

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FIRST CONSULTATION

## Introduction:

### ***HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUR PARISH***

Plumley with Toft and Bexton Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will guide the evolution of the parish over the next 15 years. We will be consulting with you throughout the preparation process and this questionnaire is the first step in that process. You can give your views and return the completed questionnaire to the Parish Clerk in the stamped addressed envelope provided. You can also download a copy of the questionnaire from the Parish Council website - [www.plumleytoftbextonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumleytoftbextonpc.co.uk) - and email your views to the parish Clerk at [clerk@plumley-toft-bexton-pc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@plumley-toft-bexton-pc.co.uk)

What improvements would you like to see in Plumley, Toft and Bexton. We've all said: "I wish this could be sorted out", seen an area of the parish that needs improvement or an aspect of parish life that we want to see enhanced. Put your ideas forward and be involved.

For more information visit our website - [www.plumleytoftbextonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumleytoftbextonpc.co.uk) or contact:

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Consultation ends on Sunday 5th August 2018

## **What is a Neighbourhood Plan for?**

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is prepared by a Parish Council and interprets in finer detail the Policies and Proposals contained in a Local Development Plan. In our case the relevant Local Development Plan has been prepared and adopted by Cheshire East Council (CEC). By getting to that finer level of detail we can show how in very particular circumstances we want those Policies and Proposals of the Local Plan to be applied. So, for example, across the whole of the parish there is a presumption against development as the parish is 'washed over' by a Green Belt designation. Whilst even in the Green Belt some

developments are considered appropriate, such as the conversion of some existing buildings a NP could suggest that it would be a good idea to permit a very small development, perhaps of just one dwelling, to remove an eyesore.

Preparing the NP is quite a lengthy process. This Consultation is the first stage; getting and understanding the views of residents and businesses in the parish so that as far as is practicable the NP we prepare stems from and tries to address the issues you identify. Before the final NP will be submitted we will come back to you again for your further feedback, and after submission CEC will conduct a referendum of parishioners which will determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan is accepted.

We have ordered our preliminary thinking about the NP around six themes. For each, we set out:

What we know,

What issues have been raised before,

What the CEC Local Development Plan says,

And then we ask for your views.

Finally, if there are things you want to say that do not fall within one of the 'themes' there is an opportunity at the end of the consultation for you to give them.

## The Built Environment

**What we know:** The parish is rural in character with just one village, Plumley, which has tight and well-defined boundaries. A strategic housing assessment carried out in 2015 did not identify any significant unmet housing needs in the parish. There are 15 buildings listed as having historical and/or architectural merit, and one ancient monument (Holford Hall moated site).

**What issues have been raised before:** Previous consultations have shown that most Parishioners wish to see the rural character of the parish remain and there has been little appetite for any substantial development.

**What the CEC Local Development Plan says:** The whole of the parish is in the Green Belt so there is a strong presumption against any new development and no new developments are proposed in the parish by the Local Plan. Several core strategic development sites are proposed on the edges of Knutsford which might increase traffic through the parish.

**What are, if any, the issues that concern you about the built environment of the parish that you think the NP should try to address or help find a solution for?**

Comments:

## Local Businesses

**What we know:** A study carried out in 2005 when a Parish Plan was produced identifies 45 businesses in the parish. These were almost exclusively small, and many were linked to rural diversification.

**What issues have been raised before:** Where there have been concerns they have predominantly been about small business closure rather than formation.

**What the CEC Local Development Plan says:** It aims to improve the economy in rural areas by supporting the development of rural enterprise, diversification of the rural economy, sustainable tourism, mineral working, broadband connectivity, and the continued importance of farming and agriculture.

**What are, if any, the issues that concern you about the local businesses of the parish that you think the NP should try to address or help find a solution for?**

Comments:

## The Natural Environment

**What we know:** The parish is a very pleasant rural area with some fine views across open countryside. It contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is not an area designated as being of outstanding natural beauty but has some fine woods and attractive hedgerows.

**What issues have been raised before:** There has been a desire to protect the open and rural nature of the parish.

**What the CEC Local Development Plan says:** It seeks to conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment ensuring appropriate protection is given to designated and non-designated assets, including their wider settings.

**What are, if any, the issues that concern you about the natural environment of the parish that you think the NP should try to address, and/or help protect and enhance?**

Comments:

## Passive and Active Recreation

**What we know:** The facilities for active recreation are primarily about enjoying the countryside and engaging in some rural pursuits (horse-riding for example). There are tennis courts at Plumley Village Hall and a children's play area at Moorcroft. The one golf course closed in 2014. There is an extensive network of footpaths and the roads are used quite extensively by leisure cyclists.

**What issues have been raised before:** As with those relating to local businesses concerns have been expressed about the closure of some facilities.

**What does the CEC Local Development Plan say:** It seeks to protect and promote visitor attractions, existing leisure and recreational facilities including outdoor sports facilities.

**What are, if any, the issues that concern you about passive and active recreation in the parish that you think the NP should try to address and/or improve upon?**

Comments:

## Community Facilities and Engagement

**What we know:** Activity in the Parish is focused around Plumley and Toft Village Halls, Toft Church and Plumley Methodist Chapel, and the Plumley Village Stores/Post Office. Elsewhere the two pubs and restaurants offer meeting facilities.

**What issues have been raised before:** These have mainly been concerns over the future viability of facilities.

**What does the CEC Local Development Plan say:** It says it will support the retention and delivery of community services.

**What are, if any, the issues that concern you about community facilities and engagement in the parish that you think the NP should try to address and/or help improve upon?**

Comments:

## Transport and Communications

**What we know:** A great deal of traffic generated elsewhere comes through the parish particularly during rush hours. The south eastern part of the parish will be affected by HS2. Recently plans have been announced to increase, albeit slightly, the frequency of the Chester - Manchester railway through Plumley, and Manchester Airport has announced an increase in the number of flights over the Parish.

**What issues have been raised before:** The principal concern continues to be speeding by through traffic and conflicts with pedestrians particularly in Plumley Village.

**What does the CEC Local Development Plan say:** It seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, and more specifically creating safe and secure footways and paths linking with public transport and other services.

**What are, if any, the issues that concern you about transport and communications in the parish that you think the NP should try to address and/or improve upon?**

Comments:



## Other Issues

Are there other issues you think the NP should try to address and/or improve upon?

Comments:

## About You

**Can you please tell us a little about yourself?**

*Doing so is quite optional but will help us drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan.*

Do you live in the parish?	YES / NO
What is your address?	
Do you have and/or work for a business in the parish?	YES / NO
If so, what do you do?	
Do you belong to any clubs or societies in the parish?	YES / NO
If so, which ones?	
Do you take part in any recreation activities in the parish?	YES / NO
If so, which ones?	
Do you use the Plumley Village Hall and its associated facilities?	OFTEN / SOMETIMES / NEVER
Do you use the Plumley Village Stores/Post Office?	OFTEN / SOMETIMES / NEVER
<i>Do you want to be more involved in the Neighbourhood Plan?</i>	YES / NO