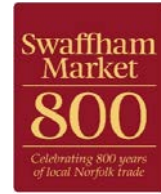




Swaffham Town Council

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PLEASE REPLY TO: Richard Bishop, Town Clerk **E-mail:** townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan Statement

Swaffham Town Council would like to submit a Neighbourhood Plan Area (NPA) as the formal commencement of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

The designated area has been produced following discussion with Breckland Council. In considering an appropriate area a number of factors were taken into account, including:-

- a. the policy for future development in Swaffham as laid down in Breckland Council's Core Strategy.
- b. Previous work undertaken in various reviews of Swaffham's published Town Plan 'Advance Swaffham'.
- c. The scale and likely location of any housing development emerging within current Local Plan consultations, including speculative planning applications in the pipeline outside of current designated development areas.
- d. The location of already designated and proposed new employment land emerging from the Local Plan consultations.
- e. The effect on neighbouring parishes of any development.

A number of options were considered for the NPA, looking at smaller areas such as the Town Centre or larger areas including surrounding villages, before selecting the NPA as the Swaffham Parish Boundary. Confining the NPA to just potential development sites was seen as unrealistic because it would limit the opportunity to examine wider infrastructure and economic issues for the town.

The Parish Boundary is believed to be wide enough to enable town-wide infrastructure improvements to be considered and there would be no need to involve other parishes, which would ease the burden of administration and consultation. It is not envisaged that adjoining parishes would need to be represented on the Working Group, it is recognised that if emerging issues within a Neighbourhood Plan have an impact on a specific parish or parishes, then an appropriate method of consultation would take place.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be produced by Working Groups and Partner organisations reporting to the Planning Committee of Swaffham Town Council acting in its capacity as the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The completed Plan will be submitted to Swaffham Town Council for approval and onward transmission to Breckland Council.

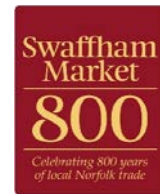
It is intended that the Plan should be community led and reflect the fact that we believe any major development in Swaffham should be driven by new employment opportunities, with the necessary infrastructure and services to support it. The vision and objectives reflect that aim, as does the composition of the Steering Group. A copy of the Vision and Objectives are attached for your information.

The local press will be notified that the Neighbourhood Plan process has started and the next step is for the Planning Committee/Steering Group to prepare for further engagement of the community by holding a launch event once the NPA has been approved.



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SWAFFHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

VISION

By 2026, Swaffham will have developed as an enterprising, attractive and prosperous market town. It will be the centre of a vibrant employment area, which also provides first class services and facilities to its rural hinterland.

Development will be driven by new employment opportunities, which will include engineering, research and development, logistics, food production and agriculture. Cementing Swaffham's perceived 'green' credentials, promoting sustainable development with retail outlets providing jobs and helping make the town a self-contained community.

New housing of an appropriate tenure, type and mix to meet the needs of the community will have been integrated with new and existing facilities. The town will be well supported by the necessary infrastructure improvements, including essential utility supply or services, and in particular with improved education, health, social and leisure facilities.

It will be easy to move within Swaffham particularly by walking, cycling and public transport. Improvements to the road network will improve access to and from Swaffham from surrounding areas and support the natural growth to the town.

Existing green spaces will be protected and further green spaces will be created.

The built environment will be protected and improved with high quality design, which employs renewable forms of energy. Protecting the environment will be a key principle of all development so that Swaffham will be at the forefront of sustainable living.

The overriding aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to preserve the distinctive character of our beautiful Georgian market town in the heart of 'The Brecks', whilst improving the quality of life for all who live, work and visit the town of Swaffham.