

# BLUEPRINT for BROOMFIELD

MAJOR  
CONSULTATION –  
COMING SOON!

## Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan

This summer, we'll publish the draft Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan: a Blueprint for Broomfield. It will start a 6-week consultation so that everyone can have their say. When it is finally agreed, the Plan will have a major influence on the future of our village over the next 15 – 20 years. So, it's worth getting involved and having your say.

### What is a 'Neighbourhood Plan'?

Every area of England has to have a 'Local Plan' to guide development over the next 15 to 20 years – for instance the Chelmsford Local Plan. A neighbourhood plan is similar, though much smaller and just applies to one parish or neighbourhood. It has to be in 'broad conformity' with the relevant Local Plan, but it can add a whole new local dimension that would be too specific and detailed for a local plan.

Government guidance says:

'Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided ...'

### Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – the Story so Far

The parish council started the NP in 2016. We were very worried about the scale of development facing the village and wanted our local community to have more say.

We got a group of volunteers together to form a steering group and start the process. In 2017, they carried out a major consultation – the Residents' Questionnaire. This gave us a massive amount of data about Broomfield. Here are just some of the headlines about what residents like and dislike – you can see the full results on our website: [www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/your-neighbourhood-plan/](http://www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/your-neighbourhood-plan/)



**People Like/Like a Lot:**

Living in a village	93%
Closeness to Chelmsford and its facilities	99%
Closeness to open countryside	100%
Separate 'feeling' and identity from Chelmsford	84%
Community spirit/neighbourliness	89%
Closeness to London	80%
Old buildings and/or sense of heritage	86%
Friends and neighbours	91%
The buses	80%

**But not:**

Level of traffic	94% Dislike/ Dislike a Lot
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Based on what our residents said, we came up with a 'working vision'. This has guided the NP through all the stages so far:

By and large, Broomfield is a contented place with no great demand for change, except the level of traffic. The vision should be to enhance and protect its current assets but also to propose some radical approaches to reducing traffic and the impact of traffic.

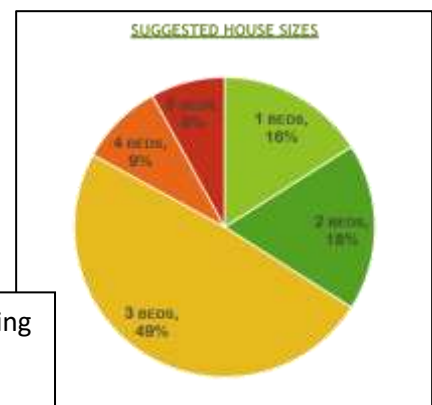
We've also done a massive amount of research and got government grants to fund various professional studies. That's because NPs have to be based on evidence. It's not just a matter of seeing which ideas get the most likes on Facebook.



Our **'Evidence Base'** includes the following datasets and professional studies:

- ✓ Community Profile (Village Demographics)
- ✓ Landscape Appraisal
- ✓ Housing Needs Assessment
- ✓ Design Assessment and Guide
- ✓ Views Assessment
- ✓ Site Allocation Study.

You can see each one on our website, as and when they are finished.



Stats from the Housing Needs Assessment

## What's Next?

The Steering Group is bringing all this evidence together with the views that local people expressed in the Residents Questionnaire. The result will be the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

It will contain about 20 policies. If the NP is finally approved, they will be legally binding and will control how new development takes place in Broomfield up to 2036. The policies will include things like:

- Preventing Broomfield village from being 'swallowed up' by Chelmsford
- Protecting important views and landscape character
- Design of new buildings
- The mix of new house types, to make sure that meeting local needs takes priority.

It will also contain a number of 'Community Aspirations'. These are ambitions for the village, but can't be made into legally-binding policies. Nonetheless they may be very important, for example reducing the impact of traffic, so it is good to give residents the chance to comment on them. Community Aspirations will include things like:

- Getting new safe cycle paths and reducing the impact of traffic
- Working with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to try and get a GP surgery in the village
- Creating new woodland, especially around the edge of the Bloor Homes development site (north of the Hospital)
- Improving access and creating new footpaths in the Chelmer River Valley (between the Village Hall and Petersfield)
- Designating new special character areas around Angel Green and Parsonage Green
- Working to make Broomfield carbon neutral.



The draft Neighbourhood Plan will then be presented to the Parish Council with a request to carry out a formal consultation with the local community. All the comments will be carefully considered and any necessary changes will be made.

Then, the NP is handed over to the City Council (the planning authority). They will carry out another stage of consultation and, after that, will arrange for the NP to be 'examined' by an independent planning inspector, who will consider if it meets national requirements and has followed a proper process. The inspector can also require changes to be made.

Finally, at some point next year, we expect the final draft Neighbourhood Plan to be put to the vote in a referendum of local Broomfield voters. So, you will have the final say about whether the NP should be adopted as part of the planning system for Broomfield.

*Digesting displays during earlier stages of consultation.*

## What do we hope to achieve?

Producing the NP has been a huge amount of work for the Steering Group and parish councillors – and there's still plenty left to do. So, this is what we hope it will achieve:

- NPs can't stop all development, but we want our local community to be in the driving seat - to be able to shape and control development, decide what form it should take, what it looks like, where it should take place and where it shouldn't
- We want Broomfield people to be able to identify the new infrastructure they need. Parishes that have a NP get a bigger share of development money (Community Infrastructure Levy), so hopefully get more of the infrastructure they need
- We want our residents' views about Broomfield – what they want to change and what they love and want to keep – to be set out in a formal plan with legal clout. Backed up by professional studies and evidence, we hope this will also influence the planners at the City Council and other bodies, so that Broomfield will continue to be a village, surrounded by countryside and green spaces, for many years to come.

We hope you'll agree that this is all worth achieving. If so, please watch out for the draft Neighbourhood Plan this summer and give us your thoughts and views during the consultation.

Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

