
Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan consultation questionnaire

Introduction

This is a Pre-Submission Consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2015 (as amended). The consultation period runs for eight weeks from 06-July-2020 to the deadline of 30-August-2020.

Why is the Neighbourhood Plan important to you?

It is your chance to say how you see the parish of Ashwell developing over the next decade. The following consultation documents contain all the details of the draft Plan and can be seen via this link: <https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/planning/>:

- The Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan
- Ashwell Village Design Statement
- Sustainability Statement
- Evidence base documents

What is the Neighbourhood Plan and how can I see it?

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan is based on the results from the village surveys which were conducted in 2015 and 2016. We prefer you to examine it online on the Parish website. If this is not possible, please contact Parish Office and we will deliver a copy to you. This approach is consistent with the Coronavirus regulations as at 13-May-2020.

Ashwell Parish Office
6a Back Street
Ashwell SG7 5PE
info@ashwell.gov.uk
☎ 01462 743706

Why do we need your views?

This consultation is a legal requirement, prior to a referendum on the Plan. Please let us have your views on any of the policies in the draft Plan and any other comments you would like to make. It is very important that you indicate your general acceptance, or otherwise, of the Plan under General Comments below.

About you

Please note that, without your contact details, your views cannot be considered.

Ashwell Parish Council of 6a Back Street, Ashwell, SG7 5PE is collecting the data below as evidence that you are a Parishioner over 16 years old or own a business or work in Ashwell and therefore eligible to comment on the Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan. It will hold this data until the draft Plan is either 'made' or fails to pass the referendum. If you agree, your name, address and age group may be shared with persons or organisations with a legitimate interest in the process of making the Plan, for example: North Hertfordshire District Council, the official

Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan consultation questionnaire

examiner or statutory consultees. If you do not agree to share details, your views will still be taken into account.

Name	
Address	
I am over 16 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>
My name, address and age group may be shared with organisations with a legitimate interest	I agree <input type="checkbox"/>
Signature (paper copies only)	
Telephone (optional)	
e-mail (optional)	

General comments (everyone must complete this Question, but other questions are optional for completion).

I am generally in favour of the plan:

Yes

No

Do you have any comments on the policies in the plan (optional)?

If you have any other comments about specific policies in the Neighbourhood Plan please give us your responses in the detailed questionnaire on pages 3 – 13, which also describes those policies (completing those questions is optional).

Detailed questionnaire

Note

The Parish Council recommends looking at the full Plan to understand its context and to read the policies in full. It can be accessed via this weblink: <https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/planning/> by following the directions there.

Spatial strategy

Ashwell is a rural parish with one central village, which has a high proportion of nationally listed buildings. Development should reflect the size and character of the settlement. It is also important that development is directed to appropriate locations.

Policy summary	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH1 LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT								
Inside the village settlement boundary the default assumption is that building will be allowed unless there are reasons not to. Outside the boundary is 'land beyond the Green Belt' to which rules similar to those that protect the Green Belt apply. The ANP underlines North Hertfordshire District's policy on this point and goes on to say that the preference is to build on land that has already had some form of development before exploiting greenfield sites.	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="1008 845 1149 885">Yes</th><th data-bbox="1149 845 1290 885">No</th><th data-bbox="1290 845 1431 885">No opinion</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="1008 885 1149 933"></td><td data-bbox="1149 885 1290 933"></td><td data-bbox="1290 885 1431 933"></td></tr></tbody></table>	Yes	No	No opinion				
Yes	No	No opinion						

Detailed questionnaire

Housing

A key objective of the District Council's Plan is to deliver the target number of new homes, respecting the scale of existing places and catering for the needs of all residents. Development is not just about numbers: housing must also be of a type, size and tenure that meets local needs. The Neighbourhood Plan's aim is to define Ashwell's own specific needs so that the District's Plan also recognizes them.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH2 HOUSING MIX								
<p>Planning applications should be for smaller dwellings (up to three bedrooms) at a cost or at a rent that is financially in the reach of most parish residents who need housing. Planning applications should include an explanation of how the developments meet the housing needs of our parish, particularly with respect to older people and young people just entering the housing market.</p> <p>North Hertfordshire District's rules relating to providing what is officially termed 'Affordable Housing' must be followed.</p>	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Yes</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">No</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 30px;"> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion				
Yes	No	No opinion						

Detailed questionnaire

Design and Heritage

New development should reflect the character of the area within the parish where it is located. The design of development should demonstrate that it looks and feels like local properties. The Neighbourhood Plan requires high-quality design standards that integrate with the area and reflect and reinforce, without overwhelming, the rural character of the parish.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH3 CHARACTER OF DEVELOPMENT								
A large part of Ashwell village lies inside a Conservation Area and it has five Local Character Areas. Development must preserve and complement the features that make this place special. Subject to that, innovative design will be supported where it clearly enhances its surroundings.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Yes	No	No opinion						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
POLICY ASH4 DESIGN OF DEVELOPMENT								
As well as integrating with its surroundings, construction is expected to be of good quality. Specifically it should conform to the standards of design in the Ashwell Village Design Statement and to other standards defined by government or professional bodies, including the ones relating to the needs of older people.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Detailed questionnaire

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH5 FLOOD RISK								
Parts of Ashwell are liable to flooding. Planning applications are expected to observe standards that help manage this.	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion				
Yes	No	No opinion						
POLICY ASH6 SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY								
Water resources in the area are limited and vulnerable to over-exploitation. New builds should have low water consumption needs. Reducing demand for water extraction may also help to protect flow rates at Ashwell Springs.	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion				
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POLICY ASH7 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN								
New construction should have low energy needs in line with current best practice. Alterations to existing buildings should aim to reduce resource requirements when this is compatible with their historic character.	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion				
Yes	No	No opinion						
POLICY ASH8 PROTECTING HISTORIC ASSETS								
Development will not be allowed if it eliminates or damages historic structures or their immediate setting.	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion				
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Detailed questionnaire

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH9 LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT VIEWS								
<p>Ashwell has significant views that make an important contribution to the area's attractive rural character. Developments may not have a detrimental impact on them.</p>	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Yes</th> <th style="width: 33%;">No</th> <th style="width: 33%;">No opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Detailed questionnaire

Natural environment

The character of the village is strongly influenced by the natural environment. The rolling landscape has high quality farm land, with large open fields and big skies. The parish strides over the chalk scarp and views, especially of the church, can be enjoyed from many locations. We recognise the value of our environment and want to protect it.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH10 NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND RURAL CHARACTER								
<p>Developments should fit into the landscape, minimize damaging impacts on its ecology and protect existing natural features, e.g. trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>Development should also provide open space, accessible to the general public.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
POLICY ASH11 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY								
<p>Planning applications should take account of the need to manage green infrastructure, e.g. with wildlife areas and green corridors. The proposals must have no adverse effect on Ashwell Springs.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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POLICY ASH12 LOCAL GREEN SPACES								
<p>The Foresters Allotments is a site proposed for designation as a Local Green Space. In planning terms it would then be treated in a similar way to Green Belt land.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Detailed questionnaire

Business and economy

The village has always had a spread of occupations that would normally be associated with a small town rather than a village. Ashwell today is still remarkable for the number of shops, trades, businesses and services it continues to support. The ANP wants the Parish to be a viable centre for business and an attractive place to live.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box			Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible
POLICY ASH13 INCUBATOR/FLEXIBLE START-UP BUSINESS SPACE				
The ANP will encourage planning applications to provide new business space.	Yes	No	No opinion	
POLICY ASH14 BROADBAND PROVISION				
Where possible, network providers are expected to install superfast broadband in new properties.	Yes	No	No opinion	
POLICY ASH15 ASHWELL VILLAGE CENTRE				
Planning applications to change the use of current retail and service premises will only be supported if these businesses can no longer remain viable.	Yes	No	No opinion	

Detailed questionnaire

Sport, leisure and recreation

It was apparent from the 2016 General Survey that there is an ever-increasing number of Ashwell residents engaging in sport. Facilities in the village need to be maintained and, where possible, improved.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH16 PROVISION OF LEISURE AND RECREATION FACILITIES								
The ANP will favour planning proposals that add to or enhance leisure facilities for Ashwell residents. The Parish's share of statutory contributions from developers will be used to enhance facilities.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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POLICY ASH17 PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HOUSES								
Planning applications to change the use of public houses will only be supported if they can no longer remain viable. Proposals to expand their use will be supported if it is to provide a similar community resource (e.g. restaurant).	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Detailed questionnaire

Healthcare and education

Building a confident and socially connected community is an important part of health and wellbeing for Ashwell's residents, as is retaining educational facilities growing them when necessary.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH18 MAINTAINING EXISTING HEALTH SERVICES								
The ANP will support proposals that maintain or enhance existing health facilities and encourage regular liaison between local health services and the Parish Council to improve provision.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
POLICY ASH19 EDUCATION PROVISION								
The ANP will support proposals that maintain or enhance state educational provision. Evaluation of planning applications should take into account the impact on education provision. The Parish's share of statutory contributions from developers will be used to enhance facilities.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Detailed questionnaire

Transport and movement

The ANP seeks to encourage and enable travel by sustainable means such as walking, cycling and public transport. It also supports measures to manage speeding, vehicle traffic congestion and parking.

Policy	Do you agree with the policy? Please tick box	Comments/suggested changes – please be as clear and concise as possible						
POLICY ASH20 ACCESSIBLE PATHS								
The ANP will expect existing bridleways and footpaths to be preserved and kept in good condition. It will support proposals that will improve cycling or walking, separated from vehicles. All new developments must provide footways that link with the existing network.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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POLICY ASH21 BUS SERVICES AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT								
Development proposals that help improve public and community transport will be strongly supported, as will those reducing the impact of traffic and parking. The Parish's share of statutory contributions from developers will be used to enhance facilities.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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POLICY ASH22 RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC CAR PARKING								
Planning applications should not make proposals creating more demand for on-street car parking.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> <td>No opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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