

# Welcome

Thanks for sparing the time to come and visit our event today

The exhibition explains:

- what Neighbourhood Plans are
- how they're prepared
- and seeks your views

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a relatively new kind of planning document designed to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area.

When complete, the Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for the area, meaning the 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

# Neighbourhood Plans:

- rely on community involvement throughout their preparation and must be approved in a Parish Referendum before they can be used.
- contain planning policies for matters that require planning permission
- must not conflict with the policies in the Local Plan or national planning policies.
- will need to be backed up by evidence that supports what they're seeking to achieve.
- are intended to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area. It can guide the development and conservation of the area.
- attract an uplift to a Parish Council of Community Infrastructure Levy arising from development in the area from 15% to 25% - in the last 3 years the Parish Council has received nearly £4,700 from the Levy.

## Neighbourhood Plans can:

for example, include proposals for:

- improving areas;
- enhancing current and providing new facilities;
- the development of sites;
- protecting sites and areas of environmental or historic quality; and
- protecting facilities of community importance (such as open space, village halls and shops)



# Neighbourhood Plans:

- Neighbourhood Plans have to be prepared in line with Government Regulations.
- The Parish Council will be the “responsible body” for preparing the Plan, but support is going to be needed from residents and experts to produce a Plan that provides a solid framework to guide how the village evolves over future years.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How long will it take to produce a neighbourhood plan?**

Typically, most of our work can be completed in two years.

### **How much does it cost to do a neighbourhood plan?**

Preparing the Plan shouldn't cost a Parish Council anything. Government grants generally pay the costs, and free support is available to produce studies such as Village Design Guidance.

### **What does a Plan look like?**

The Plan is a written document, typically of around 40-50 pages, covering a number of planning related topics. It would also include maps and illustrations.

### **Who prepares the Plan?**

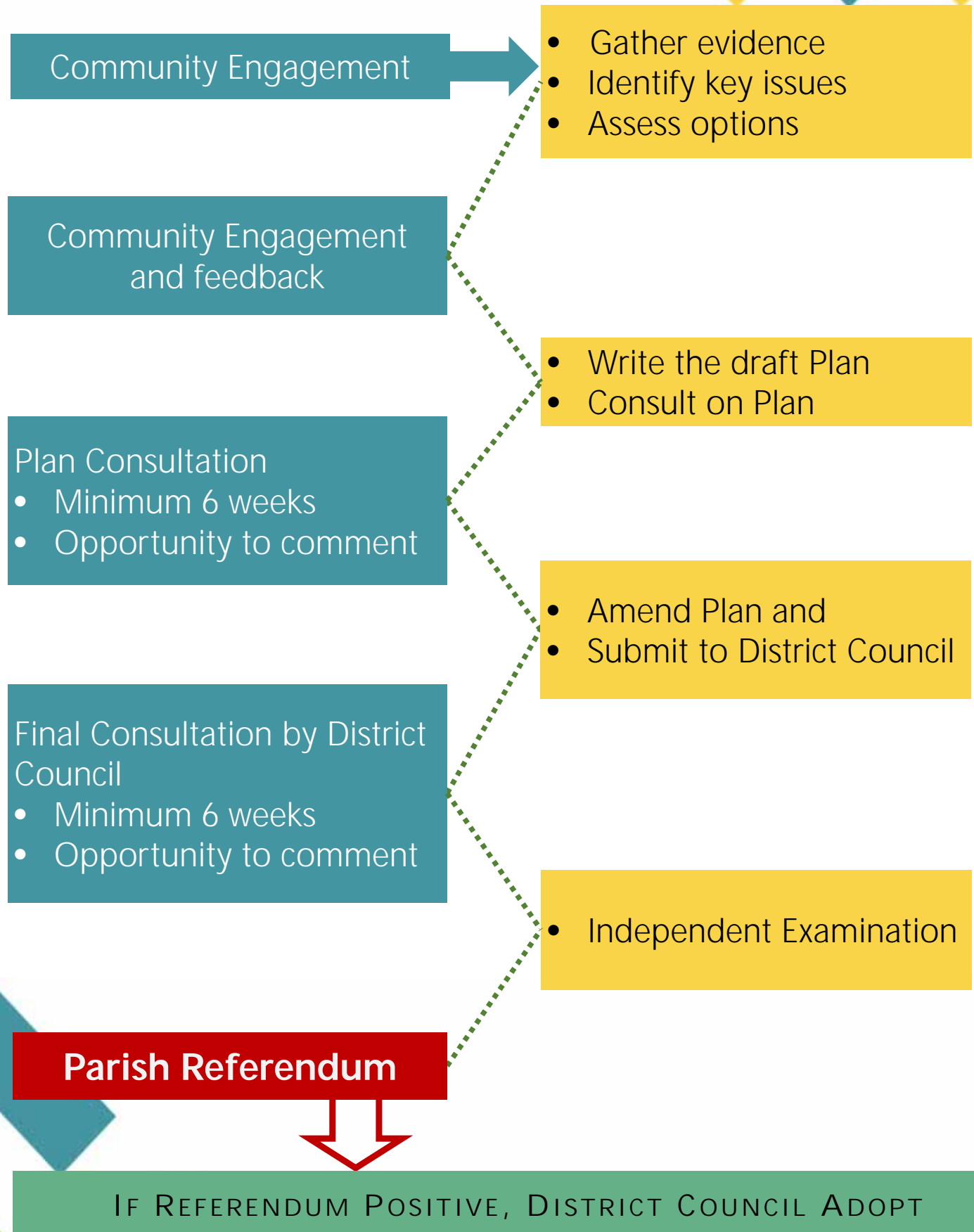
A Working Group of volunteers formed by the Parish Council has the responsibility for preparing the Plan, but it will need to be approved by the Parish Council. Planning consultants can help do the technical work, paid for by the Government grants.

### **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,

# Process

The process for preparing a new neighbourhood plan is guided by government regulations and so there is no short cut.



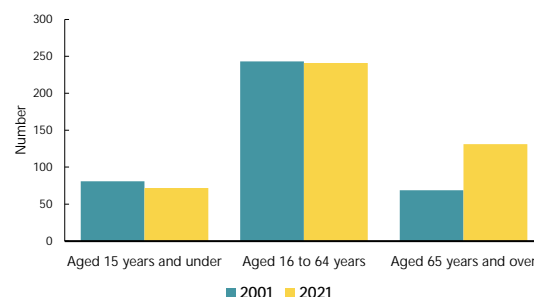
# What we know about Shimpling

The results of the 2021 Census are just starting to be published.

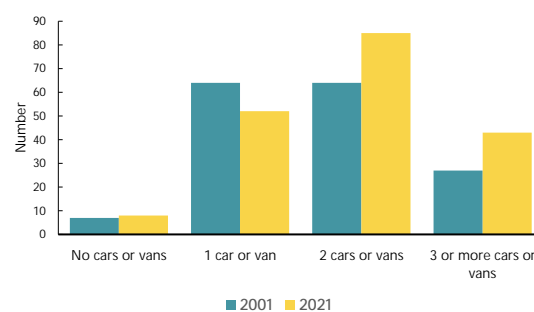
The charts show that:

- the parish population has grown by around 13% over the last 20 years
- There are nearly twice as many residents aged 65 or over than in 2001
- The size of households is generally shrinking. Although there has been an increase in the number with four or more residents, which is unusual when compared with other villages
- The number of households with 3 or more cars has increased by 60% over the last 20 years
- There are 21 listed buildings in the parish. All are Grade II except the Grade I parish church.
- There are small areas that are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the parish, the largest being Aveley Wood which is ancient woodland.

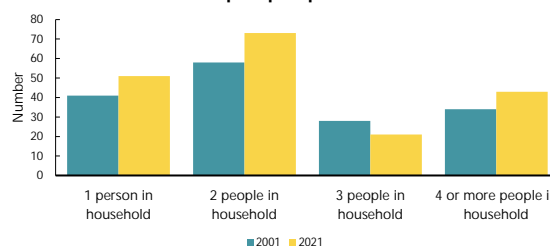
Parish Age Comparison  
2001 and 2021



Cars or vans per household  
2001-2021



Number of people per household





# What might a Plan cover?

Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan would provide an opportunity for us to identify what's important about the village that should be preserved and maybe opportunities for improvement.

Neighbourhood Plans can identify sites for development, for example a small housing scheme, but only if that is supported by the majority of residents.

The Plan might therefore:

- Designate important green spaces and protect them from development
- Identify key features of the landscape and protect important areas
- Set criteria for the design of all new development that will reflect local styles and materials
- Identify important views

It also provides an opportunity to explore whether there are any local initiatives that we, as a community, could bring forward



# Does anyone take any notice of them?

Put simply, yes, they do.

When a planning application is decided, the District Council has to take equal account of what the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan says.

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

## Example:

Outline Planning Application - 15 Dwellings (including 5 affordables).  
Land West Of Willows Nursing Home, Bury Road, Lawshall

Site located outside Settlement Boundary

### Refused by Babergh DC:

The proposed development, by virtue of its scale, density, siting and location would result in the loss of a valued settlement gap, harmful to the local character of the Lawshall village, contrary to Policy LAW3 and LAW9 of the Lawshall Neighbourhood Plan 2017, Policy CS11 and CS15 of the Babergh Core Strategy (2014) and paragraph 170 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### Refused at Appeal

I conclude that the appeal scheme would have a harmful effect on the setting of Lawshall within the wider landscape. The development is therefore contrary to Policies CS11 and CS15 of the Babergh Local Plan 2011-2031 Core Strategy and Policies (Part 1 of the New Babergh Local Plan) (2014) (the Core Strategy and Policies) and Policies LAW3 and LAW9 of the NP.

## Example:

Construction of up to 9 dwellings with associated vehicular access.  
Melford Road, Lawshall.

Site located outside Settlement Boundary

### Refused by Babergh DC:

The proposal is contrary to the Babergh Core Strategy, Babergh Local Plan and the Lawshall Neighbourhood Plan (Policies LAW1 and LAW3 2017 - adopted 2017), which are consistent with the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

### Refused at Appeal:

I conclude that the proposed development would not be in a suitable location for new residential development. As a result, it would fail to accord with policies CS1, CS2, CS11 and CS15 of the BCS which collectively set out the development strategy for the area. It would also fail to accord with policies LAW1 and LAW3 of the Lawshall Neighbourhood Plan (2017)

# What if we don't prepare a Plan?

Planning decisions will continue to be made by Babergh DC without having locally based evidence and policies to inform their decision.

For example, Babergh do not have Design Guidance for new development or detailed landscape guidance at such a local level.

Further, the new Local Plan does not identify important open spaces in the village or important landscape.

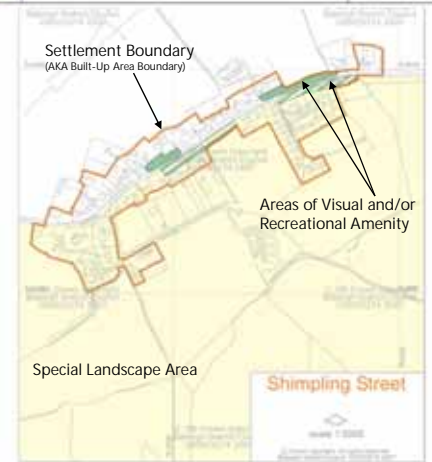
# What the Local Plan says for Shimpling

In 2020 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils published their draft Local Plan.

They proposed to designate Shimpling Street as a hamlet and identified a "Settlement Boundary" illustrated by the purple line on the map top-right.

The Planning Inspector examining the Joint Local Plan has decided that Settlement Boundaries should revert back to those in the 2006 Local Plan due to complications elsewhere in the two districts. The 2006 Settlement Boundary is brown on the bottom-right map.

The 2006 Local Plan also identified Areas of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity in green. These were removed from the 2020 Plan, as was the Special Landscape Area designation, identified in yellow. The Local Plan Inspector did not reinstate these.



2006 Local Plan Map for Shimpling

Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan would provide an opportunity to bring the Settlement Boundary up-to-date, designate important open spaces and review the landscape character



# What the Local Plan says

## Housing Development

The draft Joint Local Plan (2020) did not propose any further housing development in Shimpling, other than allowing infill plots within the Settlement Boundary.

The Inspectors examining the Plan have taken all housing allocations out of the Plan and asked that they are made in a new “Part 2” Plan to be prepared at a later date.

We think it is unlikely that Part 2 will allocate any sites for housing in Shimpling.

### Local Plan Policy (expected to be adopted in November)

Settlement boundaries are defined on the Policies Map. These boundaries were established in earlier Local Plans and Core Strategies and have not been reviewed as part of the Plan but are carried forward without change at the present time. The principle of development is established within settlement boundaries in accordance with the relevant policies of this Plan.

Outside of the settlement boundaries, development will normally only be permitted where the site is allocated for development, or in a made Neighbourhood Plan, or is specifically permitted by other relevant policies of this Plan, or it is in accordance with paragraph 80 of the NPPF (2021).

Examples of where housing might be allowed outside the Settlement Boundary under the new Local Plan are:

- Essential housing for agricultural workers
  - Conversion of barns to homes
- Affordable housing for local needs
- Like-for-like dwelling replacement

# Progress so far

## Designation

The first stage in preparing a Plan is to get the parish designated as the “Neighbourhood Area” by the District Council. Babergh District Council did this on 6 October.

## Grant

The Parish Council has applied for a government grant to cover the cost of today's event and the initial stages, should there be support to go ahead.

## Design Guidance

Subject to the outcome of today, we have asked for Design Guidance to be prepared for Shimpling as part of the free government support for producing a neighbourhood plan.

## Professional Support

We have secured the services of Places4People Planning Consultancy who are experts in the field of neighbourhood planning. Locally they have prepared neighbourhood plans for Lawshall, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield and are currently working with Hartest, Glemsford and Brettenham. Their costs would be met by the government grant.

We have also lined up a Landscape Architect to prepare a Landscape Appraisal. Again, the costs would be met by the government grant.



# What's involved?

## Working Group

The best neighbourhood plans are produced by a small group of volunteers assisted by professional planning consultants.

Working groups typically meet once a month, but often would not need to meet when consultants are working on reports.



Working Group	Others
<b>Residents' Survey</b>	
Residents' Survey Design	Places4People print and host online
Deliver survey forms	
Residents' Survey input of paper returns	Places4People run the results report
Analyse results – what are the headlines?	
<b>Landscape Appraisal</b>	
Meet with Landscape Architect	Landscape Architect prepares report
Review draft report	
<b>Design Guidance</b>	
Meet consultants and show around village	Consultants will produce draft report
Review draft report	Places4People will also review draft report
<b>Information gathering</b>	
Could include Census data and other matters	Places4People provide guidance
<b>Keeping Community Engaged</b>	
Ensure opportunities are taken to keep residents up to date	
<b>Plan Preparation</b>	
Agree content	Places4People will write the Plan
Review draft Plan and agree amendments	Prepare final draft Plan ready for consultation
<b>Consultation</b>	
Assist with consultation by attending drop-in events, delivering leaflets	Places4People will provide full back up

If you would like to be part of the Working Group, or could assist in other ways, please talk to a Parish Councillor today or complete the postcard and drop it in the box provided

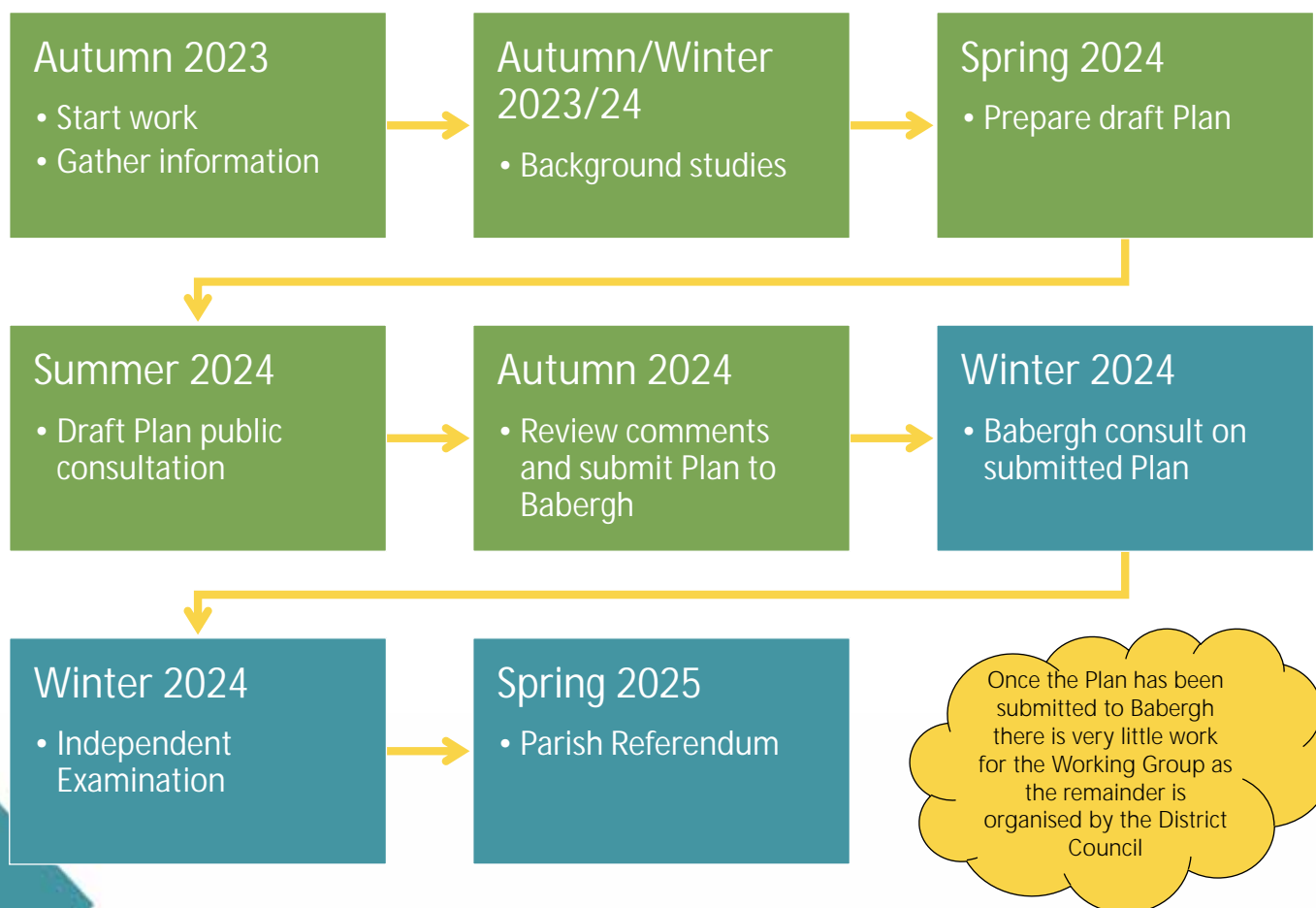
# What next

We need to know if there's sufficient support from you to go ahead and whether we have enough volunteers to help

If we go ahead, the work outlined on the previous board will commence.

We are in good hands with Places4People. They have completed over 20 Plans for towns and villages across the region and will guide us through the process.

The outline timetable is illustrated below but will depend upon the speed at which our Group wants to go.



# Do you think Shimpling should have a Neighbourhood Plan?

Please use a sticky dot to indicate your answer

YES	NO	UNSURE



# Shimpling today

Finally, we'd like to know what you cherish about living in the village in 2023 and what changes you would like to see.

## What you like about Shimpling in 2023

Use post-it notes to tell us and green dots if you agree with a comment that's already there or red dots if you disagree with it

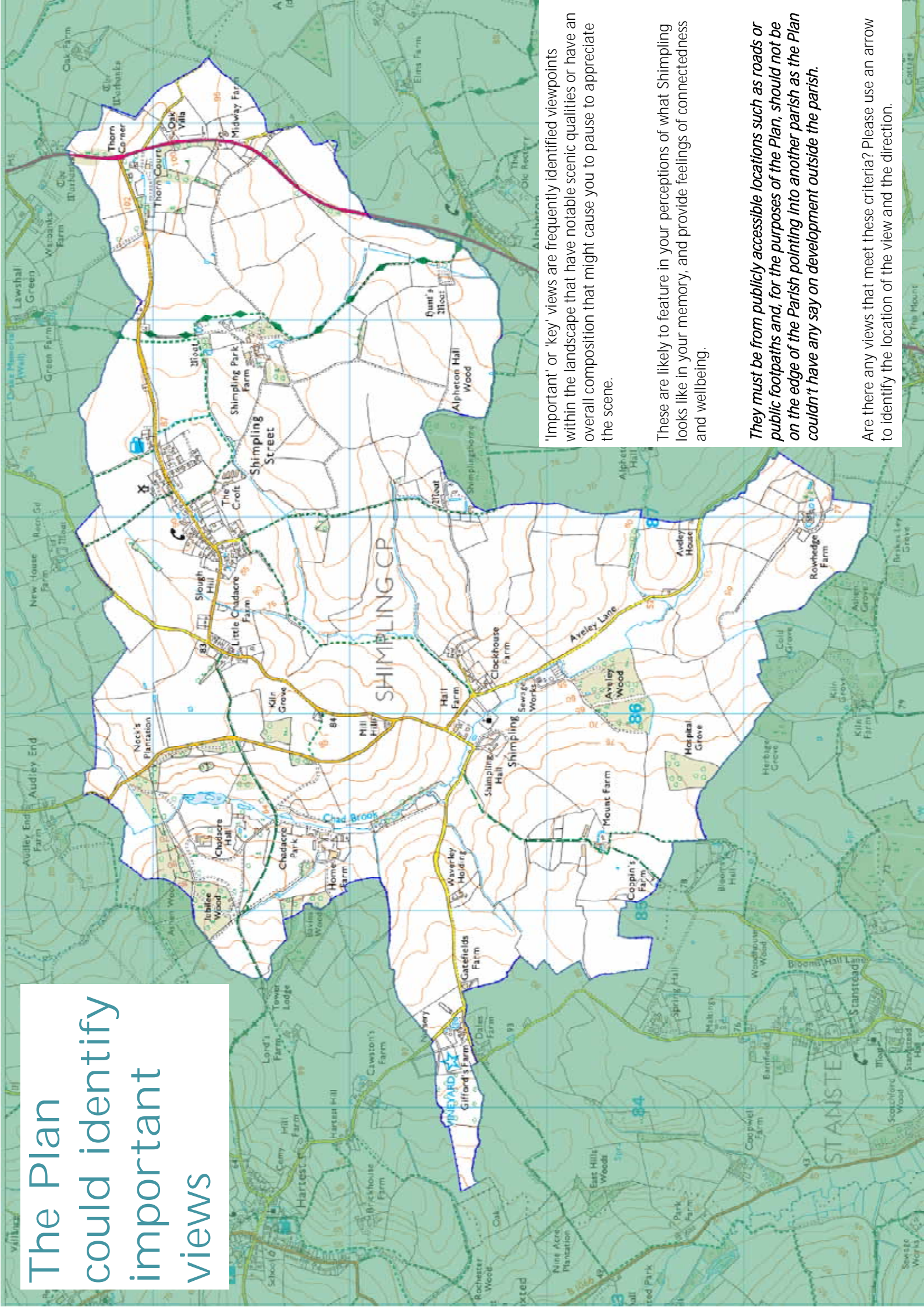
# Shimpling today

We'd like to know what you cherish about living in the village in 2023 and what changes you would like to see.

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## Things I'd like to see change in Shimpling

The Plan  
could identify  
important  
views



'Important' or 'key' views are frequently identified viewpoints within the landscape that have notable scenic qualities or have an overall composition that might cause you to pause to appreciate the scene.

These are likely to feature in your perceptions of what Shimpling looks like in your memory, and provide feelings of connectedness and wellbeing.

*They must be from publicly accessible locations such as roads or public footpaths and, for the purposes of the Plan, should not be on the edge of the Parish pointing into another parish as the Plan couldn't have any say on development outside the parish.*

Are there any views that meet these criteria? Please use an arrow to identify the location of the view and the direction.