

The NP Group and the Parish Council are delighted that the plan has reached this final stage . It has taken 7 years to get to this point- first meetings took place in 2015. The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan are the culmination of extensive engagement and consultation with residents, businesses and landowners of Gamlingay as well as other statutory bodies. This has included household surveys, public meetings, and consultation events at appropriate stages during the preparation of the Plan. The steering group was formed and mainly comprised Sarah Groom, Rachel Lee, Bridget Smith, Gerry Burne, Chris Barker, and Kirstin Rayner, and myself, Sam Martin Three sub-groups were formed , a) Employment, b) Housing, facilities and transport, and c) Environment, and heritage The work encompassed a series of workshops, meetings and magazine articles, a face-to-face survey and resident paper survey, a schools consultation, and public meetings and display consultations. Public meetings concentrated on specific local issues such as the design of a large housing development and for the Village Design Guide. A Housing Needs Survey was conducted by external consultants. SCDC determined that the draft plan needed a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which was undertaken in July 2020. As a result of the consultation responses from Summer 2019 and the SEA, further amendments were made. The group amended the plan to address environmental issues and the employment zone for Drove Road. The standout policies in the plan are to improve non-motorised travel within the parish, encouraging walking and cycling and horse riding. It requests further developer contributions to support an enhanced footway/cycleway network. The employment policies support existing businesses in terms of growth and retention of local jobs. The Parish Council approved the R14 Plan in July 2020, and the R14 consultation commenced that autumn, following covid restrictions at that time. Two additional pieces of work were undertaken by external consultants to identify cycleway and footway improvements and to further examine the key views identified in the SPD (The Landscape and Visual analysis) These documents were used to further support the policies in the plan, prior to submission to R16 consultation. We are delighted that the residents of the parish have supported the plan in the Referendum vote. All 10 policies in the plan will assist planning officers and developers in shaping new development proposals which are appropriate for our village setting. Gamlingay's central village and radial hamlet character is especially different to many South Cambridgeshire villages. We are grateful for the support provided by South Cambridgeshire Planning team through the technical requirements of plan writing. I quote the inspector from his Final Examiners report:- 'From all the evidence provided to me as part of the examination, I can see that the Plan has promoted an inclusive approach to seeking the opinions of all concerned throughout the process' We therefore recommend this plan and urge you to formally adopt and make the plan at this meeting.

We have a question – we would like to offer some training to the area planning officers and councillors on the main characteristics and aspects of the plan – and would like to know whether this can be arranged?

