

Wickham Market Neighbourhood Development Plan

"Communities Come First"

1. Background

1.1 Central Government; Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council together with Wickham Market Parish Council are governed by a range of legislation, statutes, policies and procedures. These Councils are also required to create additional policies and procedures to assist in governance, as well as any strategic sustainable future developments of Wickham Market.

1.2 These requirements provide a framework which Councillors and other interested parties must adhere to when making decisions about the development, delivery and maintenance of existing and future services and facilities.

1.3 The process by which the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Development Plan has been developed is stipulated by Central Government. Within this framework the levels of commitment to different elements are open to interpretation.

2. Primary Principle

2.1 The Government require all strategic and town planners (whether centred around health; health services; housing; education etc.) to consider and balance national "wellbeings" i.e. social; economic and environment. There is also an expectation that these "wellbeings" will consider the needs of the people/communities e.g. equality issues. The consequence is that all "wellbeings" must be balanced against each other. To achieve successful outcomes all proposals must be referenced against the wishes and needs of the communities they serve as well.

2.2 It is consequentially fundamental for all considerations related to the development and administration of this Neighbourhood Plan, that the Principal (or Policy) of "Communities Come First" is paramount.

3. What does Communities Come First (C.C.F.) Mean

3.1 Implementation of Community Comes First will ensure that all issues identified by the Parish Council and other related groups will be tested against the following:

3.1.1 All actions by Wickham Market Parish Council and other interested parties which relate to existing or future services and facilities for the people of Wickham Market must continue to be tested with residents before being acted upon. Examples of this would be the community consultation (engagement and information exchange) as used for the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.1.2 All residents of Wickham Market and other interested parties will be provided with sufficient information to make informed choices.

3.1.3 Wickham Market and other interested parties will ensure that where there has been a significant voice expressed by the community, within the last 5 years, that this plays a part in all decision making.

3.1.4 Wickham Market Parish Council adopt C.C.F. to test whether the actions identified in the Neighbourhood Plan continue to meet the needs of Wickham Market residents and seek to meet

these needs appropriately. Wickham Market Parish Council will when they are unable to meet the expressed or statistical needs of Wickham Market residents, ensure that the community are informed of the issues which have influenced their decision.

3.1.5 Wickham Market Parish Council will use C.C.F. to test whether the government's requirement that the "wellbeings" are balanced (economy, environment social cultural, and equality).

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Wickham Market Parish Council, as part of its commitment to the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan, will adopt the C.C.F. Policy.

4.2 Wickham Market Parish Council will ensure that all future initiatives, where possible, are subject to the C.C.F Policy.