

Call for Interest in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural

The Parish Council recently discussed the possibility of embarking on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led plan which sets out policies for the development and use of land. Once adopted, it becomes part of the development and carries considerable weight when determining planning applications. The Plan can include site specific policies as well as key neighbourhood projects.

The Plan can be prepared by a parish council or a body acting on behalf of the parish council. There are a number of stages to be completed which includes:

- Preparing evidence
- Creating the plan
- Statutory consultation
- Independent examination and
- Referendum

The Plan must conform with the Braintree Local Plan and contribute towards sustainable development.

The Rural Community Council of Essex has provided guidance to a number of parish councils in the preparation of neighbourhood plans. In addition, there are grants available to employ planning consultants to assist parish councils in preparing the plan.

The parish council has made no decision about whether to proceed with the preparation of a neighbourhood plan and is keen to know if there are parishioners who would be interested in taking on the role of preparing the plan. It is important to understand that the plan would need to cover the whole of the parish, not just Greenstead Green. It would involve a lot of work in collecting evidence to justify the policies within the plan and could take up to five years to get to adoption. The parish council would oversee the work but would not be able to actively participate in the preparation of the plan.

Please respond to the Clerk by 6th November 2020 if you wish to find out more.