

## **Some Frequently Asked Questions about the Neighbourhood Plan, and Community Questionnaire.**

### **Who can complete the questionnaire?**

*Anyone in the household who is 16 years or older. So the idea is not one questionnaire per household, but one per person. A volunteer will come to your house to pick up all completed copies. Please try to have them ready at one time. If you need extra copies your collector will have some spares or a downloadable version is available on the Parish website here <http://havershamtlinford.org/neighbourhood-plan/>.*

### **Will other people be able to see my answers to the questionnaire?**

*All information given on the questionnaire is completely confidential. You are not asked to identify yourself. The answers will be analysed by a small team of volunteers and afterwards, all questionnaires will be shredded and the database of answers will have no reference to any individual. Your answers will not be attributable to you in any way.*

### **Is completing the questionnaire the only contribution you are asking me for in developing the Neighbourhood Plan?**

*No. The process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan has a number of stages, including participating in workshops to develop a community vision, consultations and reviews. When the draft Plan has been completed, there is a referendum which will give everyone an opportunity to confirm that it reflects the consensus view of the community. You don't have to join in with any of this, but the more people who take part, the more views that will be represented in the final Plan, making it a robust statement of what we all want.*

### **What is Neighbourhood Planning?**

*This is best answered with a direct quote from the .gov.uk website:*

*'Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. Neighbourhood Planning [...] provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.'*

*So the process gives our community a say in any development and growth, but the crucial bit comes at the end of the quote – our ambitions must be 'aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area'. For us, this means that our plan must be aligned with the Plan: MK– which is the new local development plan that is very likely to be adopted later this year.*

## **Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?**

*A Neighbourhood Plan for our Parish gives us a voice in any developments that are proposed for the area. It's a statement of our community's desires and wishes, which should be taken into consideration when any plans are examined, or inspected by the local, or sometimes national, planning authorities. If we don't have a Neighbourhood Plan, we are much more vulnerable to developments that we don't wish for. We also would not have a document which we can present to planners or the planning directorate to demonstrate that we've been thinking about these issues as a community.*

## **Does an approved Neighbourhood Plan mean that developments will definitely follow?**

*Not necessarily, but given the current pressure at national level for new housing this is very likely to have a direct effect on us. Given that most of the advice received up to this point has suggested that it is unrealistic to expect or defend a position of no development at all in the coming decades, the Parish Council believe that agreeing a shared vision in a Neighbourhood Plan is a wise and prudent process.*

## **If we do not agree a Neighbourhood Plan are we in a stronger or weaker position to fight against any future unwanted development proposals?**

*As the Neighbourhood Plan is a democratically approved document it puts the Parish Council and thus the Parishioners in a strengthened position to challenge developments that are not in keeping with the expressed interests and values of our community.*

## **So will the Parish Council be able to control any housing development in Haversham?**

*This Neighbourhood Plan will help us to influence what goes on with any housing development in Haversham. Without it our influence is minimal. However, ultimately we are part of the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority and subject to national guidelines but the Neighbourhood Plan is going to give us our best chance of influencing what happens.*

## **If this survey and the Parish Council both support a particular housing development in Haversham, can I still give my personal views and object formally to it?**

*Yes of course you can. This process does not take away any of your rights to support or object to any application for building in the Parish of Haversham- cum-Little Linford.*

## **Will the Neighbourhood Plan get the community new facilities, like a shop, or community centre?**

*As the regulations stand at the moment, with any new building developments the community may receive money from the developers. This money, known as Planning Gain or sometimes 'S106 money', may be used by the community to develop local facilities. If a new development is large enough, additional local facilities may become an option but these would inevitably be linked to the size of the development.*

### **Will the Neighbourhood Plan improve the bus services?**

*No. Public transport provision is outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan.*

### **Will the Plan include some affordable housing?**

*We can state our own preferences with respect to housing types, which could include prioritising affordable housing in our Plan.*

### **Who pays for the consultant?**

*The government issues grants to communities like ours which allow us to retain a specialist consultant to assist us as we make our way through this complex process.*

### **Will the Neighbourhood Plan dictate how many houses we will have to take in our Parish?**

*The plan will indicate our preferences, but those preferences must be developed according to rules and guidelines that are handed down through national planning policy. The plan must also must fit in with Plan:MK, which also in turn reflects national planning policy.*

### **What happens after we have completed the Plan?**

*Under the current National Planning rules, once the draft Neighbourhood Plan is complete, it's submitted to the local authority – in our case Milton Keynes. They'll check that we've followed the correct procedures and that all required documents have been submitted, they will then arrange for an independent examiner to check that the plan meets the basic conditions.*

*Finally, if the plan passes these tests, the local authority will organise a public referendum (vote), so that everyone who lives in our neighbourhood area can decide whether they support it. If more than 50% of the voters are in favour of the plan, the local authority must bring it into force.*

*This means that it will form part of the statutory development plan for this area, so any decisions about whether or not to grant planning permission in the future must be made by taking our Neighbourhood Plan into consideration. But it's important to note that the National Planning Policy Framework is currently being revised, so some of this may change by the end of this year.*

### **What if I don't agree with the Neighbourhood Plan?**

*You will ultimately be able to have your say in the referendum at the end of the development process of the Plan, but there will be opportunities along the way to participate in workshops and other conversations, so by the time the referendum comes around we'll know what our intentions are. If you don't agree with the process by which Neighbourhood Plans are developed, you can lobby our local MK councillors or write to Mark Lancaster, our Member of Parliament.*

## **How long is the Neighbourhood plan process?**

*The Neighbourhood plan has several stages that need to be completed before final submission to Milton Keynes Council. These include the initial questionnaire followed by sub-group workshops and further consultation as well as a referendum at the end. Typically the whole process can take from a year up to 18 months.*

## **Why does the development of a Neighbourhood Plan take so long?**

*The creation of a carefully made plan that conforms to the requirements of national policy and takes full account of the community's wishes takes time. It is also slowed down by the fact that with the exception of a little bit of our Parish Clerk's time, and our bought-in consultant, the whole process is run by volunteers, who have other commitments and calls on their time.*

If you would like to join the team of volunteers helping with our Neighbourhood Plan, please contact the Parish Clerk by emailing [haversham.ltlinfordclerk@gmail.com](mailto:haversham.ltlinfordclerk@gmail.com)

If you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Planning in general:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

Also

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/create-neighbourhood-plan-step-by-step-roadmap-guide/>