

## **Gransden Vision 2020**

### **The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Great Gransden**

#### **Community Engagement Strategy**

*ICE – Inform Consult Engage*

#### **1. Context**

In 2017 Great Gransden Parish Council decided to explore the option of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the parish under the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. Four parish councillors were nominated to a steering group and a lay Chair appointed. A number of villagers have since volunteered to join the steering group and work began in early 2018. The steering group has committed itself to a comprehensive programme of consultations with residents, businesses, community-based organisations and statutory stakeholders, in order to ensure that the developing plan reflects the views held by members of the community. These consultations are taking a variety of forms as explained below and will involve all age groups including children and young people. We will monitor our effectiveness at reaching out to all sectors of our community.

#### **2. Objectives**

The purpose of the consultations is to

- i. inform all residents and businesses about the neighbourhood development plan, its purpose, process and scope
- ii. identify relevant information, knowledge and village history pertinent to the plan
- iii. engage residents and business owners in discussion about the main principles and content of the plan
- iv. elicit views on the themes and principles of the plan as they emerge and identify a broad consensus on each theme from the responses received
- v. afford all villagers the opportunity to help shape the plan throughout its development
- vi. build support for the plan and ensure a good level of participation in the final referendum.
- vii. ensure that all statutory requirements for consultation are met

#### **3. Plan Preparation: Approaches to Consultation and Engagement**

The intention is to identify major themes, challenges and opportunities, and to refine these using targeted consultation for the final plan. A range of approaches will be used throughout the plan preparation, including:

- i. Display materials and presence at village events.
  - ii. Leafleting every house in the village
  - iii. Engagement with village societies (Groups directly consulted will be listed in the plan appendices)
  - iv. Dedicated Web site ( [www.2020vision.org](http://www.2020vision.org) ), linked to the PC site
  - v. Updates at the monthly PC meeting by a member of the steering group
  - vi. Updates in the monthly village newsletter, Roundabout
  - vii. Steering Group meetings open to the public, including an open forum session
  - viii. Specific projects to engage young people including the school
  - ix. Dedicated village events
  - x. An independent Housing Needs Survey by Cambridgeshire ACRE
- We will keep a record of all the comments received through these consultations and report on how we have responded to them in the development of the plan.

#### 4. **Final Consultations and Referendum**

- i. The draft of the Plan will be ready by Autumn 2019 and will be made available for scrutiny, and a six-week consultation. Feedback will be invited via the website, feedback forms and at open meetings. This feedback, as at earlier stages, will inform the final draft plan before it is submitted to the Parish Council, who will decide whether to propose it to Huntingdonshire District Council. The Plan will be accompanied by a Consultation Statement setting out who was consulted about the plan and how, a record of the issues raised during the consultations and how these have been addressed in the Plan.
- ii. Huntingdonshire District Council will conduct a formal consultation on the draft Plan according to statutory regulations. We will support this process with information and publicity. Following this consultation, HDC will submit the NDP documentation, together with all the responses received during the statutory consultation, to the Independent Examiner (IE). The IE will assess whether the plan meets the “basic conditions” specified in the relevant statutes and may recommend amendments. The amended plan will then be put to a Referendum organised by the District Council. All residents registered on the electoral roll will be entitled to vote in this Referendum

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Progress to date

- i. A number of public engagement events have been held in spring and early summer 2018, including stalls at:
  - a. the Great Gransden Church fete
  - b. the Lighthouse Café
  - c. Barnabas Oley Primary School fete.The stalls provided the opportunity to explain about the neighbourhood development plan process and initiate some early discussions. Individuals were invited to mark on a “heat map” their most valued and least valued places in the parish and those parts that they were concerned about. Leaflets were handed out inviting comments on the future of the village. The village shop and the primary school offered to receive any completed leaflets.
- ii. A website has been created - [www.2020vision.org](http://www.2020vision.org) - to provide information about the NDP and NDP-related activity, to receive comments and to stimulate discussion.
- iii. The local Google group – Touchbase – is being used to encourage participation in the consultations and to respond to any postings made about the NDP and NDP-related matters.
- iv. A Household Survey was organised by Cambridgeshire ACRE and posted to every household in the village. This achieved a 36% response rate, well above the usual 20-25%. This survey was managed with full editorial control by ACRE. Touchbase was very effective in providing a forum to discuss this survey and to clarify some of the issues that arose. The results of the Household Survey were reported at the Parish Council meeting in July 2018 and will be presented at a special Open Forum meeting in autumn 2018.
- v. Huntingdonshire District Council confirmed the area designated as the neighbourhood for the Great Gransden plan in July 2018 following a statutory consultation period. The area boundary aligns with the parish boundary.
- vi. During September, questionnaire leaflets were delivered to all residences in the parish followed by a number of Saturday stalls in different parts of the village. To date around 70 returns have been received. This will continue until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.

### 5.2 Future events and consultations

In Autumn/Winter 2018/19 we plan to continue to inform, consult and engage:

- Open meetings of the NDP steering group for any resident to attend as an observer with the opportunity to contribute during the Open Forum item on the agenda
- Notification of the meetings on the parish noticeboard and in the local parish magazine **Roundabout** together with briefing notes from the previous meeting
- A Saturday Open Forum coffee morning to present and discuss the Household Survey results and emerging views on the NDP

- A major survey on matters relevant to the main themes of the plan such as housing development, environmental protection and enhancement, infrastructure, transport etc
- Website updates and discussions
- Posters
- Articles in the parish magazine
- A School project.

In Spring/Summer 2019 we plan to continue to inform, consult and engage:

- Open Steering Group meetings
- A 'Walking the Bounds' event
- A special Open Forum coffee morning or similar event to present and discuss the emerging draft principles and options
- Website updates and discussions
- Posters
- Articles in the parish magazine.