

NEWSLETTER



Changes in Government policy

“Planning for the Future” White Paper sets out proposals:

- to simplify and shorten the planning application process
- to divide areas into zones which will govern where and what housing can be built
- areas, such as Babergh, where there has been a historic undersupply of affordable housing, are expected to “take a greater share of future development”
- to deliver the government’s commitment to enable 300,000 dwellings to be built per year

Stutton Neighbourhood

Changing World ...

The last Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter went out in February 2020 ... just before everything changed. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party has done three things:

- we have created a full report on The Big Conversation consultation, analysing themes from everything you told us. You can find the headlines overleaf, and the whole document on the home page of the Stutton website www.stutton.org Have a look and let us know what you think. Is there anything else you want to tell us?
- we have had our ear to the ground, around the changing Development and Planning policy statements coming out of the government - and discussed the potential implications for us, here in Stutton
- we received comments from Babergh Planning Department on our Draft Summary Plan and met with the Parish Council to discuss the implications

Babergh policy

- Stutton is expected to contribute to Babergh’s housing requirements
- the numbers identified for Stutton in the Joint Local Plan (64 with planning permission for all those already granted) are a **minimum**
- “... changes in Government policy could see Babergh having to re-plan for yet higher numbers - to be delivered across the district as whole at a future date”.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE BIG CONVERSATION

- there were 397 attendances at events
- with 301 different people involved (277 over 16 and 24 children)
- 720 comments were recorded
- **that means just under 40% of people over 16 were involved**

Thank you!

WHAT DID YOU TELL US?

40% of the comments were concerns about roads, traffic, pavements, public transport and cycling. Creating a Greenway interested many people.

20% of the comments were about housing and new development of which:

- 43.4% were about affordable or small houses being the future for the village
- 0% were about large houses
- 28.6 % were about sites and groupings for new development, (with no clear consensus)
- 28% made suggestions about design
- there were also lots of ideas about activities and facilities in the village; and more about creating a sustainable future

There were only 15 negative comments about housing over the whole consultation.

How does this affect our Neighbourhood Plan?

One aspect of developing a Neighbourhood Plan is whether to allocate potential sites for future development. We did not include a site in the draft Plan we presented to the village in February and March last year. But we think the village is now more vulnerable to further development.

There are arguments for and against allocating a site ... but on balance, we think that the only way for the village to have any influence on future housing development is to specify where it should be and what kind of housing should be built.

If we do this, a developer would need to make a good case if they didn't choose our site and guidance.

"Neighbourhood Plans would play a crucial role - introducing required design guides and codes - to provide certainty and reflect local character and preferences about the form and appearance of development". Planning for the Future White Paper

What do you think?

In The Big Conversation you told us that any development should favour small affordable houses - especially for young and older people.

- **Tell us where you think development could go**
- **And what it might look like**
- **And any features that development should include,** like a community orchard, recreation area sustainable drainage etc...

Email us: thebigconversation@hotmail.com

Join us in a Zoom Meeting - an opportunity to ask questions and tell us what you think. Email for details ...