



The Neighbourhood Plan is based entirely on comments received from recent surveys.

Your Views are Important - Let us Know

- Do you have any observations on this draft vision?
- Do you agree with it?
- What have we missed?
- What do you find most important?

You can contact the Neighbourhood Plan Project team via the Parish Clerk Jo Jones, Library/Resource Centre, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Woodbridge IP13 0SB

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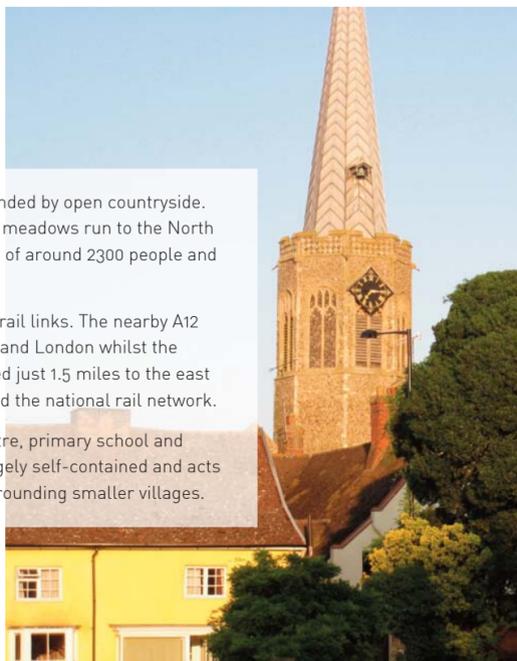


Introduction

Wickham Market is a large village surrounded by open countryside. The River Deben and its associated water meadows run to the North and East of the village. It has a population of around 2300 people and consists of approximately 1060 dwellings.

The village is well connected by road and rail links. The nearby A12 provides links north and south to Ipswich and London whilst the Wickham Market railway station is situated just 1.5 miles to the east of the village providing links to Ipswich and the national rail network.

With its range of shops, cafés, health centre, primary school and other businesses, Wickham Market is largely self-contained and acts as a hub for the local community and surrounding smaller villages.



Why do we need a Vision?

This vision is our aspiration for shaping Wickham Market over the next 15 to 20 years, by setting goals that are both realistic and achievable. We believe we need a vision to ensure that Wickham Market develops in the way the community wants, for the benefit of all.



An Inclusive and Caring Society

Wickham Market has a strong sense of community and local spirit. We wish to ensure that any future development will consider the impact on the community, its services and overall well-being. At all times consideration should be given to the local population and in particular to the less able and vulnerable amongst us.



Housing for All

By 2036 Wickham Market is likely to have to accept a number of new houses. We will find the best location/s and specify the type and style of housing that will meet the needs of our local community. We intend that any new housing will be energy efficient and where possible carbon neutral, have adequate parking and be sited so that any increase in traffic congestion is kept to a minimum.

Do you have any observations on this draft vision?



Maintaining the Green Environment

We intend that the village should remain rural, preserve and enhance its biodiversity, its open landscape, its views and allotments and ensure that its heritage is protected. Our aim is to ensure that any development has adequate landscaping and green spaces and does not have a negative impact on our lanes, byways, footpaths and encircling green landscape.

Traffic and Parking

We are concerned that at present narrow pavements and vehicle choke points make it difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to safely move around the village. We will endeavour to improve traffic flows and pedestrian safety and we are aware that parking within the village continues to be a problem and will press for a plan that will give a village wide solution.



Do you agree with it? What have we missed?

A Viable Community

We wish to maintain the character of Wickham Market as a place with a strong sense of community and history. We aim to enhance local employment opportunities, in particular providing support for start-up businesses. We wish to ensure the community can manage its future growth through appropriate infrastructure and services to meet the everyday needs of its population.



An Attractive Village Centre

We will work to improve the vitality and viability of the village centre while retaining its unique scale and historic character. We will endeavour to improve the quality of the village centre by encouraging retention and support of existing retailers whilst also encouraging new enterprise to occupy available units. We will aim to improve the quality of the public areas by making them more pedestrian focused.



Better Facilities and Services

Community assets such as the play parks, pub and village hall need to be improved or re-provided. Mobile phone signals need to be strengthened and public transport made more available. We also wish to improve the sport, leisure and learning facilities to help create an environment for participation by all ages and abilities.

