

Statement supporting the application for a neighbourhood Plan for Trunch

This statement is prepared in support of Trunch Village preparing a Neighbourhood Plan outlining briefly why permission should be given.

In 2022 a questionnaire was posted to all 470 residences in Trunch to determine views of what would make it a better and more socially responsible community. 215 responses were received. The results were condensed into a report (www.trunch-norfolk.co.uk/trunch-parish-plan/).

The Parish Council accepted the plan and have been working on the results, initially within the areas of direct competence. Environmental work has been undertaken by volunteers and a Speed-watch scheme started in partnership with Norfolk Police and the Road Safety Partnership. The No Cold Calling Scheme has been reinvigorated with support from NNDC and community cohesion activities such as monthly Village Coffee Mornings and a Village Lunch for isolated residents. With support a 'Warm Room' functions during the winter months to provide a welcoming location for those with problems. A scheme has started to aid those in need with a dedicated phone line to connect volunteers to those needing assistance with gardening or transport to hospital, dentist appointments or just for someone to visit and have a chat.

Despite, or maybe because of, the demographic of an ageing population, with 63% being over 65, the needs of the residents are usually met by volunteers. As a discrete village community within Norfolk, we are subject to the normal challenges around the housing stock. The number of holiday homes continues to rise with the owners rarely in residence nor contributing to the social activity. Despite impressive support from the owners of the Village Shop during COVID they were subsequently forced to close through lack of trade. The well-known phenomenon of visitors arriving with deliveries from supermarkets occurred. The Village Pub thrives during the holiday season but needs a year-round clientele to be viable. The effort of the new publican is noteworthy, providing excellent meals.

The impact of holiday home purchase has driven up house prices leading to a shortage of affordable family homes. With the notable exception of the excellent Victory Housing development in Fullers Close, virtually all new housing has been based on 'infill' with larger properties constructed aimed to maximise the profit from the land use.

With the challenges faced by NNDC through Government mandated extension of local plans the Parish Council wish to complete a Neighbourhood Plan quickly to enable the voice of the community to have greater weight when planning applications are made to NNDC. The present 'consultation' carries little weight and is often brushed aside.

Trunch Parish Council is a vibrant group with an excellent qualified Parish Clerk providing quality services within a restricted remit and offering value for money drawn from a precept that was reduced in 2024, through efficient operation and careful husbandry of restricted resources.

The high response rate to the previous questionnaire, nearly 50%, indicates an engagement with village activities and an ability to reflect the wishes and needs articulated by the residents in a completed Neighbourhood Plan.

Trunch Parish Council interact with all voluntary societies and organisation in the village and as the legal appointed and regulated organisation we are best placed to write and subsequently implement a Neighbourhood Plan.

Richard Miles
Chair
Trunch Parish Council

