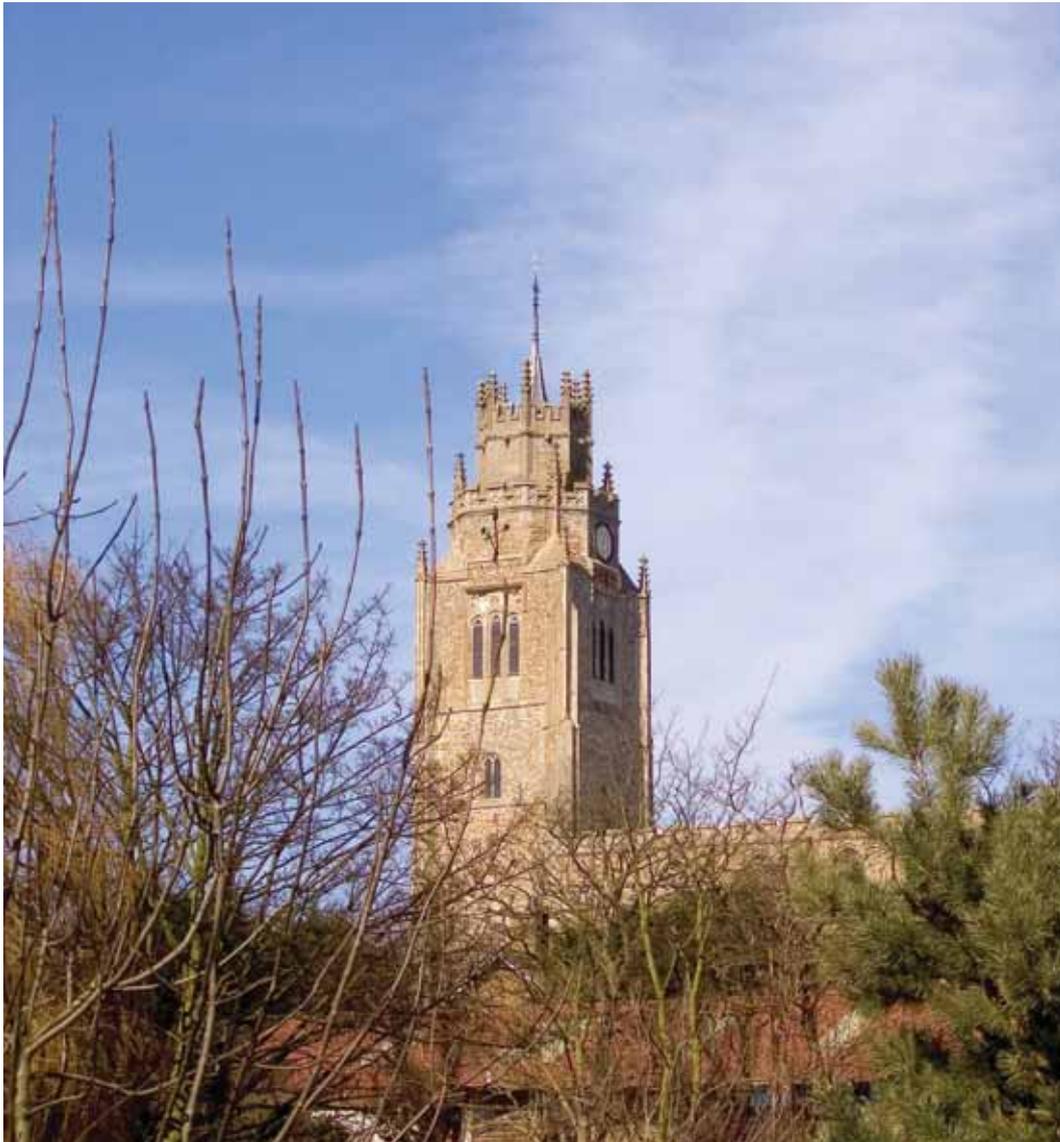


SUTTON

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2017-2036



SUBMISSION VERSION -
NOVEMBER 2018

FOREWORD

Thank you for taking the time to read Sutton's Neighbourhood Plan. This is an important document which will help shape the future development of our local area. The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan is the Parish of Sutton which includes the village of Sutton, Sutton Gault and surrounding countryside.

East Cambridgeshire is a growing district with significant demands for additional housing. The government's Localism Act enables Parish Councils to work with their local communities to create neighbourhood plans to shape future development in their villages. It is against this background that the Parish Council decided to embark on the journey towards developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Sutton.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a formal planning document which contains a number of Planning Policies. The policies define where new developments should take place and where new developments should not be allowed. The policies also describe the nature of those developments and the protection afforded to the existing built and natural environment. The policies also identify key infrastructure improvements that should accompany any major developments.

The Parish Council embarked on the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan to give local residents the opportunity to have a say in the way that our local community develops. Much of the work to create the plan has been undertaken by the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. At key points in the development of the plan the working party has engaged with the local community to seek views and ideas to ensure that the plan meets local community needs.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party began by gathering residents' views to create a vision for Sutton, identifying the key improvements that our local community needed and the key aspects that were most important to protect. We established for example that most residents want any significant new development to be north of The Brook, that there is a desire to see more affordable housing and that there are concerns about the ability of the schools and the GP surgery to cope with additional demands. Traffic and transport are also major topics of concern.

The Neighbourhood Plan is required by law to be in 'general conformity' with East Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Plan. The working party has had to be mindful of the district council's proposals, and to seek to influence and shape them in line with local community views.

During the community engagement activities many ideas for local improvements were suggested which cannot be progressed through planning policies. The adoption of a neighbourhood plan:

- enables our community to identify projects and proposals that it would like to see delivered in the coming years;
- increases the proportion of East Cambridgeshire's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developers to the Parish Council from 15% to 25% to help deliver some of those projects and;
- adds local detail to the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan to help protect what we cherish about Sutton.

In July 2018 the draft Neighbourhood Plan was subject to a formal six-weeks "pre-submission" consultation and, as a result of comments received, this is the amended Plan as submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for further consultation and examination.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Members

The following people have contributed to the preparation of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan
Sutton Parish Council
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Mark Inskip
Stan Smith
Shelagh Partington
Allen Marking
Keith Brownell

Cllr Lisa Stubbs – East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Lorna Dupre – East Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council Residents
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A neighbourhood plan is a community-led planning framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It is about the use and development of land and contains a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

1.2 The right for communities to prepare neighbourhood plans was established by The Localism Act 2011 and gives direct power to allow communities to shape new development in their area.

1.3 Town and Parish councils are encouraged to produce their own neighbourhood plans enabling local people to have a say in how their neighbourhood grows and develops. In a designated neighbourhood area which contains all or part of the administrative area of a town or parish council, the town or parish council is responsible for neighbourhood planning.

1.4 Neighbourhood plans cannot contradict the main government planning policies or the strategic policies in the Local Plan for the area. For example, they cannot propose less development than is planned for in the Local Plan.

1.5 Sutton Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Sutton Parish Council which is a qualifying body as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Sutton Parish Council and a working party consisting of members of the Parish Council and residents of the village. The development of the Neighbourhood Plan has been led by the community and shaped by results of surveys,



consultations, open days and events to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the aspirations of the community.

Designating the Neighbourhood Area

1.7 Sutton Parish Council applied to East Cambridgeshire District Council to designate a Neighbourhood Area covering the whole parish on 6 November 2014. Following a six-week consultation period, East Cambridgeshire District Council approved the application on 8 January 2015 and formally designated Sutton Parish as a Neighbourhood Area as identified on the map on the next page. There are no other designated neighbourhood plan areas within this boundary and the Parish Council is the “appropriate body” responsible for the preparation of the neighbourhood plan for this area. The Neighbourhood Plan period covers the period 2017 to 2036.



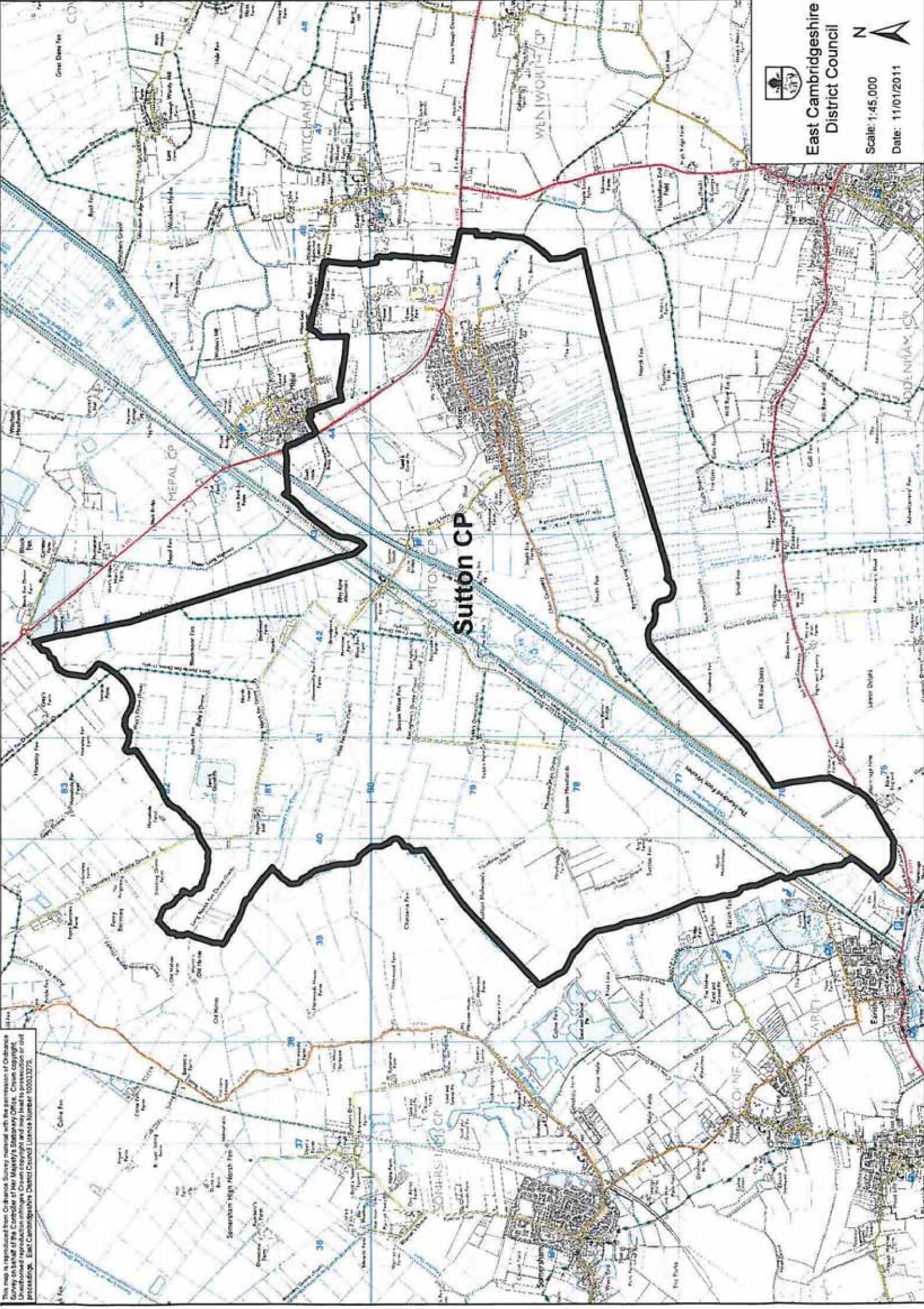
East Cambridgeshire
District Council



Scale: 1:45,000

Date: 11/01/2011

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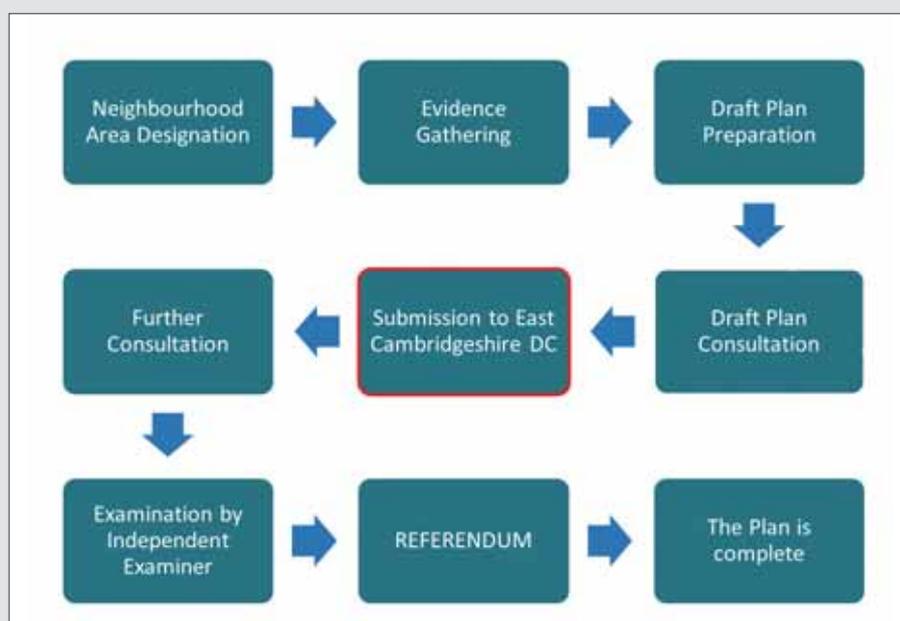
Community Engagement

1.8 A robust programme of community engagement and proportionate evidence base has helped to make sure that the neighbourhood plan is based on a proper understanding of the area and of the views, aspirations, wants and needs of local people.

A 'Planning the future of your village – have your say' survey was distributed to all houses in the village in January 2015. This provided residents with their first real opportunity to contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan.

- An Open Forum was held on 19 February 2015 at which residents had the opportunity to hear about the results of the survey and to learn more about neighbourhood plans in general.
- An Open Day was held at the Glebe on 3 October 2015 aimed at gathering information from residents for the purpose of formulating the Vision, Aims and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. Agreed on six categories Biodiversity; Housing; Sport & Recreation; Services; Employment; Transport & Traffic.
- A second survey was held in January 2016. The purpose of this was to provide residents with the opportunity of commenting on the proposed objectives that came out of the Open Day.
- A Business Forum was held at the Elean Business Park on 19 May 2016 to gain the views of local businesses on what we require for the future.
- A set of draft policies was developed and published in July 2016 in the Parish Council Summer Newsletter and on the Neighbourhood Plan website with an online survey used to collect feedback.
- An Open Day was held at The Glebe on 24 March 2018, aimed at launching the draft Neighbourhood Plan to the community.

In July 2018 the draft Neighbourhood Plan was subject to a formal six-weeks "pre-submission" consultation and, as a result of comments received, this is the amended Plan as submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for further consultation and examination.





Planning the future of our village - Have your say

The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan is your opportunity to have a real say in how our community develops. For example, do we need more housing, retail and employment? If so what type and where? more or better community facilities? If so what type? what are the key transport issues for the village?

We would value your opinion, so please complete and return this questionnaire to the School, the Doctor's Surgery, the Glebe or for those living in the Gault - 'The Lilies', The Gault by 7th February 2015. Additional copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from the Parish Council Office. Alternatively you can complete this questionnaire online at: <http://soco.globeKBI4>

Open Forum: Following the questionnaire we will be holding an Open Forum for all residents at The Glebe in Sutton on 19th February 2015, doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start to talk further about our Neighbourhood Plan and to discuss the requirements for the village.

Q1. What type of housing do you consider is needed in the Parish?

Starter homes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Retirement homes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Rental	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____		

Q2. If housing is needed where would you like to see these new homes built?

Within existing village boundaries	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Land at the end of Mepal Road	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Land at the top of Fieldgate	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Land east of Lawn Lane	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____		

Q3. Do you consider that the local area needs more employment?

Yes No
If so, what kind? _____

Q4. What do you consider are the main transport issues within the local area?

HCVs (lorries)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provision of safe cycle routes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speeding traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequency of local bus service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Household Survey - January 2015

Sutton's Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan for Sutton is our chance as residents to influence development in the village.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has been looking at what matters to the Sutton community. It has held a number of consultations over the last twelve months, including a well-attended event at The Glebe last October.

The Group has listed the issues that matter, within six different topic areas:

- Housing
- Biodiversity
- Traffic and transport
- Local services
- Business
- Sport and recreation.

The next major task is to agree some draft policies that we can use in the plan. These will guide development in line with the new local plan produced by the District Council. At the same time they will reflect what matters to Sutton residents.

The first draft of these policies has also been produced. You can read these on the Intranet survey. Please tick the boxes to let us know whether you support or do not support each policy. Please also add any comments at the end to help guide the working group. Thank you.



Find out more online at sutton-in-the-isle.org.uk

Who is on the Plan working group?

The members of Sutton's local plan working group are as follows:

- Richard Wisdom, chair of the working group
- Rosie Hughes, clerk to Sutton Parish Council
- Mark Inskip, chair of Sutton Parish Council
- Lorna Dupont, district and county councillor
- Jan Meghman
- Kim Osborne
- Shelagh Paveington, parish councillor
- Stan Smith, parish councillor
- Lisa Seibles, district councillor

Land North of The Brook

A couple of months ago, Linden Homes presented to the Parish Council their masterplan for the 46 acres of land stretching from behind St Andrew's Close, The Orchards and Tower Road to Mepal Road and Millfield. This proposal is a test for our draft policies, and an opportunity to gain benefits for Sutton if it goes ahead.

Challenges

All development has challenges. Will there be traffic disruption while major construction is under way? Will the utilities cope with the increased pressure? Will local services be funded to expand for the increase in numbers?

Opportunities

However, such a large development can also provide opportunities to improve facilities. Sutton Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have suggested several issues that we feel

Linden Homes should address, and several community benefits that should be included in the next draft of their Masterplan.

Money for local projects
Sutton will also receive a proportion of the 'Community Infrastructure Levy' that developers pay for each house built.

If a Neighbourhood Plan is in place before the final planning permission is given, Sutton's share increases from 15% of the total levy payable, to 25%.

Getting the balance right

If this large development is to take place, we would want to balance the disruption to our environment and community against the benefits it could bring together with the legacy of a significant sum of money for the village through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Let us have your views

We would welcome any comments you would like to make on this. Please use the Comments section of the Intranet survey - thank you.



Initial ideas for the Linden Homes masterplan for land north of The Brook, as presented to Sutton Parish Council.

So what could Sutton gain from the Linden Homes proposal?

Opportunities identified for the village include:

- Biodiversity**
 1. Provision of extensive landscaping to the north of the site.
 2. Safeguarding the existing biodiversity of trees and hedges, lining (1) to form wildlife corridors within the development.
 3. Provision of new green space and new play areas for toddlers, juniors and youths.
 4. Use of best practice green building techniques.
 5. Linking to the footpath and cycleway network.
 6. Provision of land for new burial ground (perhaps not on this immediate site).
 7. Provision of land for allotments.
- Built environment and housing**
 8. The site should be broken down with different styles and ranges of accommodation to meet housing needs, and should include for at least 30 per cent affordable housing and detailed mechanisms for its delivery.
 9. There is scope to build on the existing community facilities to create a village green resource located on new playing fields, the school and the Brooklands Centre.
 10. Ensure stepped development of local services, and safe transport and traffic links.
- Business**
 11. Ensure the provision of highest speed broadband to all.
 12. Safe links by foot and cycle to all local businesses.
- 13. Consider the provision of small starter business units on site.
 14. Expansion of larger B2/B8 businesses off the immediate site.
- Local services**
 15. Extension of health facilities, capacity in the local school, and provision of permanent library services will be encouraged in order to keep pace with the needs of an expanding local population.
 16. Retention of existing shops, services and facilities will be supported, and additional retail and community facilities encouraged to broaden the village's offer.
- Sport and recreation**
 17. Provision of two additional adult football pitches and a new pavilion.
 18. Provision of an all-weather sports pitch facility.
 19. Provision of a skate park facility.
 20. Providing linking access to existing footpaths and bridleways.
- Traffic and transport**
 21. Undertake a study of the traffic generation aspects of any new development, and pressure on the A142 roundabout and Mepal Road roundabout at peak travel times. Promote links to the guided bus route at Longampton.
 22. Ensure safe traffic flows through development and encourage pedestrian and cycle links to the school and retail facilities in the village.



2. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA



Location

2.1 Sutton-in-the-Isle is on the south-western edge of the Isle of Ely. The Neighbourhood Area, the whole Parish of Sutton in the Isle, comprises the large village of Sutton, the outlying hamlet of Sutton Gault, farmland on the 'Isle' and low lying 'Fen' to the south and west. This includes a section of the Ouse Washes, a drainage scheme that runs from Earith to the south more than 20 miles to Denver Sluice to the north. It is 7 miles west of the small cathedral city of Ely and 16 miles north of Cambridge. The village was once served by the railway that connected Ely with St Ives. However, passenger services were withdrawn in 1931 and, although the line remained in use for freight, the final part of the line between the village and Ely closed in July 1964.

Landscape and Natural Environment

2.2 The Parish landscape is split between Fen Island, Kimmeridge Clay and sands and gravels, and drained peat fenland. The main road through the village centre is along the ridge on the highest land, around 20m above sea level. The village spreads down the southern slope to the fen edge, coinciding roughly with the 5 metres contour.

2.3 Land to the north of the village is relatively flat fen island (20 – 25 m). Previously the Sutton open fields, it was occupied by Mepal Airfield, a WWII Bomber Command Station from 1942. Later it became a base for Thor Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles. This use removed historic features including a corn windmill and it is now a relatively featureless area.

2.4 Fen farmland to the west and south is drained by a close network of drainage ditches. The Bedford Rivers, the New and Old Bedford rivers, with the Ouse Washes between, cut north east at Sutton Gault. These waterways are key to the drainage of the Fens. Though the island on which Sutton was built is above sea level the surrounding land is very low lying, some below sea level. The Ouse Washes are an internationally important wetland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that is also partly designated as a Special Area of Conservation and has the international Ramsar wetland designation due to its importance for wildfowl.

2.5 There are no other designated sites within the parish, but it is recognised that trees, hedgerows and verges play an important role in the wider biodiversity network, especially on the edge of the built-up area.

2.6 Sutton's position on the southern slopes of the Isle of Ely provided excellent land for fruit growing. Fruit growing is recorded from the 17th century and large-scale maps of the area, up until the mid-20th century show extensive orchards. These orchards with one dwelling on a large orchard plot of several acres led to much of the current pattern of development with each orchard being filled with a close of houses. Thus, in the second half of the 20th century the area covered by the village did not grow significantly but the density of population gradually increased.



THE OUSE WASHES

Population

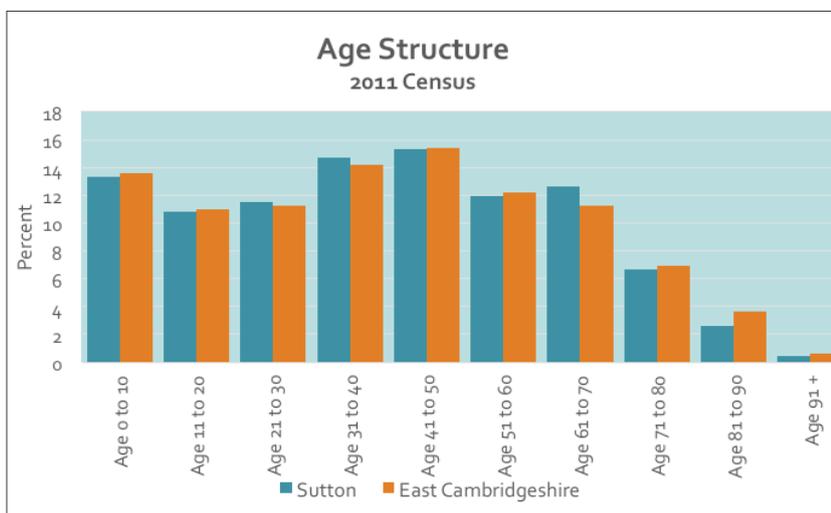
2.7 Sutton is the fifth largest settlement in East Cambridgeshire with the 2011 Census recording a population of 3,952. The latest available estimate is 4,040 in 2015. The population age profile of the village is similar to that of East Cambridgeshire as a whole, as is illustrated in the graph below.

2.8 In 1991 13% of the population was aged 65 and over. This had grown to 17% in 2011 and by 2031 it is predicted that a quarter of the village's population will be 65 or over.

Housing

2.9 The current housing stock in Sutton is made up of a concentration of older properties in the central conservation area with a scattering of pre-WWI dwellings across the whole area of the village. There has been infill, first along the existing roads, with some expansion to the north post-WWII. Most recently, development has filled the orchards and small fields with small developments. A significant proportion of dwellings are in cul-de-sacs.

2.10 In 2011 there were 1,677 homes in Sutton, an increase of 317 over the previous ten years. Of these almost half (45.3%) are detached dwellings and 96.6% whole house or bungalow. The average household size is 2.4 people with an average three bedrooms per household. Of these dwellings 76.8% are owner-occupied. 11.6% are social rented and 11% private rented. This means that the present housing stock includes a large proportion of family houses but also a significant rented sector. Since 2011 a further 41 new homes have been completed and as of April 2017 there were planning permissions for a further 11 additional homes in the village.



2. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Employment

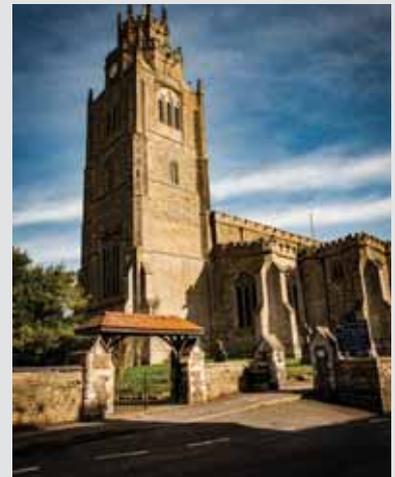
2.11 Most people travel out of the village for work including some long-distance commuting. In 2011 some 60% of working residents travelled over 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) to work, a slight increase over the 2001 Census results. The number of working residents in the village increased by 21% over the same ten years period while some 1,027 people worked in Sutton in 2011. In 2011 nearly 12% of working residents worked mainly from home, an increase from 9.5% in 2001. The type of occupations is varied with a relatively even distribution shown in the 2011 census data. The principal areas of employment are in retail related industries and in manufacturing while the biggest area of employment growth between 2001 and 2011 was in the education sector.



Heritage

2.12 The historic village centre was designated as a conservation area in February 1973. The District Council produced a Conservation Area Appraisal in May 2013 that provides an analysis of the important characteristics of the area and highlights matters that detract from the area.

2.13 The parish contains 17 listed buildings, most of which are located in the conservation area although three are in the Row and two on the route to Sutton Gault. The Burystead incorporates a late C13 - early C14 chapel of a former monastic grange, which makes it at least as old as the fine Parish Church at the other end of the village. The parish has a long history of occupation. Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records have nearly 100 records for Sutton including a Palaeolithic hand axe, Roman and medieval finds. In the more remote parts of the parish there are three burial mounds (barrows) that are designated Ancient Monuments.



Transport Links

2.14 Sutton is seven miles from Ely by the A142 road and around 18 miles from the centre of Cambridge. It is possible to cycle all the way to Ely on cycle/pedestrian routes and 30mph areas, although the section from Sutton to Witcham Toll is awaiting upgrade. The railway station in Ely has very good connections south to Cambridge and London, East Anglia and west to Peterborough, Birmingham, Nottingham and Liverpool. There is also quick access (15/20 minutes) to major roads with links east, west, north and south via A14, M11 and A1. The bus service to Ely and Cambridge however is poor with services during the day only and up to two hours apart and no Sunday service. The Guided Bus route to Cambridge is nine miles to the south beyond Willingham. The limited availability of public transport services is reflected in a high vehicle ownership where 91% of households have at least one car or van and over half of the households have at least two cars or vans. In 2011, of those residents in work, 82% travelled there by car.

Living in the area

2.15 The village has a large and expanding Primary School, though it is a concern that the school has almost reached its capacity to extend on its current site. There is a doctor's surgery in Sutton providing a range of NHS services. There are six doctors, an advanced nurse practitioner and two practice nurses as well as other staff and it is also a base for other community health staff. A fire station staffed by on-call fire fighters is based in the village.



2.16 The village is less well served with shops which have steadily declined in number and quality over recent years. There is only one general shop and post office. There is a small Deli which is also a café, an Indian restaurant, Chinese take away/fish and chip shop and 2 pubs, though one is a "gastro pub" located at Sutton Gault. In April 2018 planning permission was granted for a further convenience store and take-away at the entrance to the village from the A142.

2.17 The village prides itself on the number and variety of societies that provide leisure activities for its residents including uniformed groups such as the Cubs and Scouts, sports groups for football, cricket and bowls and other groups covering a wide variety of activities from photography, to gardening and quilting. Indeed, it won the Calor Village of the Year award, an award that looks at the life of a village rather than its prettiness.

3. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan must:

- have appropriate regard to national planning policy;
- be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area and contribute to sustainable development; and
- be compatible with European Union (EU) obligations and human rights requirements.

3.2 At the time of the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 was the statutory local planning document that covered the parish. It sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and policies for the future development of the district and identifies sites for different types of development, such as housing and employment, to deliver the planned growth for the district to 2031.

3.3 The Local Plan focuses most growth on Ely, Littleport and Soham but acknowledges that a number of larger villages across the district have a role to play in accommodating “more limited” growth to help support local services, shops and community needs. For Sutton, the Local Plan identifies a “development envelope” to prevent sprawl into the open countryside and supports development on infill sites within the envelope. In addition, the Plan allocates a site north of The Brook for 50 new homes.

3.4 Soon after the adoption of the Local Plan the District Council commenced a review of the Plan and, in February 2018, the District Council

submitted the Local Plan Review to the Planning Inspectorate in order that it could be examined and taken through to adoption. The Local Plan Review document plans for the amount and location of growth for the period to 2036. For Sutton, the Plan identifies the village as a “large village” within a hierarchy of settlements across the district. Essentially it is second tier settlement behind the main settlements of Ely, Littleport and Soham although the Plan does not specify the amount of growth that Sutton is expected to accommodate during the local plan period. The large village category also includes the nearby settlements of Witchford and Haddenham. The Local Plan Review document identifies two sites in Sutton for housing development, an enlarged site north of The Brook for “in the region of” 250 homes and a site east of Garden Close for approximately 25 homes. In addition, the Local Plan also identifies the Elean Business Park for employment uses and two areas of open space as Local Green Space.

3.5 The Policies Map for Sutton, as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, is illustrated on the next page.

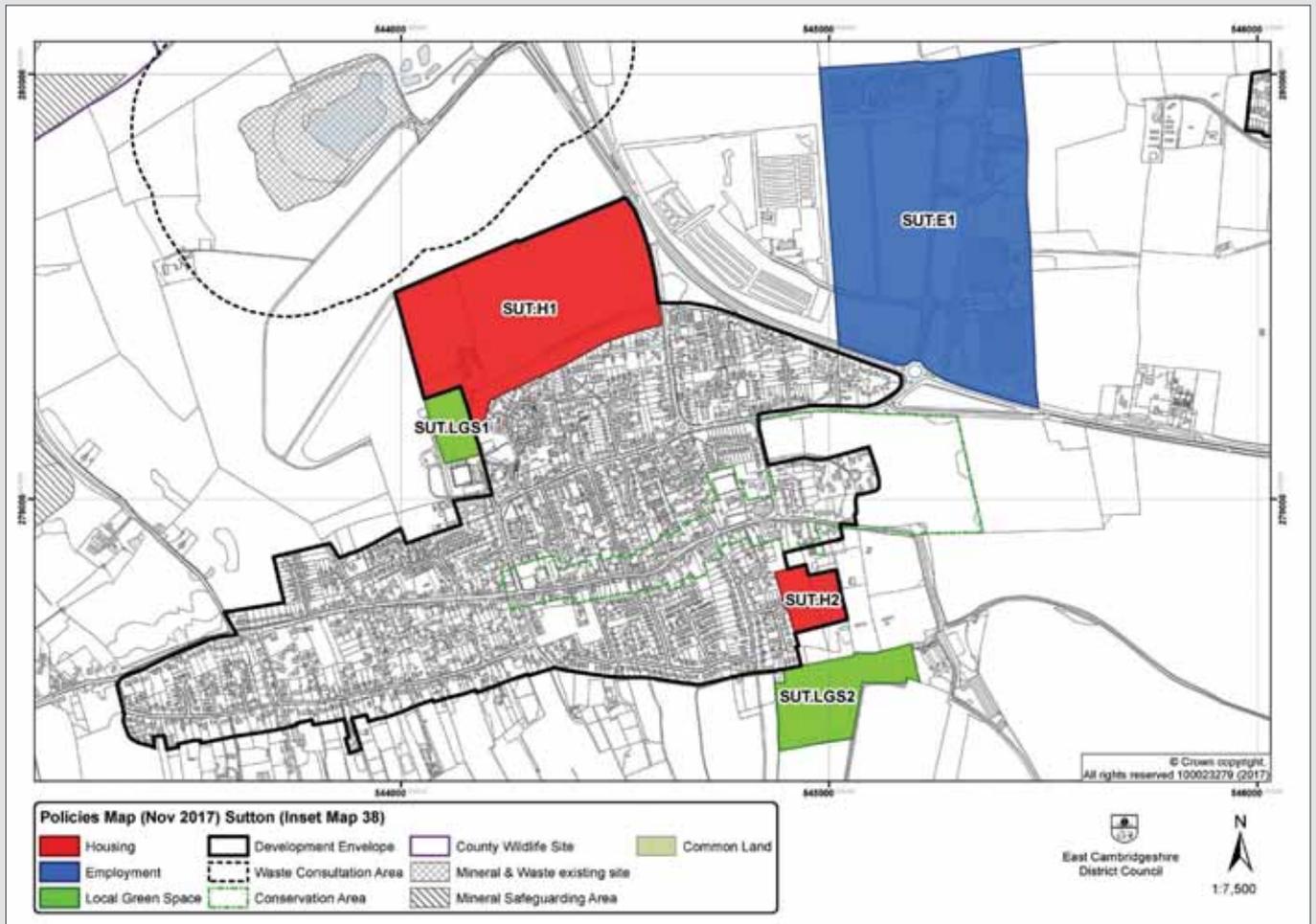
3.6 This draft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to have regard to the emerging Local Plan as it is considered unlikely that a referendum will take place before the Local Plan is adopted.

3.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government’s high-level planning framework which must be taken in to account in the preparation of development plan documents and when deciding planning applications. The original NPPF was published in 2012 and a revised version was published in July 2018. However, the annex to the 2018 NPPF stated that where plans were in preparation and submitted for examination prior to 24 January 2019, the Plan would be examined against the 2012 NPPF. This Plan has been submitted before the specified date. The Framework sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Paragraph 14 (NPPF 2012) states:

“At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking. For plan-making this means that:

- local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;
- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:
 - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
 - specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.”



DRAFT PLAN - SUTTON LOCAL POLICIES MAP

Plan Period, Monitoring and Review

3.8 The Sutton Parish Neighbourhood Plan will run concurrently with the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Review until superseded by the strategic policies of any new local plan documents that include the area.

It will apply for the period 2017 - 2036 and reflects the identified needs and aspirations of the local community as understood at the time of its preparation. It is recognised that current challenges and concerns are likely to change over the plan period. Sutton Parish Council, as the Qualifying Body, will be responsible for maintaining and periodically

revisiting the Plan to ensure relevance and to monitor delivery.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The results of the 'Have your say' survey carried out in January 2015, were reported to the village at a public meeting on 15 February 2015. A summary of the results is available to view on the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan website.

The key issues identified were put into six topic areas, namely:

- A. Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- B. Housing and Built Environment
- C. Local Services and Amenities
- D. Business, Retail and Employment
- E. Traffic and Transport
- F. Sport, Recreation and Leisure

A Neighbourhood Planning Day was held on 3 October 2015 when further engagement was held based on the six topic areas. The working party and planning consultant worked together to separate the issues that could be covered by Neighbourhood Plan policy and those that would need addressing by the Parish Council as community actions.

A. Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

4.2 Biodiversity and Natural Environment is all around us and should be taken account of at all levels of planning for our Parish. It is important to protect biodiversity in its own right. It is an important asset for the local community and is a key element of local well-being. We should also be planning to enhance and extend biodiversity.



Key issues that were identified during the Launch Event on 3 October 2015

- 4.3 Issues that may adequately be covered by neighbourhood planning policy:
1. Protection of the Ouse Washes Special Protection Area;
 2. Protection of other local level habitats and green spaces capable of supporting wildlife;
 3. The potential for the creation of additional areas for the enjoyment of leisure and wildlife within the Parish, in particular on the Old Rec;
 4. Encouragement of sustainable building practices;
 5. The value of mature trees and planting around the village;
 6. Ensuring that, if the village grows, it does not grow onto meadowland; and

7. Any future master planning of the land to the north of the village to include areas for biodiversity and wildlife.

4.4 Issues that could be followed up by the Parish Council:

- Encouragement of the production and use of local food and produce;
- Appreciation of local species, both in terms of flora and fauna;
- Ensuring people make the most of their gardens as either a potential habitat or an opportunity to produce sustainable foodstuffs;
- Encouragement of bat boxes, bird houses and other appropriate contributors to the local habitat provided by the village;
- Impacts of rural industry of local ecology and habitats, including the use of pesticides and the operation of the straw burning plant;
- The development of a network of local ecologists that can help record and nurture the wide variety of species that live in the Parish;
- The extension of the Sutton Conservation Area;
- Encouragement of planting of more wildflower species throughout the village, including on verges and in gardens;
- Promotion of the Sutton Conservation Society;
- Planting of trees and new hedgerows in the often quite barren rural area surrounding the village; and
- Educating and building an appreciation within the people of the village in relation to local wildlife and its value.

B. Housing and Built Environment

4.5 This area covers a broad base of new housing in the village and the design and materials that may be used when delivering new development of all kinds. The potential location, scale, mix and general appearance of new development in Sutton with the precise types of home or new building that may be required in both the village and the wider Parish.

Key issues identified during the course of the Launch Event on 3 October 2015.

4.6 Issues that may adequately be covered by neighbourhood planning policy:

1. Respecting and preserving the character of the village through the promotion of high quality design;
2. Protecting and enhancing the conservation area and its setting;
3. Maintaining a mix of house sizes, types and tenure within the village;
4. Protecting the green spaces within the village;
5. Ensuring that the village does not lose its character due to inappropriately dense development;
6. A need for more smaller houses for first time buyers and those seeking to downsize;
7. The provision of an adequate supply of affordable (social) properties in the village;
8. The provision of housing to meet all sectors of the community including older people and people with limited mobility;
9. The avoidance of piecemeal infilling and the provision of a proper vision in terms of how housing will be

delivered in a well-planned fashion, including a consideration of the further promotion of additional land to the north of the village;

10. Protect the historic built environment, such as the conservation area and listed buildings;
11. The proximity of new housing to services and facilities and the ability for infrastructure provision to match housing growth; and
12. Ensuring that adequate parking is provided to keep the streets uncluttered and accessible.

No issues were identified that could be followed up by the Parish Council.

C. Local Services and Amenities

4.7 The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan places a high reliance on the retention and provision of local services. As a community we can do more to identify those shops, community facilities or spaces that we both have and regard as important and don't have but need. And are there ways we can investigate delivering them alongside other forms of development in the village.

Key issues identified during the course of the Launch Event on 3 October 2015.

- 4.8 Issues that may adequately be covered by neighbourhood planning policy:
1. Retention of the existing range of shops, services and facilities in the village, along with the encouragement of new businesses that broaden the village's offer;
 2. Protection of community services, facilities and amenities;
 3. Protection of useable open space against development;

4. Support towards the retention and possible upgrade of the doctor's surgery and pharmacy in the village;
5. Recognition of the value of, and protection of, the formal and informal open spaces of the village that add to amenity value; and
6. Provision of additional open space, including recreation land, other types of amenity space including allotments and the additional burial land.

4.9 Issues that could be followed up by the Parish Council:

- Investment in existing open spaces and play areas;
- Attendance of and participation in local clubs, groups and societies;
- Provision of a better public transport service through liaison with providers;
- Encouragement of the use of local businesses;
- Local initiatives to identify ways to ensure that existing and future businesses cater for all customers;
- The varied use of and access to existing meeting places, open spaces and facilities;
- Maintenance of the public realm, including grass cutting, dog fouling and outdoor facilities;
- Community enterprises such as a community shop or pub; and
- Encourage people to appreciate the leisure value of the surrounding countryside.



4. KEY ISSUES

D. Business, Retail and Employment

4.10 Sutton is home to a high number of employers and business types, ranging from self-employed individuals working from their own homes through to the larger businesses based at the Elean Business Park.

Key issues identified during the course of the Launch Event on 3 October 2015

4.11 Issues that may adequately be covered by neighbourhood planning policy:

1. Retention of the existing range of shops, services and facilities in the village, along with the encouragement of new businesses that broaden the village's offer;
2. Encouragement of a greater range of shops and businesses;
3. Protection of community services, facilities and amenities;
4. The valuing and encouragement of, as well as support provided to, small businesses in the Parish;
5. The reuse of some vacant units of the Elean Business Park;
6. Provision of small business units to encourage workers based at home to grow their enterprise;
7. Ease of access to local shops and businesses by a means of transport;
8. Increasing the ability for people to both live and work in Sutton; and
9. Facilitate greater access of future local businesses to high speed connections such as superfast broadband.



4.12 Issues that could be followed up by the Parish Council:

- Promotion of, and the encouragement of the use of, local small businesses;
- Greater engagement with local small businesses to identify their needs;
- The facility for local networking between small business owners and entrepreneurs;
- The provision of superfast broadband throughout the village;
- Encourage local businesses to link up with surrounding colleges and places of training; and
- The creation of a village directory of small businesses.

E. Traffic and Transport

4.13 This topic deals with all issues concerned with traffic and transport. Traffic may include issues related to speeding traffic, traffic congestion, traffic management, parking, or lorries in Sutton. Transport issues could include provisions for pedestrians, cyclists or bus services in Sutton.

Key issues identified during the course of the Launch Event on 3 October 2015

4.14 Issues that may adequately be covered by neighbourhood planning policy:

1. The retention and enhancement of local footpaths and cycle ways, including the provision of new routes;
2. Linking new development to existing shops, services and amenities;
3. Provision of adequate off-street parking to serve new development; and
4. Adequate pick up and drop off points at new traffic generating uses.

4.15 Issues that could be followed up by the Parish Council:

- Provision of a better public transport service through liaison with providers;
- Traffic management measures, including speed calming, HGV routing, additional parking and junction improvements;
- Local police enforcement on the roads;
- Street lighting and highways maintenance;



- Longer distance footpaths and cycleways linking the village to towns such as Ely and Chatteris; and
- Implementation of new road schemes, such as a bypass for Sutton.

F. Sport, Recreation and Leisure

4.16 There are ways to keep activities within the village by establishing facilities which suit the needs of different groups and ages, clubs and activities. When developing facilities for programmes and services, whether for sport and recreational use or for leisure time and activities, one approach would be to share facilities to meet the varying needs of residents of Sutton and enabling the village to promote individual well-being and to have a positive impact on the overall health of future generations.

Key issues identified during the course of the Launch Event on 3 October 2015.

4.17 Issues that may adequately be covered by neighbourhood planning

policy:

1. Provision of additional open space to accommodate local sports clubs;
2. Protection and retention of existing open space and sports pitches;
3. Provision of additional children's play facilities and play equipment as a part of new developments;
4. The potential relocation of the Scout Hut;
5. Provision of a skate park at an accessible location within the village; and
6. Encouragement of use of the countryside as a source of recreation through enhanced walking and cycling links into and out of the village.

4.18 Issues that could be followed up by the Parish Council:

- Encouragement of provision of and participation in mix gender sports clubs;
- Review of the cost to rent local sports facilities for use
- Maintenance of local facilities (vandalism, dog fouling, litter, renewal

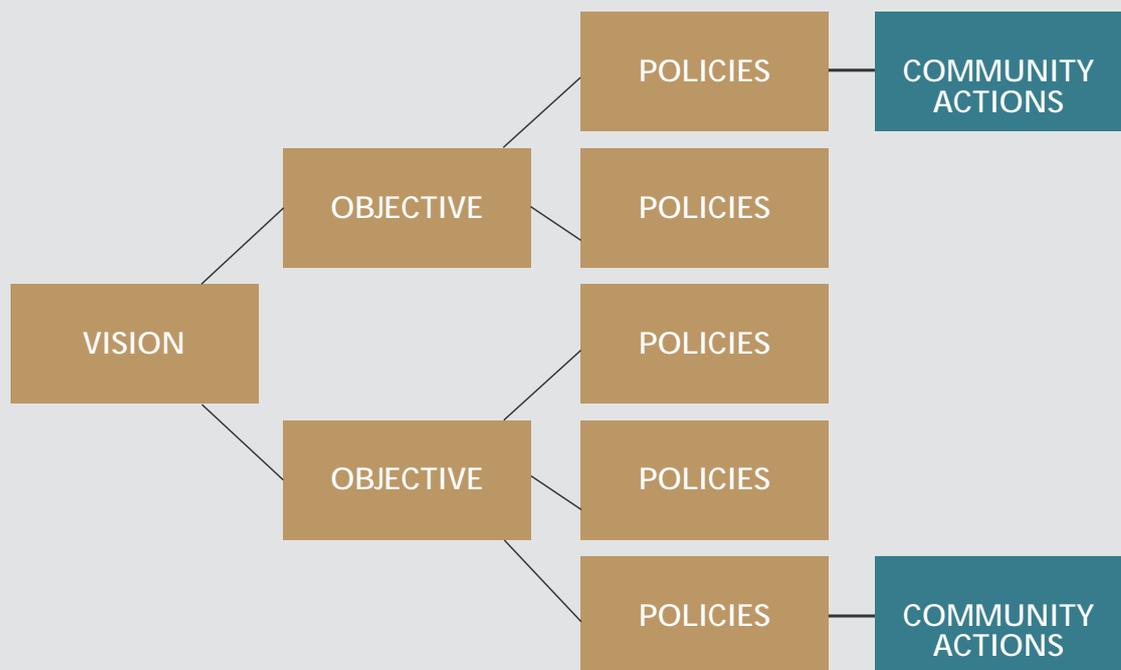
of old pieces of equipment);

- A designated area for dog walkers;
- The availability of a range of clubs that are suitable for all age groups;
- The reuse of the old Recreation Ground;
- An assessment of how the Parish Council could use money received from development to prioritise and implement local initiatives such as those listed in the Sutton Vision section of the 2015 Local Plan; and
- Encouraging greater usage of the multi-use games area (MUGA).

5. THE PLAN

5.1 The topic areas identified in the Issues section above form the foundation for the content of the Plan. They have informed the formulation of the Vision and Objectives and the topic chapters cover policies and potential community actions for each subject.

5.2 The topic chapters contain planning policies that will, when the Plan is completed, form part of the statutory development plan and will be used for determining planning applications in the parish. In addition to the planning policies, community actions to address potential local projects that could be delivered in Sutton are included. It must be emphasised at the outset that community actions do not form part of the “statutory” neighbourhood plan. They are included for completeness to identify other areas of improvement and change that residents have identified during the preparation of the Plan and are listed in the Issues section above. The planning policies appear in boxes numbered NP1, NP2 etc and distinctly different boxes define the non-statutory community actions.



Sustainable Development

5.3 There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to be accompanied by a sustainability appraisal. However, those preparing the plan must demonstrate how it contributes to achieving sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework defines three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and there is a need for the planning system, including neighbourhood plans, to perform the following roles:

- an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

5.4 In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental impacts, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals are therefore assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental impacts. A screening opinion of the draft Plan is being undertaken to assess whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Plan will be required.



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6 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

VISION

Sutton should be a Parish where its unique character is appreciated and cherished, the quality of the environment is maintained and continues to improve, the opportunities presented to all, young and old, to live and prosper continue to be enhanced, and the life led by its residents remains a healthy and happy one.

6.1 Arising from the information gathered during the early consultation on the Plan, it was clear that residents wanted to protect the many attractive and unique features of Sutton's historic and natural environment. But at the same time, there was also a recognition that there will continue to be a need for new development in the village to provide for new homes, jobs and services over the coming years. In reflection of this, the following Vision for the village has been developed to set out how Sutton-in-the-Isle will look and feel in 2036.

6.2 The Vision is supported by seven objectives that have informed the policies and community actions in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Objective 1. The important habitats and natural assets of the Parish should be protected and strengthened and, where appropriate, opportunities for their enjoyment by residents should be enhanced.

Objective 2. All new development should be focussed on the way it can best meet the needs of the residents of the Parish, young and old.

Objective 3. New housing should be delivered in a way that ensures it is supported by essential community infrastructure and that ensures the character of the village, in particular the central core and conservation area, is retained and, wherever possible, enhanced.

Objective 4. Existing shops, services and community infrastructure should be protected and supported by the policies of the Plan to ensure that Sutton remains a thriving and fully inclusive rural community.

Objective 5. Small businesses and the opportunities provided to the local workforce should be supported and strengthened through a positive approach to rural diversification and enterprise.

Objective 6. All new development to be delivered in a way which facilitates improvements for pedestrians and cyclists alongside adequate vehicular access and where possible promotes public transport links.

Objective 7. The retention, provision and productive use of open space and leisure facilities in and around the village should be secured wherever reasonably possible.

6.3 The following sections of the Neighbourhood Plan contain the planning policies that will supplement the policies in the Local Plan and the content of the National Planning Policy Framework when East Cambridgeshire District Council are determining planning applications in the village.

7 BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Objective 1: The important habitats and natural assets of the Parish should be protected and strengthened and, where appropriate, opportunities for their enjoyment by residents should be enhanced

7.1 The Ouse Washes are statutorily protected sites that are adequately covered by national and local planning policies. Their ongoing management and protection for wildlife is essential and the Neighbourhood Plan ensures that the level and nature of development proposed will not have a detrimental impact on this area.

7.2 At a more local level, Policy Sutton 3 of the draft East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2017) designates two Local Green Spaces for protection. These are:

1. the Sports Fields off The Brook; and
2. the Old Recreation Ground in Lawn Lane.

7.3 The designation means that no development can take place on the identified site except in exceptional circumstances. Additional sites in the village were considered during the preparation of East Cambridgeshire District Council's Draft Local Plan and, although some were rejected, we believe that Stanker's Pond in Station Road complies with the NPPF guidelines in that it is a site of wildlife interest and is maintained by Sutton Conservation Society for the benefit of residents. The Neighbourhood Plan therefore designates it as a Local Green Space. Other additional sites not previously considered also meet the NPPF guidelines. These are:



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- the play area and open space at Stirling Way;
- the churchyard and burial ground;
- the allotments south of Lawn Lane; and the allotments south of The Row

A separate assessment of these spaces against the NPPF criteria has been prepared and is available as an evidence document.

THE LOCAL GREEN SPACES ARE IDENTIFIED ON THE MAPS

Policy NP1 - Local Green Spaces

Local Green Spaces are designated at:

1. The play area and open space at Stirling Way;
2. The churchyard and burial ground;
3. Stanker's Pond, Station Road
4. Allotments, Lawn Lane
5. Allotments, south of The Row
6. The Sports Fields off The Brook; and
7. The Old Recreation Ground, Lawn Lane and are identified on the Proposals Map

Development on these sites will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, as set out by national policy. Permitted development rights, including the operational requirements of infrastructure providers, are not affected by this designation.



Play area and open space, Stirling Way



Churchyard and burial ground



Allotments, Lawn Lane



Stanker's Pond, Station Road

Community Action 1

The Parish Council will work with Sutton Conservation Society to create an informal nature reserve on the old recreation ground.

Community Action 2

The Parish Council will work with landowners and the County Council's Rights of Way officer to improve and promote existing and new permissive access to provide several circular routes for walkers out into the surrounding countryside from the village.



The Old Recreation Ground, Lawn Lane



The Sports Fields off The Brook



Allotments, south of The Row

7.4 The Plan has sought to identify additional spaces and features where they can contribute to the enjoyment of leisure and wildlife within the Parish and seeks to preserve existing woodland and hedgerows that are important both to the setting of the village and the habitats that they provide. Trees in the conservation area are protected by the conservation area legislation whereby permission from the District Council must be sought to carry out works to them.

7.5 Outside the conservation area there are many important trees that play an important role in the setting of the village and where their loss would cause potential harm to the character of the village and its contribution to the biodiversity network. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the retention of these trees when proposals for new development are being considered. The Plan also seeks to ensure that new development reinforces the tree cover through the implementation of new tree planting.

7.6 The meadowland areas play an important role in providing a natural backdrop for the village. Development outside the Development Envelope is classified as development in the countryside and Policy LP3 of East Cambridgeshire District Council's emerging Local Plan will apply, restricting development to that which is justified to be located in a rural location.

Policy NP2 – Protecting and Maintaining Features of Landscape and Biodiversity Value

All development proposals will be expected to retain existing features of landscape and biodiversity value (including trees, woodland, hedgerows, the open nature of meadowland and verges) and, where practical to do so, provide a net gain in biodiversity through, for example:

- the creation of new natural habitats;
- the planting of additional trees and hedgerows; and
- restoring and repairing fragmented biodiversity networks.

Where loss or damage is unavoidable, the benefits of the development proposals must be demonstrated clearly to outweigh any impacts and the development shall provide for appropriate replacement planting on site together with a method statement for the ongoing care and maintenance of that planting.

Where a new access is created, or an existing access is widened through an existing hedgerow, a new hedgerow of native species shall be planted on the splay returns into the site to maintain the appearance and continuity of hedgerows in the vicinity.

Objective 2: All new development should be focused on the way it can best meet the needs of the residents of the Parish, young and old

Objective 3: New housing should be delivered in a way that ensures it is supported by essential community infrastructure and that ensures the character of the village, in particular the central core and conservation area, is retained and, wherever possible, enhanced

8.1 The adopted Local Plan identifies the strategy for the location of growth in the district for the period up to 2031. It plans for most growth to take place in Ely, Soham and Littleport but also plans for some growth at Sutton. The document states that 173 new homes would be built in the village between 2013 and 2031, averaging just under 10 a year. There were 32 new homes completed in the parish between 2013 and 2017. At 1 April 2017 there were permissions for a further 11 homes.

8.2 The emerging Local Plan proposes 11,960 new homes across the district between 2016 and 2036, although it does not identify how many homes Sutton is expected to provide. The Strategy for the distribution of growth proposes that 69.4% of the housing will be built in the main settlements (Ely, Soham and Littleport) and 18.1% in the large villages, including Sutton. That represents some 1,965 homes in the larger villages. In accordance with this strategy, the Neighbourhood Plan provides for at least 300 new homes during the period 2017 to 2036. This provision will be made by allocations in this neighbourhood plan and through opportunities that will arise through infill and windfall sites within the defined Development Envelope that come forward and are in accordance with the adopted policies in the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

Development Envelope

8.3 The Local Plan defines a Development Envelope for the village, within which there is a presumption in favour of new residential development. During the course of the preparation of this Neighbourhood

Plan a review of the Development Envelope was undertaken. In the light of the allocations being made in this Neighbourhood Plan, the Development Boundary has been amended to include land north of Mill Field that was granted planning permission for housing in September 2017 and which is allocated for development in this Plan.

Policy NP3 – Sutton Development Envelope

The Sutton Development Envelope is defined on the Proposals Map. Sustainable development proposals within the Envelope will be supported in principle subject to being of an appropriate scale and not having an unacceptable impact on:

- i) the amenity of residents;
- ii) the historic and natural environment;
- iii) the provision of services and facilities; and
- iv) the highway network.

Land outside the Development Envelope is defined as countryside where development will only be allowed for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation and other uses which can demonstrate a need to be located in the countryside.

8.4 To meet the need in the new Local Plan, three sites are allocated in the village for housing development. This Plan supports those allocations but adds further detail to the local plan policies to reflect the ambitions of the local community as expressed during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Land north of The Brook and west of Mepal Road

8.5 The adopted Local Plan allocates a site north of The Brook for 50 new homes but acknowledges the potential for additional development on an extended site in the longer term. The emerging local plan allocates a larger area for 250 homes and requires the following:

1. A concept plan for the whole site will need to be prepared and submitted as part of a planning application, for approval by the Council;
2. On-site provision of open space should include new football pitches and areas of play for infants, juniors and youths. The development should provide land for a new burial ground on-site, or facilitate provision at a suitable location elsewhere in the village;
3. Provide a detailed Travel Assessment and Travel Plan, which will demonstrate, amongst other matters, how any adverse impacts on the local highway network will be mitigated. This Assessment should pay particular attention to demonstrating how cost effective improvements to the

transport network will be provided, as required by policies LP16 and LP17, in order to appropriately mitigate against the impacts of development;

4. The site's principal vehicular access should be located at Mepal Road;
5. Pedestrian and cycle routes should link the site with adjacent development and to key locations including the primary school and village centre;
6. A landscaped buffer at the northern boundary is required to frame the development from the open countryside and reduce noise and other health impact from the A142;
7. Ensure sufficient capacity at the village primary school exists, and if it does not, make appropriate developer contributions to fully mitigate the impact on school places. If a practical option to expand the school (in order to mitigate the impact of the development) does not exist, then a reduction in the residential capacity of the site will be necessary to the point where mitigation becomes deliverable.

8.6 The Neighbourhood Plan supports this allocation and provides greater clarity for developers and the local community by including a "concept" plan as required by the Local Plan. In September 2018, 77 dwellings on an area at the south eastern corner of the site, were granted permission by a Planning Inspector following an appeal against a refusal by East Cambridgeshire District Council.



Land east of Garden Close

8.7 The emerging local plan allocates this site for 25 homes. However, a planning application for up to 53 homes on a larger site was recently refused by East Cambridgeshire and the applicants have submitted an appeal to the government.



8.8 Lots of residents and the Parish Council objected to the application and it is proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan will support the smaller site for up to 25 new single storey homes. It is important that the development retains the many mature trees and hedgerows as well as the important views in and around the site, as illustrated on the concept plan below.

Policy NP5 – Land East of Garden Close

The site is allocated for up to 25 dwellings that:

- i) are low-density single-storey dwellings;
- ii) retains existing mature trees and hedgerows;
- iii) preserves and enhances views from the south towards the Church, from Lawn Lane eastwards and Station Road westwards across the cricket fields and open spaces;

The site should be developed in accordance with the Concept Statement illustrated in Figure 2 in this Plan.

A site-specific flood risk assessment of the site will be required to be submitted as part of a planning application for the development. Development of the site should provide betterment, mitigation and management of flood risk, particularly in relation to surface and/or groundwater matters.



Figure 2 - Garden Close Concept Plan

On 7 November 2018 East Cambridgeshire District Council resolved to grant outline planning consent for 53 dwellings on an enlarged site that includes the land covered by Policy NP5. At the time of the decision to submit the Neighbourhood Plan for examination, the planning decision had not been issued.

Land north of Mill Field, Mepal Road

8.9 In 2017 an outline planning application for residential development on land north of Mill Field was submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ref 17/00284/OUT). The site had an area of 0.39 hectares and the application proposed ten dwellings. The application was approved in September 2017 and, because the neighbourhood plan has a base date of April 2017, the site is allocated in this Plan for development.

Policy NP6 – Land North of Mill Field, Mepal Road

0.39 hectares of land north of Mill Field is allocated for up to 10 dwellings that:

- i) retains the existing screen belt to the north and east of the site boundary; and
- ii) provides measures to reduce the impact on occupants of traffic noise from the A142;



Land North of Mill Field, Mepal Road

8.10 The emerging Local Plan allocates a site at Brick Lane, Mepal for residential development. The site currently falls within the Sutton parish boundary and is therefore in the Neighbourhood Area. While acknowledging this situation, the Neighbourhood Plan does not contain any further guidance for the development of this site and it is not considered that the development contributes to the housing need of Sutton village.

Housing mix

8.11 Sutton has a smaller proportion of two-bedroomed homes than the other designated "Larger Villages" in the Local Plan. Some 22.5% of the village homes had two bedrooms in 2011 compared with an average of 25% across all larger villages. This would suggest that there needs to be a higher proportion of two-bedroom homes built in the village in order to get a more balanced mix of homes. We will seek that new housing development should, where appropriate, provide a mix of homes that contributes to redressing the shortfall of two-bedroom properties.

Policy NP7 – Housing Mix

Housing development must contribute to meeting the needs of the village. Planning proposals will be supported where development provides a mix of housing types and sizes that reflects the needs of local people, particularly in the need for two bedroomed dwellings as well as the needs of an ageing population looking to downsize into homes suitable for lifetime occupation.

Historic Character

8.12 The character of the built environment of the village has been identified as an important asset that should be protected and enhanced. The Conservation Area helps to achieve this for that part of the village that it covers. However, there are important features outside this area that contribute to the character and history of the village and where insensitive development would diminish the overall contribution that those features make. In addition to the many Listed Buildings in the parish, East Cambridgeshire District Council has identified a number of buildings that are of local importance that have been included in their Register of Buildings of Local Interest that was published in February 2017. Appendix 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan contains details of the buildings in Sutton that are on the Register.

8.13 The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan identified groups of buildings in The Row, Pound Lane, Station Road and Sutton Gault that are especially important and that should be protected. Most of these buildings are listed and therefore already carry an element of protection, but insensitive development in the vicinity of these buildings will also be discouraged.



The Row

The Row was predominantly a farming settlement with orchards to the north and Fen farms and orchards to the south. The designated area is a line of ten older dwellings, including three listed buildings, most on the south side of The Row backing on to open fields. Victorian and early 20th century maps show buildings next to the road with fields and orchards behind, those to the south extending into the Fen. The gardens and paddocks behind the dwellings on the south side of The Row are undeveloped and afford uninterrupted views from the Row to the Fen and from the Fen to the village edge.



The Row



Pound Lane

Pound Lane

Pound Lane starts in the Conservation Area and runs north. On the east side is an almost continuous stretch of pre-WWI dwellings, some much older. The OS map of 1887 shows this development opposite small fields and orchards.



Station Road CA Map



Sutton Gault CA Map

Station Road

This is a cluster of three older buildings on either side of the road, framing a view up to the Parish Church. It is on the edge of the Conservation area and comprises the former Royal Arms public house and two buildings on the East Cambridgeshire District Council list of Buildings of Local Interest.



Sutton Gault

This is a cluster of three buildings adjacent to the road that crosses the Bedford Rivers at Sutton Gault. It includes the 17th Century Anchor Inn. All three buildings are on the ECDC list of Buildings of Local Interest

8.14 Policy LP22 of the emerging Local Plan sets out criteria that should be taken into account when considering development proposals. In addition, we have considered the content of the Conservation Area Appraisal in identifying the important characteristics of the built environment that should be taken into account in designing new development that will be in keeping with the village.

Policy NP8 – Preserving the Historic Characteristics of Sutton

Proposals for new development should demonstrate how they protect and enhance the historic character and assets of the village, including Listed Buildings, Buildings of Historic local Interest, the designated Conservation Area and other areas including older buildings in The Row, Pound Lane, Station Road and Sutton Gault, as identified on the Proposals Map.

9 LOCAL SERVICES AND AMENITIES

Objective 4: Existing shops, services and community infrastructure should be protected and supported by the policies of the Plan to ensure that Sutton remains a thriving and fully inclusive rural community

9.1 Community facilities and services in the village make an important contribution towards maintaining the health and wellbeing, social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of residents, and in reducing the need to travel. In Sutton, these facilities and services include shops, post office, pubs, the primary school, healthcare facilities, community centre, allotments, village hall, indoor sport facilities and public transport. The retention of these facilities and services is therefore essential to the livelihood of the village and helps reduce rural isolation and social exclusion.

9.2 It is therefore vital that services and facilities are protected and enhanced for the use of current and future residents. However, it is recognised that demands change over time and it would be unreasonable to require the retention of facilities if there is no longer a proven need or demand for them. In such circumstance it might be appropriate for those uses to be lost where specific criteria can be met.



High Street

Policy NP9 - Protecting existing services and facilities

Proposals that will result in the loss of valued facilities or services which support a local community (or premises last used for such purposes) will only be permitted where:

- a. it can be demonstrated that the current use is not economically viable nor likely to become viable. Where appropriate, supporting financial evidence should be provided including any efforts to advertise the premises for sale for a minimum of 12 months; and
- b. it can be demonstrated that there is no local demand for the use and that the building/site is not needed for any alternative social, community or leisure use; or
- c. alternative facilities and services are available, or replacement provision is made, of at least equivalent standard, in a location that is accessible to the community it serves with good access by public transport or by cycling or walking.

9.3 The Local Plan recognises that there are priorities for the improvement of community facilities, including:

- Expansion of Sutton Church of England Primary School and provision of additional pre-school facilities;
- Additional or expanded medical facilities;
- Additional play equipment at Stirling Way play area, particularly catering for toddlers and juniors; and
- The creation of a new equipped youth play area.

9.4 The Neighbourhood Plan endorses this list and it is important that every opportunity is sought to deliver the facilities. The Parish Council can play an important role in identifying locations for play areas and potentially using its Community Infrastructure Levy receipts to contribute to the provision of facilities.

Community Action 3 – Play Areas and Youth Facilities
The Parish Council will seek to identify a location for a new equipped youth recreation facility in the village and to enhance area for juniors and toddlers.

10 BUSINESS, RETAIL AND EMPLOYMENT

Objective 5: Small businesses and the opportunities provided to the local workforce should be supported and strengthened through a positive approach to rural diversification and enterprise

10.1 The Elean Business Park provides an important source of jobs for Sutton and the wider area. Further areas within the site remain available to provide more job opportunities over future years as long as the development does not have a detrimental impact on the local area. The Local Plan allocates the site as a “Strategic Employment Site” and notes that approximately 17 hectares is available for development.



10.2 Given the extensive out-commuting from Sutton to work, it is considered that the Business Park provides the opportunity to provide a better balance of the size and type of business, thereby potentially reducing the need to travel. The site is well positioned with a direct access onto the A142, although the same road creates a significant barrier for residents seeking to access the site on foot or by cycle.

10.3 The Neighbourhood Plan therefore encourages the creation of small business start-up units and better safe pedestrian and cycling links between the Business Park and the main part of the village.

10.4 Within the village centre there remain a number of shops and associated businesses that serve an important role in providing for the day-to-day needs of residents. However, unlike many settlements, the services are not found within a cluster but are spread the length of the High Street. In the same area there is evidence of former shop fronts

in buildings that are now converted to residential use. The continued erosion of these uses could have a significant detrimental impact on the sustainability of the community and would potentially leave residents isolated from day-to-day shopping needs.

Policy NP10 – Elean Business Park

Further development of the Elean Business Park for employment uses will be supported where they include small business start-up units and make provision for safe pedestrian and cycling routes between the Business Park and the main part of the village.

Policy NP11 – Retail premises

Planning applications for the loss or change of use of shops (or premises last used as shops) will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the use is no longer viable or that the change of use will not have a detrimental impact on the vitality and viability of the centre. Proposals for new or extended shops or services within the existing centre, as defined on the Proposals Map, will be permitted provided that there is no adverse effect on residential amenity or environmental quality or the role, function and hierarchy of other centres in the district.

11 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Objective 6: All new development to be delivered in a way which facilitates improvements for pedestrians and cyclists alongside adequate vehicular access and where possible promotes public transport links

11.1 The main road through the village, the B1381, provides an important link for traffic travelling between Ely and St Ives or Huntingdon. Heavy commercial vehicles often use the road as a short cut to and from the A14 instead of the recommended Freight Advisory routes, causing increased noise pollution and vibration. The Parish Council continues to lobby for weight restrictions to deter HCV traffic. The volume and speed of traffic also causes problems for pedestrians and cyclists. The Parish Council is therefore working with the County Council to reduce traffic speed and improve crossing points in the village.

11.2 The historic core of the village, between the Church and Pound Lane is dominated by signs and lines to control traffic and parking. A sensitively designed parking scheme has been installed outside the Post Office / One Stop shop, but there remains clutter that distracts from the important buildings in this historic environment. Schemes have been installed elsewhere in the country that reduce such impacts and it is considered that such improvements should be carried out in Sutton.

11.3 The A142 is a location for many serious traffic collisions, some of which have resulted in fatalities. As identified elsewhere, it creates a significant barrier to travelling to and from the Elean Business Park by foot or cycle. Improved safe crossings should be provided as part of the continued development of the Business Park.

Community Action 4:

The Parish Council will continue to lobby for weight restrictions to prevent HCV traffic using the B1381 as a short cut to and from the A14 and instead to use the Freight Advisory Routes.

Community Action 5:

The Parish Council will work with the County Council to reduce traffic speed and improve crossing points in the village.



12 SPORT, RECREATION AND LEISURE

Objective 7: The retention, provision and productive use of open space and leisure facilities in and around the village should be secured wherever reasonably possible

12.1 The Local Plan policy in relation to the provision of open space is based on the Fields in Trust benchmark. The standards are set out in an appendix of the Local Plan. For play areas, the standards are:

- Toddler play areas – at least 3 pieces of play equipment and small low-key games area with play features on about 0.01ha (100m²)
- Junior play areas – at least 5 pieces of play equipment and small flat ball games area on about 0.04ha (400m²)
- Youth play areas – at least 5 pieces of play equipment, ball play and wheeled play opportunities and seating for use as a meeting place on about 0.1ha (1,000m²).

12.2 Current play space provision in the village is located in Stirling Way. However, this is remote from many parts of the village and beyond the Fields in Trust recommended 400 metres walking distance for Locally Equipped Areas of Play.

12.3 The main sports facilities are currently located at the Brooklands Centre where there is a football pitch, bowls green and multi-use games area (MUGA). This site is designated as a Local Green Space in the emerging Local Plan. In addition,

the village cricket club is based off Station Road. These existing facilities will be protected from being lost to development unless new facilities are provided in the village that are of equal or better standard and as equally accessible to residents.



Community Action 6:

The Parish Council will investigate ways to promote 'Sport for All' across all sections of the community, including consideration of suitable locations for new facilities.

Policy NP12 – Sport and Recreation Facilities

Proposals for the provision, enhancement and/or expansion of sport or recreation open space or facilities will be permitted subject to compliance with other Policies in this and other adopted Local Plans. Development which will result in the loss of existing sport or recreation open space or facilities will not be allowed unless:

- a. it can be demonstrated that the space or facility is surplus to requirement against the local planning authority's standards for the particular location, and the proposed loss will not result in a likely shortfall during the plan period; or
- b. replacement for the space or facilities lost is made available, of at least equivalent quantity and quality, and in a suitable location to meet the needs of users of the existing space or facility. Any replacement provision should take account of the needs of the village and the current standards of open space and sports facility provision adopted by the local planning authority. For the purposes of this policy, the Cricket Field is identified as a Sport and Recreation Facility on the Proposals Map.

GLOSSARY

Amenity - a general term used to describe the tangible and intangible benefits or features associated with a property or location, that contribute to its character, comfort, convenience or attractiveness.

Biodiversity - a contraction of biological diversity, all species of life on earth including plants and animals and the ecosystem of which we are all part.

Birds and Habitats Directives - European Directives to conserve natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.

Brownfield Land - also known as Previously Developed Land, see NPPF.

Community Facilities - facilities including leisure facilities, libraries, public houses, cultural facilities (such as arts and museum facilities), places of worship and community halls.

Conservation Area - a formally designated area of special historic or architectural interest whose character must be preserved or enhanced.

Development Envelope - a boundary on a map beyond which the local planning authority proposes that a village should not be able to extend.

Habitats Regulations Assessment - the identification of any aspects of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 or European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites), (either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects), and to identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies where such effects were identified.

Heavy Commercial Vehicle (HCV) - This is defined by s20 of the Roads and Traffic Act 1988, and includes, for example, any goods vehicle which has an operating weight exceeding 7.5 tonnes.

Infill - the use of vacant land and property within a built-up area for further construction or development (see also "windfall site").

Infrastructure - a collective term which relates to all forms of essential services like electricity, water, and road and rail provision

Listed Building - a building or structure designated by the Secretary of State under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for its special architectural or historic interest, and therefore included in a 'list' of such buildings and structures.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - the Government's national planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Open Space - areas of undeveloped or largely undeveloped land for leisure purposes - including village greens, allotments, children's playgrounds, sports pitches and municipal parks.

Proposals Map - a map on an Ordnance Survey base which shows where policies in Local Plans apply.

Settlement Hierarchy - settlements are categorised into a hierarchy based on the range of facilities, services and employment opportunities available, plus the ability to access other higher ranking settlements by public transport.

Special Areas of Conservation & Special Protection Areas - designations under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

Strategic Environmental Assessment - A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Sustainable Development - usually referred to as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland, 1987).

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) - an overall term for systems of surface water drainage management that take into account the quantity and quality of runoff, and the amenity value of surface water in the urban environment. The main focus is on source control and the mimicking of natural processes to enable infiltration and gradual discharge into watercourses.

Use Classes - contained within the Use Class Order: a piece of national secondary legislation which groups types of use of premises into classes, so that no development is involved if a building is changed from one use to another within the same class. Changing the use of a building from one class to another constitutes development, and needs planning permission, but in certain circumstances this may be automatically permitted without the need to submit a planning application.

Windfall Site - a site that comes forward on unallocated land for residential development.

APPENDIX 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Residents' Survey in January 2015

A survey was distributed to all houses in the village in January 2015. This provided residents with their first real opportunity to contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan. See Sutton Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire 2015. Responses could be returned as paper copies or alternatively online.

An Open Forum was held on 19 February 2015 at which residents had the opportunity to hear about the results of the survey and to learn more about neighbourhood plans in general. The presentation on the results is available in Open Forum Presentation 2015.

Open Day in October 2015

An Open Day was held at the Glebe on Saturday 3 October 2015 aimed at gathering information from residents for the purpose of formulating the Vision, Aims and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. Residents were asked for their views on six themes:

1. Housing
2. Biodiversity
3. Traffic and Transport
4. Local Services
5. Business
6. Sport and Recreation

The results from the Open Day were collated and reviewed by the working party together with an external

planning consultant. A vision and set of objectives were then also developed by the working party. This resulted in the publishing of the Sutton Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives Report on the Parish Council website.

There was also an interim report back in the Christmas 2015 Pepperpot, see Pepperpot Xmas 2015.

Residents' Survey in January 2016

A second survey was conducted in January 2016. The purpose of this survey was to provide residents with the opportunity of commenting on the proposed objectives that came out of the Open Day and which were captured in the Vision and Objectives Report. The survey document NP Consultation Jan 2016 Questionnaire was made available on the Parish Council website and was also distributed to everyone who provided their contact details at the October 2015 Open Day.

Business Forum in May 2016

A Business Forum was held at the Elean Business Park on 19 May 2016 to gain the views of local businesses on what we require for the future. Further details can be found in the Business Forum Report.

Draft Policy Consultation Summer 2016

The Parish Council's Summer 2016 Newsletter was distributed to all homes in Sutton. The centre spreadsheet of the newsletter provided an update of the Neighbourhood Plan and details of the proposed development to the north of the village. See the Newsletter 2016 centre spread.

A set of draft policies were developed and published in an A4 insert included in the newsletter. Residents were asked to indicate whether or not they supported each of the draft policies and to provide any additional comments. Residents could respond either by returning the paper copy of the insert or by answering the consultation questions online. See the Newsletter 2016 insert.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan Launch - March 2018

The launch of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was held on Saturday 24 March 2018. A series of display panels provided the background to the Neighbourhood Plan process, information on the East Cambs District Council Local Plan, a summary of the proposals to be contained in the Neighbourhood Plan and a description of the next steps. Residents provided feedback on the forms provided.

Draft Policy Survey Results – September 2016

Total responses: Online 38, Hardcopy 28

	Online	Hard Copy	Totals			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
NP1	28	10	21	2	49	12
NP2	35	3	22	1	47	4
NP3	35	3	25	0	60	3
NP4	36	2	24	0	60	2
NP5	29	9	21	1	50	10
NP6	33	4	22	2	55	6

APPENDIX 2 BUILDINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST REGISTER

Extract from East Cambridgeshire District Council "Buildings of Local Interest Register" February 2017

CRITERIA FOR LOCAL LIST

Age & Condition

The older a building or structure the more likely it is to be of historical significance;

b) Does it survive in anything like its original form or condition? This would exclude buildings that have been subject to unsympathetic extensions and alterations, including the installation of UPVC windows and doors.

A5	Post 1945	Buildings or structures of exceptional quality and of significant landmark value
A4	1939 – 1945	Rare example of surviving war time building or structure
A3	1914-1939	Buildings or structures that are substantially complete and unaltered and a good example of the style
A2	1840 – 1914	Buildings or structures affected by only minor alterations that could be easily reversed
A1	Pre 1840	Buildings or structures where form is clearly identifiable and there is the potential to restore

Buildings or structures where form is clearly identifiable and there is the potential to restore.

Historical Association

Buildings or structures with well documented associations with locally important people or events that also retain some quality in their physical fabric.

B1 Is it associated with any important historical figure or family?

B2 Is it a rare or fine example of a building or structure that illustrates the local social, economic or industrial history?

B3 Is it associated with an important local historic event?

Architectural Interest

Consideration will be given to a building or structure that is of local architectural value and includes design qualities typical of the local area.

- C1** Is it a good example of a local vernacular?
- C2** Is it related by age, materials or in any other historically significant way to adjacent listed buildings and contributes positively to their setting?
- C3** Is it a rare or pioneering example of a building type or structure?
- C4** Was it built by a famous local or national architect?
- C5** Is it a particularly good example of an architectural style?

Local Characteristics

Consideration will be given to buildings or structures that contribute to local identity and distinctiveness.

- D1** Is it a structure that exhibits distinctive characteristics relative to the area (i.e. post box, milestones, street furniture, etc)?
- D2** Is it a structure that is a landmark feature that makes a particularly positive contribution to the distinctive character of the place?
- D3** Is it a locally important building type, such as a Church, Chapel, School or water feature?

Townscape Significance

There are individual or groups of buildings that contribute positively to the character or identity of a local townscape, street scene or rural area. These include key landmark buildings, notable buildings on important routes in to the area and those, which create an important vista or contribute to the skyline.

- E1** Is the structure associated with a designated park or landscape such as walls, terracing or minor garden buildings?
- E2** Is it of identifiable importance to the historic design?

Local reference	Group Value	Selection Criteria	Date	Use	Reason for Inclusion
BL68 The Grove, Sutton Gault	No	A3,C1,C3	1841-1914	Residential	The building is a good example of a more formal manor house that retains a number of original features that mark the building out as being quite high status. The architectural detailing and quality is unique and makes a positive contribution to the character of the area .
BL69 Grove Barn, Sutton Gault	No	A3	1841-191	Agriculture	The building is believed to have formerly been used as an Ecclesiastical barn dating from the 15th century (possibly relocated from another location). The building makes a positive contribution to the character of the area .
BL70 The Anchor, Sutton Gault	No	A1,B2,D3	Pre 1700	Residential	The property is a good example of a traditional public house and is one of only a few surviving public houses that survive along the levels. The property is included for its rarity and heritage value.
BL71	No	A3,C1,C3	1841-1914	Residential	The building is a good example of a more formal manor house that retains a number of original features that mark the building out as being quite high status. The architectural detailing and quality is unique and makes a positive contribution to the character of the area .
BL72	No	A3	1841-191	Agriculture	The building is believed to have formerly been used as an Ecclesiastical barn dating from the 15th century (possibly relocated from another location). The building makes a positive contribution to the character of the area .

Description	Photograph
<p>The property is constructed of gault brick with a clay pegtile roof and parapet gables with finial detailing. There is a large double chimney stack to the road and stone mouldings about the windows on the front elevation.</p>	
<p>The building sits on the corner of Bury Lane and is constructed of gault brick with clay tile roof and timber boarding.</p>	
<p>The building is two storeys with a one and half storey extension to the rear. It is constructed of rendered brick with a slate roof to the front and pantile roof to the rear. It forms an H plan with two end stacks and a central ridge stack on the rear gable. The building has also been extended to the south where there is a third end stack. The building also retains its timber sashes.</p>	
<p>The property is constructed of gault brick with a clay pegtile roof and parapet gables with finial detailing. There is a large double chimney stack to the road and stone mouldings about the windows on the front elevation .</p>	
<p>The building sits on the corner of Bury Lane and is constructed of gault brick with clay tile roof and timber boarding.</p>	

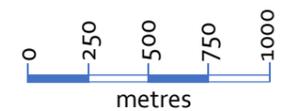
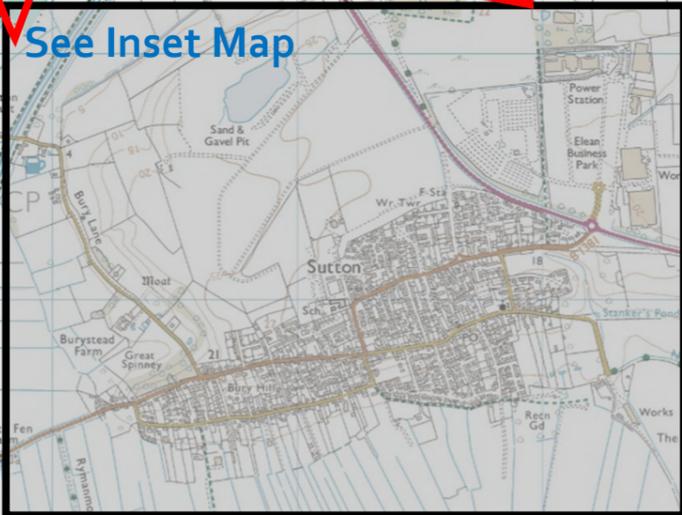
Local reference	Group Value	Selection Criteria	Date	Use	Reason for Inclusion
BL73	Yes	A3,CI	1841-1914	Residential	The building is a good example of the traditional vernacular style found in the village. It occupies a visually prominent location in the village and makes a positive contribution to the character of the area forming a pleasant pair with No. 85 .
BL74 85 High Street	Yes	A3, CI	1841-1914	Residential	The building is a good example of the traditional vernacular style found in the village. It makes a positive contribution to the character of the area with an number of quality features surviving. The building also forms a pleasant pair with- No.83
BL75 The Chequers, High Street	No	A2,B2,C1	1701-1840	Public House	The building is a good example of early mid 19th century architecture and makes a positive contribution to the street scene. The property remains in active use as a public house and is of social significance in the village
BL76 Rose Cottage, Station Road	Yes	A2,C1	1701-1840	Residential	The building is a good example of the traditional vernacular style found in the village and has group value with the property known as East wood. The building makes a positive contribution to the character of the area .
BL77 Eastwood, Station Road	Yes	A2, CI	1701-1840	Residential	The building is a good example of the traditional vernacular style found in the village and has group value with the property known as Rose Cottage.
BL78 18 Sutton Park	No	AS,CS	Late 20th century	Residential	The property is a good example of 20th century domestic architecture and is an unusual addition to the street scene. Features such as the hipped roof, and vertical windows give it a recognisable architectural style.

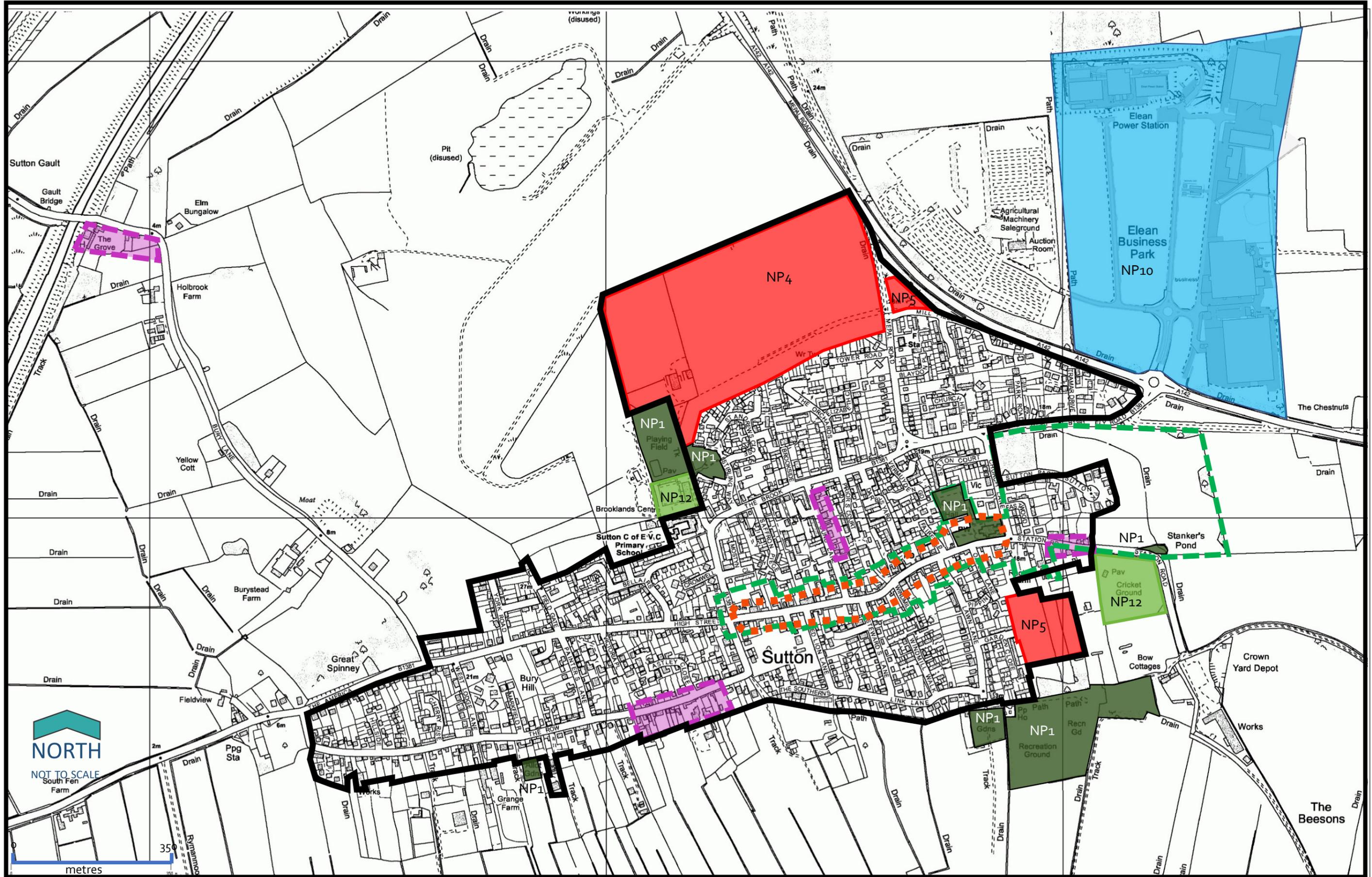
Description	Photograph
<p>The building is constructed of gault bricks with a slate roof, featuring two end stacks . It features a building mark 'E*b' to the right side of the front door. The roof is a shallow pitch and it has a pronounced overhang to the front elevation. A large centrally placed door with a recessed arch above, the property also retains its traditional tripartite sash windows . There is remnants of earlier red brickwork to the rear elevation which may be evidence of an earlier dwelling .</p>	
<p>The building is constructed of gault bricks with a slate hipped roof with a large modern extension to the rear . The property features two canted bay windows with a central doorway with timber surrounding and lintel. Three bays with timber sashes and an end stack to the west gable .</p>	
<p>The building is two storeys and constructed of gault brick with a slate roof, although the return appears to be constructed of a red brick mix. The front elevation is of three bays with recessed timber sashes with 8-over-8 panes. There has been a large oversized porch added to the front elevation at some point in the past and the property features an end stack to the east gable and an external stack to the west elevation.</p>	
<p>Two storeys constructed of red brick with a clay tile, steeply pitched hipped roof and a large brick stack to the rear gable. The building is three bays with recessed sashes on the ground floor and three flush casements on the first floor. The front elevation has been extensively repaired in the past with a lot of scarring on the brickwork.</p>	
<p>Two storeys and gable end to the road, the property is constructed of red brick with a clay tile roof. There is an end stack to the southern gable and a ridge stack approx. 3/4 of the way down the roof. The building appears to have been extensively altered in the past with a first floor added and possibly an extension to the north. The windows are all modern replacement s.</p>	
<p>Two storey constructed of gault brick with slate hipped roof, the building is set back from the main road and features a half circular detail and lean to facing the street . There is an oversized chimney stack to the western elevation and a linked garage to the east.</p>	



KEY TO PROPOSALS MAPS

-  Local Green Space (NP1)
-  Development Envelope (NP3)
-  Housing Site (NP4, NP5, NP6)
-  Conservation Area (NP8)
-  Historic Character Areas (NP8)
-  Elean Business Park (NP10)
-  Sport and Recreation Facilities (NP12)
-  Village Centre (NP11)
-  Plan Area Boundary





SUTTON

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2017-2036



SUBMISSION VERSION -
NOVEMBER 2018