

Beccles Town Council

Beccles Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2036



Consultation Statement

June 2020

INTRODUCTION

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan).

The legal basis of this Consultation Statement is provided by Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (as amended), which requires that a consultation statement should:

- contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- explain how they were consulted;
- summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

This section of the Consultation Statement provides a summary of how the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan Operational Group (NPOG) publicised their activities in order to get feedback from Beccles residents of all age groups. This was undertaken at various stages through the preparation of the Plan. The ultimate aim was to ensure that all the objectives of the Plan could be satisfactorily addressed.

Summary of activity

In the Autumn 2016 when the draft Waveney Local Plan was first produced for consultation, it was agreed by Beccles Town Council that it would be sensible for Beccles to initiate a Neighbourhood Plan which could be developed in parallel with the emerging Local Plan.

To begin the process, a website (<http://becclesplan.com/>) was set up together with a Facebook page, and in November 2016 a public meeting was held in the Beccles Library following a notice in the Beccles & Bungay Journal, which was well attended. This was followed by a more detailed article also in the Beccles and Bungay Journal.

In early December 2016, a “Neighbourhood Plan Operational Group” (NPOG) was set up and several meetings were held in the library. The group was initially made up of 3 from the Beccles Council and 9 from the general public.

Initially a “Wishing Tree” to gather opinions about any issues people wanted to raise regarding life in Beccles was established in the library (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: The Wishing Tree



Thereafter, this was then moved to the Beccles Medical Centre to begin to further gauge the response from Beccles residents. The feedback from the “Wishing Tree” was then uploaded to Facebook. The “Wishing Tree” initiative was also taken to the local Schools and the Tesco Supermarket in order to ensure that it reached the widest audience possible. Well over a hundred post-it notes were collected from the various locations.

In addition, general events were held in the evening in the Beccles Library to help and facilitate those people who worked during the day time to come along and give their feedback.

With the information gathered from the “Wishing Tree” initiative, the next stage in the process of drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan began in January 2018 with the publishing of the NPOG’s “Objectives, Visions and Aims” in the Beccles & Bungay Journal. Following the publication of the “Becclesplan” website, various events took place to engage with and gather feedback from people through their businesses, local societies and other social local events as follows:

- 5 Feb 2018: “Pop UP Café” in the library
- 6 Mar 2018: Beccles Business Trade Association Meeting
- 6 Apr 2018: Market Day outside the King’s Head and St Michael’s Coffee Morning
- 8 Apr 2018: Beccles Beer Festival in the Public Hall
- 5 Jun 2018: Beccles Wellbeing Event in the Blyburgate Hall
- 3 Jul 2018: Beccles National Women’s Register at the Quaker Hall

At all these locations questionnaires were completed by attendees, where necessary with the help of members of the NPOG. This related to topics which were considered to be relevant for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan viz:

- Community Facilities, Tourism and Heritage
- Transport
- Town Centre
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing
- Environment

The feedback from these activities were analysed and summaries were made available on the website for comment. The comments from the public were generally supportive and these are highlighted in the matrix tables attached as Appendix A to the “Outcome Document”.

Over a period of nine months from July 2018 – April 2019, monthly meetings were held by the NPOG to gather evidence on each of the themes and then draw up the draft Neighbourhood Plan, taking into account all the feedback received. During the development of the Draft Plan, “community actions and schemes for infrastructure funding” were established which related to matters which would not be addressed directly through the planning policies in the plan. Throughout the process the NPOG was assisted by Navigus Planning, consultants experienced in the legalities of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan.

In Summer 2018, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was made available to Beccles Town Council and East Suffolk Council for informal consultation and review.

Regulation 14 Consultation

The completed Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan was formally consulted on under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. The consultation documents were made available to the general public and other interested parties via the Becclesplan website, with hard copies of the Plan document made available in Beccles Library and Beccles Town Hall where all interested parties could view the plan and make comments. In addition, details were sent to Archant (for the Beccles & Bungay Journal and the Eastern Daily Press), Look East and Radio Suffolk.

The Regulation 14 Consultation ran between 7th June and 19th July 2019. As required, the following statutory and other formal consultees were directly informed of the details of the consultation via email:

- East Suffolk Council
- Broads Authority
- Suffolk County Council
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- NHS
- Anglian Water
- Essex & Suffolk Water
- Network Rail
- Neighbouring Parish Councils:
 - Aldeby
 - Barsham
 - Ellough
 - Gillingham
 - Ringsfield
 - Weston
 - Worlingham

Additional formal bodies consulted were as follows:

- Beccles Business and Tourism Association
- Suffolk Preservation Society
- Suffolk Police

The following is a list of community bodies that were consulted directly on the Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan:

Guides
Army Cadets

Beccles Library
Beccles Skate Park Community

Air Cadets	Beccles Women's Institute
Sea Cadets	Aspergers Group
Beccles Lido	Ladies Probus
Beccles Public Hall	Beccles Carnival
Beccles Museum	The Blind Association
Beccles Society	Marsh Trail Fishing
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Beccles Wildfowlers
Cricket Club	Blyburgate Hall Users
May Centre	Beccles Twinning Association
Beccles Lions	Helping Hands
Rotary Club of Beccles	Beccles Townland Charity
Football Club	Sir John Lemman High School
Rugby Club	St Benet's Primary
Royal British Legion	Ravensmere Primary
Rising Stars	Albert Pye Primary
Beccles Rowing Club	Beccles Free School
Beccles Sailing Club	

In total, there were 20 representations made to the Regulation 14 Consultation. Of these, 6 were by members of the public and the remaining 14 by specific bodies. The full set of representations have been submitted alongside this Consultation Statement. The NPOG considered all the representations made and made amendments to the Plan as necessary and/or appropriate. A matrix presenting how each comment was addressed is shown in Appendix A to this Consultation Statement.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Plan and the process under which it was made conforms to the SEA Directive (EU 2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). In February 2019, the draft Neighbourhood Plan was subject to an initial screening report prepared by East Suffolk Council. This was published for consultation with the statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) to assist in the determination of whether or not the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan would have significant environmental effects in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Following feedback from the statutory bodies, East Suffolk Council issued its screening opinion in April 2019, which considered that an SEA would not be required.

The Screening Opinion has been submitted at Regulation 16 stage as part of the evidence base for the Plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under Directive 92/43/EEC, also known as the Habitats Directive, it must be ascertained whether the draft Plan is likely to breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Assessments under the regulations

are known as Habitats Regulation Assessments ("HRA"). An appropriate assessment ("AA") is required only if the Plan is likely to have significant effects on a European protected species or site. To ascertain whether or not it is necessary to undertake an assessment, a screening process is followed.

In February 2019, an HRA screening – included as part of an SEA Screening Report – was prepared by East Suffolk Council and published for consultation with Natural England, being the relevant statutory body. Following feedback from Natural England, East Suffolk Council issued its screening opinion in April 2019, which considered that an HRA would not be required because the Plan is not likely to have significant impacts on European protected species or sites.

Later in April 2019, the Planning Practice Guidance was changed in respect of HRA screening. East Suffolk Council advised that the plan should be fully and explicitly assessed for the need for Appropriate Assessment following this change in Government guidance. Following the amendments made in light of representations made on the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan, a revised screening was undertaken. East Suffolk Council issued its re-screening opinion in February 2020, which came to the same conclusion, namely that an HRA would not be required.

The Screening Report including the responses from the statutory body has been submitted at Regulation 16 stage as part of the evidence base for the Plan.

KEY RESPONSES FROM CONSULTATION

Following the Initial Questionnaire and each Individual Event, summaries were drawn up from which the public's feedback was included. These summarised details are included in matrix form in Appendix B to this Consultation Report.

This material was then utilised in the drawing up of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Feedback regarding Community Facilities, Tourism and Heritage

The feedback from the Initial General Questionnaire (Wishing Tree) strongly indicated that more green spaces were required, plus improved and maintained play parks, improved indoor leisure facilities for young people and the elderly. Particular mention was made of soft play areas for babies and toddlers, indoor and outdoor gym/sport facilities, a community centre for the new housing development and an indoor pool. It was also felt there was a need for improvement to the Quay for the use of locals and tourists alike.

The heritage of the town was felt to be very important and should not be lost as the town grows. This would benefit locals and tourists alike.

Below are listed the venues and dates of the individual events and the main points of the public feedback:

1. Pop Up Café in the Library – 5 Feb 2018
 - (a) Places of worship for all faith groups should be made available.
 - (b) As there is a waiting list, space for allotments should be included.
 - (c) Facilities are needed for the elderly population and also for young people to encourage them to stay in the town.
 - (d) Increased open spaces, parks, play areas and a community hub for the new garden development.
 - (e) Provide and sponsor apprenticeships to encourage young people into the town.
2. Market Place, St Michael's Coffee Morning and Beer Festival – 6-8 Apr 2018
 - (a) Request for an indoor pool.
 - (b) Request for more street events, i.e. Food Festival etc.
 - (c) Increased youth activities.
3. Wellbeing Event in the Blyburgate Hall – 5 Jun 2018
 - (a) Would like an outdoor gym.
 - (b) Improvements for wheelchair users and dog-users.
 - (c) Access to leisure facilities for those in poverty.
4. Beccles National Women's Register at the Quaker Hall – 3 July 2018
 - (a) Lack of facilities for young teenagers.
 - (b) Youth clubs and indoor pool.

From the above feedback the following policies were developed:

- **POLICY BECC1: *Provision of a Community Hub in the Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood.***
- **POLICY BECC2: *Provision of community facilities which meets the needs of families, young people and the elderly e.g. Multi Use Games Area, Indoor Place, Expansion of Beccles Library, and indoor Swimming Pool. Also improve and maintain existing leisure facilities.***
- **POLICY BECC3: *Development proposals for the improvement of tourism in Beccles in its role as 'Gateway to the Broads', i.e. improvement of the Quay with regard to the river moorings and the green space on the north side, leisure and catering facilities.***
Community Action: A scheme to improve landscaping, car park and provision of a stage at Beccles Quay.
- **POLICY BECC4: *Provision of new hotel accommodation or the conversion of existing buildings within the town centre will be encouraged, provided it is not to the detriment or loss of amenities in the town centre.***
- **POLICY BECC5: *Ensure the conservation and enhancement of Beccles heritage assets.***

Community action: Schemes are necessary for the maintenance and appropriate management of the conservation area in the centre of Beccles, particularly the Beccles Tower ground floor space be brought back into regular use, ideally twinned with the Museum.

Feedback regarding Transport and Movement

The feedback from the general questionnaire raised concerns regarding the movement of traffic through the town, particularly with regard to HGV movement. Also parking was considered an important issue with emphasis placed on adequate parking at the station and proper parking management throughout the town.

This led to issues regarding pedestrians, i.e. Wider and improved pavements and possibly more pedestrianisation in the centre of town and a 20 mph speed limit. Also better facilities for cyclists, local town buses and possible Park & Ride from the Garden Development to the town centre.

Below are listed the venues and dates of the Individual Events and the main points of the public feedback:

1. Pop Up Café and Library – 5 Feb 2018
 - (a) Reduction of heavy goods traffic.
 - (b) Improve parking and bus link at the station.
2. Market Place, St Michael's Coffee Morning and Beer Festival – 6-8 Apr 2018
 - (a) Request for one hour free street parking and town centre car parks.
 - (b) Improved traffic management and cheaper parking.
 - (c) Improved public transport.
 - (d) Town centre road completely closed during Markets.

- (e) HGV movements are a problem.
- (f) There is a need for a reduction of through traffic with possibly more pedestrianisation.
- 3. Wellbeing Event in the Blyburgate Hall 5 Jun 2018
 - (a) 'One Life Suffolk' raised car park management as an issue.
 - (b) BACT thought weight restrictions were necessary to control HGV's.
- 4. Beccles National Women's Register at the Quaker Hall
 - (a) Perceived problems with extra traffic from the new Lidl.
 - (b) Narrow pavements.
 - (c) Cycling should not be allowed on pavements.
 - (d) Access to town centre should be restricted for cars, and some respondents were in favour of further pedestrianisation of the centre.

From the above feedback the following policies were developed:

- **POLICY BECC6: *Transport impact on local road junctions identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.***

Community Actions: Vehicular movement and parking.

- **POLICY BECC7: *Proposals to enhance the identified Key Movement Routes in conjunction with improvement to segregated cycle and pedestrian routes and any new development will be expected not to have an unacceptable impact on the safety accessibility of these Key Movement Routes.***

Community actions: Develop a scheme for expanding the pedestrianisation area, identify pavements which would benefit for widening, safe guarding Rights of Way and bicycle parking at key locations. Enhance local bus services and provide for charging points for electric vehicles.

Feedback regarding the Town Centre

Feedback from the initial questionnaire: Respondents felt that it was very important to promote, respect and appreciation of the centre of Beccles, which is a conservation area. Also more should be done to keep the town free of litter, particularly round the take-away food outlets. Also re-development of brownfield sites in the town was needed. Particular mention was made of dog fouling.

Below are listed the venues and dates of the Individual Events and the main points of the public feedback:

1. Pop Up Café in the Library- 5 Feb 2018
 - (a) Maintain and encourage independent shops.
 - (b) Retain character while encouraging a vibrant town centre.
2. Market Place and St Michael's Coffee Morning – 6 Apr 2018
 - (a) Appreciate the compactness of the centre and diversity of shops

- (b) Keep and increase restaurants and coffee shops
- (c) Improve public toilets.
- 3. Beer Festival in the Public Hall – 8 Apr 2018
 - (a) Specialist shops i.e M&S or Waitrose and more events.
 - (b) Improve public toilets.
 - (c) Maintain banks, Post Office and increase size of market.
 - (d) Possibly more pedestrianisation.
- 4. Wellbeing Event in the Blyburgate Hall – 5 Jun 2018
 - (a) Police would like to extend the CCTV coverage and extend to Rigbourne Hill.
 - (b) Expansion of health facilities imperative.
 - (c) Ensure we keep and possibly improve the library and the Public Hall
- 5. Beccles National Women’s Register at the Quaker Hall – 3 Jul 2018
 - (a) Mixed views about pedestrianisation, but wanted some restricted access to cars in the town centre.
 - (b) Large number of charity shops – good or bad?

From the above feedback the following policies were developed:

- **POLICY BECC 8: *Beccles town centre shop frontages and retail outlets uses will be supported to retain and enhance footfall. Temporary use will be supported provided there is not detrimental impact of the amenity of neighbouring uses.***

Community Actions: Beccles Town Council, in consultation with other stakeholders, to consider a Town Centre Management Team, encourage more street events, more traffic free areas. Also possible additional policing for an expanding community.

Feedback for Health and Wellbeing

Feedback from the initial questionnaire: Beccles must ensure adequate medical centre facilities and must retain the local hospital and blood clinic with possibly bringing back the minor injuries unit. There is also a need for more accessible recycling. All public toilets need upgrade and possibly more of a police presence to deter anti-social behaviour.

Below are listed the venues and dates of the Individual Events and the main points of the public feedback:

1. Pop Up Café in the Library – 5 Feb 2018
 - (a) Accessible recycling
 - (b) Ensure infrastructure development is in line with the health and wellbeing of the community.
2. Market Place and St Michael’s Coffee Morning and Beer Festival – 6-8 Apr 2018
 - (a) Public toilet improvement.
3. Wellbeing Event in the Blyburgate Hall - 5 Jun 2018
 - (a) Wheel chair and dog-users accessibility.
 - (b) Difficulty getting doctor’s appointments.

4. Beccles National Women's Register at the Quaker Hall – 3 Jul 2018
 - (a) Health Centre required for current needs and plan expansion as population increases.
 - (b) Must cover all age groups and provide facilities for i.e. therapy sessions.

From the above feedback the following policies were developed:

- **POLICY BECC9: *Proposals to expand improve the Medical Provision in Beccles and enhanced social care services.***

Community Actions: Beccles Town Council to liaise with all relevant stakeholders to better engage with the NHS regarding the health needs of the community of Beccles, and to retain an operational hospital facility in Beccles, and seek to building on its current group of community volunteers. Ensure sufficient waste bins for dealing with dog waste with clear notices advising the penalties/fines for not dealing responsibly with dog waste, and also flag the dangers to health from dog waste.

Feedback regarding Housing

Feedback from the initial questionnaire: The biggest worry raised, was ensuring the infrastructure i.e. Medical Centre, roads, schools and shops would be adequate to meet the planned number of new houses. Also we must ensure all sizes of homes for young and old to buy or rent are available. We must also be careful that wholesale housing development does not spoil the town and it remains a Suffolk Market Town.

Below are listed the venues and dates of the Individual Events and the main points of the public feedback:

1. Pop Up Café in the Library – 5 Feb 2018
 - (a) Infrastructure in line with development to cover education, leisure, etc.
 - (b) Provide affordable housing to buy or rent.
 - (c) The available housing needs to meet the demand from the young, families and the elderly population.
2. Market Place, St Michael's Coffee Morning and Beer Festival – 6-8 Apr 2018
 - (a) Did not cover housing.
3. Wellbeing in the Blyburgate Hall – 5 Jun 2018
 - (a) Try to restrict (second homes) holiday homes.
 - (b) Ensure empty buildings are used for housing.
 - (c) Provide affordable housing to encourage young people to come back to Beccles.
4. Beccles National Women's Register at the Quaker Hall 3 Jul 2018
 - (a) New housing should have adequate infrastructure i.e. parks, shops, medical facilities and schools.
 - (b) As well as affordable to rent and buy, mixed style housing should be considered i.e. flats, sheltered housing to ensure not segregating young and old.

From the above feedback the following policies were developed:

- **POLICY BECC10: *General design must demonstrate high standards of architectural design in line with the distinctive character of Beccles, being environmental sustainable and comply with Nationally Described Space Standards. Housing developments of ten plus homes must be accompanied by a landscape appraisal.***
- **POLICY BECC11: *New development or major regeneration of public streets and spaces must demonstrate that the layout allows all residents and users to enjoy their surroundings whatever the season, pavements are wide enough to allow multiple users, and where possible provision of segregated cycle and pedestrian walkways. Also due consideration must be given for the disabled, blind and deaf to enjoy the new streets and space layout.***

Feedback regarding Environment

Feedback from the initial general questionnaire: It was requested that more green space be made available. Also Cycle and walkways should link the new housing to Beccles town centre. Also improvement to pavements within the town to make it safer for pedestrians, wheelchair users and dog-users.

Below are listed the venues and dates of the Individual Events and the main points of the public feedback:

1. Pop Up Café in the Library – 5 Feb 2018
 - (a) Reduction of heavy goods traffic through the town centre.
 - (b) Maintain and increase open spaces, parks and play areas.
2. Market Place and St Michael’s Coffee Morning – 6 Apr 2018
 - (a) Implement traffic management.
 - (b) Improve pavements and clearing litter.
 - (c) Improve public transport
3. Beer Festival in the Public Hall -8 Apr 2018
 - (a) Improve roads and try to reduce heavy traffic.
4. Wellbeing in the Blyburgate Hall – 5 Jun 2018
 - (a) Provide and outdoor gym.
 - (b) Wheelchair accessibility
 - (c) Provide cycle routes and secure parking for bikes.
5. Beccles National Women’s Register at the Quaker Hall 3 Jul 2018
 - (a) Concerns about brownfield sites – remaining undeveloped.
 - (b) Improve Beccles Spaces – sometimes like “waste Ground”

From the above feedback the following policies were developed:

- **POLICY BECC12: *Multi-value sustainable drainage systems, biodiversity and flood risk must be assessed prior to any new development.***

- **POLICY BECC 13: *Low energy housing design must be considered for any new residential properties on sites of less than 10 dwellings and any extension of existing properties (where a planning application is required).***

Community actions: Beccles Town Council will work with owners of sites within Beccles boundaries to identify opportunities of mixed-use development.

Further, more detailed feedback information is available on the Beccles Web Site (<http://becclesplan.com>), which is listed below:

- Responses to Neighbourhood Consultation
- Beccles Dog Fouling Analysis
- Beccles Conservation Area Character Appraisal
- Beccles Youth Group Presentation*
- Beccles Businesses and Town Council Feedback
- River Waveney Trust
- Appearance of Town
- Housing Growth and Infrastructure
- Leisure, Green Spaces and Recreation
- Public Services
- Transport and Parking

All of the above have been taken into account when drawing up the policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood plan.

*Special mention has to be made of the Presentation supplied by Beccles Youth Group, and it is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan covers most of their points raised under Policy BECC1 and BECC2.

APPENDIX A: HOW REPRESENTATIONS TO REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED

This excludes all factual or grammatical amendments as well as amendments which do not materially change the Plan section/policy in question.

Ref.	Name of body	Representation	Response by Responsible Body	Amendment to Plan
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC3C – Provide guidance on how proposals for river moorings may be coordinated with Broads Authority.	No comment was made by the Broads Authority about this clause. However, the point is noted and it is considered unnecessary to make reference to the Broads Authority as it is a point of fact that they are the planning authority for applications within their area.	Remove final sentence of BECC3C.
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC4 – Hotels could be permitted anywhere in the Plan area.	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC4 to comply with national planning policy.
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC4 – Conversion of existing buildings to hotels	Noted that new hotel opportunities within the town centre are likely to be in converted buildings.	Amend BECC4 to reflect impacts of conversion as well as new hotel accommodation.
2	East Suffolk Council	Heritage – worthy of its own chapter.	Noted and agreed	None
2	East Suffolk Council	Heritage – reference in Local Plan to non-designated heritage asset criteria	Noted and agreed	Add supporting text into Section 4.
2	East Suffolk Council	Heritage – reference to future review of non-designated heritage assets	Noted and agreed	Add supporting text into Section 4.
2	East Suffolk Council	Heritage – UPVC replacement windows can enhance heritage	Noted and agreed	Add supporting text into Section 4.
2	East Suffolk Council	Heritage – restrictive wording on dormers.	This is a misunderstanding. Para 4.33 is not suggesting that dormers can never be appropriate on the front of buildings.	Text amended for clarity.
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC5 – only applying criteria to Conservation Area.	Noted and agreed	BECC5 amended to apply across whole Plan area.
2	East Suffolk Council	Community actions: vehicle movement and parking – concern about encouraging 1-hour parking	Noted and this reflects the need for an appropriate balance in a tourist town where many people arrive by car. Given that this is a	No change

Ref.	Name of body	Representation	Response by Responsible Body	Amendment to Plan
			community action rather than a policy and also that it is only 'exploring' the issue, then it is considered reasonable.	
2	East Suffolk Council	Schemes for infrastructure funding vehicle movement and parking – concern about lack of evidence for increased car parking	Noted and agreed	Add in to Section 5
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC8 – Clarity over what uses are covered within Class A and whether this should be extended to refer to all town centre uses	Noted and agreed that this needs clarification to confirm that it relates to all town centre uses.	Amend BECC8.
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC8 – No need to reference Local Plan policy	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC8A
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC8 – Make reference to marketing guidance in Waveney Local Plan	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC8A
2	East Suffolk Council	BECC10 – Given that this provides good design guidance, split the policy into 2 separate policies.	Noted and agreed	Split BECC10 into 2 separate policies.
2	East Suffolk Council	Policies Map – remove settlement boundary	Disagree as Section 8 does make reference to development sites within the settlement boundary. Whilst this is not a policy, it would be unhelpful to the reader to remove the settlement boundary.	No change
3	Environment Agency	Flood risk – The sequential test should be applied to the location of development	Noted and agreed	No change. Amend BECC11 (now BECC12)
3	Environment Agency	SuDS – Requirement to improve water quality should be included in BECC11.	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC11 (now BECC12)
3	Environment Agency	No mention of maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of the River Waveney	Noted and agreed	Add in clause on biodiversity to BECC11 (now BECC12)

Ref.	Name of body	Representation	Response by Responsible Body	Amendment to Plan
4	Broads Authority	Vision – Reference to skate park and question over whether this is new or existing	This is an existing skate park	Vision amended to clarify
4	Broads Authority	BECC2C – Bringing disused facilities back into any use.	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC2C.
4	Broads Authority	BECC3A – Reference to ‘environmental degradation’	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC3A.
4	Broads Authority	Should text on p29 be included in BECC5.	Noted, however it is considered that this would be overly prescriptive and would make for an overly lengthy policy	No change
4	Broads Authority	Community actions: vehicle movement and parking – Concern about encouraging 1-hour parking	Noted and this reflects the need for an appropriate balance in a tourist town where many people arrive by car. Given that this is a community action rather than a policy and also that it is only ‘exploring’ the issue, then it is considered reasonable.	No change
4	Broads Authority	Fig 5.3 - Are Morrisons, the Lido and the Quay destinations	There will always be a long list of destinations but the Plan has sought to be clear about where the focus of improvements should be. Typically shoppers travel to Morrisons by car to do a weekly shop. Visitors to the Quay and the Lido are more seasonal and not as numerous as the locations identified.	No change
4	Broads Authority	Para 5.12 – use of ‘where possible’ weakening the requirement	Noted but the reality is that improvements to cycle provision are often difficult to achieve because it involves the loss of significant amounts of road space. The point is that cycle improvements are welcomed but the priority must be for pedestrians.	No change

Ref.	Name of body	Representation	Response by Responsible Body	Amendment to Plan
4	Broads Authority	BECC7D – what is unacceptable?	Noted. Clarification will be made that this relates to safety and accessibility.	Amend BECC7D
4	Broads Authority	P48 – Reference to Broads Local Plan standards for accessible and adaptable housing	Noted and agreed	Add supporting text into Section 7.
4	Broads Authority	P48 – Reference to Broads Local Plan energy policy	Noted and agreed	Add supporting text into Section 8.
4	Broads Authority	BECC12 – Does this apply to replacement dwellings and extensions?	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC12 (now BECC13)
5	Suffolk CC	Archaeology – Addition of text as new para 4.31	Noted and agreed	Add supporting text into Section 4.
5	Suffolk CC	BECC11 – Suggested amendments to improve policy	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC11 (now BECC12)
5	Suffolk CC	BECC6 - Suggested amendments to improve policy	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC6
5	Suffolk CC	BECC7 - Suggested amendments to improve policy	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC7
5	Suffolk CC	Key Movement Route along St Mary's Road	Noted and agreed	Amend Figure 5.3 and Policies Map
5	Suffolk CC	Community actions: vehicle movement and parking – Concern that re-routing of HGVs may not be feasible	Noted, but work is ongoing to scope this out so it is considered reasonable to retain in the Plan.	No change
5	Suffolk CC	Community actions: vehicle movement and parking – Recommendation for a 'Park and Stride'	Noted and agreed	Add in to Section 5
6	Suffolk Preservation Society	Addition of a landscape policy	Noted and agreed	Add in reference in BECC10

Ref.	Name of body	Representation	Response by Responsible Body	Amendment to Plan
6	Suffolk Preservation Society	Heritage – Additional text recommended	Whilst this is noted, it is considered that significant additions would simply repeat national and local plan policy. The recommendation to refer to the Beccles CAA and Management Plan is agreed.	Amend BECC5 to make reference to the Beccles CAA and Management Plan.
18	Beccles TC	BECC5C – Restriction on UPVC.	Point is noted and has been addressed taking into account other representations	Amendments made to BECC5C and explicitly identified in supporting text.
18	Beccles TC	BECC6 – Refer to road names or numbers	As presented this is considered sufficient. It is most important that the routes are shown on the Policies Maps because this will make the precise routes clear. In this regard, the point about maps needing to be printed at A3 is noted.	No change
18	Beccles TC	BECC10 – Make reference to national space standards.	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC10
18	Beccles TC	BECC12 – Concern about practicality for small schemes	Noted and agreed	Amend BECC12 (now BECC13) to refer to 'significant' renovation and explain in supporting text in Section 8.

APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS

ANALYSIS OF COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES FROM THE POP-UP CAFÉ (MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY) HELD IN THE LIBRARY – 14 questionnaires completed

Is there anything you would change, or anything missing from the Visions and Aims document?	Recycling of general waste needs to be more accessible 22%	Church or places of worship for all faith groups 22%	Reduction of heavy goods traffic, possible delivery hub at Ellough 28%	No mention of allotments and there is a waiting list 7%	No mention of Secondary schools? 7%	Employment, apprenticeships to keep young people in the town 14%
What is the most important priority for Beccles over the next 20 years?	Independent shops 22%	Infrastructure in line with development i.e. Education, Health and Leisure 42%	Affordable housing to buy and rent 22%	Retain character while encouraging a vibrant town centre 14%		
Do you have any other input or comments for the Neighbourhood Plan in General	How would Beccles link with Worlingham regarding infrastructure 14%	Improve area by Railway Station i.e. additional Parking and Bus link 28%	Important to meet needs of growing elderly population and encourage young people to stay 22%	Website needs to be active and kept up to date 8%	Maintain and increase open spaces e.g. Parks, play areas and Community Centre 22%	How are the Aims to be achieved financially and will there be an how will they be prioritised 14%

NB: Two individual comments that may have some bearing on the Aims:-

1. How will the “anti-plastic” campaign affect the major employer in the area?
2. Will an indoor pool affect the viability of “The Lido”?

ANALYSIS OF COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES FROM THE MARKET PLACE (FRIDAY 6TH APRIL) AND THE BEER FESTIVAL (SUNDAY 8TH APRIL)

THE MARKET PLACE (33 questionnaires completed):

What brings you to town today?	Shopping 48%	Market 12%	Work 6%	Bank PO Building Society 6%	Other* 28%
What do you like about Beccles town centre?	Ambiance 31%	Diversity of shops 45%	Compact 12%	Restaurants and Coffee Shops 12%	
What could be improved?	Parking 1 hr free 25%	Traffic Management and Roads 25%	Pavements and Litter 30%	Increase Market size & close roads 15%	Public Toilets 5%
Is there anything that would bring you here more often?	Cheaper parking 20%	Indoor Pool 5%	Public Transport 15%	More markets Entertainment and restaurants 15%	No change necessary 45%
One of our key objectives for the NP is to 'To maintain a thriving town centre', what would this mean for you?	Roads closed for market 15%	Help for businesses 30%	Increased Youth Facilities 15%	More than satisfied with town centre as is 40%	

NB A comment was made about maintaining the Marsh Land for flood prevention.

*Quaker Meeting, Waveney Centre, Exercise (Walk, Bike & Class), Collect Prescription

THE BEER FESTIVAL (21 questionnaires completed):

Where have you travelled from today?	Local 38%	Short Distance 52%	Long Distance 10%	
What do you like about coming to Beccles in terms of Leisure/tourism?	Satisfied 20%	Lido, Quay & public hall 50%	Events 25%	Location 5%
Do you come to Beccles for any other reason?	Diversity of Shops 65%	Work 10%	Visiting friends and relatives 20%	Holiday 5%
Is there anything that would bring you here more often?	Satisfied 38%	Parking 10%	Specific Shops and more events 37%	Indoor Pool & Youth Activities 15%
Anything that need to be improved?	None 27%	Parking and Public Toilets 25%	Roads and Heavy Traffic 38%	Youth Activities 10%
One of our key objectives for the NP is to 'maintain a thriving town centre', what would this mean for you?	It was unanimous for keeping thriving centre, especially keeping banks, Post Office, possible increasing market (and close roads). Specific request for Waitrose, and food M&S and baker. Reduction of through traffic and possibly more pedestrianisation.			

STALLHOLDERS' COMMENTS – Wellbeing Event 5th June 2018

<p>One Life Suffolk Helping local people live healthier lives</p>	<p>Positive feedback for facilities in Beccles e.g. Community Room at Station, The Waveney Centre, Lido and Paws for Tea on the common.</p>	<p>Parking in Beccles was bad. Not always using designated parking areas i.e. cars parking badly in unsafe places.</p>	<p>Suggestion for a new provision was an Outdoor Gym. Possible subject for a policy?</p>
<p>East Coast Community Health Care Encourages independence, co-ordinates 38 different services</p>	<p>They could potentially have a very useful input on areas like number of wheelchairs and assistance dog-users in Beccles.</p>	<p>Also their needs in terms of facilities, street design and so on.</p>	<p>Taylor Moore was keen we got in touch (01502 445356) to discuss this further.</p>
<p>BACT Carers Transport</p>	<p>Commented on their problems with their minibuses.</p>	<p>Potholes. One-way bridge end of Kemps Lane, together with the weight restriction of the George Road bridge meant that they had to do a 1.5 mile detour to pick up/ drop off clients in Derby Road. The pinch point on St George's Road caused chaos when school traffic was out.</p>	
<p>Police</p>	<p>They would like crime prevention consulted about lighting and footpaths in the proposed Garden Suburb. The officer mentioned Alan Kealy as the local contact. He also said he wouldn't like the new residential area to become a 'self-contained community'. He approved of the extended town centre CCTV coverage and would like it further extended to Rigbourne Hill.</p>		
<p>Food Bank</p>	<p>In relation to their clients, mentioned: 1 Difficulty getting doctors' appointments. 2 Transport issues for non-car users (wasn't specific). 3 Access to leisure facilities for those in poverty.</p>		
<p>National Careers Service</p>	<p>No immediate comments, but would look at our website.</p>		

NB: General comments received from attendees at above event were as follows:

1. On the positive, Beccles provided a good retail range, which included small shops as well as supermarkets. Also a good selection of cafes and eating places, together with the Library and the Public Hall.
2. On the negative side, people would like to see less traffic in town to cut down on pollution. Try to restrict the number of holiday houses, and empty buildings used for housing. Also try to encourage young people to return to Beccles following university or when they marry, they are able to find a home in Beccles and not have to move away.
3. Comments from 2 Sir John Leman pupils confirmed the need for cycle routes to be developed throughout the town and to and from the Garden Suburb, together with secure parking areas for bikes.

WOMEN'S GROUP FEEDBACK FOLLOWING PRESENTATION (3rd JULY 2018)

<p>Housing Are there any issues about housing provision you would like to raise, particularly in relation to the Beccles & Worlingham Neighbourhood Garden Suburb proposed in the local Plan?</p>	<p><i>Any new housing should have adequate infrastructure i.e. parks, shops, medical, schools and also the mix should not just include affordable housing for rent or buy for young people, but should also be mixed style of housing from studio flats to sheltered accommodation to ensure a complete mix of population i.e. not segregating old and young people.</i></p>
<p>Employment How can we increase local employment opportunities, and expand and develop our schools to meet these needs bearing in mind the pace of technological change?</p>	<p><i>Start-up units linked to reasonable business rates.</i></p> <p><i>Expand schools with specific training to meet future employment requirements.</i></p>
<p>Community facilities Are there any obvious facilities missing in Beccles and if so, what are they and where could they be provided?</p>	<p><i>There is a particular lack of facilities for young teenagers.</i></p> <p><i>Request for Youth Clubs and an Indoor Swimming pool.</i></p>
<p>Traffic Are there any particular traffic problems you would like to highlight, public or private, cars or bikes?</p> <p>What are the problems facing pedestrians?</p>	<p><i>Not sure that the new road will alleviate any of the traffic, particularly the heavy lorries. In fact it may exacerbate the problem in London Road. The proposed Lidl development will encourage more traffic to drive through the town centre. Possibly introduce a 20mph throughout the town centre.</i></p> <p><i>Narrow pavements are a big problem for all, particularly disabled, blind and young mothers with prams. Also the smoothness of the pavements needs improving. Cycling should not be allowed on the pavements or pedestrianised areas.</i></p>
<p>Environment Are there any buildings, site or other land in Beccles that can be enhanced or developed?</p> <p>Are there any other issues relating to Beccles built or natural environment that you would like to raise?</p>	<p><i>Concern about the Brownfield Sites and specifically the land adjoining the station. Dissatisfaction with the quality of Beccles Open Spaces. They are like 'waste ground'. Reference was made to the lack of money to maintain the, and reliance on volunteers; special mention was made of the Waveney Meadow.</i></p>
<p>Town Centre How could the Town Centre be improved?</p>	<p><i>There were mixed views as to whether further pedestrianisation would benefit or would adversely affect businesses.</i></p>

	<p><i>Reference was made to the (large) number of charity shops, but there was some question as to whether this was necessarily a bad thing.</i></p> <p><i>Could there be some restricted access for cars in the town centre?</i></p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing How would you like to see the Health and Wellbeing facilities expanded in Beccles both in relation to physical and mental health in the community?</p>	<p><i>A functioning health centre was required to meet current needs, let alone the additional demands generated by proposed development. Therefore must continue to expand the health centre as much as possible, understanding the national GP issues.</i></p> <p><i>With mixed age communities, need to provide facilities for all ages, i.e. therapy sessions etc.</i></p>
<p>Any other comments:</p>	<p><i>Tourism needs to be well managed. (Do not want to fall into the “Southwold Trap”, of too many holiday homes and lose the heart of the town).</i></p> <p><i>Request for a town centre Bakery!</i></p> <p><i>Scepticism that the Neighbourhood Plan can actually achieve anything; concern as to where the money will come from to implement its proposals.</i></p> <p><i>A very valid comment was raised by Anne Frith, a resident of Beccles for 45 years and totally blind. She uses a guide dog and is able to get about the town quite independently. Her worry is that there may be some “share space” development in the Town Centre, which causes the edges of roads and pavements to become blurred as has happened in Bungay. This may cause some blind, partially sighted and disabled people to become house bound as they become unable to move safely about the town with no traditional boundaries between the roadway and the footpaths.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, although this may be outside the NP remit, it would be good to have the Town Clock working and chiming again, continuing a tradition which has lasted for more than three hundred years.</i></p>