

Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan

Shaping The Future Of Our Community Together

Newsletter No. 3

March 2017

<http://www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk/index.php/neighbourhood>

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been very busy since our last newsletter and we wanted to update you on our progress.

First of all, very many thanks to all those who took the trouble to complete our survey last October, and to come along to the Open Days to talk about issues facing the village. It was great for us to discuss with many of you what you feel is important and it also gave us a chance to talk about how neighbourhood planning works.

We have drawn together all the survey responses and Open Day comments into a summary report which is available on the website or you can obtain a copy from any member of the Steering Group. The full raw data can also be viewed.

In addition we have included a summary of the responses overleaf which we hope that you will find interesting and informative. The survey responses will now be used by the Steering Group to develop a vision for the village, and to set objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. We will be consulting you on these later in the Spring.

The Government supports the preparation of neighbourhood plans with funding and technical support. This has enabled the Steering Group to have a dedicated training session run by a Government-appointed consultant, and in addition some of us were able to attend a very useful seminar day which brought together groups working on neighbourhood plans in the South West.

The funding also pays for hall hire, stationery, newsletters and in addition has enabled us to appoint a local planning consultancy, Brian Wilson Associates, to guide us through the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it is legally compliant and will pass scrutiny. Brian will also provide additional training for the Steering Group.

The local planning authority, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, has provided us with maps of the village and other information and advice.

Once the objectives are agreed, our next steps will be to set up topic groups to develop supporting policies and in this respect we would like to invite more people to become involved. The likely topics are: Housing & Planning, Land Use and Conservation, Business & the Local Economy, Heritage, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment, Recreation Facilities and Transport. Please do get in touch with any Steering Group member if any of these particularly interest you or if you feel you could contribute any relevant knowledge or experience. Please do also get in touch if you have any questions or comments.

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Here is what you said in our first Consultation

Question 1 - What you like and value

- A thriving and friendly community – village events and activity groups
- The role of the Mission Hall and Springhead as focal points for social life
- Easy access to beautiful countryside and coastline, with great views of and from the village
- The village centre, and the village's style, character and heritage
- Separate from Preston and Weymouth, but with easy access to facilities and services
- Peace, tranquillity and safety

Question 2 - What could be better

Overall, the feedback here reflected a desire to retain the existing character, services and community ethos, with change controlled so as to protect what is now liked and valued. All your responses to Question 2 can be found among the following lists.

Question 3 – In descending order of support, you said our Neighbourhood Plan should include:

Housing & planning

- Focus on smaller houses, both for younger families and for downsizing
- Encouraging full-time occupancy of houses
- Growth through infill rather than from incursion into open country
- Use of appropriate materials and design in keeping with village character

Transport

- Preservation of bus service
- Lower speed limit, and more considerate parking to improve access
- Improved foot and cycle access, especially Puddledock

Land use & conservation

- Protection of important views and green wedge gap
- Protecting countryside and rural lanes
- Care for trees, hedges and the village pond
- Better communications with and cooperation with landowners

Biodiversity & natural environment

- Cooperate with stakeholders to conserve habitat and maintain countryside access
- Include biodiversity criteria in new build planning
- Promote clean tidy and healthy environment

Business, tourism & employment

- Work with employers to create jobs
- Encourage small businesses, and encourage facilities for visitors

Heritage

- Protect heritage sites and ensure development protects their character and setting
- Provide information on village's heritage

Sports & recreation

- Support for Mission Hall and Springhead
- Play and recreation facility
- Maintain and improve footpaths and tracks
- Village Green

Renewable Energy

- Some support for this, but also some concerns about the visual impact

IT & Comms

- Improved communications coverage, speed and reliability
- Non-intrusive infrastructure
- Continued use of traditional village communications

Other ideas – Improved flood prevention; More allotments; Parish Council (including top of Plaisters Lane); Community enterprises e.g. shop.