

North Norfolk Plan 2016 - 2036



North Walsham Local Plan Workshop FEEDBACK SUMMARY

June 2016

North Norfolk District Council Planning Policy Team

Telephone: 01263 516318 E-Mail: <u>planningpolicy@north-norfolk.gov.uk</u> Write to: Planning Policy Manager, North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/localplan

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1 Overview

1 Overview

Introduction & Background

- 1.1 North Norfolk District Council commenced a review of the existing Local Development Framework (LDF) for North Norfolk in early summer 2015. The current adopted Development Plan consists of the adopted Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2008) and the Site Allocations Plan (2011) and covers the period up to 2021. A new Single Local Plan will cover the period 2016 2036 and is a key document that will guide development in the District over the next 20 years.
- **1.2** There have been a number of key changes to the planning system since the previous suite of planning documents was prepared. Key changes have included the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies and the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and new national Planning Policy Guidance.
- **1.3** The Council consulted under Regulation 18⁽¹⁾ in August 2015 on the topic areas that the new single Local Plan will consider. These topics included a review of the housing target for the District and how this housing growth will be spatially distributed. The Local Plan will, amongst other topics, set the strategic approach to development in relation to the level and distribution of employment, retail, the protection and management of the natural and historic environment, and how to approach development in the countryside.
- 1.4 Key to setting the scope of the Local Plan is the identification of issues and opportunities and translating these into a vision for the district and for each of the larger settlements. National guidance promotes a Local Plan which reflects a collective vision incorporating priorities from neighbourhoods, business and communities which should reflect the strategic priorities for the area.
- **1.5** It is the aim of the Council that the Vision(s) for the Local Plan is grounded in these locally identified priorities and aligned with key strategies and plans, produced by the Council, its key partners and the wider community. In this way the plan should be locally specific and sustainable.
- **1.6** In continuing with the Regulation 18 stage of plan production a series of workshops were held throughout May and June 2016 with Town Councils and District Councillors. The results of the workshops will be used to inform the future town visions, which in turn will help to inform the emerging Local Plan Vision from which the planning policies and site allocations will be developed.
- **1.7** Through a variety of interactive means each session was designed to aid discussion and seek areas of consensus. By the end of each session the aim was that groups would:
 - Have clarity on the process for preparing a Local Plan, the work undertaken so far, and what will happen next.
 - Have an understanding of the scale of growth which might be required in the town and have the opportunity to identify suitable locations.
 - Have listed the planning issues that they feel are important to address, and, understood if and how the Local Plan can address those issues.
 - Have described the places that give rise to issues, present opportunities, or that should change.

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Overview 1

- Have described the positives and negatives about the town and identified the key opportunities for growth in a collaborative manner.
- Have heard other's points of view about matters that affect the area.

Workshop Programme

North Walsham	Tuesday 10 May, 6-9pm
Wells-next-the-Sea	Monday 16 May, 2-5pm
Stalham	Tuesday 17 May, 7-10pm
Fakenham	Thursday 19 May, 6-9pm
Holt	Monday 23 May, 6-9pm
Sheringham	Tuesday 24 May, 6-9pm
Cromer	Thursday 2 June, 6-9pm
Hoveton	Thursday 30 June, 6-9pm

Programme of Town Council Workshops, May - June 2016

Purpose of This Document

- **1.8** This document provides a record and summary of a Local Plan Workshop held with North Walsham Town Council it was prepared immediately following the workshop and returned to the Town Council with an opportunity to make further comment. The feedback will help the Council to prepare broad visions and develop options for the delivery of the required growth in the District.
- **1.9** The agenda and outline for the workshop is included as Appendix 4.

Workshop Structure

- **1.10** Three related sessions were delivered each with opportunity for question and answers, feedback and group discussion:
 - Setting the Scene explaining the context for the workshops, what type of Plan is being prepared, what time period will it cover, how much growth is likely to be required in the District and in North Walsham, and how might this relate to any proposals for a Neighbourhood Plan.
 - **SWOT Analysis** to identify the main 'Issues' which need to be considered and might shape future development.
 - Mapping Exercise to spatially record issues identified in SWOT and OPPORTUNITIES for, and CONSTRAINTS that might impact on development.
- **1.11** The outputs from the SWOT analysis and Mapping Exercise are included as Appendix 1 & 2.

Summary Headlines

1.12 Participants recognised that North Walsham was likely to be a focus for further growth and that depending on the growth options available elsewhere in the District it might be necessary for the town to accommodate relatively large scale growth in order to address the demand and need for new homes and jobs in this part of the District (in the region of 1,500 additional dwellings was identified for discussion). If such growth was proposed it was felt essential that it was matched by improvements in a range of infrastructure including improved access to the

1 Overview

town's industrial area, drainage, schools, health services and the retail offer. There was no particular resistance to relatively large scale growth and the Town Council supported such an approach *provided* it is supported by the right infrastructure. This infrastructure was essential to ensure sustainable development was delivered which did not place further demands on existing services which in some cases were already regarded as inadequate.

- **1.13** In the event of large scale growth being proposed a variety of potential housing, employment and retail sites were identified with a preference for a broad area of growth to the west of North Walsham. Such development could provide a new road link between Norwich and Cromer Road. This could help with traffic management and in particular partly address access issues to the town's main industrial areas and remove unnecessary HGV traffic from residential streets.
- 1.14 The choice of shops in the town centre was generally regarded as poor given the size of the town. Participates recognised the draw of Norwich and that the small historic nature of the retail premises in the town centre may be unsuitable for larger retailers. Consequently it might be preferable to develop a retail park, even if this was in an out of centre location, as this would minimise the need to travel to Norwich. The area around Waitrose might be a suitable location for such a development.
- **1.15** It was confirmed that there were no current proposals to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan at the moment but the Town Council wished to keep this option open until it was clearer what the Local Plan will propose in terms of a strategic framework. It was agreed that a definite decision on this would need to be made by the end of the year.

Other issues identified included:

- Support for a second Petrol Station unsure if this would be viable unless delivered via a further supermarket;
- Opportunity for a bus terminal on NNDC land (New Road or Vicarage Street Car Park);
- Desire for more 'free' car parking;
- Cemetery enlargement or additional site might be required.

Workshop Session 1: Setting the Scene 2

2 Workshop Session 1: Setting the Scene

Presentation by the Planning Policy Manager followed by Q&As based on following:

What will the Local Plan include?

- 2.1 The Council is undertaking a wholesale review of the current Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Plan and intends to produce a new single Local Plan document which will cover the period 2016 to 2036. It will contain:
 - A refreshed set of planning policies to apply to planning applications.
 - New allocations of development land sufficient to meet identified needs for different sorts of development for the whole of the plan period.
- **2.2** This workshop is an early part in the process and is part of the initial vision setting stage. We are trying to establish:
 - What is it which needs to be planned for?
 - What are the options which could be considered?
 - What general approach should be adopted?
- **2.3** In order to establish this overall vision the Council will:
 - Gather a range of evidence such as a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), employment land studies, Infrastructure and viability reports.
 - Seek community views (this workshop is part of that process)
 - Consult with a range of interest groups (providers of services etc)
 - Start to develop and test a number of options.
- 2.4 At the end of this phase in plan preparation (about a year) there will be one or more periods of public consultation to explain the options considered and which of the options the Council prefers. The final Plan must be submitted for independent examination to test if it is 'legally compliant and sound'. The aim is to have the new plan in place in 2018 or earlier if at all possible.
- **2.5** This workshop is about considering the future Vision through a number of exercises. We will not be considering individual policies It's really about **what** development and **where**?

What is your current thinking on Neighbourhood Planning?

2.6 There was a short discussion about the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan being prepared, and what it could / should focus on. The general view was that that it might be too early to decide and much would depend on what emerges through the Local Plan process in terms of revised strategic context. It was agreed that we will need to reach a definite position by end of 2016 to inform further work on the Local Plan.

What do we already know?

- 1. The Plan will cover the period 2016 2036.
- 2. We will need to deliver approximately 8,500 homes over this period across North Norfolk.
- 2.7 This figure is derived from a document called the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which calculates the requirement for homes (objectively assessed need) based on natural population change, inward migration, average household sizes, vacant and second homes (continued assumption of 15% vacancy rate, to account for second homes, holiday

2 Workshop Session 1: Setting the Scene

homes & vacant properties), need for affordable homes and to ensure there is a sufficient workforce to fill likely jobs forecasts. 8,500 homes over this Plan period equates to around 420 dwellings per year across the North Norfolk administrative area. In comparison to the historical position, we have been delivering between 300-500 per year for the last decade. The revised target is yet to be set but early indications are that it will not be radically different from the figure concluded in the SHMA.

- Up to half of the new dwellings are likely to be required on sites which are specifically allocated for development. Some of which can be carried forward from our current Plan. The remainder of the estimated 8,500 requirement already has planning permission or could be delivered as windfall developments;
- Identified through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the Council needs to deliver in the region of 2,500 affordable dwellings i.e. about 20%;
- Around half the population will be over 65 years old by the end of the period. The workforce will age and might shrink, although it is expected that people will work for longer;
- There is not enough brownfield land in the district to accommodate what is required;
- New greenfield allocations will be necessary;
- A mix of small and large sites may be desirable to improve the prospects of delivery. It
 has proved to be difficult to deliver large scale development proposals (in part due to
 issues around land assembly, master planning, development viability and market
 conditions). Some smaller and medium sized sites which can be developed by a single
 developer are likely to be desirable;
- The role of town centres is changing;
- Jobs growth might be relatively modest and based on growth of existing business;
- Norwich will continue to act as a draw for jobs, services, recreation etc.

Options for Growth Distribution

2.8 In the current Plan around 75% of all new development is taking place in the eight towns in the district and about half of the total is in North Walsham, Fakenham, Holt and Cromer. We have deliberately adopted a strategy of limiting growth in the smaller villages because they don't typically have day to day services and there is a desire to protect the rural character of the district. We will be considering the distribution again as part of this Plan and there may be to some scope for a bit more development in some villages and possibly the former airbases. Nevertheless towns like North Walsham and Fakenham are likely to be strong candidates for further growth. If options are limited in places like Stalham, Hoveton, Wells, Holt and Sheringham it is possible that significant growth will be required in North Walsham – circa 1,500- 2,000 dwellings inclusive of existing allocations not yet built but final numbers are yet to be determined.

Considerations for North Walsham

- Is it time to think big?
- What about out of town retail?
- If large growth is required where should it be?
- What are the main constraints? roads and traffic, HGVs, small town centre, surface water drainage, lack of supporting infrastructure (health care, schools).
- 2.9 Discussions focussed on the work that has been undertaken so far with regard to the Local Plan process, the potential scale of growth that might be required in the town, the relationship between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan process and an overview of the next stages and aims of the workshops.
- 2.10 It was noted that the workshops would focus on high level principles. The potential sites along

Workshop Session 1: Setting the Scene 2

with others being identified through the consultation process along with the feedback from this event would all feed into the Council's sites assessment process and emerging work on the Local Plan.

3 Workshop Session 2: SWOT Analysis

3 Workshop Session 2: SWOT Analysis

- **3.1** The participants were split into three groups, supported by an Officer to identify the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats. The SWOT analysis is attached as Appendix 1. Following this, a group discussion was held to seek consensus around the top three issues in each category.
- 3.2 Overall there were similarities between the groups in the identification of Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats for North Walsham and the groups had reached similar conclusions about the town and the direction of travel that it could take through the Local plan process. There was a general consensus that North Walsham had significant strengths as a town which provided opportunities, these were however influenced by a number of constraints and threats. A consensus was reached that appropriate growth should be a priority for North Walsham as it provided for the opportunity to facilitate improvements and bring additional investments into the town, though there was some concern around the need for upfront investment in areas such as health and the road network to avoid the potential for capacity issues.
- A variety of potential housing, employment and retail sites were identified with a preference 3.3 for a broad area of growth to the west. The opportunity for development to provide a new road link between Norwich and Cromer Road and overcome some of the towns existing issues around traffic management, in particular access constraints to the Industrial park and restrictions of the low bridges was identified. This could help with traffic management and in particular partly address access issues to the town's main industrial areas and remove HGV traffic from residential streets. Strengths to the town included its locations which offered good access to Norwich via road and rail, coupled with good education facilities as well as sports and leisure provision. Of concern was the poor choice of shops in the town centre especially given the size of the town. In recognition of the historic core there was general support for further out of centre retail, which could reduce the requirement to travel to Norwich for comparison goods and retain spending in the town. The requirement for a new bus terminus was identified and potential sites included New Road car park and Vicarage Road car park were suggested as possible sites. The areas east of the town were seen as attractive and offered the best opportunities for further tourist development.
- 3.4 The following were identified through discussion as the key items
 - **Strengths**: Transport links to Norwich / Public transport, education provision, heritage and the built environment (including the availability of open space and access to leisure provision, such as swimming, football and rugby clubs). The strategic location of the town.
 - **Weakness**: Poor town centre retail offer including small size of units and poor public realm, transport restrictions (low bridges), pressure on services such as health. Lack of further education facilities. Only one petrol station, flooding.
 - **Opportunities**: Improved access and road network, provision of bus terminus, increased tourism, out of town retail park. Availability of land, town centre improvements including public realm.
 - **Threats**: Capacity issues brought about through insufficient infrastructure funding (health, road, education), lack of joined up approach, incremental growth not delivering benefit through S106 agreements. Loss of further town centre retail particularly to residential. Lack of development.

Workshop Session 3: Mapping Exercise 4

4 Workshop Session 3: Mapping Exercise

- **4.1** Groups were asked to identify any spatial issues identified through the SWOT and mark on the map using the key:
 - The green spaces (POS) that should be protected and or opportunities for new Green Infrastructure;
 - Suitable areas for employment opportunities;
 - Suitable areas for additional retail;
 - Suitable areas for residential development;
 - Any additional opportunities for road network improvements (plus other transport if time);
 - Any areas / broad locations which should not be developed;
 - Any other proposed uses of land.
- 4.2 There then followed the opportunity to discuss these with the aim of seeking consensus.

Group discussion on the potential options identified through the mapping exercise

4.3 There was general recognition and agreement from Members of the Town Council and District Councillors that a positive approach to development was required and that there was a reasonable appetite for growth. The aspiration was that growth should provide the appropriate infrastructure improvements and although the Town Council where not adverse to a more scattered approach to development it was recognised that there were potential benefits to be had from consolidated / broad concentrations of growth at the scales being suggested (1,000 – 2,000dwellings). Most Groups identified similar areas/sites that could potentially provide for growth.

Open Space

4.4 Sites that were identified as important and should be protected included the continuation of many of the existing designations such as education sites, sports fields and cemetery. New areas included designation around the Water Activity Training Centre to the north east and Sadler's Hill & Cradle Hill Planation. A requirement for open space was identified in large scale new developments.

Employment Opportunities

- **4.5** Expansion of the existing industrial estate off the B1145 was identified and supported in the following discussions along with the continued allocation E10 off Cornish Way. Further opportunities for employment provision were also identified to the south of the town across various sites.
- 4.6 Retail Development: Consensus around the potential for large scale retail development to the North West of the Town off Cromer Road was reached. Identified as Cranes site EMP18 & Marricks Wire Ropes EMP19 in the 2007 employment land study), Development there could make the town more self-sufficient in terms of retail provision and any development could help address known surface water issues in the area. In Groups other potential sites were put forward e.g. to the south off Norwich Road and the potential for retail provision to be included in some larger residential development was indicated.

Residential Development

4.7 A variety of similar sites were identified in the groups which when discussed resulted in consensus in the broad directions of growth. One large site to the north adjacent to the

4 Workshop Session 3: Mapping Exercise

settlement off Bacton Road was seen as a potential site. Residential expansion to the west of the town was identified through a variety of sites and scales and it was agreed that this area offered a broad location of growth that if delivered comprehensively could help to facilitate desired infrastructure improvements. The opportunities for some smaller scale sites were identified in the individual groups to the south west of the town off Brick Kiln Road / Manor Road and Yarmouth Road / Thilby Road.

Opportunities for road network improvements

4.8 The potential for a new road connecting the employment site to Cromer Road was raised though it was acknowledged that the costs of crossing the railway could be prohibitive. Residential Growth to the west of the town offered the opportunity to provide a new link between Norwich Road / A149 - Aylsham Road / Cromer Road. The benefits of this would be the removal of HGV's from the surrounding road network and addressed the present constraints of the low railway bridges. Some concerns regarding the availability of public funding were discussed however it was thought that potential large scale growth could go some way as to funding delivery. All groups identified the requirement for a new Bus Terminus and potential sites included New Road car park and Vicarage Road car park.

Broad locations which should not be developed

4.9 The areas beyond the east of the town were seen as being attractive for tourist development and offered the potential for further green infrastructure.

Appendices

Appendix 1 SWOT Analysis



WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE TOWN? HOW CAN IMPROVEMENTS BE MADE?

01) TO EXPAND HEALTH SERVICES (3) 02) INWARD INVESTMENT WOULD 03) PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TRAINS/BUSSES 04) PROVIDE LOW BRIDGE BY PASS (1) 05) TO AMALGAMATE SMALL PREMISES 06) AND RETAIL PARK 07) PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TRAINS/BUSSES 08) 09) 010) WHAT ARE YOU FEARFUL OF? WHAT ARE THE CONSTRAINTS?

T1) PEOBLEMS WITH SURGERY CHARITIES. T2) WITHOUT IN USETMENT RAIL/BUS T3) LINKS MAY BECOME OVERLOADED. T4) T5) T6)

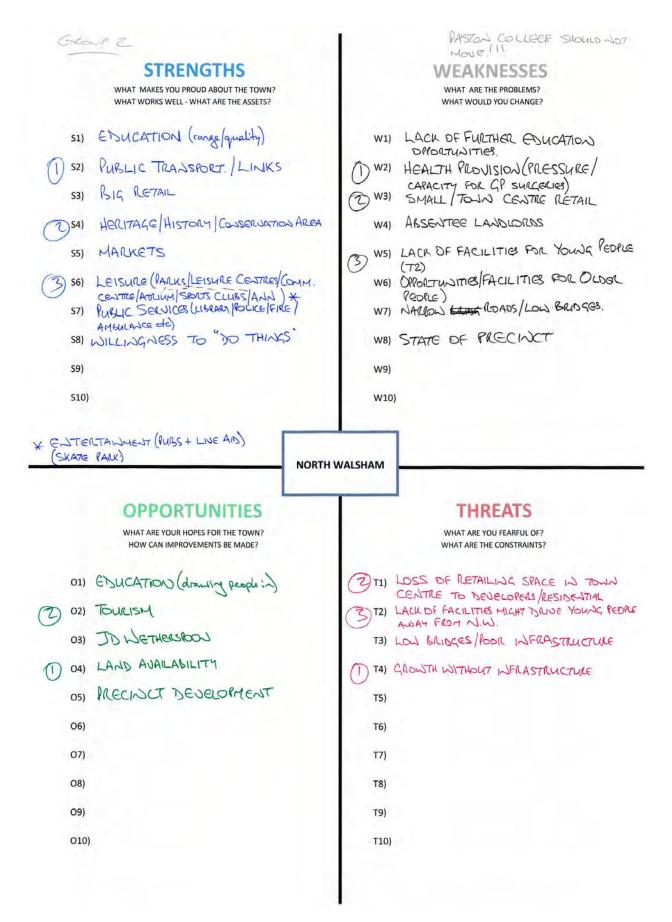
Group 1 SWOT Analysis

T7)

T8)

T9)

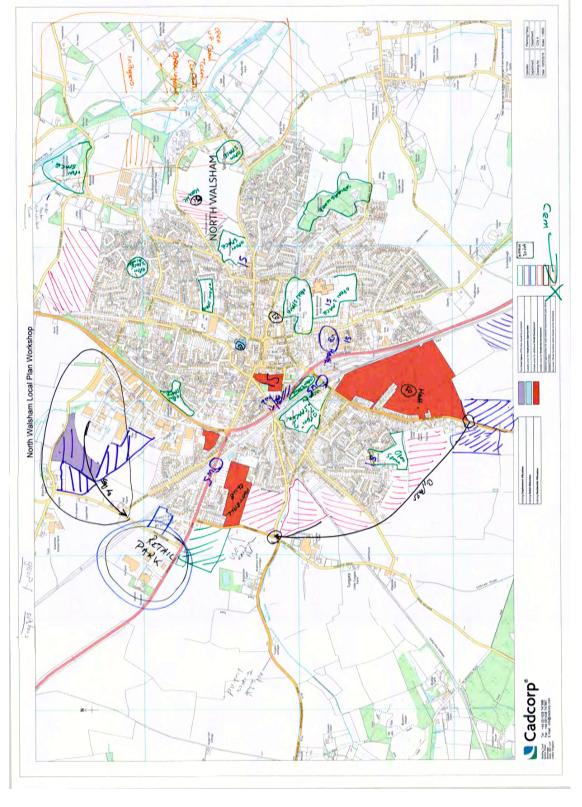
T10)

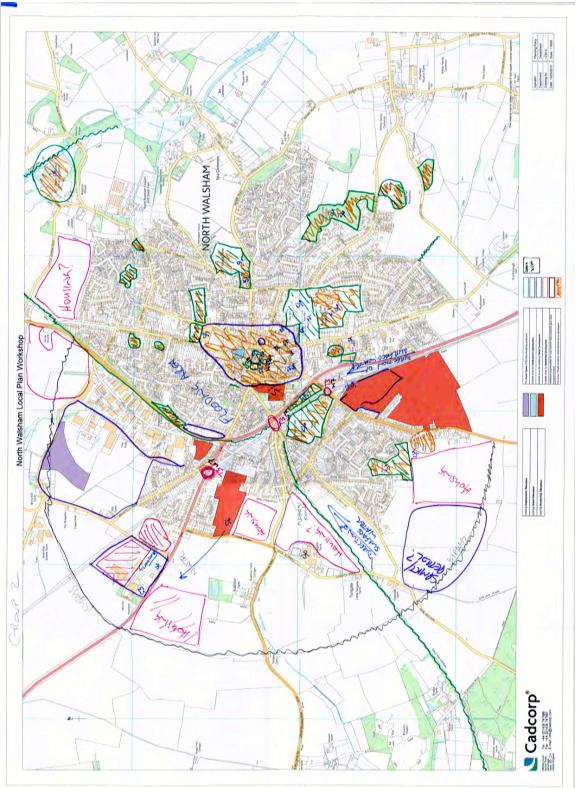


Group 2 SWOT Analysis

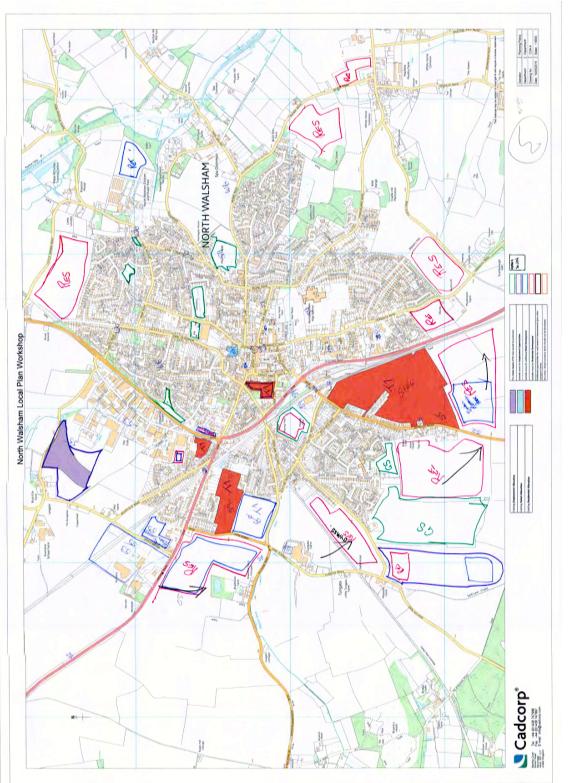
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD ABOUT THE TOWN?	WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?
WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD ABOUT THE TOWN? WHAT WORKS WELL - WHAT ARE THE ASSETS?	WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?
51) GOOD EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES	(W1) POOR TOWN COUTRE SHOPPING TACILITI
52) AF TRANSPORT LINKS	W2) POOR ROAD LINKS
53) INDUNKIAL ESTATES	* W3) Low BRIDGES
54) Shemegic Location of Town	W4) Poor LOCATION FOR BUSINESSES (SEE (W3) - CE PARE TOR
\$5) Sines available For LARCER REMILES	- (SEE) W3) W5) CAR PARKS ALL TO BIS PAID TOR VISITORS TRIVE THROUGH TOWN.
56) HISTORIC MARKET TOWN SPACES. 57) ATRIUM COMMUNITY CENTRE	W7) Some BULLDINGS WARD TO BE UPDATED
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Downsrs Citre Petersonas Decroes	W10) - PREALEM WITH (FLACTH / DECATION LAC
Good HARLTH TRALITIES	(F ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS
POLICE BASED IN NW	H WALSHAM
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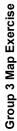
Group 3 SWOT Analysis





Group 2 Map Exercise





Workshop Invitation Letter 3

Workshop Invitation Letter 3

Appendix 3 Workshop Invitation Letter



25 February 2016

Mr Nicholas Clancy North Walsham Town Council New Road North Walsham NR28 9DE

Dear Nick,

North Norfolk Local Plan – Town Council Workshops

As part of our preparation of the new Local Plan we are proposing to hold workshops in April / early May with each of the seven Town Councils in the District.

We think the workshops will be helpful as a way of:

- Outlining the process for preparing a new Local Plan, the work we have undertaken so far, and what will happen next.
- 2. Discussing the planning issues which affect your town, and documenting them.
- Talking about the potential scale of growth that might be required and identifying potential development sites on large-scale maps.
- 4. Discussing the relationship between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning.

We expect the workshop to take between 3-4 hours and to take place at a venue in the town. Attendance will be limited to Town Council members together with the District and County Council elected Members.

Our purpose in writing is to ask if you would find such a workshop helpful and, if you would, whether there is anything else related to the Local Plan that you would like to add to the Agenda? We are also seeking your view as to potential dates and venues.

Please could you complete the following table and return to: <u>planningpolicy@north-norfolk.gov.uk</u>, by Friday 4th March if possible. Once we have collected potential dates from all of the Town Councils I will write again to finalise the details.

If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Brown Project Support Officer (Planning Policy) 01263 516318 chris.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Workshop Agenda 4

Workshop Agenda 4

Appendix 4 Workshop Agenda



North Walsham Town Council Workshop

Tuesday 10 May, 2016 (6pm)

Aim of the workshop

To provide an opportunity for town council members to highlight the issues they feel are important, and to identify the places that need to be improved or protected through planning. The results of this workshop will inform the future town vision, upon which planning policies and site allocations will be developed.

By the end of this session we hope you will:

- Have clarity on the process for preparing a Local Plan, the work undertaken so far, and what will happen next.
- Have an understanding of the scale of growth which might be required in your town and have the
 opportunity to identify suitable locations.
- Have listed the planning issues that you feel are important to address, and, understand if and how the Local Plan can address those issues.
- Have described the places that give rise to issues, present opportunities, or that you think should change.
- Have described what it is that you are most proud of about your town.
- Have heard other's points of view about matters that affect the area.

Programme

6pm	Welcome & Overview by Mark Ashwell, Planning Policy Manager (NNDC)		
6.30 pm	Activity 1 - Looking at the Issues		
	a. SWOT Analysis: Collating the positives and negatives about North Walsham as a place,		
	identifying any threats, or opportunities that can bring about improvements.		
	b. Prioritising the issues		
	c. Group discussion on the top issues		
8.00 pm	Break for refreshments		
8.15 pm	Activity 2 - Mapping Issues & Identifying Sites		
	a. Map based exercise to record issues relating to specific areas.		
	b. Map based exercise to identify suitable areas for growth or preservation.		
	c. Group discussion on the top sites		
9.15 pm	Summary, Questions & Close		

01263 516318 / planningpolicy@north-norfolk.gov.uk

www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/localplan

Planning Policy Team

Attendance List 5

North Norfolk

Attendance List 5

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2016 - 2036

Appendix 5 Attendance List

North Walsham Town Council Workshop Tuesday 10 May, 2016, 6pm @ Town Council Offices

Please sign in:

1

	Name	Role / Organisation
1.	Chris Brown	Project Support Officer, NNDC
2.	Mark Ashwell	Planning Policy Manager, NNDC
3.	lain Withington	Planning Officer (Policy), NNDC
4.	Jodie Young	Planning Officer (Policy), NNDC
5.	Geoff Lyon	Major Projects Manager, NNDC
6.	Sarah Hinchcliffe	Major Projects Team Leader, NNDC
7.	Sick Censor	Town CLERK
8.	Brenda West	Town MAHER.
9.	ANDROA CANHAM	COUNCILLOR
10.	SALLIE STUCKET	COUNCILLOR,
11.	T. Foster	Administration clock
12.	B.HESTER	BAR DEPTY MAYOR
13.	ALAN FRYER	Councillor
14.	JENNY MERVILLE	COUNCILLOR
15.	Gray Bur	- cc -
16.		
17.	Virginia & g Viorenie Uprichard	NDDC.
18.	N-LLOTA	NNDC
19.	Robert Murphy	Councillor

5 Attendance List

20. RICHARD SINS	N.W.T.C
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