



East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road,  
Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1RT

# Full Council

Members: All Councillors

Members are invited to a **Meeting of the Full Council**  
to be held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House,  
on **Wednesday 22 September 2021 at 6:30pm**

This meeting is being held in person in order to comply with the Local Government Act 1972. In order to comply with East Suffolk Council's coronavirus arrangements and guidance, the number of people at this meeting will have to be restricted to only those whose attendance is reasonably necessary.

Ordinarily, East Suffolk Council encourages members of the public to attend its meetings but on this occasion would encourage the public to watch the livestream, via the East Suffolk Council YouTube channel instead at [https://youtu.be/YDi\\_eZYsmCk](https://youtu.be/YDi_eZYsmCk)

If you do believe it is necessary for you to be in attendance we encourage you to notify Democratic Services, by email to [democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk), of your intention to do so no later than 12 noon on the working day before the

meeting so that the meeting can be managed in a COVID secure way and the Team can endeavour to accommodate you and advise of the necessary health and safety precautions.

However, we are not able to guarantee you a space/seat and you are advised that it may be that, regrettably, we are not able to admit you to the meeting room.

An Agenda is set out below.

## **Part One – Open to the Public**

### **Pages**

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#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence, if any.

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Local Non-Pecuniary Interests that they may have in relation to items on the Agenda and are also reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the Meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.

#### **3 Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, the Leader of the Council, members of the Cabinet, or the Chief Executive, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.1(e).

#### **4 Questions from the Public**

No questions have been submitted by the electorate as provided by Council Procedure Rule 8.

## 5 Questions from Members

The following questions from Members have been submitted in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 9:

### a) Question from Councillor David Beavan to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

How many “holiday let businesses” in Southwold ward were refused a Covid grant application in 2020 and 2021, and are there any outstanding investigations? Further are they still allowed to escape council tax and rates by pretending to be a genuine business? I only need headline figures and do not require any personal information that may identify them.

### b) Question from Councillor Janet Craig to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health

The LGA is currently calling for a change to the Licensing Act to require operators to take public health into account in running their premises, alongside wider safety and crime issues. Councils can only currently consider four issues when deciding whether to grant licences – the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; prevention of public nuisance; and protection of children from harm.

The LGA maintains that giving councils the powers to consider the public health impact of licensing decisions is vital to protect communities from harm, reduce NHS costs and save lives.

It wants to see the Licensing Act updated to include a public health objective and allow for action where premises fail to protect the health of their communities, Councils also need greater access to NHS data, including hospital admissions and ambulance call-out details to assist decision making.

Excessive alcohol consumption is estimated to cost the NHS £3.2 billion a year, with additional costs falling to Social Services, Police and businesses.

The proposed change to the Licensing Act would place a legal requirement on businesses to think about public health issues and give councils long-term tools to act on public health risk risks.

We are aware that this Council has twin duties, both to support local businesses with a vibrant economy and to protect our communities from harm, so what strategy is this Council implementing to monitor the impact on public health of the night-time economy in particular, as it re-opens post Covid?

### c) Question from Councillor Tess Gandy to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

Given the significant number of recipients of Universal Credit across East Suffolk, what impact assessments have been undertaken, as a result of the planned cut to Universal Credit across our communities, to take into account

the reduced ability of individuals and families to pay housing costs, including rent, Council Tax and increasing utility bills?

**6 Petitions**

No petitions have been received as provided by Council Procedure Rule 10.

**7 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion have been made as provided by Council Procedure Rule 11.

**8 Political balance and allocation of seats on Committees 2021/22 ES/0891** **1 - 12**

Report of the Leader of the Council

**9 Treasury Management Outturn 2020/21 and Mid-Year 2021/22 Report ES/0892** **13 - 23**

Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

**10 Beccles Neighbourhood Plan ES/0882** **24 - 101**

Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management

**11 Cabinet Members' Report and Outside Bodies Representatives' Reports to Council ES/0883** **102 - 120**

Report of the Leader of the Council

**12 Exempt/Confidential Items**

It is recommended that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**Part Two – Exempt/Confidential**

**13 Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project - Tidal Barrier**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Close**



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

## **Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council Meetings**

The Council, members of the public and press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Committee Clerk (in advance), who will instruct that they are not included in any filming.

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01502 523521 or email:

[democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)



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[www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership](http://www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership)



## FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

<b>Subject</b>	Political balance and allocation of seats on Committees 2021/22
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Chris Bing Head of Legal and Democratic Services <a href="mailto:chris.bing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">chris.bing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not Applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

Membership of the Committees and Sub-Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Those provisions require the Authority to review the representation of political groups and individuals on the Committees, Sub-Committees, and other appropriate bodies to ensure that the seats on Committees are allocated by Group Leaders in proportion to the political groups' membership of the Council.

Councillor Melissa Allen (Orwell and Villages Ward) resigned from East Suffolk Council with effect from 18 June 2021. A by-election for the vacant seat in this Ward was held on 12 August 2021 and Councillor Mick Richardson was elected.

### **Options:**

None.

The Council needs to appoint to its Committees and Sub-Committees to carry out its business effectively. Appointment to these bodies gives Members an opportunity to carry out their community leadership role and enables cross party views to be given on specific issues which is healthy for democracy and good decision-making.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) That, with effect from 22 September 2021 seats on Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council be allocated in accordance with the nominations by Group Leaders indicated within Appendix A to this report.
- 2) That Councillor Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw be replaced on Planning Committee North by Councillor David Beavan, with immediate effect.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires that the overall political balance of the Council be reflected, where possible, in the appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (known informally as the political balance rules).

The appointment of Committees forms the democratic framework by which some Council decisions are made. Specific legislation applies to the regulatory committees that exercise quasi-judicial powers and separate legislation is in place for the Cabinet.

The appointment to Committees and Sub-Committees enables the work of the Council to be shared across all Council Members (where appropriate) and enables Councillors to undertake a range of duties that collectively underpin or deliver the democratic decision-making process within the Council.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

Decisions are implemented in accordance with the Council's Constitution and statutory legislation.

**Environmental:**

Not applicable.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

Appointments to Committees enable Members to carry out their community leadership role and in considering the issues before them, help build a stronger, healthier, and just society.

The decision to constitute and appoint to Committees will not in itself lead to the tackling of inequality, disadvantage, and discrimination (particularly for the most vulnerable), but it will provide the framework for those issues to be addressed when making decisions or reviewing policies / services.

**Financial:**

Councillors can claim expenses for attending Council meetings which will be met from within the Council's agreed Scheme of Members' Allowances. In addition, positions such as Chairmen of Committees are awarded a Special Responsibility Allowance recognising the additional responsibilities that these positions have.

**Human Resources:**

Not applicable

**ICT:**

Not applicable

**Legal:**

Membership of the Committees and Sub-Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Specific legislation applies to the regulatory committees that exercise quasi-judicial powers and separate legislation is in place for the Cabinet.

**External Consultees:**

External consultation is not required. The Leaders of the Political Groups were asked to nominate the members of the Council whom they wished to see occupy certain seats.

Appendix A to this report shows the nominations to seats.



## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>			

Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The Regulations require that the total number of seats for each group equates to the number of places on each Committee to which political balance requirements apply.

Appointment to these bodies gives Members an opportunity to carry out their community leadership role and enables cross party views to be given on specific issues which is healthy for democracy and good decision-making.

## Background and Justification for Recommendations

1 Background facts	
1.1	<p>Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.</p> <p>Those provisions require the Council to review the representation of political groups and individuals on Committees, Sub-Committees, and other appropriate bodies in order to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) No single political group has all seats on a Committee.</li> <li>(2) The majority of seats on a Committee is allocated to the majority political group.</li> <li>(3) The total number of seats on a Council's Committee is allocated in proportion to political groups' membership of the Council.</li> <li>(4) The seats on Committees are allocated in proportion to the political groups' membership of the Council.</li> </ul>
1.2	<p>This report contains a recommendation on the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees. There are 55 seats, in total, on the Council.</p> <p>Councillor Melissa Allen (Orwell and Villages Ward) resigned from East Suffolk Council with effect from 18 June 2021. A by-election for the vacant seat in this Ward was held on 12 August 2021 and Councillor Mick Richardson was elected. The political balance as of September 2021 is shown in table 3.1, below.</p>

2 Current position	
2.1	<p><b>THE COUNCIL'S DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE</b></p> <p><u>Cabinet</u></p>

	<p>The Full Council appointed the Leader of the Council for a four-year term of office at its Annual Meeting in May 2019 and the Leader then appoints the Cabinet.</p> <p>The Cabinet (including the Deputy Leader) can be comprised of up to 10 Members and is exempt from the political proportionality rules under the Local Government Act 2000. It does not therefore form part of the Council's Committees.</p> <p><u>Audit &amp; Governance Committee</u></p> <p>The Audit &amp; Governance Committee is comprised of 9 Members and the political proportionality rules apply.</p> <p>Members of the Cabinet are not able to sit on the Audit &amp; Governance Committee.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny Committee</u></p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee is comprised of 13 Members and the political proportionality rules apply.</p> <p>Scrutiny activity is undertaken by one Committee. The Committee will carry out detailed reviews, policy development and may call-in Cabinet decisions. It may appoint task and finish groups, which will be established for a specific purpose and be time bound. It may also undertake joint reviews or those involving the Council's partners.</p> <p>Members of the Cabinet are not able to sit on the Scrutiny Committee.</p>
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#### Planning Committee (North)

The Planning Committee has 9 seats, which are allocated on a politically proportionate basis. This Committee considers planning applications which relate to the North of the District.

All Members and Substitute Members are required to have undertaken recent and relevant training on planning matters before they are able to serve on this Committee or instigate the Call-in process for planning applications.

All Members of the Planning Committee (North) also sit on the Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Members of the Planning Committee (South) and they provide high level, strategic direction regarding planning matters.

#### Planning Committee (South)

The Planning Committee has 9 seats, which are allocated on a politically proportionate basis. This Committee considers planning applications which relate to the South of the District.

All Members and Substitute Members are required to have undertaken recent and relevant training on planning matters before they are able to serve on this Committee or instigate the Call-in process for planning applications.

All Members of the Planning Committee (South) also sit on the Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Members of the Planning Committee (North) and they provide high level, strategic direction regarding planning matters.

#### Strategic Planning Committee

As the Strategic Planning Committee is made up of the Members of the North and South Planning Committees and the Cabinet Member who is the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the 18 seats on the Strategic Planning Committee have not been included in the total number of Committee seats, below.

#### Licensing

The Licensing Committee is comprised of 15 seats.

The size of the Committee reflects both the statutory licensing responsibilities and the need to appoint Members to the Licensing Sub-Committee (3 Members plus one Substitute) and to hear licensing appeals. All Members serving on the Licensing Committee are required to have received appropriate training before they undertake their role on the main Committee or serve on the Licensing Sub-Committee given its quasi-judicial nature.

#### Appointments Committee

The Appointments Committee has three seats (revised from 6 seats in report ES/0711 to Full Council on 24 March 2021).

The Committee must comprise the Leader (or Deputy Leader in their absence), the relevant Cabinet Member (or another Cabinet Member in their

	<p>absence), and one Member of the Opposition. It was agreed in March of this year that the one opposition seat would be shared between the Labour and GLI (Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent) groups, in the sense that the Leader of each of those groups would sit for alternating interviews.</p> <p>The Appointments Committee is politically balanced.</p> <p>The purpose of the Committee is to appoint the Heads of Service for the Council. The Committee can also consider the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer.</p>
2.2	<p>The Regulations require that the total number of seats for each group equates to the number of places on each Committee to which political balance requirements apply. Upon declaration of the outcome of the Aldeburgh and Leiston by-election, the political balance of the Council was calculated, so that membership of each Committee reflected the overall political balance of the Council.</p> <p>Under the Council's current structure, there are 58 seats available on Committees to which the Regulations will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit and Governance Committee: 9 seats</li> <li>• Licensing Committee: 15 seats</li> <li>• Planning Committee (North): 9 seats</li> <li>• Planning Committee (South): 9 seats</li> <li>• Scrutiny Committee: 13 seats</li> <li>• Appointments Committee: 3 seats</li> </ul>

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	The membership of the Council and the associated number and distribution of committee placings is as set out in the table at 3.2, below.					
3.2		Committee seats	Con	Lab	GLI	
	Current (September 2021) number of Councillors - 55		39	7	9	
	Distribution of the 58 committee placings		41	7.5	9.5	
		Number of places	Con	Lab	GLI	

	Audit and Gov	9	6	1	2	
	Licensing	15	11	2	2	
	Planning North	9	7	1	1	
	Planning South	9	6	1	2	
	Scrutiny	13	9	2	2	
	Appointments	3	2	0.5	0.5	
3.3	It is proposed that the allocation of Committee places to the different political groups remain unchanged, from the 28 July 2021 Full Council meeting.					
3.4	Democratic Services has been advised that Councillor Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw (a Member of the GLI) wishes to stand down from the Planning North Committee. Her place on the Committee will be filled by Councillor David Beavan, from the GLI with immediate effect, from 22 September 2021.					

#### 4 Reason for recommendations

4.1	To ensure that Members are appointed to Committees for the 2021/22 Municipal Year in accordance with the political proportionality rules and that decision-making is undertaken in a democratic way.
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## Appendices

### Appendices:

**Appendix A** Committee placings for the remainder of 2021/22

### Background reference papers:

None



APPENDIX A: ES/0883

### COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS FOR 2021/22 including Assistant Cabinet Members and Heritage Champion

<b>Audit and Governance Committee</b> <b>(9 Members)</b>	<b>Conservatives (6 seats)</b> Cllr Geoff Lynch (Chairman) Cllr Edward Back (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Judy Cloke Cllr Tony Cooper Cllr Linda Coulam Cllr Chris Mapey	<b>Labour (1 seat)</b> Cllr Tess Gandy	<b>GLI (2 seats)</b> Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte (G) Cllr Edward Thompson (LD)
<b>Licensing Committee</b> <b>(15 Members)</b>	<b>Conservatives (11 seats)</b> Cllr Colin Hedgley (Chairman) Cllr Mark Newton (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Paul Ashdown Cllr Edward Back Cllr Linda Coulam Cllr Tony Goldson Cllr Frank Mortimer Cllr Trish Mortimer	<b>Labour (2 seats)</b> Cllr Janet Craig Cllr Keith Patience	<b>GLI (2 seats)</b> Cllr John Fisher (I) Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte (G)

	Cllr Russ Rainger Cllr Keith Robinson Cllr Steve Wiles		
<b>Planning Committee (North) (9 Members)</b>	<b>Conservatives (7 seats)</b> Cllr Paul Ashdown (Chairman) Cllr Jenny Ceresa (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Norman Brooks Cllr Tony Cooper Cllr Linda Coulam Cllr Andrée Gee Cllr Craig Rivett	<b>Labour (1 seat)</b> Cllr Malcolm Pitchers	<b>GLI (1 seat)</b> Cllr David Beavan
<b>Planning Committee (South) (9 Members)</b>	<b>Conservatives (6 seats)</b> Cllr Debbie McCallum (Chairman) Cllr Stuart Bird (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Chris Blundell Cllr Tony Cooper Cllr Colin Hedgley Cllr Mark Newton	<b>Labour (1 seat)</b> Cllr Mike Deacon	<b>GLI (2 seats)</b> Cllr Kay Yule (LD) Cllr Tom Daly (G)
<b>Scrutiny Committee (13 Members)</b>	<b>Conservatives (9 seats)</b> Cllr Stuart Bird (Chairman) Cllr Edward Back Cllr Judy Cloke Cllr Linda Coulam Cllr Andrée Gee Cllr Tracey Green Cllr Colin Hedgley Cllr Geoff Lynch Cllr Keith Robinson	<b>Labour (2 seats)</b> Cllr Mike Deacon (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Louise Gooch	<b>GLI (2 seats)</b> Cllr David Beavan (LD) Cllr Caroline Topping (G)



<b>Appointments Committee (3 Members)</b>	<b>Conservatives (2 seats)</b> Leader or Deputy Leader Relevant Cabinet Member	<b>Opposition (1 seat)</b> Leader of the Labour Group OR Leader of the GLI Group
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<b>Assistant Cabinet Members</b>	Cllr Alison Cackett – Transport
	Cllr Tony Cooper – Planning & Coastal Management
	Cllr Mark Jepson – Community Health
	Cllr Steve Wiles – Economic Development

<b>East Suffolk Council's Heritage Champion</b>	Cllr Craig Rivett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development
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**FULL COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, 22 September 2021**

<b>Subject</b>	Treasury Management Outturn 2020/21 and Mid-Year 2021/22 Report
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Maurice Cook Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Brian Mew Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer <a href="mailto:brian.mew@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">brian.mew@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> 01394 444571

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

**Purpose of Report:**

The Treasury Management Policy Statement for 2020/21 requires an annual report (Outturn) and mid-year report on the Treasury Management function to be produced annually. The report reviews performance of the treasury management function including prudential indicators for 2020/21 and incorporates a mid-year review of 2021/22

**Options:**

To comply with the CIPFA Treasury Management code the report is required to be produced and presented to members, and consequently, no other options have been considered.

**Recommendations:**

That the Annual Report on the Council's Treasury Management activity for 2020/21 incorporating the Mid-Year review for 2021/22 be noted.

That the Prudential Indicators Outturn position for 2020/21 in Appendix B be noted.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

**Governance:**

The report complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management code to provide information and scrutiny on the Councils Treasury Management function.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan

**Environmental:**

No impacts.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

No impacts.

**Financial:**

Management of the Council's cash flows; banking; and capital market transactions.

**Human Resources:**

No impacts.

**ICT:**

No impacts.

**Legal:**

No impacts.

**Risk:**

Treasury Management in Local Government is governed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and in this context is the “management of the Council’s cash flows, its banking and its capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”. This Council has adopted the Code and complies with its requirements.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	None
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## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being, and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education, and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

XXX	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>  Production of the Treasury Management Outturn and Mid-Year report is a requirement under the CIPFA Treasury Management Code demonstrating the Council's governance of its investment and loans portfolio.			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

<b>1 Background facts</b>	
1.1	<p>The Treasury Management Policy Statement for 2020/21 requires an annual report and mid-year report on the Treasury Management function to be produced annually.</p> <p>The report reviews performance of the treasury management function including prudential indicators for 2020/21 and incorporates a mid-year review of 2021/22.</p> <p><b>2020/21 Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Suffolk Council's short-term Investments totalled £71.00m, long term investments totalled £33.86m and liquidity investments totalled £15.00m as at 31st March 2021</li> <li>• Total Investments as at 31st March 2021 was £119.86m</li> <li>• Interest received on investment balances during the year totalled £1.15m.</li> <li>• East Suffolk Council operated within its approved Prudential Indicator Limits for 2020/21.</li> </ul> <p><b>2021/22 Summary to date:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total investments at 31st August 2021 totalled £149.92m</li> <li>• These investments are summarised as Short-term Investments £68.00m, Long-term Investments £33.92m and Liquidity Investments £48.00m.</li> <li>• Interest received to 31st August 2021 totalled £0.257m.</li> </ul>

<b>2 Current position</b>	
2.1	<p><b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2020/21</b></p> <p><b>BORROWING</b> During 2020/21 the Council did not enter any new borrowing arrangements.</p>

	<p>The debt portfolio for 2020/21 can be seen in the table below and is summarised by £71.17m attributable to the HRA which includes £68.30m of Self-Financing loans taken out in 2011/12 and £6.08m of General Fund loans.</p> <table><tr><th>Loans as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</th><th>Principal £m</th><th>Rate Range %</th><th>Maturity Range (years)</th></tr><tr><td>PWLB Fixed Rate Maturity/Equal Instalments of Principal Loans</td><td>66.96</td><td>3.01 - 8.38</td><td>1.0- 41.0</td></tr><tr><td>PWLB Variable Rate Maturity Loans</td><td>10.29</td><td>0.23%</td><td>1.0</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>77.25</b></td><td><b>0.88 - 8.38</b></td><td><b>1.0 - 41.0</b></td></tr></table>	Loans as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Principal £m	Rate Range %	Maturity Range (years)	PWLB Fixed Rate Maturity/Equal Instalments of Principal Loans	66.96	3.01 - 8.38	1.0- 41.0	PWLB Variable Rate Maturity Loans	10.29	0.23%	1.0	<b>Total</b>	<b>77.25</b>	<b>0.88 - 8.38</b>	<b>1.0 - 41.0</b>
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2.2	<p><b>INVESTMENT ACTIVITY</b></p> <p>The average cash balances held during the year was £165.84m, this included Covid-19 grant being paid to local businesses. Investment income received was £1.15m which exceeded the planned budget of £800k. This is mainly due to the increased return on the Property Investment and Diversified Income investments along with an increased number of short-term Local Authority investments in the last quarter of 2020/21 which outperformed despite the difficulties faced with the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020</th><th>Investment made</th><th>Investments repaid</th><th>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</th></tr><tr><td><b>INVESTMENTS</b></td><td>£m</td><td>£m</td><td>£m</td><td>£m</td></tr><tr><td>Term Investments (liquidity &amp; term &lt;60 months)</td><td>109.68</td><td>536.28</td><td>-526.10</td><td>119.86</td></tr></table> <p>Details of the Councils investment balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 can be seen at Appendix A.</p> <p>Security of capital remained the Council’s main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council’s counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21.</p> <p>Investments during the year included call accounts, deposits with UK Banks and Building Societies and Local Authorities, CCLA and NinetyOne. During the year there were no investments placed with counterparties outside of the UK.</p>		Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	Investment made	Investments repaid	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	£m	£m	£m	£m	Term Investments (liquidity & term <60 months)	109.68	536.28	-526.10	119.86	
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	<p>Externally Managed Pooled Funds: £18.86m of investments are held in externally managed strategic pooled multi-asset and property funds where short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations, and the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability.</p> <p>Following a review of the Councils investment portfolio and in consultation with the Councils external treasury advisors it was agreed that further diversification of the portfolio could be obtained and increase the rate of return by investing in a second multi asset fund separate to the one held with CCLA. In February 2021 £5m was placed in the multi asset fund administered by NinetyOne (formally Investec).</p>
2.3	<p><b>COMPLIANCE WITH PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS</b></p> <p>The Council complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2020/21, these were approved by Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. The Prudential Indicators for 2020/21 can be found at Appendix B.</p>

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	<p><b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW 2021/22</b></p> <p>The East Suffolk Council Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2021/22 was approved by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and there have been no policy changes to date. The Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) which document procedural practices of the Treasury function have been updated to reflect the most recent extension to the banking contract and the external treasury management advisor contract. A copy of the Councils TMP's can be viewed on SharePoint.</p>																		
3.2	<p><b>DAILY CASH MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The Council's counterparty list (investment list) is continuously reviewed and updated taking into account published credit rating information, financial accounts, share prices, asset size, Government support and information from the Council's Treasury Advisors, Arlingclose.</p>																		
3.3	<p><b>INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO 2021/22</b></p> <p>The Council held £149.92m of investments at the 31st of August 2021; the table below illustrates the maturity of investments over the forthcoming months and the average interest rate achieved on the investment.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 £m</th><th>1<sup>st</sup> April Interest Rate %</th><th>31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 £m</th><th>31<sup>st</sup> August Interest Rate %</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Call Accounts (Liquidity Funds)</b></td><td>15.00</td><td>0.08% - 0.10%</td><td>38.00</td><td>0.08% - 0.10%</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Money Market Funds</b></td><td>0.00</td><td>0.03%</td><td>10.00</td><td>0.03%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>					1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 £m	1 <sup>st</sup> April Interest Rate %	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021 £m	31 <sup>st</sup> August Interest Rate %	<b>Call Accounts (Liquidity Funds)</b>	15.00	0.08% - 0.10%	38.00	0.08% - 0.10%	<b>Money Market Funds</b>	0.00	0.03%	10.00	0.03%
	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 £m	1 <sup>st</sup> April Interest Rate %	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021 £m	31 <sup>st</sup> August Interest Rate %															
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<b>Money Market Funds</b>	0.00	0.03%	10.00	0.03%															

<b>Term Investments:</b> 3 to 24 months	86.00	0.05% – 1.0%	83.00	0.05% - 0.90%
<b>Property Investment Fund</b>	9.17	4.49%	9.17	4.49%
<b>Multi Asset Fund</b>	9.69	3.36% - 3.82%	9.75	3.36% - 3.82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>119.86</b>		<b>149.92</b>	

With the bank base rate at an all-time low of 0.10%, and with the outlook likely to be at this level or lower for the next 3 years, this has resulted in marked decreases in the investment rates that Local Authorities can achieve.

The Council's investment portfolio in the short term is looking healthy with both the Property Investment and Multi Asset Fund still performing well despite the continued challenges of Covid-19. The Property Fund Investment has seen little effect on its income stream with the Multi Asset Fund also holding up well due to the range of different investments it holds.

Inter Local Authority investments continue to remain at a low rate with the occasional upturn led by consumer demand.

The Council is currently estimating that, despite interest rates being low, the investment income budget for the year of £650k will be achievable.

#### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The CIPFA Treasury Management code requires a report to be produced and noted at Full Council of the Treasury Management outturn position for the previous financial year and an update on the current year on or around the mid-year point.
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## Appendices

### Appendices:

**Appendix A** Investment Balances as at 31.3.2021

**Appendix B** Prudential Indicators Outturn position for 2020/21

### Background reference papers:

None.



INVESTMENTS	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 £m	Rate Range	Institution
<b>Liquidity Investments</b>	15.00	0.08% - 0.10%	UK Banks
<b>Short Term Investments</b>			
May 2020 to May 2021	7.00	1.00%	Local Authority
July 2020 to July 2021	4.00	1.00%	Local Authority
October 2020 to April 2021	2.00	0.10%	Local Authority
October 2020 to July 2021	2.00	0.40%	Local Authority
November 2020 to May 2021	7.00	0.10%	Local Authority
December 2020 to June 2021	19.50	0.10%	Local Authority
January 2021 to July 2021	1.00	0.09%	Local Authority
January 2021 to July 2021	2.00	0.05%	Local Authority
February 2021 to August 2021	5.00	0.10%	Local Authority
February 2021 to November 2021	5.00	0.20%	Local Authority
February 2021 to February 2022	5.00	0.15%	Local Authority
March 2021 to September 2021	5.00	0.10%	Local Authority
March 2021 to September 2021	1.50	0.15%	Local Authority
March 2021 to December 2021	5.00	0.20%	Local Authority
<b>Long Term Investments</b>			
August 2020 to August 2022	5.00	0.90%	Local Authority
September 2020 to September 2022	5.00	0.90%	Local Authority
October 2020 to October 2022	5.00	0.90%	Local Authority
<b>Long Term Investments - Externally managed funds</b>			
Property Investment Fund	9.17	4.49%	CCLA
Diversified Income Fund	9.69	3.36% & 3.82%	CCLA & Ninety One
<b>Total</b>	119.86		

## East Suffolk Council - Compliance with Prudential Indicators 2020/21

**1 ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

- 1.1 This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed investment in capital assets remains within sustainable limits and in particular to consider the impact on the Council Tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
	Estimated £m	In Year Forecast	Outturn £m
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
Non-HRA	41.64	27.16	<b>21.65</b>
HRA	15.43	4.53	<b>4.17</b>
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>57.07</b>	<b>31.69</b>	<b>25.82</b>

- 1.2 The £5.51 variance on non-HRA and the £0.36m HRA variance relates to programme delivery being deferred until 2021/22. These were reported to Cabinet on 13 July 2021 part of the Council's Outturn report for 2020/21.

**2 ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL RATIO OF FINANCING COSTS TO NET REVENUE STREAM**

- 2.1 This is an indicator of affordability and demonstrates the revenue implications of capital investment decisions by highlighting the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet the borrowing costs associated with capital spending. The financing costs include existing and proposed capital commitments. Any increase in the percentages requires an increased contribution from the revenue account to meet the borrowing cost. The variances are primarily related to how the expenditure has been financed, with the non-HRA benefiting from increased external financing whereas the HRA has used slightly more internal resources to finance the 2020/21 expenditure.

	2020/21	2020/21
	Estimated %	Outturn %
<b>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>		
Non-HRA	1.47	<b>0.29</b>
HRA	17.62	<b>15.21</b>

**3 CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT**

- 3.1 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In order to ensure that over the medium-term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the Council ensures that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and next two financial years.

3.2 The Council met this requirement in 2020/21.

	2020/21	2020/21
	Estimated £m	Outturn £m
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>		
Non-HRA	48.49	<b>46.51</b>
HRA	77.75	<b>77.75</b>
<b>Total</b>	126.24	<b>124.26</b>

**4 AFFORDABLE BORROWING LIMIT, AUTHORISED LIMIT AND OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY FOR EXTERNAL DEBT**

- 4.1 **Authorised Limit:** This is the maximum amount of external debt that can be outstanding at one time during the financial year. The limit, which is expressed gross of investments, is consistent with the Council's existing commitments, proposals for capital expenditure and financing and with its approved treasury policy and strategy and provides headroom over and above for unusual cash movements. This limit was set at £155m for 2020/21, with the actual total borrowing being £77.25m.
- 4.2 **Operational Boundary:** This limit is set to reflect the Council's best view of the most likely prudent (i.e., not worst case) levels of borrowing activity and was set at £153m for 2020/21 with the actual borrowing amount being £77.25m.
- 4.3 The levels of debt are measured on an ongoing basis during the year for compliance with the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary. The Council maintained its total external borrowing and other long-term liabilities within both limits.

**5 UPPER LIMITS FOR FIXED INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE AND VARIABLE INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE**

- 5.1 These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates. The exposures are calculated on a net basis, i.e., fixed rate debt net of fixed rate investments. The upper limit for variable rate exposure allows for the use of variable rate debt to offset exposure to changes in short-term rates on our portfolio of investments.

	2020/21	2020/21
	Estimated %	Outturn %
<b>Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposure</b>	100	<b>87</b>
<b>Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure</b>	50	<b>13</b>

**6 MATURITY STRUCTURE OF FIXED RATE BORROWING**

- 6.1 This indicator highlights the existence of any large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates and is designed to protect against excessive exposures to interest rate changes in any one period and in particular in the course of the next ten years.
- 6.2 It is calculated as the amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate.

<b>Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing</b>	<b>Upper limit %</b>	<b>Lower limit %</b>	<b>Actual Borrowing as at 31 March 2021 £m</b>	<b>Percentage of total as at 31 March 2021 %</b>
under 12 months	50	0	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2</b>
1 year and within 2 years	50	0	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3</b>
2 years and within 5 years	75	0	<b>10.0</b>	<b>15</b>
5 years and within 10 years	75	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
10 years and within 20 years	75	0	<b>32.96</b>	<b>49</b>
20 years and above	100	0	<b>21.0</b>	<b>31</b>

- 6.3 All borrowing has been taken in conjunction with advice from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors.

## **7 TOTAL PRINCIPAL SUMS INVESTED FOR PERIODS LONGER THAN 364 DAYS**

- 7.1 There were no proposals for the Council to invest sums for periods longer than 364 days.
- 7.2 The Council has £9.17m invested in a long-term property fund, £9.69m invested in long-term multi asset income fund and £15m invested with local authorities.



**FULL COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, 22 September 2021**

<b>Subject</b>	Beccles Neighbourhood Plan
<b>Report of</b>	Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
<b>Supporting Officers</b>	Dickon Povey Principal Planner (Policy and Delivery) <a href="mailto:dickon.povey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">dickon.povey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> (01502) 523043  Ben Wright Planning Officer (Policy and Delivery) <a href="mailto:Ben.wright@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">Ben.wright@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> (01502) 523082

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Beccles & Worlingham

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this Report is to “make” the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) part of the Development Plan for East Suffolk following a positive result of the Referendum on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Part of the Beccles neighbourhood area falls within the Broads Authority area.

The Referendum question asks: “Do you want the Broads Authority and East Suffolk Council to use the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?” On the basis that more than 50% of those voting in the Referendum vote “YES” to the question, the Council must “make” the Neighbourhood Plan, unless it considers the Neighbourhood Plan would breach or be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights.

Once “made” by East Suffolk Council the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the part of the Neighbourhood Area within East Suffolk and sit alongside the adopted East Suffolk Council Waveney Local Plan. The Development Plan is used to determine planning applications. The Broads Authority will make their own decision to make the Neighbourhood Plan and it will then become part of the Development Plan for the part of the Neighbourhood Area within the Broads Authority.

### **Options:**

1. The Council ‘makes’ the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan part of the Statutory Development Plan for the part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area within East Suffolk.
2. Should the extremely rare outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan failing at Referendum occur then the Council should not ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Council “make” the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum version) part of the statutory Development Plan for the part of the Beccles Neighbourhood Area within East Suffolk following a positive Referendum result.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan and will be a statutory consideration in determining planning applications in the East Suffolk part of the Neighbourhood Area.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the relevant strategies of the East Suffolk Council - Waveney Local Plan. This is something a Neighbourhood Plan is tested against at Examination.

**Environmental:**

Individual policies in the Neighbourhood Plans contribute to achieving objectives in relation to the environment which will support the delivery of the Environment priorities in the Strategic Plan. For example the Neighbourhood Plan contains a policy to conserve or enhance heritage assets which safeguards the historic environment. Other policies promote improved walking and cycling routes; high quality design of buildings, streets and public spaces; biodiversity improvements; and low energy housing design which will all support enhancement of the built and natural environment.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

Equality Impact Assessment ref: EQIA361716695 has been carried out. No impacts on those with protected characteristics have been identified and therefore no mitigating actions are identified/required.

**Financial:**

In accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations, Parish/Town Councils with a made Neighbourhood Plan in place will receive 25% of CIL receipts from liable development schemes permitted after the Neighbourhood Plan is made. For towns and parishes with no made Neighbourhood Plan, they will receive 15% of CIL receipts. (Further details on CIL can be found via the following link:

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/>)

The Council has claimed Neighbourhood Planning Grant of £20,000 from the Government to cover costs for supporting the Neighbourhood Plan through the process. This can be claimed once a date has been set for the Referendum.

**Human Resources:**

No impacts.

**ICT:**

No impacts.

**Legal:**

No impacts.

**Risk:**

There are no risks anticipated in relation to the implementation of the recommendation.

**External Consultees:**

The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to extensive consultation throughout the course of its preparation. This has included consultation with the community as a whole; statutory consultees; and a broad range of other interested parties. Details of the consultation process can be found in the Consultation Statement referenced in Background Reference Papers.

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Neighbourhood Plan includes the community's vision and sets out how this will be delivered. This supports P09 'Community Pride' by promoting involvement, participation and positive action in the community and delivering the collective vision and objectives.</p> <p>P01 'Build the Right Environment for Suffolk' is directly supported by enabling an inclusive approach to shaping communities. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which will influence the design of housing and also support economic growth by addressing town centre issues and supporting tourism. In turn, this will positively promote the delivery of the Council's strategies for growth and place making.</p>			



The Neighbourhood Plan is an excellent example of community-led planning which directly supports P07 'Taking Positive Action on What Matters Most'. Neighbourhood Plans enable communities to plan and respond to meet their own needs.

The Neighbourhood Plan supports expansion and improvement of the Beccles Health Campus and social care services which helps underpin P08 'Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District'.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies to support tourism in Beccles and conserve or enhance heritage assets. This contributes to P09 'Maximise and Grow the Unique Selling Points of East Suffolk'.

Supporting and delivering Neighbourhood Plans means the Council is eligible for £20,000 of Neighbourhood Planning Grant from the Government. This supports priority P13 'Optimising our Financial Investments and Grant Opportunities'.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a range of policies which promote protection and enhancement of the environment in terms of supporting walking and cycling; supporting sustainable design and construction; and promotion of Sustainable Drainage Systems incorporating biodiversity and wildlife improvements. This supports priority P23 'Protection, Education and Influence' by using the Council's policy-making function to enable communities to achieve a cleaner and healthier environment.

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1	Background facts
1.1	Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. They allow communities to write their own plan containing planning policies which, once 'made', form part of the development plan and are used alongside the East Suffolk Local Plans and national planning policy. Consideration of the development plan is a statutory element of determining planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans also commonly include non-policy actions which reflect the community's aspirations but are not suitable as planning policies. More information on the plan is included below and the full version is in appendix A.
1.2	<p>Beccles Town Council has taken up the opportunity to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for their community. The plans have been developed by the community with the Town Council being the 'Qualifying Body'. The plan has been through several stages of consultation, including statutory consultations, and an Examination carried out by an independent examiner. The Examiner recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to Referendum. The Referendum takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021.</p> <p>The question asked at the Referendum is: <i>Do you want the Broads Authority and East Suffolk Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Beccles to help them decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?</i></p> <p>For a positive Referendum outcome more people must vote 'Yes' than 'No'. This Report was written and published shortly before the Referendum taking place. It is extremely rare for a Neighbourhood Plan to fail at Referendum. The Beccles</p>

	Neighbourhood Plan has not been controversial and there is no reason to suggest that it will not have a positive outcome at the Referendum. Therefore this Report has been written on the basis that the plan will be made following a successful Referendum.
1.3	Neighbourhood Planning Regulations state that the Neighbourhood Plan will carry full weight once the plan has passed the Referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan will become formally part of the Development Plan once it is made. The Council is required to make the Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of the day following the Referendum, unless it considers that this would breach, or be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention of Rights. This is not considered to be the case with the Neighbourhood Plan.
1.4	Areas with a made Neighbourhood Plan benefit from a greater proportion of the 'Community Infrastructure Levy' (CIL) where this is payable. The CIL is a tariff paid by liable forms of development and it is calculated using the development's floor area. CIL is paid to the Council by the developer. A proportion of this money is then paid directly to the Parish or Town Council on a bi-annual basis. Parish or Town Councils receive 25% CIL receipts where there is a made Neighbourhood Plan in place, or 15% without. The CIL regulations apply a cap to the annual amount of CIL transferred to Parish or Town Councils where there is no Neighbourhood Plan in place. It is capped at £100 per dwelling (indexed for inflation). There is no cap on the 25% transferred when a made Neighbourhood Plan is in place.
1.5	The Neighbourhood Plan Area covers the entire parish of Beccles, part of which falls within the Broads Authority area. A link to the 'Neighbourhood Area Decision Notice' is provided in the Background Reference Papers. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies relating to supporting new community facilities; supporting tourism development and new hotels; conserving or enhancing heritage assets; supporting key identified movement routes; Beccles town centre; medical provision in Beccles; design principles including streets and public spaces; Sustainable Drainage Systems; and low energy housing design.
1.6	Beccles Town Council consulted with the local community to produce their plan. This is documented in their Consultation Statement (see Background Reference Papers). Following this, the Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Council and the Council publicised the plan, inviting comments over the period of 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 and 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021. In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid restrictions at the beginning of 2021, the publicity included hard copies of the documents available for inspection at Beccles Town Hall; an extended publicity period; and the offer of posting hard copies of the plan documents to those requesting them.
1.7	Following this period of publicity, East Suffolk Council and the Broads Authority, with the agreement of Beccles Town Council, appointed independent Examiner Nigel McGurk BSc (Hons) MCD MBA MRTPI to examine the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan. The role of the Examiner is to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan meets the relevant legislative and procedural requirements. Testing against the 'Basic Conditions' set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is the main

	element of this. The Examiner issued his Report in May 2021 and it concluded that subject to modifications the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to Referendum (see Background Reference Papers). It also concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan was compatible with European Obligations and the European Convention on Human Rights.
1.8	Following discussion with the Town Council, the Broads Authority and East Suffolk Council (using powers delegated to the Head of Planning and Coastal Management), considered each of the recommended modifications which were all then agreed. The Decision Statement for the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan was published in July this year (see Background Reference Papers). The Referendum was then arranged for 16 <sup>th</sup> September. The outcome of the referendum will be known by the time of the Council meeting and Members will be advised of this outcome at the meeting.

## 2 Current position

2.1	At the time of writing this Report, the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan had successfully completed examination and was fully expected to pass the Referendum on 16 <sup>th</sup> September. Legislation states that the Council must make a Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of the day after a successful Referendum, unless it considers that this would breach or be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention of Rights.
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## 3 How to address current situation

3.1	On the basis of a positive outcome at the Referendum, the Council should make the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan.
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## 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	Following a successful Referendum, the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of the day following the Referendum unless it considers that this would breach or be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention of Rights. There are no indications of breaches or compatibility issues therefore the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan.
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## Appendices

### Appendices:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Beccles Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum Version)
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Background reference papers:		
Date	Type	Available From
May 2017	Beccles Neighbourhood Area Decision	<a href="https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Beccles/Beccles-Neighbourhood-Area-Decision-Notice.pdf">https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Beccles/Beccles-Neighbourhood-Area-Decision-Notice.pdf</a>
June 2020	Beccles Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement	<a href="https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1228738/87507013.1/PDF/-/Consultation_Statement.pdf">https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1228738/87507013.1/PDF/-/Consultation_Statement.pdf</a>
July 2021	Beccles Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement	<a href="https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Beccles/Beccles-Neighbourhood-Plan-Decision-Statement.pdf">https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Beccles/Beccles-Neighbourhood-Plan-Decision-Statement.pdf</a>
May 2021	Beccles Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report	<a href="https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Beccles/Beccles-Neighbourhood-Plan-Examiners-Report.pdf">https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Beccles/Beccles-Neighbourhood-Plan-Examiners-Report.pdf</a>

**Beccles Town Council**

# **Beccles Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036**



**Referendum Version**

**August 2021**



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## Appendix A

Non-Designated Heritage Assets within the Beccles Conservation Area

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of the plan

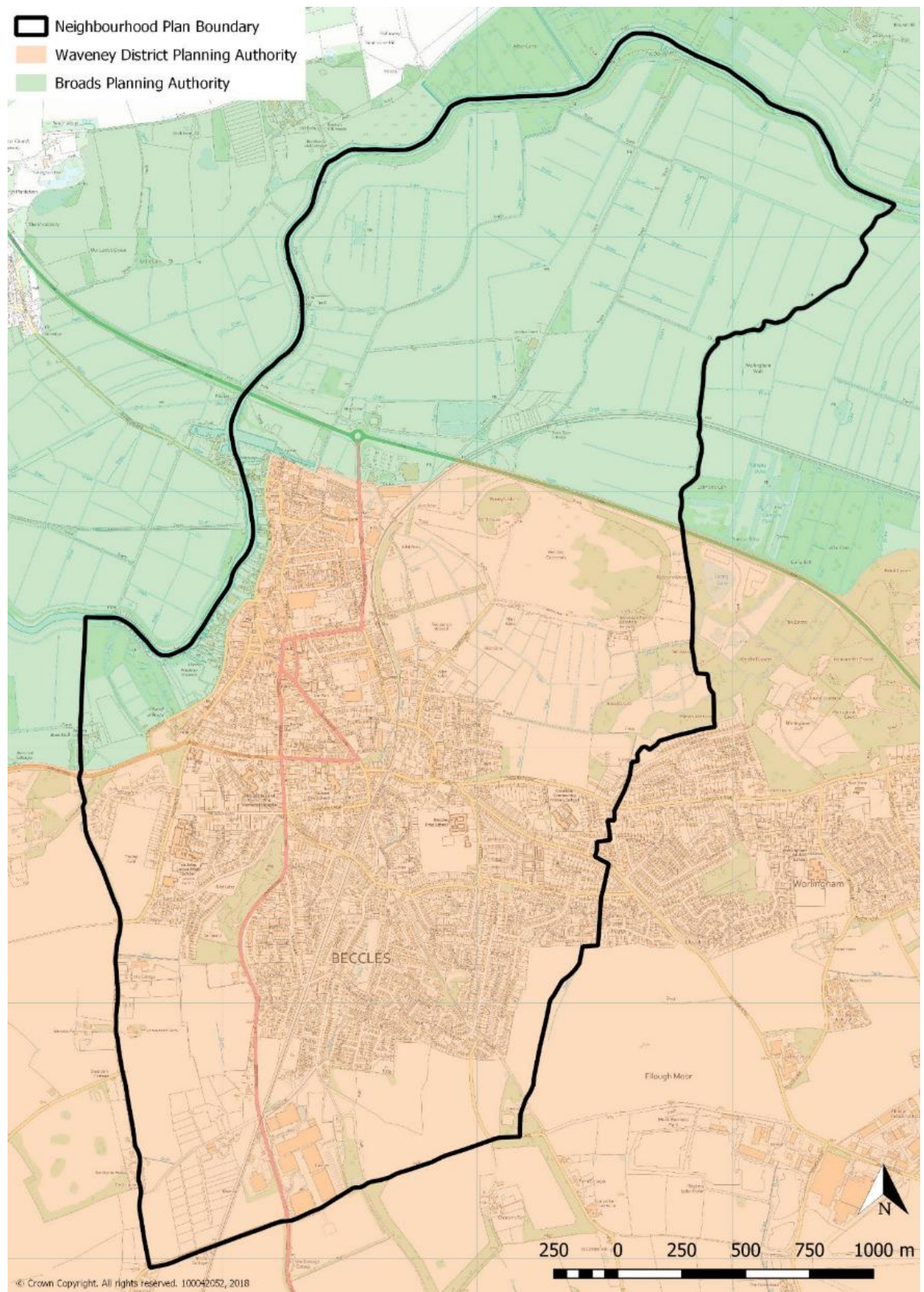
- 1.1 This document represents the Neighbourhood Plan for the town of Beccles for the period 2019 to 2036. The Plan contains a vision for the future of Beccles and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision.
- 1.2 The principal purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to guide development within the town. It also provides guidance to anyone wishing to submit a planning application for development within the town. The process of producing a plan has sought to involve the community as widely as possible. The different topic areas are reflective of matters that are of considerable importance to Beccles, its residents, businesses and community groups. It should be noted that planning applications are submitted to and determined by East Suffolk Council and the Broads Authority (depending on where they are located). However, the Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the development plan and therefore is given equal weight to the relevant Local Plan in the decision-making process.
- 1.3 Some of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are general and apply throughout the Plan area, whilst others are site or area-specific and apply only to the appropriate areas illustrated on the relevant map. Nevertheless, in considering proposals for development, East Suffolk Council or the Broads Authority will apply all relevant policies of the Plan. It is therefore assumed that the Plan will be read as a whole, although some cross-referencing between Plan policies has been provided.
- 1.4 The process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan has identified a number of actions which have not been included in the policies' sections. This is because these are not specifically related to land use matters and therefore sit outside the jurisdiction of a Neighbourhood Plan. These actions will be addressed by the Town Council outside of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

## Policy context

- 1.5 Along with national planning policy, the Neighbourhood Plan represents one part of the development plan for the neighbourhood area over the period 2019 to 2036, the other parts being:
  - For the parts of the Neighbourhood Area in the former Waveney district - the Waveney Local Plan (2019).
  - For the parts of the Neighbourhood Area in the Broads Authority area –the Broads Local Plan (2019).



**Figure 1.1: Beccles neighbourhood plan area**



- 1.6 East Suffolk Council and the Broads Authority, as the relevant local planning authorities, designated the Beccles Neighbourhood Area in November 2017 to enable Beccles Town Council to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan has been prepared by the community through the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) Steering Group.
- 1.7 The BNP has been prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). The BNP Steering Group has prepared the plan to establish a vision for the future of the town and to set out how that vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development change over the plan period.
- 1.8 The map in Figure 1.1 shows the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, which is the same as the administrative boundary of Beccles parish.
- 1.9 The Neighbourhood Plan can only directly address planning applications and matters within the parish of Beccles. The built-up area of Worlingham is directly adjacent to that of Beccles and there is a close relationship between the communities. Beccles is a market town serving a wider hinterland and it is particularly the residents of Worlingham that rely on many of the services in Beccles. Whilst the process of preparing the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan has engaged with the community of Worlingham and has not sought to distinguish between needs depending on which side of the administrative boundary people live, it is important to be clear that Worlingham as a community, supported by its parish council, will have its own view on things and may choose to address these matters in a different way to this Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.10 The Vision in the Waveney Local Plan, which allocates all growth in the area, aligns closely with that of the Neighbourhood Plan. In particular it seeks to improve quality of life; have a stronger economy, including more vibrant town centres and a strong tourist offer; housing of the right type to meet needs; increased opportunity for active lifestyles; protection of the Broads and the natural environment; and measures to reduce the contribution of the district to climate change.
- 1.11 The strategy for Beccles and Worlingham is for a total of 1,458 new dwellings over the period 2014 to 2036. In particular, this is to be delivered through the creation of the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood, which will deliver 1,250 dwellings (1,055 dwellings during the plan period) along with a range of facilities, including a care home, employment development, primary school, community hub and country park.
- 1.12 Along with the Garden Neighbourhood, a further 280 dwellings are allocated on land west of London Road and 13.4 hectares of land for employment uses south of Benacre Road at Ellough Airfield.
- 1.13 Road access has been improved through the provision of a southern relief road for Beccles which is now complete. The Local Plan also generally recognises the importance of improving cycling and walking linkages.
- 1.14 The Local Plan identifies a number of community infrastructure needs, including library improvements, extension/improvements to Beccles Medical Centre, a new community centre

and various sports and 'green' leisure facilities. A number of these are envisaged and will be provided as part of the development of the Garden Neighbourhood.

## **Developing the Neighbourhood Plan**

- 1.15 The development of the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan commenced in 2016 and has been characterised by extensive consultation with the community. The Plan has been driven forward by the Operational Group which has endeavoured to ensure that it has engaged across the whole of the community. It has held a variety of meetings, community consultations and evidence gathering events to allow the community and wider stakeholders to express their views.
- 1.16 The key principle for the Operational Group has always been to listen to what people think, rather than driving the conversation. Evidence gathered has informed the development of the Plan so that the content is based on what people living, working and playing in the town think.
- 1.17 The Operational Group has met with local groups in the town such as the Beccles Business Association (BBA) and the Beccles Branch of the National Women's Register, as well as holding evidence gathering events at schools, the medical centre, churches, shops and various events.
- 1.18 The Beccles Neighbourhood Plan website ([www.becclesplan.com](http://www.becclesplan.com)) contains lots of information and the Plan also has a Facebook page. The website has recorded the engagement diary, showing all the events undertaken as well as information relating to the Operational Group's monthly meetings.
- 1.19 The Group has endeavoured to ensure people have been informed of dates and times of events by posting posters in the town as well as leafleting households in Beccles and featuring in the local press. It has also written to a wide range of Beccles organisations and groups asking for any comments, concerns and input. In short, the Operational Group has tried to ensure that people have had an opportunity to get involved.
- 1.20 In terms of what people say and think, there is a strong sense from our community that they like living in Beccles and enjoy it just as it is. In other words, its quality as a market town with its own character and charm is important to them. Therefore whilst they would like to see some change and improvement, it should not be at the cost of damage to that special feel that Beccles has. The heritage of Beccles and its town centre are important to residents.
- 1.21 Concerns about housing growth and development were raised consistently but the Operational Group has attempted to be clear in explaining that the Neighbourhood Plan must focus on shaping the growth that is planned through the Waveney Local Plan and this opportunity is preferable to not having a plan and therefore potentially little influence over how the town grows.
- 1.22 Well planned and good design and quality building that fits with the town's character is important. This applies to both residential development and commercial development alike. Whatever is proposed needs to fit in with the environment and not be an eyesore.

- 1.23 It will however be important that as the town grows there is an opportunity for local people to access housing of a high quality to purchase and to rent.
- 1.24 Beccles has suffered from a loss of people in the mid-range age group (particularly 30-44 year-olds) over the years and the 2011 Census confirmed this. Whilst reasons for this are complex and varied, one element is the affordability of housing.
- 1.25 There are a number of messages that consistently came out of consultations:
- Improved facilities for both the young and the older age groups including indoor and outdoor facilities for play, sports and social gathering of varying kinds are needed.
  - In terms of sports and leisure, swimming was a priority with requests for an indoor pool being made. Demand is high for the existing swimming facility at Beccles Lido so this may help give an indication of potential year-round demand.
  - Concerns were raised about the medical centre and the ability to provide medical facilities to meet the needs of the community. There is a requirement from evidence gathered for additional medical capacity to serve the town in order to provide more efficient access to treatment. Concerns were also raised about access to GPs, health professionals and even practical factors such as the ability to park at the surgery.

### **Hidden Needs**

- 1.26 Future changes to the town and environment should always consider factors identified in Beccles by the 2016 Suffolk Hidden Needs report<sup>1</sup>. This has informed the Neighbourhood Plan as it is seen as vital that decisions made over the coming years are done so with the question of how this improves Beccles for people with particular needs.

### **Monitoring the Plan**

- 1.27 Beccles Town Council, as the Neighbourhood Plan qualifying body, will be responsible for maintaining and periodically revisiting the Plan to ensure relevance and to monitor delivery. As the responsible body for preparing a neighbourhood plan covering the parish of Beccles, it will fall to Beccles Town Council to monitor progress against the Neighbourhood Plan's objectives and to ensure that it remains relevant.

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<sup>1</sup> University of Suffolk (2016) *Hidden Needs in Suffolk*, report to Suffolk Community Foundation



## 2 LOCAL CONTEXT

### History of Beccles

- 2.1 Beccles is situated in the Waveney valley, in the county of Suffolk but very close to the Norfolk border. There has been a community here since pre-Saxon times when an arm of the sea extended as far as Beccles, making it a thriving port and a market town. The community prospered by initially relying on the herring industry and the Old Market dates from this era.



**Beccles New Market, 1810**

- 2.2 By late Tudor times the tidal estuary had silted up, but the town remained a busy port relying on wherry boats to transport local products such as wool to other places. Beccles was granted its charter by Elizabeth I in 1584 and Charter weekend is still celebrated usually each summer. In the late 16th and 17th centuries the town was ravaged by fire resulting in many of the buildings in the town centre being rebuilt in Georgian times. The street plan of earlier years remains along with the old street names such as Saltgate, Northgate and Ballygate.
- 2.3 A number of important historic and listed buildings can still be seen; the 15th century parish church of St. Michael (with its separate bell tower) which witnessed the marriage of Nelson's parents, and Lemman House, once a local school set up by Sir John Lemman in 1631 and now a museum. The octagonal shaped Town Hall was built in 1765 followed twenty years later by the Public Hall, still used for theatre and concerts. The Caxton printing works was set up in 1868 and the town's economies began to rely heavily on this industry; Clowes, as it became known, was possibly the largest book printers in Europe. The works were demolished in 2003, the site now being occupied by a Tesco supermarket. The ever-popular Lido was built in 1959, replacing a section of the River Waveney that had previously been fenced off for swimming.
- 2.4 Beccles is set among lovely countryside and is within close proximity to the coast. There are good bus services to Norwich and Lowestoft and rail connections to Ipswich and then on to London Liverpool Street. For some years now Beccles has been known as gateway to the

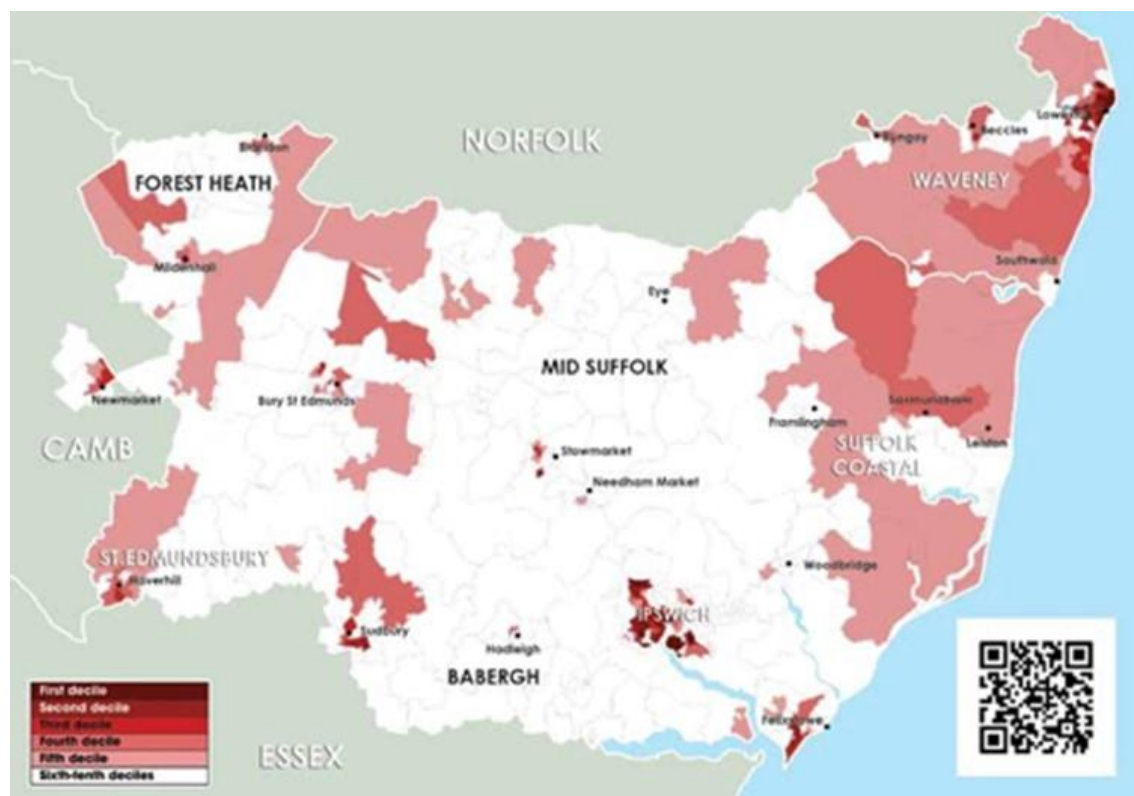
Broads and it is boats that bring many of the tourists to Beccles each year. The town has been twinned with Petit-Couronne in Normandy which is itself twinned with Ahlem, a suburb of Hanover, and bonds of friendship are encouraged between the three communities.

- 2.5 Today Beccles is a thriving market town serving a wide area. It was awarded Fairtrade status in 2008; there is an annual Fairtrade Fortnight and many shops and cafes offer Fairtrade goods. The town has expanded in recent years and is well liked by both residents and visitors. It is important that, as this expansion continues, Beccles combines the vitality of a 21st century community while preserving its charm and historic heritage which reflects its evolution over time.

## Beccles today

- 2.6 The Suffolk Hidden Needs Report 2016<sup>2</sup> gives a very comprehensive overview which challenges the stereotypical image of Suffolk as a prosperous rural county. There are a number of areas in Suffolk, including Beccles, which face a significant disadvantage as measured in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)<sup>3</sup>, Census and Social Mobility Index. Indeed, Beccles is one of the 20% most deprived neighbourhood areas in the county.

**Figure 2.1: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 in Suffolk: ranking of local concentrations of deprivation in Suffolk relative to England**



Source: IMD 2015, IMD overall score

<sup>2</sup> University of Suffolk (2016) *Hidden Needs in Suffolk*, report to Suffolk Community Foundation

<sup>3</sup> The IMD is a UK government qualitative assessment of deprivation across England. It covers seven aspects of deprivation (income, employment, health and disability, crime, education, housing and living environment).

- 2.7 Being in a rural area of England, transport is an essential component of Beccles's quality of life and the access to opportunities by its residents. Beccles is recognised as having good links to Lowestoft, Norwich and trains to Ipswich<sup>4</sup>, but in the evening the frequency of service drops substantially. There has been a decline in bus services in the past decade.
- 2.8 Improvements to public transport, especially through villages and hamlets, would draw more people into the town.
- 2.9 The southern relief road opened in Autumn 2018 and one of the expected benefits will be to take heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic away from the town centre<sup>5</sup>, through which it has presently had to travel. Traffic within the town centre was an issue raised by the public - people would like to see less traffic in town to cut down on pollution. The community also feels that parking needed to be improved, with its cost cited regularly as being too high. Additionally, drivers do not always use designated parking areas, making certain access points problematic for large vehicles, including buses. This, along with the narrow pavements makes areas feel unsafe for pedestrians, especially for people with pushchairs, mobility scooters and wheelchairs.
- 2.10 The new southern relief road also provides a cycle path along its length which will ensure bicycle users can travel in safety. Another expected benefit of the road is reduced traffic in the town centre which will also increase pedestrian safety. Comments by young people confirm the need for cycle routes to be developed throughout the town and to and from the proposed Garden Neighbourhood, together with secure parking areas for bikes. Improving the opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists will help create healthy communities, create the potential to enhance our natural environment and ease congestion. By enhancing these aspects, we will be giving people of all ages the opportunity to walk and cycle as a form of recreation as well as being a form of transport.<sup>6</sup>
- 2.11 Beccles has many social activities and clubs for people of retirement age in the centre of the town. For example, the University of the Third Age (U3A) for retired and semi-retired people in Beccles, is extremely popular and supports over 50 Special Interest Groups<sup>7</sup>, while the Waveney Centre is open Monday to Saturday as a 'quiet-space' social hub for people aged over 55.
- 2.12 Equally, the Neighbourhood Plan engagement has shown that there is a great need for opportunities, activities, and places for youth and the younger 'pre-retirement' age groups.
- 2.13 The Beccles Library has developed as a community hub, holding a range of information about the local area, as well as putting on a range of activities for children aged 0-5 years and providing IT and printing facilities. It provides courses and groups which meet during working hours, a French 'drop-in' session some Saturdays, and a monthly reading group held in an evening. Blyburgate Hall provides a space and is used by a number of groups to provide social

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<sup>4</sup> Waveney Local Plan | March 2019, [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newwaveneylocalplan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newwaveneylocalplan) (p14)

<sup>5</sup> Waveney Local Plan | March 2019, [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newwaveneylocalplan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newwaveneylocalplan) (p14)

<sup>6</sup> Waveney Local Plan | March 2019, [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newwaveneylocalplan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newwaveneylocalplan) (p14)

<sup>7</sup> <https://u3asites.org.uk/beccles/home>

classes; Beccles Public Hall is a space which can be hired and tends to be used for performances; the Beccles Train Station has recently been refurbished - it now has a popular cafe, toilet, and rooms to hire which presently has regular classes running, for example, yoga and art. The Quaker Hall and rooms also provide a popular venue for use by the community.

- 2.14 Beccles has a wide range of shops. Most basic things can be bought within the town, although feedback states there are too many charity shops. Local traders sell their produce at the popular weekly Friday market, for which a part of the town is closed off to cars. It is the 'older' generation which the Neighbourhood Plan engagement suggested feel most content with what the town provides regarding retail, whereas data from both primary and secondary schools demonstrates the need for a broader range of shops to serve the needs of younger people. Pedestrianisation of the town centre has also been suggested.



**Sketch of the King's Head Hotel today**

- 2.15 A common theme across people of all ages is that Beccles would benefit from an improvement to places for recreation and leisure time. The skatepark has now been completed. The Lido in Beccles is very popular amongst all ages and is open between the end of May and early September - it has excellent disabled access and facilities, as well as a sociable eating area. Popular suggestions are an indoor swimming pool, improvements to the current sports and fitness facilities in the town, a trampoline park, and a cinema.
- 2.16 Opportunities in Beccles which bring together the local community are always well attended. Examples include the Beccles Carnival, turning on the Christmas lights, the Duck Race, the Cycle Race, Beccles Society of Art annual exhibition, music, food and beer festivals, Beccles Triathlon and the Antiques Market.

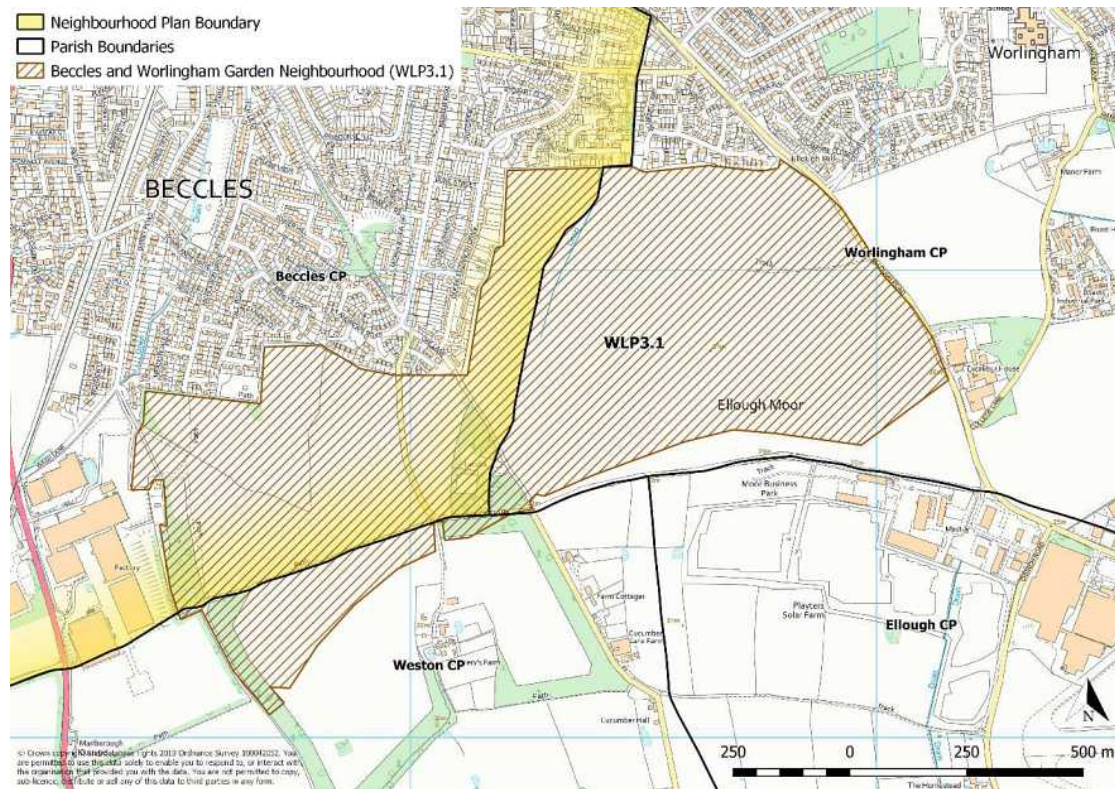


- 2.17 Beccles Quay has the opportunity to be enhanced and improved as a community place. Community engagement showed that people would also like to see an improvement to Beccles Common, turning it into an area with a sense of purpose and place rather than just being a public space. Improvements to the play park, providing a dog-walking 'zone', and developing this space to enhance and protect our natural environment have been popular. It would be an important factor to make this place accessible to people of all ages and states of mobility. This would provide a green place with a cafe for visitors and residents, as well as being somewhere to enjoy a range of events and entertainment.

### **The Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood**

- 2.18 The Waveney Local Plan allocates land to the south of the existing built up area of Beccles for development of the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood. The proposed area for the development encompasses parts of Beccles parish and also Worlingham and Weston parishes. This is shown in Figure 2.2.
- 2.19 This Waveney Local Plan allocates the land for the following:
- Approximately 1,250 dwellings (approximately 50% of this figure is likely to be located in Beccles parish, 40% in Worlingham parish and 10% in Weston parish but the final split but will depend on what is granted planning permission);
  - Retirement community comprising a care home/nursing home and extra care and/or sheltered dwellings;
  - 2 form entry primary school including a pre-school (2 hectares);
  - Country park, indoor/outdoor sports facilities, allotments, play areas and public open space (at least 25 hectares);
  - Community Hub comprising a convenience store, local shops, community centre and pre-school provision.
  - Employment development (falling under use classes B1, B2 and B8) (5 hectares).

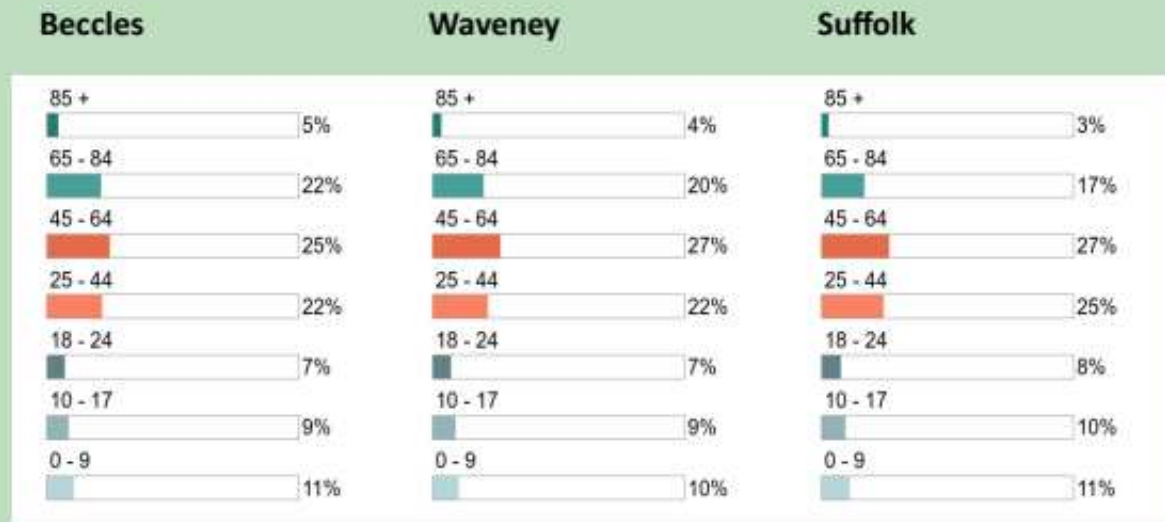
**Figure 2.2: Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood – area by parish**



- 2.20 Whilst this will have a significant impact on the existing community of Beccles, it also represents a major opportunity to address some of the infrastructure needs of the community at present. Access to the Garden Neighbourhood for the existing community will be important, as will managing the impact of the new residents as they seek to move around Beccles. In this regard, the provision of the Beccles Southern Relief Road will help to re-route traffic away from the town centre.
- 2.21 It will be vital that the new 'neighbourhood' is planned to form part of the existing community of Beccles, rather than as a stand-alone settlement. As is shown in Figure 2.2, a significant proportion of the area of the Garden Neighbourhood is outside the parish boundary of Beccles, therefore the Neighbourhood Plan cannot include policies that directly concern development that is proposed in these areas.
- 2.22 The development is expected to take 20 years to be completed. At the current time much of the detail is not fixed. That detail will come with planning applications that are submitted at a later date. The allocation in the Waveney Local Plan and anything shown in accompanying masterplans is seeking to establish certain principles. The role of the Neighbourhood Plan is, through its policies, to better inform those principles and ensure that the detail reflects a development which can provide for the needs not only of the new residents but also the existing community of Beccles.
- 2.23 One principle that the Neighbourhood Plan wishes to see is that any residential blocks of development master-planned for the Garden Neighbourhood should respect the parish boundaries.

## Beccles Today

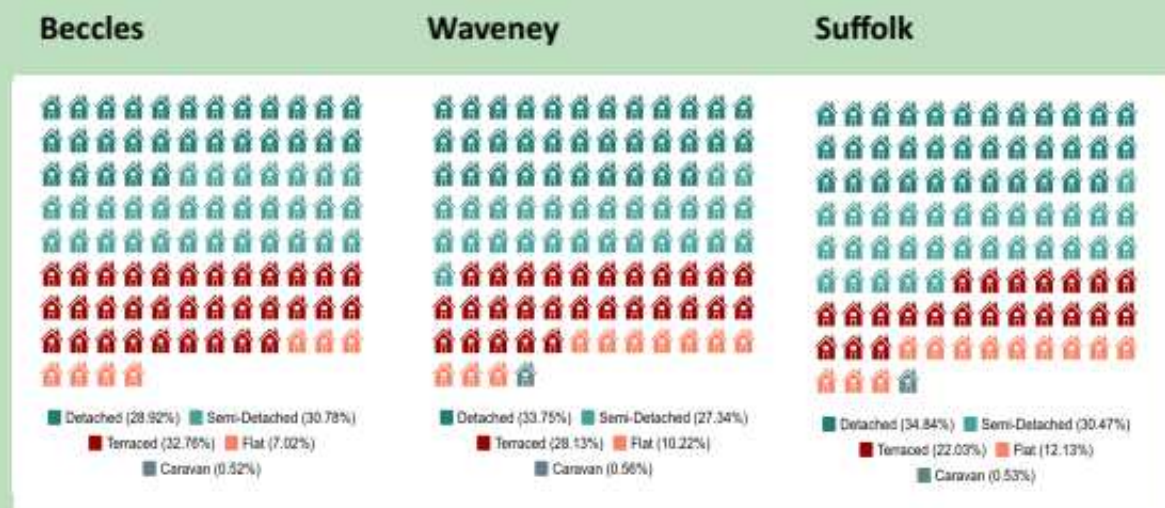
### Age Structure



Large proportion of retirees

Smaller number of people of working age

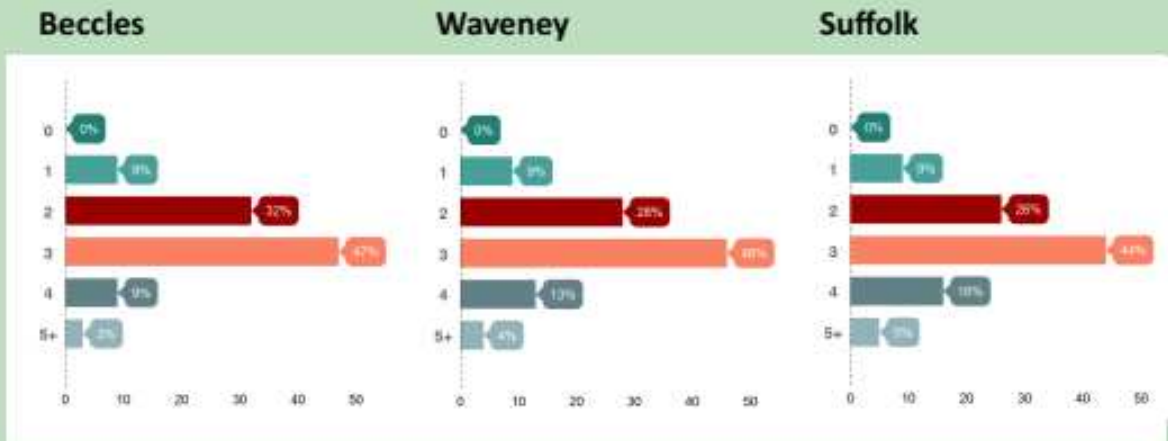
### Type of Housing



Large proportion of terraced houses but fewer detached houses and flats

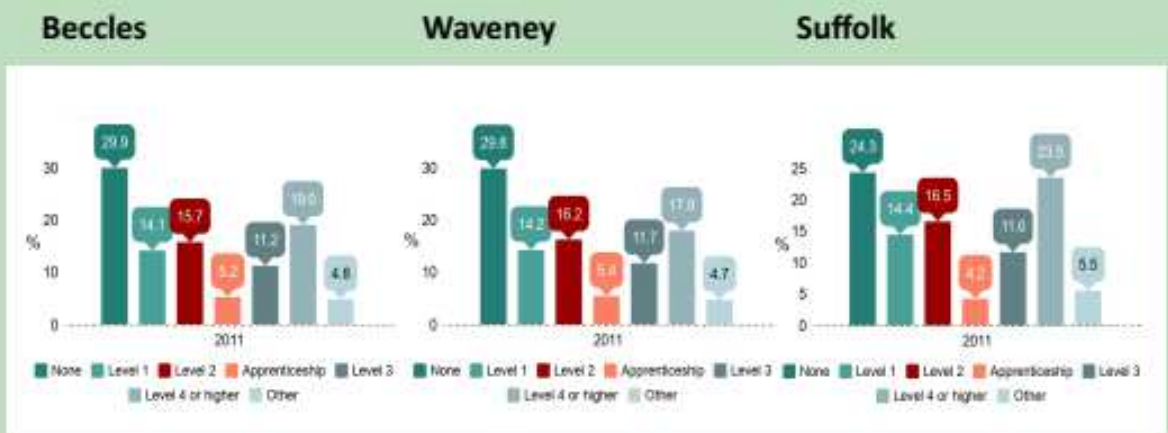
## Beccles Today

### Size of Houses



**Lots of small, 2-bed houses and fewer larger, family houses**

### Qualifications



**High number of unqualified residents but a reasonable proportion with high levels of qualification**



## Beccles Today

### Working sectors

#### Beccles



#### Waveney



#### Suffolk



**Manufacturing is well represented but fewer people work in higher value services, e.g. IT and financial**

## Beccles Today

### Car Ownership



**Car ownership is below average**

### Travel to Work



**35% of people live and work in Beccles**

**Most others work in the local towns nearby**

**A high proportion of people walk and cycle to work**

Source: 2011 Census

### 3 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

#### Challenges for Beccles

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address, as far as is possible, the challenges that face the community of Beccles. These challenges have been derived from consultation with the community as well as other sources of information such as Census data. In summary these challenges are:

##### **Housing and inequality**

- A shortage of affordable and rented housing for young people and families, and of sheltered accommodation for the elderly.
- Pockets of severe inequality in Beccles South, identified in the 2016 Hidden Needs Report.

##### **Impact of proposed development south of Beccles**

- Potential pressure from the large-scale residential development proposed in the Waveney Local Plan on the environmental, physical and social infrastructure and existing character of the town.

##### **Employment**

- Lack of local job opportunities which reflect the full range of technological advances and the green economy.

##### **Infrastructure**

- Lack of community facilities, especially for the parents with young children, and teenagers.
- Poorly maintained outdoor play facilities and open spaces, especially at Beccles Quay.
- Pressure on Beccles Medical Centre and lack of facilities for mental health.

##### **Town Centre**

- Town centre's potential as a shopping and social destination in an attractive historical setting constrained by limited space for people to walk and stroll.

##### **Traffic and Movement**

- Regular town centre congestion, air pollution and speeding, poor pedestrian safety and lack of provision for technological advances such as electric and driverless cars.
- A need for better management of public car parking particularly to serve the town centre and key tourist destinations.

##### **Environment**

- Inconsistently maintained heritage buildings, unsightly brownfield sites and pet fouling.
- Pollution of the River Waveney.
- Flooding.

##### **Tourism**

- Lack of visitor accommodation.
- Threats to the character and environment of the town which undermine attractiveness to tourists.

## Vision for Beccles

3.2 In consultation with the community, the established vision for Beccles is as follows:

*'By 2036 the Beccles Southern Relief Road will have been long completed. Attractive new housing in the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood and to the west of London Road will provide a range of dwelling sizes and tenure that allows young people to stay and raise families in Beccles, and to provide the elderly with sheltered housing. The new primary school, open space, sports facilities and shops in the Garden Neighbourhood will be easily accessible to the existing town via pedestrian, cycle and bus routes and will be fully integrated into existing infrastructure.*

*Light industrial units accommodating hi-tech business will have been developed within the Garden Neighbourhood and on brownfield sites. Our schools will have expanded to equip our younger people with the versatile skills required for the future and there will be more links between businesses and the wider community.*

*Heavy goods vehicles will no longer come into the town centre other than for deliveries, and this together with smart systems to reduce speeding as well as widened pavements will provide more space for pedestrians. This will have improved the environment for shopping and leisure, particularly by improving pedestrian safety and also by reducing air pollution. Electric vehicles will have reduced air pollution and there will be re-charging points in the town, plus better access for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and cyclists. Well maintained heritage buildings and a well-managed green environment, together with a good range of shops and services will have helped maintain the town's character. Elsewhere in the town road improvements have eased pressure at critical locations.*

*Beccles Medical Centre and other health services will have expanded to meet increased demand for both physical and mental care. There will be new and enhanced community spaces for parents, children and teenagers, including the new skate park and inclusive play areas. The town will have a new leisure centre and/or indoor swimming pool. The environment of the town will encourage active lifestyles for residents and visitors and provide a range of leisure activities to suit all ages.*

*Open spaces at Waveney Meadow, the Common and especially Beccles Quay will have been much improved to provide an enhanced attraction to residents and visitors. Visitor accommodation will have increased and tourism will be thriving.*

*The water quality of the River Waveney will have improved and flood risk will have been mitigated.'*



## Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

- 3.3 The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan as identified through engagement with the community are as follows:

### **Housing**

1. To contribute to the Waveney Local Plan housing strategy and provide a range of attractive housing types and tenures to meet all needs.
2. To ensure that the new housing proposed to the south of Beccles is integrated with the existing town.

### **Community facilities**

3. To provide new community facilities especially for parents with young children, and teenagers, plus a new leisure centre and/or indoor pool.
4. To enhance existing open spaces, play areas and other facilities including the library and the Waveney Centre.
5. To develop Beccles Quay as an asset for residents and visitors.

### **Transport and Movement**

6. To enhance pedestrian safety in order to maximise walking into the town centre and to other key destinations.
7. To support safe cycle routes, maintain and enhance public transport routes and community transport services, wherever possible.
8. To promote junction improvements where there is existing or anticipated pressure from new residential or industrial development.
9. To address potential future shortages of public car parking.

### **Environment**

10. To maintain and enhance the character and heritage of our built environment, promote development of brownfield sites and maintain a clean, litter-free and attractive townscape.
11. To encourage the appropriate care and management of our wider green environment.
12. To co-operate with the relevant bodies in improving the water quality of the River Waveney.

### **Town Centre**

13. To maintain a thriving town centre and minimise vacancies.
14. Improve the environment of the town centre and explore ways of making more car-free spaces for pedestrians.

### **Health**

15. To improve and expand the existing Beccles Medical Centre including car parking so that it fully meets the needs of existing and new residents, and to explore other opportunities for providing medical facilities.
16. To encourage a physically and mentally healthy community.

## 4 COMMUNITY AND TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

### Community facilities

#### Community hub

- 4.1 The Beccles community is diverse, hence the range of demands for indoor activity space are broad. There are community spaces which are already widely used throughout the town, but there is not yet a multi-use, centralised, focal point that offers the broad range of facilities the community needs.
- 4.2 There are a number of groups and types of activity that would benefit from such provision. This includes users as diverse as sports clubs, theatre companies, musical groups and religious groups. The faith community has specifically stated that such a facility would be an important part of providing multi-faith activities for the new and existing residents.
- 4.3 The Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood is expected to deliver a community hub, including a convenience store, local shops, pre-school and a community centre. The Waveney Local Plan requires this to be provided in a central location within the Garden Neighbourhood, with good accessibility from the existing community of south Beccles.

#### **POLICY BECC1: PROVISION OF A COMMUNITY HUB IN THE BECCLES AND WORLINGHAM GARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**As required by Waveney Local Plan Policy WLP3.1, the development of the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood is expected to include provision of a community centre. Any such provision is expected to meet the following criteria:**

- a. The community centre should provide a flexible space which can address the identified needs of the community.**
- b. The developer must demonstrate that they have actively engaged the community on the design of the community centre space and that, as far as possible, the requirements of the community have been met.**
- c. The community centre is easily accessible to the existing community of Beccles, particularly on foot and by bicycle through the provision of a network of high-quality public walkways and cycle paths which link up with existing walking and cycling routes in Beccles town.**

### Other community facilities

4.4 Alongside a new community facility, it is important that existing community facilities are improved. There are a range of facilities serving the community that are in need of repair and upgrade in order to meet the needs of the community. These include:

- Play areas
- Skate park
- Sports and community facilities near the Common (serving the needs of the scouts)
- Beccles Library
- Beccles Lido
- Beccles Public Hall



**Beccles Public Hall**

4.5 Many of these facilities are home to services provided for young people and children. Yet there is widespread public consensus that activities and opportunities for young people are currently lacking in the Beccles community. Research to inform the Waveney Local Plan and on hidden needs supports this. There are spaces and facilities available - mostly for younger children - but these are in a poor state of repair.

4.6 The community of Beccles would like to see a greater range of activities and opportunities for young people and families by:

- Creating a designated 'Youth Space' inclusive and accessible to all. This will encompass both indoor and outdoor areas which will be managed in such a way as to give young people a sense of ownership and autonomy.
- Updating existing indoor and outdoor community spaces to provide integrated areas and activities to engage young people and families.
- Providing a designated space for indoor play. There is high demand for an indoor play area for families with younger children. This could be secured either by adapting an existing space or building a new one.

- Ensuring that an adequate range of spaces and facilities are fully accessible and inclusive.

- 4.7 Two specific needs have also been identified by the community. The first is an expansion of Beccles Library. The 2018 Waveney Infrastructure Study<sup>8</sup> identified a need for a further 108m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace.
- 4.8 The second is a need for an indoor swimming pool. Whilst this is a long-term aspiration – with no suitable site currently identified – the only swimming facility serving the town is the Beccles Lido. This is only open between mid-May and mid-September, during which time demand is very high which often means people are unable to swim. As an illustration, the 2018 season which lasted 15 weeks saw visitors to the pool reached 48,821, which is a record. Typically, the Lido has a total of around 40,000 visitors per year<sup>9</sup>.
- 4.9 Since 2010 the Lido has been a community-run organisation and over this time has gone from strength to strength, providing not only a ‘destination’ attraction for tourists but importantly swimming for the public and schools in the area. This is important in an area that has the River Waveney and the Broads on its doorstep; children should be able to swim to minimise risks near water.



**Beccles Lido**

- 4.10 There has been strong feedback from residents that an indoor pool providing year-round facilities would be desirable.
- 4.11 The Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment 2015<sup>10</sup> identified that Beccles lacks a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). One is proposed to be provided at the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood, so it will be important that the existing community has good access to that.
- 4.12 It will be important that the opportunity is taken, through the provision of the MUGA, to address wider needs. The Waveney Infrastructure Study 2018 identified the need for a small 3G artificial grass pitch in Beccles. This reflects the findings of the Waveney Playing Pitch and

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<sup>8</sup> Waveney District Council (2018) *Waveney Infrastructure Study 2018*

<sup>9</sup> Beccles and Bungay Journal, 14th September 2018

<sup>10</sup> Waveney District Council (2015) *Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment*

Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment 2014<sup>11</sup> that the provision of synthetic turf pitches (for sports such as tennis, hockey and five-a-side football) are below average.

- 4.13 Beccles is also the Gateway to the Broads, making it a popular tourist town. Visiting tourists reasonably expect the availability of certain public facilities in the town centre. Existing community members are concerned about the proposed closure and poor state of public toilets in the town centre, as well as the presence of empty shops. This reflects badly on Beccles and gives a poor impression of the town. The need is to provide facilities for tourists and local people alike that encourages people to visit and stay.

#### **POLICY BECC2: COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**The provision of and/or improvements to the following community facilities will be supported, subject to development respecting local character, residential amenity and highway safety:**

- a. A 'Youth Space' incorporating indoor and outdoor areas.
- b. A Multi-Use Games Area (on the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood) which is capable of being used for a wide range of sports, including five-a-side football, tennis and hockey). This should ideally be complemented by the provision of appropriate changing facilities.
- c. A dedicated indoor play facility.
- d. Expansion of Beccles Library.
- e. An indoor swimming pool.
- f. Improvements to existing community facilities.
- g. Proposals to bring back into active use disused facilities in Beccles town centre, including public toilets and empty shops.

## **Tourist facilities**

### **Beccles Quay and River Waveney**

- 4.14 As a tourist town, Beccles Quay is an important asset which helps to draw visitors into the town. There is concern within the existing community about the general upkeep of Beccles Quay and public facilities there. For people who visit by river, this is the main gateway to the town, and the Broads.
- 4.15 Beccles residents say that they could take greater pride in Beccles Quay as an asset to the town and use it more themselves if it was better maintained and if there were more up-to-date facilities available. Some areas flood regularly, making access difficult. This is supported by the Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment which recommended that, 'the overall quality

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<sup>11</sup> Waveney District Council (2014) *Waveney Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment*

of the site should be improved to reflect the value of the open space to the community and enhance its value as a tourist destination on the River Waveney.'

- 4.16 It is important that improvements are made which create a more welcoming feel to the Quay for visitors and residents alike. In particular this needs to tackle areas susceptible to flooding. One option favoured by the community is the creation of an attractive park on the northern side of the Quay. The Quay Café has been extended by making use of the old Tourist Information Office and is re-providing tourist information as part of this. This has greatly helped to improve the tourist offer. Alongside this, the existing play area also needs improving to make a more attractive environment and provide a wider offer, for example through the provision of gym equipment.
- 4.17 The provision of a permanent mooring stage at the Quay is supported by the Neighbourhood Plan provided any developments address concerns of residents regarding issues such as noise and anti-social behaviour.



**Beccles Quay**

- 4.18 Better use of land in and around the Quay will help support tourism and hence local business.
- 4.19 It should be noted that Beccles Quay is within the Broads Authority area and therefore any proposals must also take account of the policies in its Local Plan, including Policies DM31, DM33 and Policy BEC2 on residential moorings.
- 4.20 The River Waveney is an important hub of the town's community, leisure and tourist activities. Public access to the river is important and needs to be enhanced (at the Quay as previously identified, and also at Waveney Meadow and via the Scores). Alongside this, information boards about river ecology, local history and culture are needed at all public access points.
- 4.21 On the river itself, there needs to be an increase in provision of dedicated moorings for tour boats and hire boats with the aim of encouraging river-tourism.
- 4.22 Ultimately, the tourist industry of Beccles is largely based around the theme of being 'the Gateway to the Broads'. Its therefore vital that all efforts are made to be responsible in how sensitive environmental matters such as pollution of the waterways are dealt with.



### **POLICY BECC3: BECCLES TOURISM**

**Tourism development in Beccles, including the provision of moorings for tourist boating activities on the River Waveney, will be supported. Improvements to Beccles Quay, including flood control measures, increased provision of public green space on the north side and the provision of new tourist facilities, will be supported.**

#### ***Community actions and schemes for infrastructure funding: tourism***

The following are actions and schemes for funding which the local community considers are important for enhancing tourism in Beccles:

- To improve facilities and landscaping at Beccles Quay and car park to enable the holding of community events.
- The potential provision of a stage at Beccles Quay is made subject to community consultation.

### **Overnight accommodation**

- 4.23 Beccles attracts both day visitors and tourists that stay overnight. However, there is a shortage of overnight accommodation in the town. In particular when there are major events, such as at the Ellough Drag race track, this shortage is acute. This has wider impacts, as the retention of tourists locally is important to a wide variety of shop/business owners.
- 4.24 The Waveney Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment 2016<sup>12</sup> recommended that:
- “...the development of hotels should be promoted in order to accommodate higher visitor numbers who are often unable to find rooms within Beccles during peak times. By developing additional overnight accommodation, the centre will be able to increase its visitor capacity with positive benefits for the daytime and evening economy in terms of an increase in year-round footfall and expenditure.*
- 4.25 The Waveney Local Plan has a policy protecting existing tourist accommodation from changes to alternative uses. This is supported by the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan in order that the town can continue to offer tourists places to stay and thus encourage business from tourism in the town.
- 4.26 It is important that new hotel accommodation in Beccles respects local character and that development is not detrimental to other town centre users.

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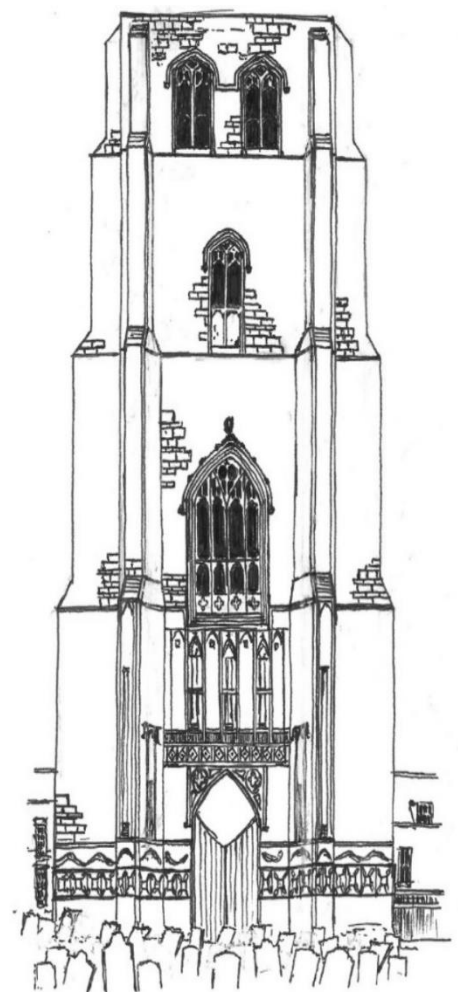
<sup>12</sup> Carter Jonas (2016) *Waveney Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment 2016*, for Waveney District Council

#### **POLICY BECC4: HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

**The provision of new hotel accommodation or the conversion of existing buildings to hotel accommodation within Beccles town centre is supported, subject to development proposals respecting local character, residential amenity and highway safety.**

### **Heritage**

- 4.27 Beccles is fortunate to have a wealth of heritage features which define the town and give it its unique character. This is one of the reasons why it is popular with tourists and why heritage is therefore an essential component of the vitality of the town. The richness of this heritage is evidenced by the extent of the Conservation Area and the fact that there are nearly 150 listed buildings, with six of these being Grade I listed (see Figure 4.1). In particular, it is the way that these heritage assets sit within the environment of medieval streets and the market that gives the town a unique sense of pride and community.
- 4.28 In addition to the nationally listed heritage assets, a wealth of 'non-designated heritage assets' has been identified by East Suffolk Council. Those assets that lie within the Conservation Area are listed in the Beccles Conservation Area Appraisal 2014 (with most shown in Figure 4.2). These are buildings or places which, because of their appearance, design, heritage value, history or local significance, in themselves or in their setting, make a positive contribution to the local character and street scene and the appearance of the area around them. This will aid any future conservation reviews. The list of non-designated heritage assets within the Conservation Area is included in Appendix A and additionally in the Waveney Local Plan (Appendix 6).



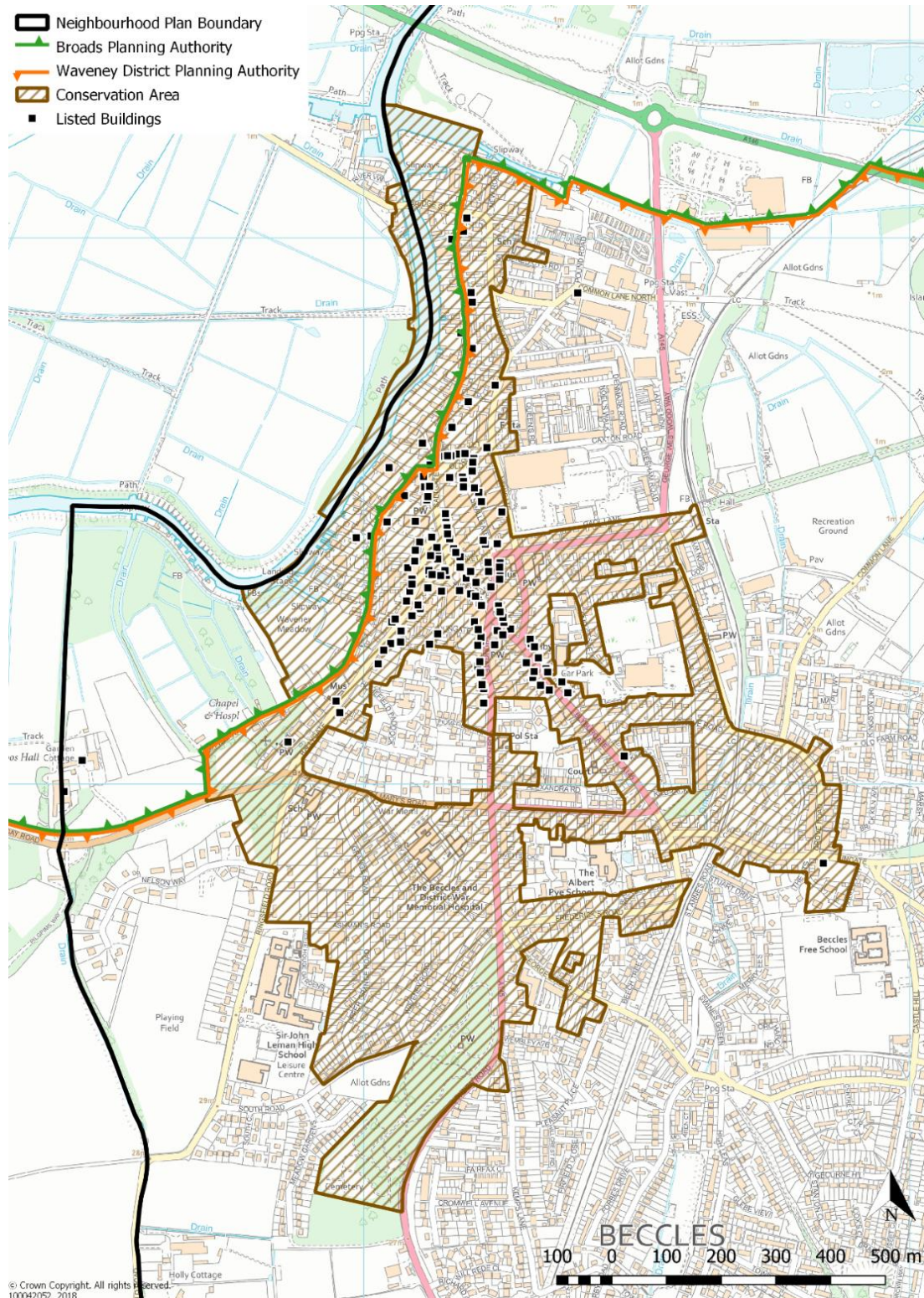
**St Michael's Tower**

- 4.29 Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not adding any further non-designated heritage assets, it will be important to keep this under review, including non-designated heritage assets outside the Conservation Area.
- 4.30 Suffolk County Council maintains the County Historic Environment Record which comprises a database of information on recorded archaeological sites. There are 132 entries for Beccles relating to all periods and including, for example, information on medieval town and on preserved prehistoric wooden trackways in the marshes. Non-designated archaeological



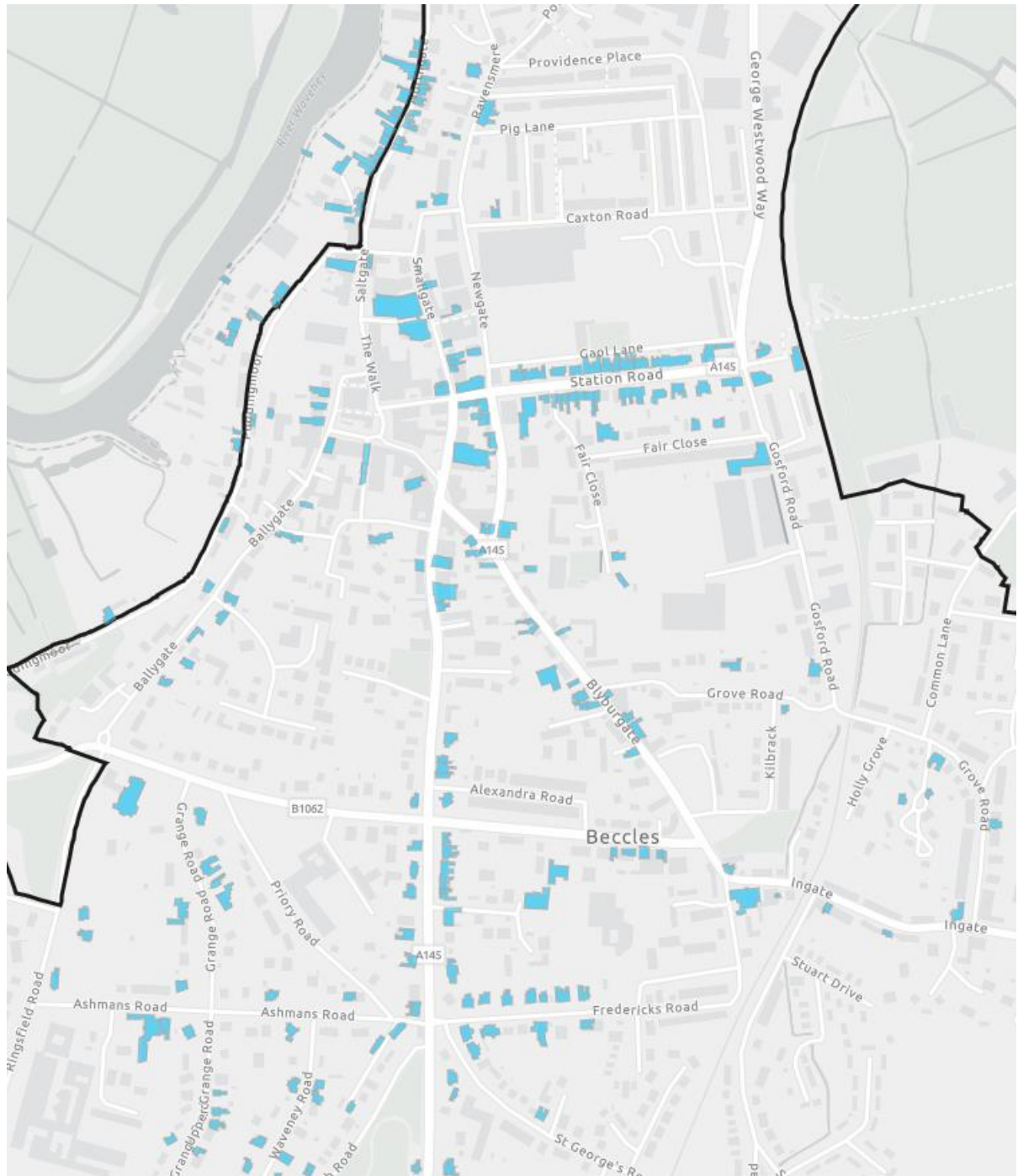
heritage assets would be managed through the National Planning Policy Framework and Local Plan policies. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services advises that there should be early consultation of the Historic Environment Record and assessment of the archaeological potential of the area at an appropriate stage in the design of new developments.

**Figure 4.1: Beccles Conservation Area and nationally listed buildings**



Source: Beccles Conservation Area Character Appraisal 2014, Waveney District Council

**Figure 4.2: Non-designated heritage assets in Central Beccles**



Source: East Suffolk Council

— Settlement boundary

Non-designated heritage assets within the Conservation Area are listed in Appendix A



## **Examples of suitable materials that reflect the local distinctiveness of Beccles**

### ***Walls***

- 4.31 Boundary walls built of yellow or red brick or of cobbles with brick quoins, crinckle-crankle or straight, contribute to the special character of the Conservation Area.

### ***Replacement windows***

- 4.32 There has been much replacement using modern materials such as UPVC for both windows and doors around the town and this has contributed to the degradation of architectural interest in some areas. The detailing and design of UPVC however has improved significantly in recent years, hence in some circumstances it could be appropriate to add windows using this material where it is of good visual appearance and the design is faithful to the original windows.

### ***Roof lights and dormer windows***

- 4.33 The appropriateness or otherwise of adding such features to existing buildings will differ from one property to another and will be considered as part of the planning application process.

### ***Doors***

- 4.34 Georgian and Victorian doors and door cases have a major impact on the quality of the town.



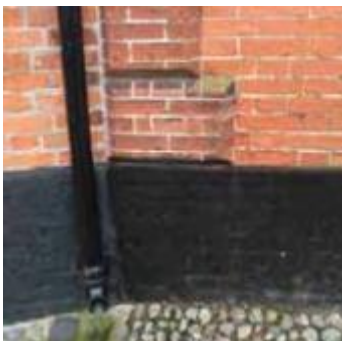
**Stone details and cast iron flat arches, London Road**



**Coursed brick and flint in a gable, Northgate**



**Black pantiles and historic joinery, Old Market**



**Brickwork quoins, cast iron downpipes and flint cobble surfacing, Northgate**



**Red brick and flint cobble combined in a modern wall, Puddingmoor**



**Stone steps and metal handrails, Northgate**



**Moulded brickwork and cast iron, Smallgate**



**Coloured glass, Station Road**



**Moulded white brickwork, Station Road**



**Gothic detailing, Old Market**



**Gauged brick arches and a reeded string course, Station Road**



**Painted brick and course, knapped flintwork with decorative bargeboards, slates and chimney stack, Puddingmoor**

#### **POLICY BECC5: HERITAGE**

**Beccles' heritage assets and their settings must be conserved or enhanced in a manner according to their significance. Where a planning proposal affects a heritage asset, it must be accompanied by a Heritage Statement identifying, as a minimum, the significance of the asset, including any contribution made by its setting.**

#### ***Community actions and schemes for infrastructure funding: heritage***

The 2014 Beccles Conservation Area Character Appraisal identifies areas that have potential for enhancement. Over the past ten years, the conservation area in the centre of Beccles has seen a lack of maintenance and appropriate management. Visual evidence can be seen in damaged street furniture and inappropriate advertisements. A priority therefore for investment is to address these matters and enhance the quality of the conservation area.

***Community actions and schemes for infrastructure funding: heritage assets***

The following are actions and schemes for funding which the local community considers are important for preserving heritage assets in Beccles:

- Explore the potential for ground floor space of the Beccles Tower to be brought back into regular use as an exhibition space, ideally 'twinned' with Beccles Museum.

## 5 TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

- 5.1 As a market town destination, as well as a through route to Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Norwich, the historical road network of Beccles has significant challenges with respect to congestion. Partly this is due to the volume of vehicular traffic but also due to the number of heavy goods vehicles which travel right through the town centre. This often causes significant delays and queueing traffic creates problems with air pollution and pedestrian safety, reducing the attractiveness of Beccles town centre. The Southern Relief Road has been constructed to help relieve this problem. The attractiveness of the town centre is particularly important for Beccles as a tourist destination.



**Congestion on Blyburgate and Ingate**



**Congestion at junction of Fredericks Road, St George's Road, Ashman's Road and London Road**

- 5.2 The growth planned in the Waveney Local Plan – particularly at the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood – is inevitably going to have an impact on transport and movement. The above matters are recognised in the Waveney Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan considers:
- Junction issues, where growth could impact on traffic movements.
  - Improvements to walking and cycling, so encouraging people to not travel by car, particularly for short journeys. Access to the range of new community infrastructure proposed at the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood is important in this regard.

### Local highway junctions

- 5.3 The Waveney Local Plan identifies specific transport schemes that are required to support growth. Policy WLP3.1 (Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood) states that 'Road layout and access should encourage traffic to travel into Beccles westwards along the Southern Relief Road'.



- 5.4 This is an important principle which is required to ensure that the new traffic created by the Garden Neighbourhood, when making journeys into the town centre, does so by the route most likely to minimise congestion.
- 5.5 In addition, the Waveney Local Plan identifies the need for access improvements and servicing to the Enterprise Zone at Ellough, a cycle link to the Ellough industrial estates from the Garden Neighbourhood and improvements to the cycle network as identified in the Waveney Cycle Strategy<sup>13</sup>.
- 5.6 Whilst these interventions are supported, no other specific highways improvements are identified. Yet there are a number of road junctions in Beccles that are already congested at peak times to the point that they create problems of safe access for pedestrians and other road users such as cyclists. In a historic market town such as Beccles, one of its notable features is the narrowness of its roadways at certain points, which has fed through to narrow pavements. This is particularly the case along London Road and Blyburgate. Not only does this make it dangerous for pedestrians but, traffic queues caused by congestion increases the levels of air pollution, which creates a direct, increased health risk for pedestrians.



**Congestion on London Road  
looking south from Peddars  
Lane/St Marys Road junction**



**Congestion on Peddars Lane  
towards London Road**

- 5.7 These local junctions may experience further congestion and safety issues as a result of growth created by the Garden Neighbourhood, by the allocation in the Waveney local Plan of 280 dwellings on land west of London Road or by other developments that come forward over the plan period.
- 5.8 The following junctions are considered to be at risk of increased traffic levels potentially causing increased risks to pedestrians and cyclists and therefore mitigation may be required:
- Blyburgate/Peddars Lane
  - London Road/St Mary's Road.

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<sup>13</sup> Waveney District Council (2016) *Waveney Cycle Strategy*  
(<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Waveney-Local-Plan/Background-Studies/Waveney-Cycle-Strategy.pdf>)

- Ashmans Road/Fredericks Road
- Hungate/Blyburgate/Exchange Square
- Yarmouth Road/George Westwood Way

5.9 The Town Council will seek to encourage actions to address any impacts from increased traffic levels on the above road junctions.

**Figure 5.1: Local pinch point junctions**

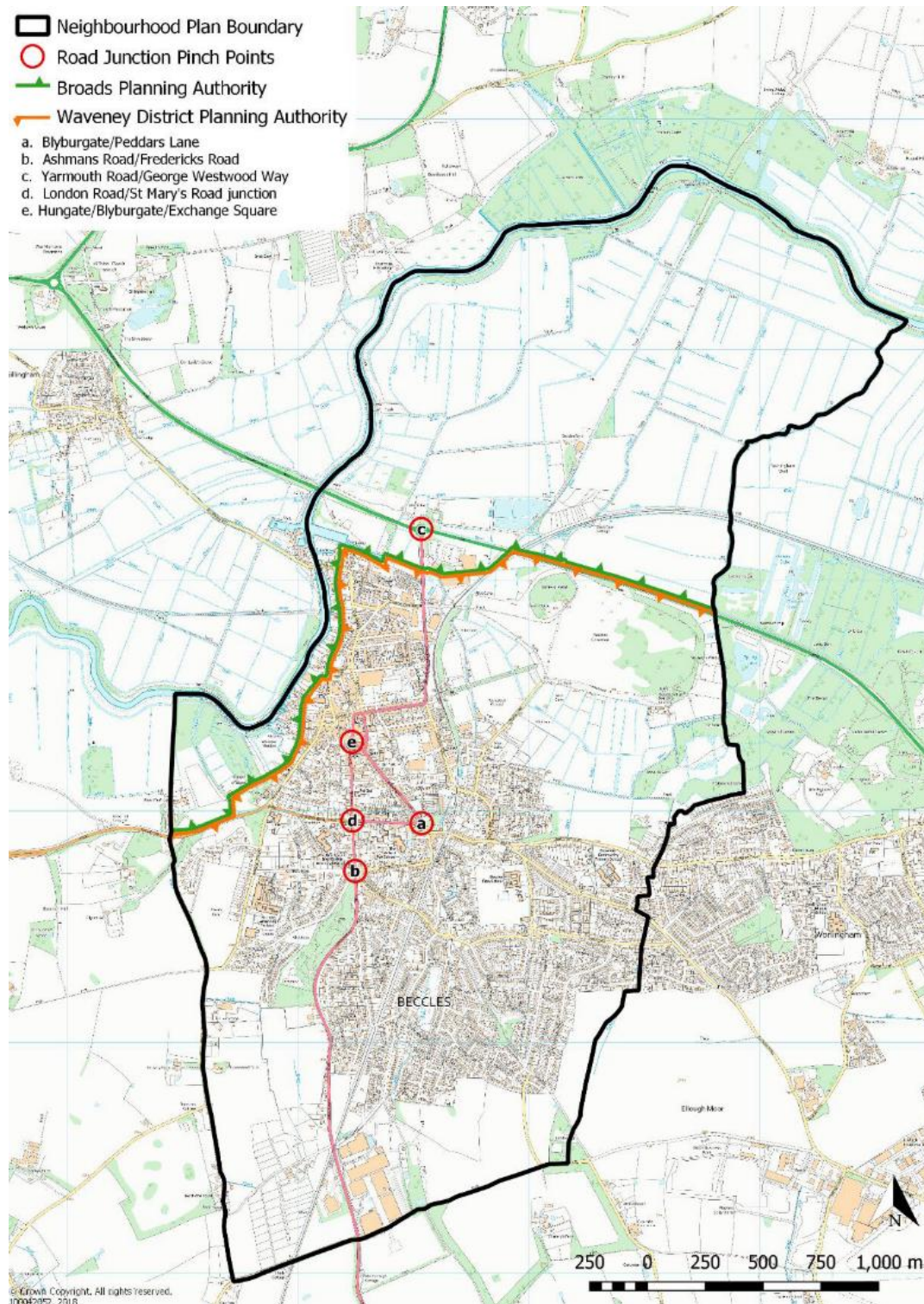
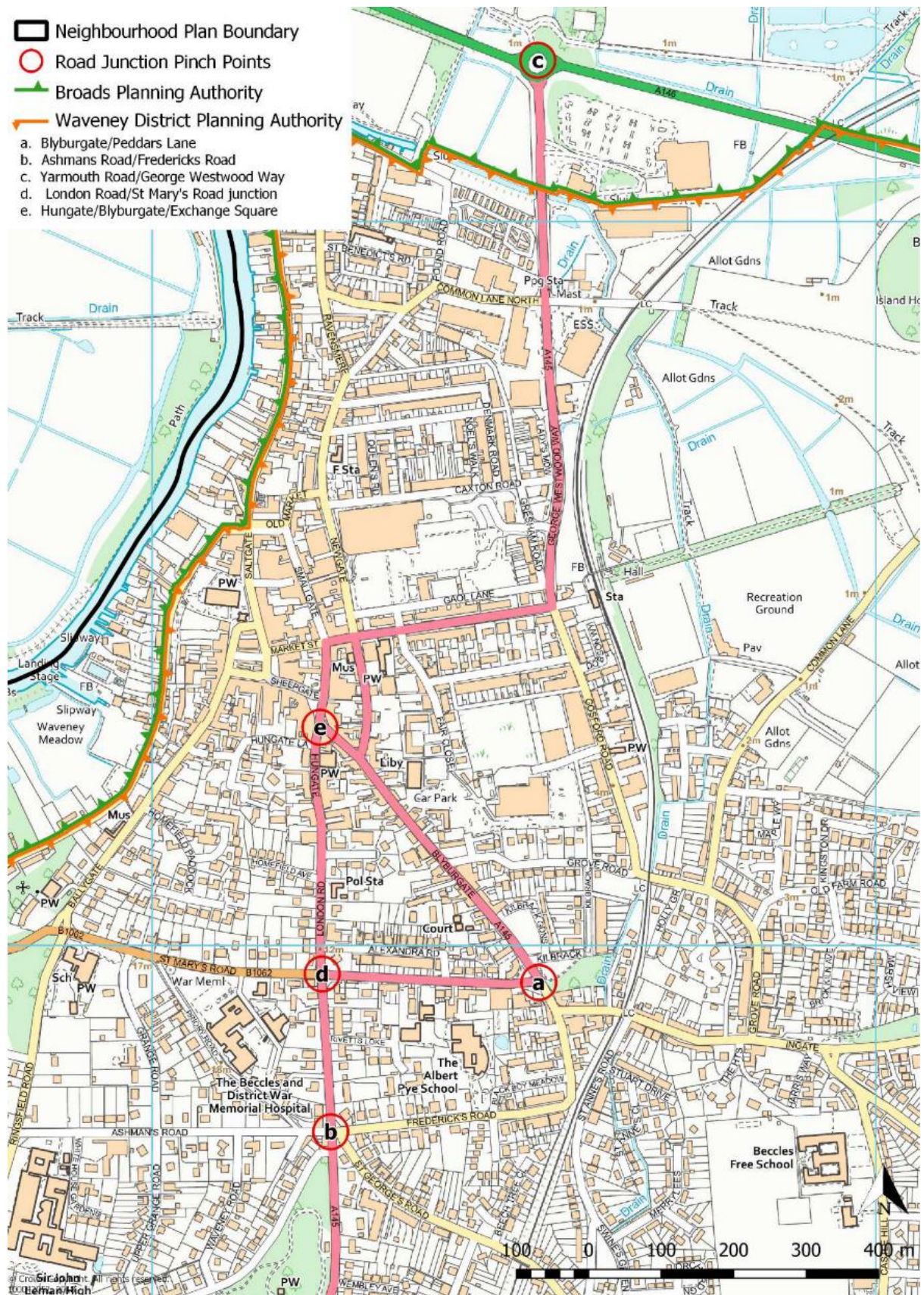




Figure 5.2: Local pinch point junctions - town centre



***Community actions: Vehicular movement and parking***

The following are actions which the local community considers are important for improving vehicular transport and parking in and around Beccles:

- Work with Suffolk County Council, as highway authority, on a scheme for restricting HGV's from travelling through the town centre, unless access is required. This could be in conjunction with the use of physical measures to deter such vehicles from passing through the zone entry points. This would be an area-wide scheme encompassing adjacent villages on the A145 and extending as far as Bungay.
- Work with Suffolk County Council on better signposting to encourage through traffic to use more appropriate routes than through the town centre. In particular:
  - Traffic going north towards Norwich and west towards Diss will need to be signposted to encourage them to use the main road network around the town.
  - Traffic needing to access the town itself should be encouraged to use the most appropriate access point.
- Measures to reduce speeding will be introduced within the town centre and residential streets to promote quality of life and to enhance the environment of the town. Such schemes should, wherever possible and appropriate, incorporate physical means to restrict speeds as these have been acknowledged as being more effective at being self-enforcing.
- Exploring the provision of one hour of free parking in public car parks in Beccles town centre.
- Review the management of public car parks in Beccles town centre and how this can be improved.
- Working with local businesses to encourage the use of artificial intelligence for transport and movement, which is expected to develop significantly over the plan period. Retraining affected staff will be an important part of the implementation of any such schemes.
- Regular traffic counts will be undertaken on major routes into and out of Beccles to assess the highway and traffic implications of all new developments as they progress.



***Schemes for infrastructure funding: Vehicular movement and parking***

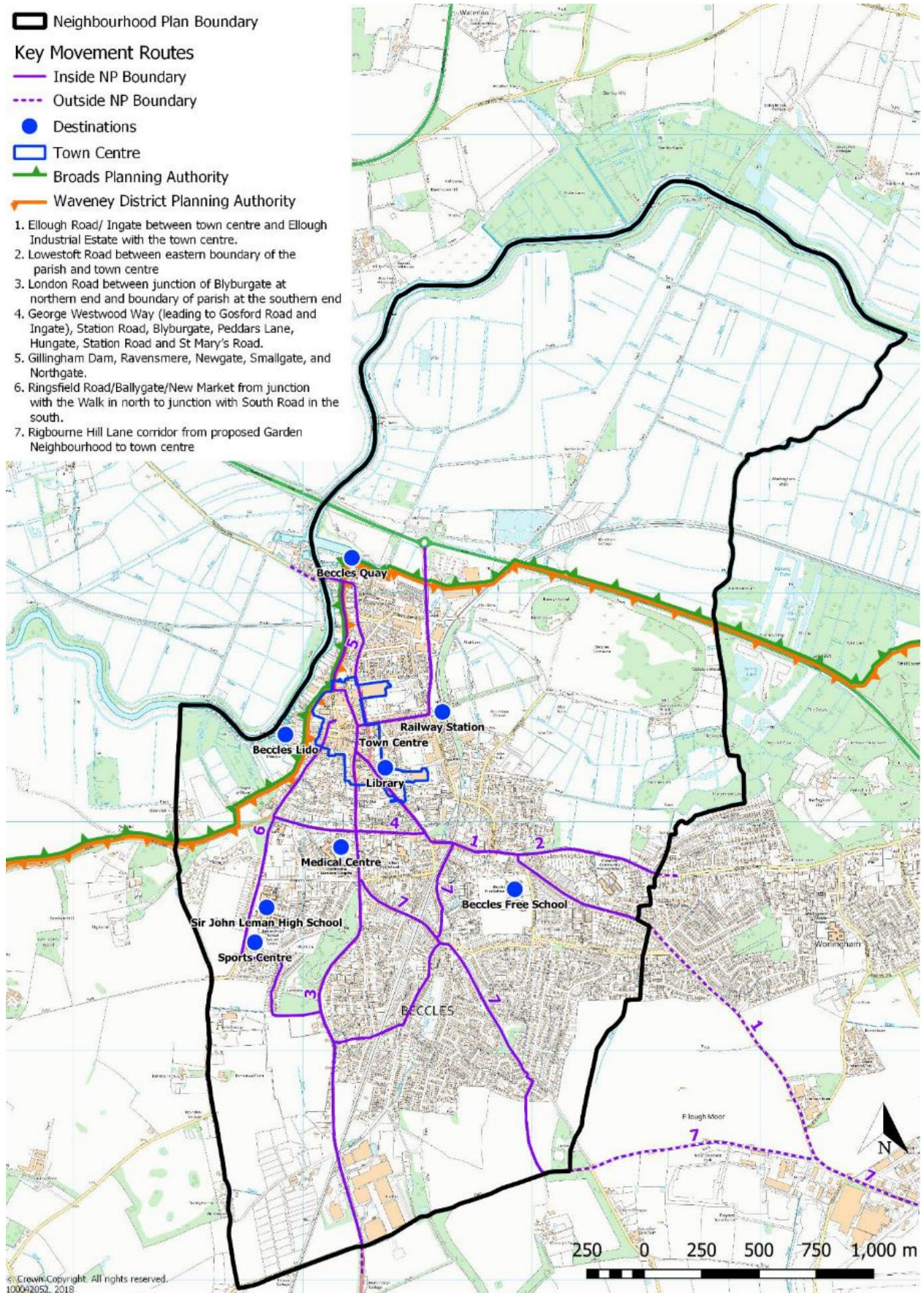
The following are specific schemes for which initial funding should be sought and used to explore the feasibility of developing further:

- Any appropriate scheme coming forward to improve the quality and management of car parking serving the town centre. This could include:
  - Improvement of the environmental quality of Hungate car park – resurfacing (including the walkways into New Market), upgrading of the public toilets and provision of soft landscaping.
  - Provision of a park-and-stride facility.
  - Additional car parking should be considered, based on future growth of the town and need due to social and technological changes.

## **Key Movement Routes**

- 5.10 In terms of trying to positively influence future patterns of movement into and around Beccles, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to focus on making improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in order to encourage more walking and cycling from all the residential areas. Linking the new housing sites, as well as the existing parts of the settlements, into the network of walkways and safer cycling routes is vital to encourage more walking and cycling and less use of the car. Such improvements have a range of benefits including:
- Providing genuine alternatives to the private car as a means of accessing the town centre, local schools and other community facilities;
  - Provide health benefits through increased walking and cycling;
  - Facilitating less congestion at busy times by encouraging children to walk to and from school and people to walk to the shops rather than 'jumping in the car' for a short journey;
  - Providing a safer environment for the community of Beccles, including for vulnerable users.
- 5.11 This sits alongside existing policies which seek to assist movement for cars, as appropriate.
- 5.12 Access on foot into and around Beccles and to key facilities such as the local school and the town centre requires improvement to existing walkways as well as the provision of some new walkways and pedestrian crossing points in order to encourage increases in usage. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the Key Movement Routes that will enable access on foot and by bicycle to these key facilities. These are shown in Figure 5.3. It is vital that these Key Movement Routes are improved and that access to them from the new housing developments can be provided.

### Figure 5.3: Key movement routes



- 5.13 For new development, it will be important that safe footpath and, where possible, cycle access is provided to link in with these movement routes. Without this, new developments will be isolated from the footway and cycle network and will become car-dependent estates.
- 5.14 One particular area where improved pedestrian access and safety is considered to be important is in the town centre. Some parts of the town centre are pedestrianised, but it is considered that increasing and improving this will enhance the vitality of the town centre as a place to visit, shop and enjoy leisure time. This does need to ensure that it enhances the prospects for local businesses, which is often a common concern. Research by Living Streets<sup>14</sup> has assessed the impact of pedestrianisation schemes and has shown that, if implemented correctly, it does have positive benefits on spending and the viability of retailers in particular.
- 5.15 It is also noted that there are a number of proposed route improvements in the Waveney Cycle Strategy 2016 which will assist in the aim of increasing levels of cycling.
- 5.16 Where improvements are needed, the Town Council will seek to encourage contributions, including where possible, through Section 106 agreements, the Community Infrastructure Levy and match-funding.

#### **POLICY BECC6: KEY MOVEMENT ROUTES**

**Improvements to cycling and walking routes, including segregated cycle and pedestrian routes accessible by people with mobility, sight and/or hearing impairments, will be supported. The delivery or improvement of routes that connect to the Key Movement Routes and/or the enhancement of the Key Movement Routes (shown on the Policies Map) will be supported. Development should not harm the safety and/or accessibility of the Key Movement Routes.**

#### ***Community actions and schemes for infrastructure funding: non-vehicular movement***

The following are actions which the local community considers are important for improving non-vehicular movement in and around Beccles:

- Develop a scheme for expanding the pedestrianised area of Beccles Town Centre. Any scheme should be designed to minimise its impact on parking and must retain access for deliveries to town centre businesses and have regard to the requirements of the disabled community including blind and deaf.
- Identify footways in Beccles Town Centre that would benefit from widening in order to improve pedestrian safety.

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<sup>14</sup> Living Streets (2018) *The Pedestrian Pound: The business case for better streets and places*, <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/highstreets>



- Safeguarding and enhancing of existing Rights of Way. New footpaths created must link with existing paths and marry up with any definitive paths and must also be registered.

The following are specific schemes for which initial funding should be sought and used to explore the feasibility of developing further:

- Any appropriate scheme coming forward to expand the pedestrianised area of the town centre.
- More bicycle parking at key locations in the town including areas such as the Common.

## Public transport

- 5.17 In order to reduce the impacts of congestion on Beccles's roads, it is important to improve a wide range of alternatives to the car. This not only includes walking and cycling for the shortest trips, but also public transport, i.e. bus services.
- 5.18 Whilst the existing bus services require improvement in frequency and coverage, Policy WLP3.1 in the Waveney Local Plan in respect of the proposed Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood does not specifically require contributions towards any improvements. It is therefore unlikely that development will provide any significant investment in public transport improvements.
- 5.19 The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to identify and promote investment in public transport infrastructure and schemes that will improve existing services as far as possible in the most effective way. In particular, connections from the railway station are seen as an important part of increasing bus patronage.

### ***Community actions and schemes for infrastructure funding: bus provision***

The following are actions and funding priorities which the local community considers are important for improving the quality of bus services in and around Beccles:

- Promote and enhance the town bus service.
- Identify key locations for bus routes to link up with Beccles railway station and lobby bus providers.
- As identified on the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood Draft Masterplan, the creation of 'bus gates' into the development to provide safe and easy bus access into the town centre whilst restricting direct access for other vehicles between the new development and existing areas.

## Electric vehicle infrastructure

- 5.20 Whilst it is important to maximise non-car use, there will still be a demand by vehicular use by residents for many journeys. The shift towards electric vehicles over the plan period is expected to be significant, largely due to the Government ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles in the UK in 2040. To encourage take-up of alternatives, and specifically electric vehicles, as early as possible, it will be important that vehicle charging facilities at home are complemented by a network of affordable public charging points.
- 5.21 Plug-in Suffolk is one example of a pilot scheme to bring together the charging experience of electric vehicle owners under one standard procedure when they are away from home. It is intended to work in support of the rapid charging network that is already being set up to cover main highways.
- 5.22 Such a scheme requires locations where the site owner is willing to have a charging point. Plug-in Suffolk would cover the upfront costs and the site owner would pay a nominal rent per charger per day. When someone uses the charger, some of the money goes to the site holder as a revenue stream.
- 5.23 With the need for a wide and comprehensive network of public charging points, it is important the such innovative schemes are encouraged.

### ***Community actions and schemes for electric vehicle infrastructure provision***

Beccles Town Council will work with electric vehicle infrastructure providers and site owners to put in place a comprehensive network of public charging points at key destinations in Beccles:

- Identify locations for the provision of electric vehicle recharging points (ideally fast charging points) in Beccles town centre.

## 6 BECCLES TOWN CENTRE

- 6.1 Beccles has an attractive and much-valued town centre, with few shop vacancies. There is a range of shops, restaurants and service facilities, plus a Friday market.
- 6.2 The Public Hall and Quaker Hall provide focus of community activity and leisure use within the town centre, complemented by the nearby Beccles Library.
- 6.3 The community of Beccles considers the town centre to generally have a good range of shops and facilities. This was supported by the Waveney Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment 2016<sup>15</sup> which considered the town centre to be healthy in terms of uses and mix. The potential of the town centre to provide a safe and attractive environment for shopping and social activities is restricted by the amount of through traffic and some narrow pavements. The opportunity exists to provide more traffic free areas but the impact on traffic and parking must be carefully considered.



**Beccles Market**

- 6.4 Nevertheless, it must be recognised that the demand for retail floorspace of many kinds is in decline nationally. In these circumstances, policies that seek to retain retail uses within the primary frontages may have increasingly detrimental impacts over the plan period. A more flexible and proactive approach is required if the town centre is to retain its role as a hub of community activity.
- 6.5 Whilst traditional retail uses within the town centre and its primary retail frontages will be supported and encouraged, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to provide a policy framework for allowing other types of use where vacancies are in evidence and have been so for some time. Policy WLP8.18 of the Waveney Local Plan specifically identifies that town centre uses will be permitted within town centre boundaries.
- 6.6 In addition, the Town Council will seek to encourage the use of vacant premises on a temporary basis, either for retail or leisure activities, or for community activities more generally.

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<sup>15</sup> Carter Jonas (2016) *Waveney District Council: Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment 2016*



#### **POLICY BECC7: BECCLES TOWN CENTRE**

**In the Primary and Secondary Shopping Frontages of Beccles Town Centre, as shown on the Policies Map, the change of use, where planning permission is required, of premises from main town centre uses to other uses will be supported, provided it can be demonstrated that the premises in question have not been in active use for at least 12 months and a minimum 12-month active marketing campaign can be demonstrated which meets the marketing requirements in Appendix 4 of the Waveney Local Plan).**

#### ***Community actions: Beccles Town Centre***

The following are actions which the local community considers are important for improving the vibrancy and quality of Beccles Town Centre:

- Beccles Town Council, in consultation with other stakeholders, give consideration to establishing a Town Centre Management Team.
- Encourage more street events, including more specialist markets, entertainers and street vendors.
- Explore with stakeholders the potential for further traffic free areas.
- Policing to meet the needs of an expanding community.

## 7 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- 7.1 The very first hospital in Beccles was mentioned in 1362 and is believed to have been built some years earlier at the instigation of a man who had been allegedly cured of leprosy. It appears that a hospital of sorts continued in Beccles until the late 17th century after which there seems to have been no medical provision in the town until around the mid-1800s when a dispensary, maintained by voluntary subscriptions, was established in Hungate. By 1873 this was no longer large enough to meet the requirements of the town and the building of a hospital started in Fair Close at a cost of £1,500. This was officially opened in June 1874 and patients were admitted from September of the same year.
- 7.2 After the end of World War I, it was agreed that the town's war memorial should be in the form of a well-equipped up to date hospital with 24 beds and an x-ray department which continued to be used till the mid-seventies. The site of this, along with the war memorial cross, was to be on land bordering St Mary's Road and Priory Road. The 24-bed hospital, costing £12,000 that was raised by public and private subscriptions, was opened in February 1924 and included two beds allocated for maternity services. The latter were mainly used for caesarean births and were in use until 1960 when maternity services for the mums of Beccles were carried out in Yarmouth and Norwich.
- 7.3 In 1948 the hospital came under the umbrella of the newly formed NHS and has continued to be an important asset to the town ever since. Today the 20-bed community hospital is an intermediate care unit with in-patient facilities for those needing care or therapy but not to the degree of that provided by a general hospital. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy are also available. Currently the hospital is operated by East Coast Community Health Care but sadly the minor injuries clinic closed in February 2017. Patients consistently bring good reports of the hospital. One patient said, "Every member of staff was pleasant and caring. If I could award stars, I would give 5 to the Beccles hospital" while another said, "Every member of staff went beyond the call of duty."
- 7.4 In these days of cut backs and pressure on the NHS, everything must be done to ensure that Beccles hospital continues the good work that has been going on there for many years.
- 7.5 A significant concern to the community are the levels of deprivation and inequality in Beccles.
- 7.6 As shown in Section 2, the Suffolk Hidden Needs Report 2016 identified Beccles as having some particularly significant types and pockets of deprivation.
- 7.7 Building a strong sense of community wellbeing and good mental and physical health, through ensuring the best possible community facilities are made available and accessible, can help change this. Various matters relating to community facilities are addressed in the section on 'Community and Tourist Infrastructure and Facilities'. However, matters relating to health and social wellbeing – in terms of more direct provision – are not.
- 7.8 There is a need within the scope of existing initiatives to ensure when planning and future development in Beccles takes place, that policies which are put in place address the work

already undertaken by Suffolk County Council with regard to its Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy for Adults 2014–2019<sup>16</sup>.

- 7.9 The Hidden Need Report shows that South Beccles is an area of particular concern. Providing facilities such as a retirement community comprising a care home/nursing home and extra care and/or sheltered dwellings, along with a community centre, can address isolation and loneliness to the ageing population. The Garden Neighbourhood provides an opportunity to achieve this.
- 7.10 There was significant feedback through the Neighbourhood Plan of concerns about provision of both mental and physical health facilities in Beccles. In particular people are concerned about medical provision being mostly centred at the Beccles Hospital site. However, there was a particularly strong feeling that more comprehensive provision could be delivered through a new, modern medical facility at an alternative location (which would possibly complement the provision at Beccles Hospital). Whilst the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood proposals do not include such provision, it is expected that contributions will be made towards expansion of the existing Beccles Medical Centre. Such expansion could be delivered through a new facility on an alternative site. Whilst no sites have been identified, the Neighbourhood Plan supports any ongoing work to address this situation.
- 7.11 Communal and outside activities are supported by the Neighbourhood Plan and Beccles Town Council's programs on this matter are welcomed. Outside activities such as gardening are widely recognised as being good for both mental and physical health and are to be encouraged. Pride in Beccles is one such example of community action.

#### **POLICY BECC8: MEDICAL PROVISION IN BECCLES**

**Proposals to expand and improve medical provision at Beccles Health Campus, including car parking to meet the needs of existing residents and proposed new communities, will be supported, as will the provision of enhanced social care services.**

#### ***Community actions: Health and wellbeing***

The following are actions which the local community considers are important for improving health and wellbeing in Beccles:

- Beccles Town Council will work with all relevant stakeholders (including developers, the County Council and social care providers) to better engage with the NHS regarding the provision of a comprehensive care setting to address the needs of the community of Beccles.

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<sup>16</sup> Suffolk County Council and NHS (2015) *Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy for Adults, 2014-2019*

- Beccles Town Council will work with East Coast Community Health Care and other health partners to ensure all efforts are made to retain an operational hospital facility in Beccles.
- Beccles Town Council will seek to build on its current group of community volunteers.

### **Dog waste**

- 7.12 Residents of Beccles have long complained about dog waste in the town.
- 7.13 Dog waste contains faecal coliform bacteria which is known to cause cramps, diarrhoea, intestinal illness and kidney disorders. It can also cause Ocular Toxocariasis. This is rare but can affect young children who encounter it and will impact on eye health. Whilst we feel that most owners are responsible as evidenced by full dog poo bins it only takes a few who are maybe less willing or able to clean up to cause issue.
- 7.14 An audit undertaken in January 2019 gives a view on areas, but it is considered likely that most people know additional locations. Whilst this is not a land use issue, it is considered important to take a sensible stance and include relevant actions in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### ***Community actions: Dog waste***

The following are actions which the local community considers are important for improving health and wellbeing in Beccles in respect of dog waste:

- The Town Council should make every effort to ensure that waste bins are available in areas where they currently do not exist and where residents flag an issue with dog waste.
- Clear notice should be displayed of penalties / fines that can be levied should someone not collect and either take away or bin their dog's waste.
- Flag dangers to health that are presented by dog waste.
- Promote good community behaviours in schools and organisations and Pride in Beccles.

### **Age-friendly housing**

- 7.15 The population of Beccles is growing progressively older: the proportion of younger people is declining and the proportion of pensioners increasing. This is supported by the Hidden Needs Report which identifies isolation and loneliness as growing problems, particularly among older people. Creating age-friendly communities - including the mix of homes and the design of the built environment more generally - would have a significant positive effect on older people's health and wellbeing, increasing human contact and provision of emotional support. This should be an important principle in designing new development.
- 7.16 The Neighbourhood Plan encourages provision of a built environment that supports and enhances ageing and aligns health, housing and care systems around a shared objective of

helping people to live independently in a home that is suited to their needs as they age. This would potentially reduce the pressure on the Beccles Medical Centre.

- 7.17 Policy WLP8.1 of the Waveney Local Plan requires a mix of housing which is based on evidence of local needs including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. New residential developments are expected to provide at least 35% of properties as 1- and 2-bed properties. This will address the generic need for smaller properties. It is supported by Policy 8.31, which requires developments to be 'lifetime design', with 40% of all dwellings on sites of 10 dwellings or more to meet required standards for accessible and adaptable dwellings. Equally, Policy DM43 of the Broads Local Plan has a requirement for 20% of housing developments of five dwellings or more to meet Building Regulation standard M4(2) concerning accessible and adaptable dwellings. These policies are supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 8 DESIGN, REGENERATION AND HOUSING

- 8.1 Development and regeneration activity should demonstrate a high standard of architectural design as well as appropriate landscaping and layout. This should seek to achieve outstanding or innovative design and designs that establish a positive distinctive character. In short new development should make a positive contribution to the environment of Beccles. Variation in housing design is important to avoid everything looking the same. Design therefore needs to be of a high quality and demonstrate that provision of buildings will improve the look and character of Beccles and fit well within the environment.

### Design principles

- 8.2 As recognised in the Hidden Needs Report, people still live in housing estates that are badly designed, built and poorly managed, resulting in social inequality and poor health outcomes that affect quality of life and local prosperity. A wide range of research provides evidence and demonstrates that health and wellbeing can be improved through design and regeneration.
- 8.3 Areas of South Beccles would benefit from improved access to community facilities for people of all ages including health and wellbeing, and youth and community services; employment and skills opportunities; an improved quality of place; and better outcomes for residents and communities. Existing streets can be retrofitted to varying extents. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to encourage well-thought out design which deliberately and demonstrably provides health and wellbeing benefits for residents and users. This should be both for estate regeneration and new development.
- 8.4 It is important for development to respect and enhance the landscape quality of the area in which it lies and provide opportunities, where possible, for improvements in public access to green infrastructure. The Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy<sup>17</sup> sets out improvements that need to be considered in the Beccles (and Worlingham) area. In particular, there is a need for more parks and gardens to serve Beccles. New development may have the potential to contribute towards the recommendations of the Green Infrastructure Strategy, including delivery of the recommended projects.
- 8.5 The type of features that will assist in achieving this are relatively simple and inexpensive. The principle should be that public places should be designed so that they are places where people want to spend time because it provides an enjoyable and pleasant environment. They should also be well lit to ensure users feel safe after dark, which is an issue of particular importance to young people wishing to use youth facilities. Equally, people should be able to move around easily on foot and by bicycle without feeling threatened by the presence of vehicular traffic.
- 8.6 Ultimately, estate regeneration can address Hidden Needs in Beccles and play a key role in thinking differently about how we meet not only the health and social care needs of people, but also how it can transform economic outcomes by attracting investment and providing space for new or resurgent skills and employment needs.

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<sup>17</sup> Waveney District Council (2015) *Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy*

- 8.7 The Town Council will seek opportunities to encourage housing developers to apply the Government's Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standards.

**POLICY BECC9: GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

- A. Development proposals must demonstrate high standards of architectural design with appropriate layout and landscaping. Proposals which demonstrate outstanding or innovative design of buildings that establishes a distinctive character which is likely to have a positive impact on Beccles and its environment will be strongly supported.**
- B. The incorporation of sustainable design and construction measures into development including, where feasible, ground/air source heat pumps, solar panels and grey/rain water harvesting solutions, will be supported.**
- C. Major new housing development<sup>18</sup> must respect local topographical, natural, built and historic features and demonstrate that consideration has been given to its landscape impacts.**
- C. Major new housing development should incorporate high quality green infrastructure. This could include open spaces, parks, woodlands, allotments, play areas, green corridors and street trees.**

- 8.8 Effective community engagement can perform an essential role in the development process. The Town Council will seek to encourage consultation on development proposals. In respect of proposals for shared spaces, the Town Council will encourage developers to engage at an early stage in the design process with all and will pay particular attention to encouraging early engagement with disabled people.

**POLICY BECC10: DESIGN OF STREETS AND PUBLIC SPACES**

**The design and layout of development should consider the health and wellbeing of residents and/or users, including those with a disability. The development of segregated cycle lanes and safe highway crossing points will be supported, as will the provision of sensitively designed and located shade and shelter features, benches, tree planting and planters.**

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<sup>18</sup> The definition of 'major development' is as per the NPPF, i.e. 10 or more homes or a site area of 0.5 hectares or more

## **Effective Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, biodiversity and flood risk**

- 8.9 The issue of flooding has been raised during the engagement phase for the Neighbourhood Plan. In particular there are concerns about the impact that new development will have, particularly if further greenfield land is to be built on. This is also acknowledged in the Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 8.10 Whilst flooding issues are generally dealt with at the strategic level, the Neighbourhood Plan presents an opportunity to encourage effective urban drainage solutions that can add additional capacity and flexibility to water drainage systems in cost effective ways. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are a common tool for mitigating the impact of water created by a development but commonly these solutions fail to take the opportunity to maximise the wider benefit of SuDS and to properly integrate it into development. When determining the appropriate SuDS method, developers need to consider amenity value and green infrastructure as well as the basic function of moving water away from the built form. This is particularly important, given that well-designed SuDS can not only improve the environment and provide biodiversity benefits, but can also provide a place for residents and others to enjoy and be closer to nature.
- 8.11 Recent developments in Beccles have often failed to take full advantage of the benefits of well-designed SuDS schemes. Whilst SuDS have been provided, they are not often made attractive and accessible to people, nor have they been designed to enhance biodiversity, as now required by the NPPF. In particular, they have not recognised the opportunities to mitigate the growing threat of water stress through effective water capture and management. For example, when rainwater or greywater is captured, it can be used to keep greenery adequately watered and to generally cool the ambient temperature of built development.



**Example of creative SuDS provision**



**Rills in a development in Stroud,  
Gloucs**

(Source: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust)

- 8.12 There are many examples of creative use of space within developments where a 'multi-value' approach to SuDS provision has been adopted. The common theme is that a wide range of techniques and approaches have been used to maximise the potential for SuDS to mitigate



climate change. These approaches start from the point that SuDS is about more than just flood mitigation and that, importantly, good design means SuDS can be provided even where there is very little available space.

**POLICY BECC11: MULTI-VALUE SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, BIODIVERSITY AND FLOOD RISK**

- A. Development generating water run-off should provide Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) unless there is clear evidence that it is inappropriate to do so. The use of a wide range of creative SuDS solutions, for example through the provision of SuDS as part of green spaces, green roofs, permeable surfaces and/or rain gardens, will be supported.**
- B. The use of SuDS to enhance wildlife, biodiversity and water quality will be supported. SuDS should capture diffuse pollution from hard surfaces to ensure that there is no deterioration in the Water Framework Directive status of the River Waveney as a result of pollution.**
- C. Proposals that improve the water quality, biodiversity and landscape value of the River Waveney will be supported, in order to protect wetland habitats within Beccles where the River Waveney passes through the area. This includes controlling invasive non-native species and ensuring that new development proposals do not damage or destroy riparian habitats or water quality in the river.**

## **Maximising energy efficiency through design**

- 8.13 The need to improve the energy efficiency of the stock of residential properties is a nationwide issue as well as one in Beccles. Building Regulations established minimum standards for the energy efficiency of properties yet, if the UK is to reduce the significant amount of energy used in construction and operation of its stock of buildings, more energy efficient buildings are required. Development to Passivhaus or equivalent widely-recognised standards will also serve to reduce (or even eliminate) energy bills for occupiers. This would represent a significant social benefit, particularly for those on low incomes, many of whom are living in households with hidden needs in Beccles.

Waveney Local Plan Policy WLP8.28 requires major development (defined as 10 residential properties or more or at least 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floorspace) to submit a sustainability statement to demonstrate that development has maximised energy efficiency, used locally sourced materials, incorporates sustainable water management measures and minimises construction waste. Similarly, Policy DM14 in the Broads Local Plan requires a reduction of at

least 10% in the predicted energy use for the same scales of development. However, a significant number of new properties in Beccles will be on sites of less than 10 dwellings. In addition, many properties will be renovated, either to upgrade poor quality stock or to provide enlarged properties. Whilst development must remain deliverable (and improving energy efficiency as part of some minor renovation proposals which require consent in the Conservation Area may be impractical), such smaller developments should also seek to put in place measures which demonstrably maximise the efficiency of the built form. Broads Local Plan Policy DM14 similarly addresses this requirement.

**POLICY BECC12: LOW ENERGY HOUSING DESIGN**

**The incorporation of measures to actively improve the energy efficiency of buildings will be supported. This relates to the heating, cooling, lighting and waste management of the buildings as well as the opportunity for renewable energy generation on the property.**

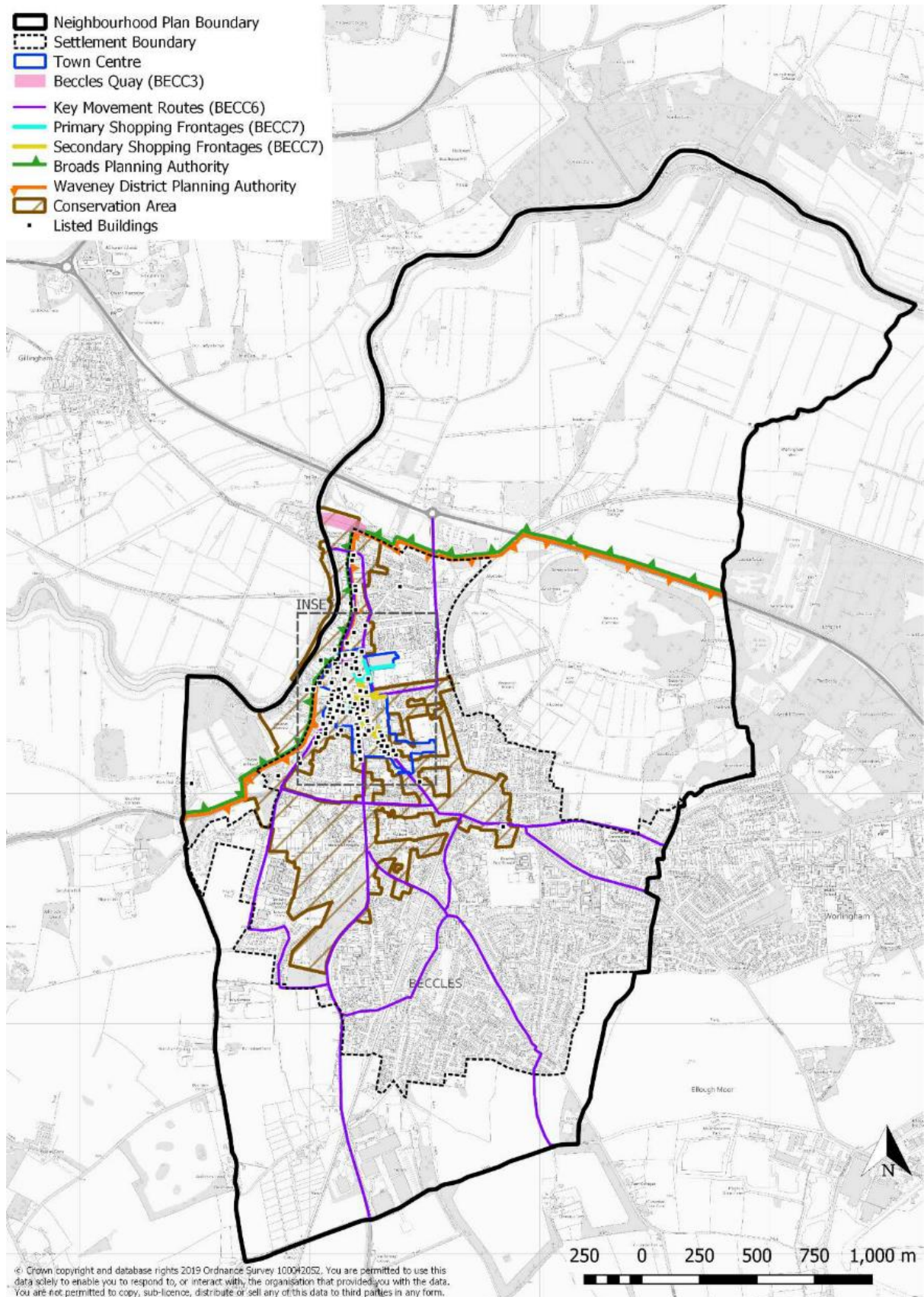
**Development sites within the Beccles settlement boundary**

- 8.14 Within the settlement boundary there are a number of sites which are considered likely to come forward for development during the plan period. Whilst these sites are not necessarily all available for development at the time of preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan – and are therefore not allocated – it is considered important to recognise their potential to provide a range of facilities that will benefit the community as part of mixed use development.

***Community actions: Development sites***

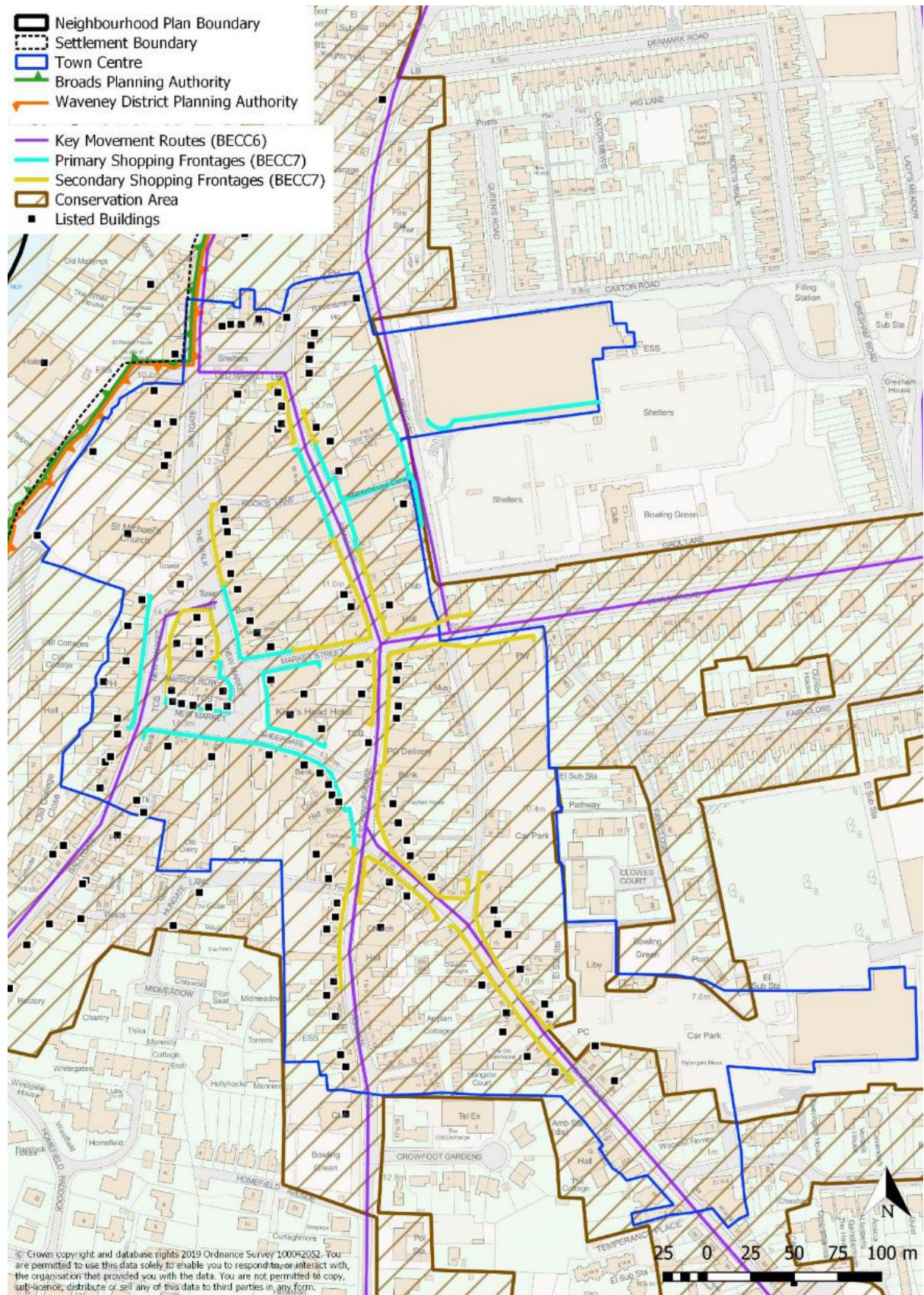
Beccles Town Council will actively work with owners of sites within the settlement boundary of Beccles to identify opportunities for community uses that could be incorporated as part of a mixed-use development.

## 9 POLICIES MAP





## INSET MAP



## 10 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

- 10.1 Table 10.1 provides a summary of the community actions identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 10.2 Below is a summary of the priorities for investment of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and funding from other sources:

### **Transport and movement**

- i. Any appropriate scheme coming forward to increase the volume and/or quality of car parking serving the town centre.
- ii. Improvement of the environmental quality of Hungate car park - resurfacing (including the walkways into New Market), upgrading of the public toilets and provision of soft landscaping.
- iii. Provision of a park-and-stride facility.
- iv. Any appropriate scheme coming forward to expand the pedestrianised area of the town centre.
- v. The creation of bus gates into Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood.

### **Community facilities**

- i. A 'Youth Space' incorporating indoor and outdoor areas (as identified in policy BECC2)
- ii. A dedicated indoor play facility (as identified in policy BECC2)
- iii. A Multi-Use Games Area (as identified in policy BECC2)
- iv. Provision of a green gym
- v. Expansion of Beccles Library to provide greater opportunities for a range of community activities (as identified in policy BECC2)
- vi. Tourism and leisure improvements at Beccles Quay.
- vii. Well-lit footpaths.

**Table 10.1: Priority actions to support the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan**

Item	Description	Partners
<b>Transport and Movement</b>		
HGV movements	Work with Suffolk County Council, as highway authority, on a scheme for restricting HGV's from travelling through the town centre, unless access is required. This could be in conjunction with the use of physical measures to deter such vehicles from passing through the zone entry points. This would be an area-wide scheme encompassing adjacent villages on the A145 and extending as far as Bungay.	Suffolk County Council
Signposting	Work with Suffolk County Council on better signposting to encourage through traffic to use more appropriate routes than through the town centre. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Traffic going north towards Norwich and west towards Diss will need to be signposted to encourage them to use the main road network around the town.</li> <li>○ Traffic needing to access the town itself should be encouraged to use the most appropriate access point.</li> </ul>	Suffolk County Council
Speeding	Measures to reduce speeding will be introduced within the town centre and residential streets to promote quality of life and to enhance the environment of the town. Such schemes should, wherever possible, incorporate physical means to restrict speeds as these have been acknowledged as being more effective at being self-enforcing.	Suffolk County Council
Public car parking	Exploring the provision of one hour of free parking in public car parks in Beccles town centre.	East Suffolk Council
Public car parking	Review the management of public car parks in Beccles town centre and how this can be improved.	East Suffolk Council
Electric vehicles	Identify locations for the provision of electric vehicle recharging points (ideally fast charging points) in Beccles town centre.	Plug-in Suffolk

Beccles Neighbourhood Plan  
Referendum Version

Item	Description	Partners
Technological improvements	Working with local business to encourage the use of artificial intelligence for transport and movement, which is expected to develop significantly over the plan period. Retraining affected staff will be an important part of the implementation of any such schemes.	Beccles Town Council Beccles Business Association
Traffic impact	Regular traffic counts will be undertaken on major routes into and out of Beccles to assess the highway and traffic implications of all new developments as they progress.	Suffolk County Council
Vehicle idling	Develop a campaign to reduce vehicle idling	Beccles Town Council
Pedestrian movement in town centre	Develop a scheme for expanding the pedestrianised area of Beccles Town Centre. In particular, identify footways in Beccles Town Centre that would benefit from widening in order to improve pedestrian safety. This should take into account those who are disabled.	Beccles Town Council Suffolk County Council
<b>Heritage</b>		
Conservation Area	Maintenance and appropriate management of the conservation area in the centre of Beccles in order to enhance its quality.	East Suffolk Council
Beccles Tower	Explore the potential for ground floor space of the Beccles Tower to be brought back into regular use as an exhibition space, ideally 'twinned' with Beccles Museum.	Beccles Town Council
<b>Beccles Town Centre</b>		
Town centre management	Assess the value of establishing a Town Centre Management Team.	Beccles Town Council
Street events	Encourage more street events, including more specialist markets, entertainers and street vendors.	Beccles Town Council Beccles Business Association
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>		

Beccles Neighbourhood Plan  
Referendum Version

Item	Description	Partners
Comprehensive care provision	Work with all relevant stakeholders to better engage with the NHS regarding the provision of a comprehensive care setting to address the needs of the community.	Developers Suffolk County Council Social care providers
Community volunteering	Continue programme of engaging residents in community volunteering.	Beccles Town Council
Lighting of recreational spaces and pathways	Undertake assessment of recreational spaces and pathways that are appropriate locations for sensitive lighting to allow use after dark. Consult on any proposed spaces and determine which are appropriate to fund and deliver.	Beccles Town Council East Suffolk Council Suffolk County Council Suffolk Police
Seating on the Common	Undertake assessment of appropriate locations for new seating on the Common. Then fund and deliver this.	Beccles Town Council Fenland Charity Trust
Public waste bins	Undertake community survey to identify hotspots for waste bin provision.	Beccles Town Council



## Appendix A Non-Designated Heritage Assets within the Beccles Conservation Area

The full list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets in Beccles parish is held by East Suffolk Council.

### Ballygate

#### *Oddr:*

31

(C) Lodge to Homefield House, built 1865-67 by J Edwin Crisp. Single storey, red brick, hipped slate roof, large central chimney stack.

33

(B) (C) Lodge to Homefield House, built 1865-67 by J Edwin Crisp. Single storey red brick and flint, hipped slate roof, casement windows with transome.

35 (*Ballygate Cottage*)

(B) Former farmhouse, part of the Ashman's Estate. Two storey, rendered with gables parapets and red clay pantiled roof.

41

St Mary's Cottage.

Probably built circa 1824.

Well-detailed early C19 building of white brick, set side on to the street.

#### *Evans:*

22

(B) Believed to have been built as stables for Ballygate House but now a cottage. Red brick. Semi circular windows with multiple panes.

26 (*Cliff House*)

Built in 1866. Two storey red brick house with hipped slate roof and end chimney stacks. Three window front with central six panel door with transome light in open porch. 2/2 pane inset horned sash windows with segmental arched heads with keystones.

### Blyburgate

#### *Oddr:*

13, 13a

Two storey, rendered, with red clay pantiled roof, casement windows to first floor, shopfronts.

15, 15a, 15b

Slate roof, rendered wall, 8/8 pane vertical sliding sash windows to first floor, shopfronts.

21a, 35

51

(B) Crow step gable, jettied on south side? Rebuilt axial chimney suggest a pre 1700 date but only south gable predates 1850. Red pantiled roof. New windows and render.

53 – 59

(B) Timber framed under a single roof of mostly black glazed pantiles. Contains a large vaulted cellar accessible only from no 59, which also has a small historic shopfront.

#### *Evans:*

10/12

2 storey white brick with gabled slate roof with end stacks. 3 window front, 6/6 pane vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights under flat arches with keystones, central roof dormer, shopfront.

14 (*Providence House and flat*)

C19, white brick with hipped slate roof and 6/6 panel vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights and flat arches with keystones, shopfront. Probably built late 1860s or 1870s. One of the buildings in the alley at the side bears the date 1859, but the rest of the building at the back is probably 16th or 17th century & the new and old roofs join in an extraordinary way.

18, 18a

Render, hipped red pantile roof, mullion and transome window, shopfront.

36, 36a

Probably mid-late Victorian. Painted brick, 3 window front, 2/2 pane vertical sliding sash windows with segmental arched heads with keystones, white brick chimney stacks, modern shopfront.

38, 38a

Black glazed pantile roof with gable parapets and end stack. Two 2/2 pane vertical sliding sash windows, shopfront.

42 (*The Cottage*)

44 (*Oakleigh House*) and detached outbuilding (C)

Private House designed by F E Banham and built in 1898 for W M Crowfoot MD. Built by E J Hindes for £1450. Two and a half storey, red brick with plain tile roof and turret to the north, roof dormers and mullion and transome windows.

46

Appears to be a jettied building, but the jetty is modern, to broaden the pavement. Roof form implies a timber frame. Red and black glazed pantiles, render, gable onto the street, modern windows, shopfront.

60

(B) Appears in a drawing of 1830s. Large external chimney on south side. Two storey, rendered, gable parapets, red pantiled roof, exposed rafter feet. Two 3/3 pane vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights, central modern door.

*Blyburgate Hall*

## Blyburgate – Temperance Place

2, 3

## Bridge Street

The Ship (former PH) and its outbuildings

Two storey pebbledashed, 3 window front with central door and replacement vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights. Slate roof with white brick gable end chimney stacks.

1-4 *Becclesgate*

(B) Former maltings, red brick laid in English bond with red clay pantile roof.

## Exchange Square – west side

*Corn Hall (rear of bank)*

(D) Formerly a Fisher Theatre. Fisher Theatres are a very significant local and regional feature. These are among the earliest purpose-built theatres in the country.

## Fair Close

35, 37, 39

(C) Built in 1873-4 as cottage hospital by architect J L Clemence.

## Fen Lane

1-3 *The Maltings*

(B) Former maltings. Red brick with red clay pantile roof.

## Grange Road

*Odd:*

5, 7

A pair of two and a half storey red brick houses with two storey canted bays. 2/2 and 1/1 pane vertical sliding sash windows under white brick segmental arches with moulded red brick keystones and pediments. 6 panel doors, concrete tiled roofs.

9

Red brick two and a half storey with pebbledashed and half timbered frieze and gable in bay set at 45 degree angle. 2/2 pane vertical sliding sash windows and neo-classical moulded brick doorcase. Red plain tiled roof.

11, 11a

Two and a half storey red brick with clay plain tiled roof. Dutch gable to front elevation. 4/1 pane vertical sliding sash windows, brick arches. Stone string course and detailing to doorway of no 11.

*Even:*

## St Benets Church

10 (*St Mary's Children's Home*)

Two and a half storey, red brick with quoins, flat arches,

aprons and string course. A timber dentil course to eaves and verges. 6/6 pane vertical sliding sash windows, central doorway with forward projecting wings either side. Round windows in gables.

#### Grove Road

10

##### 108 (Ingate Hotel)

Two storey, red brick and pebbledash with half timbered projecting gables on timber brackets. Cornice, 4/4 pane vertical sliding sash windows, curved in places.

#### Horse And Groom Lane

2, 2a

#### Hungate

*Odds:*

##### Hungate Hall Playgroup

Single storey white brick with unusual decorative detailing to verge, three round headed windows grouped under a single round arch. Gable onto street, round headed doorways in lean-tos either side.

7, 9, 9a, 9b

Built 1880s. 2 storey red brick with white brick dressings, 2/2 pane sashes with bracketed sills.

11, 13

2 storey red brick cottages with black pantiled roofs. 3 window front, 8/8 pane sashes, shopfront to no 11, moden half glazed door under round rubbed brick arch. Elsewhere flat arches.

*Evens:*

12-14, 14-16 flats 1, 2 & 3, The Studio, The Flat, The Studio

2 storey red brick with pantiled roof. No 12 has a single 2/2 pane sash window with shopfront below. No 14 has three 2/2 pane sash windows with double fronted shopfront below. No visible chimneys.

#### Hungate Lane

20,

21 and store to rear, 21a

Two storey red brick with slate roof. Large axial chimney

stack and remains of truncated older stack to west end (no 21) 8 pane side hung casement windows. Red brick store.

#### Littlegate

27

#### Ingate

7

Two storey, red brick. 2/2 pane vertical sliding sash windows, slate roof, shopfront with stained glass frieze.

2-4

*Building to rear of no 10 and north of Daisy Cottage*

22

Red brick with black pantiled roof, gable parapet, 3/3 pane vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights.

50-52

(B) Steep pitched roof suggests a timber framed structure. Red brick, black pantiles, replacement windows.

*Ingate Hotel (see 108 Grove Road)*

#### London Road

*Odds:*

17, 19

Built between 1871 and 1881. White brick with hipped, slate roof and central shared chimney stack. Rubbed brick flat arches over inset 6/6 pane sliding sash windows, those to no 17 now replaced with flush fitted upvc. Round brick arches over doors with plain fanlights.

27, 23

Built between 1841 and 1845. White brick, no 23 now painted. All other details as for nos 17 and 19, other than chimney stacks, which are situated at either end of ridge.

25, 27, 29, 31 (Esdelle Terrace)

Built 1871-1874. Two storey red brick terrace of two handed pairs with shared gabled roof and two storey canted bay frontages. No 25 only retains original slate roof. Two shared chimney stacks. 2/2 pane inset vertical sliding sash windows under flat arches with keystones. Round arches over doorways.

33-35

Built between 1832 and 1838. Two storey red brick cottages with shared black pantiled roof.

37 (*Rose Cottage*)

Built between 1841 and 1851. Two storey red brick cottage with black pantiled roof.

39

Built between 1904 and 1914. Two and a half storey red brick house.

43, 45

Built between 1841 and 1851. A fine pair of imposing hipped roofed houses in white brick with three storeys and delicate detailing to the ground and first floor windows. Double reveal to doorways.

*Teamore*

Built between 1820 and 1824. Wide frontage and shallow, hipped slate roof. White brick, 3 window front with ventral doorway and open porch. 6/6 pane flush fitted vertical sliding sash windows. Attached red brick hipped slate roofed garaging set back to north and two storey red brick wing set back to south.

*Evans:*

10

Probably late C18, flush windows and fine fanlight and door. Painted roughcast render now covers original fair-faced brickwork elevations.

12 (*Gothic House*)

(B) Built between 1824 and 1828. Two storey, red brick house with hipped, slate roof. Symmetrical front with lean-to side wings with parapets. Fine gothic arched half glazed double doors with hood over and apparently original gothic fenestration. Gothic railings to front boundary.

14 (*The Larches*)

(B) Built 1802. Set behind an open garden and railings. Two storey red brick with hipped, pantiled roof and single storey canted bays to either side of central 6 panel doorway. Simple timber doorcase with pediment within larger pedimented porch. The interesting and unusual semi-circular south end and bays being added in 1870s or 80s.

16 (*Millbank*)

(B) Built 1828, originally part of 14. Purpose built as private girls' school. Double revealed entrance to side. A large house of simple vernacular detailing. Two storey, red brick with hipped slate roof. 3 window front, handsome white brick and flint boundary wall.

18

Set above road level, pantiled.

20 (*Victoria Cottage*)

Built 1880. Plaque on front of house 'FKP 1880'. F K Peachey was a reader at Caxton Press for 54 years.

26, 28, 30 (*Providence Cottages*)

Built circa 1875. Two storey red brick with hipped, tiled roof with projecting gabled central bay. White brick quoins. Decorative metal flat arches. Only no 28 retains original fenestration.

## Manor House Lane

7

Built between 1870 and 1875. Two storey, red brick cottage with pantiled roof and dentil eaves cornice. Three window front has 3/3 pane vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights and central six panel door in simple timber doorcase.

*Side elevation of former Taylors building (fronting Smallgate)*

(C) Previously a Primitive Methodist Chapel, designed by William Wright Woodroffe and built in 1872 by Mr Hindes. Red brick with white brick dressings. Two storey high narrow round topped, vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights, a lower bay to the rear having bricked up windows. Bay fronting Smallgate modified and painted.

## Market Street

3, 3a, 3b

Painted brick with canted corner and double shopfront. Two storey, painted brick with bracketed eaves, brick architraves and dentil string course, 1/1 pane vertical sliding sash windows.

## Newgate

21-23

May have been part of 11 and 13 Smallgate at one time. Initials on gateway BF EE 1720 possibly Benjamin Folkard and Elizabeth Elmy or Ely. Pantiled roof with gable parapets and dormer windows, 3 window front, 2/2 pane vertical sliding sashes, painted arches.

## New Market

13

Three storey, red brick, tripartite window to first floor 6/1, 12/1, 6/1 under a single stone lintel. A pair of similar windows to second floor. Moulded brick detailing including triangular pediment. Modern shopfront to ground floor.

23 (*Barclays Bank*)

Built in 1868 for Gurneys Bank. Much altered since built. Three storey, red brick, three window front, square headed sliding sashes under three connected red and white brick gothic arches, infilled with moulded red brickwork. Plain stone lintel to second floor over a pair of 2/2 pane sashes. Barclays Bank in large tablet to second floor side elevation.

27, 27b

Two storey with parapet. Painted brickwork, 5 window front, 2/2 pane vertical sliding sashes.

31

Simple parapeted three storey façade, 3 mullion and transome windows with shopfront below.

33, 35

33 and 35 share a black glazed pantile roof and may have originally been one building. No 33 has a painted façade, a three window front of 6/6 pane vertical sliding sashes and a modern shopfront. No 35 is red brick with an asymmetrical 3 window front of 2/2 pane vertical sliding sashes, two dormers above and a shopfront below with separate six panel door with plain fanlight under a round arch. Large ridge chimney stack reduced in height. Elsewhere, arches are segmental white brick with red brick moulded keystone. Moulded white brick cornice to eaves.

## Northgate

*Odds:*

*Popes Head Cottage*

1, 3a & b, 5

11, 13 and outbuildings

Brick facade, painted. Pantile roof, continuous, but with gable ends projecting at each end. No chimneys. Change of angle of pantiles at base, suggesting thatch, but the angle of the roof too shallow. Modern windows, but wider than tall flat arched.

No 11:- One ground floor window to street indented,

but blocked up. One of two of first storey also blocked. Smaller height, probably the original size. Sign of earlier doorway blocked up. Doorcase looks authentic.

Doorscraper to left of door.

No 13:- Upper storey 2 windows, new, probably enlarged.

1 central window filled in and smaller. Doorcase looks authentic, Adam-like swag decoration. Two lower windows, left one sash, 10 panes top & bottom, but Victorian. Right: modern.

15, 17

Built by John Pedgrift. All one house, but two buildings. Brick, painted. Simple columns or pilasters at either end of No 11. Parapet roof to both buildings, [a change from gable to parapet occurred between 1933 and the listing] with shallow roofs. One chimney between two buildings, one on the left.

No 15: two adjacent inset doorways, arched with fanlights. Left one, simple spoked. Right one more decorative curved ends to spokes. Three windows on top floor, 6 pane sash windows top & bottom. Not Victorian, but narrow glazing bars. Irregular spacing between windows. Right window inset within arch, possibly original doorway, as it goes down to ground.

No 17: three sash windows, 6 panes top and bottom on upper storey, one blocked up, but inset. Similar window below. Door inset arched with fan vault.

19, 21

Built c 1860-70

No 19: Brick facade, painted. Shallow roof, with projected eaves to the front with braces. Upper storey: 4 windows inset, 6 glazing bars top & bottom, not Victorian. Lower floor: 2 windows, right one does not open, perhaps originally the doorway. Sash window, 6 panes. Door modern. Round window to the right, possibly original, no sign of disturbance to brickwork.

No 21: Brick, 18th century. Parapet roof, hipped, steepish, pantiled & house at right angles to street. Facade appears to have been added to the front of the building. Square house. Upper floor windows flush with wall, seemingly 18th century with 8 panes. Lower floor: 2 original arched doorways bricked up. Modern, odd, windows, one with new top. Doorcase very wide, broken pediment.

23 (*Cambridge House*) and flat 1

Flemish gable. 1 chimney at south end built outside. Steep roof. 2 large dormers, not original. Tiles. Rendered surface. Wooden<sup>2</sup> beam projecting under roof line, irregular, projecting outwards. Upper windows well below eaves. Casement windows (newish) flush with facade. Low ground floor. Steps up to door. Very low, inset, modern.

25, 27

No 25: fairly steep roof. Flemish gable with iron ties at north end. Upper storey red brick with 2 flush frame sash windows, 6 panes. Doorway authentic? older brickwork.  
No 27: Central plain chimney. New roof tiles. Older brickwork top and bottom. New windows and door. Much disturbance of brick.

29, 31

No 29 The Volunteer Arms then The Lord Nelson  
Steep roof with pantiles. Small high dormer windows. Change of roof angle at bottom suggesting earlier use of thatch. Facade rendered, brick on south side. Chimneys either end. Raised gable ends. Upper storey: 3 squarish windows, with one opening central casement. 9 panes. Doorcase possibly original. Signs of neighbouring doorcase (now closed) Lower window, right, wooden. Ironwork on north side: 1670: IH (standing for Joseph Harbor)

33 and outbuildings

35

This property has been a boat yard for most of the last 200 years. For 150 of those years it was run by the Wright family. It is difficult to trace back earlier than 1804 as it was not owned by either of the two manors of Beccles. It might have belonged to one of the manors which owned a small quantity of property in the town, such as Barsham Hall, whose Court Books have been lost.

37-39

Marquis of Granby Opened c 1837, closed in 1899. Although many pubs named "The Marquis of Granby" were given by the Marquis to the Landlord as a gift for soldiering, this does not appear to be one of them, as the 1837 Manor record says that it is NOW a Public House, suggesting that this was not the case in the past, perhaps ten years ago. The Marquis died in 1770 aged 49.

61 (The Tannery))

63 (Waveney Lodge)

(1-6 The Tannery)

Red brick, slate roof.

## Tannery Score

69, 71, 73

Evans:

Outbuilding to rear of Northgate House (12)

12a

Former stables and accommodation for Northgate House (12 Northgate). Painted brick, black pantiled roof, dormers.

14, 16, 20

22

Built between 1853 and 1877.

24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and annexe, 40, 40a

42

Could date from 1620.

Garage to 62 (Montague House)

62a

Became part of Montague House in 1751. Was separated from it in the mid 1990s.

64, 66, 68, 70

## Old Market

12

Partially demolished circa 1933 to widen Saltgate. Pantiled roof, painted ashlar render, one window front, dentil course.

Outbuilding to rear of Northgate House, 12 Northgate

(B) Red brick, pantiled roof.

## Puddingmoor

Oddis:

5, 7

5 Cliff Cottages

Painted brick. A fine probably late c18 interior with many features intact.

Crinkle crankle wall at 33-41

(B)

Evans:

Puddingmoor Place

Render, concrete tiled roof with end chimney stacks, 2 window front, 2/2 pane inset sashes, central door.

8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 38a



40

One fine gable end remains of a much older property at no 40. The House has iron ties on the North end Flemish Gable: JHL standing for Joseph and Hannah Lambert. They were married in 1729. He died in 1786 aged 86, she in 1766 aged 62.

#### *Vista outbuildings*

#### *Flint House (Waveney Lodge)*

(B) (C) Built as a lodge to Waveney House by Nathaniel Pells between 1851 and 1861. A fine piece of architectural detailing. Coursed, knapped flint walls and painted brick dressings, fishscale slate roof with moulded timber bargeboards and dominant multi-shafted chimney stack.

#### *Telport*

Planning permission granted in 1881. A building of robust scale and detailing.

### **Ravensmere**

#### *1 (Causton Arms PH)*

Built between 1875 and 1881. Two storey, painted brick. Single storey canted bays, 6/6 pane vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights.

#### *23 and its outbuildings*

Three storey, pebbledashed, slate roof. 1 window front, 6 pane vertical sliding sash window with margin lights to first floor, side hung casements above and shopfront below.

#### *35 (The Royal Oak PH)*

Red brick and pebbledash with half-timbered gable, red clay plain tiled roof, large decorative chimney stack with engaged diagonal shafts to front elevation, a further smaller ridge stack to north.

41

45, 47, 49

The Quadrant, built between 1881 and 1885. Well-constructed simple frontage of red brick, two storey but with low eaves and shallow roof.

#### *1, 1a, 2, 3 and 4 Silletts Cottages*

### **Ringsfield Road**

#### *1 (Lawn House)*

Two and a half storey, red brick and pebbledash with half timbered gable. 4/1 pane mullion and transome windows. Semi circular arch over recessed doorway.

3

Arts & Crafts. Two storey red brick and pebbledash with casement windows. Deep eaves overhang, dormer window.

5

Arts & Crafts. Two storey, red brick and red clay tile hung with red clay plain tiled roof with exposed rafter feet. Mullioned windows with leaded lights. Deep porch.

### **Rosemary Lane, Northgate**

7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

### **St Marys Road**

#### *St Michaels Lodge*

Two and a half storey, red brick with half timbered gables, red clay plain tiled roof, 1/1 pane vertical sliding sash windows, an oriel window to the front elevation and an open porch.

### **Saltgate**

#### *The Old Cinema*

Built 1914. Single storey purpose built cinema now used as a restaurant. Triangular and curved pediments are combined in the front elevation with the word 'cinema' in a striking mosaic design above the entrance.

### **Smallgate**

#### *Post Office*

Two storey, red brick with parapet and Dutch gables to gauged slate roof. 8 window front, 6/9 pane sashes at first floor level. Round topped metal windows to ground floor with entrance doors at either end. Double reveals. Stone plinth, keystones and string courses.

#### *Public Hall*

(C) Built circa 1790 as an assembly room. Architect Thomas Fulcher, with later alterations by local architect A Pells. Render with parapet. Quoins, architraves and triangular pediments. Hipped black pantiled roof. 4 windows, to ground floor central doors with window either side. Two blind windows and four others to side elevation.

#### *Buildings to rear of 13*

#### *Quaker Hall to rear of no 15*

15a

21

Site of former guildhall. White brick, parapet to north gable, 4 window front, 6/6 pane, round headed to all openings, 2 doors to ground floor.

23, 25,

(B) Two and a half storey, rendered, timber framed. Red clay pantiles to no 23, slate to no 25. Modern shopfronts.

*Building to rear of 23*

27

Two storey, painted brick with slate roof. Chimney to north. Three window front, 6/6 pane vertical sliding sash windows under painted cambered arches with keystones. I similar window to ground floor and shopfront with cornice supported on large timber consoles.

*Former Taylors site – Manor House Lane elevation – see under Manor House Lane.*

47

Built by William Moore before 1875. Two storey red brick with parapet and chimney to north. Decorative brick detailing to parapet, arches and aprons. Two window front, unusual 1/2 pane mullion and transome windows. One large 3/3 pane mullion and transome window to ground floor with entrance door to right. 1/2/2 panel historic door.

*Wall to north of 49*

White brick wall with red brick panels and half round capping.

22-30

(C) Co-op building with its later connecting bridge above Rooks Lane by local architect Arthur Pells, built in 1895/1913. Range south of Rooks Lane is dated 1895. Two storey, huge 2/2 pane vertical sliding sash windows. Red brick with decorative moulded brick detailing to cornices, triangular pediments and aprons. Shopfronts incorporate a stained glass frieze below fascia level. C20 tiling to ground floor. Range north of Rooks Lane is a pale terracotta with red brick banding. Neo-classical façade incorporating triangular pediments. Five window front – 4/1, 10/1, 4/1 panes. Shop windows retain pull out awnings and incorporate multiple pane frieze and curved glass into doorways.

## Station Road

*Odd:*

1, 1a, 3

No 1 built between 1861 and 1864. No 3 built in gap between houses on either side between 1875 and 1881. West side added probably between 1927 and 1936. 1 is white brick with red clay pantiled roof, 1a has been rendered.

5, 7, 9, 11 (*Wellington Terrace*)

Built circa 1864. White brick with slate roof apart from no 5 which has concrete tiles. Original windows except no 5.

13, 15

Built between 1861 and 1864. White brick with concrete tile roof. 13 has original joinery, both appear to have had bay windows added, no 13 canted, no 15 square.

17, 19

Built between 1865 and 1871. White brick. 17 has slate roof and original joinery, 19 has concrete tiles and upvc windows.

21, 23

Built between 1864 and 1871. 21 has slate roof and upvc windows, 23 has concrete roof tiles and upvc windows and porch.

25, 27

Built between 1875 and 1881. 25 has had its brickwork cleaned and has aluminium windows, 27 has original joinery and a concrete pantiled roof.

29

Joined onto 31 in 1900. Built forward of established building line. Designed by Arthur Pells. Built by George & Herbert Hipperson. Cost £459.00. White brick, cleaned, upvc windows, red clay pantiled roof.

31, 33

Built circa 1864. 31 White brick, concrete tiled roof, upvc windows, 33 White brick, concrete tiled roof, original windows, modern door. Now attached to 35, originally had no bay windows.

35, 37 and building to rear of 35

Built 1864. No 35 attached to no 33 after 1883. Original joinery. No 35 has a slate roof, no 37 is concrete tile.

39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49 (*Norfolk Terrace*)

Built between 1865 and 1871. 39 and 41 have slate roofs, the remainder concrete tile. 39, 41, 43 and 47 have

original joinery although the door to 41 has been modified, 45 has aluminium windows and an original door and 49 has modern timber windows.

*51, 53*

Built between 1885 and 1891. 51 is brick, 53 (Ferndale) is stone. Slate roofs, original joinery.

*Hipperson Mews*

Former workshop, painted brick, windows are modern timber replacements

*Railway Hotel*

Painted brick, some upvc windows.

*Former station building*

Red brick, now mostly painted. Asymmetrical two storey front with single storey wings. Mullion windows, hood moulds.

*Evans:*

*2, 4a, b & c*

Built 1854 as part of terrace including Smallgate and Newgate properties.

No 4 formerly the Suffolk Hotel, but entirely rebuilt. Two storey, white brick, no 4 now painted. Hipped slate roof. Bracketed eaves, corner shopfronts. 6/6 pane vertical sliding sash windows with margin lights.

*Baptist Chapel (6 Station Road)*

Built 1860-61/1872?. Designed by an unnamed London architect. Double storey height and full width triangular pediment give the building architectural presence.

*8*

White brick, cleaned. Double fronted plus bay to side now a garage.

*10, 12, 14*

Built between 1865 and 1871.

*16, 18, 20, 22*

Were being built in 1871. White brick. No 18 is painted. Nos 20 and 22 have carriage arches at either end.

*24, 26, 28, 30 (Salisbury Place)*

Built between 1875 and 1881.

White brick terrace

*32 (Alexander House)*

Built in 1881-2 by Robert Alexander King, builder and owner. White brick, cleaned. Detached, double fronted with two storey bay windows.

*34 (Chumleigh), 36*

Built between 1885 and 1891.

*38 (Carlton Villa), 40 (Hollybank)*

Built between 1881 and 1883

*42, 44 flats 1-4*

Built between 1865 and 1871. No 44 (Star House) formerly the Star Inn/Hotel.

*46, 48, 50*

Two storey, red brick with hipped, slate roof. Segmental arches over 2/2 pane vertical sliding sash windows, moulded brick detailing.

## The Score

*Primrose Cottage and outbuildings*

*Petcham House*

N.B. 'Hungate Hall Playgroup' should be listed as 'Hungate Church Hall'



## **BECCLES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

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## COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

### CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To receive the Cabinet Members' Report and the Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council, for information.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards in the District
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council

## CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<a href="mailto:james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07810 815879

I attended the AONB Joint Advisory Committee, a general discussion of AONB business took place esp focus on coming out of Covid and the implementation of the Farming in protected landscapes prog. Where it seems the government will be looking at subsidising our landowners to improve their land management. The AONB is looking to re-focus and I hope very much they can engage our communities with the relevance of ecology and the climate emergency.

I was pleased to attend the Suffolk Local Access Forum, where, although a lot of work is Suffolk based, this committee reports back direct to Suffolk County Council, who administer our footpaths. I articulated concerns of accessibility and maintenance of footpaths across our urban and rural areas of East Suffolk and I am hoping new housing developments in particular look at engagement to our open spaces.

As East Suffolk's representative on the Green print Forum steering committee I have a personal interest in its concerns and take a listening and advising role. Although I am pleased to see us focus on farming and food for our next conference - taking my title of 'Framing today, fit for tomorrow', environmentally it is not sustainable to constantly air freight food into the UK and we need to focus on seasonality and eating local produce. Farmers need to stop excessively spraying and implement a more sustainable management of land working with nature not against it.

We also endorsed the allocation of grants awarded under Nature First and the Award details are available here : <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Green-Issues/Nature-First-Small-Grants-Scheme/Nature-First-projects-funded-summer-2021.pdf>

The Greenprint forum is a community volunteer lead organisation and East Suffolk only has a supporting role.

I am delighted to confirm I will continue as chair of the Suffolk Waste Partnership. This is a critical year as we will hopefully see the outcome of the environmental bill, currently proceeding through Westminster. A recent council presentation highlighted the questions and challenges that lay ahead. An exciting time to define waste collection for our residents. And I am also keen to push the narrative although it is important to deal with our waste correctly, ultimately we need to reduce our waste. All services have performed well through covid restrictions. I continue to push SCC to allow 7 day opening of recycling centres.



<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Stephen Burroughes – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<a href="mailto:stephen.burroughes@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">stephen.burroughes@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07783 357940

- **Customer Services**

As Covid restrictions have eased we have looked back with amazement at how we coped during the various stages of lockdown and the lessons we have learned. With cases coming through customer services it is essential that we work hard to 'get it right first time' and make 'every contact count'. At the start of the pandemic, we had to move quickly when lockdown took place, and everyone was instructed to work from home – big problem – how would we provide an immediate shift in service so the service didn't collapse. The reaction was immediate, and we provided the specialist IT and resources within the home setting to enable our residents to continue to access our teams and to provide a comprehensive and 'business as usual' position in maintaining our service. This worked amazingly well, and I can't thank everyone enough for making this major logistical challenge a huge success.

What have we learned from the pandemic, and how has this changed our strategic priorities? Our key strategic theme has always been to provide a single point of contact, a 'one' front door approach. By embracing and adapting the way we work such as through our 'digital champions' and the work we have put in around channel shift and doing things differently. How do we see things now? The restrictions in people's movements have significantly changed the way residents interact with the council. Footfall has dropped considerably with a move away from face-to-face enquiries to a steady migration to online activity, more self-service, with an increase in those signed up to 'My East Suffolk' creating an online account to manage the services they receive from East Suffolk. This has accelerated channel shift and access to services, not only improving outcomes, but providing ownership to residents. Clearly one size doesn't fit all, and we will always provide help and support for those who are unable to access online service or who have specific needs.

Finally, but important, is our preparation for receiving individuals and families escaping the upsetting situation in Afghanistan and who would be looking to set up home and provide for their family in East Suffolk. The customer service teams are already prepared for this scenario in readiness for this with translation services, triage services and signposting to our housing teams, and help with any support required. A friendly face and kind words can go a long way to help people feel at ease.

- **ICT & Digital**

Where would we be without our IT and technical support? As mentioned above, as a result of the impact of 2020, everything swung into action and accelerated to meet our digital requirement and focus on service progression. Our teams predominantly work quietly behind the scenes making sure the council can carry out its functions and supporting every element of service delivery. East Suffolk and its predecessors were well on the way to evolving the way we all work and how our systems perform, introducing new and dynamic software and staying at the front of the pack when it came to service development. As with Customer Services, the pandemic just speeded everything up. The success of online meetings has put us in a good position with much more day-to-day business continuing to be carried out online equating to increased productivity, greater public engagement

and transparency, reduced number of journeys and costs and a resulting impressive reduction in carbon emissions.

The service underpins everything the council does in terms of supported service delivery, constantly developing and evolving functionality and performance.

- **Commercial Partnerships**

We currently enjoy very good services from our commercial partners. Firstly, East Suffolk Norse (WN & SCN) who deliver a range of essential core services to this council, such as waste collection, grounds maintenance, street cleansing, some FM services, and much more covering different service requirements. We are working with ES Norse to continually improve and evolve services addressing issues where there are sticking points and areas for development and improvement. The JV with ES Norse is a significant enterprise and equates to 60% of our Corporate Revenue Spend totalling over £24m (£18m on contract, and £6m off contract). Again, the Norse brand is a strong one, and residents identify with that. East Suffolk council has a 20% stake in the JV and have seats on the board which meets quarterly (myself and Andy Jarvis) where we monitor performance, value for money & financial obligations, digital investment and future work streams and service development. Are we robust in our approach to ensure that the residents of East Suffolk receive a good professional service? You bet, I see my role to question, challenge, and champion, and I don't shy away from asking those searching questions.

Again, similarly with both Places Leisure and Everyone Active, we are spoilt by having amazing partners operating our Leisure Centres across the whole district. This has been a challenge over time, but we are now in a very strong position by investing heavily in upgrading our facilities and are now able to provide state of the art facilities which are the envy of others. Swimming numbers during the summer for example have been good with many now wanting to improve their fitness and getting back into shape, and the contracts we have in place with our providers allows for great choice and flexibility.

Clearly there have been huge financial challenges during the pandemic around reduced incomes for operators with all centres being closed or only able to offer limited services which has impacted on balance sheets. Staff were able to be furloughed and the operators were also able to take advantage of the govts very generous support packages, and various business interruption schemes which has been a life saver for many. Without that support things could have turned out very differently and it is obvious that this will take some time for operators to fully return to profitability.

As always, I am happy to provide greater detail, take questions offline or via email or provide further information if required.

## Outside Bodies Representatives Reports

Local Government Association General Assembly	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor Steve Gallant – Leader of the Council
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- The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government. It is a politically led, cross-party organisation that receives funding from member councils to ensure local government has a strong and credible voice with national government. Amongst other things, it seeks to influence critical legislative, financial and policy decisions, press for more powers to be devolved from Whitehall, shape emerging government thinking, support councils to share best practice, drive innovation and negotiate fair pay and pensions. There are currently 335 English member councils along with 22 Welsh authorities.
- This year's General Assembly was held on 6 July as part of the annual LGA Conference which, for the second year running, was held virtually.
- The business of the General Assembly is governed by the LGA's Articles of Association with the first item of business being the election of a President for 2021/22. The Assembly elected Baroness Grey-Thompson as President who replaced Lord Kerslake. Four Vice-Chairs and nine Deputy Chairs were also elected for the same period and these postholders make up the LGA Board.
- An amendment was made to the Articles of Association in light of the increase in virtual and hybrid meetings to enable greater voting flexibility at meetings of the General Assembly.
- The Financial Statements for the year 2020/21 were considered in detail. These had been reviewed by the LGA's Audit Committee on 8 June 2021 and approved by the LGA Board on 9 June 2021. They have received an unqualified (clean) audit opinion from their external auditors with the core financial results remaining in line with the LGA's long-term financial strategy. The LGA has healthy cash reserves, although the book valuations under the accounting disclosure rules have worsened for both the two Pension Scheme deficits and the net building asset values.
- The Assembly received an annual report on the work of the LGA's Audit Committee. The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to review the financial statements, monitor the processes for managing risks, internal controls and corporate governance arrangements, oversee the appointment of auditors and consider issues of probity and conduct. The main focus of the Committee's work in 2020/21 was to review the audited accounts and agree and review the findings and recommendations of the internal audit programme for the year. The consolidated accounts show that the LGA (and its related bodies) made an operating deficit of £3.3m after interest and tax. Overall income decreased by 0.9% from £64m to £63.5m. The two main properties owned by the LGA in London, Layden House and 18 Smith Square, have both decreased in value by £1.4m and £3.25m respectively due to the condition of the

market. The overall pension fund deficit reported in the accounts has increased by £8.8m from £93.1m to £101.9m. There were no issues relating to probity and conduct to be investigated and reported in 2020/21. The 2020/21 audit opinions are summarised below:

<b>Internal audit assignment</b>	<b>Internal audit opinion</b>
Key Financial Controls	Substantial Assurance
UKMBA	Substantial Assurance
Debt Management	Substantial Assurance
Governance and Risk	Substantial Assurance
Procurement and Commissioning	Reasonable Assurance

- The last order of business was to consider a Motion calling on the government to ensure the adequate representation of local government at COP26 in order to promote the significant contribution, leadership and efforts of local councils in reducing toxic carbon emissions across the UK and to champion the innovative and rapid progress being made at a local level to tackle climate change. As well as this, it encourages councils to continue their work to address climate change by:
  - Promoting further signatories to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration. This declaration confirms the commitment of local and regional authorities to develop sustainable food policies and calls on national government to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency at COP26.
  - Promoting greater participation from local councils to the UK1002, the network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and switch to clean energy as soon as possible.
- This Motion was debated and unanimously approved.
- The Motion acknowledged the steps that local authorities across the UK are taking to combat climate change, cut carbon emissions and protect the environment, including through the following measures:
  - Declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency with action now being taken by nearly three-quarters of all local councils.
  - Announcing extensive commitments, often with detailed action plans, to reach net zero carbon by 2030, surpassing the government commitments of 2035.
  - Implementing broad community level action on climate change such as green bonds, warmer homes schemes, sourcing electricity demand from renewables and developing new parks, open spaces and active travel measures.
- Further work relating to this will be taken up by the LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board.

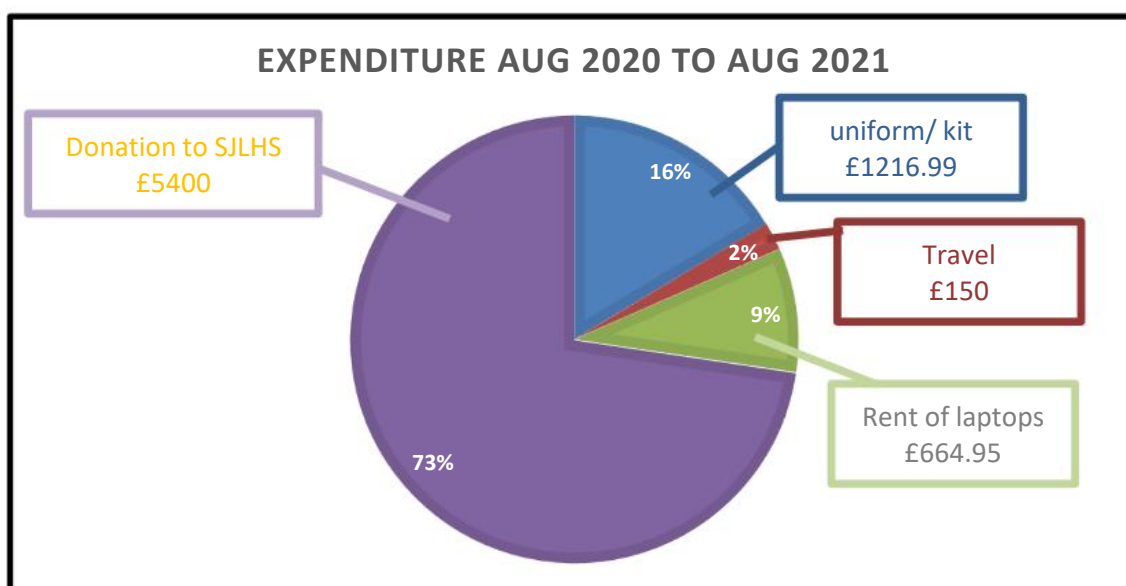
Fauconberge Educational Foundation	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor Caroline Topping
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<a href="mailto:caroline.topping@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">caroline.topping@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07825 421117

Although the Fauconberge Educational Foundation has not met in person, it has been very active and has been corresponding via email. An update and budgetary information has been provided by Tom Trevitt, Clerk:

Initially the Fauconberge Educational Foundation was set up to provide bursaries enabling children to receive education that otherwise would have been beyond their means. Until recently, we have supported local young people of eleven years up to age eighteen to get the most from the opportunities available. We have helped with uniform and kit, with travel and with laptops for college students. But needs change, and we have altered our terms of reference so as to include all pupils of school age, rising fives through to eighteen years.

We foster links with local schools because the school is well placed to assess where need lies. Our Beccles based Trustees are also very aware and *connected* in this respect.

In lockdown, the Foundation was able to provide new laptops to support home learning and be a link between the school and the Green Councillors' in their appeal for pre-loved equipment. This support was very much appreciated by the high school, not just for the hardware, but for the encouragement of moral support in a time of severe challenge.



East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor Judy Cloke
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<a href="mailto:judy.cloke@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">judy.cloke@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07825 386561

The Board consists of Elected Members, who are mostly landowners within the catchment and members appointed from Ipswich Borough, Mid Suffolk and East Suffolk Councils, as well as two jointly appointed members, Cllrs Cackett and Patience. The East Suffolk Members are Cllrs Ashdown, Bird, Cloke & Herring. Officers from the overarching Water Management Alliance also attend and give reports. The WMA is an alliance of Drainage Boards from South Holland in Lincolnshire to East Suffolk and which is associated with Pevensey and Cuckmere.

Notes of the meeting which took place via Zoom on 14 June 2021:

The Board's Standing Orders have been amended to allow for having hybrid meetings from 7 May 2021 – the legislative stature of IDBs is different from Local authorities.

One directly elected member of the Board has not attended 2 meetings ( 6 months )and one member from Ipswich Borough has not been attending either, no reason has been given for their absence. The clerk is to contact Ipswich Borough Council.

150m of an ordinary water course is to be adopted by the board in Kettleburgh, in agreement with the Parish Council.

The Catchment engineer reported that extensive work on Leiston drain is being hampered by the lack of maintenance from the EA, the Board offered to carry out the work, but the EA declined, Cllr Bird offered to get involved if needed.

Replacement/ refurbishment of the Gedgrave pumping station has been brought forward. Grants have been awarded for work on the Deben & Iken and for de silting at Sproughton, the IDB is working with the Environment Agency.

There have been emergency works undertaken at Thorpeness and Pakefield.

The Chief Engineer showed members photographs of some pumps they are keeping in reserve if emergency work is required, apparently they have been very effective at Burnham Market.

The Internal Audit was successful and the Auditor was reappointed. The IDB was slightly over budget because of the issues at Gedgrave.

The likely loss of red diesel in April 2022 will double the fuel costs, this needs to be included in the Risk Register. The Board is keen to encourage Bio fuels, but some engines don't like them.

There is a Chairman's allowance of £3k pa, which she does not claim.

Hopefully the next meeting will be in person on 1 November.



The Police and Crime Panel	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor Mark Jepson – Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<a href="mailto:mark.jepson@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">mark.jepson@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07825 720601

The Panel met on the 16 July 2021, where it re-elected Cllr Mark Jepson as Chairman for the period until May 2022. Cllr Peter Gardiner was elected Vice Chair.

In addition, East Suffolk is represented by Cllr Tracey Green who replaced Cllr Debbie McCallum.

The Panel is in the process of appointing a new independent member following the sad passing of Len Jacklin earlier in the year. Len will be known to many Councillors particularly in the north of the District.

At the next Police and Crime Panel meeting on the 8 October the Panel will consider the PCC's Annual Report and the Police and Crime Plan 2021-25.

If any Councillor requires further information regarding the activity of the Panel please contact Cllr Mark Jepson.

AONB Amenity and Accessibility Fund	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<a href="mailto:james.mallinder@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">james.mallinder@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07810 815879

The Amenity and Accessibility Fund, managed through the Coast and Heaths AONB, aims to improve the environment and natural character of the area by conserving habitats and species and improving sustainable access to the area. A Dry Fuel Store (DFS) for spent nuclear fuel has been constructed by EDF Energy at Sizewell B power station, near Leiston. To offset the impact caused by the delay of the release of that part of the Sizewell B site, East Suffolk Council agreed to establish an Amenity and Accessibility Fund.

The Fund benefited from an initial one-off payment of £120,000 made by EDF Energy when the DFS construction started, and then further annual payments by EDF of £20,000 for a period of 60 years or until the date of the commencement of decommissioning of the DFS.

A total of £20,847 was awarded to ten projects.

**1 Gill Moon £1,000**

Part of the Landscape: A workbook and series of workshops designed to help participants connect with the landscapes of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through mindful and contemplative photography.

**2 The Suffolk Punch Trust £3,829.80**

Main Visitor Entrance Improvement Programme: This project is to improve security and visual amenity of a section of the boundary, by clearing existing overgrown hedging and fencing, and tree cutting, followed by the erection of a length (150m) of new fencing and native species hedging.

**3 Autism and Nature £3,498.30**

An Audiovisual Social Story Book: To produce an audiovisual social story book, with the participation of pupils from Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, to foster a deeper level of engagement with the landscape of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for children with autism, profound and multiple learning disabilities and medical needs across Suffolk.

**4 Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival CIC £764**

Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival Fringe and Future of Farming Film: Engage with a diverse range of Suffolk businesses associated with food and drink, connecting our unique landscape with the businesses that work within it. The film is a way to extend the reach further by working with farms to tell their story directly to the public and be able to show the Suffolk countryside and the hard work that it does to produce the food that we eat.

**5 Art Safari £2,500**

Suffolk SketchFest: Suffolk SketchFest 2021 is a 3-day celebration of sketching the maritime heritage & wildlife of the River Deben Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Woodbridge with artist-led walks, demonstrations and workshops as well as virtual art workshops on the same themes via Zoom to a wider audience.

**6 Boyton Parish Council £1,800**

Wildlife Pond Network: Community-led establishment of a network of wildlife ponds in Boyton, resulting in improved conservation of aquatic plants and animals in the village and raised local awareness of freshwater species and their conservation.

**7 Art Branches CIC £2,840**

Pigments of the Imagination: Engaging a diverse range of people in the natural and cultural heritage of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Orford, particularly those in 'at risk' and 'hard-to-reach' categories, by enabling them to discover creative resources available to them.

**8 Waveney Bird Club £2,384.90**

Access for All Path: To build an access path for all physical abilities from RSPB's North Wall to East hide. The project is managed in phases. This application refers to Phase 5 (post-construction works).

**9 GreenSnake Community Group £1,730**

Greening Snape's Verges - Church Common Project: To transform land around the historic bus shelter on Church Common at the north entrance of Snape village to enhance the visual appearance, reduce incidences of littering and increase biodiversity.

#### 10 Arabella Marshall £500

A Wing and a Prayer: A programme of activities for all people, encouraging a deeper connection with art, the natural environment and local heritage, resulting from the successful glass art installation at Minsmere Sluice Chapel.

Suffolk Coast Forum	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor David Ritchie – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
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The Suffolk Coast Forum was formed in February 2012. The Forum aim was to bring together bodies with a statutory and non-statutory role to play in the management of the Suffolk coast and estuaries.

The outcomes from The Pitt Review (2008) were embodied in the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. This gave the Environment Agency a strategic role to overview all flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM). It also designated Suffolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority. There was a developing awareness of the concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and its value at both a national and local level leading to the integration of planning and coast and estuary management issues in Suffolk. In addition, there was the creation of the Marine Management Organisation who, like Natural England and the Environment Agency were part of the Defra family.



At this time Suffolk had well developed, community-led estuary management groups in the Blyth Estuary Group, the Deben Estuary Partnership and the Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group. Shortly after the formation of the Suffolk Coast Forum, the Alde and Ore Estuary Management Group (now the Alde and Ore Community Partnership) was formalised. The first review of the Shoreline Management Plans covering East Suffolk were completed in 2012. Since then, the Deben Estuary Partnership, Alde and Ore Community Partnership and the Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group have developed estuary management plans. These have subsequently been endorsed by Cabinet and are referenced in the current national Shoreline Management Plan Review.



#### Overall aim

To take a partnership approach to flood and coastal erosion risk management on the coast and estuaries and closely related issues<sup>1</sup> in the context of an ICZM approach.

Specifically, to:

Be responsible for the management of Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) and decisions in relation

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<sup>1</sup> Issues directly related to FCERM include environment, landscape, land use, access and recreation, both on land and water. It excludes issues such as broadband, housing, transport.

to the SMP change process in Suffolk (taking over the role previously held by the SMP elected members forums)

### **Encourage and involve**

- Encourage 'bottom up' local governance arrangements appropriate to each Local Area to integrate with a wider Suffolk partnership.
- Deliver better FCERM with local communities than by managing issues individually
- Smooth and simplify the decision-making pathways on FCERM issues
- Decision making should, where possible, be both simplified and made at the lowest '*de minimus*' level. If statute allows, decisions should be transferred to or implemented flexibly to suit specific local situations.
- Seek to maximise FCERM funding opportunities through a wider range of development and sources.
- Seek to make best use of all available local resources to deliver FCERM in Suffolk.
- Inform and influence relevant plan and decision-making processes of all relevant bodies.

### **Monitor, coordinate and collaborate**

- Strategic overviews to be retained by competent authorities to ensure that a coherent, balanced and legally compliant approach is adopted.
- Ensure that FCERM and directly linked plans (SMPs, estuary plans, marine plans, local spatial plans, AONB plans, coastal access, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, etc) are co-ordinated and managed in the spirit of ICZM, ensuring local activities are complementary and duplication reduced.
- Monitor actions / activities along the coast and estuaries providing support / impetus to help resolve outstanding issues.
- Oversee the delivery and monitoring and proposed changes to the Shoreline Management Plans.
- Integrated and mainstreamed into existing and developing institutions and processes including the development of community-based planning.
- Co-ordinate the most effective use of scarce resources across its membership.

### **Scrutinise, learn and share**

- Scrutinise new legislation, co-ordinate responses and views on a county wide perspective and actively seek to promote the Suffolk coast to Regional / national bodies (see below)
- Share information and promote good practice and become a recognised authority on coastal issues.
- Liaise with Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership to co-ordinate and eliminate duplication to all aspects of FCERM and to inform members of the RFCC on Suffolk's inland and coastal priorities.
- A positive ICZM approach is to be taken by all parties utilising the best of the learning from elsewhere.
- Share information on an ongoing basis amongst the group and externally. Make use of wider expertise and contacts where available to inform the partnership.

### **Membership**

Covers a range of local, Suffolk, regional and national decision making and influential bodies. Membership and Terms of Reference of the Group will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the calendar year.

The membership of the Suffolk Coast Forum will be:

- Local authority portfolio holders (or agreed substitute) and officers from East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough and Babergh District Councils
- Senior officers from Environment Agency, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation
- Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Manager
- A representative from each of the four Estuary Partnerships
- Internal Drainage Board representative
- Suffolk Coast Advocating Resilience
- Chairman of the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coast Committee
- 2 'open chairs'

The result of Estuary/Coastal groups being equal partners in the Suffolk Coast Forum should be:

- Increased credibility and wider influence locally and nationally
- Greater local input into determination of priorities
- Extend local involvement in decision making
- Pioneer ideas and share learning with other partners
- Improved links to and influence the delivery of Suffolk, regional and national initiatives
- Raise and resolve issues that affect the individual local areas
- Share expertise and resources to achieve joint objectives
- Improve communication between local areas
- Improved understanding of local issues by authorities and agencies

Identified below are which organisation take lead responsibility for making the link with the Suffolk Coast Forum. In this way it is possible to keep the Forum to a workable number and make best use of resources of within the partnership.

Environment Agency nationally and Defra	Environment Agency/East Suffolk Council
East Anglian Coastal Group	East Suffolk Council
New Anglia LEP	East Suffolk Council
LGA Coastal SIG (and officers Group)	East Suffolk Council Portfolio holders / officers (officers)
Inshore Fishing Conservation Authority	Suffolk County Council
Marine Protected Areas (inc MCZ)	Natural England / Marine Management Organisation
Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership	Suffolk County council
Spatial Planning	East suffolk Council
Marine Planning	East Suffolk Council/ Marine management organisaton
SMPs	Environment Agency/East Suffolk Council
Greenest County Partnership	Suffolk County Council
AONB Partnership	AONB Manager

## Recent work

Below is a selection of the work that the Forum have been involved in supporting the development of, reviewing and commenting on between 2019-2021.

### Response to COVID 19 – continuing to support coastal communities during the pandemic

Part of the Forum's role is to provide a vital step in the development of Shoreline Management Plan reviews. These are often critical to the development of options for coastal communities at risk. At the start of the COVID 19 pandemic urgent comments and recommendations were needed on Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) reviews for Bawdsey and Slaughden. This was ahead of the widespread use of Zoom and TEAMS meetings and before local authority committee meetings became commonplace.

Forum members agreed by email that remote, virtual voting would be a sensible way forward to support the continued programme of activity for the SMP reviews. Coastal partnership East, who provide the secretariat for the Forum, arrange for the virtual meetings to be set up, using a workshop style approach. The programme progress was not inhibited, and communities remained reassured that progress could be made despite the restrictions imposed.

The approach of virtual meetings and where necessary voting has continued through the restrictions. It has been agreed that we will continue with a combined programme of virtual and face-to-face meetings in the future, looking to minimise the impacts of travel.



## Norfolk and Suffolk Coast Conference

The Forum held its first coast and estuary community conference in 2012 and have held them annually ever since. The audience has grown from around 60 delegates and funded through public sector contributions to more than 250 delegates (2019) and entirely funded through private sponsorship. Those attending include communities and community organisation, statutory and non-statutory authorities, District and County Council Members and officers, businesses, landowners, environmental groups and more recently students from around Suffolk with an interest in careers in coastal management.

In 2020 a move was suggested to hold a joint conference with the Norfolk Coast Forum. An approach was then made by the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coast Committee to suggest that they also become a conference partner. The pandemic and uncertainty of technology at the time meant that a 2020 conference was not possible. However, this year an inaugural virtual conference is being held on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Using conference technology which has rarely been used in the UK and including a state-of-the-art virtual careers fair, the conference programme includes a wide range of speakers and topics focusing on climate resilient coasts and estuaries.



**NORFOLK SUFFOLK**  
Coast and Estuary  
Conference

*You're Invited*

Climate Resilient Coasts and Estuaries  
Working with people, nature and science  
Thursday 7th October 2021

With thanks to  
Conference Sponsor:  
**Balfour Beatty**

The Norfolk and Suffolk Coast Forums, in partnership with the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coast Committee, invite you to their first joint conference.

This will be a virtual event. The programme will be a mix of 'live' and on-demand events with an exhibition area and careers fair to highlight opportunities to students considering a career in flood and coastal change management.

Book here: [www.coasteast.org.uk/norfolk-suffolk-coast-estuary-conference](http://www.coasteast.org.uk/norfolk-suffolk-coast-estuary-conference)

## National SMP Refresh

The Shoreline Management Refresh is being led by the National Environment Agency Team, linking into regional and the local level.

The refresh is seeking to:

- develop consistency across the plans nationally
- improve reporting processes
- improve public information
- check they remain current since adoption
- help to guide next steps in SMP delivery
- enable the SMPs to be living documents

Although the refresh is not a widespread SMP Policy Review, the Forum have had the opportunity to question and interrogate content and the developing action plan will be presented to them later this year.



## Development of a Supplementary Planning Document

A Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document is being prepared by East Suffolk Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and the Broads Authority. Coastal Partnership East is supporting this process and it is intended that each planning authority will be able to individually adopt Coastal Adaptation SPDs which all have appropriately corresponding content and guidance. The Scope of the SPD has been agreed and drafting of sections has begun alongside

identifying and selecting appropriate case studies. The timescale for preparation is dependent on other factors due to Planning Authorities currently progressing through the Local Plan adoption process.

## England Coast Path

The England Coast Path is a proposed long-distance [National Trail](#) which will follow the coastline of [England](#). When complete, it will be 2,795 miles (4,500 kilometres) in length. When complete, the England Coast Path will follow the whole coastline of England.

The trail is being implemented by [Natural England](#), who are responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment is protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the [natural environment](#). Although various National Trails already existed along England's coast, the first stretch of the official England Coast Path was opened at Weymouth Bay in Dorset in 2012.

In December 2014 the UK Government, announced that more than £5 million of additional funding was being committed over the following 5 years, to complete the Path by 2020, a decade earlier than would have otherwise been possible. Progress has slowed because of Covid-19 and because of a European court judgement in April 2018 regarding environmentally protected sites. Natural England now hopes to have all stretches approved and work underway by the end of 2021.

The Forum, through a series of presentations by Natural England, have interrogated and commented upon proposals through the process of reviewing access along the Suffolk coast.

## Shoreline Management Plan Reviews

The Forum have commented on a number of recent Shoreline Management Plan Reviews from 2019 to 2021.

Review	Status
Bawdsey SMP Review	Stage 1 review only – no policy change
Slaughden SMP Review	Stage 1,2 & 3 (public consultation) – recommended policy change to Managed Realignment agreed by Forum and approved by Cabinet/RFCC
Corton Village SMP Review	Stage 1,2 & 3 (public consultation) – recommended policy change to Hold the Line agreed by Forum and approved by Cabinet/RFCC
Corton (North Corton) & Gunton SMP Review	Outline of programme provided to Forum – further progress to report
Pakefield SMP Review	Outline of programme provided to Forum – further progress to report

## Major Projects

The following major coastal projects have been presented to the Forum for review and comment:

**Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project** – a £67m project to reduce the risk of flooding from the sea, river and extreme rainfall. This project has already reduced the risk of river and surface water

flooding to over 120 homes. When the tidal defences are complete it will reduce the risk of flooding to over 1500 home and 800 businesses. More information can be found at [www.lowestoftfrmp.org.uk](http://www.lowestoftfrmp.org.uk)

**Norfolk Suffolk Coast Transition Programme** - A consortium, led by East Suffolk Council (ESC), with North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) and Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) has made a successful bid to Defra's 'Innovative Resilience Fund' to deliver the Norfolk & Suffolk Coast Transition Programme. The value of this award is approximately £8.4m. Norfolk and Suffolk have some of the fastest eroding coasts in Europe, with over 2,500 homes at direct coastal risk and thousands more properties and businesses directly and indirectly affected by loss of property, infrastructure and utilities.

Recent national reports and enquiries have recommended that more is done to support coastal adaptation and resilience. The framework for transitioning our coast is now in place. The Norfolk and Suffolk Transition Programme will implement an ambitious resilience programme for the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, that delivers real adaptation and resilience options for our communities.

The programme will offer a complete suite of planning, engagement, technical, financial and policy tools to support coastal transition for Norfolk and Suffolk communities, which could also be applied to the rest of the UK coast. Tangible, measurable and sustainable changes will be delivered in these locations. This will enable them to physically adapt to climate and coastal change now and for future generations.

The programme will be implemented in four core pilot locations across the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, plus four additional 'twin' locations. The work will be delivered in close collaboration with communities, alongside a multi-sector and national group of partner organisations with a proven track record of delivering tangible change within their sectors. Locations in Suffolk include a pilot area in Thorpeness and 'twins' in Corton, Gunton and Pakefield.

The Forum have received an initial presentation about the programme and will be involved in on-going discussion and its development.

**Sizewell C** – the major projects team presented to the Forum and Coastal Partnership East supported, outlining information, issues and concerns from a coastal management perspective. A virtual workshop gathering those concerns was held with Forum members earlier this year and helped to feed in East Suffolk Council's response.

### **National consultations**

The Forum have been involved in discussing and commenting on the Marine Management Organisation South East Marine Plan national consultation and on the national approach to marine licensing.

The Broads Authority	
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### Annual Report of the Broads Authority

The Broads Authority is the organization which manages the entire region of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, which is Britain's largest protected wetland and third largest waterway, with the status of a National Park. It is also home to some of the rarest plants, animals and birds in the UK. It was set up in 1989 with responsibility for conservation, planning and waterways.

There are 27 Board members comprising a representative from each of the local authorities which lie within the area covered by the Broads Authority, the remainder being appointed by the Secretary of State. The full Board meets six times a year and the Planning Committee meets every month. In addition there is the Heritage Assets Review Group (HARG) which meets four times a year, as well as the Navigation Committee, which focusses on the waterways themselves and everything connected with boats, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Broads Local Access Forum.

During the past 18 months, the running of the Authority has been considerably affected by Covid 19 and, until May, all meetings were held virtually. Recently we have met in various suitable venues in Norwich, including the Norwich Football Club members' room, but last week the Planning Committee was able to return to its home base.

The staff include a number of rangers who patrol the waterways and are responsible for collecting tolls from boat owners and for managing the upkeep of the landscape which requires constant maintenance. In 2020 the rangers were responsible for dealing with the aftermath of three tragic fatalities that occurred on the Broads. An enquiry into these accidents was held, the result of which was that in no way was the Broads Authority held to be liable.

All parts of Suffolk and Norfolk which lie within the boundaries of the Broads Authority, are under the jurisdiction of the Authority's own Planning Committee: thus, one road might lie within an area run by a local authority, but the next one would be covered by the Broads Authority, even though it lies within an area covered by a District Council.

The Authority has adopted a positive response to the Climate Emergency and has implemented the use of electric vehicles. The management of peat is also a major issue. Some of the country's largest stores of peat lie in the wetlands, and it is imperative that they remain under water as, if they were allowed to dry out, they would emit vast quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus, it is vitally important to maintain the correct water levels and for the peat to be managed carefully and always kept underwater.

The Broads Authority is a major supporter of the Carlton Marshes project, and has worked closely with Suffolk Wildlife Trust in the development of the new Visitor Centre, providing both funds and expertise. It enabled the purchase of land that had been converted to farmland which produced cereal crops in the 1970's and 80's. This had caused serious damage to the local ecology over the following decades, resulting in the marshes becoming a dust bowl. By recreating the natural

wetlands and carefully managing the water levels, not only did the land revert to its natural state which was created by the digging out of the Broads many centuries ago, but the flood risk to the village of Oulton Broad has been reduced. Rangers have been provided on both land and water. Now that the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads have been designated as a National Park, there is great potential to attract major tourism to the area, including ours, and this is already noticeable in the increased numbers of visitors to Carlton Marshes.

The Broads Authority has also financed the legal costs and placement of a bench on Fisher Row, which was recently purchased by Oulton Parish Council through an Enabling Grant given by Councillor Eddie Back.

A major long-term project entitled “Water, Mills and Marshes” is a scheme which is training young students from Norwich City College to learn all the traditional skills to enable them to restore some of the many old mills which are such a feature of Broadland, particularly on the Halvergate marshes which have the greatest concentration of such mills in the whole of Europe. A number of them are nearly completed, some with their sails replaced, and many more are due to be restored in the coming years.

**APPENDICES – None**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS – None**