

Neighbourhood Plan Committee Update for PC Meeting 15 Nov 21

The Regulation 15 version Neighbourhood Plan was posted on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.wickhammarketnp.org on 28 Oct 21 along with all its supporting documents. Councillors were requested to read these documents and submit any queries to me by Mon 8 Nov 21. Cllr Westover had a few queries which were answered, and Cllr Horsnell informed me that the Village Hall New Build Committee had been formally withdrawn and re-formed as the Village Hall Modernisation Steering Group (VH- MSG), this will require the Neighbourhood Plan to be updated in Section 9.1 Community Actions. No other comments were received.

At this stage we cannot change very much. The documents have been through an iterative process, mostly with ESC, to get them into their current state and any major change will need another round of consultation and possibly amendment to the supporting documents.

No Neighbourhood Plan meeting was held on 9 Nov 21 as I was not feeling up to a meeting at that stage following my illness.

The documents, with their authors in brackets, that we will submit to East Suffolk council are:

- a. The Neighbourhood Plan (WMNP Cttee)
- b. Habitats Regulation Assessment (ESC)
- c. Basic Conditions Statement (Navigus Planning)
- d. Consultation Statement (R Jenkinson)
- e. Strategic Environmental Assessment (Navigus Planning)
- f. Non-designated Heritage Assets (R Jenkinson)
- g. Local Green Space Assessment (R Lewis)

Our last Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting was on the 9th March 21 and the last time the Neighbourhood Plan was discussed in a Parish Council meeting was on the 19th July 21. During the period since the last Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting East Suffolk Council have been endeavouring to complete the Habitats Regulations Assessment. This has involved significant discussion with Natural England and has resulted in a number of text changes to the Neighbourhood Plan. These changes are clearly stated in the Habitats Regulation Assessment. The final version of the Habitats Regulation Assessment was only issued in early October 21 and now the supporting documents have also been updated. The other changes that have been made to the Neighbourhood Plan are in line with comments from East Suffolk Council and mainly concerned more information on how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be spent and more details on how Play Space should be accommodated in developments. A lot of the changes are because East Suffolk Council now have a Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) and this requires developments to contribute to East Suffolk Council to maintain their protected habitat sites. The final paragraph in the Habitats Regulation Assessment states:

“The Wickham Market Neighbourhood plan includes adequate reference to the requirements of the Suffolk Coast RAMS and additional green infrastructure requirements and therefore it is concluded that the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan will not lead to any adverse effects on protected Habitat Sites.”

One further significant change has been made to the Neighbourhood Plan and this concerns Local Green Space. At the suggestion of Anne Westover, the Red Triangle bowls club has now been included as Local Green space and this gives it slightly more protection than if it was classed as “Open, Green and Treed space”.

Cllr Jenkinson
Chairman, Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan Committee
13 Nov 21