



What's important to you?

Which are Datchet's most important green spaces, and our most treasured buildings and monuments? What type of new play areas do we need? Which grass verges need improving? What sort of property do downsizers look for? Please tell us in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan survey **on page XX.**

We're pleased to report that, after much detailed evidence-gathering and lots of support from residents, the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan is beginning to take shape. We've started to draft outline planning policies based on what you've told us and what we've discovered. However, there's still some way to go and a few things we need to ask you. As we're not able to hold drop-in sessions, please can you complete our latest survey? It is also available at: www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org

Local Green Spaces

Neighbourhood Plans can identify green areas which are important to the local community. This Local Green Space designation offers the same protection from development as Green Belt status. To meet the requirements of national planning policy, Local Green Spaces must be demonstrably special to the community, for their beauty, history, recreational value, tranquillity or wildlife. They must be local in character, reasonably close to the community they serve; and not an extensive tract of land.

Based on your feedback about green spaces which are most important to you, we have identified five sites which we believe meet these criteria:

- The Recreation Ground.
- The Willowfields at the back of the Recreation Ground.
- The Sabatini Land between the Recreation Ground ditch and Horton Road.
- The Village Greens and The Cut by the library and Horton Road car park.
- The public Riverside Garden on Windsor Road

We'd like to hear what you think about these proposals in our survey. With your help, the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan can help to make positive changes for the benefit of the whole community. We are also consulting the landowners, Datchet Parish Council, the Datchet Recreational Centre Charitable Trust, and RBWM, whose role it is to protect community assets. We hope they will also wish to preserve, protect and enhance these special places for residents. You can read more about these Local Green Spaces and the supporting evidence on our website.

There are other areas of environmental value in the village which cannot be designated as Local Green Spaces. This is because their status within the Green Belt already provides a significant level of protection which would not be added to by designation, or because they do not fulfil the criteria required by national planning policy.

Protecting local heritage

There are some 37 buildings and structures in Datchet which are Grade II Listed by Historic England. These include:

- **Around The Green:** St Mary's Church, Old Council Offices, 1&2 Manor House, Manor Cottage and Manor Green Cottage, The Bridge, The Royal Stag, Costa (formerly The Morning Star), War Memorial, Milestone.
- **London Road:** Church Cottage, Datchet House and wall.
- **High Street:** 6 & 8 High Street, Goodwyn House, The Hall House, Little Dene, St Helen's Cottage, The Post House, Old Bridge House.
- **Windsor Road:** Datchet Lodge.
- **Horton Road:** The Lawn, Cedar House, 17, 17A and 19 (Astracot) Horton Road.
- **Lawn Close:** The Lawn Icehouse.
- **Ditton Road:** Cemetery Chapel and Lodge.
- **Riding Court Road:** Riding Court Farmhouse.

- **Southlea Road:** Wall at Southlea Farm.
- **Ditton Park Road:** Ditton Farmhouse, Granary and Barn; Ditton Manor (various structures) park and garden.

The buildings listed above are of *national* importance but a Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity to create a list of heritage assets which are of *local* importance. These can be a site, monument, building, place (such as a street or cemetery), an area or landscape. They should be of value to this and future generations because of their heritage significance, for architectural, historic, archaeological, or artistic reasons, for their association with important people or past events, or because they contribute positively to the character and appearance of the area.

There are formal processes to follow. Creating a local list requires community involvement and lots of research to provide supporting evidence. Once a local list is adopted by the planning authority, the value to the community of a heritage asset will be taken into account when considering planning proposals. Local listing can help to inform planning decisions in a way that conserves and enhances local character and identity.

For Datchet, subject to further consultation with residents and discussion with proprietors, initial suggestions for local heritage assets have included: Montagu House (the library), the old St Mary's School buildings, the 1930s' garage by Mays Green, the Manor Hotel, the pharmacy frontage, the Greens and their monuments, and the WWI crucifix on London Road. While these may be some of the more obvious candidates for local listing, we are also interested in the less obvious. Local distinctiveness may lie in the commonplace, such as a letterbox, as much as it does in the rare and spectacular. Which heritage assets would you protect for future generations? Please tell us in our survey.

Play areas

RBWM's Borough Local Plan is being examined by the government's planning inspector. This will determine, among other things, whether a site known as AL39 (formerly HA42, between London Road and the M4) can be taken out of the Green Belt and used for housing. RBWM has set out a number of planning requirements for this development, including the

provision of a play area and allotments. There are already some very good play facilities at the Recreation Ground so, last year, we asked what was missing in Datchet and what you would like. There were suggestions for more toddlers' facilities and splash parks; a BMX bike track; a skateboard park; and requests for different types of gardens, such as a sensory or wildlife garden, with sitting areas. Please tell us in our survey which play facilities you think Datchet needs so that we can investigate ways the Neighbourhood Plan might support proposals to provide this.

Verges

A key characteristic of Datchet is the generous grass verges. The Neighbourhood Plan can request that new development includes roadside verges and that these are designed to discourage parking on them. On the Character Assessment walks we did with residents, several verges were identified for enhancement. Please tell us if there are specific verges which you would like to see improved.

Downsizing

After discussing housing issues with residents and estate agents and looking at the census data, we have highlighted a potential need for more downsizing properties. A third of households in the village consist of one person of retirement age or a couple with no dependent children. The proportion of two- and three-bed homes - the size which tends to be sought by downsizers - is relatively low, whereas the proportion of four-bedroom houses is high. This suggests that if suitable downsizing units were available, people living in large houses might be more inclined to move, freeing up family houses which are most in demand. We are planning to run some focus groups on Zoom to investigate the specific features which downsizers are looking for. If you would like to participate, please let us know in our survey.

Air pollution

As part of DNP's investigations into key pedestrian and cyclist movement routes and how they might be enhanced, we used Friends of the Earth monitoring kits to measure pollution levels around the village. These recorded a high reading on The Green so, with the support of the Parish Council, RBWM were asked to install additional pollution monitors near The Bridge café and in the High Street which they did in mid-2019. The most recent annual air quality report

shows that the pollution monitor at the zebra crossing registered an average of $43\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) with the highest recording reaching $53.8\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This is above the European Union's legal limit for NO_2 pollution of an annual mean of $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. As this is not a planning issue, it is not something that a Neighbourhood Plan can address directly. We have passed on these findings to the Parish Council.

Survey follows overleaf.



NOVEMBER 2020 SURVEY

These questions follow on from the DNP article in this issue. You can also complete the survey online at www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Q1 Do you support the following areas being protected as Local Green Spaces? Please tick all which apply.

- Recreation Ground.
- Willowfields at the back of the Rec.
- Sabatini Land between Horton Road and the Rec ditch.
- Village Greens and The Cut by Horton Road car park.
- The public Riverside Garden.
- None of the above. Please give reasons

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Q2 Which of the green spaces listed above are special to you and why?

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Q3 Are there any important green spaces missing from this list?

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LOCAL LISTINGS

Q4 Please list three buildings, places monuments or structures (not already Grade-II Listed) which contribute positively to the character and appearance of Datchet.

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NEW PLAY AREAS

Q5 If new public play facilities are built in the village, what type do we need most?

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VERGES

Q6 Which grass verges in the village need improving? Please give details of the location and improvements needed.

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DOWNSIZING

Q7 Would you like to join a focus group on Zoom to discuss downsizing? If so, please leave your email below. (If you would like to be interviewed by phone, please leave a name and number.) We will not use your data for any other purpose.

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Please return this survey to:
Datchet Neighbourhood Plan, c/o
4 Buccleuch Road, Datchet, SL3 9BP.

Photos (optional) and logos



Caption: Should Datchet Riverside be protected with Local Green Space status?



Caption: Should the Recreation Ground and Sabatini Land be protected from development?

