

Shouldham Neighbourhood Plan 2025-2040

Views and Aspirations

In December 2023 a public consultation was held in the village hall in conjunction with a survey that gathered views on what people liked about living in Shouldham; what opinions they had with regards to housing; and their aspirations about the future of Shouldham.

The feedback from this survey was influential in determining the detailed work that went into creating the Shouldham Neighbourhood Plan and the policies that it contains.

SHOULDHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Aspirations

Extracted from the responses to the public consultation held in November/December 2023.

[NOTE: The inclusion of any aspiration in the following list does not reflect the strength of support such an aspiration might have received in the public consultation. The list just reflects every aspirational type that was put down in answer to the questionnaire regardless of whether one person made it or all respondents gave the same answer.]

Q5 IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Off road parking to accompany any new housing
Dedicated parking for the school
Yellow lines outside the school and around the Green
Parking for the Geo. V playing field
Traffic calming measures, cameras and (changes to) speed restrictions
Street lighting

Village shop
Improvements to village hall
Improvements to surface water drainage to prevent flooding
Improved footpaths, pavements and road surfaces
More or improved green spaces

Q6 & Q7 TYPE AND SIZE OF HOMES

Any additional housing should be small scale suitable for first time buyers, affordable homes, family homes and housing for elderly people
Concerns about 2nd home ownership

Q9 PROTECTED GREEN SPACES

Village green
Geo V playing field
Rhubarb field
Fields at either end of Westgate St
Fields around the village e.g. opposite playing fields, adjoining village hall and Colts Hall, field leading to church, fields surrounding Abbey Farm and other fields on the village edge

Q10 PROTECTED VIEWS

Suggestions included:

Towards the church

The green

Views of village from church

Q11 LIGHT POLLUTION / DARK SKIES

Support for a NHP policy to preserve dark skies in the village

Q12 PARKING

[See Q5]

Q13 TRANSPORT / ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Improved bus services, particularly to/from Downham Mkt

Improved pavements and footpaths

Dedicated cycle routes

Q14 BUSINESS AND ENTERPRICE

Encourage new business into the village

Village shop, preferably small, local and independent

Q15 COMMUNITY FACILITIES / ACTIVITY GROUPS

Currently available:

Support for King's Arms PH

Support for village hall

Support for Geo. V playing field

Support for Post Office

Support for access to The Warren

Support for existing clubs/groups e.g. Shouldham Ladybirds, table tennis club, the Chalk & Cheese

Desired facilities/groups in the future

[NOTE. Responses that were non-specific are not included below
Some responses are repeats from answers to earlier questions e.g. village shop]

Leisure / sport:

Bowling alley
Paintball area
Go kart track
Groups/activities for teenagers
Local private pool that could be hired out
Adult outside exercise park
Cricket club and nets#
A walking group
A dog social / training service
Class in orienteering

Clubs / groups:

Youth group
Local history group
Gardening club
Craft group
Book club
Rock choir
Community self-help group that amalgamates the Orchard and the allotment society
Fitness classes in the village hall, including yoga and pilates
Village choir
Craft shows

Shop / café:

Small grocery shop
Farm shop
Farmers market
Use of church as a café / tea room
The sale of small grocery items e.g. eggs, milk, bread perhaps in the pub
Weekly café in village hall

Services:

Community transport to Downham Mkt, and linking Shouldham Thorpe to the King's Arms
Local discount scheme for villagers when using the pub
Car boot sales on Geo. V playing field
Village police officer
Restrictions on holiday homes and 2nd home ownership
House prices and impact on younger generation in particular
Support for wildlife
Improvements to sewerage system
Any new development should have non-invasive lighting
Measures to ensure surface water drainage copes with frequency and intensity of rainfall due to climate change