

WHY DO WE NEED A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

We expect the populations of Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe to double in size over the next 20 years, with 90 new houses expected in the next 12 months alone. This is a significant increase. We have already seen some big changes and more will come. However, a Neighbourhood Plan can give us more say on those things which we consider relevant to the changing life of our villages. Here are some ideas; please tell us yours.

TRANSPORT, PARKING AND CONNECTIONS

How do we ease traffic congestion as our villages grow? We must consider traffic flow, parking and pedestrians when planning the location of new housing, schools and business. Do we need one-way areas, speed controls, safe crossings? Should we look at new ideas for links to the by-pass? How about a footbridge and better access to the countryside for walkers? Are you interested in improved routes for cycling? Can we safeguard our vital bus services?

HOUSING

The type of new housing that we allow will directly affect who will come to live in the villages and use the local amenities. What mix of housing types do we want? Low cost starter homes, family houses, executive homes, housing for the elderly? Is there a need for more housing to rent? Can we achieve a truly affordable stock of homes that meet local need? We are planning a Housing Needs Survey to investigate further. Please look out for it.

HEALTHCARE

Our local GP services are excellent but under stress. By 2030 the Surgery will serve a greater number of people and a higher proportion of elderly patients than ever before. Could funds from developers support the expansion of services and premises to keep up with the needs of our changing population? How do we keep ourselves and our community as healthy as we can be? What actions are needed to help those with special needs to live in our community with dignity?

RECREATION, SPORTING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In the past Ixworth had clean river swimming and changing huts; and a cricket field in Stow Road. Ixworth Village Hall is a valued community asset and we still have a library, but few sports facilities and we no longer have a youth club. Ixworth Thorpe has fewer community assets. What sports, recreational and cultural activities do you want our villages to have in the future, and what sort of amenities will we need to serve our communities by 2030?

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

By thinking about the way new buildings are designed and constructed, we can encourage swifts, hedgehogs and other wildlife to remain part of the life of our villages. Should we plan for more open space for wildlife habitat and for people to enjoy? What about low energy buildings in all new development? Could we produce our own energy through sustainable technology, such as ground source heat pumps, photo voltaic arrays or biomass

WHAT HAVE WE FORGOTTEN TO INCLUDE?

- More school places to meet the needs of a growing population?
- Pre-school activities?
- Opportunities for business and jobs?
- What else?

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT MATTERS TO YOU.

