

Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Plan Explained

What we need from you:

Whether you live in the plan area or outside, if you regularly use facilities in the village, we need your views. A Neighbourhood Plan steering group, appointed by the Parish Council, has developed plan options for you to consider. We want your thoughts and feedback on the options and any new options you can think of, including doing nothing.

What happens next?

A Village meeting is planned for the end of June 2012 to discuss feedback received on the suggested options. A village wide questionnaire will be distributed for people to give us specific feedback on matters such as housing needs. The results from all this will be published in a draft Neighbourhood Plan in October 2012.

Feedback:

Doddinghurst Parish Council website www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk will keep you up to date with progress and has more information about Neighbourhood Plans. The best way to give us your input is by email to clerk@doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk or you can phone 01277 824245 to leave a message and we will contact you. Finally, if you wish, you can write to: The Clerk, Doddinghurst Parish Council, Parish Office (adjacent Village Hall), Church Lane, Doddinghurst, Essex, CM15

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What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a new facility available to Parish and Town Councils and has been introduced in the recent Localism Bill. It is a document that sets out how the land in the plan area may be used over the timescale of the plan, which may be 20 years. It also enables policies to be established that determine future building design and what community facilities are important to the area. The plan has to pass an inspection and be approved by referendum before it can be adopted by the principal planning authority - which is Brentwood Borough Council.

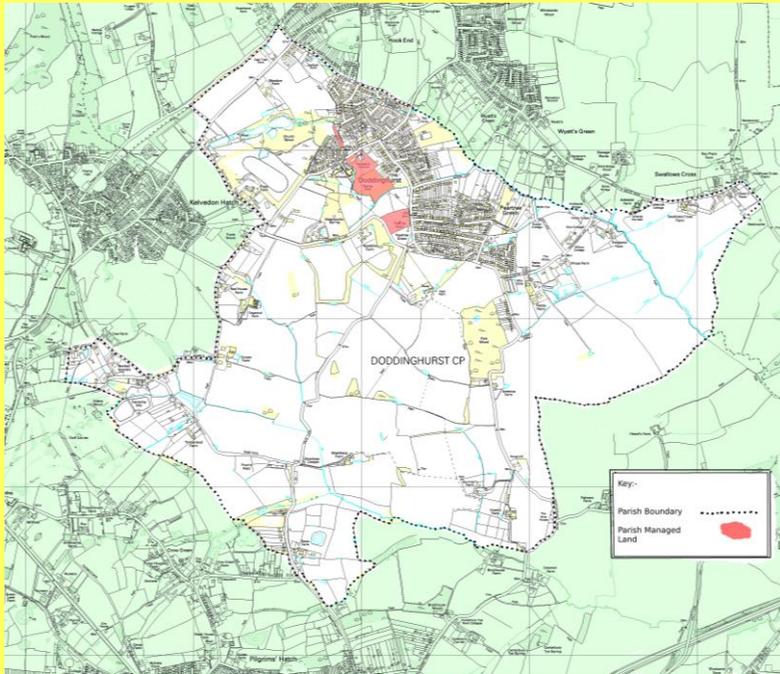
Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?

Doddinghurst lies in attractive countryside surrounded by Green Belt with many recreational fields and areas desirable for development. A Neighbourhood Plan enables the community to have a powerful voice in what can and cannot be done on land in their area for the next 20 years. The Parish Council is recognised by national legislation as a body able to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and we are supported in this by Brentwood Borough Council. As one of the first areas in England to pioneer neighbourhood planning, the Department for Communities and Local Government have provided funds of £20,000 to pay for key stages of the plan - namely the inspection and the referendum.

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Neighbourhood Plan Area

The area of land covered by the plan matches the Boundary Area of Doddinghurst Parish as shown below. The plan will have a lifespan of 20 years - until 2032.



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Plan Vision:
"To create one of the most pleasant villages in Essex for people of all ages to live in."

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Village to stay rural.

The key thrust of the plan is to ensure that Doddinghurst, as a rural village, will remain rural in character but provide for the essential community services needed to nourish and sustain a village that matches the vision for the plan

With a neighbourhood plan in place villagers stand a far greater chance of securing the kind of development wanted and needed while resisting development that would be harmful.

Development for starter houses, homes to suit the elderly or for community benefit, are to be welcomed where they fit with the design strategy for the village. The Neighbourhood Plan has to acknowledge, and is subservient to, National and Borough Plans but can enhance and define development that is of key benefit to residents of the village.

Housing design policies

Key characteristics of Doddinghurst are the open green space at the heart of the village, the layout of houses with front gardens and roads with green verges. Within the village exists a wide variety of architectural styles. Policies need to encourage development that picks up on Essex housing at its best - with quality finishes such as pargetting, character roofing and glazing in keeping with a rural design. Traditional elements will need to be incorporated into buildings that are modern and forward looking in terms of design for low carbon - with sensitive design for energy capture systems such as unobtrusive solar panels and other modern energy capture heating systems and good accessibility.