



# WELCOME



## The story so far:

- The Parish Council has been preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.
- We have now reached a major milestone and are commencing consultation on the Draft Plan.
- Consultation lasts until **Monday 2 March**, a period of 6 weeks.
- This exhibition provides a brief summary of the Plan, illustrating the planning policies and proposed community aspiration that are contained in the Plan.

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a planning document designed to allow local people to play an active part in planning the future of their area.

When complete, the Plan will form part of the statutory "development plan" for the area, meaning Babergh District Council and Planning Inspectors will have to take note of what it says when considering planning applications.

The Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside national and local planning policies when decisions are made on planning applications



Over the next 6 weeks you have an opportunity to read the Plan and submit your comments.



**WE NEED YOUR VIEWS BY MONDAY 2 MARCH**

**Why not comment as you go round by accessing the comments form from your mobile phone using the QR code?**



# PLAN PREPARATION PROCESS



There are several stages that must be completed, as illustrated. These stages are governed by the regulations for preparing neighbourhood plans and so there is no short cut.

**WE'RE HERE**





# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS...



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What can a neighbourhood plan cover?**

Although Plans have to focus on planning matters (things that needs planning permission) they can include non-planning topics to address areas of concern or ambitions of the community.

### **How are they used?**

When a planning application is decided, the District Council starts with looking at what the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan says about how proposals should be considered.

Likewise, if a planning application is refused and the applicant appeals the decision, Government Planning Inspectors must take the same approach

### **What about the current proposals to reorganise local government in Suffolk**

Neighbourhood and Local Plans are prepared outside the structure of local government. Regardless of what happens with the District Council, the new authority will have to use the Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions on planning applications.

### **What if we don't prepare a Plan?**

Planning decisions will continue to be made by the District Council without having locally based evidence and policies to inform the decision.

For example, they do not have locally specific design guidance for new development or identified important views that could be harmed by development.

### **Who else has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan?**

Locally, Neighbourhood Plans have been, or are being, prepared in the following settlements:

- Lawshall
- Hartest
- Lavenham
- Hadleigh
- Long Melford
- Acton
- Great Waldingfield
- Little Waldingfield
- Glemsford
- Stanstead





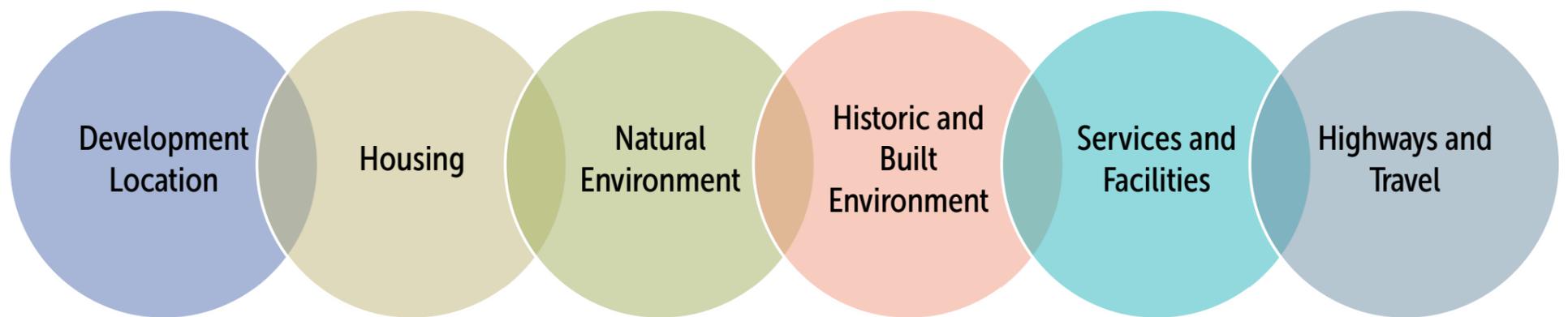
# THE PLAN



## Plan Contents

The Plan itself runs to 68 pages and is necessarily quite complex in places. This is because it will be used by the District Council and Government Planning Inspectors to decide whether planning applications should be approved.

Based on the issues identified during the initial stages of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, the following themes have been identified.



### The Plan contains:

#### Planning Policies

These will be used to supplement the Local Plan when decisions on planning applications are made.

Planning policies can only cover matters that would require planning permission, so they can't, for example, tackle speeding.

#### Policies Maps

These illustrate areas of land or buildings where policies in the Plan apply.

#### Community Actions

Local initiatives to address non-planning matters and concerns, primarily raised in the Residents' Survey.



Neighbourhood Plans cannot contradict the main government planning policies or the strategic policies in the Local Plan for the area.

For example, they cannot propose less development than is planned in the Local Plan.



# VISION AND OBJECTIVES



## Neighbourhood Plan Vision

In 2037 Shimpling will remain a discrete small village, notable for its rural location, its significant past and its strong sense of community. Existing facilities will have been retained and enhanced and opportunities for new facilities taken. Any new development will have been directed to within the Settlement Boundary where it can be supported by existing or improved infrastructure and does not have a detrimental impact on the vicinity and the unique natural and historic environment of the parish.

## The Vision translates into the following Objectives

### Development Location

1. The scale and location of new development will be in keeping with the rural setting of Shimpling.

### Housing

2. Shimpling's housing growth will be commensurate with the level of services and facilities in the village.
3. New housing will be tailored to meet the needs of local residents

### Natural Environment

4. The impact of development on the natural environment will be minimal and biodiversity levels will be improved
5. The rural setting of the village will be maintained.

### Historic and Built Environment

6. Recognise and protect the historic importance of buildings, features and character areas.
7. Maintain and enhance a strong rural identity and sense of place for the parish, through environmentally sustainable and sensitive small-scale development.
8. Ensure new development is designed to reflect local character and incorporates measures that reduces environmental impact.

### Services and Facilities

9. Retain existing facilities and encourage the provision of new services and facilities.

### Highways and Travel

10. Reduce the impact of through traffic in the village
11. Improve safety and routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

**DO YOU SUPPORT THE VISION AND OBJECTIVES?**



# DEVELOPMENT LOCATION



## Context

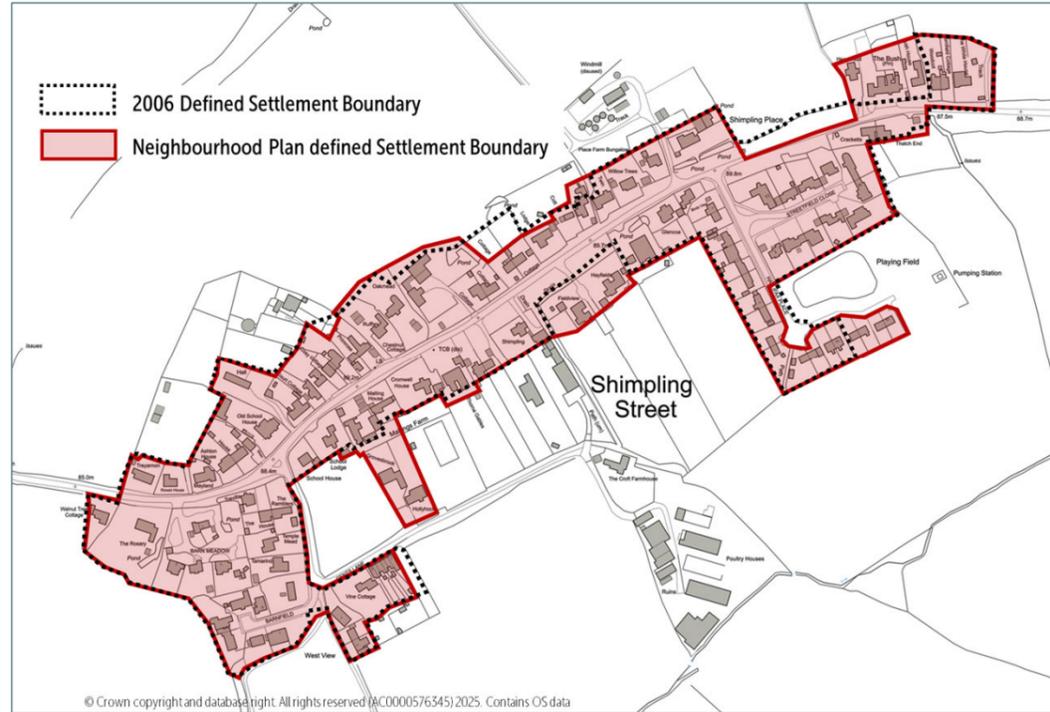
Settlement boundaries are a planning policy tool that help to manage the spread of towns and villages into the open countryside.

Where they are defined in a local or neighbourhood plan, the principle of development within them is supported while development proposals outside a settlement boundary is only supported in exceptional circumstances.

It is a planning designation only and has no administrative relevance. The boundary does not necessarily reflect land ownership or parish boundaries and may not align to the curtilage of dwellings.

The settlement boundary is used as a policy tool reflecting the area where a set or sub-set of plan policies are to be applied.

Settlement boundaries are reviewed every time a local plan or neighbourhood plan is prepared and are amended to include site allocations made in those plans that form an extension to the built-up area boundary.



The Settlement Boundary

- The current Settlement Boundary for Shimpling was originally defined in the 2006 Babergh Local Plan as illustrated on the Map.
- The Neighbourhood Plan has updated the Settlement Boundary to reflect what's happened since 2006 and to provide greater consistency
- In line with national and local planning policies, the Plan supports proposals for development within the Settlement Boundary subject to the consideration of the impact of the proposal as assessed against other policies in the Joint Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan, such as:
  - the rural setting of the village;
  - the capacity of services and infrastructure;
  - the potential impact on the amenity of existing residents; and
  - the impact of development on the wider area.
- Outside the Settlement Boundary, proposals for new buildings will have to be accompanied by a Landscape Visual Impact Appraisal and priority will be given to protecting the countryside from inappropriate development.
- The Local Plan provides for the consideration of "windfall" infill proposals of one or two dwellings within clusters of 10 or more dwellings outside settlement boundaries where specific criteria are met. Such opportunities might exist on a case-by-case basis at the group of houses at Little Chadacre, to the west of the village centre.
- Any proposals outside the settlement boundary should have particular regard to the landscape character, as described in the Shimpling Parish Landscape Appraisal 2025 prepared in support of the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Policy SPG 1 – Development Location

**The Neighbourhood Area will accommodate development commensurate with the policies of the adopted Local Plan. The focus for new development will be within the defined Settlement Boundary, as shown on the Policies Map, where the principle of development is accepted. Proposals for development located outside the Settlement Boundary will only be permitted where they are in accordance with national, district and neighbourhood level policies and where they would not have a detrimental impact on heritage and landscape designations.**



**DO YOU SUPPORT THE POLICY?**



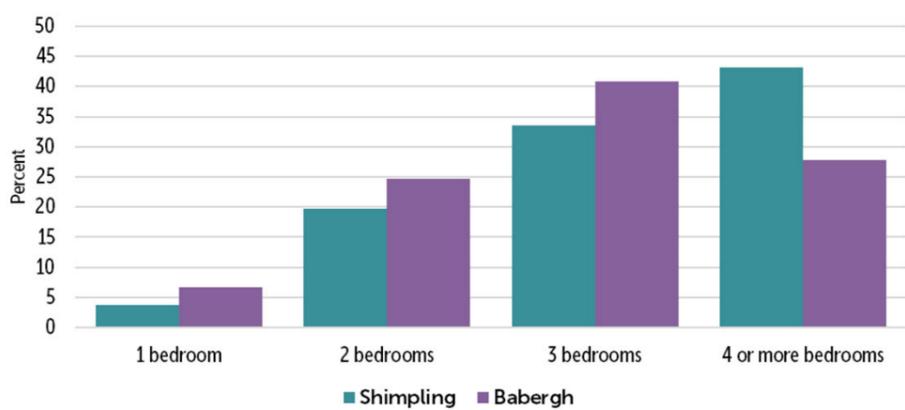
# HOUSING



## Context

- **The Neighbourhood Plan does not identify any new sites for housing**
- In the 20 years to the 2021 Census, an additional 29 dwellings had been completed in Shimpling, a 17% increase.
- In December 2024 the government announced a significant increase in the number of homes that need to be built across the country. For Babergh district, it means planning to increase the number of homes built a year from 416 to 775, an 86% increase.
- The implications of this level of growth on Shimpling have yet to be determined, but **the Parish Council will not support a significant increase in the level of housing growth over and above previous rates.**

**House Size Comparison**  
(2021 Census)



- Shimpling has a higher proportion of homes with four or more bedrooms when compared to Babergh district as a whole. By contrast, it has a lower proportion of two bedroomed homes.
- Although housing growth is expected to remain low, proposals for new housing are encouraged to bring forward smaller homes. Such proposals could provide an opportunity for first-time buyers or those existing residents wishing to downsize into smaller homes.
- New homes that are adaptable to accommodate the needs of the occupier over their lifetime will be supported.

## Replacement dwellings and conversions in the countryside

- Situations can arise where the replacement of an existing house is more economic than the cost of repairing or altering an existing building. Given the imbalance in the local housing sizes, it is considered essential that replacement dwellings do not result in a significant increase in the floorspace of the original dwelling.
- The replacement of small dwellings outside the Settlement Boundary with significantly larger houses can radically change the character of a site to one of a more suburban nature as well as reduce the supply of smaller dwellings in the village.

## Policy SPG 2 – Housing Development

Within the Settlement Boundary, as defined on the Policies Map, there is a general presumption in favour of housing development comprising small infill dwellings, where proposals:

- are within an existing frontage;
- would not result in backland development; and
- would not have a detrimental impact on the built and natural character of the site and its surroundings, the amenity of residents and infrastructure, including highways.

## Policy SPG 3 – Housing Mix

Housing development must contribute to meeting the existing and future needs of the Neighbourhood Area. Planning proposals will be supported where development provides 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings suitable to meet the needs of first time buyers as well as the needs of an ageing population looking to downsize into homes suitable for lifetime occupation. Where development is proposed on large plots, proposals that deliver two small dwellings rather than one larger dwelling will be supported.

*See next board for Policy SPG 4*

## Policy SPG 5 – Replacement Dwellings and Conversions outside the Settlement Boundary

Proposals for the replacement of existing dwellings outside the defined Settlement Boundary will be permitted where:

- the original dwelling has a lawful permanent residential use.
- the replacement dwelling would not have a more harmful impact, or be more intrusive in the landscape, or countryside setting, or on heritage assets and their settings, than the original dwelling, by virtue of its siting, scale, height, character and design and uses materials to achieve a high standard of design in response to the context;
- the replacement dwelling is positioned on or close to the footprint of the existing dwelling, unless design, landscape, highway safety, residential amenity or other environmental grounds indicate that a more appropriate location on the plot can be justified;
- the size of the replacement dwelling is not significantly larger than the original dwelling, irrespective of any outbuildings demolished on the site, and is appropriate to the countryside setting; and
- the site has or is capable of having a safe and suitable access and the provision of parking spaces will meet adopted standards; and
- the development includes an acceptable landscape scheme to retain and improve the rural nature of the locality.

Applications for a replacement dwelling outside the Settlement Boundary would be expected to provide a detailed analysis of the visual impacts of the new dwelling on the landscape or countryside setting.

Proposals for conversion of buildings to residential must demonstrate the structure is capable of accommodating the use and the development would reuse redundant or disused buildings and enhance its immediate setting.

Increases in plot size to form additional garden, parking or amenity land will not be permitted.

**DO YOU SUPPORT THESE POLICIES?**



# HOUSING



## Affordable Housing

- Government affordability figures indicate that, in Babergh, average house prices are more than 10 times the average household income.
- It means many newly-formed households are excluded from the housing market.
- The Local Plan requires the provision of 35% of housing on development sites of 10 homes or more to be affordable, but such opportunities are unlikely to arise in Shimpling.
- One mechanism for meeting locally identified housing needs is through “exception sites” located outside but adjoining Settlement Boundaries where housing would not normally be permitted.
- To deliver affordable housing through the “exception sites” approach, the following would be required:
  - A need is established;
  - A willing landowner prepared to sell land at a price significantly below the market value for housing land; and
  - A registered social landlord (housing association/ registered provider) or a community-led development organisation such as a Community Land Trust willing to work with the Parish Council and District Council to fund and manage a scheme.

### Policy SPG 4 - Affordable Housing on Exception Sites

Proposals for the development of small-scale affordable housing schemes, including community led developments (as defined by the NPPF) on exception sites outside but well connected to the settlement boundary, where housing would not normally be permitted by other policies, will be supported where there is a proven local need and provided that the housing:

- remains affordable in perpetuity; and
- is for people that are in housing need because they are unable to buy or rent properties in the village at open market prices; and
- is offered, in the first instance, to people with a demonstrated local connection, as defined by the Babergh District Council Choice Based Lettings Scheme. Where a property cannot be filled from within the Parish, it should then be offered to those with a demonstrated need for affordable housing in neighbouring villages and thereafter to the rest of Babergh District

These restrictions should be delivered through a legal agreement attached to the planning consent for the housing.

Applications for such development will be considered in relation to the appearance and character of the surrounding area, the potential impact on residential amenity and highway safety.

To be acceptable, proposals should demonstrate that a local need exists which cannot otherwise be met by applying normal planning policy for the provision of affordable homes in association with market housing.

Any application for affordable housing in respect of this policy should be accompanied by a detailed need assessment, and the accommodation proposed should contribute to meeting this proven need.

In exceptional circumstances, a small number of market homes will be permitted where it can be demonstrated:

- that no other means of funding the construction of the affordable homes is available; and
- the market housing is subsidiary to the affordable housing element of the proposal and the amount of market housing required is, as demonstrated through a viability assessment, the minimum required to deliver the affordable housing.

Where sites for affordable housing in the countryside are brought forward with an element of market housing, both housing tenures should be built to the same design standards and contribute towards the character of the area.



**DO YOU SUPPORT THE POLICY?**



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



## Context

- There are two Sites of Special Scientific (SSSI) Interest wholly within the parish, Aveley Wood and Hospital Grove and two additional sites which cross the parish boundary, namely Frithy and Chadacre Woods SSSI and Bavins and Ashen Wood. In addition, there are a number of “priority habitats” defined as specific, threatened ecosystems which are crucial for biodiversity.
- National planning policy requires planning policies to conserve and enhance the natural environment, whether this be designated sites or more generally recognition of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.
- New national regulations now require specified developments to provide a 10% net gain in biodiversity on sites.

## Landscape

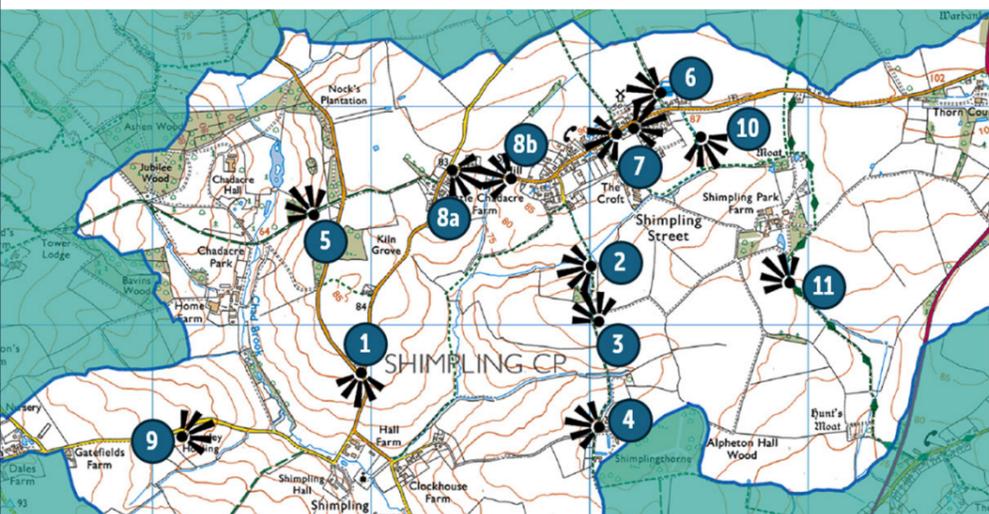
- The Parish Council commissioned a Landscape Appraisal to support the Plan.
- It identified distinct landscape “character areas” across the parish.
- The Plan seeks to conserve and enhance the landscape character of the parish.

## Area of Local Landscape Value

- Much of the parish has previously been designated as a “Special Landscape Area” in previous planning policy documents but this was removed from the most recent local plan due to changes in national planning policy.
- The Landscape Appraisal reviewed the landscape quality in detail and proposes the designation of an “Area of Local Landscape Value” as illustrated on the map.
- Any proposals in the area will have to harmonise with the landscape and protect or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area.

## Important Views

- The nature of the landscape is such that there are opportunities for extensive views from many publicly accessible points.
- The Landscape Appraisal reviewed views put forward by residents in the household survey and defines the most significant, as illustrated on the map.

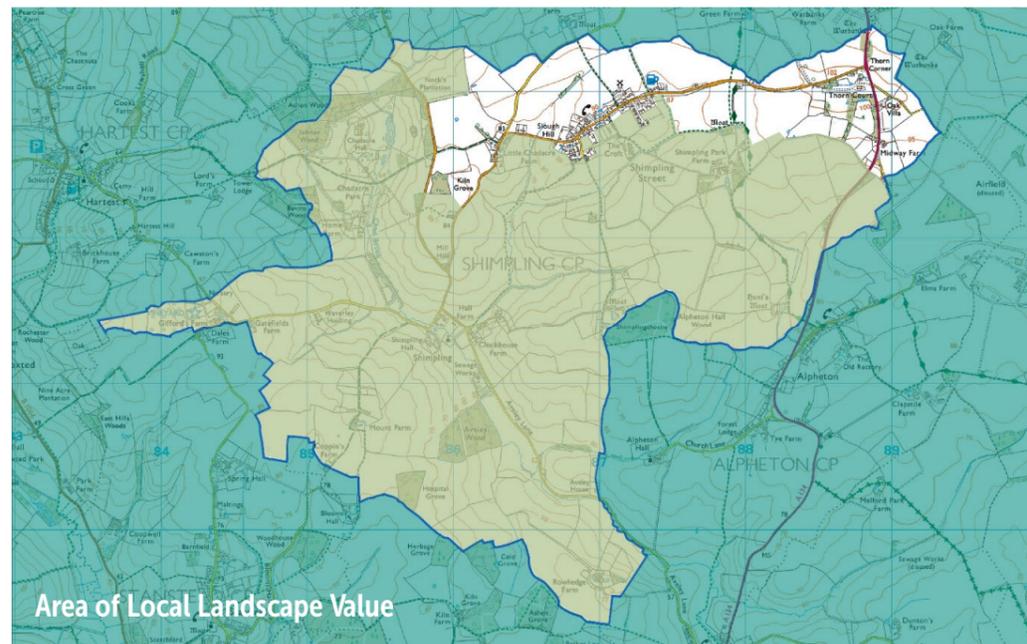


## Policy SPG 6 - Protecting Landscape Character

To conserve the essential landscape, heritage and rural character of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, development proposals shall, proportionate to the proposal demonstrate:

- how the landscape characteristics of the site and its vicinity have informed the design of the proposal; and
- how the proposal has regard to, conserves and enhances, the rural and landscape character and the setting of the built-up areas of the parish, having regard to the Shimpling Parish Landscape Appraisal (2025) and the Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Landscape Guidance (2015) or any successor documents.

Proposals for new buildings outside the Settlement Boundaries will be required to be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, or other appropriate and proportionate evidence, that demonstrates how the proposal can be accommodated in the countryside without having a significant adverse impact, by reason of the buildings scale, materials and location, on the character and appearance of the countryside and its distinction from the built-up area.



## Policy SPG 7 – Area of Local Landscape Value

Development proposals in the Shimpling Area of Local Landscape Value, as identified on the Policies Map, will be permitted only where they:

- protect or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area, identified in the Landscape Character Assessment; and
- are designed and sited so as to harmonise with the landscape setting.

## Policy SPG 8 - Important Views

Important views from public vantage points, either within the built-up area or into or out of the surrounding countryside, are identified on the Policies Map. Any proposed development should not have a detrimental visual impact on the key landscape and built development features of those views as identified in the Shimpling Parish Landscape Appraisal (2025).

Proposals for new buildings outside the Settlement Boundaries will be required to be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or other appropriate and proportionate evidence that demonstrates how the proposal can be accommodated without having a significant adverse impact, by reason of the buildings scale, materials and location, on the key features of the views.

**DO YOU SUPPORT THESE POLICIES?**



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



## Biodiversity

- In addition to the national requirements for 10% biodiversity net gain to be provided by qualifying developments, there are other relatively small features that can often achieve important benefits for wildlife.
- New development will be encouraged to incorporate 'swift bricks', bat boxes and safe routes for hedgehogs where feasible.
- It was clear from the household survey that residents support the improvement of habitats and wildlife and the Parish Council will seek to work with farmers to achieve this.



## Green Spaces

- National planning policy enables the designation and protection of land of particular importance to local communities as Local Green Spaces ('LGS') in neighbourhood plans.
- Such designations rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.
- The Plan identifies four sites that meet the national criteria, as illustrated on the map.



## Policy SPG 9 – Biodiversity and Habitats

Development proposals should avoid the loss of, or significant harm to, priority habitats.

Where such losses or harm are unavoidable, adequate mitigation measures or, as a last resort, compensation measures will be sought. If suitable mitigation or compensation measures cannot be provided, then planning permission should be refused.

Where new access is created, or an existing access is widened through an existing hedgerow, a new hedgerow of native species shall be planted on the splay returns into the site to maintain the appearance and continuity of hedgerows in the vicinity.

Otherwise acceptable development proposals will only be supported where they provide a measurable net gain in biodiversity through, for example:

- the creation of new natural habitats including ponds, hedgerows and natural boundary treatments;
- the planting of additional native trees and hedgerows of local provenance (reflecting the character of Baylham's ancient woodland and hedgerows); and
- restoring and repairing fragmented biodiversity networks.

In addition to the statutory requirements, development will be supported where it incorporates provision within dwellings for measures including swift bricks, bat boxes and holes in fences which allow access for hedgehogs.

## Community Action 1 - Improving Wildlife

The Parish Council will seek to work with farmers in their work to improve wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

## Policy SPG 10 – Local Green Spaces

The following Local Green Spaces are designated in this Plan and identified on the Policies Map:

- Hallifax Place Playing Field,
- Green between Shimpling Place and The Bush PH,
- Green at The Coalhouse, and
- Green between Shimpling House and Hayfields.

## Community Action 2 – Maintaining Public Spaces

The Parish Council will seek to ensure any "public spaces" are well maintained and enhanced where possible (e.g. installation of benches, planting native wildflowers and trees, if appropriate).



**DO YOU SUPPORT THESE POLICIES AND COMMUNITY ACTIONS?**



# HISTORIC AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



## Context

- Shimpling developed around some of the medieval manors, such as Chadacre Hall, Shimplingthorn, and Shimpling and Gifford's Halls. This has resulted in a dispersed settlement pattern. The church and hall at Shimpling Hall were two of the earliest buildings and these remain today. There are 21 listed buildings in the parish, most of which are clustered along The Street.

## Special Character Area

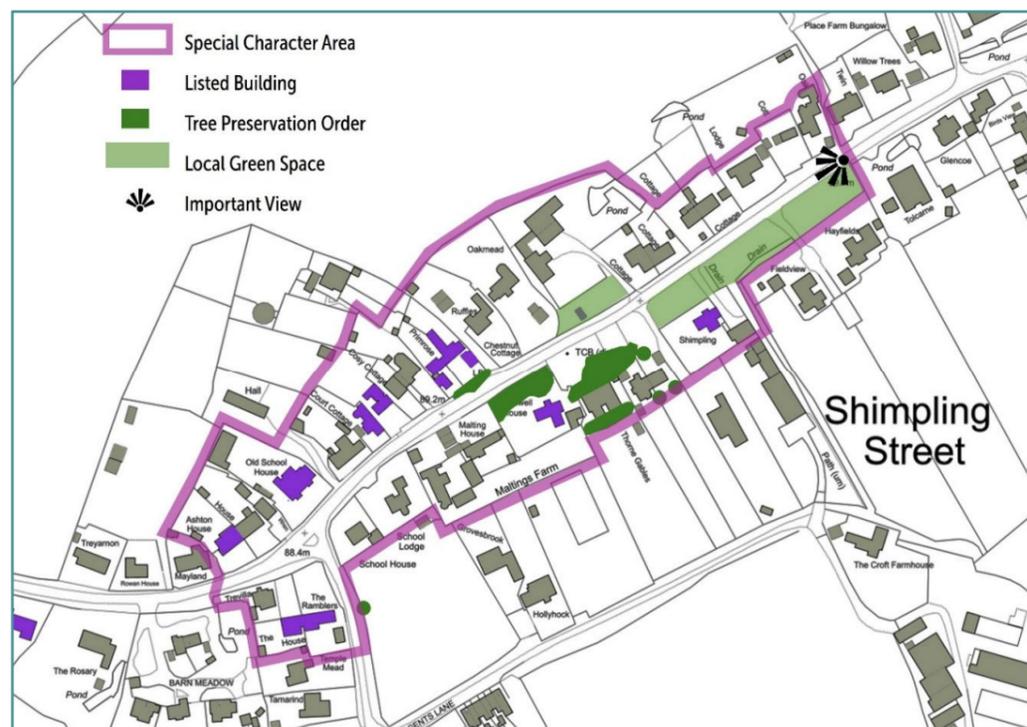
- Although there is no designated conservation area, the area along The Street west of Shimpling Place contains a high concentration of listed buildings plus some trees protected by preservation orders and two Local Green Spaces
- In the light of these special qualities, the Neighbourhood Plan designates the areas, as identified on the map, as a Special Character Area.
- **The designation does not have a statutory status but development proposals that do not take account of the built and natural qualities of this area could have a significant wider impact on its character and will not be supported.**

## The Coal House

- Several respondents to the survey noted that they would like to see the Grade 2 listed Coal House better maintained and perhaps put to a good use for the village. However, it is privately owned and therefore maintenance/use is up to that individual.

### Community Action 3 – The Coal House

The Parish Council will seek to encourage the owner of the Coal House to improve its condition and ongoing maintenance.



### Policy SPG 11 – Special Character Area

A Special Character Area is identified on the Policies Map. Within the Special Character Area, as well as having regard to the need to preserve or enhance the significance of the heritage assets in or adjoining the area, development proposals should respond positively to the distinctive characteristics of the identified area as illustrated on Map 9.

Development proposals which would cause unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the Special Character Area will not be supported.

## Development Design

- The design and construction of any new development can, if not considered carefully, have a significant detrimental impact on the environment, the amenity of existing residents and the local infrastructure. Although planning policies do not support the construction of significant additional development in Little Bealings, even one new dwelling or the inconsiderate design of an extension needs to be afforded careful consideration in terms of location and design.
- As part of the Government's Neighbourhood Planning support programme, AECOM were commissioned to prepare Design Guidance and Codes for the Neighbourhood Plan Area on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The Guidance sets out specific parameters that new development should take into account.

## General Design Guidelines

- Integrate with existing paths, streets, circulation networks and patterns of activity;
- Reinforce or enhance the established settlement character of streets, greens, and other spaces;
- Harmonise and enhance existing settlement in terms of physical form, architecture and land use;
- Relate well to local topography and landscape features, including prominent ridge lines and long-distance views;
- Reflect, respect, and reinforce local architecture and historic distinctiveness;
- Retain and incorporate important existing features into the development;
- Respect surrounding buildings in terms of scale, height, form and massing;
- Adopt contextually appropriate materials and details;
- Provide adequate open space for the development in terms of both quantity and quality;
- Incorporate necessary services and drainage infrastructure without causing unacceptable harm to retained features;
- Ensure all components e.g. buildings, landscapes, access routes, parking and open space are well related to each other;
- Positively integrate energy efficient technologies;
- Make sufficient provision for sustainable waste management (including facilities for kerbside collection, waste separation, and minimisation where appropriate) without adverse impact on the street scene, the local landscape or the amenities of neighbours;
- Ensure that places are designed with management, maintenance and the upkeep of utilities in mind; and
- Seek to implement passive environmental design principles by, firstly, considering how the site layout can optimise beneficial solar gain and reduce energy demands (e.g. insulation), before specification of energy efficient building services and finally incorporate renewable energy sources.

**DO YOU SUPPORT THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ACTION?**



# HISTORIC AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



## Policy SPG 12 – Design Considerations

Proposals for new development must reflect the local characteristics in the Neighbourhood Plan Area and create and contribute to a high quality, safe and sustainable environment.

Planning applications should demonstrate how they satisfy the requirements of the General Design Guidance in Appendix 6 and the Development Design Checklist in Appendix 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan, as appropriate to the proposal.

In addition, proposals will be supported where they:

- a. recognise and address the key features, characteristics, landscape/building character and form, local distinctiveness and special qualities of the area in order to maintain the rural feel of the parish;
- b. do not involve the loss of gardens, open, green or landscaped areas, which make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of that part of the parish;



- c. reflect the character and nature of the village by:
  - i. ensuring plots depths and arrangement of the building on the plot complement existing development;
  - ii. include boundary treatments that reflect the character and materials of the local vicinity;
  - iii. roof height and form does not conflict with those in the locality of the site;
  - iv. use of contextually appropriate materials and architectural features to enhance the details of the proposal to reflect, respect, and reinforce local architecture and historic distinctiveness;
  - v. respect surrounding buildings in terms of scale, height, form and massing;
- d. taking mitigation measures into account, do not affect adversely:
  - i. any historic, architectural or archaeological heritage assets of the site and its surroundings;
  - ii. important landscape characteristics including trees and ancient hedgerows and other prominent topographical features;
- e. where appropriate to the nature of the development, make adequate provision for the covered storage of all wheelie bins;
- f. include suitable ducting capable of accepting fibre to enable ultrafast broadband;
- g. include secure and covered cycle parking provision in accordance with the Suffolk Parking Guidelines.

## Flooding

- There are few properties in the parish at risk of flooding from watercourses, although Chad Brook runs close to the parish church and adjacent to Aveley Lane, putting both in or adjoining Flood Zones 2 and 3, where 3 has the highest risk of flooding.
- Elsewhere across the parish there are areas at risk of surface water flooding, but these are primarily away from the main built-up areas.
- National and Local Plan policies provide a comprehensive framework for limiting development in flood zones and the implementation of measures to manage surface water run-off including requirements for Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- Overgrown ditches can contribute significantly to surface water flooding during times of intense rainstorms. The Parish Council will seek to work with landowners to ensure ditches are maintained.

### Community Action 4 – Drains and Ditches

The Parish Council will continue to try and identify who owns/is responsible for maintaining drains/ditches.

## Light Pollution

- The installation of floodlighting and security lights on sites can, without careful consideration have a significant detrimental impact on the wider area.
- Domestic outdoor security lighting does not usually require planning consent, but where lighting forms an element of a development it should be designed in such a manner that will not create light pollution or have detrimental impact on highways and the amenity of residents.

## Policy SPG 13 – Flooding and Sustainable Drainage

Proposals for all new development will be required to submit schemes appropriate to the scale of the proposal detailing how on-site drainage and water resources will be managed so as not to cause or exacerbate surface water and fluvial flooding elsewhere. Proposals should, as appropriate, include the use of above-ground open Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). These could include:

- wetland and other water features, which can help reduce flood risk whilst offering other benefits including water quality, amenity/recreational areas, and biodiversity benefits; and
- rainwater and stormwater harvesting and recycling; and
- other natural drainage systems where easily-accessible maintenance can be achieved.

Proposals that would involve the creation of new culverts or result in the loss of an open watercourse will not be permitted, unless the culvert is essential to the provision of an access and it can be demonstrated that the culvert will have no adverse impact on the ability to manage and maintain surface water drainage.

## Policy SPG 14 – Minimising Light Pollution

While ensuring that new developments are secure in terms of occupier and vehicle safety, dark skies are to be preferred over lighting. Any future outdoor lighting systems should have a minimum impact on the environment, minimising light pollution and adverse effects on wildlife, subject to highway safety, the needs of particular individuals or groups, and security of individuals and premises.

Proposals for lighting schemes should be supported by a lighting study and be designed to reduce the consumption of energy by promoting efficient outdoor lighting technologies, keeping the night-time skies dark, reducing glare and be of a frequency (spectrum) of illumination to reduce wildlife impact.

The lighting should only be operational during times when it is essential for the operation of the business and out of operational hours security trigger lighting should be installed.

**DO YOU SUPPORT THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ACTIONS?**

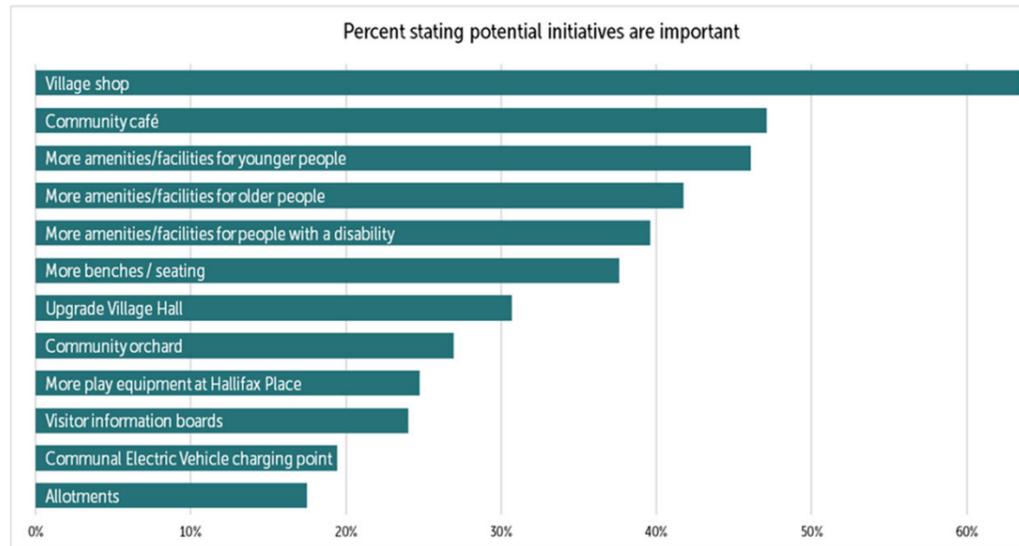


# SERVICES AND FACILITIES



## Services & Facilities

- Shimpling does not have a large range of facilities and services, perhaps reflective of the remote nature of the village, but also due to the size of the population available to support such services. Currently, the Parish has:
  - The village hall;
  - The Bush public house;
  - The playing fields (also protected as a Local Green Space); and
  - The parish church of St George.
- The residents' survey returned the following key headlines from those that responded:
  - **93%** valued or highly valued the Village Hall
  - **85%** valued or highly valued the Parish Church
  - **83%** valued or highly valued the playground and playing field
- It also highlighted that the playground is not used by a large proportion of the population, despite 83% of respondents either highly valued or valued it.
- In terms of additional facilities and amenities:
  - **63%** of respondents stated a village shop was important, followed by
  - **47%** a community café, and
  - **46%** more amenities / facilities for younger people
- The Neighbourhood Plan has an important role in making sure that village services and facilities are retained and only lost in exceptional circumstances.
- Despite a high percentage highly valuing or valuing the Village Hall there are very few people who attend any activities at the Village Hall and "never" was the highest percentage.
- It is important that all in the community are able to access information about the village and its events.
- Many see dog fouling/litter as "an issue" rather than serious issue. Unfortunately, there is no way to stop people travelling through the village throwing rubbish out of their car windows but if the residents make the effort to keep the village clean & tidy it will hopefully discourage others from littering.



Residents' Survey opinions on potential initiatives

### Policy SPG 15 – Village Services and Facilities

The provision and enhancement of community facilities and services that serve the needs of Shimpling will be supported where they are in accessible locations, contribute to the quality of village life and improve the sustainability of the village.

Proposals that would result in the loss of valued facilities or services which support the local community (or premises last used for such purposes) including The Bush Public House, the Village Hall, the playing fields and the parish church of St George, as identified on the Policies Map, will only be permitted where:

- it can be demonstrated that the current use is not economically viable and is not likely to become viable. Supporting financial evidence should be provided including any efforts to advertise the premises for sale for a minimum of 6 months; and
- it can be demonstrated, through evidenced research, that there is no local demand for the use and that the building/site is not needed for any alternative social, community or leisure use; or
- alternative facilities and services are available, or replacement provision is made, of at least equivalent standard, in a location that is accessible to the community it serves with good access by public transport or by cycling or walking.

### Community Action 5 – Community Groups

The Parish Council will support the establishment of separate working parties to be formed to see what events/services would be wanted and to feed this back to the Village Committee / Parish Council who may be able to access grants.

### Community Action 6 – Village Qualities

The Parish Council will work with residents and other community organisations to protect, maintain and promote the village's services and qualities.

### Community Action 7 – Village Newsletter

The Parish Council will continue to print hard copies of the Village Newsletter while a demand exists but consider ways to keep the production cost effective.

### Community Action 8 – Dog Poo Bins

The Parish Council will highlight the locations of dog bins on noticeboards and remind people to ensure proper disposal of bags.



**DO YOU SUPPORT THIS POLICY AND COMMUNITY ACTIONS?**



# HIGHWAYS AND TRAVEL



## Context

- Because most road improvements can take place within the highway, they do not require planning permission and, as such, the neighbourhood plan is not an appropriate place to contain policies for their improvement.
- Likewise, the provision of bus services is a decision made outside the planning system.
- Although the Parish Council cannot deliver highway improvements, it does have a lobbying role in delivering such measures.

## Parking Standards

- The 2021 Census identifies that only 4% of households did not have access to a car or van.
- Those households with two or more cars were at much higher levels than across Babergh as a whole.
- These higher levels of car ownership result in an increased pressure on space both within the grounds of established dwellings and on the roads in the vicinity.
- The County Council sets minimum car parking guidelines for new homes as illustrated in the table above.
- Given the higher levels of car ownership in Shimpling, it is reasonable that parking standards should also be set at a higher level than the recommended minimum requirements

## Public Rights of Way

- Public rights of way provide opportunities for recreational walking and, where permitted, horse riding and cycling.
- Measures to improve and extend the existing network of public rights of way will be supported provided their value as biodiversity corridors is also recognised and protected and efforts are made to enhance biodiversity as part of the proposal.
- Several “permissive paths”, where the landowner grants permission for public access exist but they are not legally protected right of ways and landowners can restrict or withdraw access at any time. It may be possible to work with landowners to create further “permissive paths”.

## Bus Services

- The Parish Council has been lobbying the County Council to seek to improve services and will continue this action, working alongside other nearby parish councils when appropriate.

## Traffic

- Our straight roads and good forward visibility means that speeds exceeding the limit regularly occur. Community Speed Watch is a community-operated initiative where trained volunteers monitor and report to the Police details of speeding vehicles in areas of concern to the community.

| House size  | SCC Parking Guidance  | Neighbourhood Plan Requirement |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 bedroom   | 1 space per dwelling  | 2 spaces per dwelling          |
| 2 bedrooms  | 2 spaces per dwelling | 2 spaces per dwelling          |
| 3 bedrooms  | 2 spaces per dwelling | 3 spaces per dwelling          |
| 4+ bedrooms | 3 spaces per dwelling | 3 spaces per dwelling          |

### Policy SPG 16 – Parking Standards

Development proposals should maintain or enhance the safety of the highway network ensuring that all vehicle parking is designed to be integrated into the site without creating an environment dominated by vehicles. Provision for visitor parking should also be made within the plot.

In residential developments the following minimum provision shall be made:

| House Size  | Minimum Requirement   |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 bedroom   | 2 spaces per dwelling |
| 2 bedrooms  | 2 spaces per dwelling |
| 3 bedrooms  | 3 spaces per dwelling |
| 4+ bedrooms | 3 spaces per dwelling |

For every new residential car parking space, one electric vehicle charging point shall be provided. Hard standing parking spaces and driveways should be constructed from permeable materials to minimise surface water run-off.



### Policy SPG 17 – Public Rights of Way

Measures to maintain, improve and extend the existing network of public rights of way will be supported where;

- their value as biodiversity corridors is safeguarded; and
- where practicable, development proposals incorporate measures to enhance biodiversity; and
- any public right of way extension is fit for purpose.

### Community Action 9 – Permissive Paths

The Parish Council will seek to work with landowners to see if they would be amenable to creating more “permissive footpaths” to join up with existing footpaths and create more circular walks in the Parish.

### Community Action 10 – Bus Services

The Parish Council will seek to work with landowners to see if they would be amenable to creating more “permissive footpaths” to join up with existing footpaths and create more circular walks in the Parish.

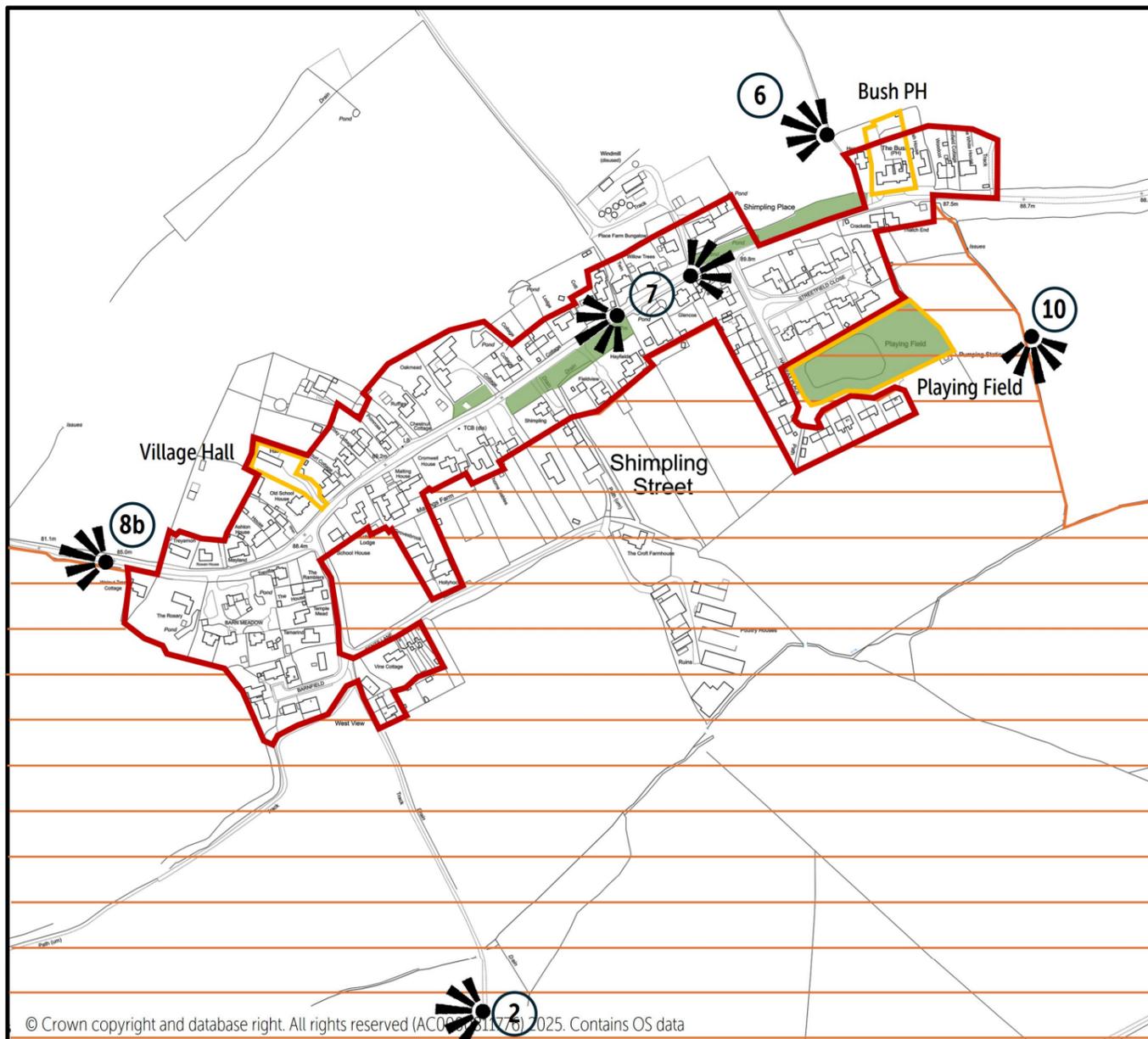
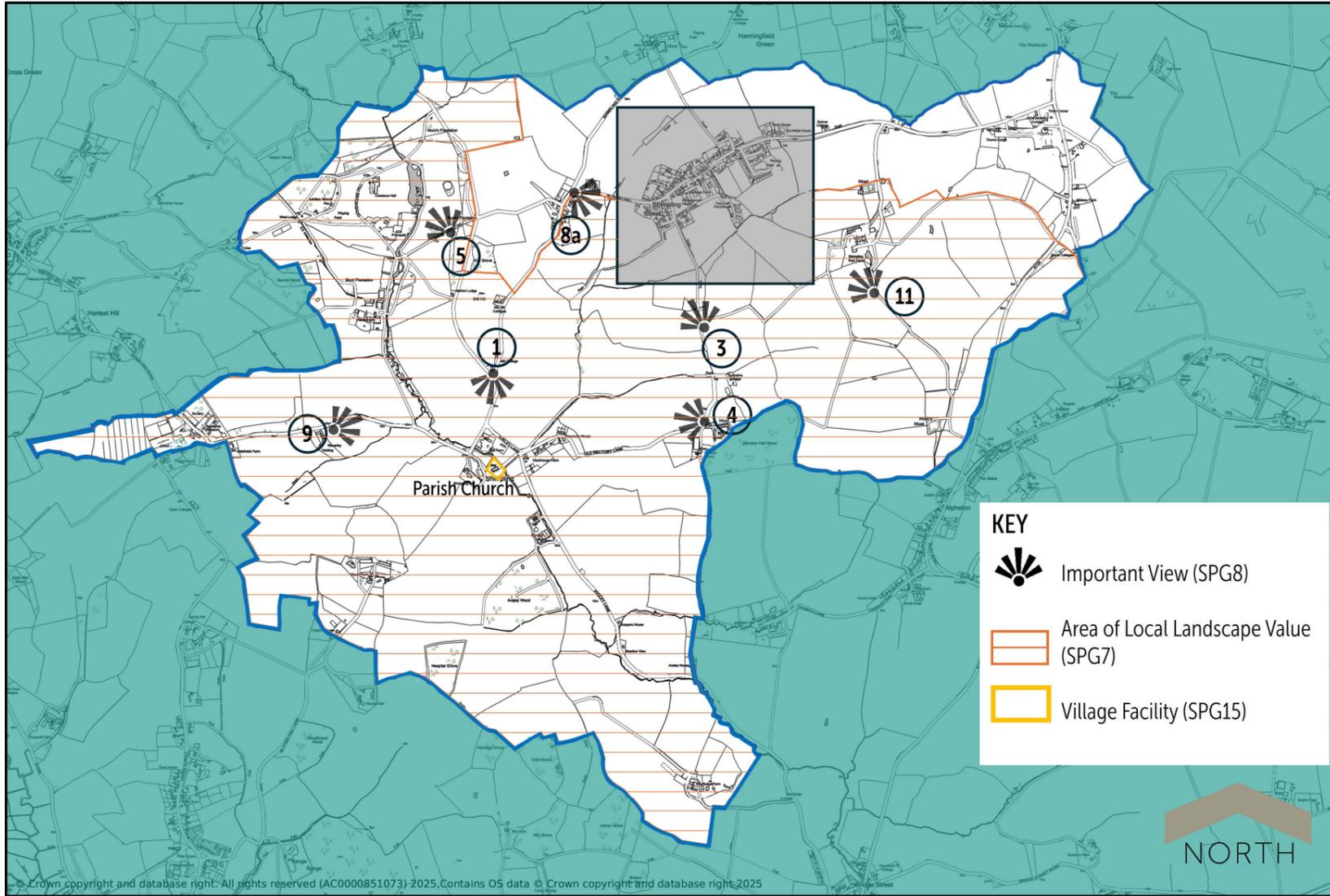
### Community Action 10 – Community Speedwatch

The Parish Council will seek volunteers from the Parish to look into establishing and supporting a Community Speedwatch initiative.

**DO YOU SUPPORT THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ACTIONS?**



# POLICIES MAP



**DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONTENT OF THE POLICIES MAPS?**



# WHAT NEXT?



## Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan ends on 2 March

At the end of the consultation the Working Group will review all submitted comments before deciding if any amendments to the Plan are required.

At the same time a "Consultation Statement" and a document known as the "Basic Conditions Statement" will be prepared. The Final Draft Plan – known as the "Submission Plan" and the above documents will be put to the Parish Council for approval for submission to Babergh District Council.

## Further Consultation

Babergh District Council will carry out a further six-week consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan before it is submitted to an Independent Examiner

## Examination

The Independent Examiner will review the Plan and consider any objections to it.

The Examiner's Report will recommend whether the Plan, possibly with amendments, should proceed to a referendum in the parish.



## Referendum

If the Examiner recommends that a Referendum on the Plan should take place, this will be organised and paid for by Babergh District Council in the same way as a local election. Notice will be given of the Referendum and all those living in the parish that are entitled to vote will be asked whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be approved. No matter how many turn out to vote, if more votes say "Yes" then the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted.

You can submit your comments on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan online at the Parish Council website or, if you don't have the internet, by completing a comments form and sending it to the address on the form.

**Why not complete a form today?**

**Even if you like everything you've seen, please let us know**