

Results of the first Swainsthorpe Neighbourhood Plan consultation

3pm-8pm on Monday, 25th November 2024

The purpose of the initial consultation event was to identify key issues and themes in the parish.



Above: Photographs of the drop-in sessions.

About you

- 0-10 years old: 0
 - 11-20 years old: 1
 - 21-30 years old: 0
 - 31-40 years old: 2
 - 41-50 years old: 2
 - 51-60 years old: 4
 - 61-70 years old: 16
 - 71-80 years old: 16
 - 81+ years old: 6
 - TOTAL: 47
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- Swainsthorpe resident: 48
 - Work in Swainsthorpe: 2
 - None of the above, just interested: 0

Category	What is special about Swainsthorpe? Post-it note comments
Heritage	• Nice and worthy heritage assets. • No modern developments.

Community	• Lovely community. • Great community feel. • Friendly village. • Rural community spirit. • Lovely village. • Good community. • Friendly people and lots of community events to meet up. • Christmas Eve on the green. • International Women's Day. It brings people from all over Norfolk, Suffolk and Surrey to see our fabulous little village. • Friendly village community. • Community Spirit. • Community.
Location and access to Norwich	• Lovely village and great community in the countryside but close to the city. • Rural community with excellent, good neighbourliness and spirit. • Good access to city and main arterial routes. • Great access to Norwich whilst maintaining a rural village location, defined boundaries give a sense of community. • Convenient for Norwich and major routes. • Good access to Norwich whilst keeping a rural feel. • Close to Norwich. • Easy Road access into Norwich as no urban sprawl South of Norwich. • Good public transport (bus) to get to Norwich.
Access to the countryside, walks and views	• Easy access to countryside. • Rural views, lovely countryside, great walks. • Access to walks from doorstep. • Good walks. • Foot paths and those locked off by developers, Ben Burgess. • Welly wanging. • Access to the countryside. • Countryside all around with good foot paths add permitted access. • Rural Views. • Rural walks and views.
Limited services	• Limited services (no shop, school or such like).
Quiet and peaceful	• Quiet. • Peaceful. • Peace and quiet.
Low crime	• Low crime. • Safe.
Wildlife	• Wildlife. • Wildlife.
ACTION	Steering group to revisit vision.

Category	What are the big planning issues for Swainsthorpe? Post-it note comments
Church Road	• Will houses be built in the fields north of church Road? • What will happen now to the field backing Church Road? Now it is not a Ben Burgess depot?
Positive comments about green projects	• Adapting to climate change by making the correct decisions to help strive for a greener future. • Supporting green projects. • I can't understand why people are so against solar panels. It is much better than a nuclear station or needing to continue to get gas from abroad. • I don't see a lot of problems as regards pylons, it is good to enable greener energy for the country.
Negative comments about green infrastructure/energy projects	• Pylons will be intrusive and affect the local wildlife and views as well as farmland. Solar farms expanding and taking up farmland. • Pylons, solar panel farm, electric battery storage. • Too many pylons, not good for our health. • Too much electrical projects, Pylons, battery storage. No consideration of people's views and concerns. • Far too many projects going on, solar farm, battery storage and other electrical site. All in our lovely village. • Pylons. • Pylons, solar farm, battery farm. Overdevelopment of above. We need good consideration on support to village. • Battery storage, Solar farms effects on wildlife and rural views and access. • Pylons, solar farms, battery storage. • Green projects and battery farms – safety. • No consideration for wildlife, fertile land being used. Safety
Traffic, speeding and rat run	• Increased traffic using us as a rat run • Traffic. • Rat runs. • Speeding, Adverse effect on population and wildlife. • Connecting road to Mulbarton under threats of heavy traffic from rat run to A140. • Increased road traffic.
Becoming a suburb of Norwich	• I worry about ending up being joined to Norwich as a suburb. • Joining up with Norwich.
Industrialisation	• Impending industrialization around the edges.
Misc	• Uneducated advocates fighting for the wrong causes.
ACTION	Steering group to revisit vision and ensure that planning issues are addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan where possible

Comments on the draft Vision

Post-it note comments

- Stricter speed restrictions.
- Certified pathways pavements on at least one side of Church Lane.
- Norfolk County Council to be more aware of village problems.
- We don't want a NIMBY community.
- Keep the village as it is for South Norfolk should be for our village and stop all the building going on.
- How to limit projects when backed by Government?
- Implement speed reduction on A140.
- Concern regarding traffic through village in relation to lack of footpaths for pedestrians.
- Environmental infrastructure projects are very important for the greater good.
- Cycle highway to Norwich.
- Incentives for new energy. Lower price for residents.
- Maintenance of church view from the road.
- Remain the same.
- Keep the community spirit.
- We need to leave options open for innovative designs.
- Swainsthorpe to continue being a safe place to live.
- Retain its unique status.
- Can't wait to hear the bells ringing at Saint Peters.
- Keep as it is with more consideration for wildlife and local community. I agree with this too.
- Cycle path is very important.

ACTION: Steering group to revisit vision.

HOUSING

Swainsthorpe has not been allocated any housing in the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

Do you think there is a need for new housing in Swainsthorpe?

- YES: 5 dots.
- MAY BE: 5 dots.
- NO: 19 dots.

If yes, what type of housing should there be to meet local needs?

Post-it note comments

- Self-build plots large gardens
- Small scale affordable homes only.
- It would be good to offer more social housing.
- Small developments with good design are OK, but mass cheap building would destroy the character.
- Off grid. Eco housing should be a priority.
- Infill edge of village.
- Keep wildlife in mind. Keep established trees. Sustainably built. Large plots, small number.
- Housing that fits in with the character of present.
- Incentivize young people and diverse people.
- Only eco housing.
- Infill or small developments.
- Everyone needs a home instead of hundreds of houses in any one village. Fewer houses, which would revitalise a village and not swamp it.
- If new houses built, just one or two scattered, not a huge housing estate.

ACTION: Consider policy on type and tenure of infill.

Category	GOOD DESIGN: What does good design mean for Swainsthorpe? E.g. distinctive, 'in-keeping', modern architecture, easy to move around, public spaces, coherent pattern of development, safe, inclusive? Post-it note comments
Materials	• Organic using materials from our area.
Eco design and energy efficiency	• Modern eco homes. • Mixture of styles but must be eco. • Architecture sympathetic in existing housing with emphasis on eco. • Reduce fossil fuel to heat houses. • Better insulation.
Connections	• Good active travel routes, walk, cycle and public transport. • Coherent linked.
No large development	• No large or medium sized developments. Houses in keeping with village as it is. • No large developments.
Density	• Space between houses.
Village	• Distinct village designs.
Parking	• Enough parking.

Category	GOOD DESIGN: What does good design mean for Swainsthorpe? E.g. distinctive, 'in-keeping', modern architecture, easy to move around, public spaces, coherent pattern of development, safe, inclusive? Post-it note comments
Materials	Organic using materials from our area.
Eco design and energy efficiency	- Modern eco homes. - Mixture of styles but must be eco. - Architecture sympathetic in existing housing with emphasis on eco. - Reduce fossil fuel to heat houses. - Better insulation.
Connections	- Good active travel routes, walk, cycle and public transport. - Coherent linked.
No large development	- No large or medium sized developments. Houses in keeping with village as it is. - No large developments.
In-keeping, sympathetic	- In keeping with the village as is now. - In keeping with the village feel. - Design only in keeping with the village. We don't want our village turning into a town. Thank you. - Architecturally sympathetic to the village. Does not impact the visual appearance of the village. - If houses are to be constructed, they need to be in keeping with the village. - Designed in keeping with existing buildings and a rural landscape.
	Don't agree with the in keeping mindset. All places evolve designs too. Modern architecture. Will be a historic asset in the future.
Misc	Timeless nostalgic old warm fuzzy feeling.
ACTION	Feed into the Design Code for Swainsthorpe.

Category	COMMUNITY: What do we want for Swainsthorpe? e.g. community facilities, social spaces, more allotments Post-it note comments
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Extension to the church	• Extension to the church to include a meeting room, toilets and a kitchen. • An extension on the side of the church giving us an independent village hall. • Extension of community centre and parking. • Extend church to have a village hall community centre. • Church extension. • Extend the church for village events. Proper WC. • A village hall with parking. • Get the extension to the church for meetings and events. Church extension with toilets so there is a functioning extension hub to the village. • Extend church community centre.
Allotments	• Children's allotments.
Events	• More village events please.
Shops	• Shop. • A local shop. Similar so you can get local, produce eggs, etc. • Local shop. Farm shop.
Parking	• A public parking space which can be used for events. The new garden area would have been ideal. Or the allotments could swap there. • Better parking near the village hall/church.
Access to the Vale	• A safe road to walk along through the Vale end of the village. • Pavement from the Vale to the bus stop.
Cycle path	• Bike path to Norwich.
Sports facilities	• Skate Park. • Basketball court.
Train station	• Train station.
Pool	• Community's sauna, spa, pool.
Activities for children	• Opportunities for children and young people to be creative. And express themselves safely. • A safe place for children to grow and thrive.
Facilities for elderly	• Community facilities for the elderly and lonely.
Misc	• There are folk in the village who worked their socks off. But it does not matter how hard they try. There will always those that are not interested, you can take a horse to water but can't
ACTION	Consider policy community facilities and amenities.

Category	BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT: What do we want for Swainsthorpe? e.g. new businesses, expanding businesses, types of businesses, home working, change of use Post-it note comments
Negative comments	• We have no facilities therefore no development thanks. Keep us a village. • No industrial buildings. • No industrial units. • Nothing industrial. • No large business units. • No industrial. • No industrial units.
Better internet	• Better Internet. • Better Internet. • Better Internet for homeworking. • To get better Internet connections to encourage homeworking and new small businesses. • Fibre optic cabling. • Fibre opportunities for small local community based businesses.
Shop/ coffee shop	• Shop. Coffee shop. • Shop. • The farm shop as originally planned in the lock ups at the pub.
Communal space	• Community canteen. • Social hub for those working from home. • Small business hub.
Misc	• Now that the defibrillator is in place perhaps people would like. I? as required.
ACTION	Consider policy on support for existing businesses.

Category	ACCESS IN THE PARISH: What do we want for Swainsthorpe? e.g. footpaths, cycleways, traffic, parking, crossing points Post-it note comments
Cycle track on A140	• Cycle track or footpath from Ipswich road through to the road that goes to Caister. There is a track on other side of A140 that comes. • Protect cycle and walking routes to Norwich. And further to Long Stratton.
Cycleway to Norwich	• Cycleway to Norwich. • Norwich cycle path.
Speeding	• Speed reduction scheme. •

Footpath and access to the Vale	• More footpaths, especially to the Vale. • Safety concern. A footpath from the Vale to village is created. • Very dangerous walking along road, especially at night. Youngsters who live in the Vale with no transport. • A pathway to the Vale. Speed limit to extend to the Vale. 30mph. • More footpaths, especially from the village to the Vale. • Footpath improvements around the village to the Vale. • No speed limit to the Vale and beyond.
Crossing of A140	• Safe crossings on Main road.
More footpaths	• More footpaths. • Keep footpaths as footpaths. Not horses. • Footpaths. • Increase the footpaths to encourage walking and appreciation of the local area.
Maintenance of footpaths	• Footpaths and bridleways to be accessible all year. • Regular maintenance of footpaths by parish council. Norfolk won't do it, so we need to. • Better maintenance of footpaths.
Dog areas	• More areas for dogs. • More dog walking areas.
Pavements	• Level foot paths for toddlers. Pushchairs and wheelchairs. • Better pavements off road.
A140 crossing	• Better crossing of A140 regarding traffic speed. • Better crossing of A140. Traffic speed. • Safer crossing on the A140 near the bus stop.
Decrease speed on A140	• Decrease the speed limit on the A140 to 40mph. This to be accompanied with better and bigger road markings and signage. • Reduce speed on A140 • Speed limits 40mph on A140. • Speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph on the A140. • 40mph on A140 through the village section.
Access to and from A140	• Maybe the introduction of an improved filter lane for turning right from the A140 into the village. • Easier access onto the A140 and a 40mph speed limit.
Parking	• Better parking for church/community centre.
Misc	• Absolutely vulnerable.
ACTION	Consider policies on road safety, footpaths and access.

Category	ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE: What do we want for Swainsthorpe? e.g. biodiversity, green corridors, areas for protection, important views, localised flooding, woodland
Protect countryside, walks and views	• Protect views, footpaths, wildlife and farmland • Protect our walks and views, leave our fields alone, look after our wildlife, keep our footpaths open. • Protect our walks in the immediate vicinity. This is essential for many and our mental health. • Keep the country walks open, people need to be respectful and clean up dog mess. • Protection of wildlife, fields, trees, hedgerows, views, walks and bridleways • Protect the views across the field from the A140 to the church. • Protect all the views in and around the village. • Keep the country walks open. • Natural areas protected. • Protect the green belt.
Dog mess	• Please clean up after your dog!! • People need to be respectful and clean up dog mess.
No more solar and battery farms	• No more solar farms or battery farms.
Water quality	• Protect water quality going into the Tas (catchment area).
Floodplain	• Care where floodplains exist.
Wildlife	• Look after wildlife. • Consideration for wildlife. • Protect the wildlife, the trees, bushes, etc where habitats are based.
Keep fields for farming	• Keep the fields for farming. • Keep fields for farming. • Protection of fertile land.
Trees and woodland	• Keep trees safe. Maintain woodland. Encourage rewilding. Wildlife community protects for gardens. • Community orchard with bees. • Protection of trees and hedges. • Tree planting scheme • Maintain the existing trees and fields.
Misc	• Community pig to fatten every year.
ACTION	Consider policies on protection of green spaces, important views, wildlife, trees and planting

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

What areas should the Neighbourhood Plan designate as Local Green Spaces?

- Big problem all night light pollution.
- Outside lights = £2000 fine.
- Established community garden.
- Protect park for children.
- Ensure local walks are accessible to all where possible.
- Protect all our green spaces as they are, and to protect them.
- We need to protect all our green spaces to encourage biodiversity.
- Interpretation for circular walk around Swainsthorpe.
- The Jubilee Garden, the land next to the recycling centre. The park. And play park.
- All green spaces need to be protected as they are valuable to the residents well-being.

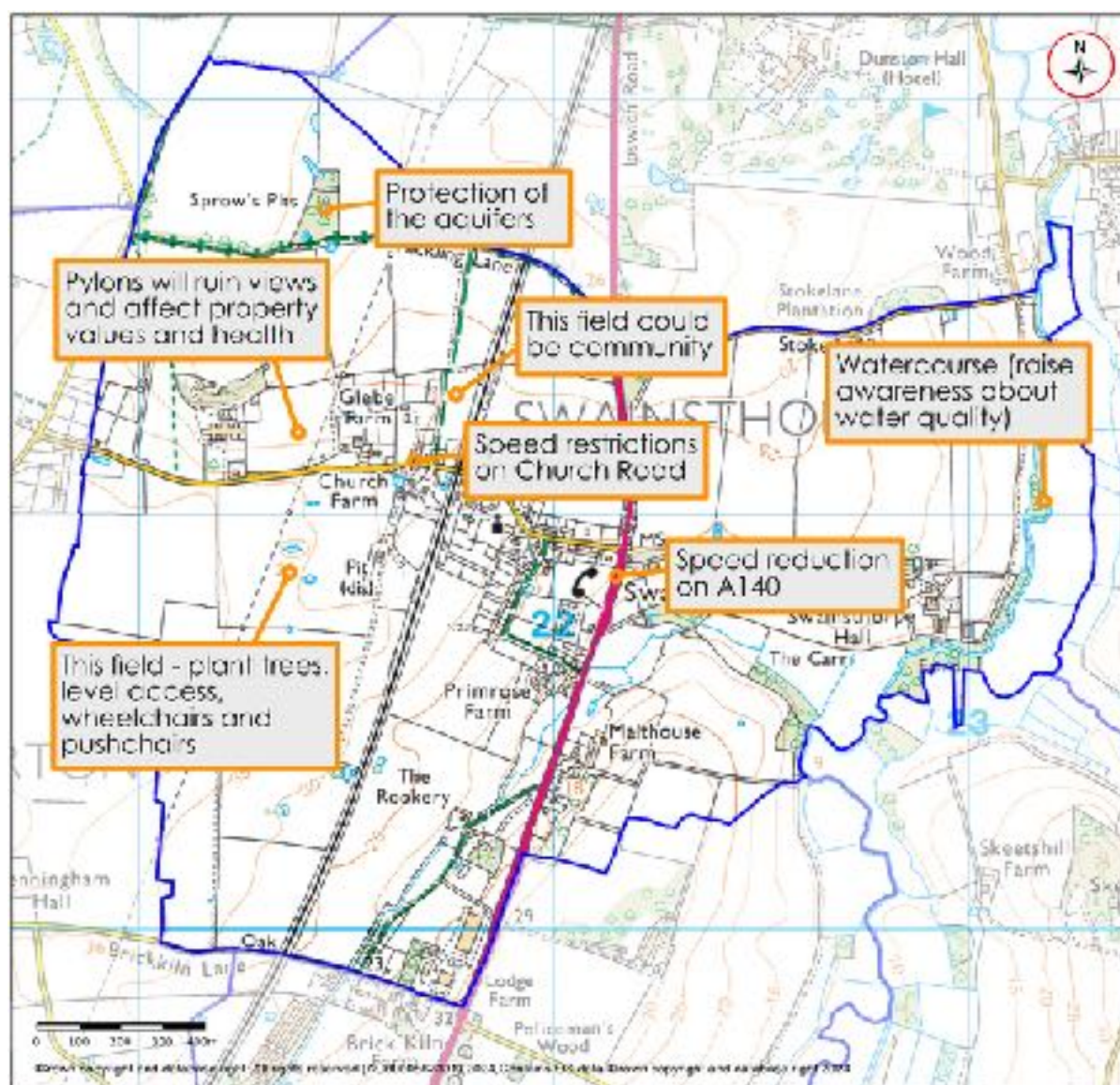
ACTION: Steering group to draw up list of potential Local Green Spaces for protection.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- Dog poo on field walks and paths. Please be responsible and bag it. Bin it.
- Keep the village as a village not as an estate.
- It would be great to get a proper warm meeting room and loo in Saint Peters Community Centre.
- Moved here for more peace, quiet, rural community, for our physical and mental health. Keep it that way.
- Any plan needs to be reviewed at least every five years.
- Plan needs to take account of climate change.
- Avoid sprawling housing estates.
- If it is green and keep it green.

FLAGS IN MAP

Use a flag to add any other issues, EG important green spaces, views, areas of flooding, etc.



FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. I wholeheartedly endorse its aims and visions but believe it could go a bit further in our direction.

I wrote to you and South Norfolk Council in 2020 on this subject but didn't even get the courtesy of an acknowledgement. Please see attached letters.

My specific comment and suggestion on the GNLCWIP is that the Horsford to Harford Route should be extended by the addition of a bridge over the A47 at Harford to connect the route to Mangreen as shown in the Google Earth image below. The line marked in green is in an existing lane that is no longer in use since it was cut by the A47. It therefore provides an excellent safe path/cycle route that would allow people from Swainsthorpe, Mulbarton, Swardston and Wrenningham and even further afield to access the Horsford to Harford route without using a main road. The minor roads around these villages are all good for cycling already so for the cost of a bridge over the A47 a great number of people could access the whole of Greater Norwich safely and easily.

Kind regards

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject Proposal for Cycle Route connecting Swainsthorpe to Hall Road, Norwich

As a resident of Swainsthorpe I like to cycle as much as possible, however the roads to Norwich are too busy and dangerous and must perforce use my car. Whilst walking in Mangreen I noted that there is an old road that used to connect Mangreen Lane to Short Road that connects to the Park and Ride car park. This road was cut when the A47 Southern Bypass was built and is now disused but remains in relatively good condition and is perfectly usable for pedestrians and cyclists.

I propose that a pedestrian/cycle bridge be built to span the A47 and reconnect the two halves of this old road. In addition, a cycle route should be established from the Law Road junction on the B1113 along the north west side of B1113 to the junction with the A140. There is an existing path here that would take very little to upgrade it to a cycle track. This would allow cyclists to link up to existing cycle routes on the A140 and Hall Road into Norwich.

I attach a Google Earth image with the proposed route marked in green running from Swardston Lane along an existing bridleway to Mangreen and then across the A47 to join Short Lane and thence along the B1113 to the A140 junction at Harford Bridge. If this cycle route were to be built it would serve Mulbarton and Swardston as well as Swainsthorpe and villages further afield. It would also allow cyclists from the south and east of Norwich to reach the countryside safely and easily rather than using the busy and unsafe A140 or B1113.

I hope this suggestion will be given serious consideration.

