About Today’s Event

The Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan Project Group is producing a Neighbourhood Plan sponsored by the Town Council which will let local people have a say in how Higham Ferrers is going to develop over the next 20 years.

The Localism Act brought into force by the Government in 2011 attempts to devolve more powers to local areas. As part of this Town and Parish Councils and properly constituted Community Groups can now produce Neighbourhood Plans.

What Issues could the Neighbourhood Plan Address?

- Not enough parking
- Losing shops and services
- Lack community/sports facilities
- Place looks ‘tired’ needs investment
- Losing shops and services
- Impact on local parking
- Impact on local schools
- Traffic congestion
- Need to renovate under-used buildings
- Place looks ‘tired’ needs investment
- Local facilities
- Rural setting & open spaces
- Community spirit

What would you like to protect in Higham Ferrers?

- Rural setting & open spaces
- Town centre/Conservation area
- Local facilities
- Community spirit

What is missing or not sufficiently provided for in Higham Ferrers?

- Rural setting & open spaces
- Town centre/Conservation area
- Local facilities
- Community spirit
Community or Neighbourhood Plan?

What’s the difference between a Community Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan?

A community plan is one that can cover a whole range of issues which potentially affect the community – from dog fouling to parking issues and community facilities.

A Neighbourhood Plan is one that is restricted to land use and development matters, which once adopted will become part of the formal local development plan. It should relate to the use and development of land within a designated neighbourhood. In addition, the process and regulations set out in the Localism Act 2011 will need to be followed when preparing a neighbourhood plan.

Once adopted this plan will carry significant ‘weight’ when the Local Planning Authority assesses planning applications or they are considered at appeal. Higham Ferrers is developing both types of plan to ensure that growth and development issues can be addressed by local people but also other community issues can also be tackled.

Conformity with other plans

Neighbourhood Plans need to be in general conformity with higher level plans – this means that they cannot promote less housing growth or development than the Four Towns Plan or Core Spatial Strategy. Neighbourhood Plans are allowed to deliver more development.

They must also have regard to national planning policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.
How a Neighbourhood Plan is prepared

- Prepare a profile of the neighbourhood to inform consultation process
- Undertake a neighbourhood appraisal
- Consult and produce ‘vision’ for neighbourhood
- Draft and consult on Neighbourhood Plan
- Submit for independent examination
- Publish final Neighbourhood Plan and proceed to referendum seeking a simple majority (over 50% of votes)
- Neighbourhood Plan adopted by Local Authority

Local Authority support...
Local Authorities must provide support and advice to parishes and/or forums preparing a plan.

Legal compliance...
Neighbourhood Plans must comply with a number of EU Directives, national Planning Policy and Local Plan policies.

Referendum...
The referendum area can be wider than a neighbourhood if proposals impact on others.
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan

Outline Timetable

Getting Started | Identify Issues | Vision & Obj | Options | Draft Plan | Consult | Examination | Vote/Adopt

TIME LINE

Jul 12 | Oct 12 | May 13 | Sep 13 | Nov 13 | Jan 14 | May 14 | Jul 14 | Sep 14

Community Event II | Community Event III | Formal consultation ENC | Referendum
Consultation Feedback

What you have told us from our first Consultation Survey

What do you like best about the Town?

- Historic Buildings (64%)
- Physical Appearance/Atmosphere (65%)
- Ease of walking around (63%)
- Library (54%) & Bede House (34%) most commonly used buildings
- 29% want more allotments
- 64% of people want a new cemetery

Community Facilities

What are the main highway and transport issues?

- More parking enforcement needed
- Public transport improvements
- Traffic black spots – Chowns Mill/Saffron Rd/Wharf Rd
- Parking – single biggest issue
- More Youth facilities needed
- More events would increase visitors numbers
- 54% support renovation of Methodist Church into a community Centre

What’s important for the economy and tourism?

- 70% ‘strongly agree’ that support for shops
- Better town centre parking would help support local economy
- 46% would use a Wi-Fi network if provided
- 29% want more allotments
- 54% support renovation of Methodist Church into a community Centre

Download the full summary of consultation responses at www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk/NeighbourhoodPlan.aspx
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan

Previous Growth

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>661</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,083</td>
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Housing completions

2001 – 10  641
(approx. 20% of current housing stock)
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan

Progress & Next Stages

Progress so far...

- Establishment of Project Group
- Consultation Survey on Issues
- Feedback results
- Registration of Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Community Consultation & Feedback Event
- Development of existing evidence base
- Transport and Access study

Next Steps...

- Create a website and comms strategy to communicate with residents
- Develop a profile of Higham Ferrers
- Identify the key issues for the plan
- Compile an evidence base from existing reports & understand gaps
- Develop a draft Vision & Objectives
- Prepare for a further community event & consultation
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Council has submitted an application to East Northamptonshire Council to register the whole of Higham Ferrers Parish to become the Neighbourhood Plan area.

A Consultation on this proposed area will occur for 6 weeks after ENC Planning Policy Committee has approved the process. Confirmation of the Neighbourhood Plan area should therefore be made at the beginning of April unless there are good reasons not to designate the area.

Why the whole Parish? The Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan Project Group considers that this is the best way to influence and control development both within the town boundary and potentially to the east of the town.