

## WESTERFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Since the Annual Parish Meeting of 2022, the working group and our consultant have been working quietly in the background to obtain and collate the evidence, required to support the policies.

Our consultant is now preparing the draft plan. This will contain the policies, as identified from the questionnaire, and also include evidence from:

- ❖ Design Guide: to support the character of future developments.
- ❖ Suffolk Wildlife Trust (Landscape and Biodiversity Evaluation 2023): an ecological evaluation of the parish, to identify environmental features and wildlife to encourage and protect.
- ❖ Landscape Appraisal (an overview of the landscape character and landscape sensitivity issues in the parish of Westerfield). The appraisal has identified any opportunity for the enhancement, protection, management or conservation of landscape features or areas.

Community Aspirations are an opportunity to address concerns raised by residents, as part of the questionnaire. Many issues raised are non-planning related and would not normally be contained in a Neighbourhood Plan though their inclusion tends to make the plan more readily understandable.

Within the next three months, the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan within the village will take place. This involves:

- ❖ What Next? A summary of the Plan will be published and delivered to each household within Westerfield. The full Plan will be made available, around the village, for villagers to read. Both will provide an opportunity to read the Plan and make comments on it.
- ❖ Submission of the Plan: After consultation on the Plan, the necessary amendments will be completed and the Plan submitted to the East Suffolk Council. They will carry out a further six weeks consultation.
- ❖ Examination of the Plan: The Plan will then be examined by an Independent Neighbourhood Plan Examiner to assess whether it meets the Government's requirements.
- ❖ Referendum: Following the Examination, the Plan will be amended to address any requirements of the Examiner and a Parish Referendum will be held. It will be open for everyone on the Electoral Register.

A simple majority voting in favour of the Plan will mean that it will be adopted by East Suffolk Council.