

Have
your say

Your Neighbourhood Plan

A great new opportunity for Dartmouth

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire



How
should the
town develop over
the next 20 years?

Get involved

Decide on priorities
to determine
the town's
future

Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Dear Dartmouth Residents and Business People

The people of Dartmouth now have the opportunity to make a Neighbourhood Plan for the town.

Neighbourhood Planning gives communities direct power to shape the development and growth of their local area. It is not compulsory, but it is a right which communities can choose to use.

This kind of plan-making, by the community, for the community, has not been possible before. There are now more than 2000 Neighbourhood Plans in preparation in England and Wales.

If accepted through a local referendum of residents (and provided it meets certain technical standards), the plan will be adopted as the official plan for the town and will determine how Dartmouth develops in the future.

You can help by using the enclosed survey form to tell us what is important to you about Dartmouth and, if you wish, by getting involved in working on the plan.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!

Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group



Making the plan and getting it agreed: Six Key Steps

A Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has already been set up. This is a community effort, where the town council is working alongside representatives from many different organisations and interests in the town. The Council supports, but does not direct, the Group's work: there are more members of the public than Councillors in the Group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

The purpose of the Working Group is to encourage and facilitate the widest possible public input to the process and to prepare the Plan for public consultation and agreement.

The first step is to gather opinions. This public survey gives everyone the chance to identify their main priorities for the town. Responses to the survey will be fed into several 'Topic Groups'.

1

The second step is to gather evidence. Topic Groups will pull together factual evidence necessary to support proposals in their topic area. Topic Groups may also carry out further community engagement activity, such as discussion groups, specific opinion surveys and exhibitions. Please use section 3 of the survey form to register your interest or say if you want to contribute to Topic Group work. Each Topic Group will put to the Working Group its recommendations about what the Plan should say.

2

We all now have the opportunity to make a Neighbourhood Plan for Dartmouth.

This leaflet explains why it is important and invites you to get involved.

Dartmouth's future has been discussed for a long time. Now the people of Dartmouth have the opportunity to make a Neighbourhood Plan to shape the development and growth of the town.

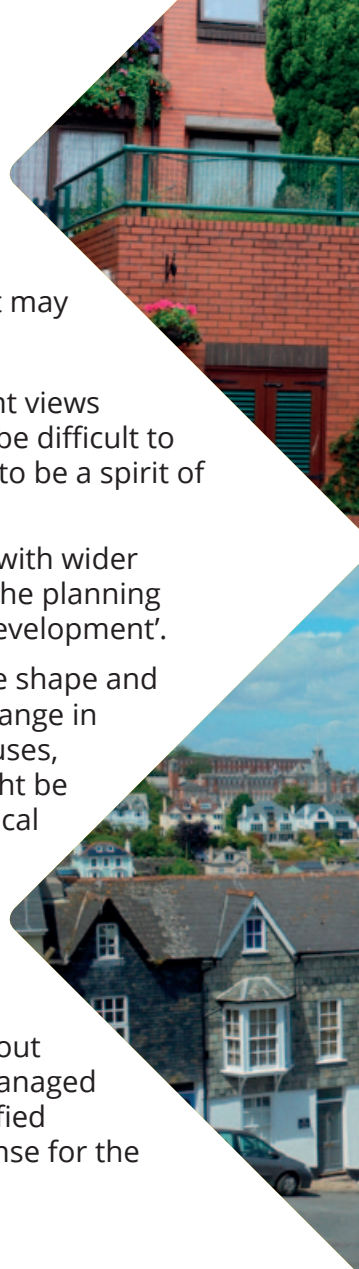
The idea is simple:

For the first time we have the chance to make a plan for ourselves and see it adopted as official policy by our local planning authority, South Hams District Council.

Instead of being told by others what is planned for the town, we in Dartmouth can identify our own priorities and make our own plan.

We must work together and it may not be easy.

- ◆ **First**, people have different views and priorities, which may be difficult to reconcile. There will need to be a spirit of compromise on all sides.
- ◆ **Second**, the plan must fit with wider national policies, such as the planning principle of 'sustainable development'.
- ◆ **Third**, it must consider the shape and appearance of physical change in the town – where new houses, roads and businesses might be built and what other physical changes are needed to improve the lives of all in the town.
- ◆ **Fourth**, it cannot be used just to stop development altogether. Rather, it is about ensuring that change is managed in a way that meets identified local needs and makes sense for the community as a whole.



The third step is for the Working Group to put together a Draft Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. The consultation period must be a minimum of six weeks. It will also include consultation with local government and other agencies.

3

The fourth step is for the Working Group to modify the plan (if necessary) in the light of the consultation result. A public consultation statement must be written to report what modifications have been made.

4

The fifth step is for the Working Group to submit the modified plan to Dartmouth Town Council and South Hams District Council. The District Council appoints an 'Independent Examiner' to confirm that the Plan meets the required technical standards (called the 'basic conditions') and conforms to wider planning policy. If it does not, it must be modified or withdrawn.

5

The sixth step is the local referendum on the plan. This must be organised by the District Council, giving at least 28 working days notice. It must be a simple Yes or No vote. If more than 50 per cent of the votes cast are in favour, the Plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the district, with legal force in determining planning decisions.

6



Ways to get involved

- ◆ Complete and return the enclosed survey.
- ◆ Come along to Working Group meetings. These are held at the Guildhall. Meeting details are available from the Guildhall office and on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Dartmouth Town Council website (see below).
- ◆ Come along to Topic Group sessions. If you would like to be involved in Topic Group discussions please contact the Working Group Chairman Cllr Tony Fyson at anthony.fyson@gmail.com or the Clerk to the Town Council at clerk@dartmouthtowncouncil.org
- ◆ Stay in touch by giving us your contact details at the end of the enclosed survey form, so that we can keep you informed.

If you would like more information, please look at the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Dartmouth Town Council website www.dartmouthtowncouncil.org. There you can find the Working Group's Terms of Reference and minutes of meetings and a more detailed briefing note on how Neighbourhood Plans should be developed as well as the sorts of issues they might cover.

