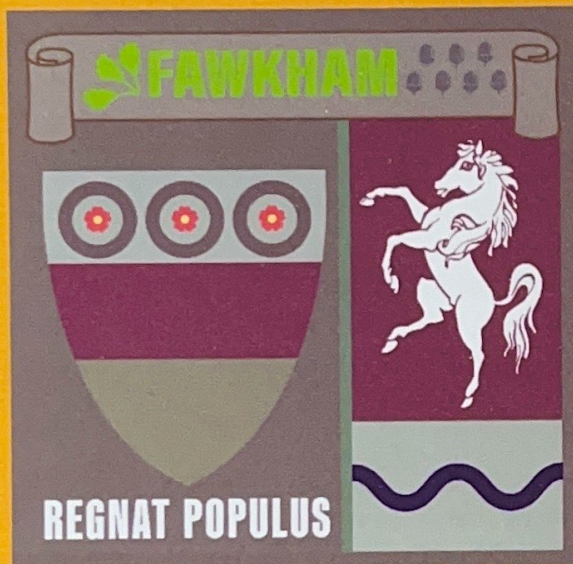


FAWKHAM'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - UPDATE



This leaflet aims to:

- recap what a Neighbourhood Plan is and what it can do for Fawkham;
 - bring you up to date on the work we have been doing to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan, which is based on what you told us in the village survey of 2019;
 - find out if you want to join us in developing it further (it is a lot of work!); and
 - give an outline of the next steps and timing.
- It also advises you of a change to the speed limit in parts of Fawkham.**

Fawkham's Neighbourhood Plan will guide the development of land and buildings in our Parish, as an addition to Sevenoaks' Local Plan which looks at the District as a whole. It is being created by the local community in Fawkham, led by the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Planning - what it can and cannot do

It can:

- influence the way land and buildings are developed and the way they look;
- protect places and buildings that are agreed as important; and
- give us a legal say in local planning matters.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot:


- do anything about litter or fly tipping, provide public transport or change speed limits (although issues such as these can be addressed in other ways); or
- stop people applying for planning consent or stop development identified in the Local Plan.

What's been happening?

Since we agreed to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan in December 2020, work has been taking place by local residents and Fawkham Parish Council to develop it. Some of you may have visited our stand at the church fete in September where we updated you that we have:

- registered the area to be covered with Sevenoaks District Council (SDC): <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/file/3182/fawkham>;
- set up a Steering Group to work on the Plan: <https://fawkhampc.org.uk/steering-group/>;
- successfully applied for the maximum grant available; and
- formed working groups and invited residents to join them to develop an evidence base for the following topics:
 - housing and the built environment;
 - community facilities; and
 - natural environment and biodiversity.

These topics reflect the issues you told us were important to you in the 2019 village survey.



- The Steering Group and working groups are supported by an independent consultant, who is a Chartered Town Planner, to ensure we meet statutory Neighbourhood Plan regulations and use best practice.

The working groups are collecting evidence about each topic, considering what local people feel about issues and will be discussing what policies and proposals ought to go into the Plan, before these are consulted on more widely. As an example, we asked you this autumn for your thoughts via the Fawkham Countryside Survey, and the results from this will help us develop appropriate policies around the issues covered by the survey.

Would you like to join a working group or the Steering Group? If so, please contact us: fawkhampc@gmail.com.

What happens next?

Next steps involve completing the evidence base, after which we will develop a vision for Fawkham, with supporting objectives, and then policies which help to deliver that vision. These steps will continue to involve local residents, and we plan to hold open sessions during 2022 to seek your feedback and thoughts on them.

As you may be aware, Sevenoaks District Council are currently working on a revised Local Plan, and aim to have a plan in place in 2023. SDC are updating a number of their evidence documents, including seeking residents' input through surveys. They reopened their 'Call for Sites' by which sites can be put forward by landowners for potential development. It is expected that the revised Local Plan will go out for its "Regulation 18" consultation in April/May 2022. We are keeping a close eye on this and will update you once more details are known.

Funding the Neighbourhood Plan

We advised you last year that we need to use some of the precept (the Parish Council element of your council tax) to fund the cost of developing the plan. Last year we increased the precept by £12,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan; this year we need to include a further £9,100 for the Plan. This will be the second and final year of this temporary increase for the Neighbourhood Plan. As a result, the amount of your overall council tax which goes to the Parish Council will be less than last year, even after taking into account increases in other costs that we need to meet.

30 mph Speed Limit extension

We are pleased to let you know that, following a request by FPC for the speed limits along Valley Road to be reviewed against the latest Department for Transport guidelines, it has been agreed that the current 30 mph speed limit can be extended. It will now continue northwards past Speedgate Hill, past the school and village hall and end close to the property called Crispins. We are also pleased to say that the cost of this will be met from Fawkham Parish Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund (rather than from the precept/council tax).

Please visit our website to find out more: <https://fawkhampc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/> and to keep up to date with progress.

You can email us at fawkhampc@gmail.com or send us a letter addressed to The Clerk, 6 Small Grains, Fawkham, DA3 8NT.

Fawkham Parish Council