

Themes and objectives of Little Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan

Key Issues identified:-

1.Rural Nature to be maintained with views to surrounding churches and the vale of Chelmer.

2.Heritage and Housing needs:-

a.Importance of maintaining the conservation area and displaying the historic buildings to their best advantage particularly the grade 1 listed church.

Maintain mediaeval settlement style particular to this parish.

Need to protect the entrances to the Village to enhance sense of identity, and to make sure screening hedgerows and trees are maintained.

b. Housing needs

3.Great need to prevent coalescence of settlements within the parish

4.To designate formally Green Spaces within settlements

5.Importance of Flitch Way Country Park

6.Climate change:

Need for environmentally friendly dwellings

Need for environmentally friendly means of transport, cycle paths, pavements, maintaining the current pathway system

7 Village and parish concerns;

Need for a Community Hub

Parking issues

Traffic speed and safety on the roads.

1. Maintaining the rural nature of our parish

The initial consultation we had with the parish showed that the majority of people valued greatly the tranquil and rural nature of the parish. They were at pains to explain that is why they lived in Little Dunmow.

Although the A120 which bisects the parish can be heard when the wind is in the right direction, it is still, by and large, a quiet place to live.

The parishioners enjoy and value the many footpaths and the green spaces as well as the country park 'The Flitch Way' which runs through the parish.

Our plan seeks to protect the rural and tranquil nature of our parish as well as key green spaces which are a feature of Little Dunmow, especially the village.

We would also seek to preserve the views over the vale of Chelmer and the views to Stebbing Church in the north and to Felsted Church in the south.

And we would preserve the dark skies to the North of the parish.

2. The Heritage of Little Dunmow and Housing

a.Heritage is the Heritage of Little Dunmow Parish.

We have 42 listed buildings in the parish, one grade 1 listed St Mary the virgin Church and 2 grade 2 star listed. We also have a village conservation area. Historically the village was part of Baron Fitzwilliam's estate. He was one of the main signatories to the Magna Carta, and so Little Dunmow is a Magna Carta village. The parishioners are so proud of this that they created a beautiful tapestry on the 800 year anniversary which is in the church.

Little Dunmow also the original home of the Flitch Trials, and one can see the kneeling stones and Flitch Chair in the Church.

Our village is quiet, beautiful and laden with history.

Our parish still has a mediaeval settlement style with scattered hamlets and a mediaeval pattern to our fields

We would seek to maintain this character throughout the parish. With developments of small clusters of houses and infill (please see original parish engagement notes)

It is important that the central open space is preserved within the village as this provides the setting for several listed buildings and the grade 1 listed church as above.

Furthermore it is also important to maintain Village gateways, the eastern entrance to historic Little Dunmow from Station road flanked by historic grade 2 listed buildings and a green space with the village sign and the Northern entrance from LD onto Station road also flanked by grade 2 listed buildings and buildings of interest.

Furthermore the hedgerows along Station road which seclude the Village and other historical buildings in the parish from the busy road should be maintained.

b.Housing Needs

The number of houses we need is small, and mainly affordable possibly privately rented accommodation as well as suitable housing for elderly to downsize (please see the HNA and HNS)

There should be rural views between the houses they should not bring about coalescence of any current settlements and they should be built sensitively to fit in with the ancient nature of the parish settlements and many listed buildings.

That is to say they should be small groups of houses. Any developments in planning at the moment should seek to supply the housing needs that we have established.

It is important that any new development of houses be built to high standard and become places of history and beauty in the future

3. Importance of the Green spaces in the village and parish

There are a number of important green spaces :

1. The central paddocks which enhance the views across to the grade 1 listed church and several listed buildings, these spaces are integral to the landscape of the village
2. The green space with the Village sign at the Eastern entrance to the village
3. The village pond within the conservation area.
4. The recreation ground
5. The Green in front of the church (St Mary's place) and the front garden area of Priory Place
6. The field opposite the church between Priory Place and Val's house

7. Some of the field between Ivy cottage and the Moors development, to ensure that the conservation area is preserved and not encroached on in an unsympathetic manner.
8. We would seek to designate these Green Spaces

4. The Importance of preventing coalition of settlements within Little Dunmow and with Flitch Green

There is a very real danger of Little Dunmow Village coalescing with Pound Villas (this is happening at the moment) .Which then may coalesce with Cromwell place and Flitch Green (permission has been granted for Cromwell Place and Flitch Green to essentially coalesce with the Moors Field development)

It is also important to maintain an area of separation of Little Dunmow and Brook End from Flitch Green, and to prevent further encroachment of this urbanised area on the mediaeval nature of the parish.

Village and hamlet gaps must be maintained to preserve the mediaeval settlement style of nature of the parish and the historic buildings. There is a danger of seriously detracting from the beauty of rural Essex and the individual settlement characters with linear development. Little Dunmow village does not have a boundary which designates it as very rural and should thus be especially protected from creeping urbanisation.

5. The Flitch Way Country Park

We are very fortunate to have part of the Flitch Way in our Parish within easy access for. walkers, horse riders and cyclists. It serves as one of the sustainable ways to access the amenities at Flitch Green, Felsted and for those who like a longer walk or muddy cycle ride to Great Dunmow. This country park is well maintained by a group of willing volunteers.

6. Climate Change:-

a. Sustainability of travel (getting around)

As stated above, Little Dunmow village and scattered hamlets are rural in nature, and have many historic buildings. Monks used paths around the village in the past as did the rural folk who lived in the area. The parish is fortunate to have many footpaths for getting around and recreation.

It is important to maintain the ability and sustainability of using foot and also bike and pushchair for travel around the village and parish and to utilise the Flitch Way and any nearby amenities. To this end footpaths should be maintained, especially the Flitch Way and pavements along the dangerous Station Road.

There is a necessity to limit the number of cars using Station Road by ensuring good alternative links to the amenities.

There is a great importance in linking our settlements to Great Dunmow and Felsted (the places with the amenities we access) in sustainable and environmentally friendly ways such as building cycle paths along the B1256 and Station road.

b The importance that new buildings should be environmentally sensitive and sustainable

In terms of heating (we have no gas, and oil is our main fuel) all should be fitted with air source heat pumps and solar panels.

The buildings should be insulated but also be suitable for hot summers.

Green spaces should be planted in keeping with the general appearance of the village and Trees should be planted.

7, Village and parish concerns including the need for a community hub.

- a. **Community hub** Many people have stated how they valued the community, Little Dunmow itself has a strong sense of community engendered by various meetings and by just neighbourliness itself. This is also present in Cromwell place, Stebbingford, Brook Street and Brook End.

People have stated a wish for some place of communal meeting and expressed regret at the loss of the village pub by becoming a high end restaurant.

Currently the village and parish do not have a village hall. Most council meetings are conducted in a small portacabin on the village recreation ground.

We would seek to have a place where community events could take place undercover. We will also maintain our children's playground and recreation ground.

b. Parking

We also need a village parking space , as currently a number of villagers park along the road and so do the customers of the Flitch of Bacon. This is not suitable for either parties.

c. Traffic Speed and Safety on roads.

We would seek to reduce the speed limit on Station road especially as it enters the gateways to the village from Pound Villas to 30 MPH and have traffic calming measures/road widening measures from the new development Moorsfield to Flitch Green We would seek to have a speed limit of 20 within the settlements.

We would seek to have a speed limit of 40 along the B1256 from Stebbingford to past the junction of the B1256 and Station road, this junction is an accident hotspot on the B1256 because of poor visibility and stationary traffic coming out onto a 60mph country road both from the Station road junction and from houses with driveways situated on the B1256