

# Walberswick Parish Plan: Report of the Steering Group to the Annual Parish Meeting

23.04.2015

## 1 Sea and River Defences

As previously reported to the Parish Council, the Environment Agency will undertake major flood defence works this summer to the Robinson's Marsh embankment between the Bailey Bridge and the ferry crossing, essentially implementing the scheme for raising the banks first proposed by the Blyth Estuary Group in 2009. See the report from BEG for more details.

## 2 Planning and Development Control

The Planning Advisory Group was established in August 2014 to provide observations to the Parish Council on planning applications referred for consultation by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The group comprises experienced residents of the village with professional knowledge of planning and architectural design. To date, the group has considered nine applications and in each of these cases its comments have been incorporated in the Parish Council's response to the Planning Authority.

At the request of the Parish Council, the PAG has also reported on various aspects of the Local Plan Update being undertaken by SCDC, and on the initial draft of the Southwold Neighbourhood Plan, in so far as it affects Walberswick.

PAG reports are published in full in the minutes of the relevant meeting of the Parish Council.

## 3 Affordable and Sheltered Housing

The Housing Working Party has finalised its report examining ways of providing affordable and sheltered housing in the village. The report will be submitted to an early meeting of the new Parish Council and posted on the Parish Plan website.

## 4 Traffic, Parking and Public Transport

The Parish Council has requested Suffolk County Council as the Highways Authority to implement a reduced speed limit of 20mph within the village. It would appear that Walberswick meets the criteria for this change but more discussions are required to drive the proposal forward.

The Steering Group fully supports the idea of a 20mph limit. In the implementation of the proposal, the group would want to see emphasised the character of the Street as a shared surface, that is, a carriageway for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike requiring consideration and mutual respect from all users.

## 5 Environmental Issues

The Environmental Working Party has prepared 'Good Neighbour' advice for the tenants of holiday lets and other visitors, for distribution to all properties in the village. A report on the proposal will be submitted to an early meeting of the new Parish Council.

The Working Party has also considered ways of improving the safety and amenity

The Working Party has also considered ways of improving the safety and amenity of the beach during the summer season. It is proposed to circulate a short questionnaire to all residents asking which activities, if any, they would like to see controlled during this period. Before doing so, a report on the proposal will also be submitted to an early meeting of the new Parish Council.

## 6 Health

There has been no progress in appointing Community First Responders. The Health Working Party is contacting the East of England ambulance service to establish whether the scheme is still operational in this area.

## 7 High Speed Broadband

High Speed Broadband has been operational throughout the village since last summer, giving much increased capacity to the local network.

## 8 Conclusion

The members of the Parish Plan Steering Group are: Peter Byrne, Ben Cardwell, Frank Duffy, Alan Gomm, Alvin and Vivien Hunt, John Nichols and Chrissie Reeves.

The members of the Planning Advisory Group are: Paul Bradley, Frank Duffy, Alan Gomm, Alvin Hunt, John Nichols and Bill Ungless

I would like to thank them on your behalf for the work they have done through the year.

John Nichols  
Chairman, Parish Plan Steering Group