

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

DRAFT VISION AND OBJECTIVES STATEMENT

Draft F (unapproved), dated 23 05 2016

OVERVIEW

Purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan

The purpose of the Aldringham and Thorpeness Neighbourhood Plan (ATNP) is to enhance and supplement SCDC's local plan for the villages of, Aldringham, Thorpeness and Sizewell (part of) along with the surrounding areas that make up the Parish of Aldringham cum Thorpe. The Plan aims to fully reflect the interest and ambitions of the people who live, work, rest and visit.

Statutory status

A Neighbourhood Plan, as facilitated by the Localism Act 2011, has statutory status. It is fundamentally a community-led development plan for the area, which can influence planning policies, determine which sites should be developed, encourage community projects, identify areas that could be improved e.g. footpaths, transport, and to guide private initiatives.

Conformity with strategic policies

A Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with SCDC strategic policies. It cannot block development that is already part of the adopted Local Plan, but it can shape and influence where that development will go and what it will look like.

Range of policies and proposals

A Neighbourhood Plan comprises a range of policies and proposals. However the policies and proposals can address a single issue or a whole range of topics. It is suggested that the range of topics is restricted, but determined by the views of the stakeholders who participate in the development of the ATNP. The draft 'Vision Statement' below is a suggested start point for defining the topics.

The Plan Area

It is proposed that the ATNP addresses the geographical area that is co-incident with Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish boundary.

The Vision

An introductory 'Vision Statement' is required as a basis for the plan. It is suggested that this statement should be set-out and agreed prior to discussion of any plan policies and proposals. A draft suggestion is provided below as a basis for consultation and discussion.

Objectives of the plan

In addition to the Vision Statement, the objectives of the plan, together with key issues and policy outcomes that the plan will cover, have to be outlined at the start of the process. The 'objectives' are short statements that describe exactly what is required to

achieve the Vision. They set out how it is intended to make the vision happen. Detailed policies and actions are then developed from the objectives.

There may be more than one objective for each element of the vision, and these are of course subject to consultation and discussion in the same way as the vision. Some draft suggestions are provided below as a starting point.

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The landscape within the parish is gently undulating and is drained by the Hundred River with marshes and fens along its short course. It feeds into a large boating lake at Thorpeness called The Meare before reaching the sea midway between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh.

Aldringham and Thorpeness are two separate and distinctly different villages, lying some 3km apart. They were treated as one parish after the dissolution of Snape Priory in the 16th century. There is evidence of the name Aldringham-cum-Thorpe being used in 1650.

Aldringham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Alrincham, ie Allrinc's Ham, in Anglo Saxon meaning "Foreign but Honourable Warrior's Hamlet"

Thorpe is a common name from old Scandinavian (the Viking language) meaning outlying farmstead or hamlet. It was a small fishing hamlet and by the end of the 19th century erosion by the sea had reduced it to only four houses. In the twentieth century it became known as Thorpeness to distinguish it from other villages of the same name.

The origin of Sizewell is obscure but may come from Syse's well. It was a favourite haunt of smugglers. Landings of contraband reached their peak during the second half of the 18th century.

ALDRINGHAM (present population approximately 800) lies ~3km west of Thorpeness. It is not as integrated as Thorpeness as it is a dispersed residential village. The Parrot and Punchbowl Inn on the crossroads marks the original centre. Houses lie along the main road between Aldeburgh and Leiston and are also by the Green on Mill Hill. There used to be Craft Market, a post office and shop, a windmill and a school but these have all gone. St Andrews Parish Church is attractively situated on an ancient site just outside Aldringham and approximately 2.2km from Thorpeness. It lies adjacent to Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and parts of the village are designated By Suffolk Coastal District Council as a Special Landscape Area.

THORPENESS is a coastal village with a winter population of approximately 180, swelling to between 600 and 1200 during summer (through visitors). It was created as a Holiday Village in the early 20th century. Its architecture gives it a distinctive character. Its houses are made mainly of wood and the larger buildings of brick and stone. It lies between the sea and a 66 acre boating lake (The Meare). There is the well established Thorpeness Hotel and 18 hole golf course, a Country Club (linked to to the Hotel, a Village Store, the Dolphin Inn and two cafes. The village is popular with holiday makers and visitors but retains a quiet ambience. Its special nature is recognised by its Conservation Area status.

SIZEWELL is two miles to the north of Thorpeness but only the south of the village is within the parish. It contains most of the cottages of character and the large former estate houses like Sizewell Hall and Wardens. There is also a Camping and Caravan park.

There will be many interpretations of what was intended when the idea of Thorpeness as a holiday village was first conceived, and many more interpretations of how this original vision changed during the following period of development from when the village was owned and managed as a private estate.

Although Aldringham was not created in the same way as Thorpeness, it continues to evolve to meet the demands of its residents whilst potentially being affected by its closer neighbours particularly Leiston and Knodishall. Unfortunately Aldringham has no separate community meeting place or village hall. For this it relies primarily on The Pavilion at Thorpeness Recreation Ground and The small Tower Room located at The Thorpeness Alms Houses.

We have consulted people who live, work and visit the area, and consider that the following is a reasonable interpretation of the vision embodied in the Parish's heritage, and provides a suitable summary of what we hope our area will be like in the future:

- **Recreational and Vocational use of the Coastline and Inland Areas of the Parish**

A place focused on recreational enjoyment of the Suffolk coastline, including its beaches, shingle foreshores, waterways, marshes, wetlands, heaths and sandlings. Thorpeness in particular to be a place that gives special emphasis on facilities for outdoor sporting, vocational and recreational activities with facilities for people of all ages, with a celebration of the pleasures and opportunities of childhood.

- **Husbandry of Natural Habitats**

A place that is an exemplar of careful husbandry of natural habitats that have enhanced management of both land and water resources for recreational access and use, whilst ensuring that the indigenous and visiting wildlife can thrive.

- **A Coastal Parish**

A coastal Parish which manages and maintains its shoreline defences and inland waterways in relation to risks of erosion and flooding in a manner that protects its heritage and sustains its economic and social vitality.

- **Heritage**

Communities that look after their heritage, that invite, entertain, educate and involve people from local and regional communities and from more widely dispersed parts of the country, and that in so doing makes a special contribution to the cultural and communal identity of Suffolk.

- **Village Communities**

Communities where health, transport, social, sporting facilities are available to and readily accessible by all. Great places to live, work and play and to bring up families.

DRAFT OBJECTIVES STATEMENT

The following draft objectives show how a plan might be developed so as to make the vision happen.

A Recreational and Vocational use of the Coastline and Inland Areas of the Parish

Vision

A place focused on recreational enjoyment of the Suffolk coastline, including its beaches, shingle foreshores, inland waterways, marshes, wetlands, heaths and sandlings.

Plan objectives

A.1 To develop policies and proposals to encourage private and public initiatives to consolidate and extend permissive access to key coastal landscape areas, with particular regard to land adjacent to and with views of the shoreline, marshes and inland waterways.

A.2 To develop policies and proposals for management of existing footpaths, cycle ways, byways, permissive access routes, commons and open spaces to allow public enjoyment of shoreline, foreshore, waterways, marshes, heaths and sandlings.

A.3 To develop policies and proposals for the management of vehicular access, visitor and resident parking, amenities designed for ease of access for users of wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility aids.

A.4 To have established policies and proposals that ensure continuity, enhancement and success of the existing outdoor sporting and leisure facilities, together with introduction of new facilities to encourage the widest possible range of skill, experience and excellence, and the widest participation across age groups, including competitions, practice, teaching and associated club activities, for example

- i Golf
- ii Tennis and other racket sports
- iii Boating on The Meare
- iv Other water sports
- v Cycling
- vi Walking and hiking
- vii Petanque
- viii Bird watching
- ix Nature and environmental studies
- x Fishing
- xi Sports, including football, cricket and croquet with changing and pavilion facilities

A.5 To have established policies and proposals that ensure the continuity, enhancement of existing facilities and the introduction of new facilities for indoor and outdoor celebratory functions including.

- i Music
- ii Performing arts and theatre
- iii Private and family celebratory functions

B Husbandry of Natural Habitats

Vision

A place that is an exemplar of careful husbandry of natural habitats that have enhanced management of both land and water resources for recreational access and use, whilst ensuring that the indigenous and visiting wildlife can thrive.

Plan objectives

B.1 To have established policies and proposals that encourage private and public initiatives for the protection, enhancement and expansion, where appropriate, of, for example SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), AONB (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and RSPB areas.

C A Coastal Parish

Vision

A coastal Parish which manages and maintains its shoreline defences and inland waterways in relation to risks of erosion and flooding in a manner that protects its heritage and sustains its economic and social vitality.

Plan objectives

C.1 To have established policies and proposals that encourage public and private initiatives to maintain sustainable land use and protect residents from flooding along shoreline and low lying inland areas, consistent with the existing Shoreline Management Plan and protection of the heritage of Thorpeness and Sizewell (part) and for the inland areas of the Parish around Aldringham that are potentially susceptible to flooding.

C.2 To have established policies and proposals that ensure the continuity, enhancement of existing and at Thorpeness and where appropriate, the introduction of new buildings that celebrate proximity to the sea and to inland waterways and wetlands, and accepts the environmental and constructional challenges arising.

C.3 To have established policies and proposals for the introduction of a Neighbourhood Development Order for expansion of the village boundary of Thorpeness with prescribed land use.

C.4 To have established policies and proposals that would address any Neighbourhood Development Orders for residential infill within the boundaries of Thorpeness and Aldringham villages, with particular regard to protection and enhancement of the villages' heritage, Special Landscape Area and Conservation Areas.

C.5 To have established policies and proposals that encourage public and private initiatives to deliver suitable short and long tenure accommodation for older residents and for people requiring accessible, sheltered and affordable accommodation.

C.6 In Aldringham, to have established policies and proposals that, whilst not deviating from the Suffolk Coastal District Plan, support the establishment of appropriate new shops and small businesses that serve the community.

C.7 To have established policies and proposals that facilitate the establishment of a Community Trust to manage the foreshore and other coastal features exposed to erosion and flooding; promote and coordinate shoreline management strategies; raise, manage and expend monies on management and protection, and where applicable obtain and hold land title.

D Heritage

Vision

A community that looks after its heritage, that invites, entertains, educates and involves people from local and regional communities and from more widely dispersed parts of the country, and that in so doing makes a special contribution to the cultural and communal identity of Suffolk.

Plan objectives

D.1 To have established policies and proposals that encourage private and public initiatives to provide visitor facilities at key destinations, consistent with protection and conservation of the environment, to facilitate enjoyment, recreation, research, education, involvement and communication.

D.2 To have established policies and proposals for applications for the formal Listing of buildings within the Plan area.

D.3 To have established policies and proposals for the introduction of a Neighbourhood Development Order for derelict, vacant and undeveloped property within the boundary of the Plan area.

D.4 To have established policies and proposals that ensure the continuity, enhancement of existing and the introduction of any new buildings acknowledges and, where appropriate celebrates, the architecture of Thorpeness in particular, but also acknowledges the heritage and history of the other parts of the Plan area.

E Village Communities

Vision

Communities that are perceived by residents and visitors as great places to live, work, play and raise families; where health, transport, social, sporting facilities are available to and readily accessible by all.

Plan objectives

E.1 To have established policies and proposals that provide community facilities (such as village hall) available to and accessible by everyone.

E.2 To have established policies and proposals that enable people to without access to cars to travel between the villages.

E.3 To have established policies and proposals that facilitate cycling between the villages.