



Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

Don't hand Debenham over to Developers

Take Control and Vote YES to Your Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 7th February

Dear Neighbour,

You have recently received a poll card inviting you to vote on Debenham's Neighbourhood Plan. You may have wondered why it is relevant to you and why you should bother voting.

In terms of how it will affect your day to day life, and how it will impact on your village - this will be one of the most important votes you cast.

Voting YES to the Neighbourhood Plan not only ensures that we have provision for limited and sensitively placed housing, which meets the demands of our community, it gives us a stronger voice over what happens in our village because it becomes a statutory legally binding document. The Parish Council and Neighbourhood plan team have worked hard to secure our village's future and ensure the character and setting of our village is protected - **it's now up to all residents to give our final support to our Neighbourhood plan.**

If you travel across Suffolk there are housing developments appearing in villages and towns everywhere - the result of government policy to build thousands of homes in England. While most of us understand the need for affordable housing - the scale, speed and sometimes insensitive siting of these homes, along with poor build quality and inadequate transport links, can have a devastating impact on communities.

Framlingham is perhaps the best example locally of where development has gone badly wrong. Large scale housing estates have sprung up on a number of sites in the town despite strong and valid opposition from residents. Developers were unstoppable - the floodgates were open - **because Framlingham was not protected by a Neighbourhood Plan.** This situation has now changed, Framlingham's Neighbourhood Plan finally became effective in March 2017 - too late - the damage to the town and community has already been done, with irreversible impacts on traffic, the environment, local shops and services.

In Debenham's case, one of the main reasons why Mid Suffolk District Council's planning committee rejected Taylor Wimpey's plan to build nearly 300 homes opposite the leisure centre, is because we are so close to passing the referendum on our own Neighbourhood Plan. Taylor Wimpey may still appeal against that decision, and they may yet also put in an application for their larger alternate/phase 2 site (for 340 homes) south of the leisure centre and school. All part of **their** vision for **our** village - but **they** shouldn't be controlling what happens in **our** village - **we should.**

If we don't **Vote Yes** to the Neighbourhood plan on 7th February Debenham will become vulnerable to a succession of applications for big housing developments - **turning Debenham Village into Debenham Town** - without resolving the parking or traffic issues!

Please make your vote count on Thursday 7th February

Take 10 minutes out of your day to vote at Dove Cottage - it will make a huge difference to your village, your neighbours and you.

Voting - **Thursday 7th February (7am and 10pm) Dove Cottage, High Street, Debenham.**

Take Control - Vote YES to Your Neighbourhood Plan

If you are unable to vote in person there is still time to organise a postal vote if you apply before the 23rd January or you can arrange for a proxy vote if you do so before 30th January.

If you support your Neighbourhood Plan - please put the poster on the reverse of this letter in your window or car.

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