

Feering Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

April 2021

1. Introduction

1. Feering Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of producing a neighbourhood plan by Braintree District Council (BDC) in March 2015. Following designation, a subcommittee of the Parish Council was established to oversee the production of the Feering Neighbourhood Plan (FNP), called the Feering Neighbourhood Plan Committee (NPC). During the production of the Neighbourhood Plan various engagement methods have been used by the NPC to raise awareness and generate feedback on the content of the Plan.
2. Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the submission of a Neighbourhood Plan to a Local Planning Authority to be accompanied by a Consultation Statement. The Regulations outline that the Consultation Statement should include the following information:
 - a) Details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
 - b) An explanation of how they were consulted;
 - c) A summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - d) A description of how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
3. This Consultation Statement will outline how the NPC have sought to engage and raise awareness of the production and emerging content of the FNP. Consultation events have ranged from short surveys at community events to yearly exhibitions combining presentations and surveys. The views of residents have been gathered and collated from written and spoken responses, a variety of small-scale questionnaires and several Parish wide surveys. These views have been used to inform the production of the FNP.
4. Section 2 of this Statement provides details for each stage of consultation and engagement in order to demonstrate that effective public engagement has taken place throughout the production of the FNP in accordance with the Regulations, and how this has shaped the FNP. Section 3 of this Statement summarises the outcomes of consultation on the draft FNP in relation to key topics included within the Plan. Section 4 provides a brief conclusion.

2. Consultation and engagement stages

5. Table 1 presents a summary of the public consultation events and engagement which have taken place since the designation of the Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan in 2015.

Date	Consultation event / action
January 2015	"Planning for our future" workshop
May 2015	Feering May Fayre - FNP information stand
October 2015	Character Workshop
January -April 2016	Housing needs survey commissioned from RCCE
February 2016	Workshop at Feering Primary school
February 2016	Drop-in event
March 2016	Kelvedon and Feering Business Networking Group meeting
June 2016	Feeringbury Medieval Fete - FNP stand
January 2017	Survey of Feering businesses
February 2017	Feering Neighbourhood Plan Open Day
May 2017	Feering May Fayre - FNP stand
June 2017	Feeringbury Medieval Fete - FNP stand & survey
November 2017	Parish Community survey
February 2018	Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition - results of the 2017 Community Survey & feedback
February 2018	Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group meeting
May 2018	Feering May Fayre - FNP stand
May 2019	Feering May Fayre - FNP stand
February 2020	Regulation 14 consultation

Table 1: Neighbourhood Plan consultation events and engagement

6. Throughout the production of the FNP updates have regularly been shared in the Feering Parish magazine. A Facebook page¹ was created in 2016 and updates were also shared through the Feering Parish Council website². Updates through these publications and websites ensured that the community has been kept informed on the progression of the Plan and have been able to support and engage in its production.
7. The following sections provide further details on the consultation events and engagement which has taken place to inform the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.1 Neighbourhood "Planning for our future" Workshop and Character Workshop, 2015

8. To assist the Parish Council in preparing for the production of a neighbourhood plan, the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) undertook an initial workshop on neighbourhood planning in January 2015. The workshop gained local interest in neighbourhood planning, encouraged volunteers to come forward and participate, and resulted in the establishment of the Feering Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Subcommittee, referred to as the Feering Neighbourhood Plan Committee (NPC).

¹ www.facebook.com/FeeringNP/?hc_ref=SEARCH

² www.feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-information.htm

9. In October 2015 a Character Workshop was held to identify and define different areas of the Parish.

2.2 Housing Needs Survey, January - April 2016

10. A housing needs survey of 815 households was conducted by the RCCE for the NPC between January and February 2016. A survey pack composed of a covering letter, a questionnaire and a freepost envelope were distributed to every household. Respondents replied by post with a close date of 28 February 2016. The RCCE report on the 220 responses received is presented in **Appendix 1**. A listing of the site suggestions and comments forms **Appendix 2**.
11. The survey enabled the NPC to understand the existing and future levels of housing need among the local population. Key information identified through the survey was as follows:
- 83% of respondents described their home as a house;
 - 58% of respondents owned their home outright & 33% owned their home with mortgage;
 - 63% of respondents needing to move predicted this would occur in the next 0-5 years;
 - 45% of respondents cited downsizing as a reason for moving and 40% cited a need for independent accommodation;
 - Issues identified through the survey included:
 - A need for affordable housing;
 - Concerns that new housing would strain existing infrastructure;
 - Concerns children of residents would be unable to afford housing in the village;
 - Worries new housing would incur a loss of the village character;
 - A need for improved traffic and circulation.
12. The information gained from the survey was used to inform the local housing needs evidence base for the plan.

2.3 Workshop at Feering Primary school, February 2016

13. A workshop was carried out by Feering Parish Councillor Paul Lees with 61 junior school pupils in years 4 & 5 & 6. The children were asked three questions:
- What do you like about Feering?
 - What do you dislike about Feering?
 - What would improve Feering?
14. The children liked that Feering is quiet, friendly and they liked the countryside, the park/playing field and going for walks. They disliked the volume of traffic and also the dog mess. The main improvements wanted were improved equipment in the park /playing field & more local shops - there are none that have goods for children / young people in Feering. A spreadsheet of the responses is presented in **Appendix 3**.

2.4 Drop-in event, February 2016

15. A drop-in event was organised in February 2016 at the Feering Community Centre. Attendees were reminded to complete the housing needs survey. Attendees were asked to comment on 8 themes being considered for the draft Neighbourhood Plan:
- | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| • The Vision statement | • Housing | • Village Character |
| • Community facilities / infrastructure | • Connectivity | • Environment |
| • Sites in the BDC Call for Sites | • General comments | |

16. The comments are presented in **Appendix 4**. Of the 53 attendees at the drop-in event, 38 identified their key issues and top priorities for Feering Parish as:

- Opposition to new housing;
- Protection of open green spaces;
- Increased capacity of medical services;
- Infrastructure first
- High traffic levels at the Inworth Road junction / through the villages; so need a link to take traffic from Tiptree to the A12
- Insufficient pavements e.g. on London Road, Inworth Road

17. Visitors also indicated their desired locations for potential new amenities on a map of Feering. The amenities and the sticky coloured dots were:

new village centre - yellow dot

new school - bright red dot

new community centre - beige dot

medical centre - dark blue dot

small retail outlets - black dot

appropriate employment uses - pale brownish/red dot

18. The map result is presented in **Appendix 5**. The preferred location for a "new" primary school was an expansion of the existing school site. Two locations were preferred for a new village centre - either east (behind Ridgeons) or west (behind Kings Gardens) of the north end of Inworth Road. A somewhat preferred location for a medical centre & local shops was the west side (behind Kings Gardens) of the north end of Inworth Road. The preferred location for appropriate employment facilities was around the existing Threshelfords Business Park. There was no desire for amenities to be located on the land between London Road and the railway line.

19. The information gained through the responses informed the production of the vision, aims and objectives of the draft plan.

2.4 Feeringbury Medieval Fete survey, June 2016 -2018

20. The 2016 Feeringbury Medieval Fete was used as an opportunity to conduct a 3 question survey among residents to gain further information on issues which should be considered within the Neighbourhood Plan. 17 respondents answered the following questions:

1. What do you think is good about Feering?
2. What don't you like about Feering?
3. What improvements would you like to see in Feering?

21. The results of the survey are presented in **Appendix 6**. Key information identified through the survey included:

- Most respondents valued Feering's sense of community and the parks
- Most respondents indicated traffic, parking and infrastructure quality were the main issues in Feering;
- Desired improvements in Feering included:
 - Increased shopping options;
 - Infrastructure improvements;
 - Diverse outdoor recreational facilities.

22. In each of the three years, the FNP stand was used to raise awareness of the production of the FNP and to listen to resident's views on issues affecting Feering. 2018 was the last Medieval Fete.

23. The information gained through the responses informed the production of the vision, aims and objectives of the draft plan.

2.5 Contacts with local businesses, March 2016 & January 2017

24. Contact was made twice with the relatively few businesses based in Feering. A joint networking meeting of Feering & Kelvedon businesses was held in March 2016. Of the 37 businesses who attended, only one was from Feering. The businesses included sole traders and 26 of the businesses had fewer than 5 employees.
25. In January-early February 2017, all local businesses in Feering Parish were emailed a short survey to establish their views on the draft Local Plan and the implications that it might have on their business and operations, as well as asking their opinion on parking, transport and community facilities that would help them attract and retain staff. They were also invited to the Neighbourhood Plan Open Day on the 25 February.

2.6 Neighbourhood Plan Open Day, 25 February 2017

26. An exhibition was held at the Feering Community Centre on Saturday 25 February 2017. The event was advertised through Facebook, banners and flyers delivered to each household in the village.

Leaflet informing residents of the Neighbourhood Plan Open Day, February 2017

	Feering Neighbourhood Plan - Open Day 25.02.17	
Up to 1,000 new homes for Feering!	Open Day - Drop in Exhibition Come along and meet the team working on our 'Neighbourhood Plan'. Share your ideas and views on issues that will affect the future of our village, such as housing, community assets, education, transport, employment and environment....	
Feering's Future... Braintree District Council are currently preparing a new district wide local plan which has identified Feering as a 'Strategic Growth' location with the potential to provide up to 1,000 new homes. This would more than double the size of our village!	Join us at our 'Open Day' to be held on: ■ Saturday 25th February 2017 ■ Anytime between 10.00am - 3.00pm ■ Feering Community Centre Coggeshall Road, Feering CO5 9QB	It's your village
Your chance to help shape the future of our village... By creating a Neighbourhood Plan, we can ensure that the views and aspirations of the Feering residents will be listened to.	Get More Involved... would you like to know more, join the team or help out? Please contact us at:	Please participate in the 'Feering Neighbourhood Plan'
The neighbourhood plan will carry legal weight in the planning system and once it is formally adopted, it will help guide the development, regeneration and conservation of our village.	- Facebook: Feering Neighbourhood Plan - Twitter: @np_feering - Email: feeringneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com - Website: www.essexinfo.net/feeringparishcouncil	'Have your say and help shape Feering's future!'

27. Braintree District Council had consulted on their Local Plan proposals in July 2016. This included the designation of Feering as a strategic growth location with up to 1000 new homes. 135 residents attended the Open Day at the Community Centre. Display boards, maps & the original SWOT analysis presented information and posed questions on what such a large

development could mean for Feering. Attendees were encouraged to consider some of the issues that the Neighbourhood Plan would need to address and explore some of the ways in which the aspirations expressed so far might be delivered. The display boards were organised into 8 topics:

- community and leisure facilities
- local businesses
- transport-getting around
- settlement and heritage
- housing & site preferences (with a map)
- economy - businesses used
- environment & open spaces (with a map)
- character statement & analysis

The display boards and the original SWOT analysis are presented in **Appendix 7**.

28. Attendees were encouraged to complete associated topic based questionnaires and to indicate their desired locations for amenities on a map of Feering. Visitors were also invited to contribute general comments on sticky notes and to add to the existing SWOT analysis. An additional map-based housing site preference & protected spaces question was added at short notice as there was a slight possibility that Feering might **not** be designated a strategic growth location for up to 1000 homes by Braintree District Council.

29. The outcomes of the questionnaire responses, maps, general comments & SWOT analysis were collated in a report produced by the NPC following the event. The report is presented in **Appendix 8**. The post-it note comments are listed in **Appendix 9**. A report on the replies of the 34 people who answered the housing site & protected spaces question forms **Appendix 10**.

30. Key feedback from this Open Day event includes:

- 37% of respondents recognised the village green as the historic village centre;
- Most people favoured east of the north end of Inworth Road (behind Ridgeons) as the location for a new village centre / community centre for an expanded village. However a significant minority favoured the west side of Inworth Road (behind Kings Gardens) or opposite the existing school / community centre.
- Most respondents favour expanding existing school facilities;
- Healthcare facilities (doctors / dentists) and a village shop were ranked as the most important services and facilities for the village;
- Existing traffic congestion would be exacerbated by new development;
- Insufficient train services;
- 40% of respondents indicated they move around the village on foot and 40% by car;
- Need for improved access to the A12 from Tiptree, bypassing Gore Pit corner;
- Respondents indicated they favour 1-2 bedroom homes and bungalows for future housing;
- Feedback on the character and heritage of Feering included:
 - Overwhelming support to maintain Feering's character;
 - Overwhelming consensus that Feering's special character is its small size and community feel;
 - Concerns that high traffic levels detract from the character of the village;
 - Concern regarding the impact of new development on the overall design of the village;
- General responses included:
 - Concern that the scale of new development would impact the village character;
 - New development would increase traffic, create congestion and endanger pedestrians.

31. Overall, the questionnaires and maps helped gather information on the main concerns of residents and their vision for Feering in 25 years. This feedback was used to inform the vision and draft policies in the Plan. This information also helped inform the Village Assessment and Design Guide prepared alongside the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Open day, February 2017



2.7 Feering Neighbourhood Plan at the Feering May Fayre, May 2017 - 2019

32. The NPC had a stand at the Feering May Fayre each year between 2017 and 2019. The stand provided the opportunity to raise awareness of the production of the FNP and to gain people's views on key issues affecting the area.

33. The May 2019 Fayre was used to provide updates on the draft Plan's progression and to seek feedback on important views of the Parish, safe road crossings, the protection of green spaces and sustainable transport (cycling, crossing points, pavements, street lighting). The written feedback comments are presented in **Appendix 11**. The feedback from the event was used to inform the drafting of the FNP.

2.8 Parish Community survey, November 2017

34. In November-2017, two copies of a community survey were hand delivered by Feering volunteers to every home in the Parish for residents to complete. The survey was also available at the Parish Council office and online via Survey Monkey. There were scheduled pick up days in November for completed surveys and the surveys could also be dropped off at several locations including the Parish Council office, The Bell public house, The Sun Inn and the Master Butcher.

Flyer announcing the community survey, November 2017



Dear Feering Residents and Businesses . . .

You may have attended one of our open day events and seen first hand the potential challenges and opportunities that our village and parish face in light of the proposed Braintree District Council (BDC) Local Plan, in particular the Crown Estate's proposals for Feering for up to 1,000 new homes. A development of this scale would more than **double the size of our current village** and this does not include any development proposals being planned in Kelvedon.

Many of you have told us what you like about Feering; the village feel, its character, open space and strong sense of community, whilst also being concerned at the potential impact of a development of this scale, including traffic, transport infrastructure, amenities and loss of open space.

As you may already be aware; Feering Parish Council have applied to submit a 'Neighbourhood Plan' on behalf of the village and have established a 'working group' who are working hard to bring the plan together - Neighbourhood Plans carry legal weight in the planning system and once formally adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will help guide the future development, regeneration and conservation of our village.

Once completed, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Braintree District Council who will in turn subject the proposed plan to an independent examination before it can be formally adopted (*please refer over for timeline details*).

Following this examination and in order to bring the plan into force, it will be shared with the parish and put to a public referendum which in order to get the plan adopted will need more than 50% of the returning votes being 'Yes'

There are many 'hurdles' for us to get our 'Village Neighbourhood Plan' formally adopted and the team are progressing well with the task in hand and are gathering evidence to support the various policy proposals, but at the heart of this plan we want to ensure that we have engaged and sought the views of the whole community.

We would really appreciate your support in assisting us by completing the upcoming 'Community Questionnaire' which will provide us with valuable feedback and evidence!

Thank you from all us at FPC and the 'Neighbourhood Planning' Team

What BDC's emerging local plan means for Feering?

- Up to 1,000 new homes
- Appropriate affordable housing as per the Council's requirement
- Employment uses to support the new community
- Location for a new primary school or community centre
- Community facilities including a contribution to or location for new NHS facilities
- Retail provision
- Public open space - informal and formal recreation space
- Cycle and pedestrian access between all parts of the development and the village
- Provision for a Gypsy and Traveller site



Let's make a plan . . . Watch out for your Community Questionnaire!



The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be backed up by a variety of evidence and the views of the community are key to ensuring we have a robust and evidenced plan

We need to know what kind of Feering you want to hand to future generations, what you think we need, what you would like to see preserved and what you want improved. Your feedback will be invaluable in supporting the policies and guidance to be included in Feering's proposed neighbourhood plan.

Your Community Questionnaire is currently being finalised and will be distributed across the parish over the course of the next few weeks. It will also be possible to access and complete the questionnaire online as well – details to follow.



Please look out for your 'Community Questionnaire'

Your feedback will be invaluable and will help shape Feering's Future!

35. 627 completed surveys were returned. The survey was designed to understand the current and future needs of the local population. The questions expanded on past surveys and questionnaires and included a section aimed at youth aged 17 and under.
36. Detailed analyses and charts of the survey responses are on the Feering Parish Council website.. <https://www.feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-information.htm>. Summaries of the Community Survey were presented at the Feering Neighbourhood Plan exhibition in February 2018 - see Section 2.8 and also Appendices 12a-12g.

2.8.1 Transport and Infrastructure

37. A number of locally specific issues regarding transport and infrastructure improvements were raised in the community questionnaire. Key findings from the community survey relating to transport and infrastructure included:
 - 71% of respondents travelled by car or van most days to move around Feering.
 - 59% of respondents moved around the village on foot most days; but only 15% moved around by bike or by bus once per week or more often.
 - 74% of respondents used the A12 towards Colchester most frequently when travelling in and out of Feering.
 - 73% of respondents used the A12 towards Witham/Chelmsford most frequently when travelling in and out of Feering.
 - 62% of respondents used Inworth Road most frequently when travelling in and out of Feering. Inworth Road leads to the farm shop and Tiptree.
 - 97% of respondents do not think that the current road and rail infrastructure has the capacity to support an increased population.
 - 83% of respondents ranked reducing heavy goods traffic and congestion within Feering village as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
 - 88% of respondents ranked improving access to Tiptree to and from the A12 by passing Feering as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
 - 74% of respondents ranked improvements to the Blue Anchor / Gore Pit / Inworth Road junction as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
 - 74% of respondents ranked improving A12 Junction 24 Feering North to be all-ways as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
 - 65% of respondents ranked improving access to Coggeshall to and from the A12, bypassing Feering as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
 - 63% of respondents ranked improving train capacity and frequency towards London as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
 - 60% of respondents ranked improving the Station Road / Kelvedon High Street junction as crucial and 51% ranked improving the Coggeshall Road / London Road junction as crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.

- 47% of respondents ranked the provision of more public car parking, including station parking, as a crucial transport infrastructure & safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
- 41% of respondents ranked improving and developing pavements as a crucial transport infrastructure and safety improvement if more homes are built in Feering.
- 362 respondents, 58%, would like to see new cycle paths introduced around the village and to connect with nearby villages.

2.8.2 Residential development - housing

38. Key findings from the community survey relating to residential development included:

- 35% strongly agreed & 49% agreed that future development should provide 2 bed housing.
- 32% strongly agreed & 52% agreed that future development should provide bungalows.
- 23% strongly agreed & 65% agreed that future development should provide semi-detached housing.
- 28% strongly agreed & 55% agreed that future development should provide retirement accommodation.
- 31% strongly disagreed & 25% disagreed that future development should provide flats.
- 65% strongly agreed & 29% agreed that affordable housing should be offered first to those with local family or local connections.
- 39% strongly agreed & 53% agreed future development should include starter homes.
- 34% strongly agreed & 54% agreed that homes of different sizes, types & tenures should be mixed throughout developments
- 41% strongly agreed & 44% agreed that future development should be built to lifetime standards.
- 42% strongly agreed & 52% agreed that future development should be built to be energy efficient (e.g. solar panels on the roof)
- 20% strongly agreed & 60% agreed that future development should offer facilities for charging electric cars
- 85% strongly agreed & 13% agreed that it is important to keep a buffer zone of open countryside between Feering and other developments to prevent merging with other settlements.
- 72% strongly agreed & 23% agreed that it is important to provide privacy screening / buffers between existing housing and new developments.

2.8.3 Local Facilities and Services

39. A number of locally specific issues regarding the provision of local services for existing and additional needs from future development were raised in the community survey, including:

- 70% would use a swimming pool if it were included as part of new development (*Note: there is a swimming pool at Prested Hall, Feering*)
- 74% strongly agreed and 21% agreed that a doctor / medical centre should form part of future development. And, 87% of respondents would use a comprehensive medical centre in Feering if one was built.
- Over 85% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that a pharmacy, a dentist and a post office should form part of future development.

- 63% strongly agreed and 32% agreed that a future development should include a village shop.
- Of the 172 respondents with children who replied, 59% agreed a new primary school should be built to accommodate additional needs from future development while 40% agreed that the existing school site should be expanded (*Note: in the autumn of 2017, the future structure of Feering primary school was uncertain; the school became an academy in March 2018*)

2.8.4 Business and Economy

40. Key findings from the community survey relating to local business and employment included:

- 59% agreed employment facilities included in future development should extend the existing Threshelfords site.
- 44% agreed employment facilities should include small business units.
- 48% thought that any employment / business / industrial units / workshops should be located around Threshelfords / south east towards the current A12 in map location E.

2.8.5 Natural Environment

41. A number of locally specific issues regarding the natural environment and recreational uses were raised in the community survey, including:

- 96% said we should protect Feering Playing Field, 92% the Feering Village Green, 90% the cricket pitches and 91% the Riverside Walk.
- 77% agreed future development should include a woodland as a wildlife protected area and 76% agreed future development should include a publicly accessible community woodland or orchard.
- 72% agreed future development should introduce more footpaths and cycle routes within Feering and 69% support a footpath and cycle route to Coggeshall.
- 36% strongly agreed and 44% agreed that flooding within Feering is a concern.
- 74% strongly agreed and 22% agreed that it is important to preserve the habitat of birds and other animals in Feering.
- 76% strongly agreed and 21% agreed it is important to preserve existing hedge rows and mature trees.

2.8.6 Community Survey - key conclusions

42. Key conclusions from the survey results identified that the respondents:

- Want to preserve the village character and green spaces;
- Want 2-3 bed homes, bungalows and retirement accommodation;
- Prioritise improved access to Tiptree from the A12 bypassing Feering; want improved all-ways A12 junctions; prioritise reduced heavy goods traffic through Feering;
- Want a medical centre as part of future development;
- Want infrastructure improvements delivered prior to future development;
- Do not want development that exacerbates traffic problems.

43. The information gained from the survey was used to inform the vision, and provide evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and draft policies.



Hard copy of the community survey, November 2017

2.9 Feering Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition, 3 February 2018

44. An exhibition was held in February 2018 to present the results of the November 2017 community survey, the draft vision statement and draft policy ideas. A month earlier, in January 2018, leaflets were distributed to update residents on the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan and announce the exhibition. The exhibition provided the opportunity to share the results of the community survey and generate further discussions based on these responses. Display boards that conveyed the data gathered from the community survey and presented draft policy ideas are in **Appendices 12a-12g**.
45. The information gained from the event was used to gather feedback on the vision statement, draft policies ideas and guide the general direction of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

FNP Community Centre exhibition, February 2018 - Leaflet

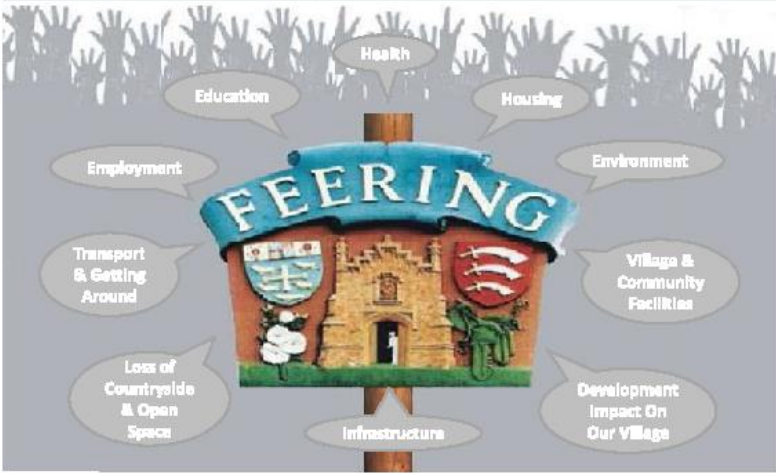
Feering Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition

Saturday 3rd February 2018

Come along anytime between 10.00am – 2.00pm

Feering Community Centre
 Coggeshall Road, Feering CO5 9QB

Please Support & Help Shape Feering's Future
 Your Village – Your Plan – Your Say



Community Survey

Come along and see the results of the survey and let us know your thoughts ...




Neighbourhood Plan

Come along to find out more including the anticipated timeline and stages ...



Feering NP Photography Winner


Winners of the Feering NP 'Photography Competition' to be announced and displayed ...

January 2018 / Produced on behalf of Feering Parish Council & Feering Neighbourhood Planning Group

FNP Community Centre exhibition, February 2018 - display boards, etc



2.10 Regulation 14 consultation, February-March 2020

46. The Regulation 14 consultation began on 7th February 2020 and ended on 29th March 2020, just after the COVID pandemic lockdown had started. An exhibition was held at the Community Centre on the 7th and 8th February to launch the Regulation 14 consultation. The exhibition featured display boards with information on the draft FNP policies for interested members of the public to ask questions and learn more about the FNP consultation.
47. The exhibition and Regulation 14 consultation were advertised through the Parish magazine, the Parish Facebook page, noticeboards and a banner in the village.

Flyer announcing the public exhibition for the 2020 Regulation 14 consultation



Banner announcing the public exhibition for the 2020 Regulation 14 consultation



48. Consultation questionnaires were posted to every household and business in the Parish. The questionnaires were also available online and could be completed on Survey Monkey. Questionnaires could also be completed in person and submitted during the exhibition. Completed hard copy questionnaires could be dropped off at the Feering Parish Council Office in the Feering Community Centre, All Saints Church, The Bell Pub, The Sun Inn, Do-Dahs Hairdressers and the Prested Hall Health Club.
49. The draft Plan was available on the Feering Parish Council website and physical copies were available for public inspection at the Feering Parish Council Office in the Feering Community Centre, All Saints Church, and several other locations in the village.
50. 107 responses were received from residents to the Regulation 14 consultation. Statutory and key stakeholders were notified and informed directly about the consultation by email. Responses were received from the following statutory consultees and neighbouring parish councils:
 - Anglian Water; National Grid;
 - Historic England;
 - Natural England;
 - Environment Agency;
 - Highways England;
 - Braintree District Council; Essex County Council
 - Kelvedon Parish Council; Coggeshall Parish Council



Public exhibition on 7th & 8th February 2020 launching the Regulation 14 consultation

51. An analysis of Feering residents "agree / not agree" (yes/no) replies to the Regulation 14 policies is presented in **Appendix 13**. Generally over 85% or more residents agreed with the FNP Regulation 14 policies proposed. There was less agreement with:

- Policy 1 New development - 37% disagreed (replied "no")
- Policy 2 development site masterplanning - 19% disagreed (replied "no")
- Policy 4 Housing - 22% disagreed (replied "no")

52. **Appendix 14** lists the consultation comments made and presents an assessment of each comment by the NPC. Table 1, pages 1-63, are the comments made by the statutory consultees. Table 2, pages 64-130, are the comments made by Feering residents. An assessment of the consultation responses was undertaken by the NPC considering if a change was required to the Plan as a result of the consultation comments provided. Each consultation response was coloured coded as follows:

Change required to meet NP basic conditions
Change could be made, NPC to consider
No change recommended

53. No changes were required to the Plan as a result of consultation comments provided in order to meet the requirements of the neighbourhood plan basic conditions. Where the potential need for a change was identified, the table within **Appendix 14** outlines the amendments made to the Regulation 14 draft Feering Neighbourhood Plan.

The most common issues raised within consultation representations related to the wording of policies within the Plan, where many respondents felt the wording used should be stronger allowing less flexibility within the interpretation of the policy requirements. Other topics regularly raised within consultation representations related to:

- Views on the quantity of development which should be allowed in the area
- The approaches to improving the Inworth Road and A12 junctions
- Traffic and congestion in the area
- Infrastructure capacity and provision
- Housing affordability
- Provision of local services and facilities
- Planning obligations and conditions which should be placed on new development in the area

- The viability of development
- Provision of pedestrian and cycle paths
- Provision of employment in the area
- Water drainage and the provision of sustainable urban drainage
- Use of the Essex Design Guide
- Protecting the character of the village
- Provision of green infrastructure

54. The Regulation 14 consultation informed the production and finalisation of the submission version of the Feering Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Consultation conclusions for key topic areas

55. The following section summarises feedback gained from all Neighbourhood Plan related consultation activities in relation to key topic areas included within the Plan. This information was used to guide the production of policies within the draft FNP.

3.1 Transport and infrastructure

56. Transport & infrastructure questions from the community survey and earlier surveys identified that the local community has significant concerns about the ability of the existing transport network to accommodate additional growth in the area. The Neighbourhood Plan has therefore sought to identify infrastructure improvements which should be provided alongside growth in the area. Neighbourhood Plan policies seek further information on future infrastructure improvements in the area to be developed through the proposed masterplanning process.

57. This feedback helped to inform the development of draft FNP Policy 9 Moving Around and FNP Policy 11 Developer Contributions to Community Infrastructure.

3.2 Residential development - housing

58. Housing & development questions from the community survey and earlier surveys identified that:

- In the November 2017 community survey, over 75% of respondents saw a need for 2-bedroom homes & bungalows and retirement accommodation. 60% of respondents were against the building of flats - there are currently none in Feering.
- The February 2017 open-day results also showed a desire for smaller homes for first time buyers or for downsizing, bungalows and sheltered accommodation.
- The 2016 RCCE Housing Needs survey also showed a need for 2 bedroom homes.

59. Survey results indicated strong support for future development to be suitable for first time buyers or retirement-age buyers downsizing.

60. This feedback helped to shape the development of draft FNP Policy 1 New Development Allocations within the Parish, FNP Policy 2 Masterplanning Site F1 and Policy 4 Housing.

3.3 Character and design

61. Character and design related questions within the community survey and earlier surveys identified that:

- In the November 2017 community survey, 80% said 'village' best described Feering and 76% said 'green and open spaces'.
 - Feedback from the February 2017 Open day showed a strong consensus that traffic and a lack of amenities (shops & medical facilities) were the main detractors from Feering's character.
 - 81% of respondents from the 2017 Open day questionnaires favoured new development which harmonised with the existing style of housing.
62. Consultation feedback helped to shape the development of draft FNP Policy 2 Masterplanning Site F1, FNP Policy 3 Design and the Village Assessment and Design Guide.

3.4 Local Services

63. Feedback from the community survey and earlier surveys identified that there is a need for additional services and facilities in the area. Consultation highlighted the need for a medical centre to be included in proposals for growth in the area, in addition to a need for a pharmacy, dentist, shop, and post office. Additional primary education infrastructure will be required to support growth in the area, however consultation responses were mixed regarding how this should be implemented.
64. This consultation feedback helped to shape the development of draft FNP Policy 8 Community and Leisure Facilities.

3.5 Business and Economy

65. Feedback from the community survey and earlier surveys identified that there is support for the extension of Threshelfords, and this area should provide a good location for future new employment opportunities.
66. This feedback helped to inform the development of draft FNP Policy 10 Business and Economy.

3.6 Natural Environment

67. Landscape and environment questions from the community survey and earlier surveys identified that there is significant support for the protection of existing green spaces, hedgerows, and wildlife habitats in the Parish, and significant support for the creation of additional green infrastructure as part of any new development in the area.
68. This feedback helped to shape the development of draft FNP Policy 2 Masterplanning Site F1, Policy 5 Heritage, Policy 6 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure and Policy 7 Flood Management.

3.7 Historic Environment

69. Historic environment related questions from questionnaires and surveys identified a strong consensus for the protection of heritage assets.
70. This feedback helped to shape the development of draft FNP Policy 5 Heritage and the separate Village Assessment and Design Guide.

4. Conclusion

71. Throughout all of the consultation and engagement undertaken to inform the production of the draft FNP, the aim has been to establish:
- What the community values and wants to preserve;
 - What the community is concerned about and wants to improve; and
 - How the community wants to achieve these outcomes.
72. Approximately 673 comments were received to the Regulation 14 public consultation on the draft FNP. Responses were received from a wide range of residents, landowners, developers, businesses, and organisations. As outlined in section 2.9 above and in **Appendix 13**, changes have been made to the draft FNP to reflect the consultation comments received.
73. The residents of Feering Parish have been provided many opportunities since 2015 to participate in and formulate the content of the FNP. The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced using the extensive information gained through the consultation events and engagement outlined within this Statement and accompanying appendices. This has resulted in the production of a Plan which has been amended and refined throughout the production process as a result of consultation and engagement.
74. This Statement demonstrates that the NPC has, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and Government guidance, sought the views of residents of the Parish and beyond through effective public consultation and engagement. Through this process, the production of the FNP has comprehensively taken account of the views of stakeholders within the Parish and beyond.

List of Appendices

1. Appendices 1 & 2 Housing Needs

- Appendix 1: Housing Needs Survey - RCCE report (2016)
- Appendix 2: Housing Needs Survey - Site suggestions & comments RCCE (2016)

2. Appendix 3: Feering Primary School Survey (Feb 2016)

3. Appendices 4 & 5 FNP Drop-in Event Feb 2016

- Appendix 4: FNP Drop-in Event - comments (Feb 2016)
- Appendix 5: FNP Drop-in Event - Amenities dot map (Feb 2016)

4. Appendix 6: Feeringbury Medieval Fete Survey (June 2016)

5. Appendices 7 - 10 FNP Open Day 2017

- Appendix 7: FNP Open Day Display boards and SWOT analysis (Feb 2017)
- Appendix 8: FNP Open Day (Feb 2017) - Report
- Appendix 9: FNP Open Day - comments (Feb 2017)
- Appendix 10: FNP Open Day - added site question report (Feb 2017)

6. Appendix 11: FNP stand at FeeringMay Fayre (May 2019)

7. Appendices 12a-12g FNP Exhibition Feb 2018

- Appendix 12a: FNP Exhibition -Moving Around (Feb 2018)
- Appendix 12b: FNP Exhibition -Housing (Feb 2018)
- Appendix 12c: FNP Exhibition -Community & Leisure (Feb 2018)
- Appendix 12d: FNP Exhibition -Education (Feb 2018)
- Appendix 12e: FNP Exhibition -Healthcare (Feb 2018)
- Appendix 12f: FNP Exhibition -Business & Economy (Feb 2018)
- Appendix 12g: FNP Exhibition -Landscape & Environment (Feb 2018)

8. Appendices 13 & 14 Regulation 14 consultation

- Appendix 13: FNP Reg 14 consultation- agree/disagree policy responses (Feb 2020)
- Appendix 14: FNP Reg 14 consultation - comment responses summary and an assessment of the comments by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee