

## Orwell Neighbourhood Plan Scoping the Plan Workshop

Date/Time: **22 February 2024 at 7:15 to 10pm**

Venue: **Orwell Village Hall, Orwell**

### Purpose of meeting:

- To reach a consensus on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities facing the NP area.
- To agree what the NP must cover, to agree what it can't, and to identify what the NP could cover (those grey areas!).
- To discuss approaches on drafting a plan vision, plan themes and theme-based objectives.

Mark, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chairman introduced the session at 7:30 following a 15 minute arrival slot with tea and coffee

### 1. **Recap of existing and emerging evidence/recent work since Inception meeting. 7:40 to 8:15pm**

To help set the scene for the workshop, Rachel, Natalie and Maggie provided an overview of work undertaken to date, presenting headline messages from the key findings:

- The Planning Policy context. (Rachel)
- Information collated demographic, social and economic data. (Rachel)
- Summary of early consultation and key issues raised (Maggie)
- Orwell Design Guidance and Code (Natalie)
- Orwell Housing Needs Assessment (Natalie)

### 2. **S.W.O.T Review. 8:15 to 8:50pm**

The pre-prepared SWOT was shown on the screen, and paper copies were distributed on tables.

Attendees were invited to provide comments on the presented SWOT. The SWOT was updated following the workshop in light of these discussions and further discussions in other parts of the workshop.

### 3. **Scoping the Neighbourhood Plan. 8:50 to 09:30.**

Participants worked in five different groups, given a theme each to discuss key objectives and policy ideas. The five themes were:

1. Housing Need
2. Getting Around
3. Natural Environment
4. Facilities and Services
5. Built Environment

In addition, each group was asked to consider a 6<sup>th</sup> theme Climate change.

After 20 minutes, an assigned scribe in each group reported back to the wider group, allowing contributions to be made by people sitting at different tables.

**Table 1: Housing Need:**

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
<p>Overall objective 1: "To ensure that new housing (delivers )</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stepping stone properties, e.g. terraces not too dense, good back plots</li> <li>• Bungalows although not these can be expensive</li> </ul>	<p>Terraces may mean more on street parking demand if not designed with dedicated parking</p> <p>Does terraced development suit character in Orwell?</p> <p>Terraced housing if located inappropriately could block key views into the wider landscape.</p> <p>In the 'prioritisation' test, this objective also received support. Terraced housing 4 dots, stepping stone properties 2 dot bungalows one dot</p>
<p>Overall objective 2 "Ensure that new housing consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of more cars</li> <li>• Poor infrastructure re sewage and therefore biodiversity issues</li> </ul>	<p>Housing must be accessible and adaptable to meet needs of population</p> <p>In the 'prioritisation' test, this objective also received support. Impact of more cars 3 dots.</p>
<p>Overall objective 3 "Ensure that new housing consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for low carbon heat initiatives such as Swaffham Prior initiative</li> </ul>	<p>In the 'prioritisation' test, this objective also received support (4 dots)</p>
<p>Overall objective 3 "Ensure that new housing consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community land trust initiative to support housing</li> </ul>	

**Table 2: Natural Environment**

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
<p>Overall objective 1: "Develop footpaths, bridleways and indicate hedgerows"</p>	<p>In the 'prioritisation' test, this objective received the most support (9 dots) after the water management objective.</p>
<p>Overall objective 2 "Village connectivity"</p>	<p>In the 'prioritisation' test, this objective also received support. 5 dots.</p>

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
Overall objective 3 “Open space in developments” Additional notes by speaker: New development to have open space within them and for this open space to be maintained.	
Overall objective 4 “Expand open space”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective also received support. 5 dots.
Overall objective 5 “More woodland”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective also received support
Overall objective 6 “Enhance the chalk stream”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective also received support. 4 dots.
Overall objective 7 “Wild area for children”	
Overall objective 8 “Conserve existing open water”	
Overall objective 9 “Improve knowledge of existing springs”	

**Table 3: Getting around**

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
Overall objective 1: “To ensure accessibility for 65+, disabled and the young with prams” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Public realm</li> </ul>	Improve bus routes but we note the provision of bus services is out of control of the NP  In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective also received support. 5 dots.
Overall objective 2 “Avoid parking and traffic that blocks routes for pedestrians and cyclists	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective received one sticky dot.
Overall objective 3 “To avoid development blocking existing routes”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective received one sticky dot.

**Table 4: Facilities and Services**

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
Overall objective 1: “To improve water management in the parish” Linked to septic tank, biodiversity and grey water” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water</li> <li>• Sewage</li> </ul> Additional notes by speaker. Some residents are unable to flush their toilets downstairs or use the washing machine due to existing issues with inadequate drainage arrangements in the village.	There is also a need for more space to serve the needs and demands of small businesses in the parish  In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective received, <i>by far</i> , the most support. <b>25 dots</b>
Overall objective 2 “To improve, enhance or retain recreational facilities”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective received one sticky dot.

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
Overall objective 3 “To improve access to village facilities for those with disabilities” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This includes improving pavement infrastructure and connectivity for non-motorised users (pedestrians, mobility scooters, carers with prams etc). This would include provision of dropped kerbs and ramps where needed.</li> </ul>	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective received one sticky dot.
Overall objective 4 “Take opportunities to support new facilities”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective received one sticky dot.

**Table 5: Built Environment**

Key points by scribe:	Comments from others
Overall objective 1: “To protect views into countryside”	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective also received support (8 dots)
Overall objective 2 “To protect distinctive character of Orwell” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Gardens</li> <li>• Backland</li> <li>• Gaps</li> </ul>	In the ‘prioritisation’ test, this objective for “design” received support (6 dots) “gaps received two sticky dots”
Other: Concern about the influence the NP can have	

### Climate Change

All tables were asked to consider applicable objectives for the climate change theme. The following aspects were noted:

- Water
- Green infrastructure
- Community Heating Systems.

#### 4. Prioritising themes 09:30 – 9:45pm

Natalie gave each participant four sticky dots. To ‘test’ priorities, she asked participants to use their dots to indicate which topic matter/objective was of most importance to them. The results of this exercise are recorded in the tables above.

#### 5. Workshop Close and tidy Up 09:45 to 10pm