

## **Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – May 2023**

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

We launched the project to develop an NDP for Walberswick in 2021, shortly before the APM in that year. The NDP is the only way for the village to gain some legal standing in the planning application process with East Suffolk District Council (ESDC). The NDP Steering Group (Rebecca Whiting, Andrew Lewis, Josie Bassinette, Paul Bradley & Mark Knight) continue to meet regularly.

Having secured just under £10,000 in grant funding we were able to employ specialists for some aspects of the data collection to help complete the 'chapters' of the NDP for which we had limited local resource.

- **Housing Needs Survey** – Community Action Suffolk (CAS) helped us to organise a survey of housing stock in the village and whether this meets the future needs of it's residents and is affordable to them. The survey was distributed to all 339 households in the village in June last year and we had an excellent response rate of 52% which, we are told, is a good sample as well as indicating a high engagement – we would like to thank you all for taking the time to help us with this. CAS then collected, collated and reported back the anonymised data in a Housing Needs Assessment report in autumn last year.
- **Landscape and built environment** – A core part of this chapter is the "Character Assessment" which will allow us to evaluate what physical aspects that characterise each part of our village. Having mapped out, with input from many of you at the drop-in sessions, what was felt to be the key areas, views and locations, Place Services were commissioned to carry out a Landscape and Built Area Assessment of Walberswick. Their consultants visited the village in September last year and have recently submitted their report.
- **Safe Spaces** – much valuable work has previously been carried out in the village on traffic and speeding and this existing knowledge will be drawn upon to develop specific proposals for this part of the NDP.
- **Environment & Sustainability** - This will pick up on a lot of the excellent work and suggestions coming out of the original Parish Plan, along with some new aspects, such as the Foreshore.

In summary, we now have all the ground work complete to provide the information upon which to pull together the draft NDP under these chapters. Further consultation will happen in the form of drop-in sessions and we encourage you to continue to participate actively and feedback to us so that our draft NDP truly represents the views of our residents. Once prepared the draft NDP will go to ESDC for approval before we can all then vote to implement it.