

# OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

## Neighbourhood Plan Preparation : Vision, Aims and Objectives

King's House , 245 Ampthill Road, Bedford  
29 February 2016

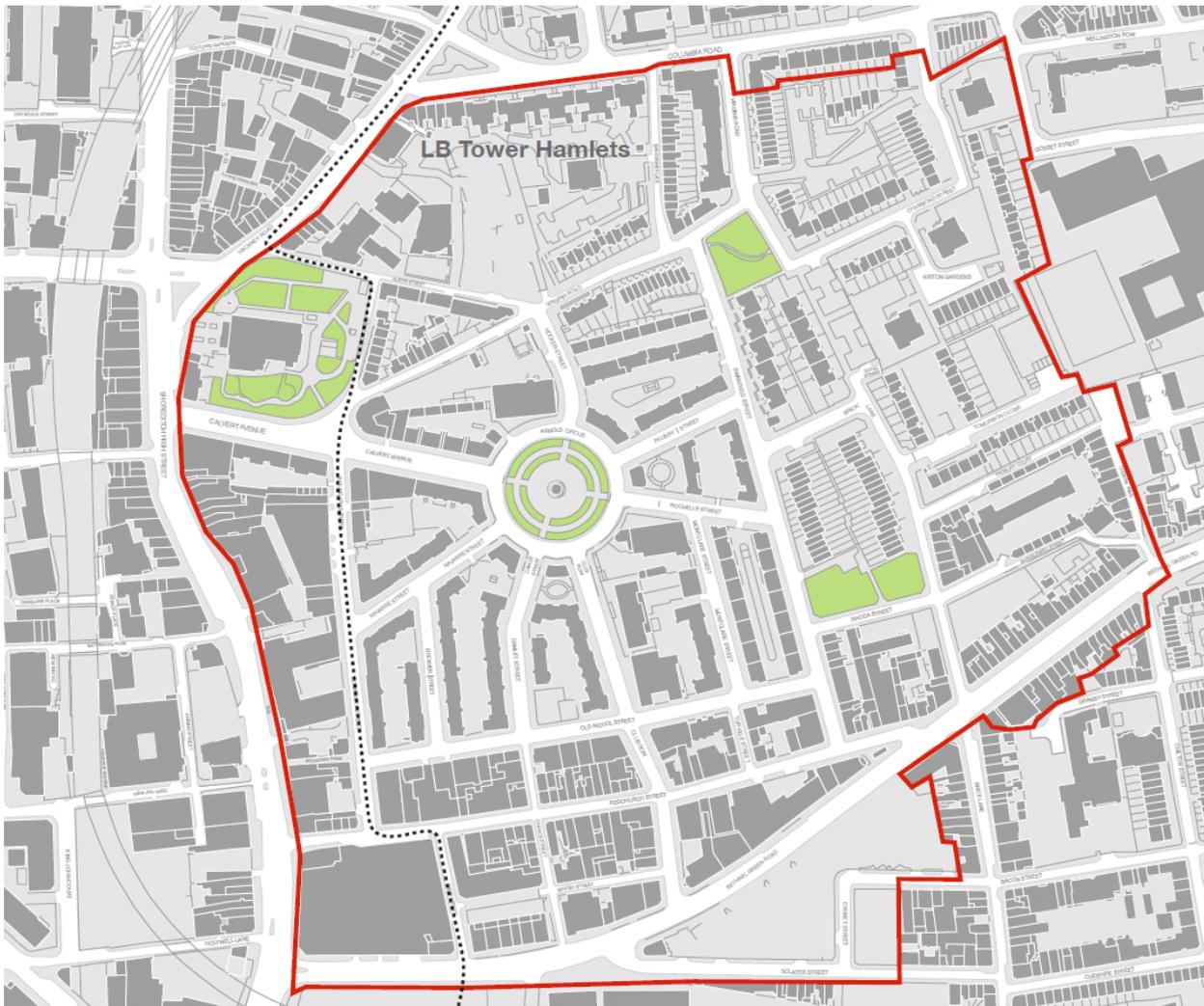


# Aims of the Workshop

By the end of this workshop we hope you will have a better understanding of:

- The overall importance of creating a vision, aims and objectives for your Neighbourhood Plan
- The emerging issues for your Neighbourhood Plan

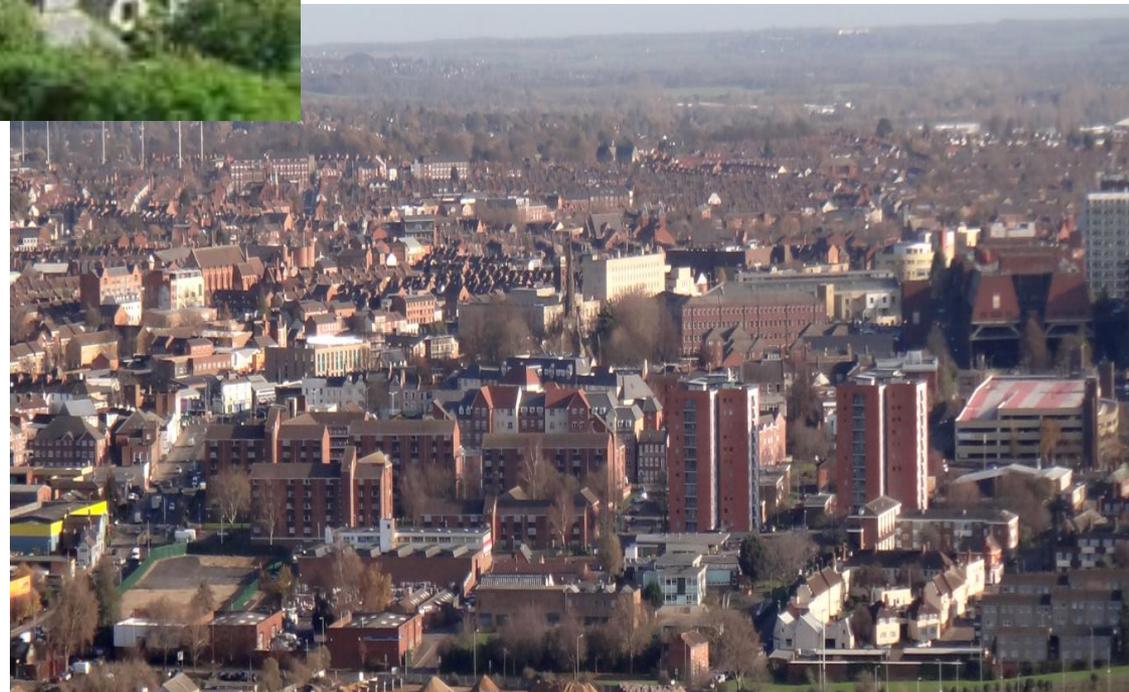




# A Vision for your Plan...

**OUR  
VILLAGE :**

**2030 ?**



# Vision & Objectives

- “The vision recognises the need for continued growth, whilst retaining the special characteristics of the area. It clearly sets out how this will be achieved. The vision and objectives are aspirational yet straightforward and are distinctive to Tattenhall and District. Together with the objectives, the vision establishes a framework for the rest of the Neighbourhood Plan and as one reads through, the link between the vision and the detailed policies of the Neighbourhood Plan is clear. This is a significant strength of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The approach set out in the vision and objectives contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. It has regard to and is in general conformity with, those national and local strategic policies which seek to combine the protection of local character with suitable provision for appropriate development and growth.”

***(Tattenhall Neighbourhood Plan - Examiner’s Report  
– August 2013)***



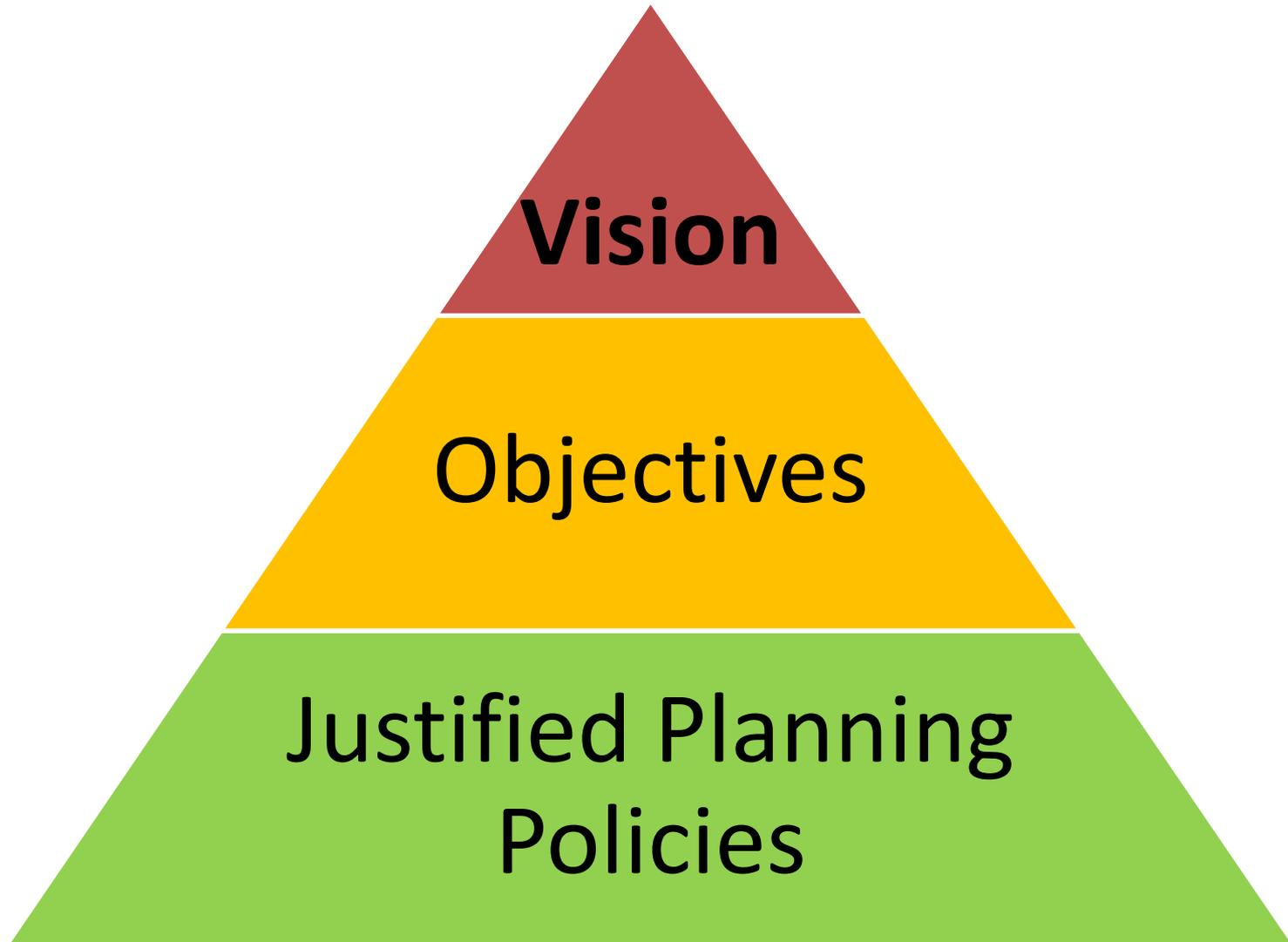
# Meeting the “Basic Conditions”

Plans must:

- Have appropriate regard to national planning policies
  - Contribute towards sustainable development
  - Generally conform with strategic (local plan) policies
  - Comply with EU obligations (SEA if relevant, human rights)
- + Don't forget that national policies mean plans must:
- Try to preserve the settings of listed building(s)
  - Try to preserve the character and appearance of any conservation area(s)



# From Vision to Planning Policies





**Ford:** We are a global family with a proud heritage passionately committed to providing personal mobility for people around the world.

We anticipate consumer need and deliver outstanding products and services that improve people's lives.

**Google:** To organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful.

**Nike:** To bring inspiration and innovation to every athlete in the world.



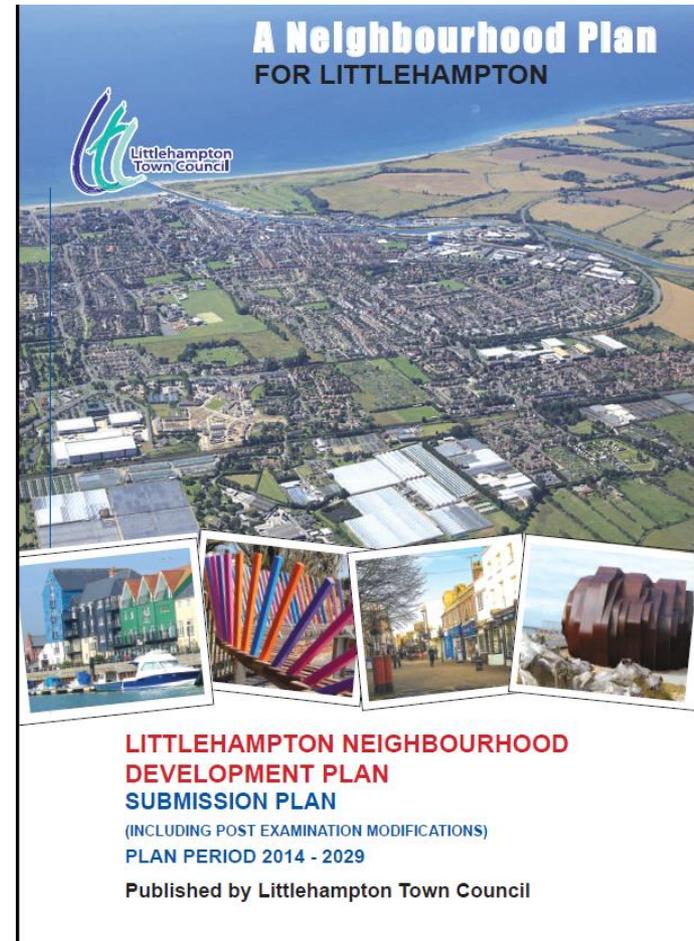
# Capturing the Essence of Your Neighbourhood / Village / Parish

- What is unique about this area?
- What do residents like best about living here?
- What will help the area thrive into the future?



# Example Vision: Littlehampton

- *“To fundamentally improve the economic, environmental, and social wellbeing of individuals and communities in the town, particularly those in the most deprived areas.*
- *To enhance, improve and protect existing community infrastructure and propose new where appropriate, that will deliver excellent local and accessible facilities to all of the Littlehampton population.”*



# Example Vision: Exeter St James

“The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that St. James is a vibrant neighbourhood with a balanced and diverse community. It will be a great place to live and work close to the city centre and University and will support Exeter’s character, identity and cultural life. St James will become known by people at all stages of their lives as one of the best parts of the City in which to live. St James will be known for its strong community, rich urban character, attractive green streets and spaces and thriving natural environment. It will be safe and enjoyable to move around on foot and bike and will be well connected to the rest of Exeter and beyond by public transport.”



# OBJECTIVES

- **Objective** [“uh b-jek-tiv”]

*noun : something that one's efforts or actions are intended to attain or accomplish; purpose; goal; target: e.g. the objective of a military attack; the objective of a fund-raising drive.*



# Clear Strategy:

Written correctly, a series of planning policies taken together should be an expression of a clear strategy.

A “strategy” can be defined as a plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim.

A good neighbourhood plan should have an overall aim – or set of aims – that forms a strategy.

## Strategy

The village heart will be prioritised as a thriving centre for local shops services and community infrastructure. Sustaining local businesses and improving local facilities is a key plan priority. Local community facilities will be supported.

Housing growth is to be accommodated in a sensitive way and the strategy for housing growth is explained later in this document (See Policy 1). This is primarily based on modest scale developments within and on the edge of Tattenhall village but also enabling smaller scale development across the Parish. Future growth based on large scale, inappropriate development along existing village boundaries will not be supported by the community.

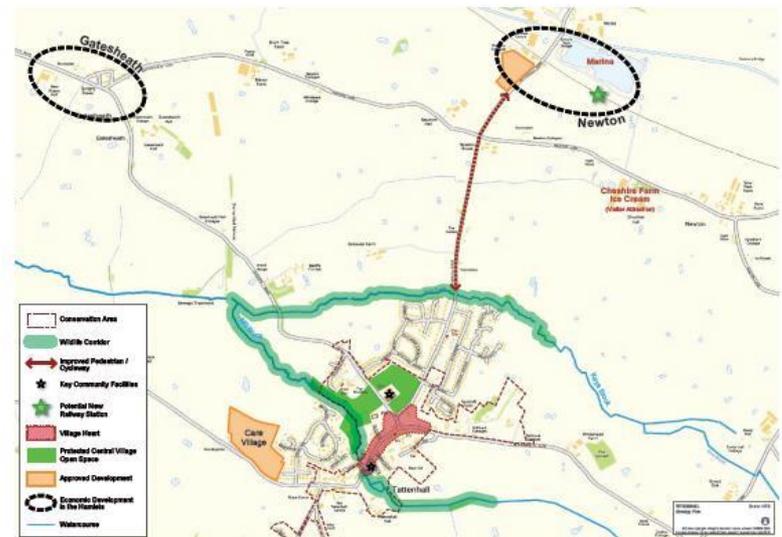
A number of small scale dispersed developments can be accommodated throughout the parish and could provide new affordable housing, opportunities to new and existing residents and meet the housing numbers and deadlines defined by Cheshire West and Chester Council Emerging Local Plan.

The continuing care retirement community development helps to diversify the housing offer in Tattenhall and the local area.

Important green spaces are to be protected as are strategic views within the Parish and into and out of the village of Tattenhall. (Important views are listed at Appendix A) Green wildlife corridors are promoted along Keys Brook and Mill Brook through, and around Tattenhall.

The Plan is also positive about new employment development of an appropriate scale, including at the hamlets of Gatesheath and Newton-by-Tattenhall.

Improved walking and cycling connections are promoted, as an early action, from the hamlets to Tattenhall via new footways. As a longer term aspiration the creation of a new railway station is highlighted as an opportunity to provide a sustainable link to Crewe, Chester and beyond.



# What the examiners are saying:

**“It is good practice to frame objectives in a plan as a statement of the desired outcome or long term direction of travel. They should emphasize what is to be achieved not how it is to be accomplished”**

Rosemary Kidd, Anslow Examiner’s Report



# Capturing the Essence of Ashton Keynes

15th & 18th May 2013 - Questionnaire Responses - Themes



Issues and Evidence lead to.....

**OBJECTIVES – and then POLICIES & PROJECTS**

## TYPICAL ISSUES

HOMES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE

PROTECTING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BETTER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

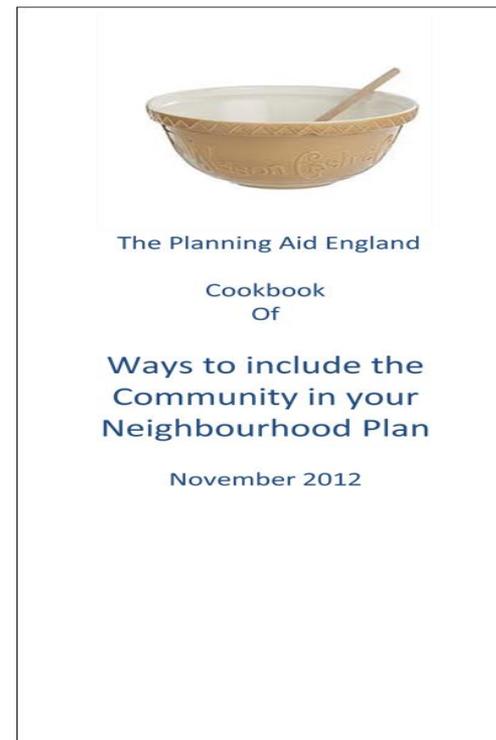
ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS

PROTECTING TOWNSCAPE, OPEN SPACE AND NATURE CONSERVATION INTERESTS



# Community Engagement work :

- Walk abouts
- Consultation drop-ins
- Engagement activities – School events, Village fetes, Sports Club meetings, etc.
- For more ideas, see:



# Community priorities expressed so far.....

## Public Realm:

- Streets and urban spaces
- Green space
- Lighting

## Connectivity:

- Wayfinding
- Cycle routes
- Green trails

## Housing:

- Development sites
- Affordable priority
- Character and quality
- Estate open spaces

## Community Cohesion:

- Community infrastructure
- Estate management
- Street management
- Licensing management

## Business & Employment:

- Local traders
- Evening economy
- Affordable workspaces



# Strategic Policy Context.....



# Example Objectives : Thame



Thame Town Council  
Examination Version

November 2012



THE VISION:  
“Thame must  
maintain its character  
as a **real** market  
town”

## 4 Vision Statement and Core Objectives

4.1 The Vision Statement and Core Objectives were developed with the local community at a series of community engagement events. They form the foundation of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan.

### The Vision Statement

#### Thame must maintain its character as a real market town

4.2 The overwhelming view from local people is Thame's strength is that it is a 'real market town'. The Thame Neighbourhood Plan's overall vision must therefore be to maintain this market town character.

4.3 What makes a town a 'market town'? One definition is:

*'A small town in the countryside which has a regular market and acts as a centre for surrounding farms and villages'*

4.4 Putting this definition together with the vision of maintaining Thame's character as a market town provides a set of principles for delivering the vision. These are that Thame must:

- continue to feel 'compact'
- continue to have a close relationship with the open countryside around it
- retain its markets
- continue to act as a centre for the surrounding area, not just residents
- remain attractive to residents and visitors.

4.5 Looking at the first four principles in more detail, achieving the vision means:

**Thame must continue to feel 'compact':** This is not just to do with numbers of people (for example, the group 'Action for Market Towns' suggests that a market town will

typically have a population of 2,000 – 35,000. Thame has a population of about 11,000 at present) but other factors too. Walkability is important – at present, the majority of people living in Thame are within about 15 minutes walk of the High Street. Although the town will grow, it should remain reasonably compact.

**Thame must continue to have a close relationship with the open countryside around it:** Just as it doesn't take long to walk to the town centre, most residents live within about 15 minutes walk of the surrounding open farmland. Compactness is important to a close relationship with open countryside.

The Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve is an important green area within the town.

**Thame must retain its markets, festivals and events:** The weekly Tuesday market is central to Thame's character and identity, and must be maintained and helped to flourish.

The twice weekly Cattle Market, monthly Farmers Market and annual events such as the French Market help to strengthen Thame's 'market town' identity.

**Thame must continue to act as a centre for the surrounding area not just its residents:** Thame needs to provide a range of different uses as well as housing – that is, employment, shopping, and community facilities, including education. It's important that good car, public transport, walking and cycling access are provided so that people from the surrounding villages can get to them easily.



## The Core Objectives

4.6 The Core Objectives are grouped under five headings:

- Housing
- Working and shopping
- Getting around
- Leisure and wellbeing
- Environment and sustainability.

4.7 For each heading, there are some comments about the main issues raised at the public consultation events, followed by the Core Objectives that were developed from these comments.



Fig 4.1: The comments and objectives in this chapter have come directly from what local people said at the consultation weekend in October 2011



Fig 4.2: Full details of what people said at the consultation can be found in reports on the Town Council's website



## Housing

Main comments raised by local people during the consultation include:

- 600 homes on one site is too many - new housing needs to be integrated on smaller sites
- new homes should be spread over several sites, not in one big development
- a lack of affordable homes to buy or rent
- a shortage of smaller homes (3 bedrooms and fewer)

**OBJECTIVE:** Integrate new housing into Thame

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide a greater range of affordable housing

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide a range of different housing types across all tenures

## Working and shopping

Main comments raised by local people during the consultation include:

- retaining the number and mix of independent shops in the town centre
- a shortage of good quality new employment space;
- the Cattle Market site is vital to the future of the town centre
- new employment sites should include a mix of uses, not just office or industrial
- encouraging one or two company headquarters to come to Thame

**OBJECTIVE:** Support Thame's shops

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide new employment

**OBJECTIVE:** Make sure the Cattle Market site supports Thame town centre

## Getting around

Main comments raised by local people during the consultation include:

- more footpaths / cycleways needed to extend and link into the Phoenix Trail
- creating a cycle path to Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station
- improving connections between Thame and the surrounding villages
- planning public transport so that - for example - bus and train times work together
- the impact of more traffic from new homes
- parking in the town centre

**OBJECTIVE:** Connect new housing into Thame and the wider area with good pedestrian, cycle and bus connections

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve existing pedestrian and cycle connections within Thame

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve connections to surrounding destinations

**OBJECTIVE:** Plan public transport to better meet users' needs

**OBJECTIVE:** Ensure car parking within the town supports the viability of the town centre



# Example Objectives : Cringleford

The aim of the Plan is to realise a Vision for Cringleford 2026. The objectives are:

1. To promote sustainable development within the Development Boundary delineated on the Proposals Map.
2. To preserve and enhance the landscape setting and internal character of the village, both inside and outside the Development Boundary but within the defined Parish Boundary. The aims are to minimise the visual impact of new development when seen from the approach roads to Norwich and also to enhance the character of the village to ensure integration of the various neighbourhood areas within the village through new and enhanced pedestrian and cycle links.
3. To create lay-outs for new development in which groups of dwellings are arranged around open spaces interspersed with trees.
4. To create a village that has minimum impact on the natural environment, promotes biodiversity, encourages wildlife, works towards being carbon neutral and mitigates the expected effects of climate change.
5. To sustain the vitality, health and safety of the community, and to allow disabled, elderly and infirm residents the opportunity of remaining part of it.
6. To contribute towards the emergence of a sustainable economy and to meet local employment needs.
7. To provide new housing which is high-quality in plan, size and materials, adapted to the expected results of climate change and suitable for the whole life needs of residents.
8. To reduce the need to use private motor vehicles, to encourage alternative means of travel and to ensure that circulation within the village is appropriate and secure.



# • Example Objectives : Woodcote

## Housing Goal / Aim:

To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home.

## Objectives:

- To provide a limited amount of new housing to meet local needs; including a greater range of affordable housing for Woodcote residents.
- To provide a mix of housing types including smaller homes for elderly villagers wishing to downsize and for young singles, couples or families needing their first home.
- To ensure that new development is of high quality design, is built to a high sustainability standard and reinforces local distinctiveness.
- To keep all new developments smaller than 25 homes.
- To give preferential access to some new homes for people with a strong local connection.
- To ensure that the design and location of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change and flooding.



# Developing Objectives

- Objectives should be SMARTER.....
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Assignable
  - Realistic
  - Time-related
  - Evidence and engagement driven
  - Related to the vision



# Which of the following issues are land use?

- Provision of affordable homes?
- Retention of trees?
- Community litter patrols?
- Satellite dish restrictions?
- Expanded community bus services?
- Promotion of renewable energy in new homes?
- 20mph speed restrictions?
- Colour of bricks to use?
- Changing a house to a nursery?



# Workshop

## 1 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats?

What are your community's hopes and fears and fears for how it is changing/should change?

2 – What needs to be done to protect what is good, realise opportunities and deal with the not so good?



# To check...

- Does your vision appear unique and locally distinctive?
- Does the vision reflect the priorities that have emerged from your engagement / consultation?
- Are the objectives identified achievable within the life of the plan?
- Is there a balance of objectives to meet the vision?
- Now...take these forward to begin drafting possible actions (policies) in the next session.





# Thank you – & how to get in touch with us at Planning Aid England....

## **National:**

Advice Line Tel.: 0330 123 9244

E-mail: [advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk](mailto:advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)

Web: [www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid)

## **East of England Planning Advisor:**

**Brian Whiteley**

Tel: 0203 206 8980

Email: [brian.whiteley@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk](mailto:brian.whiteley@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)