

The Big Conversation

Local Focus Group: neighbourhood plan consultation

Holbrook Road

Moving around the village

The pavement swaps sides - you can't travel through the village without crossing road. It is hard for families with young children - bikes and buggies.

It's good at the moment but sometimes the verges, or the hedges are overgrown, and hard for a buggy.

People park on the pavement. They think they're doing us a favour - not stopping traffic, but it stops pavement-users from getting along. Especially buggies and wheelchairs.

When there's a big event at Alton Water, people park on the road. They say the overspill car park is down in RHS - too far away, especially if you have young children. The car park is down by the parade ground - the way to get to the Res would be to the damn end, not the main entrance? But this path has lots of private notices on it, so people are not likely to use it.

The pavement is very narrow by the Village Hall.

Green Walkway is a great idea. There are potential paths on both sides of the main road - people living in different parts of the village would probably like one either side. Expense probably means it is a question of prioritising.

Ideas for improvements

Is there any signage system to park on the pavement the other villages use. This can't be a problem unique to us?

Could there be more consultation with Alton Water - perhaps at the User's Group? Can we find out about this - what happens? Or some other means? It's a fabulous facility and lovely to see people enjoying it; it's great to have in the village - but more communication, especially as it grows, or around big events, could be really helpful.

Traffic

There are lots of coaches going through the village.

Speed is of concern. The electronic speed signs seem to be helpful. And Community Speed Watch does a great job.

Of course traffic is going to grow. There is much more now than even a few years ago.

IDEAS

Not sure a 20 mile an hour limit would be useful as people ignore the 30 miles an hour signs.

Barriers, and bumps, and road interventions - like they had in Brantham - don't seem to be very helpful.

Could we learn from other villages who have found creative ways of slowing people down - making them think. Or giving them a memory jogger to stay at 30 - like silhouettes of people or children beside the road through the village?

Picket fence idea seems to be a good one.

Public transport

Some thought we have a pretty good bus service; but it's not useful for commuters and early trains at Manningtree. And there are gaps at the end of the day too. Buses are not the only solution here - perhaps car share?

There do seem to be a lot of double-decker buses with a handful of people on. It seems that a minibus would often be large enough.

The support network does a great job helping people to get about, to places that would need several bus changes otherwise, like the hospital.

Community transport is not working so well at the moment.

Village facilities

We love the hall and shop. Really hope **the school** goes from strength to strength; and as it grows more families with young children live in the village. With more activities for families and young people,

Alton Water is great facility. Fabulous playground now - Great for families, to walk down for an ice cream and back.

Love being able to walk off road round the village.

Village Hall

The Hall could do with the facelift externally. Inside feels like a great village facility.

Needs more flexibility inside - so two groups can use it at once. Could it have two independent entrances?

A Business hub would be great - the shop is being used a lot by people who want to do some work. Can the hall extend this facility in some way.

Campsea Ashe Village created an object lesson in this kind of thing. It would be great to have a look at that and see what we could have in Stutton. Anything that supports more people to be able to work in the village as well as live here would be good.

The Pub

The pub is a good community place. Lovely garden that people sit in a lot now. It's a good place for meetings too.

It's a bit sad we're losing part of the big recreation field - needs to be somewhere where children and young people can go play.

Natural environment

We're very lucky with our environment - it's absolutely beautiful.

It would be good if farmers would tell us when they're going to spray. And what they spray. So we can shut windows, stay inside - and maybe protect some plants if the spray is going to drift onto them.

Could we have more wildflower verges, rather than mown verges. Or strips around the fields left for wild bits.

We need to keep a careful eye as Alton Water develops. It's a good camping facility, but will there be more? As it grows it seems as if the wildlife is reducing. We need to keep an eye on this. It's a fine balance - a great facility for people to enjoy, but not losing wildlife.

Housing

We need lots of bungalows for older people.

Coddenham has a great facility - a farmer gave a field to the village, solely for the purpose of building small houses for older people wanting to downsize. They started with 11 bungalows; they now have 20 (with two bedrooms). Available to people over 55 or people with disabilities. Care facilities provided; all rented accommodation £500 per month. Part of the Almshouses Association? It would be good to go and see what they've created, to see if we can learn anything about creating something like that here.

Definitely need more affordable housing in village - genuinely affordable. How can we make sure that new development really is *affordable* housing - not just at the planning stage but also when they're built? The village needs young families at its heart - and we know how hard it is for young families to afford to live here.

If older people downsize there are more properties available for young people. But would it be young people who move in? They don't always want the large gardens. And properties are just too expensive. How do we solve this?

Could we think about a radical solution to a village-wide care project. A development on from the excellent job Stutton Support Network does, with the same ethos at its core. Creating care for people in their own homes. And probably providing jobs for people in the village. Not an easy thing to do but worth developing the ideas more.

Businesses in the village

Can we encourage better conditions for people to work in the village. Work units / spaces/ hub facilities. Support a way of living that doesn't involve so much commuting.