

Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan

BULLETIN - JUNE 2020



Web site - www.tivertonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Despite the ongoing lockdown, work has been continuing on developing the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan. The latest version of the document is available to view (see the [Documents](#) section of the web site). If you have any comments or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us. This document will be updated from time to time, as further progress is made, so do check back.

Some news to update you on ...

Sustainable Design Guide: We have commissioned AECOM, using Government grant funding, to prepare a comprehensive Sustainable Design Guide for Tiverton. This will set out the design features that should be incorporated into any new development. We have asked that all design should embed three core principles: **maximising green space and sustainability, encouraging accessible and inclusive communities and reinforcing the role of the town centre and wider economy.** We have seen the first draft of the Design Guide and have made lots of comments on this; a second draft should be coming soon.

Local Green Spaces: Our Neighbourhood Plan provides us with an opportunity to identify and safeguard Local Green Spaces. This is a special designation reserved for areas of green space that are felt to be demonstrably special to the local community - for instance they may be havens for wildlife, they might provide space for recreation and play, they may be historically important, they might offer a tranquil space in an otherwise busy area, or they might reflect the beauty of the area. The spaces must be located within the community and be fairly small in size. If we can successfully designate them as a Local Green Space, this protects the space for perpetuity from inappropriate development, as defined in paragraphs 143 to 147 of the National Planning Policy Framework ...

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf).

We would love to hear from you, if you have any ideas about green space that we could nominate for Local Green Space designation. Please email us with the name of the space, its location and a short description telling us why you think it is special. We can then add it to the list of green spaces that we are compiling and see if it can be included in the Plan.

Local views and viewpoints: Equally, our Neighbourhood Plan lets us include views that we think should be preserved from development that might negatively impact on them. Are there any views that you feel are important to safeguard? If so, please tell us about it: where it is, what it is looking onto and why it is special. It might be a view within Tiverton itself or one of the small villages, perhaps of a building or green space. It might be a view out into the wider countryside or looking from the countryside into the town. Perhaps it is a view along the river corridor or the canal. Please send in your ideas so that we can consider how to include them in the document.

Walking and cycle routes: We are also mapping proposed walking and cycle routes for inclusion in The Plan. The idea is to encourage sustainable forms of local transport as much as possible. If you have any ideas for routes that should be included, so let us know.

The Impact of Coronavirus: Whilst we are unable to hold meetings in person, the Steering Group and Working Groups are continuing to meet using online methods and therefore work on the plan is carrying on. We have, however, received guidance from the Government about the impact of the pandemic restrictions on the neighbourhood planning process (see the web site [Plan Process](#) section for more information). We are encouraged to engage as far as possible using the Internet but clearly this will impact us once we get to the first official round of consultation on the document. We are a little way off this yet, so hopefully we will be clearer about what we can and cannot do nearer the time. What we do know, however, is that the government has revised its guidance to say that Neighbourhood Plan referendums (the final step in the process) cannot take place until May 2021 (although that might change following a Government review). Because of this, Neighbourhood Plans that have reached the later stages of the process will be given greater weight in the planning process. Therefore, there is every need to keep working on the Plan and progress as quickly as we can.

Public Consultation: Obviously, the pandemic restrictions mean that we will not be able to hold physical public meetings for the time being, so we will have to use alternative methods. We will likely use mass mailings and may do meetings using online collaboration technology. We will provide more information about how we plan to do the public consultation in due course.

Contact us: If you have any comments on the emerging Draft Plan, or nominations for Local Green Spaces or Significant Views, or walking/cycle routes, please email us at: nplan@tivertontowncouncil.gov.uk.