

# RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

## Newsletter January 2012

Chairman:  
John Kay,  
Fair Meadow,  
Rushey Green,  
Ringmer BN8 5JB

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*This is your invitation to Ringmer's*  
**Neighbourhood Development Plan Exhibition & Consultation**  
**"Ringmer to 2030" to be held in**  
**the empty shop next to the butcher's, Ringmer Shopping Precinct**  
**Thursday 2nd February (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)**  
**Friday 3rd February (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)**  
**Saturday 4th February (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)**

### Why should I come

Ringmer is one of the local council chosen to pilot the development of Neighbourhood Plans that will principally guide local housing and business development and safeguard the local environment.

Following the four public meetings held in late 2011, we have made progress in identifying which topics it seems are pretty widely agreed, which divide opinion, and which are really tricky and need a lot more thought.

Before going further we need your views on the big issues that have emerged and the work that we have done in identifying and drafting the principles and policies that might underpin the plan. The exhibition and is an opportunity to see, and discuss with councillors, what has been done so far and what you think should be done. You will also be able to submit written comments if you wish.

### Three big issues needing your comments

#### 1. How many new homes will Ringmer need in the next 20 years?

There was acceptance at the public meetings that a reasonable number would be needed. A straw poll indicated that almost everybody wanted to see no more than 200 new houses built, far short of the District Council's upper option of 600+. The parish council has been considering these views and other evidence that we have collected. It will be presenting its ideas for your comment at the Exhibition *but it is the collective views of the community that will determine the response to this and the other issues below.*

#### 2. Where should the new homes go?

Lewes District Council commissioned a study which asked landowners and developers to suggest where they thought new homes should be built and the results of this were reprinted in our Autumn newsletter.

We believe The Neighbourhood Plan should take a different approach and have looked at how new homes could be accommodated and cause least damage: to the village and to the environment. For example, we think keeping a Green Gap between Ringmer village and the Broyleside is important to keeping Ringmer's "village feel" and avoiding a continuous ribbon of development through the village. Residents at the meetings supported our approach and suggested additional factors.

***We have now analysed the housing sites proposed, and will be presenting our analysis, with our reasons, at the Exhibition. However it's your views that count so please come and tell us what you think.***

#### 3. Where should the new employment sites be?

Despite the current economic climate our local employment site owners tell us that there are still opportunities to attract new business to Ringmer. Our priority is to keep the existing Ringmer employment sites and to intensify their use where practicable. We have been convinced that the business growth can not only be maintained, but increased.

We shall therefore be identifying some new potential employment sites, using the principles supported at the consultation meetings, and we propose to release the sites for development when the need arises. Again we have analysed the possible employment sites and will be presenting our findings at the Exhibition for you to comment on.

## Policies and principles

To date we have identified 70 specific draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. Some are drafted in detail; in other cases we have simply identified an area of village life we think might need consideration, but no detailed thinking has taken place. In a few cases we have not yet been able to collect any evidence at all.

The latest draft is on Ringmer parish council website – go to [www.ringmerparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.ringmerparishcouncil.org.uk) and then click on the “Ringmer to 2030” button. To keep track of all the draft policies, we have divided them into four broad categories. You can see on the website which draft policy is in which category.

**Category A:** These draft policies appear, on present evidence, to be uncontroversial and at the consultation evenings were supported by at least 90% of those expressing a view. These are listed on the parish council web-site and will be on view at the exhibition. They are likely to be formally adopted by the council, unless there is evidence of significant opposition to any of them at the Exhibition.

**Category B:** These policies also commanded strong majority support at the consultation evenings. All were supported by a margin of at least 2:1. There are just six draft policies in this category, and at the Exhibition we shall attempt to collect the views of a larger sample of village opinion. Category B policies include:

### **4.5 *The Green Gap between the Ringmer Green and Broyleside settlements***

#### **5.1(c) *Allocation of new major employment sites***

#### **5.5.2 *Retail development permitted within major business sites***

**Category C:** these are draft policies that were not developed in time for consideration at the consultation evenings. There are 11 in all, and we want your views on whether or not they should go forward. They include:

### **6.2 *Phasing of residential development to 2030***

### **6.5 *Housing for the elderly***

## **RINGMER’S COUNCILLORS**

PARISH COUNCILLORS: Chairman: John Kay - Fair Meadow, Rushey Green.

Vice-Chairman – Martin Whitlock, 16 Hayes Close

Chairman of Greens Committee: Ron Wilcox – 5 Gote Lane

Chairman of General Purposes Committee: Alan Grindley - 25 Springett Avenue

Chairman of Planning Committee: Richard Booth – The Old Cottage, Lewes Road

Sharon Gunde – 50 Delves House East \* Nick Hall – 1 Harvard Road \* Jenny Hill – 39 The Forges \* Veronica Humphrey – 45 Springett Avenue \* Ron Livingstone – Upper Broyle Farm \* Bob Peters, MBE - Plashett Park Farm \* Bob Truman – 1 Cheyney Cottages, Lewes Road \* Richard Turner – Spiders Cottage, Glynde

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Chris Bowers, Paul Gander, Peter Gardiner

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Rosalyn St. Pierre

### **6.8.4 *Site briefs for new development***

### **7.5 *Ringmer Green & other public open spaces***

### **8.6.2 *Drainage & sewerage***

### **8.8 *Waste disposal & recycling***

**Category D:** These are the policies that have furthest to go before they are ready for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan and where it is far from clear how best to proceed. There 18 of these in all. They include some of the key issues and fall broadly under 5 categories:

- **Countryside**
- **Employment**
- **Residential development**
- **Community & leisure facilities**
- **Infrastructure**

Issues addressed include housing numbers and type; affordable housing; employment sites; community and sports facilities; public transport and road safety; youth services; infrastructure needs and many others. Not all of them have yet been developed to the stage at which formal consultation would be useful but the exhibition will give you the chance to comment on what has been developed so far, and to offer ideas based on your experiences, knowledge and expertise.

## **What happens next?**

The Neighbourhood Plan has to go to consultation not only with people who live and work in Ringmer, but also with a whole list of public bodies and organisations. It has to be supported by other evidence, all of which will be published on our web-site in due course. Eventually, after further consultation, it must be submitted to a planning expert for formal examination and, finally, approved by residents in a referendum.

If you are not online but wish to follow the process, there are two main options: enlist the help of an IT-savvy friend, neighbour or grandchild; also you could identify your nearest parish councillor from the list below, and make a point of chatting to them at regular intervals.