

Neighbourhood Planning Intentions: Town & Parish Survey Questions

Autumn 2023



Section 1: Introduction and Instructions

East Devon District Council would like to invite town and parish councils to participate in a short survey related to neighbourhood planning. This will be used to inform the on-going preparation of the new local plan for East Devon, as well as the neighbourhood planning support we offer to communities.

We are keen to hear from as many town and parish councils as possible, regardless of whether any neighbourhood planning activity has been undertaken or is anticipated in the future. This will help to give a full picture of neighbourhood planning activity and intentions across east Devon.

The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.

All responses need to be submitted online at:

o [Link to be entered here](#)

The deadline for responses is close of play **Friday 8th December 2023**.

Before you complete the survey, please note:

A. This consultation is split into three sections:

- Section two: Towns and Parishes with a 'made' (adopted) neighbourhood plan with no site allocations.
- Section three: Towns and Parishes with a 'made' (adopted) neighbourhood plan with site allocations.
- Section four: Towns and Parishes without a 'made' (adopted) neighbourhood plan.

Select the parish you are responding on behalf of under the relevant section.

You must only complete one section of the consultation, as appropriate to your area.

- B. We fully appreciate that any responses related to future intent can only be indicative and are subject to change. We would however be grateful if you can ensure as far as possible that the response reflects up to date views of your Parish/Town Council, informed as appropriate by discussion with parish/town councillors and neighbourhood planning groups.
- C. The person submitting the response should ensure they have the necessary authority/approval to submit this response on behalf of the relevant Parish/Town Council. This would normally be expected to be the Clerk, Chair, Vice Chair, or Councillor with a planning responsibility. Submissions could also be made by your Neighbourhood Planning Group lead, if preferred. The survey is open for 6 weeks to facilitate responses being agreed by formal meeting, if considered necessary.
- D. The survey will form part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. Therefore responses will be made publicly available. Any personal data (personal email or telephone numbers) will be removed before publishing/sharing in accordance with our Planning Policy Privacy Notices:
 - [Privacy notices - East Devon](#)
- E. **You will need to complete and submit the survey at the same time as answers cannot be saved and returned to later.** This survey questions are provided in full below for reference. You may wish to prepare your answers in advance. If you sign in via a Commonplace account, this will enable you to view the response you have submitted, as well as register for updates about the survey. If you do not have a Commonplace Account and do not wish to create one, we will still provide updates direct to all of our town and parish councils.

Thank you in advance for your time.

We will share the results of the survey with you in due course and may contact you to discuss your response if we need more information.

If you have any questions, please contact our neighbourhood planning officer, Angela King:

Tel. 01395 571740

Email aking@eastdevon.gov.uk

To start the survey:

Select the parish you are responding on behalf of from the appropriate dropdown menu, depending on whether your parish has:

- a 'made' neighbourhood plan (with no site allocations) – **complete Section Two ONLY**;
- a 'made' neighbourhood plan (which includes site allocations) - **complete Section Three ONLY**, or;
- no 'made' neighbourhood plan (this includes if you have an emerging plan) - **complete Section Four ONLY**

This will then automatically guide you through the survey to questions appropriate to your area.

[Your contact details](#)

Whichever section you are completing, you will need to first enter your Contact Details.

Here you need to provide your name, role in the organisation, preferred contact email, and phone number (optional).

Section 2: Questions for towns/parishes with a 'made' (adopted) neighbourhood plan (NO ALLOCATIONS ONLY)

Question 1a)

Which of the following statements best describes the current position regarding neighbourhood planning in your parish? (Please select one of the following options):

- ☐ 'Made' neighbourhood plan in place: no new neighbourhood plan-making activity underway.
- ☐ 'Made' neighbourhood plan in place: review in progress.
- ☐ 'Made' neighbourhood plan in place: actively taking steps towards a new / updated neighbourhood plan.

Question 1b)

Which of the following statements best currently indicates your intentions (next three years) regarding neighbourhood planning in your parish? (Please select all that apply):

- ☐ Actively implementing our current neighbourhood plan
- ☐ Reviewing our current neighbourhood plan
- ☐ Applying to change our existing Designated Neighbourhood Area
- ☐ Expecting to submit a revised, updated or new plan before the new local plan is adopted
- ☐ Expecting to submit a revised, updated or new plan after the new local plan is adopted
- ☐ Unlikely to be undertaking any new / further neighbourhood planning-related activity
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: *please click on 'Add something else' to specify*

Question 1c)

Please give brief details to explain your answers above. Where relevant, include any indication of likely timescales and/or potential joint working with other parishes.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 1d)

Thinking about how your 'made' Plan has been used to date, please give your response to each of the following statements:

- We use the Plan in responding to consultations on planning applications.
- We monitor how the Plan and its policies are implemented.
- Our Plan and its policies are being considered in the determination of planning applications.
- Our Plan and its policies are positively influencing planning decisions.
- Our Plan and its policies are working as intended.

The question provides the following scale from which to choose your response:

Never	Sometimes	Often	Always	Too early to say / Don't know
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In the box provided, please give any brief details and/or examples to explain your answer above.

Question 2a)

If you are currently progressing the preparation of a new / updated neighbourhood plan **or** are considering preparing / updating an existing neighbourhood plan within the next three years, how likely do you currently consider it to be that the plan will seek to allocate sites for development?

(If not applicable, please leave blank)

The question provides the following scale from which to choose your responses for each type of development listed below:

Very unlikely	Unlikely	Unsure	Likely	Very likely
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- For housing/residential uses
- For business/employment uses
- Other use
- For a mix of uses

Question 2b)

Please briefly give any details to explain/expand on your answers above, providing any information you feel it would be useful for us to be aware of:

Enter your response into the box provided.

(Note: Your answer might include reasons why allocations are unlikely, or to advise of work undertaken towards potential allocations, such as a Call for Sites, information and evidence gathered, number/scale of allocations and whether you have landowner agreement.)

Question 2c)

Please indicate the extent to which you agree that any of the following are issues / barriers to commencing or progressing neighbourhood plan making in your area.

The question provides the following options from which to choose your responses for each of the aspects listed below:

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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- ☐ Uncertainty about the new Local Plan
- ☐ Volunteer time available
- ☐ In-house staff time available to support
- ☐ Level of knowledge/skills/planning expertise
- ☐ Access to funding and/or paid-for support
- ☐ Pending planning applications / proposals
- ☐ Level/type of support available from the District Council
- ☐ Uncertainty of need for/benefits of preparing a Plan (or updated Plan)
- ☐ Conflicting local views over how the area should develop
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No particular issues/barriers to plan-making

Question 2d)

Please briefly give any details you wish to explain your answer to Q2c, or tell us about any other barriers or issues not listed above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2e)

Please indicate the extent to which your town/parish council would feel confident in the following aspects of neighbourhood plan making listed below. Please select your answer from a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not all confident and 5 is fully confident.

- ☐ Setting up a Steering Group to lead plan preparation.
- ☐ Undertaking local community engagement and consultations
- ☐ Applying for grant funding
- ☐ Gathering supporting evidence and information
- ☐ Undertaking work towards making site allocations
- ☐ Drafting planning policies
- ☐ Writing the Plan and supporting documents
- ☐ Identifying and securing external technical support, as needed
- ☐ Dealing with conflicting views on how the area should develop

Please answer whether or not there is any prior or on-going neighbourhood plan activity or any future intent to prepare a neighbourhood plan. In giving your answer, please consider any known local resource available to the council, such as members of a neighbourhood plan group, or individuals with particular professional skills.

Question 2f)

Please briefly give any details you wish to explain your answer to Q2e above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2g)

Overall, if your community is likely to participate or continue to participate in neighbourhood planning, which of the following topics / themes do you consider to be of most interest / relevance in your area?

(Please select up to 6 options. If not applicable, please leave blank. If other, please specify at the prompt):

- Design guidance / design codes
- Development briefs or masterplans for individual sites
- Policies/proposals to secure new housing of any kind (including affordable or self-build homes)
- New or improved employment provision
- New or improved community facilities, including recreational space
- Influencing uses/proposals within a town or village centre
- Policies / proposals to help development deliver environmental benefits
- Policies / proposals to help development support delivery of local infrastructure improvements e.g. to footpath links.
- Identifying and designating areas of green/open space for protection e.g. 'Local Green Spaces'
- Identifying locally important Heritage Assets to assist with protection of the historic environment
- Progressing community-led development (e.g. affordable housing via a Community Land Trust or a renewable energy scheme)
- Use of a Neighbourhood Development Order (to grant planning permission for a particular development you wish to enable)
- Don't know
- Other: *please click on 'Add something else' to specify*

Question 2h)

Please provide any brief details or comments to expand on your answer to Q2g above, which you think it would be useful for us to know:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 3a)

If you have received any support from us with neighbourhood planning, how would you rate this?

Select your response from the 'emoji' scale shown, where selection of the most unhappy face denotes 'poor' and the happiest face denotes 'excellent'.

Question 3b)

Please use this space to give us feedback on any neighbourhood planning support you have received, and/or to make any requests/suggestions for future support you would like to see:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 3c)

Please use this space if you wish to make any other comments related to your Council's experience or future plans regarding neighbourhood planning.

Enter your response into the box provided.

END OF SURVEY

Section 3: Questions about 'Made' (adopted) plans, with site allocations ONLY

Question 1a)

Which of the following statements best describes the current position regarding neighbourhood planning in your parish? (Please select one of the following options):

- ☐ 'Made' neighbourhood plan in place: no new neighbourhood plan-making activity underway.
- ☐ 'Made' neighbourhood plan in place: review in progress.
- ☐ 'Made' neighbourhood plan in place: actively taking steps towards a new / updated neighbourhood plan.

Question 1b)

Which of the following statements best currently indicates your intentions (next three years) regarding neighbourhood planning in your parish? (Please select all that apply):

- ☐ Actively implementing our current neighbourhood plan
- ☐ Reviewing our current neighbourhood plan
- ☐ Applying to change our existing Designated Neighbourhood Area
- ☐ Expecting to submit a revised, updated or new plan before the new local plan is adopted
- ☐ Expecting to submit a revised, updated or new plan after the new local plan is adopted
- ☐ Unlikely to be undertaking any new / further neighbourhood planning-related activity
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: *please click on 'Add something else' to specify*

Question 1c)

Please give brief details to explain your answers above. Where relevant, include any indication of likely timescales and/or potential joint working with other parishes.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 1d)

Thinking about how your 'made' Plan has been used to date, please give your response to each of the following statements:

- We use the Plan in responding to consultations on planning applications.
- We monitor how the Plan and its policies are implemented.

- Our Plan and its policies are being considered in the determination of planning applications.
- Our Plan and its policies are positively influencing planning decisions.
- Our Plan and its policies are working as intended.

The question provides the following scale from which to choose your response:

Never	Sometimes	Often	Always	Too early to say / Don't know
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In the box provided, please give any brief details and/or examples to explain your answer above.

Question 1e)

Please give a brief update of progress for each site allocation (please give site name or quote NP Policy reference to identify site, and include any relevant dates / timescales):

For example:

1. Policy MV11 (or Site at Local Lane) – No progress since allocation to date.
2. Policy WG05 (or Site at End Cross) – Initial meetings held with landowner and developer in Spring 2023. Planning application being prepared. Expected to be submitted before Christmas.
3. Policy TS01 (or Town Street Site) – Scheme was completed in May 2020 for 6 homes including 3 affordable homes and is now fully occupied.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 1f)

Where sites are proceeding towards delivery, or have already been completed, to what extent overall is this in line with the intention / requirements of your Plan?

Select your response on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'Not at all' and 5 is "Fully".

Question 1g)

Please give any brief details to explain your answer to Q1f above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 1h)

Where sites have not yet progressed to the stage of planning application / approval, please provide name and contact details of the landowner/developer, or state if not known/no permission to share.

(Note: we would like to this information to establish intentions for site delivery but will remove names and contact details before publishing survey responses)

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 1i)

Please use the space below to share any feedback (positive or negative) of your experience of allocating sites for development through your neighbourhood plan (in terms of the plan-making process and/or in plan implementation):

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2a)

If you are currently progressing the preparation of a new / updated neighbourhood plan **or** are considering preparing / updating an existing neighbourhood plan within the next three years, how likely do you currently consider it to be that the plan will seek to allocate sites for development?

(If not applicable, please leave blank)

The question provides the following scale from which to choose your responses for each type of development listed below:

Very unlikely	Unlikely	Unsure	Likely	Very likely
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- For housing/residential uses
- For business/employment uses
- Other use
- For a mix of uses

Question 2b)

Please briefly give any details to explain/expand on your answers above, providing any information you feel it would be useful for us to be aware of:

Enter your response into the box provided.

(Note: Your answer might include reasons why allocations are unlikely, or to advise of work undertaken towards potential allocations, such as a Call for Sites, information and evidence gathered, number/scale of allocations and whether you have landowner agreement.)

Question 2c)

Please indicate the extent to which you agree that any of the following are issues / barriers to commencing or progressing neighbourhood plan making in your area.

The question provides the following options from which to choose your responses for each of the aspects listed below:

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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- ☐ Uncertainty about the new Local Plan
- ☐ Volunteer time available
- ☐ In-house staff time available to support
- ☐ Level of knowledge/skills/planning expertise
- ☐ Access to funding and/or paid-for support
- ☐ Pending planning applications / proposals
- ☐ Level/type of support available from the District Council
- ☐ Uncertainty of need for/benefits of preparing a Plan (or updated Plan)
- ☐ Conflicting local views over how the area should develop
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No particular issues/barriers to plan-making

Question 2d)

Please briefly give any details you wish to explain your answer to Q2c, or tell us about any other barriers or issues not listed above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2e)

Please indicate the extent to which your town/parish council would feel confident in the following aspects of neighbourhood plan making listed below. Please select your answer from a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not all confident and 5 is fully confident.

- ☐ Setting up a Steering Group to lead plan preparation.
- ☐ Undertaking local community engagement and consultations

- Applying for grant funding
- Gathering supporting evidence and information
- Undertaking work towards making site allocations
- Drafting planning policies
- Writing the Plan and supporting documents
- Identifying and securing external technical support, as needed
- Dealing with conflicting views on how the area should develop

Please answer whether or not there is any prior or on-going neighbourhood plan activity or any future intent to prepare a neighbourhood plan. In giving your answer, please consider any known local resource available to the council, such as members of a neighbourhood plan group, or individuals with particular professional skills.

Question 2f)

Please briefly give any details you wish to explain your answer to Q2e above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2g)

Overall, if your community is likely to participate or continue to participate in neighbourhood planning, which of the following topics / themes do you consider to be of most interest / relevance in your area?

(Please select up to 6 options. If not applicable, please leave blank. If other, please specify at the prompt):

- Design guidance / design codes
- Development briefs or masterplans for individual sites
- Policies/proposals to secure new housing of any kind (including affordable or self-build homes)
- New or improved employment provision
- New or improved community facilities, including recreational space
- Influencing uses/proposals within a town or village centre
- Policies / proposals to help development deliver environmental benefits
- Policies / proposals to help development support delivery of local infrastructure improvements e.g. to footpath links.
- Identifying and designating areas of green/open space for protection e.g. 'Local Green Spaces'
- Identifying locally important Heritage Assets to assist with protection of the historic environment
- Progressing community-led development (e.g. affordable housing via a Community Land Trust or a renewable energy scheme)
- Use of a Neighbourhood Development Order (to grant planning permission for a particular development you wish to enable)

- Don't know
- Other: *please click on 'Add something else' to specify*

Question 2h)

Please provide any brief details or comments to expand on your answer to Q2g above, which you think it would be useful for us to know:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 3a)

If you have received any support from us with neighbourhood planning, how would you rate this?

Select your response from the 'emoji' scale shown, where selection of the most unhappy face denotes 'poor' and the happiest face denotes 'excellent'.

Question 3b)

Please use this space to give us feedback on any neighbourhood planning support you have received, and/or to make any requests/suggestions for future support you would like to see:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 3c)

Please use this space if you wish to make any other comments related to your Council's experience or future plans regarding neighbourhood planning.

Enter your response into the box provided.

END OF SURVEY

Section 4: Questions for parishes without a 'made' (adopted) neighbourhood plan ONLY

Question 1a)

Which of the following statements best describes the current position regarding neighbourhood planning in your parish? (Please select one of the following options):

- ☐ No neighbourhood plan making activity has occurred.
- ☐ Neighbourhood plan making activity has occurred in the past but is not currently being progressed.
- ☐ Actively working towards our first neighbourhood plan

Question 1b)

Please give brief details to explain your answer, including any indication of timescales where relevant:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 1c)

Which of the following statements best currently indicates your intentions (next three years) regarding neighbourhood planning in your parish? (Please select all that apply):

- ☐ Unlikely to be undertaking any neighbourhood planning-related activity.
- ☐ Applying to become a new 'Designated Neighbourhood Area' for plan-making purposes (*note: this is the first formal step in the neighbourhood plan process*)
- ☐ Applying to change our existing 'Designated Neighbourhood Area'.
- ☐ Progressing our first neighbourhood plan to adoption: expecting to submit plan before the new local plan is adopted.
- ☐ Progressing our first neighbourhood plan to adoption: expecting to submit plan after the new local plan is adopted.
- ☐ Don't know.
- ☐ Other: *please click on 'Add something else' to specify*

Question 1d)

Please give brief details to explain your answer to Q1c above. Where relevant, include any indication of likely timescales and/or potential joint working with other parishes.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2a)

If you are currently progressing the preparation of a new / updated neighbourhood plan **or** are considering preparing / updating an existing neighbourhood plan within the next three years, how likely do you currently consider it to be that the plan will seek to allocate sites for development?

(If not applicable, please leave blank)

The question provides the following scale from which to choose your responses for each type of development listed below:

Very unlikely	Unlikely	Unsure	Likely	Very likely
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- For housing/residential uses
- For business/employment uses
- Other use
- For a mix of uses

Question 2b)

Please briefly give any details to explain/expand on your answers above, providing any information you feel it would be useful for us to be aware of:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Your answer might include reasons why allocations are unlikely, or to advise of work undertaken towards potential allocations, such as a Call for Sites, information and evidence gathered, number/scale of allocations and whether you have landowner agreement.

Question 2c)

Please indicate the extent to which you agree that any of the following are issues / barriers to commencing or progressing neighbourhood plan making in your area.

The question provides the following options from which to choose your responses for each of the aspects listed below:

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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- ☐ Uncertainty about the new Local Plan
- ☐ Volunteer time available
- ☐ In-house staff time available to support
- ☐ Level of knowledge/skills/planning expertise
- ☐ Access to funding and/or paid-for support
- ☐ Pending planning applications / proposals
- ☐ Level/type of support available from the District Council
- ☐ Uncertainty of need for/benefits of preparing a Plan (or updated Plan)
- ☐ Conflicting local views over how the area should develop
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No particular issues/barriers to plan-making

Question 2d)

Please briefly give any details you wish to explain your answer to Q2c, or tell us about any other barriers or issues not listed above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2e)

Please indicate the extent to which your town/parish council would feel confident in the following aspects of neighbourhood plan making listed below. Please select your answer from a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not all confident and 5 is fully confident.

- ☐ Setting up a Steering Group to lead plan preparation.
- ☐ Undertaking local community engagement and consultations
- ☐ Applying for grant funding
- ☐ Gathering supporting evidence and information
- ☐ Undertaking work towards making site allocations
- ☐ Drafting planning policies
- ☐ Writing the Plan and supporting documents
- ☐ Identifying and securing external technical support, as needed
- ☐ Dealing with conflicting views on how the area should develop

Please answer whether or not there is any prior or on-going neighbourhood plan activity or any future intent to prepare a neighbourhood plan. In giving your answer, please consider any known local resource available to the council, such as members of a neighbourhood plan group, or individuals with particular professional skills.

Question 2f)

Please briefly give any details you wish to explain your answer to Q2e above.

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 2g)

Overall, if your community is likely to participate or continue to participate in neighbourhood planning, which of the following topics / themes do you consider to be of most interest / relevance in your area?

(Please select up to 6 options. If not applicable, please leave blank. If other, please specify at the prompt):

- Design guidance / design codes
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- Policies / proposals to help development support delivery of local infrastructure improvements e.g. to footpath links.
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- Use of a Neighbourhood Development Order (to grant planning permission for a particular development you wish to enable)
- Don't know
- Other: *please click on 'Add something else' to specify*

Question 2h)

Please provide any brief details or comments to expand on your answer to Q2g above, which you think it would be useful for us to know:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 3a)

If you have received any support from us with neighbourhood planning, how would you rate this?

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Question 3b)

Please use this space to give us feedback on any neighbourhood planning support you have received, and/or to make any requests/suggestions for future support you would like to see:

Enter your response into the box provided.

Question 3c)

Please use this space if you wish to make any other comments related to your Council's experience or future plans regarding neighbourhood planning.

Enter your response into the box provided.

END OF SURVEY