**Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting 01/10/18**

*Present: Mike, Steve, Alan, Jean S, Neville, Charlie, Jean Y, Gareth, Roy, Ann, Louis, Jess, Mike R, Helen*

Overall feeling of group is that as a village we have done our fair share with new housing and so need to control any new development and ensure it benefits the infrastructure - eg roads. must be sympathetic to rest of the village architecturally and be appropriate - ie affordable and for school numbers etc (need to check school capacity – it is 53)

We need to be compassionate to the uk housing crisis/what is needed for housing in the area but ensure it is what is best for our village (if people lived in homes with appropriate no of bedrooms crisis would be resolved!)

With previous major development, we have been left with an amenity field but it needs clarification - use, how long for, maintenance etc

As well as needing a footpath it was felt the speed limit through the village needs to be considerably lower - any development will add to this issue and it’s not particularly practical for works traffic or extra residential additional vehicles (good example is burst water main showed how Wheatfields really couldn’t cope with any extra traffic. Could start speed limit signs further out with gates to side to start lowering speed before vehicles get in village. Specific concern was children playing in street on scooters etc - they need to be able to get to a safe place to play.

We are on a signposted Cycle Route yet traffic not ideal - should be cycle lanes here

Sewerage needs redoing - seems to be common knowledge with longer standing residents but we all see how it doesn’t cope at times, felt this needs reporting to AW rather than sorting by ourselves so they know how frequently it blocks

Specific comments re Riddleston field:

Houses should be more set back than plans suggest to echo Wheatfields style with more green/amenity land & landscaping, low density.

Was refused last time but still nothing has changed but more houses put forward -  why?

 there is a lack of demand and Church Farm Place properties still for sale prove this - there is a 5 & 4 bed plus at least one affordable shared ownership STILL on market (on checking Rightmove tonight looks like the other 4 bed on there again so that's ***five*** in total) ie 1/3

Landowners wanting development are either end of village on the main approaches - feel victimised here, where there is no demand, no amenities, no buses etc the village is not suitable

We have no information atm on the New Notcutts site

**What we want/agenda for Babergh:**

Need to improve the roads in the village ie make them safer, footpath, slow traffic etc

Control development - We have done more than our bit recently - for next 5 years then after that 5-10 houses every 5 years so growth isn’t overwhelming for a village this small village. With a really good community here, this mustn’t be spoilt having few amenities – this is unlikely to change eg pub, shop unfortunately! (could we add a windmill/turbine to our village?) an asset is our school but it is nearing capacity and cannot be extended easily - over development might cause an issue with this

New homes should be sympathetic to locality

Be of high quality and style eg British bricks, tiles etc & have chimneys (woodburners essential due to power cuts/no gas in village)

eco-friendly

Affordable homes should be just that and interspersed throughout not all together in corner.

All of the opinion green fields should be built on last, once this happens it sets a precedent…

We need to add more detail to the existing Village Plan which has worked and many desired points have been achieved.

Need a few more residents from Naughton Rd end - even if renting, if they want to be in the village they can have their say too.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning-Parish-Profiles/Whatfield-Sept-2015.pdf>

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Parish-Plans/Whatfield2007.pdf>