

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is community-led positive planning document with policies and guidance in our area for the next 15 to 20 years that responds to the aspirations and ambitions of residents. The Plan will have equal weight to the emerging Local Plan for Sevenoaks District on issues such as housing, the built and natural environment, community facilities and our local economy.

What can't a Neighbourhood Plan do?

The Neighbourhood Plan must not repeat policies in the Local Plan or other policy documents and it does not need to duplicate legal protections, such as for Listed Buildings or the Conservation Area that are already in place. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot unpick or try to undermine policies in another plan such as the Sevenoaks Local Plan or the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).



What are the stages in producing a Neighbourhood Plan?

Once a draft Neighbourhood Plan has been produced it needs to be consulted on first by the Parish and then formally by the District Council. Then an Examiner will check the plan meets important requirements and may recommend some changes. After this the plan goes to referendum where local people get to vote on whether the plan should be agreed.

If successful at referendum a Neighbourhood Plan is "made" and becomes part of the Planning Policy for the area. At that stage the Neighbourhood Plan carries legal weight and will sit alongside the Local Plan for Sevenoaks District Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives us a real opportunity to positively influence planning decisions that affect us all.

Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter

June 2026



Scan the QR code to get to our website

Building a Stronger Community, Shaping Our Future Together!

Farningham is progressing a Neighbourhood Plan which is a chance for our community to come together and shape how we want our Parish to look and feel over the next 15 to 20 years.

Over the past year the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been working hard to understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for the Parish of Farningham.

So far we have held or attended 12 events and activities to help us gather information and to talk to those who live and work in and around the village. We have had over 500 engagements with residents relating to the plan so far.

What have we heard so far and where have we got to?

The main output of all of these sessions has been a combined list of all of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that have been raised or discussed as part of these events and through the Steering Group's work. We have also considered a wide range of opportunities for change and taken on board advice about what the Neighbourhood Plan can and can't do.

In the middle of this newsletter we have set out a draft vision, priorities and principles for the Neighbourhood Plan and an opportunities diagram showing how the areas around the village could be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan itself. There are more plans on our website.

At this stage we want your views on whether these are the right things to base the Neighbourhood Plan on, or if you think there are key ideas missing, or that we should add. Please let us know by the 19th July.

Once we have your feedback we will work on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan itself, setting out policies and more specific ideas and projects.



The junction of Eynsford Road with White Post Hill and Beesfield Lane has been identified as a key area where people do not feel safe crossing the road and getting between different parts of the village.

FARNINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

★ QUIZ ★

! Night! !



FUN FRIENDS COMMUNITY

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS



ONLINE BOOKING PREFERRED

CASH/CHEQUE BY ARRANGEMENT

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS

ONLINE

Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://buy.stripe.com/98628gh51jd0H7229E303>

EMAIL

clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

CASH/CHEQUE BY ARRANGEMENT

Contact us by email to arrange payment

EVENT DETAILS

DATE

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

LOCATION

FARNINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN

7:00PM

QUIZ STARTS

7:30PM

TICKET PRICE

£5 PER PERSON

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & NIBBLES

6-8 PEOPLE PER TEAM

RAFFLE

WEBSITE

www.farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

CONTACT

clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

How You Can Get Involved?

We continue to look for volunteers to join the Steering Group and for your feedback to help shape the Neighbourhood Plan. You don't need any planning experience - just a passion for Farningham and its future. Whether you'd like to join a working group, help with events, or share your thoughts through consultations, we would love to hear from you.

Email us with your feedback at: clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Come along to our Farningham Neighbourhood Plan quiz on 12th September!

More information about our future meetings and events, and progress with the Neighbourhood Plan is regularly updated on our website:

https://www.farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/page-neighbourhood_plan



Draft Farningham Neighbourhood Plan Vision:

A positive Farningham that is fit for the future, is a great place to live and spend time, and to enjoy the countryside

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https://www.farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/page-neighbourhood_plan

Email us with your feedback at:
clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Write to us at: Farningham Parish Council, Farningham Village Hall, High Street, Farningham, Kent, DA4 0DH



Draft Neighbourhood Plan Principles

Working with the SWOT analysis that we put together following your input we have created **four priority areas (1-4)** each with linked **draft principles (a-s)** that the policies and guidance in the Neighbourhood Plan will be based on.

PRIORITY 1: ENJOYING NATURE

- a) **Celebrate the openness of the countryside and village setting** through protecting important views and the character of the Darent Valley and river.
- b) **Improve access to nature**, including safe walking routes to Farningham Woods.
- c) **Introduce better signage and wayfinding** of walking routes across the Parish - including improving visibility and connections to the Parish section of the Darent Valley Path.
- d) **Make better use of the green spaces in the village**, including making sure we have good facilities for recreation and sports and for young people to play and spend time.
- e) **Protect the green setting of the Parish**, by keeping the edges of the village open and maintaining separation from neighbouring villages or any medium or large scale new development.

PRIORITY 2: SUPPORTING VILLAGE LIFE

- f) **Encourage healthy lifestyles** and ensure there are social and recreational activities for all age groups in the village and nearby.
- g) **Encourage new business uses, groups and activities that are compatible with the village** and its countryside setting. Identify locations for small scale business opportunities, especially those that make good use of existing buildings or structures.
- h) **Support existing local businesses, groups and activities** that keep the village active and well used.
- i) **Provide places to go and things to do for all ages** and to support healthy lifestyles
- j) **Encourage visitors to the Parish** to enjoy well signposted walking routes, support our village facilities and services, and spend time enjoying the countryside nearby.
- k) **Positively support change that helps make the village more resilient** in terms of climate, flood risk and environmental issues such as noise and air quality.

We want to know what you think of this draft vision, the priorities and the principles.

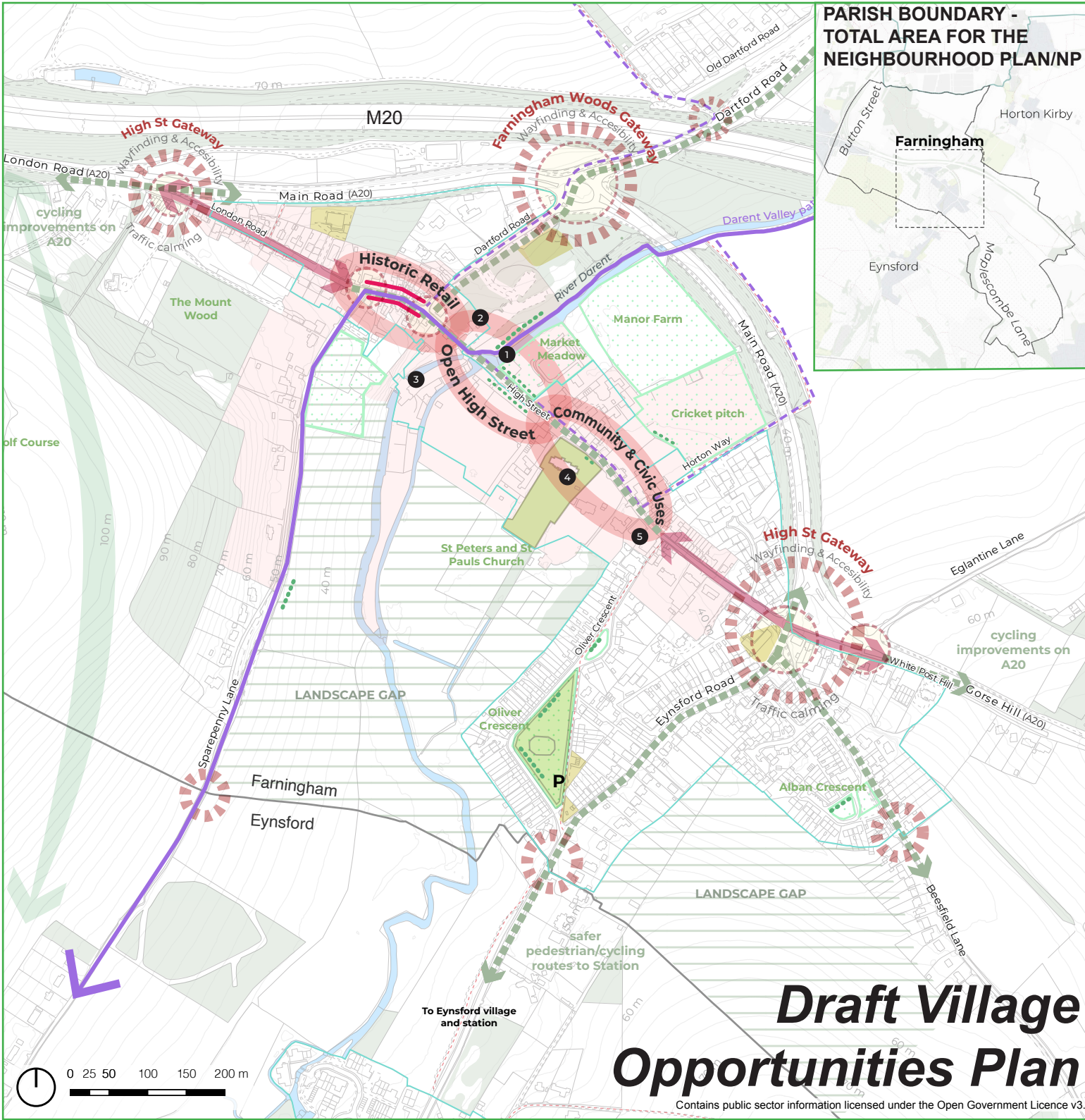
- **Do you think the vision captures what the Neighbourhood Plan is about?**
- **Are there principles missing that you think we should include?**
- **Do you have ideas for change that you think we should include in the plan?**
- **SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK BY THE 19TH JULY 2026**

PRIORITY 3: A CHARACTERFUL BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- l) **Ensure that we celebrate the best of the Parish’s architectural character.**
- m) **Encourage innovative and characterful design** for new, retrofitted or extended buildings in a way that relates well to the strong identity and heritage of the village, and the wider Parish and its setting and the wider parish.
- n) **Protect the best local views** of the village and parish so that it retains its special character and identity and can be widely enjoyed.
- o) **Resist filling in the “sides” of the village** so that it retains its strong linear urban form, especially where it is more open to the countryside.
- p) **Identify suitable development opportunities** between the village and Main Road and on other appropriate brownfield (previously developed) sites.

PRIORITY 4: SAFE MOVEMENT CHOICES FOR ALL

- q) **Make the Parish safer by, prioritising pedestrians and cyclists whilst accommodating the car**, and car parking. Make gateways to the village and junctions safer and improve accessibility across the parish.
- r) **Help reduce traffic through the village by improving active travel connections** (walking and cycling) across the Parish.
- s) **Improve the quality of public realm in the High Street**. Make sure we have wide enough pavements for pedestrians, pushchairs and those less able to move around easily. Use these changes to reinforce the special character of the different areas of the high street.



Draft Village Opportunities Plan

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