



# Neighbourhood Plan



## DARTMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Dartmouth Town Council is delighted to announce the resurrection of Dartmouth's Neighbourhood Plan which will be run, as legally required, by a local community group, the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Group is headed up by Robert Brooke and includes some local residents of Dartmouth including Valerie Bird, Keith Myerson, Robert Brooke, Tony Tudor, Cllr Graham Evans and Peter Goldstraw (in photo) and will be fully supported by Dartmouth Town Council. The group will regularly report back on their progress at Full Council meetings. Three Councillors will also be actively involved as members of the group, they are Cllrs Graham Evans, Adam Edsall and David Wells.

The whole ethos in creating a viable Neighbourhood Plan is that it should be driven by the local community of Dartmouth as a community led group.

The Steering Group will be setting up a new website and email for the Neighbourhood Plan which will be linked to the Dartmouth Town Council website. This will enable two-way dialogue and exchange of information with the Community and with the town's residents to highlight what the group is working on and the current status of the project. It will also allow everyone to provide input to, and receive feedback from, the Steering Group. The Council has allocated funds to the Group to ensure this work progresses quickly.

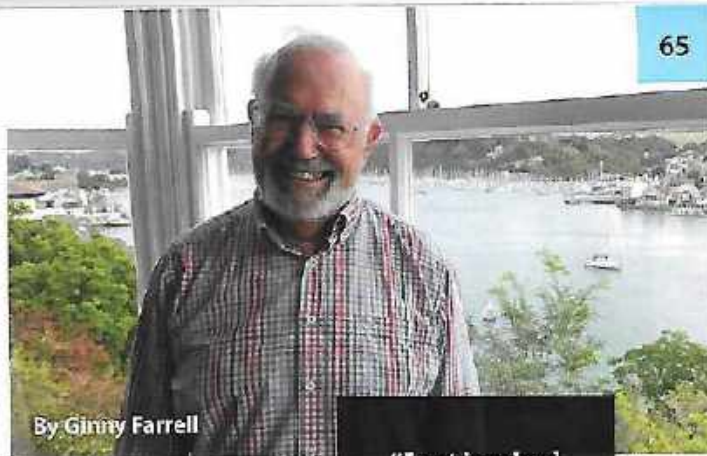
The Steering Group has identified from earlier public surveys some key areas that the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan will need to address. It is determined to allow ample opportunities to the Community to inform the Steering Group of their views and interests for the next 10 to 15 years which are relevant to the development of Dartmouth over this time. For reasons of expediency some matters may need possibly to be considered for implementation sooner rather than waiting for the final Plan to be approved.

Commenting on the current status of Dartmouth's Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group Chairman, Robert Brooke, said;

"It is encouraging that the Steering Group can now move forward positively to the next stage of



# Tony Tudor



By Ginny Farrell

**"I got involved because I was very concerned at the way I saw Dartmouth being taken over by second homes, which were really there for investment"**

**F**ar from resting on his laurels, Tony Tudor has been a busy bee since retiring to Dartmouth 10 years ago as he seeks to make a difference to the town he loves.

Tony has become fully immersed in local life since moving to the Dartmouth in 2011 with his wife Linda.

He spent four years as treasurer of the annual Dartmouth Food Festival, was a member of the Dartmouth Barnabus Trust for the homeless, sat on the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority board for four years and is currently involved in drawing up the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan - which will help to shape and guide development in the town over the next 15 years.

It's a varied list of roles and Tony has enjoyed every single one of them.

All take a huge amount of commitment and time, but perhaps the most intense is Tony's position as steering group member and chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan's infrastructure topic group.

"I got involved because I was very concerned at the way I saw Dartmouth being taken over by second homes, which were really there for investment," Tony said.

"They were either there because somebody had a little money and wanted to put it somewhere safe but they never intended to live here, or they were looking at a holiday letting.

"Of course, with both of those situations you don't have anybody who is here for long periods.

"Dartmouth does have a very good community, it's a nice mixture including people who are doing real work and people like myself who are retired but active.

"It's good to make sure that the town preserves that sense of community and has a sustainable future.

"If you get too much in the way of temporary residents a lot of things start getting difficult such as schools, healthcare and policing.

"It's quite a radical problem and it is becoming more of an issue."

To help tackle this problem, the neighbourhood plan contains the 'Principle Residence Clause.'

Tony explained: "The basis for any neighbourhood plan is the use of land, so if in the future somebody

wants to build a new residential property it can only be a permanent residence, not a second home or a holiday home."

Dartmouth's Neighbourhood Plan is now out for consultation and in due course will be put out to a local referendum. If it receives the thumbs up from the majority of townsfolk it will be adopted.

Tony's background has stood him in good stead for the various voluntary roles he has enjoyed in the town.

"I have a few skills from my working life," he said.

"I was a commercial lawyer but involved in a lot of educational and charity work.

"I'm used to working with groups who are very diverse, with people with all sorts of different interests.

"I am also a trained mediator which comes in handy if you are trying to balance different approaches and saying 'well, what's the one which is the most acceptable to most of us or to everybody'.

"Hopefully, it's everybody but you will get differences of opinion and it's very often negotiated down to something that is delivering something which is worthwhile, but at the same time carrying others with it so people will support the ideas.

"I like solving problems," he chuckled.

The best bit of the Dartmouth Food Festival for Tony was the children's section of the event.

"It was for the local kids and the schools. It was lovely," he said.

"We had fun, that was the key thing, but we also had to deliver something and make it work because it's a huge enterprise.

"It's a great thing and it's put Dartmouth on the foodie map, that's for sure."

Tony comes from a family of Devon fishermen and lifeboat men and is passionate about the River Dart, which is why he became a member of the harbour board.

"It was an interesting four years," he said.

"The harbour authority is a business in itself with a



**Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Press release - 12-07-2020**

Today sees the launch of the new website for the Neighbourhood Plan Group [www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org). Here you will meet the team members and see how they are progressing with the preparation of a long term Plan for Dartmouth - going into 2034.

Our Chairman Robert Brooke has written an introduction to the new Neighbourhood Planning effort and relaunched the project with the following message.

*“Welcome to the new Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan website. The Steering Group and the Topic Group Leaders are in place and actively beginning their detailed work. The immediate task is to build further the evidence base we need to support the plan.*

*Your input is vital. Please go to the ‘take part’ section of our new website or email address [info@dartmouthplan.org](mailto:info@dartmouthplan.org) and let us have your messages and enquiries. Now is the time for you to act. Your input will help us develop suitable plans and policies for Dartmouth for the next 15-20 years.*

*We intend to provide regular updates so please look out for them on this website or, better still, register and receive them direct to your email inbox.*

*Robert Brooke*  
*Chairman of the Steering Group*

We are building our Topic Group teams and need people with the skills to help us plan the future of Dartmouth. If you are passionate about the town and believe you can help us, then please contact us either through our website at [dartmouthplan.org](http://dartmouthplan.org) or by emailing our Chairman Robert Brooke on [chairman@dartmouthplan.org](mailto:chairman@dartmouthplan.org) .

If you want to subscribe to our newsletter go to the ‘contact us’ page on our new website at [www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org)

## Planning our future – a Neighbourhood Plan for Dartmouth

**A**s residents of this lovely historic town, we want it to prosper. Change is inevitable but until recently we have lacked the power to influence it.

Current legislation gives us the chance to build a community vision for the future by creating a Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan. It will have legal 'clout' and allow us to have our say for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. By influencing change, we can maintain and improve those features that make Dartmouth special.

### Tell us your views!

A new Steering Group of local volunteers under the chairmanship of Robert Brooke has been set up to make this happen. As required by law, it is independent from the Town Council. Some work has been done in the past and now the Steering Group and the Town Council are determined to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.

Topic groups will be considering four main areas in detail –

- Our economy
- Our infrastructure
- Our green environment, and
- The town environment, including our river, coastal, and marine interests.

The Steering Group vision is to ensure that Dartmouth is a flourishing community with a

successful economic future. We are particularly keen to create new employment and business opportunities and make sure the town has an infrastructure to meet the future needs of residents, businesses, workers, and tourists.

We want to hear your views and ideas so that we can develop practical policy proposals that will benefit all parts of the community over the next 15-20 years. Individuals, businesses, and voluntary groups can all contribute. In return we will seek to keep everyone properly informed in a timely manner. We have created a website with an email address to do this.

Please read the leaflet, 'A Neighbourhood Plan for Dartmouth' that is enclosed with this issue of 'By The Dart'. It gives our contact details. Please do get in touch at [www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org) for the benefit of Dartmouth's future or email us directly at [info@dartmouthplan.org](mailto:info@dartmouthplan.org)




*Your help, wishes and ideas will always be welcome.*

**Robert Brooke**  
Chairman,  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering



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By the Dart  
July / August 2021

## The Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan

Robert Brooke, Chairman of  
the Steering Group



A Steering Group of local residents has been working with the Dartmouth Town Council since 2019 to consult with the local community about what should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan for our designated plan area.

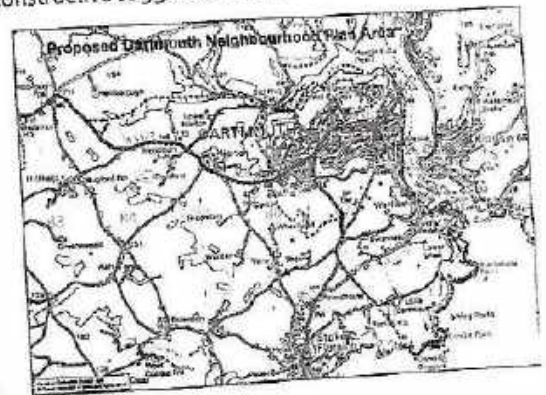
The Steering Group, including 3 local Councillors, is now writing the proposed plan document with the aim of publishing it for the required final phase of public consultation.

This Pre-submission document was approved by the Town Council on 7 June 2021. The content of the plan and an Executive Summary of it are already on the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan website which is accessible to all at <https://dartmouthplan.org>. Please read this and let us know your views.

We are now reaching the stage where we wish to consult with the community at large to receive their comments over the next few weeks for our consideration. We will then prepare the formal request for approval to Dartmouth Town Council. Once obtained it will be submitted formally to South Hams District Council. To date the Steering Group has set up four Topic Groups dealing with our Economy, Infrastructure, our Green Environment and the Town Environment. Local teams have assisted in this effort and we have also used the findings from the last Public Survey in 2016. These are summarised in the Draft plan on our website.

A Neighbourhood Plan, once formally approved and adopted by the residents in a referendum, likely to be in early 2022, provides additional local detail to be considered in the formal Local Authority land use plan - in our case this is the Plymouth, West Devon and South Hams Joint Local Plan for 2014 to 2034. Our current pre-submission document sets out our suggested plans and policies for land use in Dartmouth, our aspirations for the protection of our heritage assets, our green spaces, our town infrastructure and our environment.

Now is the time for us all to work together like never before to seek your views and to complete our first ever Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan. Your early input and constructive suggestions are critical to its success.



## HOW CAN I HELP?

You can help us by engaging with the plan, attending public meetings and letting us know what you think.

We want to know your views on ...

- How we can best enhance our town environment.
- How we can maintain and encourage a vibrant and strong local economy.
- Whether our housing policies reflect the needs of the local population.
- How we can protect the rural setting of our town and our open vistas for future generations of locals and visitors.
- Whether we need to improve facilities and/or provide new ones.
- Which areas and which buildings need protection.
- How we can improve transport links both within our town and elsewhere.
- How we can protect green spaces and whether we need to provide more.

Please send your comments to the e-mail or website below or to the DNP Steering Group, c/o Dartmouth Town Council, Guildhall, Victoria Road, TQ6 9RY.

Please provide your name, e-mail, postcode and telephone number.

*Your data will remain confidential as per the General Data Protection Regulations. For more information on this please see our website.*

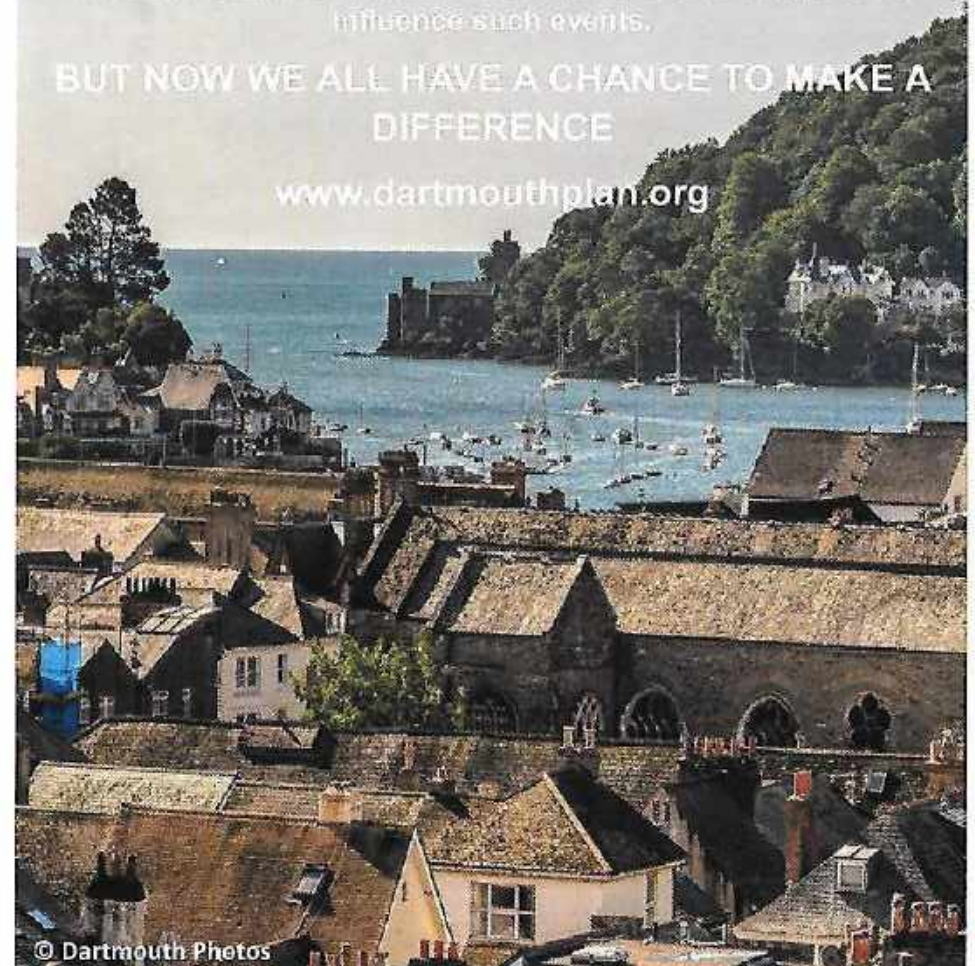
[info@dartmouthplan.org](mailto:info@dartmouthplan.org) [www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org)

# A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR DARTMOUTH

We are fortunate to live in this vibrant and historic riverside town, within an area of outstanding natural beauty. Whilst we would all want our town to prosper, without a clear vision for the future, developments could occur that may not enhance our lovely environment or might even be to its detriment. Until recently concerned local residents have lacked the power to influence such events.

**BUT NOW WE ALL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

[www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org)



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## THE BACKGROUND TO THE PLAN

Thanks to the Localism Act of Parliament we all have a golden opportunity to influence our town's future - by developing our own **DARTMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**. This plan will lay out our vision for Dartmouth's future allowing us not only to own Dartmouth's future but also to have the legal weight to back it up.

Dartmouth forms a small part of the territory included in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014-2034 which was approved in 2019. The Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan is required to comply with the policies of the Local Plan. Dartmouth and its Conservation areas is largely contained within the larger South Devon AONB and is required to comply with the policies of the AONB.

Now we can choose to prevent those developments which impact negatively on our precious environment, whilst encouraging thoughtful, creative and positive developments that are in all of our best interests.

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

An Independent Steering Group has been formed to guide and manage the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It has its own Terms of Reference agreed with Dartmouth Town Council.

A public survey was carried out in 2016. Its results and findings, further input from this exercise and possible further research which may be undertaken will all be taken into account when preparing the draft Plan. The Plan then needs to be approved by Dartmouth Town Council, South Hams District Council and by a Public Examiner before being finally put back to the whole community for a simple majority vote approval by referendum.

## WHAT NEXT?

We need your views to help us draw up policies on a wide range of issues that will affect the lives of all Dartmouth residents for the next 20-30 years. Together we can propose ideas for a sustainable future for Dartmouth and its residents.

The scope of our plan is broad. It will include land use & development, housing & homes, employment & the economy, transport, parking & traffic, tourism, heritage & conservation, green spaces, environment & recreation and health & well-being.

To fully represent our community, we need to receive a wide range of views. We will commission new surveys and review any existing ones. There will be public meetings with the opportunity to raise and discuss important issues and proposals. With your help we can develop and refine policies which will result in a positive and sustainable future for Dartmouth.



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## HAVE YOUR SAY...

Your comments and suggestions are critical, so that we can ensure the views of everyone are recognised in the Plan. The Plan should ideally ensure that all aspects of employment, commerce, retail, marine, housing, the environment and our local economy are properly considered.

## YOU CAN HELP DECIDE THE PRIORITIES OF THE PLAN

## **DARTMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BACK ON TRACK**

### **New Council fulfils election pledge to resurrect Plan**

Dartmouth Town Council is delighted to announce the resurrection of Dartmouth's Neighbourhood Plan which will be run, as legally required, by a local community group, the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Group is headed up by Robert Brooke and includes local residents some of whom are in the photo (Valerie Bird, Keith Myerson, Robert Brooke, Tony Tudor, Graham Evans and Peter Goldstraw). They will be fully supported by Dartmouth Town Council and will regularly report back on their progress at Full Town Council meetings. Three Councillors will also be actively involved as full members of the group. They are Cllrs Graham Evans, Adam Edsall and David Wells.

The whole ethos in creating a viable Neighbourhood Plan is that it should be driven by the people it affects – and with their contributions - that is everyone who lives in Dartmouth.

The Steering Group will be setting up shortly a new website and email for the Neighbourhood Plan which will be linked to the town council website. This will enable two-way dialogue and exchange of information with the Community and with the town's residents to highlight what the group is working on and the current status of the project. It will also allow everyone to provide input to, and receive feedback from, the Steering Group. The Council has allocated funds to the Group to ensure this work progresses quickly.

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Commenting on the current status of Dartmouth's Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group Chairman, Robert Brooke, said,

" It is encouraging that the Steering Group can now move forward positively to the next stage of information gathering with the support of Dartmouth Town Council. It is essential we receive good input from the Community to allow the Steering Group to reflect properly the Community views. We look forward to working with you".

Councillor Graham Evans, who has spearheaded the resurrection of the Neighbourhood Plan added " When the new council took office nine months ago, one of our first tasks was the resurrection of Neighbourhood Plan, the group is now in place and they have a detailed action plan. The town will shortly have the opportunity to see the progress the group has made and provide vital feedback, via the new website and dedicated email address".

For further information please contact Cllr Graham Evans by email  
[cllrgrahamevans@dartmouthtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllrgrahamevans@dartmouthtowncouncil.co.uk)

# Have your say on future of town

## Consultation begins on how Dartmouth should grow

by Kate cotton

DARTMOUTH finally has a plan for the next 20 years – and residents can now have their say on it.

A draft Neighbourhood Plan “to shape the future of the area” has been prepared for the period up to 2034 - covering all aspects of the town, including the local economy, job prospects, housing developments and green spaces.

It has been approved by Dartmouth Town Council and is now out for public consultation before it goes back to the town council and then on to South Hams Council for approval.

The plan has been prepared by a group of local volunteers acting as a steering group.

It is based on contributions from

residents, a public survey in 2019 and input from topic groups set up to look at key objectives in the community.

Robert Brooke, chairman of the steering group, said: “For many years Dartmouth’s been without a Neighbourhood Plan.

“The draft Plan’s been prepared and now’s the time for input from the community.

“This consultation gives residents and businesses in Dartmouth the chance to let their views be known.

“The aim is that the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan should be ‘sustainable and deliverable’ and ‘shape the future of the area in which we live and work’.

“Many of the issues we  
Continued on page 2

# Dartmouth looking to the future, now have your say

Continued from page 1  
...king have been around  
...identified for 20 years  
...some cases."

Robert said particular attention has been given to local economy and job prospects, and green spaces for recreation, enjoyment and environmental benefit.

He added: "Protection of local infrastructure and safeguarding of heritage assets has been addressed, as has the need for social housing and the provision of affordable homes for our residents."

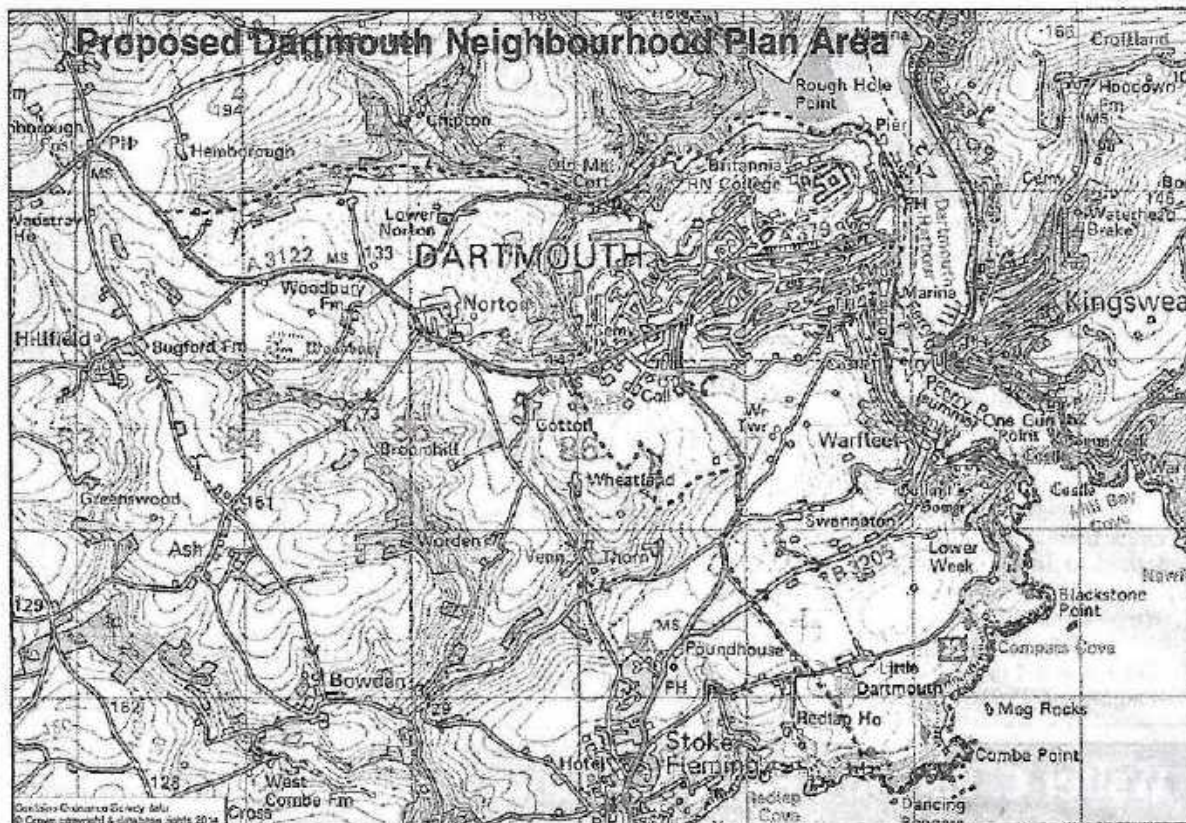
"A principal residence policy is proposed."

"Health and Wellbeing and our education facilities are also considered, and also the need to mitigate climate change and reduce our carbon footprint, which is critical for the future."

"We recognised the diversity and the different requirements of both the town and the lower valley as well as the difficulties of lower incomes and affordability of many of our residents."

"And we hope we've identified how land use of areas in Dartmouth can be properly utilised."

Robert said other matters considered in the draft Plan include recommendations on the future use of the hospital site and clinical Green Space recognition for part of Jawbones Recreation Park; safeguarding



## Consultation begins

The public consultation period started on Monday, August 2, and continues until September 13.

The draft Plan can be viewed and responded to online and at the Guildhall, library at the Flavel Centre, and Dartmouth Visitor Centre.

Public events to explain the Plan are starting this Saturday, August 7, in the community corner of the Market Square, from 9am to 1pm.

The second event is on August 10 in the Guildhall, from 4pm to 7pm, and the next at Townstal Community Hall on August 16, from 3pm to 5.45pm.



# Dartmouth Chronicle

& South Hams Gazette

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Thursday, February 18, 2021

# District not keen on plan to protect green spaces

by Ginny Ware

The district council has refused to support moves to protect two key community assets in Dartmouth from future development because it does not want the sites to be "constrained" by the preservation measures.

The town's neighbourhood plan team has drawn up a list of 14 sites it wants to safeguard for the community for generations to come.

The group is hoping to designate the sites as Local Green Spaces (LGS) which would provide them with a level of protection equivalent to green belt land.

All 14 sites have been nominated for protection by residents through the neighbourhood plan website and landowner support has been expressed for 12 of the sites.

However, South Hams Council has refused to support the proposed protection of the popular Jawbones Beacon Park and Manor Gardens in South Town.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, the council's deputy leader and Dartmouth ward member, said the authority would prefer any future options for the sites to be "unconstrained" by a LGS designation.

Peter Goldstraw, chairman of the Green Environment Topic Group of

the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan (DNP), hailed the council's reasoning "strange".

He described Jawbones Beacon Park as a "marvellous wildlife reserve," popular with walkers and boasting panoramic views.

Manor Gardens is a "much loved spot" he said, where walkers can rest and enjoy "marvellous views" of the town, river and the estuary out to sea.

Peter said: "Both sites were owned by the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness until they were handed over to SHDC following the Local Government Act of 1972.

"Jawbones Beacon Park was created in 2014 as a result of an initiative by the Dart Area Landscape Access Group (DALAG), supported by SHDC at that time, funded by generous sponsors and assisted by officer cadets from BRNC.

"The strange reversal of attitude by SHDC is said to be because it "does not want to limit the future use of these assets!"

Dartmouth Town councillor Adam Edsall who has helped launch a petition to save Manor Gardens said it was important to protect all of Dartmouth's popular recreation sites.

He said: "Nobody wants to see these valuable recreational areas lost to the town and providing this status, similar



Councillor Adam Edsall at Jawbones Beacon Park

to that of the greenbelt, will guarantee their protection from development, not just for the duration of this council, but for generations to come."

Explaining why the district council does not support the proposed protection status, Cllr Bastone said: "The Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan team have contacted South Hams Council to confirm their intention to nominate a range of sites owned by the council for LGS status.

"We have provided our support to a number of these but for Jawbones Beacons Park and Manor Gardens we have not supported the LGS designation.

"As landowners, we would prefer options for the future use of these areas, which might best serve the council and the community, to be unconstrained by a LGS designation.

"However, we do intend these spaces to remain open for residents and visitors alike to enjoy going forward."

The other sites in the town which have been earmarked for protection are the Dartmouth Town Council owned sites of Coronation Park, the community greenhouse and adjacent North Embankment, Royal Avenue Gardens, the Community Orchard, Milton Lane Allotments, Longcross Cemetery, the Castle Estate, Castle Wall, and Warfleet Creek quay slip and lime kilns.

Raleigh Estates has agreed support a LGS application for Sandquay Woods while SHDC has agreed to support it for Norton Field and Norton Wood.

Peter said: "Landowner support for such nomination greatly assists the process although an opposed nomination can succeed."

To register support for the protection of Jawbones or Manor Gardens visit [www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org)

# Letters to

En

## Wear a mask

Dear Visitors,

We are pleased to see you enjoying your visit to the South Hams.

You may not know this but the demographic of local people is one of the oldest in the country.

We have protected them as much as we can through this awful pandemic and wish to continue to do so.

So please wear a mask when visiting our supermarkets and shops so we can shield them just a bit longer.

**A South Hams resident.**



Setting out from Stoke Point on Andrew Kinder's Village Voice

## Make your voice heard on Dartmouth Plan

The Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan may have lost some of its sex appeal over the six or so years people have been juggling it, but it is now in very capable hands.

I was impressed! Dartmouth citizens wishing to understand, contribute, express concerns or criticise now have until mid September to make their concerns know.

Members of the group are present at the open sessions, listed in the Chronicle and on line.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory instrument to involve the citizens in the evolution of their community under the auspices of the town council who are then responsible for ensuring that the proposals are respected.

The inevitable resistance offered by SHDC or DCC can be overcome by strong support from the community.

Active involvement by as many as possible is needed to arrest the "Salcombeization" of Dartmouth and to protect the town from the ravages of over development.

Please, make your voices heard, (this can be done on line.)

**Hedley Piper  
Weeke Hill  
Dartmouth**

## Send us your views

The distress inflicted on cattle and, not to mention, the atmosphere and wildlife.

Please let us use our common sense on this very important issue.

**Sue Harrington  
South Milton  
Kingsbridge.**

## Global warming is not a hoax

Global warming is not a hoax: In the latest edition of the paper (August 12) there are two letters dealing with global warming.

That by John Cummings is

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# Dartmouth neighbourhood plan consultation now live

The new neighbourhood plan for historic Dartmouth says the future success of the town depends on understanding the delicate balance between many competing factors, including balancing the increasing demands for development with protecting the town's environment and heritage.

Up for consultation until September 13, the plan is back on track again seven years after it was first launched and 20-months after it was abandoned by the town council.

A group of residents formed a steering group to resurrect the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan and are now urging townsmen to have their say on the town's future planning policies over the next 15 years.

Work on the original plan was started by the town council in 2014 but was abandoned by the authority four years later in November 2018 on the basis there were not enough people willing to commit time and effort to get it off the ground.

But in 2019 ago the authority backed the creation of a community led group to re-start work on the plan and bring it to fruition, and now it is moving towards completion with the consultation period.

Approved by the town council, the new plan sets out a vision for Dartmouth aimed at enhancing the town so its "healthy and vibrant community can continue to grow and flourish."

The plan sets out opportunities for the future of housing, transport, employment, the green environment, health and well-being, infrastructure and tourism.

Robert Brooke, chairman of the neighbourhood plan's steering group, said: "Our DNP should be sustainable and deliverable, cater for the needs of current generations and an ageing population but ensure that growth does not mean worse lives for future generations.

"The economic circumstances of Dartmouth residents varies considerably across the parish.



"Although large parts of the plan area are the least deprived areas in England, Townstal falls within 30 per cent of the most deprived areas particularly with respect to lowest in income, employment and health.

"There are signs that the deprivation scores for Townstal are rising but they remain a serious concern and the policies of this plan seek to address these inequalities."

The plan supports future proposals for affordable housing development, including custom and self-build plots where feasible.

"Affordability is determined with consideration of the particular circumstances of Dartmouth, namely high average prop-

erty prices and low salaries," the plan says.

It also supports 50 per cent discounts on new homes to ensure first homes for young families are affordable to those on local low incomes.

The plan says homes should be occupied by people with a local connection, and the needs of key workers such as health workers, retained firefighters and the local lifeboat crew should be considered 'exceptional circumstances' when affordable homes are allocated.

It also supports housing for the rising elderly population in the form of specialist residential accommodation, sheltered, extra care or assisted living housing.

The plan aspires to find a sustainable

transport solution to manage and control traffic through the town, and says the town council will commission a transport study alongside key stakeholders to achieve this aim.

The plan also supports the Devon Climate Change Strategy and the emerging Devon Carbon Plan, and encourages small scale renewable energy generation such as hydro power, technologies making use of the River Dart, roof mounted solar power and ground and air source heat pumps.

It says any new development should produce a biodiversity action plan to show how it will retain on site natural features such as Devon banks, stone walls, hedgerows, protect existing mature trees

and promote, where reasonable, opportunities for improving access to heritage assets via new walking routes.

The natural characteristics of the Dart Estuary should be retained in any development along the waterside, states the plan, and any new developments anywhere in the parish should not be overly intrusive, unsightly or prominent to the detriment of 40 locally important views.

The plan does not 'generally' support the change of use of hotels or employment land, and says development in shopping areas of the town should be for business and retail use only. It does support innovative and sustainable tourism related businesses.

Development proposals in the parish should "demonstrate high quality design" and "Innovate contemporary design solutions will be supported providing they do not have a detrimental effect on the overall appearance and character of the area," the plan states.

The plan also seeks to safeguard various heritage assets and the conservation area of the town including the water tower at Jawbones Hill, Crosby Meadow and the former cottage hospital.

Redevelopment of the hospital site should include some health and social care facilities, in line with the covenant on the original hospital.

Further development by Dartmouth Academy for education or sports is supported, as is new and improved access and infrastructure to the River Dart for recreational water craft users especially an improved slipway on the North Embankment, upgraded storage facilities on Coronation Park, and nearby short term parking provision for craft and vehicles.

To have your say on Dartmouth's draft neighbourhood plan visit [www.dartmouthplan.org](http://www.dartmouthplan.org)

Copies are also available for viewing at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Flavel Centre, and Dartmouth Visitor Centre.

# Call for open space champions

Many towns and villages in the South Hams stand out from the crowds because of the features provided by their unique pockets of open space.

Be they parks, beaches, foreshores, green lanes, woodland, gardens, or even churchyards, many local open spaces are well-loved and much used by the communities who live nearby.

In bid to protect Dartmouth's special undeveloped sites, the team in charge of drawing up the town's neighbourhood plan are seeking open space 'champions'.

Anyone can nominate a green area near their home but to influence which ones will be selected for approved protection by a independent examiner, champions are needed to explain why a particular site is important to them, their family and their community.

Champions will be expected to enlist their help of their friends and neighbours in collecting vital information which will be used to give their particular favoured open space the best chance of protection.

But the deadline for submission is looming and champions are needed now.

Peter Goldstraw, chairman of Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan's green environment committee, explained: "Within the neighbourhood plan there is the facility to designate certain green spaces as local green spaces, which, if approved, gives them the sort of special protection reserved for green belt and things like that.

"It's a big undertaking to make an inventory of all of the open spaces within the parish of Dartmouth, but once done we will look at the merits of each and decide which will go forward to be designated for protection.

"We've asked the community to identify green spaces for instance if there's a bit of grass or a play park nearby which is important to them, to contact our website and ask if we have thought about it.

"Beyond that we need to get local champions to produce evidence to convince us and then convince the independent examiner

that this open space deserves designation as a Local Green Space."

Among the sites on the list that need championing are Royal Avenue Gardens, Coronation Park, Manor Gardens, Dyers Wood, Gallants Bower, Sandquay Woods, Sugary Green, the town's allotments, various play areas at Townstal, Waterpool Road, Jawbones Hill, and beaches and foreshores from Warren Cove to Old Mill Creek, as well as sports and leisure sites such as the bowling green, skate park, football pitches and school playing fields.

Prior to presenting their findings to Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan's strategic committee, Peter's group must also hand them over to officers at South Hams Council and the area of outstanding natural beauty organisation for fine tuning.

"It's not a lot of work," Peter appealed, "but if you don't do it, it will not happen."

To nominate a site or to champion one visit [www.dartmouth-plan.org](http://www.dartmouth-plan.org) or phone Peter on 01803 834171.



Denise and Alexander Goldstraw, blackberry picking at Dartmouth Community Orchard

Contributed

# Mayor reopens play park after a revamp

A town play park is ready to welcome visitors after recent renovations.

Salcombe's Courtenay Park play area has been reopened to the public by town mayor Nikki Turton following its revamp by South Hams District Council and contractors Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.

An official opening saw dignitaries gather on Thursday, August



Fellow SHDC ward member for Salcombe and Thurlestone, Cllr Mark Long, said: "The new play equipment in the park has been a long time coming and this hasn't been quite the opening event we were hoping for due to social distancing restrictions, however we're very pleased to finally see the play area open and providing a valuable new play space for the town.

"We know it is virtually impos-

# Volunteers are watching seas

With more people on holiday in the South Hams and lovely weather to boot, the coastguards, RNLI and National Coastwatch Institute Prawle Point have been called on to assist in all manner of incidents.

On July 22 Falmouth Coastguard rang the NCI lookout about a ski boat in trouble south of Prawle Point. The volunteers at the lookout were able to spot it and reported the position so that Salcombe Inshore Lifeboat could tow the casualty to safety.

The lookout heard a Mayday call from a rib in Starehole Bay on July 26. It had been swamped by a large wave. Falmouth Coastguard called the volunteers to ask if they had the casualty visual and a Coastguard Helicopter, which happened to be in the area, confirmed the position. Salcombe Inshore Lifeboat was tasked, made

# Consultation comes to a close

Chronicle  
9/12/21

## Your views on Neighbourhood Plan will be taken into consideration

by Kate Cotton

DARTMOUTH'S long-awaited Neighbourhood Plan is heading towards the next stage of approval, after this autumn's public consultation period has now come to a close.

Issues including health facilities, the environment and broadband provision in the town have all been highlighted by the Plan and responses.

See Page 3

## Next steps for the plan



### From the front

All resident's forms and views have been received and are being collated to include in the Plan going for approval from Dartmouth Town Council and then South Hams Council. There will also be a public referendum on the final Plan before it's implemented.

Robert Brooke is chairman of the Plan's steering group. He said: "We're very encouraged by the fantastic response we had to this autumn's public consultations. We're now including all that feedback and that of other bodies. Currently we

remain on track to hold the public referendum on the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan next year."

Robert said the wealth of responses to the public consultation has thrown up important issues about the green environment, upgrading broadband provision, and using retired health facilities for the benefit of the community, and these must all be included in the Plan.

He added: "The steering group is in no doubt that its first duty is to the Dartmouth Community and is weighing carefully what the community is saying, so that the final Plan truly represents their wishes.

"But it's not straightforward. Other bodies like Historic England, the Environment Agency, and the Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust, must - quite rightly - have their say too. No surprise that discussions are sometimes drawn out!

"But progress is being made and we remain optimistic that the Plan will move to the next stage (Regulation 15) early in the New Year.

"We still have some way to go, but the groundwork is completed, and the community's views are shaping the agenda."

The steering group's responses will be published

at the same time as the revised Plan is published, after approval by Dartmouth Town Council. Then it's over to South Hams Council to add its' views. Following this local authority input, an independent examiner will look over everything in detail and, subject to their decisions, there will be a referendum when the community has its final say.

All the comments from the public consultation can be seen at: <https://dartmouth-plan.org/2020/09/24/hello-world/#comment-279>