

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Have you told the Neighbourhood Plan team what you like and don't like about Datchet? Alison Crampin explains why it's important for us all to get involved

Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) is an opportunity for us all to say how we'd like our village to develop and it needs everyone's help to get it off the ground. Its content will be driven by our views, aspirations, wants and needs.

You may have picked up a leaflet about it or seen the DNP team at local events recently. There have been displays around the village, consultations with various groups, and projects at our local schools. Over the summer, there will be more displays at local events including Datchet Village Fete and the Big BBQ Boogie on the Green.

The first stage in putting together a Plan is to gather feedback. We want to know what you think. What makes our village a good place to live and work in? What pressures affect the area now or in the future? What should change? What should remain the same?

We need as many people as possible to complete the survey in the next few weeks - residents and businesses – so we know what's most important to you. As the main topics and issues become clear, the DNP team will move to the next stage of preparing the Plan.

DATCHET SURVEY

What do you like or dislike about Datchet? Pick up a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan survey at The Bridge or Datchet Library, or fill it in online at **www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P9DNFS9**

(You can also click through to this survey from the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page.)

Q: Which topics can be covered in a Neighbourhood Plan?

A: A Neighbourhood Plan is about the use and development of land. It could cover topics such as how we maintain and improve the character of Datchet; how we safeguard our environment and open spaces; how we encourage local businesses and shops; how we protect our heritage, and how we meet our housing and infrastructure needs. It will allow us to shape local planning decisions so that they focus on priorities for our area.

Q: Can Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan override the Borough's Local Plan, or stop the third runway?

A: No. A Neighbourhood Plan has to comply with existing laws and policies. It can't change national policies, such as the expansion of Heathrow, or rewrite existing Royal Borough policies. In Datchet, its scope is also limited by the flood zones, the Green Belt and the Conservation Area. But our Plan will allow us, as a community, to have a say in how we'd like to see any new development designed and located, and the type of infrastructure necessary to support it, such as schools, doctors, medical and social support. Our Plan will have legal weight too.

Q: Does Datchet need more housing?

A: Housing development is part of the Borough's Draft Local Plan but the type of housing isn't specified. Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan will gather evidence to pinpoint any specific housing needs. As a village, we need to consider what sort of housing we may need in the next 10 or 20 years. Do we have enough homes - or the right sort of homes - for our young people, for key workers, for older people, for families, couples, people living alone, or those wanting to down-size? Where could these homes be located? What might they look like?

Q: Will the plan affect local businesses and shops?

A: A Neighbourhood Plan can consider ways to support and encourage local businesses and create employment. That's why it's important that local businesses, big and small, also complete the survey.

Q: What about other issues that have nothing to do with planning?

A: A Neighbourhood Plan can only consider topics which are part of the local planning process such as housing, recreation, infrastructure and new facilities. If a lot of people are

concerned about the same non-planning issues, these may be treated as separate projects. They won't carry any planning weight but they can be recorded as a focus for community action, to be driven forward by the Parish Council and other stakeholders. (Horton & Wraysbury's Draft Plan, for example, tackles traffic, parking and associated environmental problems in this way.)

Q: Is the Neighbourhood Plan led by Datchet Parish Council?

A: No. The DNP team (Steering Group) has the support of both the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Datchet Parish Council but the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan is community-led; its content is guided by your feedback. The DNP team is made up of volunteers who live in the village, including two Parish councillors, members of Datchet Village Society, and other residents. The team recognises that, at times, additional specialist support will be needed, particularly for advice on planning policy.

Q: What's the next stage?

A: Once the feedback from the survey has been analysed, the DNP team will be able to identify which issues have been raised by most people. These will become the key themes for the Plan. There will then be further community engagement, workshops, discussions and events to explore these issues in greater depth.

It's also important to gather factual evidence to support the Plan. Datchet Village Society is currently helping the DNP team by analysing the socio-economic profile of the local population, auditing existing community facilities and infrastructure, and investigating future trends. Additional evidence might include an assessment of housing stock; surveys of local businesses; and an analysis of transport needs.

We can then begin to write the Plan. There will be consultation throughout followed by an examination process to make sure that the plan meets legal requirements. After that there will be a village-wide referendum so everyone can vote on whether or not the Plan should be brought into force.

For more information

If you'd like to find out more about Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch with the DNP team: email DatchetNP@datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk; write c/o Datchet Parish Council, 1 Allen Way, Datchet SL3 9HR; or send a message via the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan page on Facebook.

ENDS

ARTWORK SUPPLIED SEPARATELY (please use only one or two)

- Logo
- Leaflet – front page
- Poster – What do you like about Datchet.

