



RAVENS DEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

November 2019

Parish Council to Prepare Neighbourhood Plan

Following support given at a public meeting on 20th August 2019 the Parish Council has decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of Ravensden parish covering the next 10-15 years.

The Borough Council has recently given the go-ahead for preparation to start. A steering group made up of local residents and Parish Councillors has been appointed to co-ordinate the Plan (see below).

When complete the Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside the Borough-wide Plan and will be used to determine planning applications. Because the Plan will have the force of a legal document, people must be given every opportunity to take part and comment at key stages in its preparation. So the Plan complies with Government regulations, the whole process could take a couple of years to complete. A final draft of the plan will be tested by an independent Inspector and must then be approved by a majority of local residents voting in a referendum before it can come into force.

Active community engagement is key. It is important local residents, businesses, community groups and landowners have their say on the future of the parish. The Plan must also have a strong evidence base. In the near future, residents will be asked for their views on a wide range of issues through, for example, questionnaires, workshops and drop-in sessions. Everyone is encouraged to take part and contribute. There will be further opportunities to take part later in the process.

We hope to use websites, social media and a designated email contact system to involve people and get feedback. Information will also be found in newsletters and on noticeboards etc.

Grants are available to help with publicity and costs, and the Parish Council will be applying for these imminently.

Depending on the issues raised in community engagement, the Plan could cover some or all of the following:

- Future housing requirements
- Green spaces/open spaces
- Amenities and facilities
- Business and employment opportunities
- Design and conservation
- Location of possible future development

The Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group comprises:

Steve Arnold	Chair, Resident
Jane Ferguson	Parish Council Member, Secretary
Sue Jacobs	Parish Council Member, Treasurer
Alison Myers	Parish Council Member
Allan Schofield	Resident
Colin Slade	Resident
David Jacobs	Resident
John Maberley	Resident