

Case studies  
**Planning**

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## **FOREWORD**

The planning case studies publication highlights how local councils have best used the planning system to help their communities. These are examples of best practices and demonstrate actions to tackle planning issues locally.

The publication is divided into several topics; appealing relevant planning decisions, creating effective planning committees, delivering greener planning outcomes, informing the draft local plan, informing planning strategies, influencing development design, neighbourhood planning, spending of community benefit monies and supporting the development of affordable and social housing.

If your council has done something similar, don't hesitate to contact NALC at [policycomms@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:policycomms@nalc.gov.uk).

## **APPEALING RELEVANT PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **Saffron Walden Town Council, Essex**

Electorate: 18,000

Precept: £1,200,000

Expenditure: £1,374,913

Saffron Walden Town Council (SWTC) has acted as a Rule 6 Party at numerous planning appeals, standing firm in representing its residents' needs, wants and desires.

The most recent Rule 6 Party was formed in 2022 in partnership with Swards End Parish Council. Whilst on this occasion, the planning inspector found in favour of the developer, the Rule 6 Party was able to influence and guide the final outcome, resulting in the junction of the primary highway from the development being amended to increase sight lines and secure Section 106 community contributions.

SWTC firmly believes in the right to act as a Rule 6 Party and, in doing so, has strengthened its own knowledge, expertise and evidence base amongst officers and councillors. The council then uses this knowledge to respond to planning applications generally and in pre-application discussions with developers and the local planning authority.

## **CREATING EFFECTIVE PLANNING COMMITTEES**

### **Chebsey Parish Council, Staffordshire**

Electorate: 457

Precept: £7,392.46

Expenditure: £9,894

Chebsey Parish Council meets regularly to discuss all planning applications. Thorough consideration is given to each application using the same criteria to provide consistency to all applicants. The council has a dedicated councillor and deputy who keep a check on outstanding applications and give the council updates at each meeting.

Extra-ordinary meetings inform the community of any applications that may directly affect their day-to-day living (e.g., social housing applications and the Meecebrook project).

### **Cranbrook Town Council, Devon**

Electorate: 4,627

Precept: £618,312

Expenditure: £1,838,070

As a new town council, Cranbrook has had to get to grips with delivering the first new town in Devon since the Middle Ages. As a learning exercise, the planning committee adopted a planning monitoring report as a standard agenda item. Each

application is recorded along with the committee's recommendation. This is then compared with each local planning authority (LPA) determination. Where there is a difference, the committee considers the planning officer's rationale to understand better why the committee's recommendation was not upheld.

In some instances, the committee has been resolute in pressing the LPA to apply its policies consistently and in others to learn and adapt their own expectations in light of LPA decisions. The council has also worked collaboratively with significant developers to understand their approach equally to influence future development in light of lessons learnt.

### **Eccleshall Parish Council, Staffordshire**

Electorate: 4,000

Precept: £79,151

Expenditure: £92,295

Eccleshall Parish Council's Planning Committee considers planning applications submitted to Stafford Borough Council that fall within the parish's boundaries. The planning committee has to raise the views and concerns of parish residents. Parish councillors also use their local knowledge and awareness of local concerns and opinions when discussing planning matters. The planning committee meets every two weeks on a Wednesday, as the council must consider applications within 21 days of receipt.

### **Headley Parish Council, Hampshire**

Electorate: 4,471

Precept: £156,600

Expenditure: £191,830

Headley Parish Council's Planning Committee meets on the first Monday of the month. The council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the parish, including tree applications. At its meetings, the committee reviews each application. It formulates and agrees its comments to forward to the Local Planning Authority, East Hampshire District Council. All Headley meetings, including planning committee meetings, are open to the public and press.

### **Shenley Village Parish Council, Hertfordshire**

Electorate: 3,231

Precept: £97,096

Expenditure: £88,233

Shenley Village Parish Council's Planning Committee consists of four councillors and a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group representative in an advisory role, and they meet when required. The committee has delegated power to consider all planning applications concerning Shenley parish and to respond to Hertsmere Borough Council. Some of the committee's responsibilities include studying relevant plans and visiting relevant sites, making recommendations to the parish council on how to respond to each application, monitoring the general environment of the parish and reporting any potential planning breaches to the

local planning authority. The parish clerk communicates to the local planning authority the committee's decision regarding applications considered.

### **West Bergholt Parish Council, Essex**

Electorate: 2,617

Precept: £115,867

Expenditure: £168,689

Over many years, West Bergholt Parish Council has improved the planning agenda for the benefit of both the planning committee and members of the public. It is incorporated into the "notice of meeting", which is posted physically and electronically by statutory time limits.

The current format of this notice is as follows:

- Time, date and location of the meeting.
- Authorisation of the Planning Committee to decide on applications on the published agenda is stated.
- Clarification that for applications that post-date the publishing of the agenda, the application will be discussed, but the Planning Committee can only make a recommendation. The application will then appear on the next parish council published agenda.

The planning agenda consists of the following:

- Welcome, and apologies.
- Declarations of interests.
- Minutes and actions from the previous meeting.
- Public participation and to receive any pre-application representations.
- To discuss and make decisions on applications:
  - Planning Application No (e.g. 111111)
  - Location (e.g. 15 The Street, Anywhere)
  - Consultation end date (DD/MM/YY).

The planning application number is hyperlinked to the district planning authority website with planning application details. It can be used by both councillors and parishioners before the meeting to examine the application and by the committee, clerk to project the information onto a large screen during the meeting.

## **DELIVERING GREENER PLANNING OUTCOMES**

Gamlingay Parish Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 2,944

Precept: £220,650

Expenditure: £282,431

Gamlingay Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in November 2022 after seven years of hard work. It encourages sustainable local travel with a policy requiring all new development to provide money for new footpaths and cycleways. This is secured by a unilateral undertaking through the statutory

planning authority (South Cambridgeshire). It identifies areas of sensitive local character and guides developers and landowners on the community's needs in the future. It also allocates one housing site that has yet to fruition and meets the community's housing needs for the next five years.

## **INFORMING THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

### **Hadstock Parish Council, Essex**

Electorate: 287

Precept: £12,040

Expenditure: £13,410

Hadstock Parish Council completed the Uttlesford District Council Local Plan parish settlement survey. The purpose of the survey was to check the services and facilities in the parish. This was to inform the development of the new draft local plan, particularly the descriptive profile of each settlement and the hierarchy of settlements.

## **INFORMING PLANNING STRATEGIES**

### **Ryde Town Council, Isle of Wight**

Electorate: 24,000

Precept: £1,400,000

Expenditure: £995,732

In 2020, Ryde Town Council developed a position statement setting out the town council's position on planning matters. Ryde Town Council's Planning Committee formulated this statement to positively inform the Isle of Wight Council's emerging Island Planning Strategy before the document is submitted for consultation.

The position statement included the town council's positions on the following:

- Heritage, including protection of heritage assets.
- The local economy of Ryde.
- Housing, including delivery and affordable housing.
- Infrastructure, including the road network.
- The environment, including ecology and flood risk.

Many of the council's recommendations were adopted in full. Nothing that Ryde Town Council considered crucial to include in the Island Planning Strategy during the consultation process was omitted.

Ryde Town Council is now considering any amendments that may be required to further inform the emerging Island Planning Strategy.



## **INFLUENCING DEVELOPMENT DESIGN**

### **Huncote Parish Council, Leicestershire and Rutland**

Electorate: 20,352

Precept: £739,280

Expenditure: £64,021

Huncote Parish Council mapped and overlaid the neighbourhood plan, local plan, major local planning applications, public rights of way, public land ownership and electoral boundary changes to publicly showcase how each change could impact moving forward. The council also utilised road noise maps to arrange tree planting on land adjacent to a motorway to reduce noise/pollution.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

### **Bracknell Town Council, Berkshire**

Electorate: 89,138

Precept: £2,006,773

Expenditure: £1,082,855

The Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan was made in October 2021 for the period to 2036. The plan will be reviewed every five years to ensure it's still relevant and will help protect Bracknell's distinctive character and green spaces. It will also ensure that the views of residents, as incorporated in the made plan, will have to be taken into account by the local planning authority (Bracknell Forest Council) when determining planning applications. Suggestions from local residents that are beyond the plan's scope are being included by Bracknell Town Council as community projects.

### **Braughing Parish Council, Hertfordshire**

Electorate: 1,076

Precept: £42,817

Expenditure: £94,894

Braughing Parish Council devised a neighbourhood plan with the view to improving the parish, providing new facilities and allocating key sights for development. The plan includes sites that would be used for housing. East Hertfordshire District Council (the local planning authority) are in the process of preparing its local plan, and this plan does not include any site allocations for Braughing. Braughing will be allocating their sites for housing to meet the population growth of 10% using their neighbourhood plan.

### **Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council, Kent**

Electorate: 20,352

Precept: £739,280

Expenditure: £734,824

Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council's first neighbourhood plan was 'made' in 2021 for the period 2018-2031, with the draft second edition currently being with the examiner. The plan was put together with the aid of a sub-committee made up of councillors and residents and also took into account comments made by the community during the consultation period.

The plan and its policies have helped with the preservation of unique characteristics around the town. The plan has also developed short- and long-term community projects, many of which have already been implemented to address issues within the town or add to the community. The second edition will include additional policies under the council's environment section to ensure it becomes more sustainable and reacts to climate change.

### **Biddulph Town Council, Staffordshire**

Electorate: 15,646

Precept: £397,030

Expenditure: £757,408

Biddulph Town Council has developed a neighbourhood plan and complementary neighbourhood development order for the town. It is pretty unusual to develop the two documents together, but it was considered appropriate following a comprehensive householder survey. The council has also undertaken additional environmental surveys to ensure that there is a clear understanding of wildlife corridors/networks, habitat distinctiveness and the nature recovery network. Having started from a relatively low base, the group has ensured there is now appropriate mapping information to guide appropriate development.

### **Buckland Parish Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**

Electorate: 626

Precept: £34,256

Expenditure: £51,365

Buckland Parish Council's first neighbourhood plan was 'made' in 2015, and its policies were soon used successfully at planning appeals to support the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) case for refusal of planning consent. An updated neighbourhood plan was 'made' in 2022, and its policies are proving equally effective in the determination of applications by the LPA. The local community was involved throughout in drawing up the policies for the initial plan and the revised plan, which gained a 98% vote in favour at a referendum.

### **Calne Town Council, Wiltshire**

Electorate: 14,132

Precept: £1,331,656

Expenditure: £1,722,058

In 2018 the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan, developed by Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council, was declared made by Wiltshire Council. The plan was designed to safeguard and future-proof the Calne and Calne Without neighbourhood area. In particular, it was created to ensure development follows infrastructure, ensure the creation of employment, tackle issues important to the town and surrounding parishes and create a framework of where and how the community's aspirations for the future could be achieved. Equally, it will protect the community's heritage and improve and support tourism in the area.

The plan is now being reviewed and updated, allowing local people to update their 'shared vision' for future development in the area. As part of this review, a survey has been created for the community to answer questions including: 'How do you feel about housing provision in our area?', 'Do you think the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan should continue to contain policies to influence how future housing is planned and delivered within Calne and Calne Without?' and 'What are your current and future housing needs?'

### **East Drayton Parish Council, Nottinghamshire**

Electorate: 208

Precept: £3,579

Expenditure: £13,309

East Drayton Parish Council has been working on the development of a neighbourhood plan. Although held up by COVID-19 in 2020/21, a consultant was appointed at the end of 2022, and two technical support packages are nearing completion. The community has been involved in two public consultation meetings and a village survey. Local business and working-from-home surveys have also been undertaken. The community has had an input into the process and will continue to do so. The end result will benefit the community in terms of suitable housing provision, green spaces and improved infrastructure.

### **Fairford Town Council, Gloucestershire**

Electorate: 3,189

Precept: £179,425

Expenditure: £168,592

Fairford Town Council has recently adopted a progressive neighbourhood plan that replaces an unsuitable local plan housing allocation with one in a more sustainable location with associated community benefits. The plan also designates several key local green spaces and includes policies to help protect the sustainability of the small town centre, which also serves surrounding villages, encourages local business development to reduce dependence on longer-distance commuting, and ensures that new development takes account of particular

difficult hydrogeology and that already-stretched infrastructure is upgraded on a timely basis.

### **Felsted Parish Council, Essex**

Electorate: 3,000

Precept: £113,950

Expenditure: £112,742

Felsted Parish Council began work on a neighbourhood plan in 2014 and was formally adopted in 2020. The neighbourhood plan supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by taking a positive approach to development ensuring that it 'contributes to the achievement of sustainable development'.

The neighbourhood plan was a significant and material consideration in the successful approval of a new doctor's surgery to ensure future health provision within the parish and a new car park for the local primary school, both of which will benefit the community. It also supports important local amenities such as the village post office and shop.

### **Kilmington Parish Council, Devon**

Electorate: 735

Precept: £22,000

Expenditure: £24,266

Kilmington Parish Council completed its neighbourhood plan with a 41.5% turnout for the referendum, of which 94.5% voted yes to accept. The council hopes the various policies will help manage the village environment and development in Kilmington. In the plan, the council allocated two acceptable sites for development, which they hope will be all that is required through 2041.

### **Liss Parish Council, Hampshire**

Electorate: 3,738

Precept: £254,103

Expenditure: £292,000

The Liss Village Neighbourhood Plan was approved by the South Downs National Park Authority in December 2017 and is now one of the statutory development plans for Liss. The plan was prepared for the council by a steering group and working groups drawn from Liss residents, with extensive consultation across the community.

The plan allocates 156 houses (including flats and bungalows) to be built on six sites spread around Liss up to 2028, with some housing permitted on smaller plots within the village. Forty per cent of the housing will be classified as affordable housing and be lower cost than the total market rate.

The plan will protect local green spaces like green belt land. It also aims to protect and enhance biodiversity in the village, where affected by development and sets out criteria for better design based on the Village Design Statement. The plan also sets out how community and infrastructure needs in the village can be met through a Community Infrastructure Levy on development.

The plan sits alongside three documents, prepared with the council, that guide development within Liss: Liss Village Design Statement, the Liss Landscape Character Assessment and the Liss Parish Plan.

### **Newport Pagnell Town Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**

Electorate: 16,500

Precept: £1,077,143

Expenditure: £ 1,176,544

Newport Pagnell Town Council is now working on its third neighbourhood plan. The first plan focussed on the large-scale development of 930 new homes, plus several other site-specific allocations. The policy setting out Section 106 and Section 278 (sustainable transport) requirements was a vital feature of the plan. The second plan was an update that also enhanced the design policies of the plan based on the town's historic nature. The third plan is revolutionary because it is the first neighbourhood plan to set aside land for biodiversity offsetting purposes. It also adds a small amount of new housing on brownfield sites within the town centre, focussing on small housing to meet emerging housing needs.

### **Milland Parish Council, West Sussex**

Electorate: 710

Precept: £35,416

Expenditure: £40,587

When creating the Milland Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2030, Milland Parish Council aimed to identify non-designated heritage assets across the plan area. They divided these into several categories: landscapes worthy of protection, housing (including estate cottages), hamlets, other sites, and cart ponds. By creating this list and categories, they identified 27 sites or places that used archaeological remains and structures to manage water power.

The categories and list of non-designated heritage assets protected by the parish stand out for how it responds to the parish's local distinctiveness and helps raise awareness for historical and archaeological interest in the community.

### **North Crawley Parish Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**

Electorate: 587

Precept: £22,528

Expenditure: £35,861

North Crawley Parish Council set up a working group which resulted in a neighbourhood plan being produced. Unfortunately, the plan was rejected at a referendum in 2019. However, the council reinstated the working group, and a second attempt was made at a revised neighbourhood plan, which was approved via a referendum in January 2023. An implementation group has now been set up to help implement the plan. The plan provides for a small number of new houses on three sites in the village, ensuring the continued success of amenities such as the shop, infant school and two pubs and adding value to the community in general.

### **Penn Parish Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**

Electorate: 3,182

Precept: £69,000

Expenditure: £70,169

Penn Parish Council is in the process of preparing its first neighbourhood plan. Nine policies focus on woodland, active travel and sustainable development. The planning process has vastly increased the council's planning skills, policy knowledge, and engagement with parishioners.

### **Saham Toney Council, Norfolk**

Electorate: 1,351

Precept: £28,000

Expenditure: £28,135

The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) was made on 15 November 2021 after five years' preparation at no cost to the parish, as grants totalling over £30,000 and free consultancy studies were provided by central and local government. The key topics covered by the STNP are housing, design, sustainability, heritage assets, landscape conservation, critical views, green spaces, biodiversity, habitats and surface/four water management. The neighbourhood plan has a crucial influence on planning decisions made in the parish by Breckland District Council, and the local council is hopeful that it will also help shape the current Local Plan review. It allocates 70 dwellings on nine sites, each independently assessed for suitability. The total provision exceeds the minimum target set in the current Local Plan. While positively allowing for growth, the neighbourhood plans environmental policies aim to balance that with preserving and enhancing the local environment so that Saham Toney retains its unique character.

### **Sevenoaks Town Council, Kent**

Electorate: 15,185

Precept: £1,370,074

Expenditure: £2,218,764

The Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan, made by the local planning authority on 20 May 2023, precedes the local plan, which is currently outdated. It introduces new policies around such issues as biodiversity net gain and managing surface water which were not previously protected. Various projects that were identified by the community have been actioned throughout the progress of the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan even before the referendum - including a new bus route and a refurbished community centre, which proved invaluable during COVID-19 as it was used as a testing centre and is currently used for various community events including parties, exercise classes, and as a blood donation centre.

The plan also identifies potential development sites and provides design principles which will protect the sites from over-development and over-population, and secures community infrastructure such as a water-sports lake and secondary school, which will be required for development to proceed. This is especially

important as the local plan is outdated, and a presumption for development applies.

### **Tilney All Saints Parish Council, Norfolk**

Electorate: 475

Precept: £20,500

Expenditure: £15,754

The production of a neighbourhood plan for Tilney All Saints has benefited the community. It created a template that the council could use to influence some developments within the parish. The parish has also benefited financially because it gets more Community Infrastructure Levy funding from developers.

The neighbourhood plan includes policy statements based on “housing mix”, “housing design and diversity”, “affordable housing”, and “flooding” among other issues. This systematic definition of the planning criteria has meant that the borough council planning department has been able to evaluate the impact of developments within the village envelope and has generally been supportive in making local decisions.

### **Uppingham Town Council, Rutland**

Electorate: 3,365

Precept: £122,232

Expenditure: £160,551

Some of the aims of developing a neighbourhood plan in Uppingham were to improve community spirit and health, safety and strengthen community services, especially for vulnerable, disadvantaged and disabled people. It was also hoped that the plan would help attract new investment from the public and private sectors and create new jobs locally.

To ensure collaboration from the beginning, the neighbourhood planning group organised a roundtable meeting with the developers, Bloor Homes, early on. Cllr Ron Simpson, BEM, shared that they: “Realised that one of the powers of neighbourhood planning was to negotiate.”

As a result of the successful neighbourhood plan, over 100 new homes have been built, of which thirty are affordable. Green space has also been secured, and a play area has been created.

The developers, Bloors, have also committed over £1.2 million towards the local area: almost £1.1 million towards community infrastructure (from the Community Infrastructure Levy) and over £193,000 towards highway improvements in addition to the gifted recreational land.

Cllr Simpson stressed the importance and benefits of a neighbourhood plan: “It’s likely that none of this would have happened without a neighbourhood plan in place. Having a made neighbourhood plan ensures that the community’s needs are met strategically and organised in consultation with all relevant parties.”

## **Weston and Crewe Green Parish Council (formerly Weston and Basford Parish Council) Cheshire**

Electorate: 1,931

Precept: £37, 152

Expenditure: £3,104

The Weston and Basford Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2017, and modifications to refine and update the policies are currently at the regulation 15 stages. The plan area comprises the south-eastern hinterland of Crewe, which is under extreme development pressure thanks to HS2, a regeneration of Crewe, as well as being close to J16 of the M6, major strategic development sites within the local plan, which will double the population of the plan area.

The plan aims to protect and enhance the character of the seven communities that comprise the plan area and provides an additional layer of statutory protection alongside the approved Local Plan and government legislation. It has proved a valuable tool in helping influence planning decisions for the benefit of the local community.

The council has learnt several lessons in developing a neighbourhood plan, including that the plan is a living document. There is a need to consistently monitor the needs of the local community alongside changes in legislation. They also learnt the need to understand the complexities of planning, avoid jargon with residents, work closely with Locality who provide grant aid, have a qualified planner on the neighbourhood planning team, and embrace digital mapping.

## **Wing Parish Council, Buckinghamshire**

Electorate: 2,278

Precept: £155,600

Expenditure: £1,196,388

While creating a neighbourhood plan, Wing Parish Council worked with two developers that wanted to build houses on two different sites in the parish. Taylor Wimpey and Martin Grant Homes approached the council with a plan to build 100 homes each, presenting the proposals to the community as part of a neighbourhood planning consultation event. The community voted on the proposals, making clear their strong focus on preserving the woodland belt and creating a large area of green space. They worked with the developers to ensure this happened in parallel with developing a neighbourhood plan, with Wing Parish Council asking for the number of houses on each site to be revised to 50.

Taylor Wimpey redesigned their proposals twice to ensure the community's needs were met. This close working with the community meant neither developer received any objections to their planning applications, freeing up funds set aside for appeals to be spent on green spaces.



With the community engaging with the developers during the neighbourhood plan development and consultation stages, likely, the developments would be more sensitively designed.

The green space has benefited the community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Malcolm Oliver, a volunteer working with Wing Parish Council, said: “That was a real lifesaver during COVID, linking the village more effectively to an area of ancient woodland.”

Wing Parish Council stressed the importance of ensuring neighbourhood plans are holistic, with their neighbourhood plan considering employment, environment, shopping facilities and transport.

## **SPENDING OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT MONIES**

### **Broughton Parish Council, Lancashire**

Electorate: 1,943

Precept: £23,000

Expenditure: £203,562

Broughton Parish Council used CIL money to cover 80% of the cost of turning the 18th-century Toll Bar Cottage into a community centre. The cottage was sensitively renovated and extended, with local businesses contracted to do the work where possible. The development was designed with the community's needs in mind and includes a fully accessible toilet, internet access and a space for residents to display their arts and crafts for a small fee.

The cottage's transformation into a community centre has benefited all community sections. The cottage regularly hosts various events, from crochet and watercolour classes to a café club for those with early-onset Dementia.

Cllr Pat Hastings shared the project's success: “It's brought the village together.”

### **Charndon Parish Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**

Electorate: 799

Precept: £16,000

Expenditure: £70,073

Charndon Parish Council provided the community with a running track, exercise equipment and ecology and educational gardens at two locations in the parish.

### **Halam Parish Council, Nottinghamshire**

Electorate: 320

Precept: £4,000

Expenditure: £12,607

Halam Parish Council granted community infrastructure levy (CIL) funds to Halam Events to purchase two marquees for village events and to Halam Church of

England School for an outside classroom. The council also used CIL money to provide water to the allotments.

### **Petworth Town Council, West Sussex**

Electorate: 2,747

Precept: £148,443

Expenditure: £186,210

Petworth Town Council assisted Petworth Park Sports PPS in obtaining planning permission for fixed practice nets on the grounds of Petworth House. The planning permission enabled PPS to access funding, including Section 106/community infrastructure levy funding, and to match financing from outside sources.

### **Warbleton Parish Council, East Sussex**

Electorate: 1,130

Precept: £23,791

Expenditure: £23,791

Warbleton Parish Council surveyed how the community wanted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds spent. Five hundred flyers promoting the survey were printed and distributed throughout Warbleton in partnership with Rushlake Village Green Stores. Posters were also put up in the village shop and on noticeboards, and the survey was advertised on social media and the council's website. The survey was open for under eight weeks and had eighty-six responses (a 17.2% response rate based on 500 flyers). Respondents' top three choices were maintenance of notice boards, finger posts and benches, creating a new Warbleton cycling and walking routes map in partnership with local community organisations and the local council to promote health and well-being and installation of electric car charging points in locations across the parish to encourage greener energy use.

Since the conclusion of the survey, the council has repaired four finger posts, replaced a noticeboard at the Bodle Street Green village hall, continued to repair and replace benches and started planning the development of a walking map that will include information on local walks, flora, fauna and promote local independent shops and pubs. The council is waiting for an update on the tender process from Wealden District Council on the installation of electric vehicle charging points and has agreed to commission traffic surveys from East Sussex highways.

## **SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING**

### **Newchurch Parish Council, Isle of Wight**

Electorate: 2,186

Precept: £20,000

Expenditure: £49,244

Newchurch Parish Council has supported a 42-unit social housing development at a former agricultural educational facility (Branstone Farm). The development was undertaken by a small island-based housing association, Vectis Housing which specialises in small-scale developments. The council fully engaged with the Isle of Wight Council Planning Department and Vectis Housing and is part of the stakeholder group. The housing development is part of a broader regeneration programme, including a small business park providing low-cost units and a brewery and visitor centre for Goddards, one of the island's breweries. The scheme is set in a "country park" environment attracting local wildlife and visitors. It forms part of the Isle of Wight Biosphere.

### **Wem Rural Parish Council, Shropshire**

Electorate: 1,375

Precept: £28,926

Expenditure: £34,947

In partnership with Severnside Housing, Wem Rural Parish Council, built 23 new affordable homes at Round Meadow, Saulton Road in Wem. The homes, a mix of 3-bed houses, 2-bed houses and 2-bed bungalows, were developed under Shropshire Council's Community Led-Housing Scheme and are exclusively for local people or people with strong local connections. In the development of Round Meadow, Wem Parish Council set up a steering group that included local councillors, Severnside Housing, a councillor and officer from Shropshire Council, Wem Town Council and local community members. The steering group met frequently and determined the homes' location, the properties' allocation, and how they would be maintained. The housing project was completed in 2015.