

WELCOME

Welcome to the Fawkham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Exhibition

Thank you for coming along. We have been talking to residents and businesses in the Parish since 2019, asking what they think about Fawkham Parish now and how they would like to see it in the future. This has helped us put together a draft Neighbourhood Plan for Fawkham Parish - and we would now like to know what you think.

This event is being held to:

- Let you know about neighbourhood planning and what it can do
- Share some key information about our Parish which influences what can be done in the Neighbourhood Plan
- Bring you up to date on the work we have been doing, which is based on what residents told us in the Parish survey in 2019 and on engagement activities since then
- Ask you what you think of the policies we have prepared so far that will go in the Plan to be used when planning applications come forward
- Find out if you have other ideas and proposals to include
- Ask whether you want to join us in developing it further.

How it works:

- Please take a questionnaire and review each of the display boards - there is a lot of information to look at!
- Look out for people with name badges to help with any questions
- **Please return your completed questionnaire before you leave**
- Free refreshments are available while you complete your questionnaire.

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

It is a **new type of planning document for Fawkham** and is produced by the Parish. It is part of the Government's approach to planning which aims to give local people more say about what goes on in their area.

If passed at a local referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted by Sevenoaks District Council and must be **used to determine planning applications in the Parish**. It will become part of the Development Plan alongside SDC's Local Plan, which looks at the District as a whole.

The Plan therefore provides the local community with a powerful tool to guide the long term future of Fawkham Parish.

The Plan **contains a vision for the future** of the Parish and sets out **clear planning policies** to realise this vision. These policies include **protecting the landscape**, with its woodland, open fields, ecological biodiversity and panoramic **views**; maintaining our **community facilities** and **local economy**; protecting our **heritage** and **meeting the very small need for housing** originating from the Parish.

What area does the Plan cover?

The designated area is Fawkham Parish, as shown in Figure 1.

What time period does the Plan cover?

It covers 2023 - 2040, which coincides with SDC's emerging Local Plan.

How has it been put together?

Fawkham Parish Council set up a Steering Group of Parish Councillors and local residents to develop the Neighbourhood Plan. The Draft Plan has been **shaped by the views of residents** and brings together results of our community engagement workshops and surveys, and evidence gathered by our volunteer Steering Group. We have been supported in this by a professional planning consultant.

How has the community been involved?

During development of the Plan, we have engaged with the people of Fawkham Parish and others with an interest in the area. To date, this has included:

- A survey sent to all households in 2019
- A workshop in July 2022 looking at what is important to residents and how they wish to see the Parish in the future
- A workshop seeking input to the report on the local landscape in spring 2022
- A business survey sent to all houses and all businesses in spring 2022
- A survey seeking views on the countryside in autumn 2021
- A survey for children at Fawkham School in autumn 2021
- A picnic at Small Grains looking at site-specific issues in 2021
- Stalls at the church fetes in 2021, 2022 and 2023

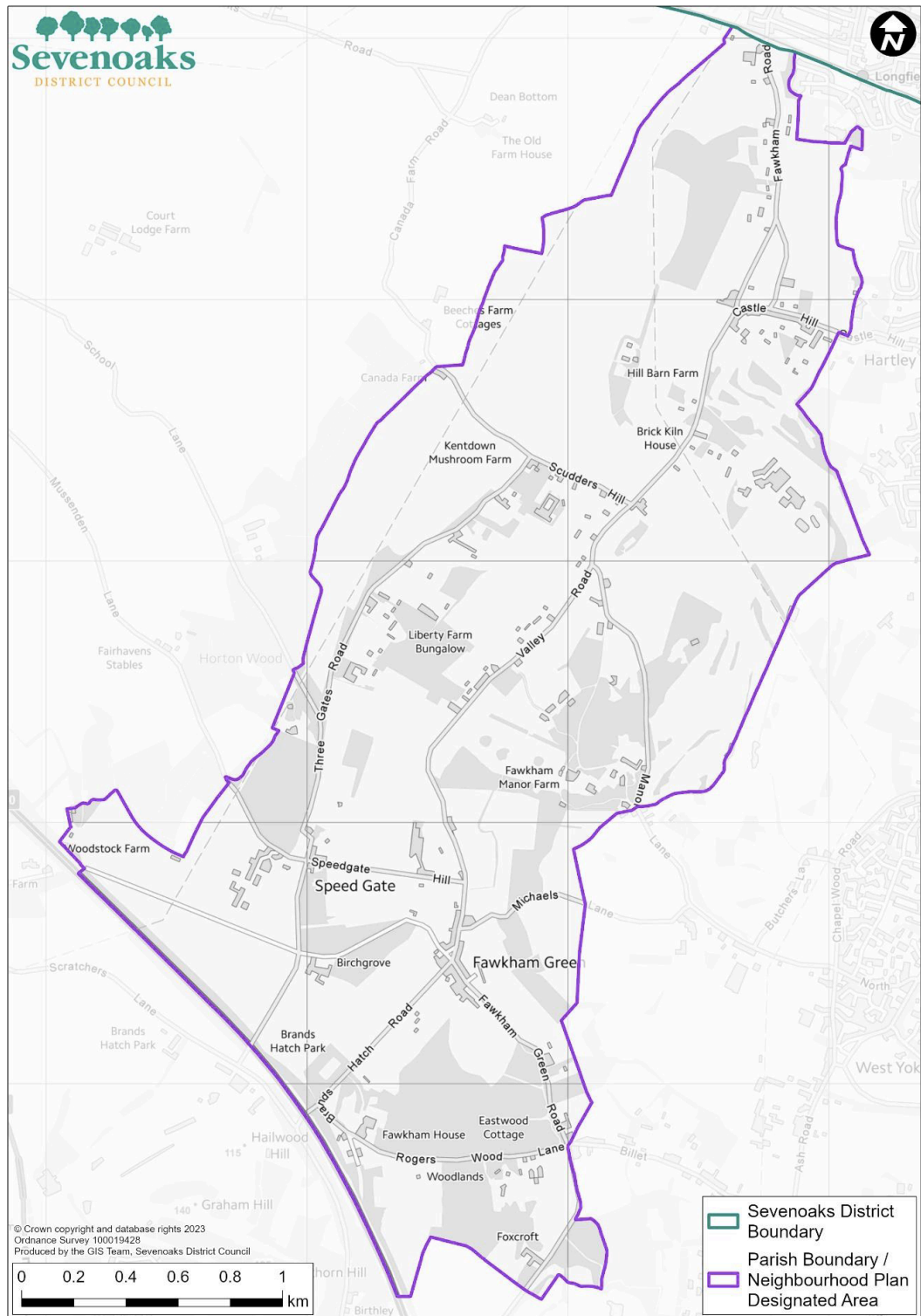


Figure 1: Fawkham Neighbourhood Plan Area

The Neighbourhood Plan Process and Indicative Timeline:



We are now at this point in the process - where we are testing proposals and seeking your feedback through this consultation

VISION FOR FAWKHAM

A residents' workshop was held on 7/7/2022 to **draw on local knowledge** and help **develop a deeper understanding** of what is important to residents and how they wish to see the Parish in the future. From this workshop, as well as the other research we undertook, including the parish survey of 2019, we have prepared a draft vision for Fawkham. It guides the approach taken in the Neighbourhood Plan over the next 17 years. We are keen to test whether this vision is still appropriate.

We recognise that the Parish has evolved throughout its long history to meet changing needs, and understand there continues to be a need to evolve. But we also recognise the distinctiveness provided by the landscape, heritage and character - assets that should be protected to ensure Fawkham's sense of place in the Green Belt in the North Downs area of Kent.

Vision:

Our vision is for Fawkham Parish to retain and enhance the distinctive rural character of the landscape (particularly its woodland, biodiversity and views), the separate, small scale, scattered hamlet of Fawkham and the historic Baldwins Green Conservation Area and its setting, whilst meeting the limited local housing need, sustaining the local economy and retaining and enhancing the open space and community facilities of the Parish.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with the vision, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 1).

OBJECTIVES

These objectives set out how the vision will be realised:

Environment:

1. To protect and enhance the landscape qualities within the Parish
2. To conserve and enhance woodland, trees and hedgerows
3. To protect important public views
4. To retain the character of rural lanes
5. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and connectivity between habitats
6. To protect groundwater sources and mitigate the risk of increased surface water flooding
7. To ensure sustainable on-site soil management associated with development proposals
8. To preserve and enhance the heritage of the area.

Housing:

9. To facilitate local people staying in the Parish through existing and future windfall planning permissions, supporting the adaptation and proportionate additions to existing homes and, where justified, enabling a limited supply of affordable housing which meets the needs of the Parish within the identified policy and environmental constraints.

Local Economy:

10. To maintain a thriving rural economy by retaining and enabling the regeneration of well located existing business sites.

Leisure and Wellbeing:

11. To promote wellbeing and healthy living
12. To protect and enhance open space and the network of footpaths serving the Parish
13. To maintain community meeting places to serve the Parish.

Local Infrastructure:

14. To ensure sufficient infrastructure is provided in a timely manner, appropriate to the scale of new development.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with the objectives, or have suggestions as to how they should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 2).