

Great Easton, Tilty and Duton Hill Neighbourhood Plan – **Survey update and next steps...**

The Housing Needs Survey has now been completed. Thank you to all of you who have contributed. The Housing Needs Survey is **vital** as the outputs will shape the whole Neighbourhood Plan. The Uttlesford Local Plan was adopted on 25th March 2026 and our Neighbourhood Plan will be very much linked to that. The Neighbourhood Plan will become an integral part of our community's strategy for the next five years.

All recommendations in the Neighbourhood Plan must be supported by evidence, which is why the Housing Needs Survey is so important; our plan will be able to accurately reflect the real and present needs of our community. The independently conducted survey issued by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) will now be analysed by RCCE who will then provide an analysis for incorporation into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you also to everyone who completed the Residents' Survey; your responses have now all been collated. It is clear from the results that our community's attributes are highly valued and that residents feel they should be protected in the future. Responses were received from all of the areas in our designated area and 60% of those responses prioritised having limits and restrictions on the extent and nature of any new housing development. Other priorities identified included the provision of affordable housing, the maintenance of our roads, footpaths, verges and hedges and traffic management in and around our villages.

It is hoped that you will be able to view the full outcomes on the Neighbourhood Plan page of the Great Easton and Tilty Parish Council website by the time this edition of the Five Parishes Magazine is published. Do go and have a look at this detailed summary of what you have said.

With the surveys completed and the local plan being adopted we now have some key foundations upon which we can continue to develop our Neighbourhood Plan. Key next steps include the development of the heritage statement; the creation of the design code; and a landscape character assessment. We will be seeking support from external consultants for the landscape character assessment, but will also be looking for volunteers to gather additional evidence. Specifically, we are proposing to break up the Neighbourhood Plan area into a series of grids and will be asking for volunteers - armed with clip boards and cameras - to walk them and record what they see. In particular, this will be to identify aspects that they feel should be cited in Our Plan. This could include specific views, areas of natural beauty, birds, bats, trees, hedges, buildings of interest, etc.

Please look out for additional details of this on FB or the website.

Finally, by way of a reminder, here is what the Neighbourhood Plan is all about:

- Intended to give local communities a greater say in the future of their neighbourhood and a means by which they may influence development.

- Articulates the wishes of local people as to where and how development takes place.
- Can cover many aspects: housing, landscape, conservation, culture, employment, recreation and infrastructure.
- Seeks to enhance local communities and to do it in a sustainable way.
- May deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues.
- On completion it will become part of the statutory development plan for the area.