

We are busy with a Neighbourhood Plan

to help protect Crookham Village parish from uncontrolled development

What’s this about?

The Localism Act (2011) was introduced to give more power to communities to make their own decisions about things that affect them and are important to them. In 1961 Crookham Village Parish totalled 164 dwellings, today we have about 1,700 dwellings, which means 90% of people in the Parish live in houses built in the last 50 years.

We can’t stop development but we can make sure it is appropriate to our community!

Hart needs to find space for over 7,000 houses across the District, so it’s vital that our community has a say over what our share looks like. We can do this by creating a Neighbourhood Plan that will state how we’d prefer our surroundings to evolve.

We need to do this as a community, so all our opinions count and will be gathered through public consultation at all the relevant stages of the process detailed here.

Once this is done, and the process is complete, our Plan will be subject to an examination followed by a local referendum after which it will have ‘statutory status’. What this means is that every time a planning application is submitted to Hart DC, it will be assessed against the Hart Local Plan AND our Neighbourhood Plan, so it is really important that Crookham Village Parish has one of these.

How does this affect me?

If you choose not to participate and have your say, you are missing the opportunity to have your voice heard and be taken into account.

What do I need to do?

Please read the leaflet detailing the Vision and Objectives consultation and contribute. We need to know if you agree, and if you don’t, we need to know what you think instead. Your engagement now will give our Neighbourhood Plan a very strong start.

What’s the rush?

We want to get our Plan in place soonest, to give us influence over the levels of development we’re facing.

Can we speed up the Plan?

We can’t speed up the set process, BUT if we all participate and make sure that we have a strong Plan, we stand a better chance of getting it through ‘examination’ first time. This is why it is vital that your household provides input to the consultations.

Timeline estimate

If all ‘goes to Plan’, this is how long it should take:

Consultation on draft Vision & Objectives	Mid Oct 2015
Identify policies we want	Late Oct
Collect evidence	Nov - Mid Feb
Public consultation on draft policies	Late Feb
Write Neighbourhood Plan	Mar - Apr
Final draft plan	Late May
Statutory consultation (6 weeks)	Jun - Mid Jul
Final tweaks	Late Jul
Finalise submission plan and release to Hart DC	Aug 2016

So when will the Plan be complete?

Following final submission, Hart will arrange for examination by an independent inspector, according to the legal requirements. Once the inspector signs our Plan off, we will hold a local referendum. If more than 50% of voters say YES, then 6 weeks after this, our Plan is ‘made’, which means it is active and will be used to help determine planning applications. Phew!

Have we got it about right?

Here are our draft Vision and Objectives, based on your previous feedback. These are not yet fixed and we **welcome your input and suggestions**, to help make them stronger and account for all of our community.

Draft Vision

‘Over the Plan period until 2032, Crookham Village Parish will continue to be a thriving community, able to meet the housing, social and infrastructure needs of its mixed rural village and contemporary communities – while protecting its green spaces, rural environment and historic character for future generations.’

Draft Objectives

The 6 Objectives suggested by our community are:

1. Housing

- Provide for a minimum of (figure to be confirmed) new dwellings between 2016 and 2032 in accordance with Hart District Council’s draft Local Plan, whilst ensuring that the overall quantity of development does not put an unacceptable strain on local infrastructure capacity.
- Provide housing on small scale sites (up to approx. 50 dwellings per site) that will accommodate the levels of growth proposed. Encourage developments designed sympathetically to the surroundings, with a mix of dwellings to support the needs of our local people, addressing requirements of first time buyers and the ageing community. Development within the ‘old village’ boundaries should be designed in harmony with the historic character of Crookham Village. Seek opportunities for rural exception schemes.
- Maintain the existing strategic gap between Fleet and Crookham Village, and anywhere else that urban sprawl is likely, in order to prevent coalescence.
- Protect the rural setting and historic character of Crookham Village.
- Ensure that new housing developments prioritise brownfield sites where possible.

2. Education

- Support any proposal for educational facilities within or adjacent to the Parish.
- Work to integrate St Nicholas’ School (as our biggest local employer) more closely into the Parish.

3. The Environment

- Maintain the Parish conservation areas, listed buildings and their settings.

- Protect the existing quality of landscape, encourage local biodiversity and maintain existing green spaces.
- Establish more community woodland for sustainable use of resources.
- Protect identified agricultural land for food production, including allotments.
- Minimise the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding

4. The Local Economy

- Protect existing commercial premises from change of use where existing businesses are of demonstrable benefit to the community
- Encourage the availability of high speed broadband throughout the Parish
- Seek space for a ‘Business Hub’ to support home working

5. Transport and Movement

- Minimise the impact of heavy traffic movement through Crookham Village, to preserve the character of The Street and the single file Malthouse Bridge, by seeking to avoid new developments adding traffic to a road that is already near capacity.
- Encourage the use of public transport and support and encourage bus service provision
- Plan to avoid the use of narrow housing estate roads as ‘rat runs’.
- Promote and maintain the current network of cycle paths, footways and public footpaths.

6. Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

- There is currently one dentist’s surgery, but no medical or pharmaceutical facilities within the parish. Encourage any such provision.
- Continue to support the current Zebon Copse Centre community hall and support additional facilities in the village, such as WI Hall and Social Club.
- Diversify leisure provision for the benefit of older children and adults.

Is this OK, does it define what we need to do, or are we missing something? Please agree, edit or suggest better ideas and respond to us by 11 October.

We need your family’s input

for the Crookham Village parish Neighbourhood Plan

Look out!

We are sending each household in the parish a leaflet to help you respond to the consultation. It might be with this newsletter.

When it arrives, please read it and use the form to enter your feedback to our draft Vision and Objectives. We need to hear from you, even if you just agree. The leaflet explains convenient ways to contact us.

If you don’t get one, or need more copies, please let us know. You can also download it as a PDF, so that you can swipe text.

Four easy ways to respond

Tell us what you think about the Vision & Objectives by 11 October.

Meet us at either of the Drop-In events on:

- Saturday **10 October** 3 - 5pm Zebon Copse Centre, or
 - Sunday **11 October** 2 - 4pm W.I. Hut, Crookham Village
- We will have leaflets there for you to make and leave your comments.

Use your leaflet and deliver your comments to staff at:

- Crookham Village Stores, The Street, Crookham Village, or
- The SPAR store, 25 Frenchman’s Creek, Zebon Copse

Complete our online ‘V&O’ survey at:

- www.surveymonkey.com/r/plan4crookhamvando

Email your comments to us at:

- choices@plan4crookham.org

The Neighbourhood Plan team needs to hear from all parts of the community about how they think Crookham Village should develop.



Don’t forget!

Please respond to us by **Sunday 11 October**

Please help!

The team needs volunteers, young and old, to do their bit to help finish the Plan.

Ideas, editing, leaflet drops, all assistance welcome.

So please offer your help at the ‘drop in’ event, or email **choices@plan4crookham.org**



Your choices, Your plan