beyond the statutory minimum, which we reiterate has been set at the lowest level, this includes:</p>		

⁷ https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/net-gain/supporting_documents/181121%20%20Biodiversity%20Net%20Gain%20Consultation%20IA%20FINAL%20for%20publication.pdf

⁸ https://surreynaturepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/recommendation-for-20-bng-in-surrey_snp-november2020_final.pdf

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023 State of Nature Report⁹ highlights that, despite considerable conservation efforts over recent decades, many species continue to decline and therefore more needs to be done to halt this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The abundance of 753 terrestrial and freshwater species has on average fallen by 19% across the UK since 1970. Within this average figure, 290 species have declined in abundance (38%). • The UK distributions of 4,979 invertebrate species have on average decreased by 13% since 1970. Stronger declines were seen in some insect groups which provide key ecosystem functions such as pollination (average 18% decrease in species' distributions). • 10,008 species were assessed using Red List criteria. 2% (151 species) are extinct in Great Britain and a further 16% (almost 1,500 species) are now threatened with extinction. • The UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan¹⁰ includes multiple targets, which are more likely to be met should BNG deliver levels above 10%. 		

⁹ https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf

¹⁰ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ab3a67840f0b65bb584297e/25-year-environment-plan.pdf>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Government has committed to delivering “30by30” on Land in England¹¹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020, the government committed to protecting 30% of the UK’s land by 2030 (30by30). Thanks to UK leadership, a global 30by30 target was adopted at the UN Biodiversity Summit COP15 in December 2022, as part of an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework. • In October 2023, Wildlife and Countryside Link published the 30by30 in England 2023 Progress Report⁹. This found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The area of England effectively protected for nature is still hovering around 3.11% on land and at maximum 8% at sea. ○ The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, sitting in the bottom 10% globally for biodiversity remaining. • Suffolk County Council have declared a climate emergency¹² and will continue to change 		

¹¹

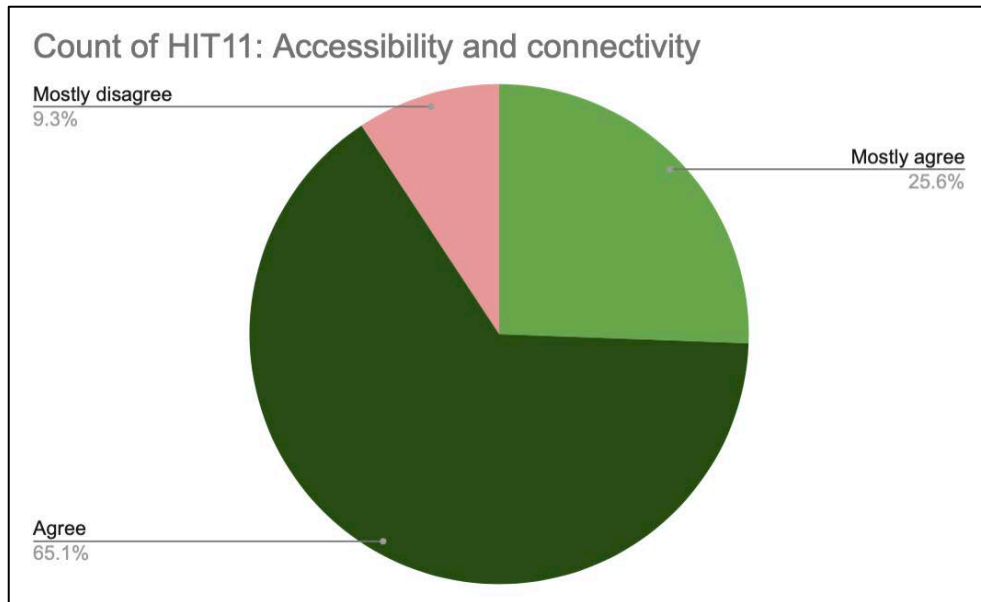
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65807a5e23b70a00d234b5d/Delivering_30by30_on_land_in_England.pdf

¹² <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/our-aims-and-transformation-programmes/our-ambitions-for-suffolk/protecting-and-enhancing-our-environment>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>approaches to progress to net zero, and work to encourage others' behavior changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babergh Mid-Suffolk District Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency in 2019¹³ and in September 2019, councilors approved commitments to enhance and protect biodiversity across the district. In May 2024 the district council, in a consultation draft of the Biodiversity and Trees SPD put forward an ambition for Biodiversity Net Gain to deliver 20%. <p>We therefore believe that Hitcham should look to encourage new development in the parish to deliver more towards nature recovery.</p>		
190	Individual 2	Policy HIT10	BNG should be sought from sites in or surrounding the parish rather than outsourced elsewhere. No point in exporting our biodiversity out of the village away from parishioners enjoyment	Noted. The hierarchy of on site followed by off site but in close proximity can be reinforced	Add clarification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
191	Individual 10	Policy HIT10	As Hitcham has so much greenery, if you built on it I do not know how you could make good elsewhere	Noted	No change
192	Individual 11	Policy HIT10	Must keep our natural wildlife areas	Noted	No change
193	Individual 13	Policy HIT10	Our thanks to our wonderful farmers for providing and so many wild areas for natural habitation around our village	Noted	No change

¹³ <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/climate-change-and-biodiversity-annual-report-mid-suffolk>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
194	Individual 14	Policy HIT10	What about the poor old muntjacs?	Noted	No change
195	Individual 15	Policy HIT10	There should not be any destruction of hedgerows, if adequate mitigation measures cannot be provided then planning permission should be refused.	Noted. The policy aims to achieve this where possible.	No change
196	Individual 16	Policy HIT10	If adequate mitigation measures cannot be secured then planning permission should be refused. Also there should not be any destruction of hedgerows which create wildlife corridors.	Noted. Although the legislation does allow for off site mitigation	No change
197	Individual 20	Policy HIT10	Need to put tree preservation orders in place on all/or certain trees in open spaces or considered sites which could be used for building.	Noted. Tree Preservation Orders are dealt with under sperate legislation and are not NP issues	No change
198	Individual 28	Policy HIT10	Disturbance to the food chain through inappropriate positioning of new houses could have a heavy effect on our farming community.	Noted	No change



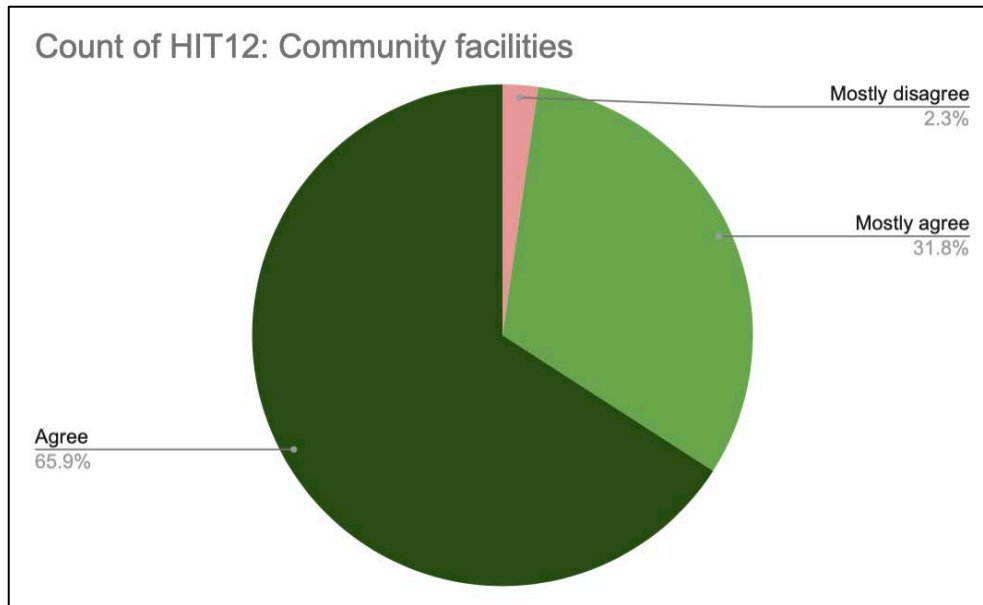
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
199	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT11	<p><i>Active Travel</i></p> <p>Active travel, such as walking and cycling, is important in order to improve physical health and reduce obesity levels, as well as can help to minimise levels of air pollution from motorised vehicles. Objective 4 is particularly welcomed, as is the Accessibility section of the plan with strong encouragement of walking and cycling. Policy HIT11 Accessibility and Connectivity is welcomed.</p>	Support welcomed	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
200	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT11	<p>Public Rights of Way</p> <p>SCC welcomes that the draft neighbourhood plan supports the creation of more routes where possible and creating green corridors, and that in paragraph 9.47 it specifically requires that diversions should be safe, equally accessible and convenient for users. SCC suggests the requirement could be strengthened slightly if the language were changed to: "[...] should be provided that are at least as safe, equally accessible, and convenient for users". This would make it clear that the 'at least as' criterion applies to safety, accessibility, and convenience.</p> <p>SCC suggest that it would be useful to mention the Suffolk County Council's Green Access Strategy (2020-2030)7 ("GAS"). Specifically, SCC propose that Policy HIT11, or the supporting text, should include a reference to the GAS and should require that SCC' PROW & Green Access team are consulted in relation to any development affecting Public Rights of Way.</p>	Noted. Wording can be reinforced as requested	Amend accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
201	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT11	<p>Pedestrian and cycle connectivity (9.40 – 9.45) and Policy HIT11 – SCC supports this policy and again notes that we would look to procure sustainable travel improvements from development wherever possible in support of this. The supporting section could reference LTN1/20 for new cycle infrastructure layout/ design. It may also be beneficial to reference secure cycle storage at key facilities/ amenities and new dwellings to further encourage cycling in the village.</p>	Noted. Reference can be made to LTN1/20	Amend text accordingly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
202	Individual 1	Policy HIT11	There is a noticeable lack of pavements in the village and this does make hamlets feel cut off from the core of the village. Unless pavements are built, development should not be allowed. Cycle paths would be useful but not essential with a small minority of users - whilst bridle paths only concern a handful of villagers.	Noted. There are a number of policies which cover connecting new development including HIT4 and HIT11	No change
203	Individual 2	Policy HIT11	Consideration of the utilisation of paid permissive rights of way, to solve how this connectivity is done, If another adjacent landowner has a vested interest in not wanting a new PROW on their land without compensation, there will be issues with connectivity despite the plan's best intentions	Noted. Where a new connection is required as a consequence of development the NP can assist, however the creation of rights of way that are not required by new development is outside of the scope of the NP	No change
204	Individual 5	Policy HIT11	People should stay on footpaths when walking their dogs not go on private land the footpaths mostly lead onto other villages for rambling	Noted. Although falls outside of the	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
				scope of the NP	
205	Individual 6	Policy HIT11	We have a very good network of footpaths in Hitcham that my brother in law did a lot of work to create in the 90's and do not need adding too.	Noted. See 206 below	No change
206	Individual 13	Policy HIT11	Continue to improve the existing footpaths and paths; ensure any new developments include access ways that are suitable for everyone in the community	Noted . The policy seeks to address this.	No change
207	Individual 14	Policy HIT11	e.g. a path beside the B1115 between Causeway House Farm (egg dispenser) and the first bungalow? I can only think of four people who regularly cycle in the village.	Noted.	No change
208	Individual 15	Policy HIT11	Important to retain rural bus service	Noted. Although outside of the scope of the NP	No change
209	Individual 17	Policy HIT11	Maintenance and upkeep of footpaths should be up to date,	Noted. Although maintenance is not a NP issue	No change
210	Individual 20	Policy HIT11	Do not consider a lot of this achievable	Noted	No change
211	Individual 21	Policy HIT11	Maintenance and up keep of footpaths should be kept up to date.	See 209 above	
212	Individual 23	Policy HIT11	Think this has been dealt with the footpath network, too pie in the sky	Noted	No change
213	Individual 24	Policy HIT11	The local council should be approached to resurface pavements within the village as well as fully maintain	Noted. Maintenance is not an NP issue	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			/clear debris and plant growth which make footpaths dangerous.		
214	Individual 26	Policy HIT11	Due to current roads, lanes etc, cyclepath would probably need to be off road.	Noted	No change
215	Individual 33	Policy HIT11	Those properties on the outer areas of the parish have less accessibility and connectivity. No footways or bus services. Lack of footways mean road is not safe to walk along due to speed and volume of traffic	Noted. This cannot be retrospectively applied to existing development	No change
216	Individual 35	Policy HIT11	It is very disappointing that successive planning consent has been given for several development over the last few years, but no requirement has been made for the developer or builder to provide a pavement. Hitcham suffers from the fact that to walk from the church to the shop requires you to cross the public highway 5 times to reach the shop. It should be the shame of the Parish Council that they have not taken the opportunity to address this over the last few years. If the national objective is to get the population to walk more, that what Hitcham has NOT done is take this into account when approving planning applications. This should be an absolute requirement going forward.	Comments noted. It is acknowledged the route is not an easy one although it does not necessarily require 5 crossings.	No change
217	Individual 36	Policy HIT11	It would be great to connect communities so that vulnerable road users could travel between them safely	Noted	No change
218	Individual 40	Policy HIT11	As long as it does not cause problems for wildlife etc	Noted	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
219	Babergh District Council	Paragraph 10.2 and 10.6	<p>Para 10.2: For clarity, the first sentence should refer to the 'adopted Part 1 BMSLJP 2023', not the 'Local Plan'</p> <p>Para 10.6: The third sentence should reads 'Babergh District Council ...' Also, in the first sentence, delete the word 'in' so that it reads: ' .. help deliver the infrastructure required ...'</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>References to be corrected</p>	Amend accordingly
220	Babergh District Council	Policy HIT12	<p>Policy HIT12: Community Facilities</p> <p>We have already mentioned that the community facilities identified in the supporting text (para 10.2) and in Policy HIT12 should also be identified on the Policy</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Map to be amended to include</p>	<p>Add map and amend text accordingly</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>Map. It is also noted that one of these facilities is also identified as a local green spaces, i.e., the play area behind the Village Hall.</p> <p>The recently published exam report on the Wetheringsett cum Brockford NP; specifically paragraphs 177 to 182, contains some guidance that may therefore be relevant to Policy HIT12. A link to this exam report is provided further below and a similar modification to that proposed in the Wetheringsett exam report re including a cross-reference to, in this case, Policy HIT7, may be necessary.</p> <p>Link: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/wetheringsett-np-exam-report-jul24</p>	<p>community facilities</p> <p>Noted. Additional clarification can be included</p>	Cross reference added <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
221	Suffolk County Council	Schools	<p>Education</p> <p>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 necessarily need to be included in the Plan.</p>	Information noted	No change

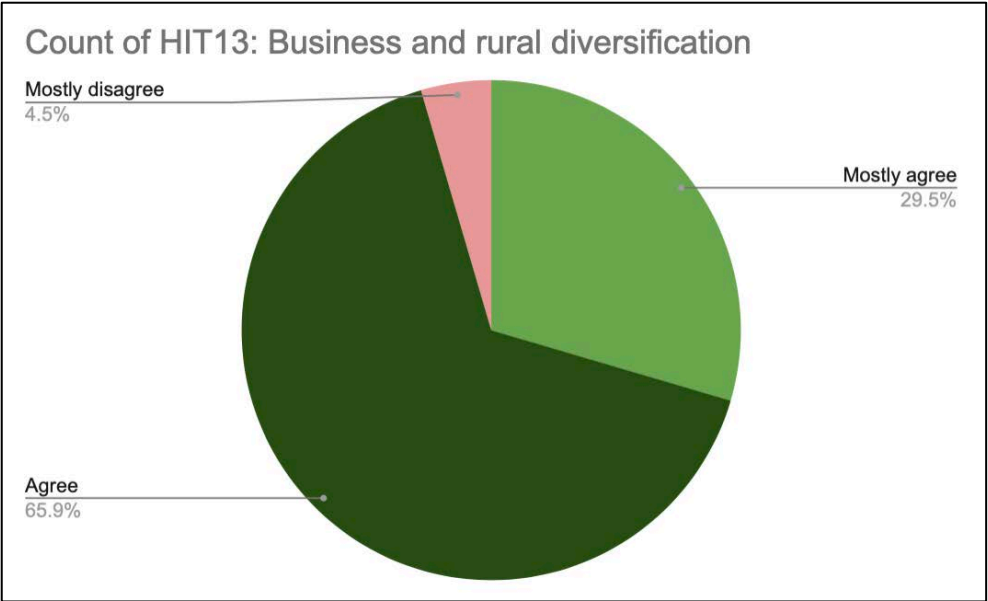
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			<p>Primary Education – The primary education catchment area for Hitcham Parish is Bildeston Primary School. The school is not currently forecast to exceed 95% capacity during the forecast period.</p> <p>Secondary Education – The secondary education catchment area for Hitcham Parish is Hadleigh High School. The school is not currently forecast to exceed 95% capacity during the forecast period. However, the number of pupils arising from housing completions beyond the forecast period, applications pending decision, and local plan site allocations are expected to cause the school to exceed 95% capacity based on current forecasts. The proposed strategy for mitigating this growth is via future expansion of additional secondary accommodation in the local area.</p>		
222	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT12	Policy HIT12 Community Facilities is welcomed, and SCC particularly support the mention of allotments which provides the opportunity to access healthy foods, and the provision of spaces for teenagers. Consideration could also be given for providing spaces for girls, as they are often not considered in the planning of spaces for teenagers (which oftentimes consists only of skateparks) ¹⁴	Noted. This is not something raised specifically in consultation by the community but should new facilities arise this can be considered.	No change

¹⁴ <https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/blog/town-and-country-planning>

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
223	Suffolk County Council	General facilities	<p>Libraries Provision of a library service is a statutory duty held by Suffolk County Council. The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 (c. 75) is an act of the United Kingdom Parliament. It created a statutory duty for local authorities in England and Wales "to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons".</p> <p>The catchment library for Hitcham is Stowmarket, although Hitcham sits near to the catchment boundaries for both Stowmarket and Lavenham. Stowmarket Library is currently 61% of the modal size for the population of its catchment and Lavenham Library is currently 30% of the modal size for the population of its catchment. This is supplemented by a mobile library service which has 2 stops in the area. Although the draft Hitcham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate new housing for the area, it should be noted that any housing development in the area would increase demand on these library service and SCC would therefore seek investment via the community infrastructure levy to mitigate the additional provision required.</p>	Noted	No change
224	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT12	Woodland and Veteran Trees – SCC note that Woodlands and trees are mentioned and included in the NP. But there is no mention of any specific veteran or ancient trees or ancient woodlands within the parish. There is no policy for woodland creation, but the	Noted Policy HIT10 has been amended as a	No change

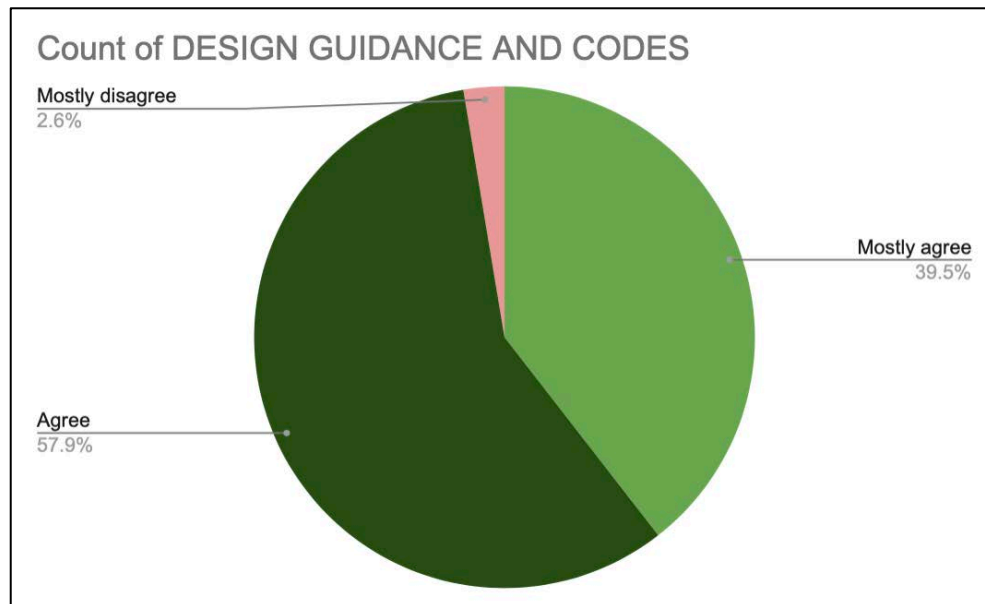
Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
			creation of woodlands is supported in principle in policy HIT12: Community facilities.	consequence of other responses to be more proactive in respect of new habitat creation including new woodland.	
225	Suffolk County Council	Policy HIT12	Section 10.4 and Policy HIT12 – SCC would strongly support reference to secure cycle storage at key facilities and amenities being added to this policy and supporting text.	Noted. Reference can be included	Add in reference accordingly
226	Individual 1	Policy HIT12	Hitcham has lost a lot of community facilities over 30 years, including a football pitch (now chicken farm) and a pub. It is always a challenge to find volunteers to maintain these facilities which end up needing extensive work and money spent (eg. playground). It would be necessary to ensure any land donations / offerings for those community facilities are clear and devoid of interest of any kind.	Noted. The policy aims to retain those that remain	No change
227	Individual 2	Policy HIT12	Not sure re protection, rather than a policy of having to provide an alternative if changes of use to a community facility is sought (eg shop wants to close and change of use to a house, the shop would have to resite somewhere else for this to be allowed)	Noted. This is a policy consistent with other NPs and LPS	No change
228	Individual 9	Policy HIT12	Any money raised by the village should be evenly distributed across the needs of the village and not favour the church.	Noted. This is not an NP matter	No change

Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
229	Individual 13	Policy HIT12	We totally support any new facilities / services, provided they do not encourage anti-social behaviour	Noted	No change
230	Individual 23	Policy HIT12	Fine in principle, but wholly not practical would also need to prove a need.	Noted	No change
231	Individual 26	Policy HIT12	Very important to maintain existing community facilities e.g. village hall, post office/shop etc as provide much value to residents.	Noted. The policy seeks to do this	No change
232	Individual 30	Policy HIT12	Pleased the village shop is now protected as a community asset. The shop is a very important part of our community	Noted	No change
233	Individual 40	Policy HIT12	To repeat the heart of the village alive	Noted	No change
234	Individual 41	Policy HIT12	Community energy generation should be considered	Noted . Policy HIT13 provides support in principle for community energy generating proposals.	No change
235	Individual 42	Policy HIT12	Community facilities should be maintained	Noted	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
236	Individual 2	Policy HIT13	Energy generating proposals HAVE to consider what housing it is supplying. No point in supporting ground source to heat existing inefficient homes that have no insulation. On new development that complies with highest energy efficiency standards I agree wholeheartedly.	Comments noted.	No change
237	Individual 10	Policy HIT13	I agree the use of redundant buildings should be used, rather than build new	Noted	No change
238	Individual 11	Policy HIT13	We should make use of redundant buildings rather than build new	Noted	No change
239	Individual 13	Policy HIT13	We have a number of very small businesses in the village and should continue to show them our support. We would not wish to see the creation/arrival of any new business that would have a detrimental impact on the environment or well-being of our residents	Noted. The policy aims to achieve this	No change
240	Individual 15	Policy HIT13	No solar farms should be permitted on agricultural land - only on buildings including farm buildings. Maintain land for food production, need to encourage/maintain agricultural and horticultural farming - not tourism /leisure based business over farming.	Noted. The national approach to on shore wind and solar is included within the NPPF. The approach is to support both forms of energy subject to criteria	No change

241	Individual 16	Policy HIT13	No solar farms. The plan should not encourage any disconnect from agricultural/horticultural farming. We need to be encouraging food production helping this country to be self sufficient in its basic food supplies. Growing crops is more important that tourism/leisure based businesses.	Noted. The national approach to on shore wind and solar is included within the NPPF The approach is to support both forms of energy subject to criteria	
242	Individual 23	Policy HIT13	Important to keep local employment and make use of existing buildings.	Noted	No change



Ref	Respondent	Reference (paragraph or policy number)	Response	Summary of comment	Action
243	Suffolk County Council	Design Guidance and Codes	Design Code – SCC generally support the content of the document and welcomes the references Suffolk Design: Streets Guide and inclusion of highway and parking related matters in the codes and checklists sections. The signpost to documents section should also include Suffolk Guidance for Parking (2023 or as superseded in future). The boundary treatment section may conflict with the need for vehicular and pedestrian visibility splays at new access points.	Noted. AECOM will be asked to amend document to include this reference	Aecom to revisit
244	Individual 13	Design Guidance and Codes	A well-constructed design document. We were unable to attend the exhibition however this document was detailed, clear and logical to understand	Support noted	No change
245	Individual 28	Design Guidance and Codes	Very comprehensive	Support noted	No change
246	Individual 36	Design Guidance and Codes	See my comment on design policy. Also, please include swift bricks in all new houses (they are present in the village)	Noted. It is not possible to make them a statutory requirement at this stage but they can be encouraged.	No change

247	Individual 40	Design Guidance and Codes	I feel that this needs to be more clear and strict	Noted. The Design Code is clear and will form part of the NP where it will have weight in decision making . Implementation is the remit of the district Council	No change
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