



Hargrave

Neighbourhood Plan Review 2023

Community Consultation Drop-in

2 September 10.00 to 14.00

The Village Hall

Please come along to look at the new Plan and find out more about it. There will also be an extensive Neighbourhood Plan Display. Refreshments will be on offer throughout the event, so you can read the Plan over a cuppa

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON
THE NEW DRAFT PLAN RUNS
FROM 2 SEPTEMBER
TO 20 OCTOBER**

If you can't pop-in on
2 September, find out inside
how you can view and
comment on the New Plan

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

The 2018 Neighbourhood Plan

In July 2018 a parish referendum, with a turnout of 43% of the 234 residents that were on the register of electors, resulted in 88 people voting in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan for Hargrave being used by West Suffolk Council when determining planning applications in the parish and 12 people voting against. The Plan was subsequently adopted by West Suffolk Council and has since been used by them when making decisions on planning applications in the parish.

Our 2018 Plan was the first to be completed in West Suffolk, ensuring that planning application decisions reflected the local priorities expressed in our Plan. However, the world of planning continuously changes. In the five years since the Plan was finished there have been a number of changes nationally and locally that mean that our Plan is now not up-to-date and doesn't cover important matters.

A Working Group has been working on behalf of the Parish Council over the last couple of years to review the 2018 Plan and bring it up-to-date. The Parish Council has now approved that the draft Plan can be subject to public consultation, which is about to commence. We want you to provide feedback on it over the coming weeks.

The NEW Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The New Plan has a very different look and feel to the 2018 Plan, but it remains focused on delivering our agreed vision:

To protect and enhance the distinctive character and assets of the Village for the community both young and old

The main task of the review has been to appraise whether the planning policies that were supported in the 2018 Plan remain fit for purpose and whether additional planning policies are required to help manage the type of development that takes place in the parish. This included assessing whether there are gaps in the Plan that should now be addressed.

Importantly, the Plan DOES NOT allocate any sites for new development.

Following earlier exploration and consultation about building a new village hall, potentially funded by the construction of up to ten houses, the project is NOT included in the new Plan. Such a proposal could not now go ahead unless it were identified in the new Plan.

PLAN THEMES

The new Plan covers the following themes



WHAT'S CHANGED IN THE NEW PLAN

Most of the ten original policies of the 2018 remain and have been updated. Only two planning policies have been replaced, as identified in the table.

2018 Policy	Status in this Plan
Policy HAR 1 - Hargrave's Spatial Strategy	The policy has been replaced with a new, more detailed policy
Policy HAR 2 - Hargrave Housing Settlement Boundary	The policy has been retained with minor amendments
Policy HAR3 - Housing Mix	The policy has been retained unchanged
Policy HAR4 - Communications Technology	The policy has been retained unchanged and becomes Policy HAR7
Policy HAR5 - Protecting and Maintaining Features of Landscape and Biodiversity Value.	The policy has been replaced by Policy HAR8 which provides a more robust framework for protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats
Policy HAR6 - Protecting the Landscape Setting of Hargrave	The policy has been retained with minor amendments and becomes Policy HAR9
Policy HAR7 - Local Green Spaces	The policy has been retained with a greater explanation as to how development in local green spaces would be considered and becomes Policy HAR10
Policy HAR8 - Village Playing Field	The policy has been replaced by a new, more detailed policy and becomes Policy HAR6
Policy HAR9 - Local Heritage	The policy has been retained unchanged (other than corrections to the property name) and becomes Policy HAR11
Policy HAR10 - Village Character	The policy has been replaced by the more detailed Policy HAR12

The new Plan also contains additional planning policies that cover:

- Housing Design;
- The provision of new and protection of existing community facilities and services;
- Development Design Considerations;
- Sustainable Construction Practices;
- Flooding and Sustainable Drainage; and
- Dark Skies

The inclusion of these additional matters has been informed by a consideration of the original issues that the 2018 Plan addressed, recent surveys of residents and new Design Guidance for the village that has been produced as a separate document.

Community Actions

These are non-planning matters that address issues raised during the preparation of the Plan. The 2018 Plan contained 14 Community Actions which have been reviewed and updated where necessary.

HOW TO VIEW THE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This leaflet cannot do justice to the content of the new Plan. The full version will be available to download from 1 September at <https://hargrave.suffolk.cloud/neighbourhood-plan/> where an online comments form will be available to complete.

If you would prefer to look at a paper copy, these will be available at the Drop-in Event on 2 September and will also be available to borrow for a short period by contacting the following:

Colin Painter 01284 850803

David Taylor 01284 850537

Denise Osborne 01284 850278

HOW TO COMMENT

During the consultation period the Neighbourhood Plan website will have an online survey form which you can complete. Although we'd prefer you to use the online comments form, paper comments forms can be obtained at the Drop-in Event and from the residents identified above.

Completed paper comments forms must be returned to the Village Hall post box by 20 October

We want your comments, even if you support everything in the Plan!

LOOKING AHEAD

Once the consultation ends, all comments received will be reviewed and the Plan will be amended as necessary. It will then be submitted to West Suffolk Council who will undertake a second round of public consultation before the Plan is assessed by an Independent Examiner. Because of the scale of the changes compared with the 2018 Plan, it may have to be subject to another Parish Referendum open to all Hargrave residents on the Electoral Register. As with the 2018 Plan, a simple majority in favour of the Plan will mean that it must be used by West Suffolk Council when making decisions on planning applications. We would anticipate this happening towards the end of the year after year or early in 2024.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 20 OCTOBER. WE CANNOT ACCEPT COMMENTS AFTER THIS TIME.

