

Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan 2021

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Section 3 The Vision and the Objectives

3.1. The Vision up to and beyond 2042

The vision sets out what the people of Dickleburgh and Rushall wish their Parish to be like in the years to 2042 and beyond. It shapes the objectives, policies and projects set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. There was particular interest in retaining the rural character and protecting its heritage and biodiversity.

The nature and character of our rural villages will be preserved and retained, in order to meet the various needs of residents, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice. This will be achieved in ways that make effective use of natural resources, enhance the environment and natural diversity, promote social inclusion, and supports the local economy.

3.2. Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan

In response to the consultation, a series of objectives were written, which set out what the Neighbourhood Plan aimed to accomplish. The objectives provided a starting point for the development of policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan reflects the Parish communities understanding of the need to accommodate housing growth. However, there is great concern about the potential growth of Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish if it is unmarshalled. New developments in the Parish could erode the very qualities that make the Parish a community if it is not carefully managed in terms of scale, design, and impact. Dickleburgh and Rushall growth must be more than about meeting housing numbers; new developments should contribute to the character of the Parish, enrich the natural environment, and provide local benefits, and have at their core an embrace and maintenance of rurality and beautification and the richness of the environment.

3.2.1. Housing objectives

These objectives have been formulated from the Questionnaire and opinion seeking events and consultation exercises with a wide range of expert agencies such as Anglia Water, Government departments, the National Tree Council, NWT and many others.

The two principal objectives in relation to housing development are:

Objective 1: To provide sufficient and appropriate high-quality housing in small-scale developments to meet local needs within a balanced housing market.

Objective 2: To provide mixed-use development that complements the character and heritage of the rural villages of Dickleburgh and Rushall.

The Residents of the Parish wish to avoid:

- Urban sprawl, inappropriate development, or over development.
- Change to the status of village of Dickleburgh.
- Loss of character.

(This can be summed up by the terms maintaining rurality and improving beautification).

The residents of the Parish wish to encourage:

- Protection of Rural England and the rural landscape of the Parish.
- Maintaining and improving the character, appearance and distinctiveness of the villages and settlements within the Parish.
- Any site selected in and around Dickleburgh & Rushall should be carefully planned and designed to adhere to the requirements of maintaining rurality and improving beautification.

Infrastructure for new housing:

- Most of the sites outside of the village centre are on individual sewage treatment plants. Houses should harvest grey water for flushing toilets, watering a garden and other aspects of life that do not require purified water. Housing developments will be expected to be connected to the mains water and sewage system.

For further detail and specific requirements for any agreed development, see Appendix P

3.2.2. Transport objectives

The Neighbourhood Plan requires the following objectives to be achieved through planning or as projects undertaken by the Parish Council.

Objective 1: Address the issue of significant numbers of lorries and HGVs travelling through areas of the parish judged to be hazardous and perilous to both pedestrians and the environment.

Objective 2: Improve the safety of pedestrians and residents of the Parish.

Objective 3: Reduce traffic congestion in the Parish.

Objective 4: To future proof the housing infrastructure to support environmentally friendly transport.

3.2.3. Environmental and Biodiversity objectives

In addition to the survey outcomes, additional data has been obtained from; Norfolk County Council, locally conducted surveys of biodiversity, meetings with local agencies and organisations including Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT), South Norfolk District Council (SNC), Highways.

Objective 1: To put in place measures and policies that; ensure the protection and enhancement of all our natural habitats, including hedgerows, coppices, ditches and key natural environmental assets, in order to encourage an increase in biodiversity across the Parish and provide environments conducive to maintaining healthy populations of birds, bats and other fauna. An element of this will require developers planting native green hedging rather than solid wood fencing and providing additional habitats and wildlife corridors for hedgehogs and other small mammals, enabling free-roaming into and through the development and hamlet or village.

Objective 2 To Protect and promote an increase of green footpaths, bridleways and cycleways to further enable public access to open countryside, green sites for community use and woodlands, including any new Parish Woodlands. And protect and enhance vistas and views of significance within the Parish.

Objective 3: To ensure the maintenance of distinct settlements and define clear settlement gaps to ensure the continuance of these distinct and separate settlements. For the sake of this document, a separate settlement can be distinguished by the separation of dwellings from larger settlements/hamlets by a field or defined boundary.

Objective 4: To challenge environmental risk and promote carbon offsetting by supporting creative thinking and solutions that safeguard and enhance the natural environment. To promote, within the design/build of new developments, features such as; permeable driveways/hard standing, provision of green energy, green walls, green roofing, water harvesting and full utilisation of grey water solutions.

Objective 5: Establish clean environment policies to address issues of pollution and promote well-being, and improved public health. This will include a 'beautification' policy as part of the approach to promote well-being by improving the overall visual enhancement and character of the Parish.

NB Where policies in place result in new planting, any trees, shrubs, hedging and the like should be native species and typical of those which are already present in the local area and should come with a

commitment to be maintained and preserved for a minimum fixed period of at least 3 years¹ or until established.²

3.3 Policies and Projects

Policies and projects have been identified and developed with the community, which are designed to ensure Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish develops in a sustainable way.

3.3.1 Policies

The Neighbourhood Plan policies follow the Government's guidance, and they exist to: -

- Set out requirements in advance for new development in an area.
- Inform and guide decisions on planning applications.
- Ensure that the multitude of individual decisions add up to something coherent, positive and enhancing for the area and Parish as a whole.

3.3.2 Projects

During consultation events, the local community and NP Team identified a number of projects and community actions that fall outside the remit of the planning system or are for consideration in the future. There should be the scope and opportunity to progress some or all of the projects in tandem with the progress of some larger developments, thereby ensuring better value for money, less disruption for the local population and less environmental impact. The projects that cannot be initiated in tandem with a larger development will be taken forward outside the NP process.

¹ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/care/>

² <https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/hedgerows/#1627292550614-6afeb579-f642>