

Services and Facilities: Local facilities and services are valued by residents. The Neighbourhood Plan resists the loss of the Village Hall; the Recreation Ground; the allotments; The Golden Boar Public House; and St Andrew's Church.

The Plan also supports using redundant farm buildings for employment uses where there wouldn't be unacceptable impacts on matters such as highways, the landscape and nearby residents.



Highways and Travel:

The need for improved road safety, better pedestrian access and for traffic calming is of great importance to residents. Most road improvements do not need planning permission and so can't be covered in the Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan does contain "community aspirations" to:

- Seek traffic calming and speed reduction measures
- Provide improved footways, initially on Mildenhall Road
- Work with landowners to provide additional recreational paths
- Work with the County Council to support improved public transport for the village

HOW TO COMMENT

The full version of the Plan will be available to download at <https://freckenham.suffolk.cloud/> from Friday 20 October, where an online comments form will also be available to complete.

If you don't have access to the internet, a paper copy of the Plan can be borrowed for a short period by contacting Sue Cornell on 01638 720360.

Drop-in Event

We'll be at the Village Hall on Friday 20 October 15.30 - 18.30 and Saturday 21 October 9.00 - 12.00 where you'll be able to find out more about the Plan and talk to members of the Working Group.

How to comment

During the consultation period the Neighbourhood Plan website <https://freckenham.suffolk.cloud/> will have an online survey form which you can complete.

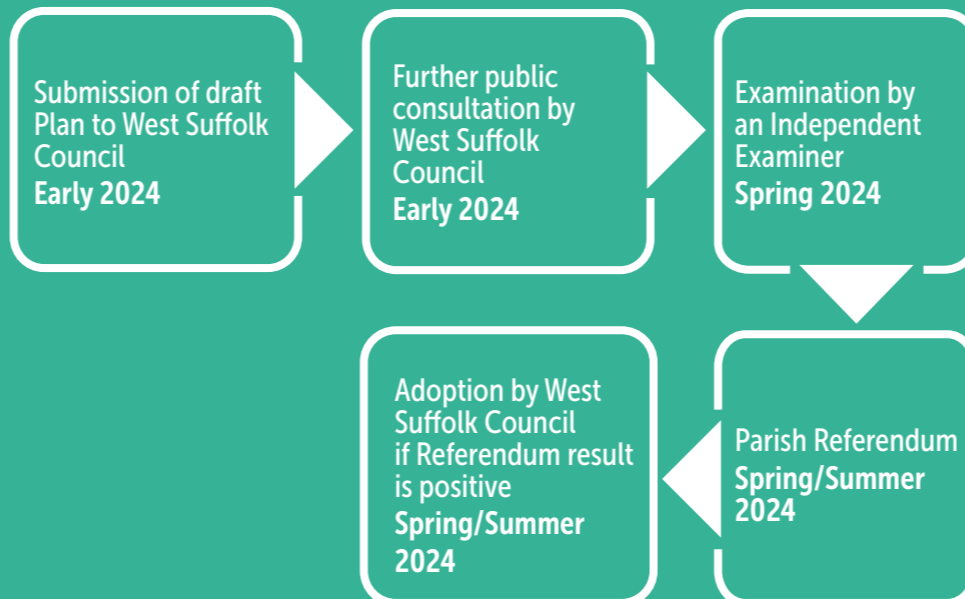
You can also collect a paper response form at the Drop-in Event or from Sue Cornell by phoning 01638 720360. The forms explain how you can submit them.

Please complete the online survey form if at all possible. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group will be at the Farmers Market on 28 October with laptops to provide assistance. If you have mobility issues and are unable to come to the Hall, assistance can be provided at home. We'll also be popping in to Meet-up Mondays at the Village Hall.

We want your comments, even if you support everything in the Plan. COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY 4 DECEMBER - WE CANNOT ACCEPT COMMENTS AFTER THIS TIME

What next

Following this round of consultation, the Plan will have to complete the following stages



A Neighbourhood Plan for Freckenham

Your chance to comment on the Draft Plan

Consultation Drop-in Events

Friday 20 October 15.30 - 18.30
Saturday 21 October 9.00 - 12.00

We need your comments by Monday 4 December

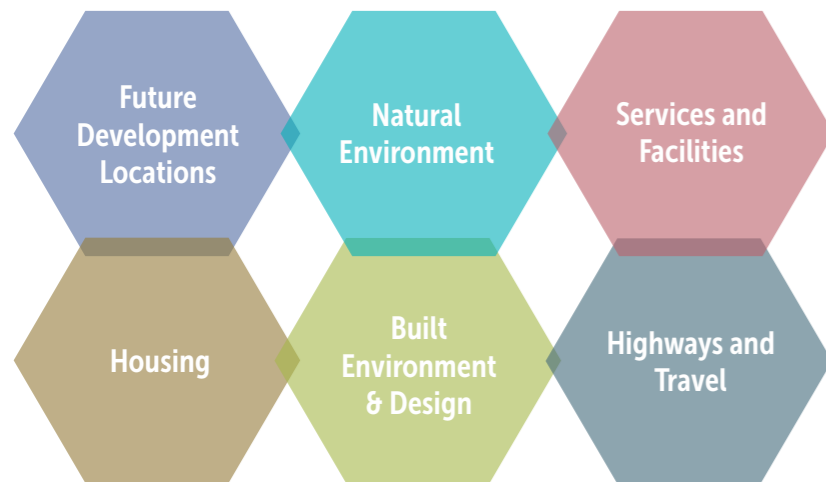


Freckenham Parish Council

You are probably aware that the Parish Council has been preparing a neighbourhood plan for Freckenham.

A neighbourhood plan is a community-led plan for guiding; future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. Once complete they become part of the legal planning framework for the area, sitting alongside the West Suffolk Local Plan and used when planning applications are decided.

There is a desire to focus on Freckenham's natural and historic environment and the Neighbourhood Plan covers the following key themes:



Each theme is supported by planning policies that will be used in determining planning applications. In addition, it contains "community aspirations" addressing non-planning concerns that were raised when we consulted you during the preparation of the Plan.

We've now reached a major milestone and are consulting on the Plan between **Friday 20 October - Monday 4 December**, a period of **just over 6 weeks**. It's your chance to say whether or not you support the content of the Plan or would like to see some changes.

The final page of this leaflet explains how you can comment.

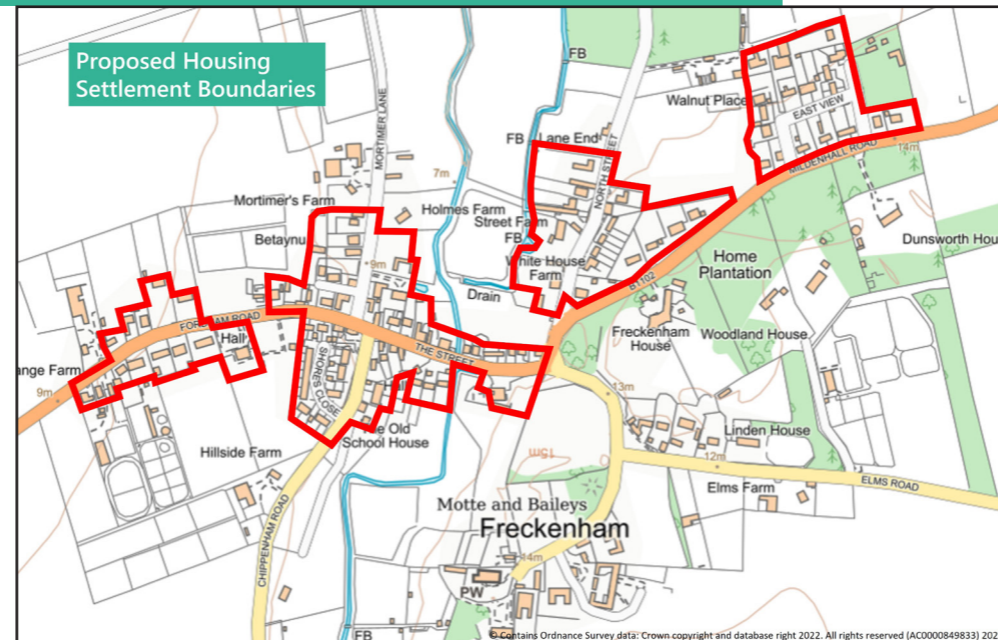
It is important that you use this opportunity to have your say, even if you're fully supportive of the Plan.

Later, when the Plan is complete, residents of the Parish that are on the Register of Electors will be given an opportunity to vote whether the Plan should be used by West Suffolk Council when deciding planning applications.

We must emphasise that West Suffolk's Local Plan will deal with the classification of the village in the district's settlement hierarchy and the location of any new site for housing development that they might wish to make. The village classification cannot be made in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Council objected to the proposed classification when West Suffolk Council consulted on their Local Plan in 2022. The Parish Council also objected to the site for housing that they proposed and this is explained in the Neighbourhood Plan. Residents and the Parish Council will be able have a further say when West Suffolk Council consults on their draft Local Plan early in the new year.

The Plan starts with a Vision:

In 2040 Freckenham will remain an attractive and friendly village where sustainable development both protects and enhances the natural and historic environment of the parish, services and facilities will meet the day to day needs of the community.



Development Location: The Plan does not allocate new sites for development.

It designates Housing Settlement Boundaries that are based on West Suffolk's Local Plan but brought up-to-date to reflect recent planning permissions.

- Proposals for development within these areas will be supported where they do not have a detrimental impact on residential amenity, the natural and historic environment, infrastructure and highways.
- Outside the Housing Settlement Boundaries, priority will be given to protecting and enhancing the countryside from inappropriate development.

Housing: There may be opportunities for infill housing plots within the Housing Settlement Boundaries.

- The Plan prepares for the eventuality that the new West Suffolk Local Plan may allocate a site for development and contains a policy that sets out local requirements for any such proposal, including traffic calming, providing pedestrian links to the village centre and landscaping to screen the development.
- All new homes should achieve internal spaces in accordance with national space standards, supports new homes being designed to be adaptable for everyone's needs standards and requires ducting for superfast broadband and electric vehicle charging points.
- Best practice in energy conservation in new homes will be supported.

Natural Environment: The parish is rich in wildlife habitats and the landscape is typical of the border of the Brecks and Fens transition area. A Landscape Appraisal has been prepared and provides guidance for considering how development proposals will limit the impact on the landscape.

- A number of important views have been identified into and out of the built-up area of the village, the key elements of which must be preserved.
- Trees, hedgerows and other natural features are specifically mentioned for protection.
- Proposals that provide a measurable net gain in biodiversity are to be supported.

The draft Plan designates a number of "Local Green Spaces" which will be protected from development.

The designations are:

- Orchard off Church Lane
- Castle Mound, Church Lane
- The Old Cricket Ground
- Meadow rear of The Golden Boar
- Village Playing Field
- The Dell
- Parkland area between Mildenhall Road and North Street
- Paddock north of The Street
- Parish Allotments



Built Environment & Design: Freckenham has 11 listed buildings as well as the castle mound scheduled monument and the centre of the village is a conservation area. West Suffolk Council has produced a Conservation Area Appraisal that has identified important built and natural features. These are referred to in the Plan.

Design Guidance for new development has been prepared for the village.

The Neighbourhood Plan

- sets out design criteria that planning applications will have to take into account.
- encourages development to incorporate current best practice in sustainable construction as well as measures to limit surface water flooding.
- seeks to limit unnecessary light pollution arising from new development.
- seeks to exceed standards for car parking in developments, recognising higher than average car ownership levels in Freckenham.