

## Contents

Appendix 12 – Questionnaire and analysis of Connecting Soham Survey July 2021.....	2
Appendix 13 – Comments from the Pumpkin Show September 2021 .....	23
Appendix 14 – Six Topic Boards for Pumpkin Show September 2021 .....	25
Appendix 15 – Barway Survey – November 2021.....	31
Appendix 16 – Analysis of survey of Barway residents.....	36
Appendix 17 – Objectives Survey – November 2021.....	38
Appendix 18 – Objectives Survey Results March 2022 .....	44
Appendix 19 – Comments from Public Forum – 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 .....	47
Appendix 20 – Regulation 14 Response Form .....	49
Appendix 21 – Analysis of Responses to Chapters Questions .....	62
Appendix 22 – Soham Town Council’s response to Statutory Consultees, Consultees & Landowners	66
Appendix 23 – Soham Town Council's response to Community Representations .....	88

Appendix 12 – Questionnaire and analysis of Connecting Soham  
Survey July 2021

# Connecting Soham

Transport, internet and parking issues

## Getting around

1

When travelling around Soham which means of transport do you use most often (choose up to three answers)



- Walking
- Cycling
- Private car (self driven)
- Private car (as a passenger)
- Bus
- Taxi
- Electric mobility scooter
- Wheel chair (pushed by companion)
- Self driven van or truck
- Motor bike or scooter
- Other

2

Which of these modes of transport would you usually use when travelling beyond Soham?

You can choose up to 3 answers.



- Walking
- Cycling
- Private car (self driven)
- Private car (as a passenger)
- Bus
- Taxi
- Train
- Motor bike or scooter
- Lorry or truck
- Electric mobility scooter
- Other

## Using the train

3

You will have heard that the new Soham Railway Station is due to open soon.

How likely is it that you will use the train to travel to either Ely, Cambridge or further afield?



- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

4

If you intend to travel by train from Soham station, how are you most likely to travel to the station?



- Walk
- Bus
- Taxi
- Cycle
- Private car (self driven)
- Private car (passenger)
- Electric mobility scooter
- Motor bike or scooter
- Other

Once the station is in operation, how easy do you think it will be to get to the station by road?

- Extremely easy
- Fairly easy
- Neutral
- A little difficult
- Very difficult



## Walking and Cycling

6

If you are a regular footpath user, what do you think of the footpaths and pavements around Soham? Please choose as many answers as you wish.



- As a general rule they are in reasonable condition
- They are in need of improvement
- There are plenty of them so I can get around easily
- There are not enough of them and they do not interconnect
- Footpaths and pavements are generally well lit
- Footpaths need more signage
- Other

What do you think of the facilities for cycling?

You can choose as many options as you wish

- Cycle ways are generally in good condition
- Cycleways are in need of repair
- Insufficient cycleways around the parish
- Insufficient safe cycleways connecting Soham with its neighbouring towns
- Insufficient cycle parking spaces in the town
- Insufficient signage of cycleways
- Some cycleways need to be made safer
- Other



## Section 2 Internet connections



### Internet Connections

8

If you are an internet user, what do you think of the available internet in this area?

- Generally pretty good
- About average/ adequate
- Terribly slow
- Other

Public WiFi is now available in High Street, what did you think of it?

- Good
- Intermittent
- Unreliable
- Never used it



## Section 3 Parking issues



### Parking Issues

10

Thinking about the availability of parking around the town, do we have sufficient parking spaces in car parks and on street?

- Yes there is plenty of parking spaces
- There is just about enough parking
- No there is not enough - we need many more spaces

If you think we need more parking please choose the areas where additional parking is required. Chose up to three answers.



- In the town centre
- At the Health Centre
- On new housing estates
- At the supermarkets
- At Schools
- At Fountain Lane
- Other



## Section

# Changes to transport for the future

12

In the future we are all going to have to use private vehicles less often. Which of these would make you more inclined to leave yours at home?

You may choose up to three answers.

- More frequent bus services
- Better and more connective cycleways
- Better integrated public transport i.e better links between buses and trains
- 
- Easier ways to find out about public transport availability
- 
- Bus stop which provide up-to-the minute information
- 
- More buses which run within the town
- 
- More bus stops, not just on the main road through town
- 
- Better signage on footpaths
- 
- Other



## Section 4 Safety around town



13

Thinking about the road from the A142 to Barway, which of these do you consider are most important to get done (you may choose up to 3)

- Traffic lights at junction with A142
- Widen the road to Barway
- Restrict the speed along the whole road
- Better lighting
- Safe cycleway along the road to Barway village from A142 Pedestrian
- pavements alongside the roadway.
- Other

14

There are a number of roads in Soham which can become very congested at times, mainly due the number of parked cars. Which of these roads do you consider most needs attention improve the movement of traffic along it?

Please use arrows on the right list in order of importance.



to  
to  
to

Clay Street

Brook Street

Station Road

Fountain Lane

Mereside

Churchgate Street

Fordham Road

Paddock Street

Brewhouse Lane

15

If you are happy for us to contact you to expand your answers please provide a telephone number or an email address

## Analysis of Connecting Soham survey

83 people replied to the survey

**1. When travelling around Soham**

**which means of transport do you use most**

**often** (choose up to three answers)

Nearly 70 respondents chose walking and car(self-driven), 30 chose cycling and 16 as passengers in private cars. The other choices were negligible or zero

**2. Which of these modes of transport would you usually use when travelling beyond Soham?**

Nearly 80 people chose private car as driver and 23 as a passenger. Interestingly 15 chose train and around 7-10 chose walking, cycling or bus. The other alternatives were negligible.

**3. You will have heard that the new Soham Railway Station is due to open soon.**

**How likely is it that you will use the train to travel to either Ely, Cambridge or further afield?**

A total of 55 people said they would or were very likely to use the train station. 18 said were unlikely to use it.

**4. If you intend to travel by train from Soham station, how are you most likely to travel to the station?**

48 people said they would walk, 20 would use a car either self-driven or as a passenger, 11 said they would cycle.

**5. Once the station is in operation, how easy do you think it will be to get to the station by road?**

35 said it would be easy to get to the station by road, 42 said it would be difficult or very difficult, 16 were unsure.

**6. If you are a regular footpath user, what do you think of the footpaths and pavements around Soham? Please choose as many answers as you wish.**

50 people said the footpaths are in need of improvement, but 28 said they were in reasonable condition. 20 said there are plenty of footpaths and 15 said there weren't enough to get around easily. 5 said they are generally well lit and 14 said they need more signage.

**7. What do you think of the facilities for cycling? Choose any number of answers.**

46 said there aren't enough cycleways around Soham and 43 that there aren't enough connections to other places. 26 say there is not enough signage. 24 want more cycle parking spaces in town, and 24 that the cycleways need to be made safer.

**8. If you are an internet user, what do you think of the available internet in this area?**

61 people think the internet is good or average and 10 that it is very slow.

**9. Public WiFi is now available in High Street, what do you think of it?**

14 people thought it was good or intermittent, 6 that it was unreliable and 63 had never needed to use.

**10. Thinking about the availability of parking around the town, do we have sufficient parking spaces in car parks and on street?**

40 people think there is enough or just about enough but 42 think there is not enough.

**11. If you think we need more parking please choose the areas where additional parking is required. Chose up to three answers.**

40 people want more in the town centre, 40 on the new housing estates. Only 12 wanted more at the Health Centre and 16 wanted more at supermarkets. 25 want more at the schools and 20 want more at Fountain Lane.

**12. In the future we are all going to have to use private vehicles less often. Which of these would make you more inclined to leave yours at home? You may choose up to three answers.**

59 people say we need a better integrated public transport system and 44 want more frequent bus services. 31 people want more and better connected cycleways and 26 want bus stops which provide up to the minute information. 12 people want more bus stops in the town not just on main street and 22 want buses which run on routes around the town. 17 people want a better and easier system to find out about public transport availability.

**13. Thinking about the road from the A142 to Barway, which of these do you consider are most important to get done (you may choose up to 3)**

47 think there should be a safe cycleway along this road to Barway and 33 want traffic lights at the junction with A142. 26 people want the road widened and a proper pedestrian path adjacent to the road. 23 people want better lighting and 20 want the traffic speed restricted.

**14. There are a number of roads in Soham which can become very congested at times, mainly due to the number of parked cars. Which of these roads do you consider most needs attention to improve the movement of traffic along it?**

58% chose Clay Street as their first choice for the street most needing to be improved because of congestion. In order of numbers choosing this street as first choice after Clay Street, Mereside (17.3%) and Station Road (11.1%) and Fordham Rd (6.2%). The other mentioned roads have first choice at 2.5% or less.

## Commentary

In June 2021 , because of comments about local transport, it was decided that we needed to do a survey of connectivity in Soham parish. This will include methods of getting around Soham and beyond including public transport, parking and also the use of the internet.

This survey was done on-line but paper copies were available for anyone who wanted them. We also carried out two pop-up events in the town centre to encourage residents to complete the forms and to ask any questions they wanted. There were 83 responses. Although the survey did not ask about the quality of local transport provision, it has become very clear from these two pop-up events that the standard of local bus services is not acceptable because buses do not run in the evenings or at weekends, nor do they connect with any other services e.g. no buses run to the new railway station and none connect with the trains in Ely.

It is clear from the results of this survey that the private car still plays a very important part in the way in which people who live in our parish get around within the town and further afield.

Respondents were asked what was their preferred method of moving around town. 69 preferred to walk, 68 to self drive in cars, 30 chose cycling and 16 get around as passengers in cars. When asked how they travel beyond the parish a total of 103 respondents chose cars either as driver or passenger. 15 chose the train and between 7 and 10 picked cycling, walking or buses.

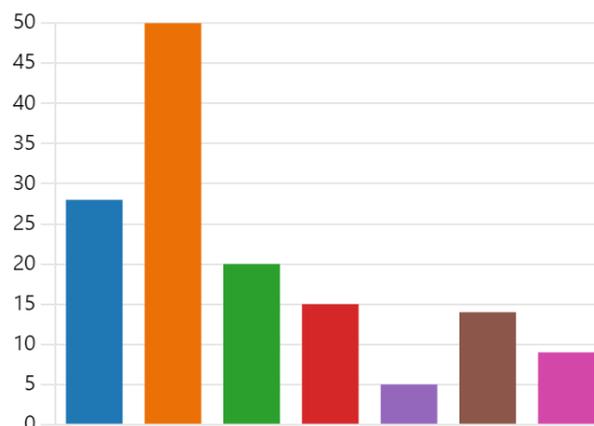
When asked if they would be likely to use the newly opened train station in Soham, a total of 55 people said they would or were very likely to use the train station. 18 said were unlikely to use it. When asked how they would travel to the station 48 people said they would walk, 20 would use a car either self-driven or as a passenger, 11 said they would cycle. The next question concerned how difficult it would be to get to the station by road. 35 said it would be easy to get to the station by road, 42 said it would be difficult or very difficult, 16 were unsure.

When asked about the footpaths in and around Soham, respondents were asked to mark as many answers as they wished. The results are as follows in the next diagram.

From this it is clear that many footpaths need some repair work done although there doesn't seem to be a problem with lighting. 14 people mentioned that more signage was needed. 20 people mentioned that there are plenty of footpaths and 15 said there were not enough footpaths and they do not interconnect enough.

## Footpaths in the Parish

● As a general rule they are in rea...	28
● They are in need of improvement	50
● There are plenty of them so I ca...	20
● There are not enough of them a...	15
● Footpaths and pavements are g...	5
● Footpaths need more signage	14
● Other	9



The question about cycleways raised a clear problem. 46 respondents said there are not enough cycleway around the parish and 43 said there are not enough connecting Soham with its surrounding destinations. 26 people say there is not enough signage for cycleways and 24 people say there are not enough places to park bicycles in the town. 19 respondents said that the cycleways we have need to be made safer but it is not clear whether that means they need more lighting or repairs (14 people mentioned repairs were needed).

Residents were asked about the local internet. 71 respondents said it was reasonably good or average, 10 said it was very slow. Public WiFi has been available in the centre of Soham for some time. 6 people said it was good, 14 people thought it was unreliable or intermittent but 63 people said they had not used it at all.

### Parking

Residents were asked if there is sufficient parking on street or in car parks in the town.

● Yes there is plenty of parking sp...	11
● There is just about enough parki...	29
● No there is not enough - we ne...	42



The public were asked where extra parking is needed and they were allowed to choose up to three areas. 41 chose new housing estates and 40 more parking in the High Street. 25 said we need more parking at the schools and 20 said we need to increase the size of the Fountain Lane car park. Parking at the supermarkets got 16 votes and the Health Centre 12 votes for more parking.

In question 12, respondents were reminded that we are all going to have to use our private cars less in future. What would be the best way to make people do that? They could choose 3 items. 59 people selected better transport links between buses and trains and 44 selected more frequent bus services. These two were by far the most popular choices. 31 chose more and better connected cycleways and 26 chose 'smart bus stops' providing up to date information.

17 people want better ways to find out about public transport and together 34 people want more bus stops and buses running through the town and not just on the main roads. 5 people think that better signage on footpaths would help.

The next question relates to the road from the A142 to Barway village. The survey gave various suggestions as to what needs to be done most to improve this road. Respondents were asked to choose up to three items.

Traffic lights at junction with A142	33
Widen the road to Barway	26
Restrict the speed along the whole length of the road	20
Better lighting	23
Safe cycleway along the road from A142 to Barway village	47
Pedestrian pavement alongside the road from A142	26
Other	5

Clearly the cycleway is very important to the residents. This may be because of the numbers of seasonal workers who are employed at the food packing factory. It is clear that there are serious concerns about the junction with A142 where many residents think there should be traffic lights. Many residents have said that they prefer to use the 'back' road along the Cotes to go into Soham because the junction is so dangerous. When speaking to residents outside the Co op on successive Saturday mornings, it is a lot of concern about the junction with A142 because there is a lot of farm machinery and lorries which use that junction (because of the vegetable packing factory) and it is a very busy road.

The next question concerns parking and which roads are most congested because of on street parking. Respondents were asked to list them in order of the worst congestion to the least.



Many of these areas have difficulties with on street parking because the houses there have little or no provision for off street parking and residents have to park on the road.

Again on successive Saturdays outside the Co op residents have moaned at length about the difficulties of negotiating some of these roads because of the volume of parked cars and the amount of buses (many just of which service the Village College only). Many have suggested that Clay Street, in particular, should be made one way for traffic. However, bus companies are not happy with this idea.

## Appendix 13 – Comments from the Pumpkin Show September 2021

Proposal	No. in favour	No. against
<b>Business and Employment</b>		
Prevent empty shops in the main street from being changed into residential properties	6	3
Protect retail character of the High St.	4	0
Encourage new businesses in the town by providing start up units, small business units, and larger units to increase employment locally	13	0
Aim to retain existing industrial units to provide local employment	7	0
<b>Connectivity</b>		
Protect existing footpaths, byways and green lanes	8	0
Ensure new built areas have sufficient pedestrian and disabled access and that there are sufficient link from new estates to the town centre	3	0
Safe cycle routes both within and to and from the town	12	0
Sufficient parking and vehicular access to all public areas	3	0
Improve public transport provision both within the town and wider for both disabled and able-bodied people	5	0
Ensure that a better system of traffic management is used	5	0
<b>Future Proofing</b>		
Encourage energy saving in new buildings by the use of solar panels, wind turbines and heat pumps	5	0
Ensure that new buildings are provided with effective insulation and efficient water systems including grey water	4	0
Encourage the use of sustainable building materials where possible	6	0
Build quality sustainable housing that adheres to the character of the town	3	0
Encourage the recycling of materials within the town	4	0
<b>Natural Environment and open spaces</b>		
Protect the Commons, SSSIs and county wildlife sites	13	0
Protect allotments and provide new ones where needed	6	0
Protect the Lode and other waterways and ponds	7	0
Protect the closed churchyard and cemetery	4	0
Preserve the rural feel of the town and outlying areas	9	0
Protect the Recreation Ground environment and other play spaces	8	0
Recognise the importance of our countryside setting	8	0
Encourage greener streets and protect our trees and hedges	6	0
Encourage wildlife wherever possible	9	0
<b>Heritage and Built Environment</b>		
Identify possible building areas for additional houses to add to those proposed in the Local Plan 2015	0	9
Identify and protect all those buildings which have historical or architectural merit as well as those which have local interest or prominence	7	0
Ensure sufficient affordable housing	7	0
Build houses of suitable size and style, to include housing for the disabled and elderly, including suitable room sizes and storage	6	0
Provide sufficient off-road parking on new estates	8	0
Prevent the development of houses outside the natural boundary of the town envelop	2	10
<b>Local Facilities</b>		
Encourage provision of additional facilities where possible	10	0

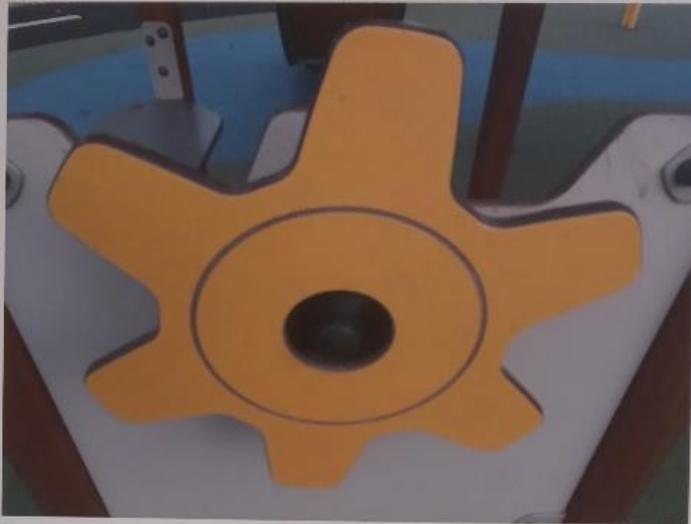
Ensure there is no loss of local facilities which includes schools, playgroups, nurseries, doctors' surgery, dentists' surgery, shops including Post office, local public houses, the Commons, Recreation Ground, sports facilities, play areas and places suitable to hold cultural events, meetings of clubs etc.	14	0
Provision of dog walking areas	9	3



## HERITAGE / BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Identify possible building areas for additional houses to those proposed in Local Plan 2015
- Identify and protect all those buildings which have historical, or architectural merit as well as those which have local interest or prominence
- Ensure sufficient affordable housing
- Build houses of suitable size and style to include housing for disabled and the elderly including room sizes and storages
- Provide sufficient off-road parking on housing estates,
- Prevent the development of houses outside the natural boundary of the town envelope

②



## LOCAL FACILITIES

- Encourage provision of additional facilities and amenities where possible
- Ensure there is no loss of local facilities which include: schools, playgroups, nurseries, doctors' surgery, dentists' surgery, shops including Post Office, local public houses, the Commons, Recreation Ground, sports facilities, play areas and places suitable to hold cultural events, meetings of clubs etc.
- Provision of dog walking areas

③



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES

- Protect the Commons, SSSIs and wildlife sites
- Protect and provide allotments where needed
- Protect the Lode and other waterways
- Protect the closed church yard and cemetery
- Preserve of rural feel of the town and outlying areas
- Protect the Recreation Ground environment and other play spaces
- Recognise the importance of our countryside setting
- Encourage greener streets and protect trees and hedges
- Encourage wildlife wherever possible



# CONNECTIVITY

- Protect existing footpaths, byways and green lanes
- Ensure new built areas have sufficient pedestrian and disabled access and that there are sufficient links from new estates to the town
- Safe cycle routes around and to and from the town
- Sufficient parking and vehicular access to all public areas
- Improve public transport provision both within the town and wider for disabled and able-bodied people
- Improve parking in the town and on new estates
- Ensure that a better system of traffic management is used

5



# BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

- Prevent empty shops in the main street from being turned into residential properties
- Protect the retail character of the High Street
- Encourage new businesses in the town by providing start up units, small business units and larger units to increase employment locally
- Aim to retain existing industrial units to provide local employment

6



# FUTURE PROOFING

- Encourage energy saving in new buildings by the use of solar panels, wind turbines and heat pumps
- Ensure that new buildings are provided with effective insulation and efficient water including grey water
- Encourage the use of sustainable building materials where possible
- Build quality sustainable housing that adheres to the character of the town
- Encourage the recycling of materials within the town



# Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan

Survey for Barway Residents

1

Why did you choose to live in Barway? You can choose up to 2 options

- Lived here all my life
- Inherited my house
- Like the peace and tranquillity
- Like the rural setting and nature is important to me
- House price I could afford
- Close to work
- Other

2

How often do you visit Soham?



- Daily
- Two or three times a week
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Less than once month

3 Why do you mainly visit Soham? You can choose u to 3 answers.

- Shopping
- Work
- School
- Doctors
- Social and leisure
- Visitiig friends/relations
-

Other

4

Which route do you normally use when travelling to Soham ?



A142,

- Follow main road to the junction with then turn right
- Travel along the Cotes and Mereside
- Walk or cycle along the Lode

What do you think most needs to be done to improve the access to and from Barway?  
You can choose 3 options

- Widen and repair the road along the Cotes and Mereside
- Stop large vehicles using the Cotes and Mereside
- Put traffic lights at the junction with A142
- Widen the road from A142 to Vegetable packing plant
- Improve the road from vegetable packing plant into the village Option 5
- Make cycling and pedestrian access safer

There has been quite a lot of new development in Barway recently, what do you think should happen regarding development for the future.

- No more new houses in Barway
- Allow a limited number of houses within the village boundary
- Allow additional houses to be built around Barway

7

Do you think it would benefit Barway if small businesses were allowed to set up in the village?

- Yes
- No

8Are there any buildings or areas of land which need protection from development? If so please give brief details of their location and the reason why it needs protection.

9

Do you think more use could be made of the Lode for leisure and tourism?  
If so what sort of use?



10

The climate change situation now demands that we use less carbon producing fuels. Will this make living in Barway (with no public transport) more difficult for you?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

11

If you are happy to, please provide your email address and contact number if we need to ask for more ideas

## Appendix 16 – Analysis of survey of Barway residents

### Analysis of survey of Barway residents

Survey forms were delivered to all 44 houses in Barway and 13 responses were received.

1. Clearly the residents of Barway are very appreciative of peace and tranquillity, the rural setting and natural beauty, as 11 respondents chose this option.
2. Only one respondent visits Soham daily probably for school use, most visit 2-3 times a week or monthly. Two visit Soham less than once a month.
3. The most popular reason to visit Soham was for the doctors, then for shopping and social and leisure. Two respondents listed their visits as work related but only one mentioned school. This is interesting because as there is no bus service to Barway (and no school bus service either) either most of the residents don't have school age children or the children go to private schools by car or no-one in a household with children attending school in Soham, completed a survey form (which is possible)
4. The respondents were asked which route they took to Soham. Ten out of 13 use the 'back' route along the Cotes and Mereside, only 2 used the main road and A142. One cycled or walked into Soham.
5. When asked what would improve the access to Barway best, 12 out of 13 respondents said put traffic lights at the junction with the A142. This is clearly an important junction and needs to be safe. The next important idea was to improve the road into Barway from the Vegetable packing plant. Making cycling and pedestrian areas safer was popular too.
6. Ten out of 13 respondents do not want any more house building in Barway. Two respondents were happy to have some infill housing.
7. When asked whether it would be good to have some small businesses in Barway, of the 13 respondents 5 said yes to small businesses and 8 said no.
8. The responses were very varied – one respondent mentioned the Old School House and the School House as being important buildings to preserve of the old Barway history. Three mentioned the St Nicholas's chapel. One also pointed out the importance of preserving the Lode bank walkways because of the benefits to humans and wildlife.
9. Several respondents don't want any changes to the Lode because it is regarded as good as it is. One suggested stopping the bank paths being used for cyclists and horse riders as these disturbed the wildlife and one wanted the illegal net fishing to be stopped. Canoeing was one idea to use the Lode for.
10. The question of the increasing future use of low carbon fuels impacting on life in Barway produced an interesting result. Only 2 respondents said yes it would affect them but the rest were split between no and maybe.

## **Commentary**

It appears that many of the residents of Barway regard themselves as more or less independent of Soham except for visits to the doctors' surgery, for occasional shopping or for leisure. Only one respondent mentioned schools. Does this mean that people living in Barway have no school-age children or their children are taken to private schools outside of Soham by car?

Residents are very pleased with the peace and tranquillity Barway provides for both residents and wildlife and they want this to be protected. In addition, there is little appetite for further house building in the area.

The most important aspect of the Barway survey for the respondents seems to be the road to Barway from A142. The junction is recognised as being very dangerous and the road to Barway is badly in need of repair, a separate cycle way and lighting in order to make it safer.

## Appendix 17 – Objectives Survey – November 2021

### WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

The Localism Act 2011 gives towns and villages the opportunity to have a greater say in future development in their area. This is done through a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), known as a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

Preparation of a NP for the Barway and Soham communities, gives a new way of influencing decisions that affect us locally. Once in force, the NP carries legal weight, and it must be ‘taken into account’ when proposals are considered for development in Barway or Soham.

Neighbourhood Plan CAN:-	Neighbourhood Plan CANNOT:-
Decide what type and design of development should happen in the neighbourhood	Propose less development than in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015
Identify open green spaces of real value so that they can be protected from development	Prevent any development from taking place in the NP area.
Encourage the development of facilities which have been identified as needed in the community	Be in conflict with local or national policies
Highlight other issues which could be acted on by other bodies	Be prepared without community support, consultation and eventually referendum
<b>THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SHAPE SOHAM AND BARWAY’S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b>	Influence decisions which are beyond its remit. E.G: bus routes and provision of NHS surgeries

### Why are we running this Consultation?

The NP Steering Group, has drafted a Vision and Objectives statement based upon the first questionnaire held in November 2019 and other surveys undertaken since then. A full copy of the Vision and Objectives is available on the NP Facebook Page, on the notice board at the Pavilion, Fountain Lane. The Group are now seeking further community preferred opinions.

If you prefer to complete this survey on line, visit us on facebook, use the link reference below or scan in the QR code given on this document.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAdOxppdUM1M1OUdFMFQ5NFZGVEQyQUs1VUk5REkzQi4u>

If you would like to be entered into a free prize draw when the lucky respondent will win a £50 voucher, please enter your name and contact details below or on the on-line form. This information will only be used to contact the winner and all personal information will be destroyed once the draw has been completed. The winner will be announced on the NP Facebook page.



## Completing the form

The group is seeking one response per household. If there is more than one household at your address, either complete another form on line or please ring 07863425244 and leave a message, including your address. This phone is not manned. An extra form will be delivered to you.

If you run a business in either Soham or Barway, but do not live here, we would welcome a response from you. Please mark your form BUSINESS.

## Open day Event

There will be an informal NP Drop-in event on 19th March from 10am to 4pm, in the Pavilion, Off Fountain Lane, Soham, CB7 5PL. If you need any extra help completing your form, or any more information or have questions please come and see us.

Once you have completed your form, please bring it to one of the collection boxes in the town. These will be at: The Post Office, Jak Hibs shop, ASDA, Soham Town Rangers Football Club and the Library. THANK YOU.

# Public Event

## **We want your views...**



SAVE THE DATE 19<sup>th</sup> March –  
10am to 4pm

The Walter Gidney Pavilion, Recreation Ground,  
Soham, CB7 5PL



## Consultation on Objectives for Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan

The survey will take approximately 6 minutes to complete. Please make a choice for each objective below.

### Growth and the Future

1. Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham's development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

2. Ensure that Soham is resilient against the future impacts of Climate Change with particular attention to flooding issues and the moves toward greener living.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

3. Ensure any additional housing provision meets the needs of local people within the NP Area, bearing in mind, the expected changes which will occur in the future.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Green Spaces

4. Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham, including its Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

5. Promote the town, its history, its Lode and its green connections as the Gateway to the Fens and make it a focus for sustainable tourism.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

6. Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Transport and connections

7. Improve transport connections and accessibility around the town and parish for all users including those with disabilities. Encourage safe cycle routes both within and beyond the town.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

8. Improve the provision and quality of off-street parking for motorised users (cars, buses etc) and non-motorised users (e.g. bikes) in the parish.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Housing and heritage

9. Ensure new development delivers high quality design, meets modern living requirements, National Space Standards, appropriate to identified housing needs and is designed to be low carbon.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

10. Protect and enhance heritage assets in the town centre (conservation area, listed buildings) and protect the historic environment in Barway and all areas of the parish.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Employment and Business

11. Support job retention and creation, maximising the community benefits of local employment by retention of existing employment sites and facilitating new developments on the edge of the town within the natural boundaries.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

12. Address existing barriers faced by local young people in accessing Further Education, post 16 and beyond.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Local Facilities

13. Fulfil the potential of the town centre in providing a revitalised and vibrant hub with a greater variety of shops, leisure, cultural and community activities.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

14. Provide enhanced infrastructure, including sport, health and cultural facilities to support growth and meet the needs of local people, on a scale appropriate to serve neighbourhoods.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

15. Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

16. Ensure that although Barway remains separate from Soham its needs are not forgotten.

Strongly Agree  Slightly Agree  Neither Agree or Disagree  Slightly Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Your details

17. If you would like to provide your contact details (name, telephone number/email address) it would enable us to contact you in case of any follow up questions and you will be entered in a free prize draw.

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## Appendix 18 – Objectives Survey

### Results March 2022

(177 responses- 20/3)

Question	% strongly agree	% slightly agree	% neither agree or disagree	% slightly disagree	%strongly disagree
<b>Topic</b>					
<b>1. Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham’s development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.</b>	62.5	22.1	7.7	1.7	5.8
<b>2. Ensure that Soham is resilient against the future impacts of Climate Change with particular attention to flooding issues and the moves toward greener living.</b>	84.4	10.4	3.3	0	1.9
<b>3. Ensure any additional housing provision meets the needs of local people within the NP Area, bearing in mind, the expected changes which will occur in the future.</b>	69.7	17.3	8.7	2.4	1.9
<b>4. Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham, including its Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible.</b>	91.9	4.3	2.4	0	0.7
<b>5. Promote the town, its history, its Lode and its green connections as the Gateway to the Fens and make it a focus for sustainable tourism.</b>	61.4	22.9	11	2.8	1.9

<b>6. Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.</b>	75.2	11.9	9.5	1.4	1.9
<b>7. Improve transport connections and accessibility around the town and parish for all users including those with disabilities. Encourage safe cycle routes both within and beyond the town.</b>	78.6	16.6	0	1.9	2.9
<b>8. Improve the provision and quality of off-street parking for motorised users (cars, buses etc) and non-motorised users (e.g. bikes) in the parish.</b>	66.7	22.4	7	3.4	0.5
<b>9. Ensure new development delivers high quality design, meets modern living requirements, National Space Standards, appropriate to identified housing needs and is designed to be low carbon.</b>	73.7	18.1	4.3	1	2.9
<b>10. Protect and enhance heritage assets in the town centre (conservation area, listed buildings) and protect the historic environment in Barway and all areas of the parish.</b>	77.9	15.9	4.3	0.5	1.4
<b>11. Support job retention and creation, maximising the community benefits of local employment by retention of existing employment sites and facilitating new developments on the edge of the town within the natural boundaries.</b>	65	22.3	10.7	1	1

<b>12. Address existing barriers faced by local young people in accessing Further Education, post 16 and beyond.</b>	74.4	16.4	7.3	0.5	1.4
<b>13. Fulfil the potential of the town centre in providing a revitalised and vibrant hub with a greater variety of shops, leisure, cultural and community activities.</b>	79.1	15.3	2.8	0.6	2.3
<b>14. Provide enhanced infrastructure, including sport, health and cultural facilities to support growth and meet the needs of local people, on a scale appropriate to serve neighbourhoods.</b>	76	13.4	7.7	0.5	2.4
<b>15. Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.</b>	72.7	12.4	11.5	1.9	1.4
<b>16. Ensure that although Barway remains separate from Soham its needs are not forgotten.</b>	64.9	16.6	16.4	0.5	1.6

93 provided contact details

## Appendix 19 – Comments from Public Forum – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Comments from Public forum 19 March 2022

Encourage relocation of existing employment sites where these sites have adverse affects on residents.

Question 13 I would like to see more shops – especially useful shops such as hardware shops – but question is too broad. Not bothered about culture.

Ensure that unrestricted car access to the town is preserved. Ensure that plentiful free car parking is provided. (Many older people – not blue badge holders, need their cars to access the town).

Soham serves a wide rural area in which car transport is essential.

I found that many of the questions in the survey were too general and therefore, difficult to answer in a meaningful way. M Rose, Broadpiece

To meet council members here today gave me a good opportunity to learn about the planning and development plans for Soham. I pointed out that the new railway station would be a waste of money if not turned into a loop link line (unmanned and regular service) for Soham, Cambridge, Waterbeach and Newmarket. I also mentioned that the majority of Soham people want to see the removal of speed bumps through the town that cause long term damage to most cars. I also wish to point out that I have photographed the damage caused by HGVs turning left off Fordham onto Wicken Rd at the bottom of Orchard Row. I have been unable to email the pictures with my comments due to the hard way it is to contact ECDC Highways. I have suggested that the local council can save a lot of money replacing the kerbs if a No Left Turn 3.5T weight limit as I would also save money not having to replace mirrors on my car while parked outside my house in Orchard Row.

I have heard that some councillors are sincerely concerned about the over development of the once beautiful town of Soham. If we must have more development, let it be for the children of today and the future. May I suggest an indoor swimming pool open all year round? G Scott, Orchard Row

Stop development. Soham is big enough now. We do not have the doctors, dentists, water, electric etc to keep things running. We also have a lot of flood plains which are not able to work because of housing. Also keep the commons as they are as they make Soham and green town.

I am new to Soham and as a new resident, I am very grateful that such important issues are being advocated for Soham. Soham is a special place, and as well as being well-served for 21<sup>st</sup> century, needs to do this in a way that protects the environment, its heritage and its residents. Thank you.

Although I am all for promoting growth, it needs to be properly supported with infrastructure, in particular the health centre. I am particularly concerned about developments on green areas and common land, especially after hearing that development is already taking place on this land , has not conformed to regulations, and no penalties have been issued. Where does that leave us with developments? The most positive growth being the link to Wicken.

I think it is important to keep green spaces for a nature purpose. It is also important to have the road infrastructure but also to encourage the public transport initiatives so that people do not just drive out of Soham straight onto the A142 rather than using the public transport available. Thank you

The vital things for me and my family –

1. To protect the natural areas we have and increase these by planting a forest today for tomorrow's residents but leaving areas long, creating a maze, plant a community orchard.
2. More safe cycleways around the town for families

3. Have the Pavilion as a welcoming hub for all. Its outpriced for businesses and gatherings. Speaking as a businessowner, I bring people to Soham to my classes. If I was based in the centre of town they could walk and enjoy the High St. Its called linked
4. Support the Sports Hall instead of developing new buildings.

It is important for Soham as a rural town to make preservation of our remaining green spaces and important wildlife also one of the top priorities as this is what makes Soham a nice place to live in. I would like to see these areas made more accessible and maintained as well as having as having more spaces created for this.

Also we should encourage better funding for the existing amenities that we have rather than money being spent on creating new areas.

Please stop houses being built! The Mereside site was butchered -trees, snakes, newts,, all gone! On a water level and flood plain. We are having sewage trouble on the Cherry Tree site – when will it stop? We are surrounded by water for a reason! Cycling is a pastime – please about the cycleway to Wicken! Can we develop what we have? The Ross Peers Sports centre etc. I know the railway will be extended when the junction can be built. Houses which can be bought by our young people, not big family houses.

Not happy about drainage, sewage, access to clinic for the elderly. We are getting too big too quick. S and E Moor

We need traffic lights on both roundabouts at each end of the town. Why should Soham residents have to leave one hour ahead for an appointment in Ely or Newmarket, to enable them to get there on time. We are going backwards in time. Also the idea of coming out of Station Rd is down right stupid, its more or less a crossroads and near the school. IF there are to be more houses then sensible infrastructure MUST be put in FIRST. Why should Soham people suffer because of those large developments?

# SOHAM AND BARWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN RESPONSE FORM



The Consultation (Regulation 14) on the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan runs from **1<sup>st</sup> November to 5pm on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document for guiding the future development of Soham and Barway. Please use this form to comment on the draft neighbourhood plan, its chapters, policies, and additional supporting documents so that we can make amendments before submitting for examination.

## **Please note:**

*This is a formal stage of consultation. Comments received at this stage will be reported in a consultation statement that will be a public document to be submitted alongside the plan. If you are responding on the behalf of an organisation, your name and organisation will appear in the consultation statement.*

*On submission of the neighbourhood plan, Soham Town Council will be required to share contact details of consultees (those who comment at this stage) with East Cambridgeshire District Council so they can discharge their legal duties in relation to publicising the submission of the plan, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).*

*We can therefore only accept comments from people who provide their contact details (e-mail or postal address). We will not pass any personal data on to third parties other than East Cambridgeshire District Council to enable them to carry out their statutory responsibilities relating to this plan.*

*By submitting a consultation response at this stage, you authorise Soham Town Council to legally collect and share your data in this manner. You can view Soham Town Council Privacy Policy on the website <https://www.soham-tc.gov.uk/privacy-policy/>*



## Vision and Objectives

### 1. Are you in broad agreement with the Proposed Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan – Chapter 4

Support the Plan

Neither support nor disagree

Disagree

### 2. Comments on the Vision and Objectives.

Please make clear what you are commenting on.



## Spatial Strategy and Housing

### 2. SBNP1 Spatial Strategy Chapter 5

Support

Neither support nor disagree

Disagree

### 3. SBNP2 Affordable Housing

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 4. SBNP3 Allocation of Affordable Housing

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 6.SBNP4 Housing Mix and Accessible Standards

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 7. Your comments on Spatial Strategy and Housing

Please make clear which policy you are commenting on.

# Employment, town centre, services and facilities

## Chapter 6



### 8. SBNP5 Vibrant Town Centre

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 9. SBNP6 Economic Growth

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 10. SBNP7 Tourism and Leisure

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 11. SBNP8 Local Services and Facilities

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

**12. SBNP9 New and upgraded Infrastructures and Facilities**

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

**13. SBNP10 Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments**

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

**14. Your comments on Employment, town centre, services and facilities  
- Chapter 6**

Please make clear which policy you are commenting on.

## Natural Environment – Chapter 7



### 15. SBNP11 Soham's Commons

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 16. SBNP12 Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 17. SBNP13 Landscape Character

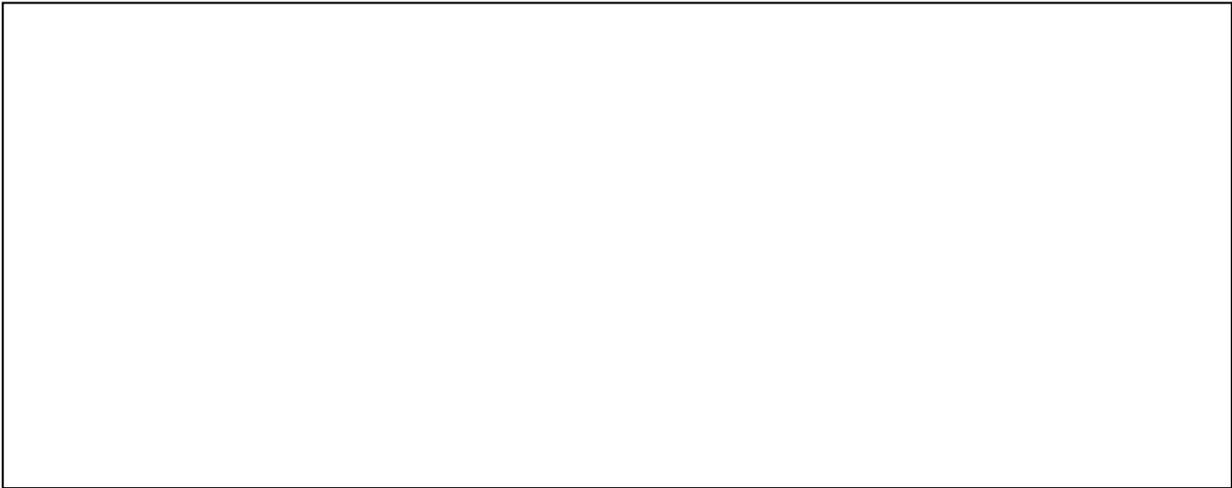
- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 18. SBNP14 Local Green Space

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 19. Your comments on Natural Environment – Chapter 7

Please make clear which policy you are commenting on.



## Conservation Areas – Chapter 8



There are also a number of listed buildings within the parish

### 20. SBNP15 Soham and Barway Conservation Areas

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 21. SBNP16 Non- designated Heritage Assets

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

### 22. Your Comments on Conservation Areas – Chapter 8

Please make clear which policy you are commenting on.

# Development Design and Climate Change – Chapter 9

## 23. SBNP17 High Quality Design

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

## 24. SBNP18 Sustainable buildings fit for Zero Carbon Future

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree



## 25. SBNP19 Renewable Energy

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

## 26. SBNP20 Water Efficiency

- Support
- Neither support nor disagree
- Disagree

## 27. SBNP 21 Flood Risks

Support

Neither support nor disagree

Disagree

## 28. Your Comments on Development Design and Climate Change –

### Chapter 9

Please make clear which policy you are commenting on.



## Transport and Accessibility – Chapter 10

### 29. SBNP22 Road Safety and Parking

<input type="checkbox"/>	Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither support nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree

### 30. SBNP23 Soham Pedestrian and Priority Cycle Routes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither support nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree

### 31. SBNP24 Millennium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights of Way

<input type="checkbox"/>	Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither support nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree

### 32. SBNP25 Connectivity and Permeability

<input type="checkbox"/>	Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither support nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree

### 33. Your comments on Transport and Accessibility – Chapter 10

Please make clear what you are commenting on.

**There are also a number of supporting documents which have helped to formulate the Policies in the Plan.**

**These are:-**

- Local Green Spaces Assessment**
- Non-designated Heritage Assets**
- Flood Risks**
- Habitats and Biodiversity Report**
- Transport Report**
- Views and Vistas Report**

**34. Any comments on these supporting documents for the Neighbourhood Plan?**

Please make clear which document you are commenting on.

There are these Additional Documents supporting the

Neighbourhood Plan which provide factual information relevant to aspects of the Plan.



of

*These are available to view on-line [www.soham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.soham-tc.gov.uk) or at the Town Council Office*

- Neighbourhood Plan Summary**
- Soham Design Guidance and Code**
- Housing Needs Assessment**
- Planning Policy Analysis**
- Demographic and Socio-economic Review**

**35. Please provide your name and contact details. Without these, we are sorry but we cannot accept any comments.**

Name	
<b>Email or postal address</b>	
<b>Organisation (only include if you are responding on the behalf of an organisation and not as an individual).</b>	

**Thank you for completing this form. Please post it to Soham Town Council, Walter Gidney Pavilion, Fountain Lane, Soham, Cambs CB7 5DE or drop it off at the office at the Pavilion, on The Recreation Ground.**

## Appendix 21 – Analysis of Responses to Chapters Questions

### Analysis of responses to chapter questions (53 responses)

#### Chapter 4

##### **1. Are you in broad agreement with the Proposed Neighbourhood Plan?**

Support	37
Neither support nor disagree	9
Disagree	4

#### Chapter 5

##### **3. SBNP1 Spatial Strategy**

Support	34
Neither support nor disagree	9
Disagree	7

##### **4. Policy SBNP 2 Affordable Housing**

Support	42
Neither support nor disagree	4
Disagree	3

##### **5. Policy SBNP 3 Allocation of Affordable Housing**

Support	41
Neither support nor disagree	6
Disagree	2

##### **6. Policy SBNP 4 Housing Mix and Accessible Standards**

Support	38
Neither support nor disagree	8
Disagree	3

#### Chapter 6

##### **8. Policy SBNP 5 Vibrant Town Centre**

Support	39
Neither support nor disagree	8
Disagree	2

##### **9. Policy SBNP 6 Economic Growth**

Support	41
Neither support nor disagree	4
Disagree	4

##### **10. Policy SBNP 7 Tourism and Leisure**

Support	38
Neither support nor disagree	8
Disagree	3

##### **11. Policy SBNP 8 Local Services and Facilities**

Support	43
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Neither support nor disagree	3
Disagree	2

**12. Policy SBNP 9 New and upgraded infrastructures and facilities.**

Support	42
Neither support nor disagree	4
Disagree	3

**13. Policy SBNP 10 Health, wellbeing and health impact assessments**

Support	39
Neither support nor disagree	4
Disagree	4

Chapter 7

**15. Policy SBNP 11 Soham's Commons**

Support	42
Neither support nor disagree	4
Disagree	2

**16. Policy SBNP 12 Biodiversity and wildlife habitats**

Support	40
Neither support nor disagree	5
Disagree	2

**17. Policy SBNP 13 Landscape Character**

Support	40
Neither support nor disagree	6
Disagree	2

**18. Policy SBNP 14 Local green spaces**

Support	43
Neither support nor disagree	3
Disagree	2

Chapter 8

**20. Policy SBNP 15 Soham and Barway Conservation Areas**

Support	39
Neither support nor disagree	9
Disagree	1

## **21. Policy SBNP 16 Non-designated heritage assets**

Support	36
Neither support nor disagree	11
Disagree	2

### Chapter 9

## **23. Policy SBNP 17 High quality design**

Support	40
Neither support nor disagree	6
Disagree	2

## **24. Policy SBNP Sustainable Buildings fit for Zero Carbon Future**

Support	40
Neither support nor disagree	8
Disagree	1

## **25. Policy SBNP 19 Renewable energy**

Support	40
Neither support nor disagree	6
Disagree	3

## **26. Policy SBNP 20 Water efficiency**

Support	46
Neither support nor disagree	2
Disagree	1

## **27. Policy SBNP 21 Flood risks**

Support	47
Neither support nor disagree	1
Disagree	1

### Chapter 10

## **29. Policy SBNP 22 Road safety and parking**

Support	41
Neither support nor disagree	6
Disagree	1

## **30. Policy SBNP 23 Soham pedestrian and cycle priority routes**

Support	35
Neither support nor disagree	10
Disagree	4

## **31. Policy SBNP 24 Millennium walks, green lanes and public rights of way**

Support	45
Neither support nor disagree	2
Disagree	2

## **32. Policy SBNP 25 Connectivity and permeability**

Support	42
Neither support nor disagree	6

Disagree

1

As can be seen from these results all the questions have high levels of agreement with the Plan – 34 in agreement is the lowest number over all the questions and as there were only 53 responses in total that is very encouraging that the Plan is generally approved of.

## Appendix 22 – Soham Town Council’s response to Statutory Consultees, Consultees and Landowners

### Comments from Statutory Consultee, Consultees and Landowners with Soham Town Council Response

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
1.	East Cambridgeshire District Council	General	<p>Overall, it is evident that a considerable amount of work has gone into the Plan, considerable evidence has been gathered and published (both in the plan and in separate documents), and the basic thrust and content of the Plan appears to be appropriate for a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>We have seen previous working drafts and pleased to see those suggestions have been taken on board.</p> <p>The Plan is well presented, and clearly distinguishes between policy and supporting text.</p> <p>Where we support the plan or are generally comfortable with the policy, we don’t specifically say this in the comments.</p> <p>The plan appears consistent with the strategic policies in the development plan</p> <p>The wide range of supporting documents is commended and helpful.</p>	Appropriateness of broad approach in Neighbourhood Plan is noted. Welcome confirmation that the plan is consistent with the strategic policies in the development plan.
2.	Wicken Parish Council	General	We would like to congratulate you on putting the plan together and fully support the plan.	Support noted.
3.	Natural England	General	<p>Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following information.</p>	Comments and advice noted which have been helpful in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
4.	National Highways	General	We have reviewed the document and note the details of set out within the draft document are unlikely to have a severe impact on the operation of the trunk road and we offer No Comment.	
5.	Avison Young on behalf of National Grid	General	The response outlines the responsibility of Avison Young and details the National Grid Electricity Transmission organisations (NGET).  It details the position of the 400Kv Overhead Transmission Line Route: Burwell Main – Walpole 1 which crosses the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	Route noted.
6.	Avison Young on behalf of National Gas Transmission	General	The response outlines the responsibility of Avison Young on behalf of National Gas Transmission.  National Gas Transmission has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	Comments noted.
7.	East Cambridgeshire District Council	Para 2.15 to 2.16	These paras need updating following the update of the Local Plan in 2023. ECDC happy to assist with suggested wording. It shouldn't impact the wider draft plan content.	Agreed. Since the Regulation 14 consultation, the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Review has been adopted in October 2023. It is appropriate to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is updated to reflect this context.
8.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Education	3.6	The school is 9FE (1,350) pupils although this is forecast to increase to 10FE by the end of the decade. There is sufficient space to accommodate this additional demand, however, additional land will be needed to allow the introduction of a sixth form.	Comments noted and clarification to be made.
9.	East Cambridgeshire District Council	SBNP1	Overall, the policy appears suitable as a policy for a Neighbourhood Plan. Criterion ii appears to have a few typos.  Perhaps amend to: ii. Modest tourism and leisure proposals, including small scale holiday accommodation, which capitalise on Soham's location close to tourism	Support noted for principle of policy. The proposed change provides clarity and the plan should be amended accordingly.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			destinations, provided such proposals accord with Policy SBNP7 and with Local Plan policies EMP 7 and EMP 8.	
10.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP1	We welcome that Soham will grow sustainably using the Soham Design Guidance and Codes 2022.	Support noted.
11.	East Cambridgeshire District Council	5.5 to 5.11	These paras will need updating, as you acknowledge in 5.10. ECDC happy to assist in updating such text.	Agreed. The Neighbourhood Plan should be updated to reflect the Adoption of the Local Plan Review and any updated monitoring data on housing completions and commitments.
12.	East Cambridgeshire District Council	SBNP2	Major Development is defined as '10 or more'. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (legislation.gov.uk)	Agreed. Amend Policy SBNP2 to 10 or more dwellings.
13.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP2	And that there is a drive to meet current and future needs with affordable homes thanks to policy SBNP2. The NP highlights that Barway's requirements are very different, and the local Housing Needs Assessment 2023 differentiates the need. Commitments to affordable housing are very important; the wider determinants of health highlight the need for a sage, adequately spacious home, a job/income as well as friendships, family and community network as the basis for wellbeing.	Support noted.
14.	Carter Jonas on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council – landowner	SBNP2	<p>Policy SBNP2 relates to affordable housing and includes a requirement for 30% affordable housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings. Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing Provision) of the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 (amended in 2023) also includes policy requirements for affordable housing, with 40% affordable housing sought in the south of the district and 30% sought in the north. Soham falls within the north of the district where 30% affordable housing would be required.</p> <p>Section 3 of the NPPF provides guidance on plan-making. Criteria (f) of Paragraph 16 states that plans should "serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant)".</p>	<p>Within Soham, the amount of affordable housing secured on housing allocations has ranged significantly from 30% to as low as 12.5%.</p> <p>It is also important to consider the community opinion expressed in the consultation surveys in March 2022. A key outcome of this was that 87% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that additional housing provision meets the needs of local people within the Neighbourhood Area.</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>Policy HOU3 of the adopted Local Plan already provides policy on affordable housing requirements for development including for 30% affordable housing on qualifying sites within Soham, and therefore it is not necessary for Policy SBNP2 to repeat the existing affordable housing requirement in an adopted development plan document.</p> <p>It is concluded that Policy SBNP2 does not have regard to national policy, and as such would not meet Basic Condition (a).</p> <p>In addition, it is noted that in 2019 East Cambridgeshire District Council adopted an Interim Policy for Viability Assessments, which concluded that a reduced affordable housing requirement of 20% should be applied to residential developments in Soham for viability reasons. The use of the Viability Assessment Report is explained in the following link:  <a href="https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-developmentframework/viability-assessment-report">https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-developmentframework/viability-assessment-report</a>.</p> <p>The Interim Policy does not seek to supersede the 30% affordable housing requirement in adopted Local Plan Policy HOU3, but it provides a practical approach to the determination of planning applications for major residential development and avoids the need for viability assessments to be prepared and submitted with those applications. It is concluded that Policy SBNP2 is inconsistent with interim district-wide guidance on viability and affordable housing requirements for Soham. The need for additional affordable housing in Soham is acknowledged, and work to increase the supply of affordable housing is supported, but development needs to remain viable as reflected in the interim districtwide viability guidance.</p>	<p>The Housing Needs Assessment 2023, prepared by AECOM, estimates that Soham and Barway requires approximately 252 units of affordable rented housing and 656 units of affordable home ownership to 2031. There is a current backlog of households on the Housing Register for Soham in need of social / affordable rented housing. The need is growing. The Soham Housing Needs Survey 2015 states that there were 185 households on the Housing Register with a local connection to Soham and an interest in living in the parish. The most recent report shows that at October 2022 there were 278 households on the housing register currently living in Soham and Barway.</p> <p>The policy, in part, is needed to remove the ambiguity created by the 2019 Viability Assessment Reports. It is the Town Council's view that due to the demonstrated demand for affordable housing, 30% should be secured unless demonstrated by an up to date and appropriate viability assessment relevant to the site.</p> <p>It is clear from development proposals coming forward in Soham, that 30% is achievable and deliverable on major housing sites in Soham.</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			It is requested that the requirement for 30% affordable housing in Soham contained in Policy SBNP2 is deleted, because it repeats the existing affordable housing requirement in an adopted development plan document.	
15.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP3	Support home allocation to residents with local ties within the community as a priority. We welcome future proofing housing stock to make them more viable as lifetime properties such as being built to accessibility standards as articulated in SBNP4	Support noted.
16.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP4	We welcome future proofing housing stock to make them more viable as lifetime properties such as being built to accessibility standards as articulated in SBNP4. Also reasonably sized properties are more affordable to heat and or col therefore associated with better health outcomes. Having sufficient space, access to privacy, space for working from home needs, improved day light and ventilation are all essential to positive health outcomes. The comment includes evidence of support for this approach.	Support noted.
17.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP5	From a public health perspective policy SBNP5 to 7 are to ensure a public realm and assets that brings positive benefits to the community as well as at streetscape that is in alignment with the ten Healthy Street indicators. There is also a need to encourage economic growth to support the wider health picture of the community.	
18.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	Community Action 1	Public Health welcome Action 1 as identifying youth need and provision will assist in improve health outcomes long term	Support noted.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
19.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	Community Action 2	Action 2 will facilitate improvement and enhancement of the town centre and associated community assets, green spaces, leisure, and cultural facilities. These are all beneficial for health from the perspective of physical activity, mental health, social cohesion and social capital. An important consideration is with regard to equitable access. Can all residents and (future) tourists access and make use of the associated facilities.	Support and comments noted.
20.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP8	Welcomes policy and associated community actions. These intrinsically weave together a healthier foodscape with improvements to local services and facilities helping to reduce health inequalities. We also strongly support and encourage positive features to the food environment such as allotments, farmers markets and community gardens and orchards particularly collocated with other community facilities or recreational spaces.	Support and comments noted. The Town Council is working to improve the Weatheralls Allotments and to secure new allotments in the southern part of the town.
21.	Sport England	SBNP9	<p>The response highlights how the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this process. Providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This means that positive planning for sport, protection from the unnecessary loss of sports facilities, along with an integrated approach to providing new housing and employment land with community facilities is important.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans should comply with national policy, protect playing fields; take on board any local indoor / outdoor sports strategies; set out how the current and future needs of the community for sport can be met, ensure sports facilities are fit for purpose, to absorb demand from new development secure new sports facilities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p>	Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies key areas of green space that are important to the community as Local Green Space. It sets out policies to protect and enhance the Commons. It details the valued service and facilities including support for infrastructure improvements including the Ross Peer Sports Hall.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
22.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP9	Welcomes policy and associated community actions. These intrinsically weave together a healthier foodscape with improvements to local services and facilities helping to reduce health inequalities. We also strong support and encourage positive features to the food environment such as allotments, farmers markets and community gardens and orchards particularly collocated with other community facilities or recreational spaces.	Support and comments noted.
23.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP10	We support SBNP 10 Health Impact Assessments to be employed for developments over 50 homes / 5,000m2. Encouraging consistent use of HIA's and following health guidelines in new developments will help reduce potential future health inequalities and nurture a healthier built environment.	Support and comments noted.
24.	Carter Jonas on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council – landowner	SBNP10	Policy SBNP10 relates to health and wellbeing, and includes a requirement for a health impact assessment to be submitted with certain developments. The policy aspiration to ensure the delivery of healthy communities and reduce health inequalities is acknowledged and supported. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF identifies the range of factors that contribute towards healthy communities. Section Id.53 of the Planning Practice Guidance provides further guidance on the delivery of healthy and inclusive communities. The adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan includes policies to enhance health facilities in Soham and support the delivery of open space, green infrastructure and community facilities. It is considered that the first three paragraphs of Policy SBNP10 are broadly consistent with local and national policies on health and wellbeing matters.	Alignment with Local and National Policies noted.
25.	Carter Jonas on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council – landowner	SBNP11	It is considered that draft S&BNP does not meet Basic Condition (a) in that it is inconsistent with national policy.  Policy SBNP11 seeks to protect and enhance the wildlife, landscape and recreational quality of Soham's Commons. Map 4 seeks to identify land	In summary, it is requested that the proposed Common at the land at Shade Commons 2 as shown on Map 4 (at pg. 41) is deleted because this land it is not registered as a Common.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>designated as common land. Cambridgeshire County Council own land identified as common land at Shade Commons 2. The land identifies as Shade Commons 2 is not registered as common land. The Soham Design Guidance and Codes 2022 and the Soham Commons Recreational and Biodiversity Enhancement Study do not identify land at Shade Commons 2 as common land. In 2018 legal advice from Ruth A. Stockley (of Kings Chambers) was provided to Cambridgeshire County Council as to whether the land identified as Shade Commons 2 was registered as common land. It is concluded in the legal advice that land identified as Shade Common 2 is not registered as common land and there are no rights of common over it. The legal advice is enclosed with this response.</p> <p>Paragraph 041 (Ref ID: 41) of the Planning Practice Guidance states that “It [neighbourhood plan policies] should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence”. There is no supporting evidence in SBNP11 to explain or justify the proposed designation of land at Shade Commons 2 as common land, as shown on Map 4. As set out above, there is legal advice that the land identified as Shade Common 2 is not registered as common land. The proposed designation of land at Shade Commons 2 as common land does not have regard to national policy, and as such would not meet Basic Condition (a). The land at Shade Commons 2 should be deleted as common land and removed from Map 4.</p> <p>It is requested that the land at Shade Commons 2 should be deleted as common land and removed from Map 4, because this land is not registered as common land and there are no rights of common over it.</p>	<p>The Legal Advice accompanying the response is conclusive.</p> <p>The Shade Common should be removed from the Commons map in line with the legal advice.</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
26.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP11	There is significant green space around Soham and Barway due to the unique landscape setting of the Commons. As well as an extensive green infrastructure network throughout both developments. Green space and the provision of green infrastructure support health through brining with it benefits that occur when accessing it such as activity and social interaction.	Support and comments noted.
27.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP12	Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is critical to maintaining the green infrastructure of Soham and Barway. Public Health support Community Actions 5 and 6.	Support and comments noted.
28.	East Cambridgeshire District Council	SBNP12	Whilst the intent of the policy is supported, there is probably a requirement to refine it a little further and avoid any overlap or confusion with statutory BNG. For example, in the fourth set of criteria, items b) and c) referring to the metric aren't needed and could confuse, because it is mandatory already.	The Neighbourhood Plan should not duplicate existing guidance or policy.
29.	Carter Jonas on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council – landowner	SBNP12	<p>Policy SBNP12 seeks to protect and enhance the natural and local environment. It is suggested that Policy SBNP12 is broadly consistent with Policy ENV 7 of the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, the East Cambridgeshire Natural Environment SPD (adopted September 2020), and with Section 15 of the NPPF.</p> <p>It is proposed in Criteria (a) in Policy SBNP12 that a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain should be applied for all qualifying developments, rather than the mandatory 10% requirement as contained in the Environment Act 2021. The supporting text to Policy SBNP12 includes high level commentary on the impact of a higher biodiversity net gain on the viability of development, and concludes that a 20% biodiversity net gain requirement would not affect the viability of development in Soham. The policy aspiration to increase biodiversity net gain is supported in principle.</p>	<p>The consistency with ENV7 and SPD is noted. The need for improved biodiversity is noted in the 'Doubling Nature 2018 – A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2050'.</p> <p>The Local Government Association has published viability assessments testing the increase from 10% to 20% BNG. It provides satisfactory evidence to demonstrate that an uplift is appropriate.</p> <p>Natural Cambridgeshire is a partnership of key local authorities, including East Cambridgeshire District Council, and</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>It should be noted that larger developments that provide biodiversity net gain on site can typically deliver net gains in excess of the mandatory 10% requirement. It is requested that viability evidence is prepared for draft S&amp;BNP in order to determine whether a 20% biodiversity net gain requirement would affect the viability of different types and sizes of development in Soham. A higher biodiversity net gain requirement should not undermine the delivery of affordable housing or infrastructure at a site that is otherwise suitable for development.</p> <p>It is suggested that biodiversity net gain requirements, including any higher requirements, should be set at a district-wide level rather than through individual neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>It is requested that viability evidence is prepared for draft S&amp;BNP in order to determine whether a 20% biodiversity net gain requirement would affect the viability of different types and sizes of development in Soham.</p>	<p>environmental stakeholders who have adopted a Strategy, 'Doubling Nature 2018 – A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough in 2050'. Its vision is that by doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green-space, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become a world-class environment where nature and people thrive, and businesses prosper.</p> <p>Additionally, the Soham Commons Study notes that the Local Plan proposes around 2,300 new dwellings which would result in between 57% to 69% increase in recreational use of the Commons. It notes that the wildlife interest of the commons has declined over the last few decades. The Study recommends habitat restoration including grassland restoration, reinstating rotational pollarding, pond and water course restoration.</p> <p>It states that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have some very attractive landscapes and many special areas designated for their rich wildlife. However, these need enhancing and augmenting in order to support public health and the economic success arising from of the area's growth. We need to do this because this area faces the significant challenges of being in the driest part of the country with limited</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
				<p>water resources, and also soil degradation, habitat fragmentation, low tree and grassland cover, climate change, increasing flood risk, and low proportions of land under management for nature. A key objective is ensuring new housing and work place developments incorporate high quality green and blue infrastructure providing multiple benefits for people and the environment. The Strategy can be found at <a href="http://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk">naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk</a>.</p> <p>This policy has regard to the national policy on securing Biodiversity Net Gain. It seeks to increase the biodiversity net gain to 20%, in excess of the 10% minimum set for qualifying developments set out in the Environment Act. It is essential that in terms of mitigating the impact of climate change, supporting increased biodiversity, and meeting the challenges set out in the Doubling Nature 2018 strategy, a net biodiversity gain of at least 20% is required.</p> <p>Swale Borough Council used the Defra impact assessment 'central estimate cost per dwelling for the South East' for their draft Local Plan Viability Study. This looked at the difference between provision of 10% and 20% BNG and put costs at £948 per dwelling for 10% BNG with an additional £180 per dwelling for 20% BNG.</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
				<p>The Parish Council has examined work completed by local planning authorities which reports that the move from 10% to 20% BNG will not materially affect the viability of the development. The Kent Nature Partnership net gain group has published a county-wide strategic viability assessment to understand the implications of a 20% BNG approach for Kent: <a href="https://kentnature.org.uk/nature-recovery/biodiversity-net-gain/">https://kentnature.org.uk/nature-recovery/biodiversity-net-gain/</a>. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shift from 10% to 15% or 20% BNG will not materially affect viability in the majority of instances when delivered on-site or off-site.</li> <li>• The biggest cost in most cases is to get to mandatory, minimum 10% BNG.</li> <li>• The increase to 15% or 20% BNG in most cases costs much less and is generally negligible.</li> </ul> <p>It also found that BNG costs are low when compared to other policy costs, in no cases are they likely to be what renders development unviable. Additionally, costs are small BNG is unlikely to impact the viability threshold significantly, however, the policy includes provision for viability testing.</p>
30.	Carter Jonas on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council	SBNP13	Policy SBNP13 relates to landscape character, and seeks to ensure that development is sensitive to the landscape and settlement character of the area. The policy identifies views of the landmark building of St Andrew's Church and key landscape features including the Green Loop	<p>Consistency with Policy ENV1 of the Local Plan is noted.</p> <p>The comments on the description of View 9</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
	– landowner		<p>and green infrastructure walks and wildlife connections. The policy refers to the design and landscape guidance for development provided in the Soham Design Guidance and Codes document.</p> <p>It is suggested that Policy SBNP13 is broadly consistent with the district-wide landscape policy in Policy ENV 1 of the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, but highlights particular local landscape character and features. It is noted that Policy SBNP13 does not seek to prevent development, but sets out policy to protect landscape character and where appropriate deliver landscape mitigation and enhancement within development.</p> <p>Criteria (iii) of Policy SBNP13 refers to key views on the edge of Soham, both out to the countryside and from the countryside towards the settlement. The criteria require development to respect and not adversely impact on those views. The identified views for Soham are shown on Map 5, and photographs of the protected views are provided on pg.49 to 51. The Views &amp; Vistas Topic Paper includes identical plans and photographs. Cambridgeshire County Council owns various parcels of land on the edge of Soham, including land on the western edge of the settlement that falls within View No.9.</p> <p>It is considered that there is no landscape or any other evidence to explain why View No.9 represents a key view that requires particular protection within policy. The photograph of View No.9 and associated text does not identify any landscape features of particular note within this viewpoint. Paragraph 041 (Ref ID: 41) of the Planning Practice Guidance states that “It [neighbourhood plan policies] should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence”.</p> <p>Since there is no evidence put forward to explain or justify the proposed key view at View No.9, this proposed designation does not have regard to</p>	<p>in the Topic Paper is noted. The Topic Paper should be updated to more accurately reflect its value.</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>national policy, and as such would not meet Basic Condition (a). It is requested that View No.9 is deleted from Map 5 and from the list of photographs on pg.51.</p> <p>Despite the requested changed, it is considered that landscape character, including the landscape within View No.9, would be adequately protected by the other policy requirements in Policy SBNP13 and by the district-wide Policy ENV 1 in the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. It is requested that View No.9 is deleted from Map 5 and from the list of photographs on pg.51.</p>	
31.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP13	SBNP13 ensures that the distinctive vistas and preserved in and out of the two settlements. They actively support physical as well as mental health and wellbeing.	Support and comments noted.
32.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP15	The architectural and historical value of the town centre makes up part of the Soham Conservation Area. SBNP15 serves to support and enhance the public realm and visual landscape in Soham.	Support and comments noted.
33.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Historic Environment Team	SBNP15	Notes and Welcome Chapter 8 – Historic Environment which includes specific policies in line with Local Plan policies ENV12 and ENV13.	Support noted
34.	Historic England	SBNP15	<p>At this point we don't consider there is a need for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the strategy for your area, but we offer some general advice and guidance below, which may be of assistance.</p> <p>We note that within the Plan area, both the Conservation Area and St. Andrew's church are currently on the Heritage at Risk register. This may be something which your plan wishes to include within your Historic Environment policy to reinforce the aims of the plan to protect and enhance Soham's historic environment. For example, in relation to the</p>	Comments noted and it is appropriate to include details of the at risk register in the introduction to the policy.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>Conservation Area, the plan may wish to prioritise either an updated appraisal or management plan.</p> <p>We also note a desire to improve the streetscape within the Plan. You may find our guidance Streets for All of assistance.</p> <p>The response provides a wealth of background information and advice on planning policy content.</p>	
35.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Historic Environment Team	SBNP16	<p>Notes and Welcome Chapter 8 – Historic Environment which includes specific policies in line with Local Plan policies ENV12 and ENV13. The Local Heritage List is being updated and it is recommended that the Town Council liaise with the Conservation Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council.</p> <p>The document presents no information on important below ground archaeological resource of the area and no policies are included to protect it.</p> <p>The response includes examples of archaeological remains including undesignated heritage assets. Evidence suggests the historic core of Soham was occupied in the Anglo Saxon period. It recommends that the steering group contact Cambridgeshire County Council’s Historic Environment Record to improve the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>It is our view that the NP should contain a policy supporting ENV14 of the Local Plan, that provides for appropriate protection for Soham and Barways below ground heritage assets of archaeological interest, whether designated or undesignated. CHET can provide wording.</p>	<p>Local Plan Policy ENV13 seeks to ensure that proposals that affect a building on the Local Register will not be permitted where it would have a detrimental impact on the visual, architectural or historic significance of the asset.</p> <p>The policy seeks to protect those buildings which are not identified either as designated or non designated Heritage Assets on the Local List.</p> <p>The intent is to provide clarity on locally important non designated heritage assets in the Parish.</p> <p>Local Plan Policy ENV14 protects known or potential sites of archaeological interest and requires an appropriate archaeological assessment to be submitted. Reference to the HER is included in the supporting text to that policy. The Neighbourhood plan should not duplicate this advice. However, the distinctives of Soham and Barway’s</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
				<p>archaeology should be noted in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Consultation with the Conservation Officer ongoing.</p>
36.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP16	SBNP16 further protects and enhances the locale of Soham and Barway; all of which bring positive mental health benefits. More shared assets at community level may help to encourage increased social cohesion and a greater sense of community which is of particular value in larger urban developments.	Support and comments noted.
37.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP17	Welcome the Soham Design Guidance and Codes to facilitate balanced and sustainable development which meets the evolving needs for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	Support and comments noted.
38.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Climate Change and Energy Services	SBNP18	<p>Policy SBNP18 is based on a good principle of contributing to a low carbon future and radical reduction in greenhouse gasses emissions, as well as improving resilience.</p> <p>The policy is right to focus on all steps in the energy hierarchy . The fourth point could be strengthened by specifying that all fossil fuels based heating systems (such as gas or oil boilers) should be avoided. Low carbon heat sources that could be used should also be specifically mentioned, such as heat pumps in particular.</p> <p>It is good to see that embodied carbon is also considered.</p>	Comments noted. The policy should be amended to reflect the new Ministerial Statement on 13th December on local energy efficiency standards. It should be clear that Policy SBNP12 strongly encourages proposals to meet the standards set out in the policy.
39.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP18	Supports best practices in the use of energy conservation for new development through design, efficiency, materials, renewable energy generation and emissions reductions.	Support and comments noted.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>Although not mentioned in the NP we support the use of community heat schemes if viable for a community. They can help to make renewable energy more economically accessible to all and reduce risks of fuel poverty.</p> <p>Energy efficiency is a key factor in developing sustainable communities. Public Health agree with Policies SBNP 17 – 20 which seek to improve the environmental performance of Soham and Barway’s building stock. The comments set out ways in which design principles improve environmental performance.</p>	
40.	Carter Jonas on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council – landowner	SBNP18	<p>Policy SBNP18 seeks to support the delivery of sustainable buildings and net zero carbon developments.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council supports all of the principles contained in Policy SBNP18, however, Soham Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group may want to review this policy against existing policy and regulations to ensure that they are not unnecessarily repeated in draft S&amp;BNP. For example, the Building Regulations include standards for energy efficiency of new buildings. Section 12 of the NPPF relates to climate change, and includes paragraphs that refer to renewable and low carbon energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The National Design Guide includes advice and guidance on the design and layout of buildings, the use of resources, the energy hierarchy, sustainable materials, and resilient buildings.</p> <p>Policy ENV 4 of the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan includes an aim for reduced or zero carbon development, and refers to energy efficiency and sustainable design and construction. The East Cambridgeshire Climate Change SPD (adopted February 2021) includes policies and guidance on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, reducing energy demand, and resilient and adaptable design for new buildings.</p>	See comment 38 above -

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
41.	Environment Agency	SBNP21	<p>We aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment. We have had to focus our detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest. Based on the environmental constraints within the area, we have no detailed comments to make in relation to your Plan at this stage.</p> <p>On the basis that no additional growth is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless, we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk. Allocation of any sites and any windfall development delivered through the Plan period should follow the sequential approach. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 161 sets this out.</p> <p>The Soham Water Recycling Centre (WRC) in Soham is currently not at capacity, however providing the Plan does not allocate sites for growth development across the Plan period, we do not have any significant concerns. We would still expect to see consideration for any windfall developments captured in a relevant policy for Water Quality in the catchment of the Plan Area and serving WRC.</p>	<p>Comments noted. However, the East Cambs Water Cycle Study notes that Soham Water Treatment Works requires infrastructure and / or treatment upgrades to accommodate all of the proposed growth in the Local Plan. The study also states that proposed growth is predicted to lead to deterioration in water quality greater than 10% and/or class deterioration at Soham WRC.</p>
42.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Local Lead Flood Authority	SBNP21	<p>The inclusion of the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document, Paragraphs 159-169 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy ENV 8 is supported by the LLFA as it covers the importance of managing surface water runoff in new developments using sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>The LLFA are pleased to see the promotion of water reuse via rainwater harvesting systems which reduces existing stresses on potable water in Cambridgeshire. The LLFA is also supportive of above-ground open SuDS features such as attenuation basins, bio-retention systems, and permeable paving as in addition to controlling the rate of surface water leaving the site, they also provide water quality treatment, amenity, and biodiversity benefits.</p>	<p>Support is noted. The Neighbourhood Plan can usefully reference the Cambridgeshire County Council Surface Water Planning Document</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>Some areas of Soham and Barway are at high risk of surface water flooding. Whilst this is addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan surface water flood risk maps could be utilised to show potential flood risk within Soham and Barway, and the specific locations that are most at risk. Data is available from <a href="https://data.gov.uk">Find open data - data.gov.uk</a>. Further information of flood risk can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk">Check the long term flood risk for an area in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>.</p> <p>The reference to different flood zones is particularly important since parts of Soham and Barway lie within Flood Zones 2 and 3. The inclusion of a map showing these flood zones highlights areas at the greatest risk.</p> <p>The LLFA are pleased to see Policy SBNP21 – Flood Risk, as this encourages the use of the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD, NPPF, DEFRA's Non-Statutory Standards for Sustainable Drainage, and the CIRIA SuDS Manual to design site-specific surface water drainage strategies as well as outlining what the drainage strategy should include.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Cambridgeshire County Councils Surface Water Planning Guidance</a> also provides technical guidance for developers.</p> <p>The LLFA would recommend that Anglian Water, and the Environment Agency as well as any relevant Internal Drainage Board are consulted in relation to flood risk management, to ensure that their comments on this Neighbourhood Plan can be taken into account.</p>	
43.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP21	Welcome comprehensive surface water drainage strategy and identified alleviation and mitigation approaches in both established and new development to protect human health from flood risk.	Support and comments noted. The Town Council will consider a 'Flood Group' outside of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			The comments set out the way in which residents who may be affected by flood risk can be encouraged or signposted to create a flood group that are typically led by the Town or Parish Council.	
44.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP22	<p>SBNP22 and community actions 8 to 11 work together to support best practices with residential parking.</p> <p>Northstowe and Cambourne are examples where restrictive covenants places on properties including garages which ultimately meant certain small business / trades people that may have been based at home could not be. Growing the economy is an important part of Soham’s development plans because a healthier economy encourages a healthier community at large.</p>	Support and comments noted. It is not intended to place covenants on the use of garage or properties which would restrict homeworking or small traders.
45.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	SBNP23	Support policies SBNP 23 to 25. It is important to support connectivity especially to crucial infrastructure such as health and educational facilities whilst respecting biodiversity and green infrastructure as well as ensuring surfacing is appropriate to the priority users group.	Support noted.
46.	British Horse Society	SBNP23	<p>On behalf of the British Horse Society (BHS) I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the Soham &amp; Barway’s Neighbourhood Plan (SBNP) as follows: In the NP it mentions that Soham has numerous Rights of Ways, predominantly footpaths. Would there be any opportunities to upgrade any of these footpaths to bridleways or byways, which would help to link up the disjointed bridleway network for both equestrians and cyclists. Local equestrians would like to see more of the ROW access available to them ie more bridleways/byways.</p> <p>The Plan mentions the following policies’ Policy SBNP 23 – Pedestrian and Cycle Priority Routes The policy identifies priority walking and cycling to key locations in the town and beyond. Development proposals which create and maintain these routes will be supported. Route 5: Fordham</p>	<p>Comments on opportunities to improve bridleways and their connections is noted.</p> <p>Amend policy to ensure that opportunities to improve access for equestrians on routes 5 and 7 will be supported</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>Road cycle route This route should also include equestrians, who are an equally vulnerable road user, on the same level as cyclists in the Highway Code. Public money should be spent inclusively and include all Non Motorised Users. Route 7 : Soham to Barway cycle route This route should also include equestrians, who are an equally vulnerable road user, on the same level as cyclists in the Highway Code Public money should be spent inclusively and include all Non Motorised Users. Consideration should be given to all Non Motorised Users, including equestrians. Public money should be spent efficiently to include as many users as possible. Equestrians are also recognised in Active Travel.</p>	
47.	British Horse Society	SBNP24	<p>Policy SBNP 24 –Millenium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights of Way. The policy safeguards existing Millenium walks, Green Lanes and public rights of way which are detailed in the plan. Presumably equestrians are included in these plans.</p>	<p>The policy refers to bridleways and public footpaths</p>
48.	British Horse Society	SBNP25	<p>Policy SBNP 25 – Connectivity and Permeability The purpose of this policy is to ensure the existing footpath and cycle networks are not adversely affected when new development comes forward and that opportunities are utilised to improve the network. Consideration should be given to all Non Motorised Users, including equestrians. Public money should be spent efficiently to include as many users as possible. Equestrians are also recognised in Active Travel. In section 10.6 To continue to safeguard land for the provision of a cycle and pedestrian link between Soham and Wicken Fen. It is essential that proposals do not come forward which undermine the successful delivery of this route. This link should also include equestrians, who are an equally vulnerable road user, on the same level as cyclists in the Highway Code. Public money should be spent inclusively and include all Non Motorised Users. In section 10.7 Wicken Fen, part of the National Trust, is one of Europe's most important wetlands, a rich eco-system supporting abundant and diverse plant and animal life. It currently has 65,000 visitors a year of which 90% arrive by car. The cycle way will plug into the National Cycle Network between Soham station, its town centre, and Wicken Fen joining up active travel and protecting our environment by cutting the</p>	<p>The purpose of the policy is to ensure that proposals come forward that provide for good permeability within a development and good connectivity to the wider town and to other phases of development.</p> <p>Paragraphs 10.6 to 10.8 relate specifically to Policy SBNP23- priority routes which is dealt with above.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan reflects the funded proposition for a cycleway between Wicken and Soham.</p>

No.	Consultee	Plan Area	Summary Comments	Response
			<p>need for car journeys to the wetland site. The completion of the route is due in 2024. This route should also include equestrians, who are an equally vulnerable road user, on the same level as cyclists in the Highway Code. Public money should be spent inclusively and include all Non Motorised Users. In section 10.8 The Neighbourhood Plan Group is also exploring opportunities for a direct cycleway between Soham and Ely particularly given development under construction and other proposals for key anchor points along the A142 route. This proposal should also include equestrians, who are an equally vulnerable road user, on the same level as cyclists in the Highway Code. Public money should be spent inclusively and include all Non Motorised Users.</p>	
49.	Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health	General	<p>Have you considered the needs of Gypsy and Traveller as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>A wide community engagement process has been undertaken. The specific housing requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller Community are addressed in the Local Plan.</p>

## Appendix 23 – Soham Town Council's response to Community Representations

### Community Comments on Chapter 4 Vision and Objectives

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
50.	Vision	More pressure on developers to keep to their original plan for numbers of affordable housing	Comment noted
51.	Vision	It is overly extensive and could better showcase the actual changes that will happen so that more members of the public are investing time into review of the plan as a whole	Comments on the extent and complexity of the plan noted
52.	Vision	Soham to be a vibrant 21st century rural town which attractive housing, revitalised town centre, An overview of the Soham and Barway neighbourhood plan - September 2023 attractive to employers with enhanced green infrastructure.	Comments noted
53.	Vision	Soham doesn't have to be a "dormitory town" but its current state has organic contributors. Contained employment at "many levels" will be unlikely; for a low-skilled and low-income largely-employed ageing population, in a town with no buses or cycle paths or offices or parking, adjacent Ely - a hub for activity. Soham's advantages come in a large community inextricably linked to a web of towns, and a strong set of schools that people travel to attend. It follows that I support enhanced car-free connections to Stuntney, Ely, Wicken, Barcham Rd, Ben's Yard, Burwell, Fordham, Newmarket, Mildenhall and Bury St Edmunds. Soham is growing and it can grow to be instrumental in gluing East Cambs together with healthy, high-quality lifestyles; which invariably brings life to the high street, clubs, societies.	Comments supported.
54.	Vision	Particularly the proposed housing development on Mereside. This is the flood plain	The development has the benefit of planning permission. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot reverse this decision.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
55.	Vision	How much control we have locally over "Attractive new housing", to ensure that it is suitably located and actually attractive? Will a neighbourhood plan grant us protection from predatory developers?	The Neighbourhood Plan, when made, will be part of the Development Plan which will guide decisions on development in the parish.
56.	Vision and Objectives	Having now found the appropriate documents and plan I broadly support the vision and objectives. Most were addressed in the 25 summarised SBNPs BUT I couldn't see any follow up (may be me) to the provision of further education (16plus) within existing SVC site. I saw in supporting documentation there was evidence Soham had a low uptake for this and would imagine the cost to parents to currently send children to college outside the area attributes to this , so would like to see it within those SBNPs if possible. I was also wondering whether there would be any legs in creating a survey asking the local residents in which priority they saw those objectives (viz would addressing flood risk be higher to improving town OR which infrastructure project prior to housing development be more important (viz adequately staffed new medical centre or off street parking ) ...I think the response to this would probably be a bit better as even though I consider myself reasonably intelligent I found the plan and supporting documentation a bit heavy going.	Support noted.  The Plan notes that there is a longer term ambition to provide sixth form facilities at Soham Village College within the supporting text.  It is appropriate to note this ambition more positively in Policy SBNP9 – New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities by including the provision of a sixth form at Soham Village College in the bullet points
57.	Vision and Objectives	The vision and objectives are clear and understandable.	Support noted.
58.	Vision and Objectives	I agree with the neighbourhood plan and I can see there has been an enormous amount of work put in to it, beyond that I am finding it difficult to comment because there is no detail on how you will achieve your objectives, for example "Fulfil the potential of the town centre in providing a revitalised and vibrant hub with a greater variety of shops, leisure, cultural and community activities". I agree the high st needs revitalising but when the shops are owned by numerous different landlords how are you going to achieve this?	Support noted. The Neighbourhood Plan, through its objectives and policies seeks to support development proposals as they come forward which revitalises the town centre.  A community action seeks to work with partners to improve the town centre management.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
59.	Objectives	Local facilities: a local public swimming pool could provide both social and health benefits to the town. Also consider a WeWork type building for homeworkers to boost local shops.	Noted. Policy SBNP6 – Economic Growth supports the provision of a business hub.
60.	Objectives	<p>1. Staploe medical centre is in need of a serious rethink. The number of staff are being spread too thin to cover such a wide area. With more housing going up, this is only going to get worse. There needs to be more thought to the number of doctors available, as everything is being turfed onto nurses which isn't viable long term.</p> <p>2. Fair enough for new housing, but could some of it actually be allocated to council housing. I know local families who have been on the list for years and still cannot get allocated.</p> <p>3. Why has no thought been put into the local library, the number of hours available makes it unappealing. Especially when you go in and are kicked out as they're only catering to a local meet and greet. It makes it less appealing to go in when the times of visiting are so limited and you are made to feel unwelcome</p> <p>4. Would strongly agree there is a real problem with local transport services. The bus fiasco earlier in the year was an absolute embarrassment and shouldn't have been allowed to happen, we need those services to be able to travel and they need to be reliable. The next issue, the train station, what a joke! £30million and it doesn't even run at rush hours times. I live very close to the station but I have never bothered to use it as the lack of trains actually stopping at the station is ridiculous. A 2 hour gap between trains and as I said nothing to accommodate peak times. I work in ely and this would have been ideal, but I cannot use it as the times available do not accommodate this, please consider this. Especially as we are let's face it a commuter town!.</p> <p>5. I would agree that the a142 needs looking at. I travel regularly on this route on a daily basis and I am terrified everytime I come towards a cyclist, there is no where safe for them to be but in the main line of traffic. It would also be nice if the route was opened for cyclists to get to Bens yard safely too. This would be good for what is a lovely new shopping area. There also needs to be regular and consistent up keep of the road surfaces. . At the moment the entire route is</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Policy SBNP9 supports the provision of an accessible health care centre on the Eastern Gateway which reflects the community's needs.</p> <p>Policy SBNP3 supports the allocation of affordable housing to those with a strong local connection.</p> <p>Library hours noted although this issue is not within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Comments on bus and train services noted but are outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan notes the group is exploring opportunities for a direct cycleway between Ely and Soham. For clarity, the policy should include the route as a specific priority route.</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		riddled with pot holes, some are huge and quite dangerous. Just widening it isn't enough if it isn't going to be maintained.	
61.	Objectives	Concerned that floodplain already built upon before the already allowed developments. Sewerage going into Lode. Backing up . WE had 26 hour blockage from Lion ?? due to bad planning. So I do object to that Okayed already	Flood Risk is noted as a risk in the Neighbourhood Plan's SWOT analysis and addressed in Policy SBNP21 – Flood Risk
62.	Objectives	Although some key areas have been proposal like housing, agritech and local services/facilities which promotes growth in the town, I feel there's underlying infrastructure has been continuously been unprioritised; roads are important to this area as we are not directly connected to a city and a large majority of people living in Soham works away from the town, if more houses were to be built, the roads will be busier and the condition of the road will worsen beyond how bad they are now. At this moment, I feel there is no direct encouragement to switch to public transport as it costs the same/more than car/motorbike and the links are not good; If I was to get a train to Cambridge, it would take me 45-65 minutes and costs approximately seven pounds, I can drive there in 30-40 minutes and approximately costs 4 pounds (based on 159p price per litre and 21 miles each way). To add to this, the train services that currently run are sparse and unrealistic for the general public I think, any major routes like Cambridge or London, I have to go to Ely and then wait 20 minutes for the train to those destinations, or I can drive to Ely less than 15 minutes and get the train from there instead. reducing the use of petrol and diesel cars within the town and encouraging the use of green energy is great and should be encourage but again, realistically you need to give an alternative; not everyone can afford, keep or even have a charging point installed (I have no where to install a charging point within my designated parking area) so what would be the alternative? I am all for promoting public transport and encouraging safe cycle routes both within and beyond the town, but they need to be realistic for the area we are in; cycle path to Newmarket wouldn't be realistic as an example. I think these issues are more pressing and have been, and should have 100% focus on.	The need for investment in realistic Active Travel options and priorities is noted. The Plan seeks to balance the needs of the local community, the impacts of Climate Change whilst improving transport connections and accessibility around the town and parish for all users.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
63.	Objective	Protection of the commons very important	Support for objective noted.
64.	Objectives	The 16 strategies	The comment is unclear but noted.
65.	Objectives	I support the potential sixth form centre, improving the transport services and improving the medical centre. I am against - not mentioned here exactly but the Gateway entrance near the Weatheralls school	Support noted. The Neighbourhood Plan does not comment on the specific entrance to Weatheralls School.
66.	Objectives	I am particularly happy about the opportunities that the Agri-tech hub will provide	Support noted
67.	Objectives	Flood risk :- 1)1) Wicken waste water is processed in Soham. Needs to be noted alongside Fordham. 2) Ownership and maintenance of SUDS systems needs to be the responsibility of a responsible body such as Anglia Water. The use of SUDS is now being downgraded by many authorities due to the inability of the system to provide a long-term flood solution due to silting. 3) Soham has areas along Mereside at and below sea level. Development in these areas should be discouraged and not be reliant of electric pump systems.	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan can only address planning issues within the parish area.</p> <p>Policy SBNP 21 requires a Surface Water Drainage Strategy to ensure that development is not at risk of flooding and will not increase flood risk on and off site. This includes an allowance for climate change impacts.</p> <p>Policy SBNP20 states major developments will only be supported where there is capacity at Soham Waste Water Treatment Works.</p>
68.	Objectives	Develop public transportation with more trains and buses. Secured cyclepaths	Support for objective noted.
69.	Objectives	As many of the six main objectives should be kept to as possible	Noted.
70.	Objectives	It is imperative to maintain existing historic views and skylines. Developments must be sympathetic to the local surroundings.	Comments noted. Important Views are considered in Policy SBNP13 – Landscape Character

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
71.	Objectives	Support - growth and the future, Green spaces, housing but not bothered about heritage, employment and business. Disagree with taking road space for cyclists. Prioritise cars instead.	Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to secure opportunities for people to move within Soham and access facilities and services sustainably.
72.	Objectives	green spaces - should include Soham's commons and green spaces alongside the words "Barway...very special to its residents" as this applies to Soham too	Noted and agreed – add Barway within Green Spaces objective
73.	Objectives	Growth 6 District support of community development HOUS1 Housing mix. Developments of 50 or more houses should provide a proportion of dwellings for elderly and disabled people.	Support noted. Policy SBNP4 seeks to ensure that all homes are built to accessible standards.
74.	Objectives	BHS response to Soham & Barway's Neighbourhood Plan (NP) On behalf of the British Horse Society (BHS) I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the Soham & Barway's Neighbourhood Plan (SBNP) as follows: In the NP it mentions that Soham has numerous Rights of Ways, predominantly footpaths. Would there be any opportunities to upgrade any of these footpaths to bridleways or byways, which would help to link up the disjointed bridleway network for both equestrians and cyclists. Local equestrians would like to see more of the ROW access available to them ie more bridleways/byways.	Comment Supported. Amend Policy SBNP23 – Pedestrian and Cycle Routes to include support for the creation and maintenance of bridleways and the connections between them.
75.	Objectives	Objectives are laudable: But how can we stop the decline of the High Street or control the Developers who appear to do just what they want including refusal to provide 'Affordable Housing' when push comes to shove ? Where is the power to stop/prevent/enforce coming from, which we have not had to date ?	The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan and decisions on planning applications will need to be made in accordance with the plan. However, the decisions on planning application are made by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to influence those decisions by ensuring those decisions align with the Neighbourhood Plan.
76.	General	The plan and reports are far too complex and far too opaque for a 'normal' person to fully understand. Nowhere is it clear what the plan actually does.	The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan and is necessarily written in a

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
			<p>language which will inform planning decisions.</p> <p>The Soham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has provided a summary and invited residents to open events to discuss and explain the Neighbourhood Plan</p>
77.	General	I disagree with the Plan as it stands as it is very vague as to what the plan actually is.	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan and is necessarily written in a language which will inform planning decisions.</p> <p>The Soham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has provided a summary and invited residents to open events to discuss and explain the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
78.	General	Having been to the meeting at the pavilion and studied the proposals online I find the response form of the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan impossible to complete. The many sub divisions and policy, let alone the pointless tick boxes are way beyond my patience and understanding I am aware of the effort residents have put in to this project and I care how Soham is changing over the years but have been really disappointed in how this has been shown to me to have my feedback on such an important topic, as it feels pointless to just tick boxes when most answers are so obvious.	The Soham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has provided a summary and invited residents to open events to discuss and explain the Neighbourhood Plan. Representations need not be made exclusively on the online forms or tick boxes.

## Community Comments on Chapter 5 Spatial Strategy

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
79.	SBNP1	SBNP1- the secondary focus on tourism is a wasted effort since Ely is a much more accessible area for tourism in the surrounding area. A better focus would be for the effort to be focused on amenities for residents.	The Neighbourhood Plan addresses the identified needs of residents. The Neighbourhood Plan sees an opportunity to support tourism related development given Soham's close proximity to key tourism destinations.
80.	SBNP1	I understand "planning permission will only be granted if it can be demonstrated that there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the necessary requirements arising from a proposed development". I think there is current infrastructure that needs greater attention first before looking growth. To clarify, I am all for growth but it needs to be realistic.	<p>Concerns noted. The existing East Cambridgeshire Local Plan identifies the level of growth – the Neighbourhood Plan cannot amend or reduce the planned level of growth.</p> <p>When granting planning permission, infrastructure can only be secured where it arises from the development.</p>
81.	SBNP1	<p>SBNP1 - Map2. Areas in red have already been developed and should be incorporated into the black area. The correct areas to highlight in red are in the middle of the map, linking up the two black areas. These areas are currently under development.</p> <p>5.15 It is invalid to state "In part this is due to exceptionally large homes being constructed along the main street with the curtilages extending into the open countryside." By doing this the author is making a highly subjective leap from the survey data. Respondents were likely highlighting traffic and noise impact which is proportional to number of homes rather than size of homes. To make this inference the survey would have had to have asked if they would prefer a small number of large homes (with positive impact on local property values and negligible traffic impact) or a commercial development of large number of homes packed into the same space, creating significant levels of additional traffic and noise which would be particularly dramatic during construction.</p> <p>Furthermore the suggestion that infill properties should be single storey</p>	<p>Map 2 appropriately includes the areas where there is planning permission or allocations in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.15 reflects the comments made by the community in response to earlier consultations on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and the text should be amended for clarity.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.15 should more accurately reflect the policy. Amend final two sentences in Paragraph 5.15 for clarity. The consultations responses have raised concerns that new development in Barway, extending into the open countryside, have not reflected the scale of existing housing within Barway. Further infill development in Barway must be appropriate to the scale and character of the historic village, and not have an unacceptable impact on the modest built scale and distinct Fenland farming character.</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		<p>farmhouses is unlikely to result in the desired outcome. We should instead require new developments being of high quality and significant architectural value without prescribing a particular size or style.</p> <p>As such I suggest that the second sentence of 5.15 should be removed and the third sentence reworked to focus on qualitative metrics.</p>	
82.	SBNP1	<p>The northern end of the development parcel needs infrastructure to keep pace with development. Already Kingfisher Drive is used as a busy road thoroughfare with diverse traffic; posing a risk to pedestrians, the Shade school, football clubs etc.</p> <p>Owning a home offers enhanced financial stability, and that opportunity needs to be at the fore in affordable housing. Soaring rental costs allow even difficult mortgages to become preferable, all with a better end result than funding landlord ROI.</p>	Comments noted.
83.	SBNP1	It depends on where	The comments are unclear but noted.
84.	SBNP1	SBNP1 - Whilst I notice that the Spatial Strategy lays out what development will be permitted, who will be responsible for enforcing the limitations that the plan will specify?	East Cambridgeshire District Council are the Local Planning Authority and will make planning decision using the Neighbourhood Plan, when made.
85.	SBNP1	Development should come with infrastructure via s106 agreements or CiL. Under no circumstances should the development envelope be breached to allow development in the countryside.	The policy seeks to support this approach.
86.	SBNP1	Not keen on Eastern Gateway without A142 access being properly designed	The Eastern Gateway is allocated in the Local Plan.
87.	SBNP1	Now that a development envelope has been designated, I would not expect to see any further building outside this envelope.	Noted
88.	SBNP1	I agree with SBNP1, however is not worth the paper its written on if not	Support noted

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		enforced - vis recent Persimmon	
89.	SBNP1	Policy growth for the new plan 9000 houses to be built from now to 2031. Page 19 East Cambs Soham and Barway. To note changes in the Local Plan may alter the required figure for Soham and Barway	The Local Plan Review was adopted in October 2023 and the information should be updated to reflect this.
90.	SBNP1	Must stop building - enough! Always put in adequate off road parking for dwellings!	Comments noted. The scale of development is set out in the adopted Local Plan.
91.	SBNP1	The arrival of those who live on the (way too many) dormitory estates forced on Soham must result in overall benefit to the long term existing residents - not to our detriment.	Comments noted
92.	SBNP2	The proportion of new starter homes is too small compared to the number of renting developments proposed.	The mix of housing First Homes, Starter Homes and Social / Affordable Rental reflects the needs identified in the Soham and Barway Housing Needs Assessment and the Local Housing Register.
93.	SBNP2	Effective use of space is key to resident's satisfaction with their environment. Affordable housing is also important as it helps people get onto the property ladder.	Support noted.
94.	SBNP2	Need to ensure that affordable housing isn't immediately sold to property speculators.	Affordable housing can be for rent or sale. In each case provisions ensure that the property remains as affordable housing provision or the subsidy is recycled for alternative housing provision.
95.	SBNP2	There simply isn't enough housing available for council housing. I personally know local families who have been stuck on the list for years and can't get a look in. They are local and want to stay in town and close to family, their children attend local schools. It would be nice if there was some thought to enabling dailies to remain settled in town as they will be the ones that will use the local shops and services in the long run	Comments noted. These issues have informed the Affordable Housing Policy and the provision made for affordable housing to be allocated to those with a Strong Local Connection (Policy SBNP 3).
96.	SBNP2	As a young person who has grown up in Soham, the affordable housing options will help me to be able to live in the area	Support noted.
97.	SBNP2	SBNP 2 and 4 are we assured beyond doubt that the eastern gateway will comply with this.	Once made, decisions on development will have to accord with the Neighbourhood Plan unless material consideration indicate otherwise.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
98.	SBNP3	To ensure that the current younger generation who live in Soham, stay in Soham then allocation of affordable housing needs to be kept to else people from outside Soham will move here from more expensive areas, yet they are more likely to work elsewhere and so shop etc. elsewhere too. Therefore not bring anything into the town.	Support noted.
99.	SBNP3	Could someone just explain point vi in who is considered eligible for affordable housing ..Seems to suggest Directors or owners of businesses within town ?	The definition of a Strong Local Connection in the Neighbourhood Plan is the same as that used by the Community Land Trust – Thrift Soham. A director or owner of a company may comply with the policy if they also have an affordable housing need.
100.	SBNP4	A better mix of housing for local needs. More realistic parking places. More CLT houses	Noted. Policy SBNP4 secures a mix of housing to meet local needs. Policy SBNP2 and SBNP3 seeks to provide affordable housing for those with a strong local connection aligned with the CLT policy.
101.	SBNP4	To many big houses. concerned that much affordable and social housing is not going to those actually working for a living on basic wages versus those coming in from out of the area. Nothing for elderly private which is disgusting	Noted. Policy SBNP4 secures a mix of housing to meet local needs built to accessible standards recognising the increase in elderly people in the parish. Policy SBNP2 and SBNP3 seeks to provide affordable housing for those with a strong local connection aligned with the CLT policy.
102.	SBNP4	SBNP4 House Design To improve the health of the population, build all homes with wide front doors incorporating accessible storage (& charging) for prams, bikes, eBikes, eCargo bikes and mobility scooters. Active Travel must be the first choice for short journeys, allow all residents to enjoy healthy cradle to grave to enjoy living.	Noted. Policy SBNP4 requires all homes to be built to accessible standards. Policy SBNP22 requires garages to be built to 3m by 7m to provide car parking in accordance with the Soham Design Guidance and Codes. Policy SBNP 17 requires properties to be constructed to National Space Standards.
103.	SBNP4	Pressure on Soham for housing will be from the following: Affordable housing First time buyers Cambridge overspill There are not enough bungalows being built. These would suit both first time buyers, would be affordable and would also cater for an aging demographic. There is no mention of eco friendly building policy:	The housing mix reflects the needs identified in the Soham and Barway Housing Needs Assessment and requires all homes to be built to accessible standards to meet the needs of a growing aging population.  Policy SBNP12 specifically requires net biodiversity gain in excess of the requirements of the Environment Act. The policy refers to measures including bat boxes and other bird boxes. The list is not exclusive.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		<p>Bat boxes, swift bricks, owl boxes etc...  Strips of unused land to have wild flowers.  Solar panels &amp; EV plug ins on all new builds.  Lighting designed to minimise light pollution.</p> <p>The percentage CIL, that developers have to pay in order to build in Soham, is deliberately artificially low. It is far lower than neighbouring towns of similar size. This has to be addressed.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP 18 states that all development must be designed to be compatible with a zero carbon future.</p> <p>Building regulations require the installation of EV charging points and does not need to be repeated in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Light Pollution is a key issue where development about the Commons and the surrounding countryside. Amend the policy to include minimising light pollution.</p>
104.	SBNP4	Housing development should be of the right size in the right place, not huge estates and not where green space is compromised.	Noted. This approach is supported.
105.	SBNP4	SBNP 2 and 4 are we assured beyond doubt that the eastern gateway will comply with this.	Once made, decisions on development will have to accord with the Neighbourhood Plan unless material consideration indicate otherwise.
106.	General	Again reading the Neighbourhood Plan doesn't make it clear what it actually is.	Noted.
107.	General	The plan is so unclear and vague I cannot support it.	The Plan has been drafted so that it reflects the community's priorities whilst ensuring that it is written so that is clear to decision makers how to reach conclusions on a planning proposal.

## Community Comments on Chapter 6 Employment, Town Centre, Services and Facilities

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
108.	SBNP5	The town centre does need some thought. We have some lovely new shops and cafes in town, as well as existing shops and it would be a shame to lose them if they cannot maintain their business in such a small town.	The comments are noted and policy SBNP8 seeks to resist the loss of services and facilities.
109.	SBNP5	Better transport facilities especially the direct link between Soham and Cambridge Much better facilities including better shopping i.e. bank	Comments noted.
110.	SBNP5	SBNP5 Extend 20mph to all residential streets, people will feel safer walking and cycling to shops, schools and amenities.	This is outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan and will need to be taken forward separately with Cambridgeshire County Council.
111.	SBNP5	The issue with Soham Town Centre is that most of the properties are owned by landlords who do not live in the area and have little or no interest in the viability of the town centre. Shop frontage/design should be reviewed and a more traditional approach should be encouraged through grants to make the centre more attractive. More support/money from ECDC in form of grants should be available for Xmas lighting, hanging baskets, tree & bulb planting and other projects to improve the attractiveness of the centre. Viva theatre should be supported as a hub for the youth.	The comments are noted. Policy SBNP5 seeks to maintain and enhance existing shop fronts. However, the policy can be clearer for those shop fronts that need to be improved.  Community Action 2 sets out the way in which the Town Council will work with partners and stakeholders to improve the town centre.
112.	SBNP5	Of course we support this panacea, but this seems like a broad-brush approach with no detail of how we might do this and what is the priority order. What can we really expect??	The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a strategy for Soham to 2031. It will guide development proposals as they come forward so that they align with this strategy.
113.	SBNP6	The revitalising of the town centre would be fantastic. There are two types of shop which we lack, being a hardware shop or DIY (since BSW closed) and a health food shop. Thank you again for all your time and effort. I did not	Support and comments noted.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		have time to read every document in the plan but I hope to have gained an outline of the hopes for Soham.	
114.	SBNP6	SBNP6-iii I feel that there shouldn't be such a limit on keeping with the character of the areas as long as the new economic development isn't ridiculous.	The Soham Design Codes and Guidance has provided insights into the need to improve the quality of development in Soham to reflect its distinctiveness. It has identified different character areas where different types and design of development can come forward. A key feature of Soham is its mix of styles.
115.	SBNP6	Without major support from existing local companies, and more companies coming to set up shop in Soham, we will continue to be a dormitory town/satellite of Cambridge.	The point is noted and is a key issue that the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address by encouraging spaces that businesses need. There may be opportunities outside the Neighbourhood Plan process to support new businesses grow.
116.	SBNP6	Station Road, Mereside and adjoining are busy residential areas; not suited to HGVs and negotiating business traffic through single lanes. A142 accessible sites are suitable.	<p>The impact of commercial traffic in sensitive areas is an important consideration. Policy SBNP includes a criteria to ensure that development does not adversely affect nearby residential properties and would not have an adverse impact on the nature and amount of traffic generated.</p> <p>The policy could be clearer in ensuring that suitable access is available for commercial schemes.</p>
117.	SBNP6	I would like to see lowered business rates, as these are very detrimental to local, quality businesses setting up on the high street	Noted. However, business rates are a national issue and not an issue that can be dealt with through the Neighbourhood Plan.
118.	SBNP6	I think that shops and leisure are important to improving economic growth, but less so food outlets as I think that there are already too many of these	Comments noted and supported by the Neighbourhood Plan policies
119.	SBNP8	I would like it to be vibrant but not possible thing these days! (a good mix of shops)	The ambition is noted. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address these issues.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
120.	SBNP8	SBNP 8/10 health concerns are especially dire in this economic climate and Soham needs cheap, healthy travel options. Low-cost takeaways are plenty already, adding litter (packaging, flyers) and adversely affecting health.	The comments on healthy travel and hot food takeaways are noted.
121.	SBNP8	Soham High Street has been overtaken by take-aways and barber-shops with totally inappropriate signage and generally looks undervalued and ill-kempt: one salvation has been the 5 trees planted on the pavement by La Tasca, which bring some natural life onto a street that is increasingly the same as any other tired location. I thought much of it is in the Conservation Zone - doesn't this offer protection from these inappropriate operations ? We need the power to say 'No' to the endless barber shops & similar operations.	Comments noted. Policy SBNP5 seeks to support a vibrant High Street whilst recognising that change of use of uses in the High Street may not always need planning permission. The policy also seeks public realm improvements and developments which contribute to the character of the Conservation Area.
122.	SBNP8	I'm sure is meant to mean Hot Food Takeaways not within 400m of a school but it says the opposite.	The policy is correct. The intention is to ensure that a hot food takeaway is more than 400m from Soham Village College or Primary School.
123.	SBNP8	Limiting hot takeaways shouldn't be done as broadly maybe only if it's particularly unhealthy	The Town Council consider that the Neighbourhood Plan has a role in supporting opportunities for a healthier place by limiting the proliferation of Hot Food takeaways particularly in proximity to locations where children and young people congregate. Such an approach is supported national policy guidance: Healthy and Safe Communities.
124.	SBNP9	Broadly agree with point 12 BUT with regard to new medical centre it doesn't seem to address whether they would be sufficiently staffed because this would be an important priority and maybe even stipulation for its build with regards to a growing population. Could Ross Peer be included in this section? From what i see ECDC have been discussing re-furb for the last decade (if not longer) and I fear this facility will be lost if not updated not just for improved membership but school to ...eg better shower/changing facilities.	Although a key issue, staffing of the Medical Centre is not an area that can be included within a Neighbourhood Plan.  Agree. Ross Peers Sport Centre is included in the list of Valued Services and Facilities and policy SBNP 9.
125.	SBNP9	Matching improvements to infrastructure with housing development is one of the many challenges we face. This plan highlights many of the key infrastructure needs and hopefully this will encourage both go hand in hand.	Agreed and noted.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
126.	SBNP9	A swimming pool would provide a natural gathering point, particularly for children and teens, as well as promoting health.	<p>The list of community facilities is not exclusive and the policy is flexible so that it could support a swimming pool if it were to come forward.</p> <p>St Andrews C of E Primary school) has a pool and it is well used and the view is that there is no current need for a wider facility.</p>
127.	SBNP9	No infrastructure has been put in place - health, police etc.	The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of a new Medical Facility to meet the needs of the local community as part of the development of the Eastern Gateway.
128.	SBNP9	SBNP9 - I have concerns that existing healthcare facilities are not being increased in line with the expansion of the town. Will the adoption of a neighbourhood plan ensure that these increase in line with the population, or limit expansion so that it stays within the bounds of what can be provided locally?	The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of a new Medical Facility to meet the needs of the local community as part of the development of the Eastern Gateway.
129.	SBNP9	Need better transport options and bigger Medical centre - also getting an NHS dentist would be nice.	Comments supported by policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.
130.	SBNP9	2 cafes have closed, the nice asian street food, the greengrocer shop. Everything that had the potential to make Soham a vibrant town. Soham needs more than one medical centre, even if Staploe is expanding, it is still almost impossible to speak to a GP	The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of a new Medical Facility to meet the needs of the local community as part of the development of the Eastern Gateway.
131.	SBNP9	Our doctor's surgery requires increased capacity. With the closure of our 2 banks, our post office provides essential services.	The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of a new Medical Facility to meet the needs of the local community as part of the development of the Eastern Gateway.
132.	SBNP9	On the ground police officers	Comments noted. However, the provision of police officers cannot be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
133.	SBNP9	Services. We needs to keep our businesses and improve medical centre if possible.. The main town centre is the Pavilion. There maybe new or upgraded infrastructure	Comments are supported. The refurbishment and extension of the Pavillion is included in policy.
134.	SBNP10	SBNP 8/10 health concerns are especially dire in this economic climate and Soham needs cheap, healthy travel options. Low-cost takeaways are plenty already, adding litter (packaging, flyers) and adversely affecting health.	Comments noted.
135.	General	The plan is too vague full of sound bites with nothing to show what is actually to be done. The policy 'supports tourism' for example. How? How is the plan going to ensure a vibrant town centre? Just vague, generalised ?? assertions.	The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a strategy for Soham to 2031. It will guide development proposals as they come forward so that they align with this strategy.
136.	General	The policy 'supports tourism' for example. How?	The Neighbourhood Plan influences decisions that are made on planning applications for proposals that come forward.
137.	General	I cannot in all honesty support a plan that is so vague that it is impossible to see what is proposed	Noted.

## Residents Comments on Chapter 7 Natural Environment

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
138.	SBNP11	<p>"Development proposals should demonstrate no significant adverse impact on the quality, character, accessibility and biodiversity value of the Commons. Development should provide substantive transitional landscape buffers between development, the Commons and the surrounding landscape and are encouraged to explore opportunities to improve biodiversity, access and landscape improvements on the Commons."</p> <p>The above is from the objectives set out in chapter 4: "Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham, including its Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible."</p> <p>I cannot see how this is going to be achieved with the proposed Eastern Gateway and the proposed development to the east of Brook Street, which will border Soham Lode. In the first instance, a vital wildlife corridor will be lost connecting Qua Fen Common and East Fen Common. I have read that there is an intention to incorporate one, but this is simply not going to work. It will not be large enough and I cannot see how it will be able to completely bisect the development; residential traffic will have to pass through it. Additionally, this piece of land is home to skylarks and they nest in this field every year, including this past season when the field was not farmed. They do not nest on the commons, so the loss of this land will have a detrimental impact on the local skylark population. Green woodpeckers live and nest in the trees of Qua Fen Common which border this field and development will disrupt their habitat.</p> <p>In the second case, the encroachment of development activity and housing will disrupt habitats on and surrounding the Lode. This is a prime watervole habitat, an endangered species. Development towards the Lode is likely to have a negative impact on the population.</p> <p>In both cases, development at these sites will unquestionably have a detrimental effect on the wildlife and ecosystems of these two commons and the Lode. Whilst development will inevitably be a necessity, these two areas should be protected, as they are integral to maintaining the wildlife within the commons. Additionally, any development here pushes wildlife habitats closer to the lethal bypass.</p>	<p>Development at Eastern Gateway and Brook Street has been identified in the Adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot delete these sites.</p> <p>However, the importance of habitats and biodiversity is recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan. It seeks to ensure the open spaces are protected and enhanced allowing the wildlife to flourish whilst ensuring an improved and educated pedestrian experience so that access is achieved sympathetically.</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		With respect to the rest of the Neighbourhood Plan, I am broadly in agreement with the parameters described for the design of housing developments, but have ongoing concerns regarding insufficient infrastructure for the increasing number of Soham residents travelling by car into Cambridge for work.	
139.	SBNP11	Thank you for giving everyone the opportunity to have their say on the neighbourhood plan. It must have taken an enormous amount of time, effort and research to produce the plan so far. I am pleased to see the provision of allocated green spaces and glad/relieved that this includes the commons because they are extremely important for people to spend time relaxing and also for wildlife. However, I oppose the Eastern Gateway because it would be situated right between two of these commons. I cannot see how this would not affect the wildlife or how it would not impact the character of the area in question.	Development at Eastern Gateway has been identified in the Adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot delete these sites. However, the importance of habitats and biodiversity is recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan. It seeks to ensure the open spaces are protected and enhanced allowing the wildlife to flourish whilst ensuring an improved and educated pedestrian experience so that access is achieved sympathetically.
140.	SBNP11	Developers who wish to build adjacent to our ancient commons, should have to pay a bond to the local council/Lord of the Manor as a condition of not damaging the commons during their construction work. After completion, they should have to finance the maintenance of those areas of common closest to the development where degradation occurs due to increased footfall (and paw-fall) from the higher numbers of users of this locally-valued facility.	Agreed in principle. The policy states that in cases where development will be expected to increase the number of visitors to the Commons, proposals will be expected to contribute to measure which will not only mitigate the adverse impacts on the biodiversity and wildlife habitats on the Commons , but also seek opportunities to enhance the Commons as a local asset for Soham residents. This should be through contribution towards or implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The protection during construction is an important issue and should be added to the policy.
141.	SBNP11	SNBP 11 Commons are very important/valuable green space. No encroachment by new buildings should be allowable/occur	Noted. The policy states that the Commons must be protected.
142.	SBNP11	Soham's commons ARE protected and ANY activity that will affect the flora & fauna detrimentally must be outlawed. BND of any development must be at least 10%. We have habitats of species on the red list that have been actively destroyed (care home	Noted. The policy states that the Commons must be protected.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		<p>on bypass) despite being reported to the police rural crime unit! Please read The Environment Act 2021. ECDC, STC and others constantly mention how unique and important the commons are to Soham's quality of life and heritage and yet we are seeing development occurring right next door to these protected areas! This rape of the countryside will continue until they are made SSSI. As our population increases, more and more people will access the common. This we can't control but I do not want the commons turned into 'nature parks' with constructed pathways and lighting!!!</p>	
143.	SBNP11	<p>We need our footpaths and protect our commons And clean the Lode where it goes into Brookdam lane</p>	Comments noted.
144.	SBNP11	<p>SBNP11 Development between the 2 commons will be detrimental to wildlife. More animals will be driven to crossing the bypass with obvious consequences</p>	<p>The proposals for development are adopted in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot remove these allocations. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect the Commons and ensure development in close proximity is designed to follow the principles in the Soham Commons Recreational and Biodiversity Enhancement Study and the Soham Design Guidance and Codes.</p>
145.	SBNP11	<p>Support the commons, green spaces and wetlands. It is vital.</p>	Support for policy noted.
146.	SBNP12	<p>Part of this could be to encourage through schools and local groups the vast habitats and significant importance of these areas including habitats and SSSI areas.</p>	<p>The idea is a positive one that can be considered by the Town Council outside the Neighbourhood Plan process</p>
147.	SBNP12	<p>Regarding all policies - a need to try and educate people from big towns the need to respect eg. hedgehogs being kicked around, trees being vandalised, river Lode on College Road, constantly being used for shopping carts mainly from Lion Mills, car batteries, footballs, plastic bottles. Blair got rid of River authorities so environmental issues hard to get resolved.</p>	Noted.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
148.	SBNP12	Waterways also need care and a reduction in sewage and chemicals	The improvement of water quality in our waterways is a key issue. Add this example of opportunities to enhance existing habitats in the policy.
149.	SBNP12	<p>Gardens are cited by charities as a critical part of biodiversity opportunities, in addition to personal wellbeing. Biodiversity Net Gain can be heavily impacted by decent sized public/private gardens, particularly in a landscape that is so often tarmac or agricultural monoculture.</p> <p>Soham Lode deserves recognition as a valuable green space.</p> <p>There is a notable absence of road mitigation in the habitat policy, for example adding green highways or wildlife thoroughfares.</p> <p>Blockmoor road has a 60mph speed limit, unlit, without footpath and is therefore dangerous for walkers, runners and cyclists at the best of times.</p>	<p>Point on importance of diversity in garden spaces is agreed.</p> <p>Guidance is provided by national policy on the types of land that can be identified as a Local Green Space. Soham Lode is an extensive tract of land and as such fails the national criteria.</p> <p>The policy specifically supports habitat networks and connectivity between green spaces and creating wildlife corridors.</p>
150.	SBNP13	Also Map 5 SBNP 12 Burgess Corner on Qua Fen as having "a valued view" people enjoying the common and living here have had an open view of field and St Andrew's church beyond the hedgerows for centuries.	<p>Reference to policy is incorrect. Should read Policy SBNP13</p> <p>The Town Council has considered that this view although valuable does not add to the views both into and out of Soham and Barway</p>
151.	SBNP13	SBNP13 Map 6 - Misses the impressive view towards Ely Cathedral from the area around G's. Similarly misses the hump-back bridge at the western end of the village from the west towards Little Thetford and south east towards Wicken. Also missed is the view from the west of the village on NCN11 northwest and northeast across fields, the river Cam and towards Ely Cathedral	The view, although valuable, does not add to the views both into and out of Soham and Barway. The Neighbourhood Plan includes views which are representative of the areas but it is important to note that the list is not exhaustive and all views should be considered.
152.	SBNP13	18 The town needs a safe area for dog walkers especially when the Eastern Gateway is built. Maybe the developers can do this by dedicating a fenced off open space so that dogs can run off the lead	The criteria for the development of the Eastern Gateway is set out in the Local Plan and currently a planning application is being considered by East Cambs District Council. The representation should be made directly to ECDC.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
153.	SBNP13	<p>Also relates to Policies SBNP 11, 14, 24, 25</p> <p>Create a new walking route along Soham Lode to Fordham Moor Rd by building a floating pontoon on Soham Lode under the A142. This will allow a safe foot crossing of this very dangerous road and enable a direct west to east path to connecting the Lode footpaths (205/87 to 205/88) over to Fordham Moor &amp; Fordham, Isleham Nature Reserve &amp; Isleham.</p> <p>This will allow a direct route (avoiding the long detour via Downfields to Fordham &amp; back along Fordham Moor Rd).</p> <p>Pontoon path examples  <a href="https://pontoonprovider.co.uk/products/walkways">https://pontoonprovider.co.uk/products/walkways</a></p> <p>NT Wicken Fen pontoon is made by Versadock  <a href="https://www.versadock.com/product-ranges/pontoons-jetties/">https://www.versadock.com/product-ranges/pontoons-jetties/</a></p> <p>If this is not technically possible, build a footbridge over the A142 with access ramps either side.</p> <p>Cherry Tree Lane needs a hard surface suitable for prams and wheelchairs.</p>	<p>Comments and suggestions noted. Further consideration is needed outside the Neighbourhood Plan process to understand the wider impact of increased access to areas of habitat sensitivity.</p>
154.	SBNP13	<p>The correct balance needs to be maintained between new development/enhancing existing developments and not at the expense of green areas including non- and grazing land, wildlife habitats, areas of SSSI, and to keep the landscape character as it has been and should be.</p>	<p>The policy seeks to ensure proposals are sensitive to the distinctive landscape character and its habitats. Comment noted</p>
155.	SBNP13	<p>Wherever possible, we green spaces need to be retained as part of a contiguous feature and not become isolated pockets.</p>	<p>The Green Loop proposes to connect green spaces. Comment noted.</p>
156.	SBNP14	<p>A key feature of Soham is its relationship with green and open spaces. It is imperative that this is maintained as more development happens.</p>	<p>Agreed. This is a key objective of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
157.	SBNP14	<p>We want to protect our open spaces and the environment</p>	<p>Support noted</p>
158.	SBNP14	<p>There is / will be conflict between housing and the natural environment, how do we ensure the environment is of higher priority, after all governments come and go but once</p>	<p>Agreed – add tick ‘beauty to the Commons’</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		you have lost the green spaces to concrete it can never be regained for future generations. Why have the commons not been given a "tick" in the "beauty column" surely with the flora and fauna found on the commons these should have that "tick". No mention of protecting public right of ways.	
159.	General	Protect the wonderful life we already have by NOT allowing the 'Eastern Gateway to Absolutely Nowhere vanity project proposed to be dumped between the 'Jewels of Soham' – Qua Fen & East Fen Commons - both of which will be ruined as a result of thousands of people using them as 'their' green spaces'.	Development at Eastern Gateway has been identified in the Adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot delete these sites. However, the importance of habitats and biodiversity is recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan. It seeks to ensure the open spaces are protected and enhanced allowing the wildlife to flourish whilst ensuring an improved and educated pedestrian experience so that access is achieved sympathetically (Policy SBNP11).
160.	General	My primary concern about any further developments in Soham.	Comment noted.
161.	General	I am happy to see a focus on preservation and biodiversity	Support noted.
162.	General	Again really vague generalised sound bites that ? ? but with no real evidence of what is to be done.	Comments noted
163.	General	There is simply nothing clear or set out beyond vague 'promises'. Nothing that is a clear enough set of proposals that I can support.	Comments noted

## Community Comments on Chapter 8 Historic Environment

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
164.	SBNP15	The one thing you cannot make more of is land. The other is history and heritage so we need to keep and respect what we already have of both.	Comment supported.
165.	SBNP15	An excellent idea	Support noted.
166.	SBNP15	If possible the conversation area should be enlarged to cover more of the town centre and surrounding residential areas as there are listed buildings not in the conservation area that might need additional protection	Noted. However, a Conservation Area must be designated through a separate process. It cannot be amended through the Neighbourhood Plan.
167.	SBNP15	High street - parking and speeding control required	Support noted. The policy seeks to reduce the car dominated streetscape and create pedestrian friendly streets.
168.	SBNP15	We need to protect all conservation areas	Support noted.
169.	SBNP15	Needs to be enforced and upheld: I used to live on Pratt Street in a house build in 1832: I abided at significant financial cost to the rules of the Conservation Zone when restoring my terraced home: since then neighbouring properties have been painted with brilliant white paint, fitted with plastic windows (not sliding sash) and many other awful ruinations inflicted... is anyone enforcing the Conservation Zone Rules & Regs in recent years ?	Comments noted. Policy SBNP15 seeks to preserve or enhance the character of the Conservation Area. by East Cambridgeshire District Council Enforcement Team are responsible for addressing any developments which have occurred without the necessary planning consents.
170.	SBNP16	There are some buildings of historical importance in Soham. They should be supported by the availability of grants to help their upkeep. The traditional look of Soham's high street should be encouraged (via improvement grants) and modern facias that are out of place should be discouraged. The tree planting scheme started by Peter Lenoard should be continued and encouraged.	Support for the retention of buildings of historical importance is noted as is the need to enhance traditional shop fronts.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
171.	SBNP16	SBNP16- the assets listed hold little to no meaning to most residents in the area. I doubt many would even notice if they were gone. They should not have any additional weighting over other areas especially when it comes to other developments for the town	Disagree. The list of non-designated heritage assets have been robustly assessed against the criteria: age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, group value, archaeological interest, historic interest, social and community interest and landmark interest as set out in the Topic Paper.
172.	General	Reasonable as far as the proposals go but again too vague.	Noted.
173.	General	More vague positive sound bites about how good the plan is without any details	Noted.

## Community Comments on Chapter 9 Development Design and Climate Change

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Initial Draft Response
174.	SBNP17	Should not be limited to 2 and a half stories maybe 3 and a half or four.	Disagree - The criteria reflect the findings of the Soham Design Guidance and Codes.
175.	SBNP17	SBNP17 - How will we be able to assess what a high quality design is? All developers will claim that their specifications tick every box...	The development should demonstrate how it has taken account of the development principles set out in the Soham Design Guidance and Codes as required by the policy.
176.	SBNP17	SBNP17 Quality House Design To improve the general health of the population, build all homes with wide front doors to allow easy access and storage of prams, bikes, eBikes, eCargo bikes and mobility scooters. Active Travel must be the first choice for short journeys. Encourage everyone to enjoy healthy living from cradle to grave.	Noted. Policy SBNP4 requires all homes to be built to accessible standards. Policy SBNP22 requires garages to be built to 3m by 7m to provide car parking in accordance with the Soham Design Guidance and Codes. Policy SBNP 17 requires properties to be constructed to National Space Standards.
177.	SBNP17	Design should always include the height within the design to ensure the landscape and open views are not lost. After recent heavy rainfall which is now commonplace the risk of flooding should be a priority	The policy includes provision for the development to reflect the characteristics of the area, including building heights and be no more than 2 ½ storeys in height.  Policy SBNP21 addresses flood risk.
178.	SBNP17	Good luck influencing Housing Developers to do the right thing; they care only about £.	Comments noted. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to provide a framework to ensure development in Soham reflects the community's aspirations.
179.	SBNP17	All developments in the town should reflect the existing, not useless, small boxes. WE must build so people can live properly	Comment Supported. Policy SBNP17 seeks to ensure that development reflects the distinctive characteristics set out in the Soham Design Guidance and Codes.
180.	SBNP18	It is vital that future designs doesn't just just consider environmental challenges but takes the right steps to making what is built improve things in a sustainable way.	Agree. The Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to ensure that development comes forward that is sustainable – economic, social and environmental sustainability.
181.	SBNP18	I think solar cells at least should be part of build on new estates. Not an after thought by occupiers/owners	The policy sets out a energy hierarchy to minimise energy, maximise energy efficiency through design, reduce heat and energy needs,

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Initial Draft Response
			ensure a low carbon heat source and finally incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels.
182.	SBNP18	4) New houses should incorporate a working P.V system which needs to be part of the planning requirements	The policy sets out an energy hierarchy to minimise energy, maximise energy efficiency through design, reduce heat and energy needs, ensure a low carbon heat source and finally incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels. The policy is not exclusive and a Photovaltic System may also be appropriate.
183.	SBNP18	All new houses need too have solar panels. Houses built with a north south aspect will get the best results. Plus houses should have air source heat pumps and adequate insulation	<p>The policy sets out an energy hierarchy to minimise energy, maximise energy efficiency through design, reduce heat and energy needs, ensure a low carbon heat source and finally incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels.</p> <p>The planning system is required to provide a degree of flexibility and therefore it cannot define the energy solution for each development.</p>
184.	SBNP18	All new builds should incorporate solar panels, swift bricks, energy efficient lighting, insulation and EV points. Water saving schemes must be adopted by all developments no matter their size.	<p>The policy sets out an energy hierarchy to minimise energy, maximise energy efficiency through design, reduce heat and energy needs, ensure a low carbon heat source and finally incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels.</p> <p>Policy SBNP12 specifically requires net biodiversity gain in excess of the requirements of the Environment Act. The policy refers to measures including bat boxes and other bird boxes. The list is not exclusive.</p> <p>EV points are required by Building Regulations and this should not be duplicated in the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Policy SBNP20 sets out water efficiency standards for all developments both residential and non residential standards.</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Initial Draft Response
185.	SBNP18	If the Plan is as climate friendly as it claims to be, then this might be a good thing.	Support noted.
186.	SBNP18	New buildings should be in line with a sustainability policy, for example net zero, using renewable energy etc.	Support noted.
187.	SBNP19	SDBNP 19 Money should be invested in solar panels on all possible buildings versus solar panels taking up food growing land or places for animals.	The policy seeks to support the implementation of renewable energy proposals whilst safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land including land for food production.
188.	SBNP19	We need to provide more renewable energy eg. solar, wind farm etc	The policy supports proposal for renewable energy subject to safeguarding criteria.
189.	SBNP19	I think safeguarding land used for food production is the most important	Support noted.
190.	SBNP19	Any further development of solar panels on former farmland would need to be considered very carefully.	Noted. Safeguarding criteria are proposed which ensure proposals are considered appropriately.
191.	SBNP20	SBNP20 - When I heard how water management was not attended to before major building projects, I was appalled! I think that appropriate planning by the authorities concerned should be paramount.	Agree. Water management and efficiency is supported by policy SBNP20
192.	SBNP21	Flood risk is in my opinion priority in particularly when building on areas which are flood plains .Brook St Development on the fields there for example is always flooded after heavy down pours and in my mind developers saying it will "probably be ok" is not sufficient ..Whilst it is welcoming to see infrastructure to manage this put in place before building we are rapidly running out of natural flood plain areas and recent floods nationally have highlighted the causal affect of new builds on this.	The comment is noted. Recognising that there are areas of the parish that have specific flood issues, the need for development to demonstrate that it is not at risk of flooding or will not increase flooding on and off site is a key principle of the policy.
193.	SBNP21	Developers should have their conditions policed by ECDC to make sure they follow all the conditions especially flooding, drainage and future problems because of climate change	Agreed. The policy includes provision for a suitable maintenance plan including arrangements for adoption by a public authority or statutory undertaker to secure the operation of the scheme through its lifetime.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Initial Draft Response
194.	SBNP21	SBNP21 - The offhand manner that flood risk has been handled recently in Soham by developers and the District Council is also disturbing. I am glad to see that this is being highlighted.	Support noted.
195.	SBNP21	Re SBNP21 - I would like to see, if possible, a section added where any developer should fund an independent drainage report, authors to be chosen by STC	It is important that the Water Drainage Strategy is prepared to an appropriate and robust standard. Therefore, it is appropriate for the Local Planning Authority to be satisfied that it is completed robustly.

## Community Comments on Chapter 10 Transport and Accessibility

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
196.	SBNP22	<p>Road Safety and Parking should include provision for school run parking. The present situation where a desperate search for a stopping point causes desperate behaviour is a risk to us all. The school run is an essential feature of modern life which should be accommodated, not made worse by trying to control parking with double yellow lines etc. I see little in the neighbourhood plan to recognise the realities of modern life. First and foremost Soham is a dormitory town. People are prepared to commute from the new developments because prices here are lower than surrounding areas. That's not new, we moved here in 1970 for that very reason.</p> <p>Things that would help commuters:            Amazon style lockers at the entry to the estates for home deliveries and returns while at work.            Fordham has Fresh and Proper at the entrance to the Rayner's Green estate selling ready packaged meals to those arriving home from a stressful commute with little time for cooking.            Cambridge has dark kitchens with home delivery systems that can deliver food and other items in short order, Mereside would be an ideal place for one or more and relieve the need for High Street premises with the litter they cause. What is the ratio of Dominoes deliveries to store collection? Might be an interesting statistic.            Newmarket has its drive throughs where breakfast can be bought to consume on the drive to work, the triangle between the Fordham Road and bypass is an ideal location for a drive through Costa Coffee for those needing to eat on the move.            Visiting the Cineworld complex at Ely at the weekends shows what people are looking for, it's very busy.            It is only the older people living closer to town who keep the Co-op and Budgens alive so that lacks a future.            On the Continent people live in the town centres, maybe above the shops, it is this presence of residents that helps self police vandalism and street crime. We are seeing some of that here with the conversion of the banks and Church Hall to residential, it should be encouraged.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The policy seeks to ensure that where a proposal comes forward, the impact upon road safety is appropriately considered and that new developments provide parking to the local authority standards. This will include safety around schools.</p> <p>The neighbourhood Plan is also seeking to safeguard and promote pedestrian and cycle routes to enable residents to access services and facilities including education.</p> <p>The ideas that can help commuters are decisions for businesses and providers rather than policies for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

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197.	SBNP22	Every planning application should have space for houses to park at least two cars off road and like for example on Townsend where parking is to rear of property the areas at front should be restricted totally to avoid bottlenecks. The train station is well used and hopefully with HS2 being scrapped the second line will create better connectivity. Until such a time as SVC can facilitate a 6 form college part of any monies from development should facilitate cheap/free access for low income families to send children to 6th form or apprenticeship courses. The additional documentation shows Soham has both a younger population and one where uptake for further education is low I believe this could be addressed within this priority.	<p>The policy requires parking to be provided to the Local Authority Parking Standards. A dwelling, other than in a town centre is required to have 2 parking spaces. The Neighbourhood Plan policy requires off street parking provision.</p> <p>The desire for funding to be used to provide access to education for young people is noted.</p>
198.	SBNP22	Parking restrictions/provision alone not sufficient if not policed	Comments noted.
199.	SBNP22	Parking is one of the biggest problem areas in this chapter. Parking is a free for all, not only on the High Street, but the whole way along the main road from one end of Soham to the other. There are multiple examples of parking on pavements, yellow lines and near junctions which are dangerous for all other road users, cars cyclists and pedestrians alike. There are also instances when a fire appliance might not be able to get down a cul de sac	Comments noted. Policy SBNP22 seeks to address road safety and improve off street parking provision.
200.	SBNP22	SBNP22 - Spaces for ICE cars should not be reduced to provide spaces for EV. More parking spaces are required in Soham.	Comments noted. The policy seeks to support appropriate provision of parking to improve road safety.
201.	SBNP22	Thank you for your efforts in producing the first draft of the neighbourhood plan. Its obvious that a lot of work has gone towards it. I have filled in the survey form, and these comments should be read in addition to my comments there Topic paper Transport Introduction, page 1 The Cotes and Broad Piece need to be added to the areas of poor roads. They are in a very bad state. I can send photos if you wish Barway and Barway junction, pages 2 to 6. - the "Back Road" The "back road", as you refer to it, is more appropriately called "The rat run". You refer to this road as passing through The Cotes and Mereside - which it does - however, it also passes along Broad Piece - it is essential that this is stated in your report, as residents are becoming more and more adversely affected by traffic and action is needed. Traffic on this route has increased massively over the last few years. It will become worse when Persimmon constructs an estate to the North - the entrance is in Broad Piece Broad Piece has a 30 mph limit, the Cotes does not. It should	Comments noted. The Neighbourhood Plan group has highlighted areas of congestion and poor quality roads. examples are the worst cases and there are other areas which have not been listed in the Topic Paper. The issues of speeding, speed limits and diversion routes are not within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. Community Action 11 states that the Town Council will complete a parish wide survey of traffic and parking and consider interventions to address issues raised by the community.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		<p>have. Broad Piece has a severe speeding problem. Traffic often travels at twice the posted speed limit. This is because, between The Cotes and Mereside, the road is straight, and traffic speeds increase here after being forced by terrain to drive more slowly. As a result of the increased traffic and its speed, residents often find run over wildlife in the road. I recovered a grass snake and a deer recently. Some years ago Balfour Beatty was commissioned by CCC to rip out a number of street lights in Broad Piece, without consultation. The result is a number of dark and unsafe areas. When the A124 is closed by roadworks or accidents, all the A142 traffic is routed into Broad Piece. When Barway Road is closed, or when the Barway Junction is congested, 40 ton artics use the rat run - causing vibration to residents houses. There is not room for 2 hgvs to pass - they often mount the pavement to do so There is an agricultural warehousing business in Broad Piece which keeps expanding, bringing quite a bit of heavy traffic. You state that "there is no need for Barway residents to put up with this poor standard of local road". Broad Piece residents make the same comment about ourselves. Its particularly bad for those of us living close to the road. Requests and suggestions - Barway junction and Broad Piece Broad Piece is now about the only road into Soham which does not have measures to slow down the traffic. While speed bumps are inappropriate (noisy, not wanted by residents, vibration damage, heavy and farm traffic causing issues) there are other measures that could be applied. Indeed, one of our councillors applied for a measure under LHI and was turned down. What can be done?</p>	
202.	SBNP22	<p>With regard to the roads, I agree that there are many areas which get too congested. Clay Street is terrible, with drivers often having to go onto the footpath to get through. Does the plan include for any one way systems which might help to solve this problem?</p>	<p>Support noted for the identification of Clay Street on Map 13.</p> <p>The Plan does not include transport solutions such as one way systems.</p>
203.	SBNP22	<p>This is a large issue - Soham basically is a 'one street town' with minor roads of poor quality leading away, therefore traffic from new housing estates mostly has to leave by using the high street from the Shade to Downfields causing problems with speeding, parking, hold ups, noise pollution. Any speed restrictions to be introduced must be enforced by cameras or police presence to be effective.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
204.	SBNP23	<p>Getting the balance right for all forms of travel, whether motorised or on foot, is essential for the creation of a place where people want to live. All forms of mobility must be</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		embraced and having the right mix of parking, bike storage and pathways is key to a cohesive travel plan.	
205.	SBNP23	Segregated cycle routes should be explicitly preferred to shared use paths, eliminating potential conflict with other road users. New developments may only be permitted where dedicated cycle routes are provided.	Comments Noted. An additional priority route is added to the policy to include the potential for a segregated cycle route between Soham and Ely. The design of routes will be dependent upon the land and sites available and reflect the function of the route.
206.	SBNP23	<p>The priority routes in SBNP23 are good to see. Development and maintenance of footpaths is also critical if we are to reduce a "car dominated townscape".</p> <p>Development limitations are mentioned a lot but not the dangers inherent in the A142. Cyclists regularly block the route to Ely at considerable risk to themselves, for a short trip that should easily support a non-car option. I believe that a non-car link to Stuntney and Ely would be transformative for all those connected, forced into cars by the road conditions.</p> <p>Think also of the reduced carbon emissions, habitat protection goals, exercise offerings, reduced cost of travel, access to businesses and the care home...</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>An additional priority route is added to the policy to include the potential for a segregated cycle route between Soham and Ely.</p>
207.	SBNP23	More and safer cycle routes, parking etc	Support noted.
208.	SBNP23	A cycle way between Soham and Ely is definitely needed in view of the heavy vehicle traffic on A142 especially the large numbers of HGVs	Noted. An additional priority route is added to the policy to include the potential for a segregated cycle route between Soham and Ely.
209.	SBNP23	The rumours that I have heard up until now about the inclusion of cycle lanes on existing streets within the town (Clay Street for example) are I hope, just that - rumours. I have nothing against cyclists, I have a bike myself, but I cannot support the addition of cycle paths on streets which are already heavily packed with parked cars. These householders have nowhere else to park their (currently vital) vehicles, and adding cycle paths to such streets would not be possible. We are a rural town, and people are not going to be able to dispense with their private cars to resolve parking and traffic issues in the town.	The Neighbourhood Plan proposes to create and maintain pedestrian and cycle priority routes to and from key destinations within the town to support sustainable and active travel within the town. The design of any priority route will be completed in consultation with the community.

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210.	SBNP23	<p>All residential roads to be 20mph. New housing needs 20mph by default. Residents parking needs Parking Permit Scheme to discourage multiple car ownership. A142 needs a speed reduction to reduce RTCs at the side roads.</p> <p>Add these to Priority Paths list-</p> <p>A. Footpath 205/102 from The Butts to SVC (path width &amp; surface need urgent improvements to allow school children to use safely all year round). B. The entire length of Cherry Tree Lane to Horse Fen. C. Mill Drove to Horse Fen. D. Soham Lode - see below SBNP 11, 14, 24, 25 Create a safe walking route along Soham Lode to Fordham Moor Rd. Build a floating pontoon on Soham Lode under the A142 to allow a safe crossing of this extremely dangerous road and enable a direct west - east path to connecting to Lode footpath to Fordham Moor to Fordham, Isleham Nature Reserve to Isleham. This will provide a direct route to the east without a long detour south via Downfields and up Fordham Moor Rd.</p> <p>Pontoon path examples - <a href="https://pontoonprovider.co.uk/products/walkways">https://pontoonprovider.co.uk/products/walkways</a></p> <p>NT Wicken Fen have a pontoon made by Versadock <a href="https://www.versadock.com/product-ranges/pontoons-jetties/">https://www.versadock.com/product-ranges/pontoons-jetties/</a></p> <p>If this is not technically possible, build a footbridge over the A142 with access ramps either side.</p> <p>The current cycling route NCN11 to Ely to Barway along the River Cam has a substandard surface. It needs major improvement.</p>	<p>Noted. Comments also relevant to policy SBNP24</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan highlights key priority routes. However, the list is not exclusive and the policy seeks to promote routes to and from key destinations including open spaces and community spaces.</p>
211.	SBNP23	<p>The car is the prime method of transport in the area, and its use should not be made more difficult. The current shared system works. There is no need for change.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote sustainable travel within the town.</p>

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
212.	SBNP23	I generally support the draft plan, which deals well with the urban part of Soham, but am disappointed that it says very little about the needs of the rural parts of the parish. As a resident of Great Fen Road I would like to see support in the Plan for radical improvements to the rural roads, not just the occasional piecemeal patching, and also provision of a high quality broadband service.	Comments noted. Community Action 11 states that the Town Council will complete a parish wide survey of traffic and parking and consider interventions to address issues raised by the community.
213.	SBNP23	Wicken-Soham cycle route completion. Continue the bus service with possibility of a straight connection from Soham to Cambridge	Comments noted. The bus service issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan.
214.	SBNP23	The policy identifies priority walking and cycling to key locations in the town and beyond. Development proposals which create and maintain these routes will be supported.	Support noted.
215.	SBNP22	Every planning application should have space for houses to park at least two cars off road and like for example on Townsend where parking is to rear of property the areas at front should be restricted totally to avoid bottlenecks. The train station is wel	The policy requires parking to be provided to the Local Authority Parking Standards. A dwelling, other than in a town centre is required to have 2 parking spaces. The Neighbourhood Plan policy requires off street parking provision.
216.	SBNP24	Connect the many interconnecting footpaths as they are also very important	Support noted.
217.	SBNP24	The footpaths within Soham are a lovely feature and must be protected.	Support noted
218.	SBNP24	Walkways/paths must be promoted but must also be maintained. Many paths have fallen into disrepair because they are overgrown & inaccessible. Wicken-Soham cycleway is a great idea and should be expanded (safe cycle route to Barcham and Stuntney/Bens Yard). The A142 bypass will always be Soham's downfall. Until this is recognised as an issue and managed properly to reduce the speed, then we will continue to experience fatalities. The Hasse Road entrance/exit is the very worst area for poor visibility.	Comments noted.
219.	SBNP24	Disagree. Cars need ease of movement too and should not be second class citizens on road space they pay for. However, I agree that all Soham' walks should be maintained.	Note comments of support for Soham's Walks.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
220.	General	All essential to try to minimise 'Dormitory' housing estate enclaves	
221.	General	The new rail station is very welcome but the timings and frequency of the trains are impractical. Particularly sixth formers, and also commuters, need to be able to get to Ely at a sensible time.	The issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the comments are noted.
222.	General	Fix the potholes!	The issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the comments are noted.
223.	General	Although the principles laid out make sense, there is nothing in the plan to show how these ideas are to be implemented. I cannot support such a vague plan.	Comments noted. The policies will be implemented through the decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.
224.	General	Better evening buses and Sundays. Perhaps later buses at weekends. More frequent trains and clearer road markings. Many old ones need renewing.	The issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the comments are noted.
225.	General	A one way road system - Mereside and Clay Street desperate priority. Mini roundabout end of Julius martin Lane and junction with Hall St. Accident waiting to happen where old and infirm people are crossing road to and from Londis convenience store	The issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the comments are noted.
226.	General	Reinstatement of Snailwell loop to achieve direct connection to Cambridge by rail.	The issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the comments are noted.
227.	General	Agree with the community actions to lobby the bus services	Support noted
228.	General	I do not drive, so I must rely on public transport to go to work in Cambridge. The commute is impossibly long. More trains, especially during peak hours would help. When I have to stay linger at work, I have to take a taxi from Ely or wait a train for more than an hour. The	The issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the comments are noted.

No.	Plan Area	Comments	Response
		transport is not reliable with delays and cancellations. Because of this, I am too tired to go out on weekends.	
229.	General	Any plans for a new medical centre must include direct vehicle access to the majority of residents and not reliant on the A142.	Agreed and noted.
230.	General	Direct train service to Cambridge	Comments noted. The bus service issue is beyond the scope of issues that can be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan.
231.	General	Again if these things are done, then it would be a positive thing.	Support noted.
232.	General	All good ideas but how are they to be implemented? The plan doesn't say.	Comments noted. The policies will be implemented through the decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.

## Community Comments on Background documents

No.	Comments	Response
<b>General</b>		
233.	Extensive and well prepared documents which I think fully support the SBNP within the remits and constraints you have.	Support noted
234.	It is evident that a huge amount of high quality work has gone into developing the supporting documentation that underpins the plan. Credit must go to those people who have put in the work to bring about such a high quality Neighbourhood Plan.	Support Noted
235.	Well put together but baffling if done from documents in library. Brilliant hard work at the Pavilion	Noted
236.	Nothing further thank you	Support Noted
237.	What professional bodies are supporting this comprehensive neighbourhood plan. Open Spaces Society, Natural England, English Tourist Board etc...	The Consultation Report includes a list of all those organisations who were consulted as part of the Regulation 14 consultation and their response.
238.	I have read the above documents and have submitted my comments to Soham Town Council.	Noted.
239.	Green spaces - always protect and enhance. Commons encroachment must stop now. Wildlife supported and this is for all our futures	Support noted.
240.	I am sorry that I cannot comment on all these previous questions, but there are too many policies to keep flicking back and forth. I nearly lost the will to live!! I usually have plenty to say about Soham because I love living here. These documents arte too many to wade through	Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory document and is complex. A summary of the policies was included in the consultation.
241.	Very complex documents. Very hard to fully understand and comprehend. Perhaps deliberately so?	Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory document and is complex. A summary of the policies was included in the consultation.
242.	Very opaque, wordy and complex. If this really is a consultation, the documents should be in easily understood language.	Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory document and is complex. A summary of the policies was included in the consultation.
<b>Flood Risk Topic Paper</b>		
243.	Obviously flood risks. In view of climate change and the flooding that has recently occurred in other parts of the country.	Comments Noted.

No.	Comments	Response
244.	Topic Paper Flood Risk ver 1 Surface water flood risk page 5 You state that " the most recent case of flooding was in June 2016". This is incorrect. This year, In 2020, and in previous years too, residents in Broad Piece, and the road itself, have been flooded by surface water. The most recent event was just a few weeks ago. I have photos if required. Residents - and Soham Town Council - have been fighting to get Persimmon to agree to install proper flood prevention measures on the site that they intend to build on to the North of Broad Piece. We had no support from ECDC planning department on this issue, though we did have some support from its planning committee. Persimmon refuse to go further than a bodge which is likely not to work, rather than a simple but more expensive solution which would. I agree with the comments that you make on page 5 - but there needs to be more in the way of enforcement and independent evaluation of the schemes to alleviate flood risk, rather than the current system which is to swallow the developers schemes without any kind of check. Green energy page 6 I agree that we should not be using farmland for solar panels. There is much roof space still free that could be used.	Comments noted and added to the Flood Risk Topic Paper
245.	5) Flood risk. This is not treated with the seriousness it deserves. Due consideration is not being given to a number of recent sites approved. Our local planning authority has not got the expertise or willingness to deal with these issues.	Comments Noted. The Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to address flood risk through a comprehensive policy.
<b>Transport Topic Paper</b>		
246.	Transport Report - RTC count For the 24 years to 2023 there were 6 fatal on Soham Bypass and 6 fatal from Stuntney to Shades roundabout. The speed limit needs reducing to 50mph.	Comments noted.
247.	Transport Report - I expected this to include a highlight on the level of public transport currently available in the town, which despite the reopening of the station is poor.	Noted. Community Action 7 states Lobby the bus companies to serve the town to provide a regular bus service (including at the evenings and at weekends) which will also link into the train times in Soham and Ely rail stations. An additional feature would be as a bus to Ely station for the scores of Sixth Formers
248.	Transport report The condition of the road through Soham is very poor and the deterioration of the road markings is making the situation dangerous for pedestrians and drivers	Comment noted. Community Action 11 seeks to complete a survey on traffic and parking issues outside the Neighbourhood Plan process.
249.	Topic paper Transport Introduction, page 1 The Cotes and Broad Piece need to be added to the areas of poor roads. They are in a very bad state. I can send photos if you wish Barway and Barway junction, pages 2 to 6. - the "Back Road" The "back	Community Action 8 notes Liaise with Police and local authority to ensure on-street parking is properly enforced and monitored to prevent abuses to local residents' amenity.

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	<p>road", as you refer to it, is more appropriately called "The rat run". You refer to this road as passing through The Cotes and Mereside - which it does - however, it also passes along Broad Piece - it is essential that this is stated in your report, as residents are becoming more and more adversely affected by traffic and action is needed. Traffic on this route has increased massively over the last few years. It will become worse when Persimmon constructs an estate to the North - the entrance is in Broad Piece Broad Piece has a 30 mph limit, the Cotes does not. It should have. Broad Piece has a severe speeding problem. Traffic often travels at twice the posted speed limit. This is because, between The Cotes and Mereside, the road is straight, and traffic speeds increase here after being forced by terrain to drive more slowly. As a result of the increased traffic and its speed, residents often find run over wildlife in the road. I recovered a grass snake and a deer recently. Some years ago Balfour Beatty was commissioned by CCC to rip out a number of street lights in Broad Piece, without consultation. The result is a number of dark and unsafe areas. When the A142 is closed by roadworks or accidents, all the A142 traffic is routed into Broad Piece. When Barway Road is closed, or when the Barway Junction is congested, 40 ton artics use the rat run - causing vibration to residents houses. There is not room for 2 hgvs to pass - they often mount the pavement to do so There is an agricultural warehousing business in Broad Piece which keeps expanding, bringing quite a bit of heavy traffic. You state that "there is no need for Barway residents to put up with this poor standard of local road". Broad Piece residents make the same comment about ourselves. Its particularly bad for those of us living close to the road. Requests and suggestions - Barway junction and Broad Piece Broad Piece is now about the only road into Soham which does not have measures to slow down the traffic. While speed bumps are inappropriate (noisy, not wanted by residents, vibration damage, heavy and farm traffic causing issues) there are other measures that could be applied. Indeed, one of our councillors applied for a measure under LHI and was turned down. What can be done? Please can we have our street lights back? Please can we have a 30 mph limit through The Cotes?</p>	
250.	<p>Topic paper - transport - general issues The road junctions North of Soham on the A142 are lethal. They need to be replaced by roundabouts I am not in favour of 20 mph limits. There is no evidence to say that they are beneficial - in fact, formal surveys undertaken (as opposed to figures made up by people with vested interests)</p>	<p>Community Action 8 notes Liaise with Police and local authority to ensure on-street parking is properly enforced and monitored to prevent abuses to local residents' amenity.</p>

No.	Comments	Response
	<p>state that they do not contribute to road safety. A better approach would be to enforce existing 30 limits. Central government and city councils continue to believe that we do not need our cars and that the country can be run by people getting about on push bikes. They enshrine this policy in legislation, so that even rural areas are forced to pay it lip service. They obviously haven't visited any rural areas, or tried to cycle with emphysema. Soham is a small town, very few people cycle and that is unlikely to change - weather and time available being the main issues. Most cycling I have seen is done by the lycra leisure lot. I am very much against appropriating ANY road space for dedicated cycle lanes that are not used - Its been happening all over the country - look at Cambridge - the result is inconvenience for drivers and vehicle congestion with vast swathes of unused cycle lane road space. As far as I am aware, the road system works fine as is and Soham is not a hot spot for cycle accidents. Indeed, the design codes and guidance report says so. Re parking - again I would say that Soham is a market town (sadly now without market) and people pop in from all around by car. The last thing they want is difficulty finding a parking spot. Also, people often stop and pop in to places for a couple of minutes - we do not need over zealous parking enforcement unless the parking is dangerous. The car is the only viable method of transport in rural areas.</p>	
<b>Local Green Spaces Topic Paper</b>		
251.	I support the green spaces assessment and the need to prevent flood risk in the light of climate change. Every effort to provide renewable energy	Support noted.
252.	Topic paper Local Green spaces Assessment Page 34 Broad Piece Common Description of site Please can I correct your statement. If you look at the trees on Broad Piece Common, they are far from scrubby. They have become mature. These were planted a while ago - 20 years is probably right - by Soham Town Council, when they received a batch of traditional English saplings and did not know where to put them. Many of these trees have now become mature. There are ash (no dieback) and willow and beech among others. There is scrubby growth near the ditch on the W edge, from time to time residents keep this in check. No part of the common is used for vehicular access - residents occasionally use a small tractor and trailer to maintain. Demonstrably special Used extensively by residents and their families	Comment noted. Delete Many scrubby trees from the description in the Topic Paper and insert Ash, Willow and Beech Trees.

No.	Comments	Response
	Plenty of wild life - Deer, owls, grass snakes, pheasant, partridge, hawks but to name a few. Also Bee orchids	

