**Alresford Parish Council**

**Alresford Neighbourhood Plan**

**Consultation Statement - updated**

**February 2021**

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# consultation process

## Introduction

* 1. This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan (ANP).
  2. The legal basis of this Consultation Statement is provided by Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (as amended), which requires that a consultation statement should:
* contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
* explain how they were consulted;
* summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
* describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
  1. The policies contained in the ANP are as a result of considerable interaction and consultation with the community and businesses within the parish. Work has involved community groups over approximately three years, as well as surveys, public meetings and events. This has been overseen and coordinated by firstly Alresford Parish Council and secondly the ANP Working Group, which was formed to lead the ANP at the beginning. In the latter stages of the ANP process a Consultant was employed to put the Plan together, using the evidence we gathered from our consultation. Views and interactions from this entire process led to the Vision and Objectives in the ANP, and subsequently therefore form the basis for the key policies set out in the ANP.

## Organisational structure of the ANP

* 1. The ANP has been prepared after extensive community involvement and engagement. The ANP has reflected the views of the community and expressly of the need for a small amount of extra care development principally to address local needs, along with the provision of community infrastructure. Movement and healthcare were principal issues for most people and the ANP seeks to address this along with protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
  2. The structure put in place was a Working Group comprised mainly of residents with a few Parish Councillors. The Working Group was overseen by the Alresford Parish Council. The Working Group also worked closely with Navigus Planning and the Rural Community Council of Essex who helped and advised on major points in the process. The Working Group was, periodically, split into smaller groups who looked at specific key areas such as business, residential development, rural issues, traffic and transport etc.
  3. The Working Group changed somewhat over the period of time it took to complete the ANP but originally comprised 20 volunteers from the community and 3 members of the Parish Council Planning Committee. The Parish Council oversaw the process and met regularly once a month with a regular report on the ANP. All updates and discussions were minuted.

## Timeline – key milestones

**Date Activity**

Oct 2016 Application to Tendring DC for approval of ANP area

Dec 2016 Approval granted by Tendring DC for ANP area

Jan 2017 Launch event by Parish Council in Church Hall

Feb 2017 Steering Group (SG) formed

June 2017 Early engagement survey issued to every household

Oct 2017 Review of survey results by SG

Dec 2017 Housing Needs Survey issued

Mar 2018 Review of results by SG

Mar 2018 Detailed survey issued

April 2018 Review of results by SG

May 2018 Presentation of ANP progress at the village wide annual parish event

Aug-Dec 2018 Formulation of policies by SG

Jan 2019 ANP v1 produced

April 2019 ANP v2 produced

July 2019 Display and consultation at the Summer fete

Aug 2019 ANP v2b produced / informal consultation with Tendring DC

Sept 2019 Parish Council approves ANP

Oct 2019 ANP Regulation 14 submitted to Tendring DC for consultation.

Oct/Nov 2019 Reg 14 consultation though; leaflet drops, adverts in Alresford Advertiser, local papers, Parish web site and public place displays; emails to statutory bodies

Dec 2019 Review of responses by SG

Jan/Feb 2020 ANP amended

Mar 2020 Regulation 16 version approved for submission to Tendring DC by the Parish Council

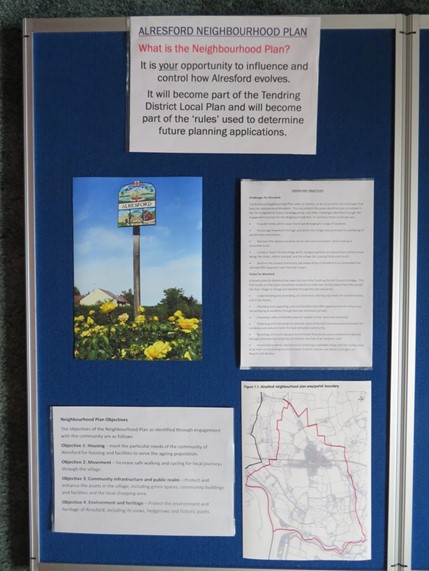
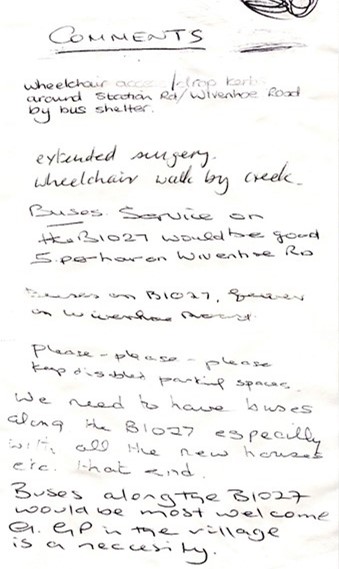
## Consultation activities

* 1. Alongside the above events the following communications were included throughout this process:
* Regular reports and updates through the Alresford Advertiser (local newspaper) – examples shown in Appendix A
* A bi-monthly newsletter delivered to every household
* Posters displayed on Parish Notice Boards, St Andrews Church, the Post Office and the village stores
* Email updates and ‘calls to action’ to steering group members and volunteers
* Leaflets distributed to all households in the village to encourage their participation in the various surveys and consultation events
* Website running throughout the programme with updates on progress (<http://essexinfo.net/alresford/parish-plan-and-neighbourhood/> - website host closed in April 2020; new address is <http://www.alresfordpcessex.uk/neighbourhood_plan.html>)
* Handouts and displays at the village fete
* Presentations at the Annual Parish Meetings
* Updates at Parish Council meetings.

Consultation Display at Village Fete, July 2019



**Display boards from the fete, July 2019**

** **

### Public events and other consultation activities

* 1. Following on from the timeline given above, Table 1 below summarises the main surveys and consultation activities undertaken:

**Table 1: Main surveys and other consultation activities**

| **Event** | **Purpose** | **Advertised** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Invitation to those who had shown interest in the previous Village Design Statement to join a Neighbourhood Plan steering committee. | Creation of core committee to promote awareness and generate interest. | Parish Council report in Aug/Sep 2016 Alresford Advertiser. *‘Alresford Parish Council has recently formed a Neighbourhood Plan Committee to oversee the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of the Parish. This plan will give residents, community groups and businesses the opportunity to play a part in shaping the Parish as regards future housing provision, recreational and community facilities, conservation and development of business.’* The article further outlines engagement of professionals and communal steering group before stating  *‘If you would like to be part of this team or would just like to know more about how you can contribute then please email the Parish Clerk.’* |
| Launch event Jan 2017 | Introduction to the principles and benefits of a NP via presentation and Q&A session | Extract of Alresford Advertiser edition Dec 2016/Jan 2017.  **‘Alresford Neighbourhood Plan given green light to proceed.**  *On 3rd November 2016 Tendring District Council approved Alresford Parish Council’s application to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish – the first of its kind in the district. This is an important step on the journey to taking more control and shaping the vision you have for the village.*  *To make this plan happen Alresford Parish Council* ***need every part of the community to be represented****.*  *There is to be a community meeting where you will get to learn more about the process that lays ahead and find out* ***how we can all play a part in shaping the future of the area.***  **SAVE THE DATE Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7pm in St Andrews Church, St Andrew’s Close, Alresford CO7 8BL.’** |
| Early engagement survey June 2017 | Identify from residents, workers and visitors; pros and cons of the village, views on current pressures and how the parish could develop | Update in the Alresford Advertiser in Spring 2017 by NP Project Manager and PC…..‘*The sub-committee will be meeting again on the 30th March to agree the content of the first community engagement so please look out for a simple survey in the near future. So until next time, put your thinking caps on and start having your say about what is important to you, your family or even your business.’* |
| Housing needs survey Dec 2017 | To understand the existing and future levels of housing need for local people | Alresford Advertiser Dec2017/Jan2018  Update…. ‘*The next step is for the Housing Needs survey to be undertaken before starting to draw together all the evidence needed to create a draft Neighbourhood Plan.’*  An extract of the Parish Council report states….. *‘a Housing Needs survey is the next step and the council asks that residents please complete this and return it for evaluation by the Rural Communities Council of Essex.’* |
| Detailed survey March 2018 | Analysis of trends, principles and opinions from previous surveys through a mix of open and closed questions on key areas | An extract of NP report in Feb-March 2018 Alresford Advertiser….. ‘*At present we are producing the more detailed survey that has been informed by the feedback we received in the early engagement survey. The responses from this next survey will help form the policies and visions for the final Neighbourhood Plan so while we appreciate all these surveys take your valuable time we do hope you express your views as it is the only way to create a meaningful final document. As ever thank you all for your continued help and support.’* A flyer was posted though every door in the Parish. |
| Annual parish event May 2018 | Present and explain themes from surveys, their translation into proposed policies and next steps | Parish Council website and noticeboard.  Announcement in the April/May 2018 edition of the Alresford Advertiser. |
| Village Fun Day/Fete July 2019 | Display of draft plan supported by steering group Q&A team and comments board | Advertised through the Alresford Advertiser and with posters around the village in advance of the event. Also promoted at the event by a Neighbourhood Plan notice on the front of the stand. |
| Regulation 14 consultation Dec 2019 | Formal consultation on the plan | News item in Advertiser Dec2019-Jan2020 entitled “Neighbourhood Plan consultation” which stated…..  ‘*Alresford Parish Council has recently approved a draft Neighbourhood Plan and is now commencing the consultation stages, which starts with getting the views of residents and businesses within the village as well as those who visit the area, The Plan contains a vision for the future of Alresford with planning policies and objectives to realise the vision. It is also provides guidance to anyone submitting a planning application for development.*  *If you would like to comment on the plan it is available online at: http://www.essexinfo.net/alresford/parish-plan-and-neighbourhood/ or a hard copy can be viewed at the Alresford Post Office and Convenience Store on Station Road or at the Parish Council office (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm). To respond to the consultation please email the* *Clerk at alresfordpc@outlook.com or in writing to Alresford Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan Pre-submission*  *Consultation, The Pavilion, Ford Lane, Alresford, Essex, CO7 8AT.*  *Cut-off date for comments has been extended to midnight on 17th December 2019.’*  A notice was also delivered to every property in the village. |

# key responses from the consultations

## Survey engagement

* 1. Three surveys were undertaken during the course of the Plan development (see separate appendices). The information received from these consultation exercises enabled the identification of policy areas. These were further refined through other engagement sessions including the annual Church Hall events and fetes as described in the previous section.
  2. First was the early engagement survey (separate appendix 1) which was circulated to all households and businesses in the Parish as well as all students at Alresford Primary School. Copies were also left at key locations such as the post office and parish office. Returns could be via post or online and respondents were asked what connection they had to the village e.g. living, working, visiting, etc. and were categorised by age and gender. Survey themes covered; the pros and cons of living, working and visiting the area, views on the built and natural environment, current and future pressures and how respondents would like to see Alresford develop in the future. This identified the following topics as being of most importance:
* Positive transport links which should be retained and improved
* The benefits of walking in the countryside
* Concerns over increases of housing development, parking, traffic and healthcare facilities
* Attractiveness and protection of the natural environment
* Retaining a village feel to the area
* Provision of housing to meet needs of elderly residents and affordable homes
  1. Second, and following the initial survey exercise, a Housing Needs Survey (separate appendix 2) was carried out by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). The RCCE work with rural communities to identify if there is a need for a small development of affordable housing for local people, and with neighbourhood plan steering committees to help them with evidence gathering for the creation of local policies in this type of community led plan.
  2. The survey identified that open market properties are in most demand (70% or respondents) with 2-bed homes the preferred scale. The majority of respondents wanted to move within 2 years with the main reason being to downsize, this being attributed to population demographics with over 40% of replies coming from those over 56 years old. The second most popular reason was the set up of first and/or independent homes.
  3. The third and final survey was the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan Detailed Survey (separate appendix 3). The format and scale of distribution replicated the earlier surveys, however the content included a mix of ‘open’ and ‘closed’ questions on topics identified in the earlier surveys. It therefore covered:
* Housing – location and type
* Transport and commuting
* Road safety
* Healthcare
* Shops and public realm
* Community facilities
* Countryside and footpaths
* Employment
* Communications
  1. Taking the results from all three surveys, the steering committee was able to group the results into the following broad themes under which we explored how best to reflect the views of the village within the context and boundaries of a neighbourhood plan.
  2. Under **housing**, the initial consultation identified the desire for more elderly care and affordable housing. The RCCE survey was then commissioned which gave a far more detailed and robust understanding of needs, reflecting a clear requirement for ‘downsizing’ properties and starter homes. There was also a preference for brownfield development within the final survey. On this latter point, no brownfield sites could be identified therefore the plan did not seek to allocate sites.
  3. Throughout the various consultations – both surveys and events – there were comments and ideas covering **transport and movement**. In the initial consultations the areas of concern focused on non-planning matters such as speeding traffic and inadequate parking. This led the steering group to have to explain more clearly to the community about the types of matters that a neighbourhood plan could address through its policies. As a result, the later consultations involved engagement around topics such as encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling. This was developed into a policy which promotes non car movement and safe walking routes, both within the village and to adjoining settlements, plus the prioritisation of safe pedestrian crossings.
  4. The importance and value of **community facilities** also featured strongly in initial feedback from the community. It was clear from surveys and other feedback that local services such as the shops area, other amenities and green spaces were important to residents. In the later consultations, this was developed to engage people about the specific community infrastructure assets of value and the quality of the public realm. As part of this, specific areas for protection as local green spaces were consulted on, as was the principle of improving the environment of the area around the shops. There was also a real depth of feeling over adequacy of **healthcare** and strong support for maintaining and expanding the existing surgery as the village grows. Again, it was necessary to explain to the community that this was an issue a neighbourhood plan would have difficulty in addressing. Nevertheless, the steering group sought to engage with the practice manager at the surgery and with the local Clinical Commissioning Group to understand the nature of the issues better and to explore the options.
  5. The value given by residents to the **countryside and heritage** within the parish was also made clear through the very early consultation activities. Particular features and aspects such as wildlife and unlisted buildings of value were noted. As a result, this developed into a number of policies covering wildlife protection and propagation, as well as a desire to protect the area along the river Colne. In addition, the steering groups gathered further evidence on local buildings of heritage value, leading to the policy covering a list of non-designated heritage assets.
  6. As stated above, and not only in respect of highways matters, many residents were concerned about issues that it wasn’t appropriate to address through planning policy. In view of this it was decided to include a section on ‘non-policy’ actions as they were deemed important enough to record and assign to agencies or partners. These covered topics ranging from bus and train services to burial space in the cemetery.,
  7. The ANP steering group developed these areas and ideas from mid-2018, through working parties and community engagement and during this period we also worked closely with Navigus Planning, our planning consultant. The programme moved from suggested policies immediately after the final survey, through to an ‘objectives and possible policies’ phase in the summer of that year.
  8. Further consultations took place through the annual parish meeting. This enabled production of a draft policies and an evidence document in the Autumn of 2018 which was refined via regular steering group sessions so that in Spring 2019 the first draft Plan was produced. This version was socialised via the annual fete and the Advertiser, enabling further development such that the Regulation 14 consultation version was produced and consulted on in Autumn 2019.

## Stakeholder consultations

* 1. Prior to the Regulation 14 consultation, the steering group sought informal comment from Tendring District Council officers on the draft plan. This feedback was incorporated into the version of the Plan that was then the subject of the Regulation 14 consultation.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

* 1. In July 2019, when the draft ANP was submitted to Tendring DC for informal comment, a request was made for a screening opinion on the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Tendring DC undertook a screening exercise which included consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies – Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. The subsequent opinion that the draft Plan did not require an SEA was published in November 2019. Following the drafting of the Regulation 16 version of the Plan, the SEA was updated. The opinion did not change. The 2019 Screening Opinion is included as separate appendix 4 and the 2020 Screening Opinion as separate appendix 5.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment

* 1. In July 2019, when the draft ANP was submitted to Tendring DC for informal comment, a request was made for a screening opinion on the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Tendring DC undertook a screening exercise which included consultation with the Natural England, being the appropriate statutory body. The subsequent opinion that the draft Plan did not require an HRA was published in November 2019. Following the drafting of the Regulation 16 version of the Plan, the HRA was updated. The opinion did not change. The 2019 Screening Opinion is included as separate appendix 4 and the 2020 Screening Opinion as separate appendix 5.

# regulation 14 (pre-submission) consultation

* 1. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group finalised the draft ANP in September 2019. The Regulation 14 consultation ran for 7 weeks from 15 October 2019 until 3 December 2019. In addition to the statutory consultee process, hard copies of the Plan were available at Alresford Post Office and Convenience Store and at the Parish Council office. It was also available online via the Parish Council website. Everyone who lives or works in the Parish were notified of this consultation via a village wide leaflet drop and through the Alresford Advertiser. Representations could be submitted either by email to the Parish Council clerk or in writing to the Parish office.
  2. The full list of statutory and other consultee organisations that were written to is as follows:

Tendring District Council Greater Anglia TOC

Colchester Borough Council Network Rail

Essex County Council Marine Management Organisation

Environment Agency Power Networks

Natural England Cadent

Historic England British Telecom

Homes England Essex Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Highways England Federation of Small Businesses

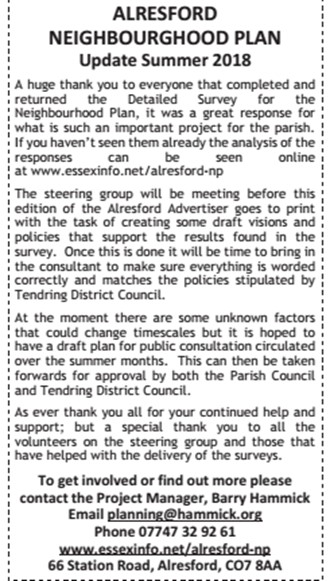
The NHS (North Essex CCG) The Disabilities Trust

Anglian Water Scope UK

The Regulator of Social Housing Community Voluntary Services - Tendring

* 1. Representations were received from 5 members of the public, 6 statutory bodies and a private development company.
  2. These were reviewed and, where appropriate, amendments were made. The representations and the responses is included in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A SAMPLE OF REPORTING IN ALRESFORD ADVERTISER



APPENDIX B REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION – REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

Representations were received from 6 statutory stakeholders, 2 private organisations and 5 local residents. These are presented below, along with the response of the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and any proposed amendment to the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan.

| **Organisation** | **Issue** | **Response and amendment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Natural England | The Essex Coast Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (Essex RAMS) seeks to mitigate the recreational impacts as a result of new development within the Zones of Influence (ZoI). The Essex Coast RAMS is a key consideration in the context of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. We direct you to our recent letter to your Local Planning Authority, our reference 244199 (dated 16 August 2018) for further guidance on the Essex RAMS in the interim period. A copy of this has been enclosed with this letter for your information.  The Alresford Parish falls in its entirety within one or more of the Zones of Influence (ZoI). There is therefore residential development within the parish area which will be subject to the requirements of this strategic solution. This will be in accordance with the RAMS supplementary planning document once adopted.  When considering the neighbourhood plan policies, we advise that a relevant Essex RAMS policy be included to ensure that future planning applications give due consideration to this strategic solution. | Agreed. A RAMS policy will be added. |
| Essex County Council (ECC) | Paragraph 1.5 does not accurately reflect the Development Plan within Tendring. The Development Plan for Tendring District Council (TDC) also comprises the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 (MLP) and the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan 2017 (WLP). When determining a planning application, TDC must also consider the policies within these two plans. The emerging ANP must therefore demonstrate conformity with these two plans.  Paragraph 1.10 sets out several strategic policies contained in the Tendring District Local Plan Publication Draft (2017) which are considered relevant to the preparation of the ANP. It is considered that Policy S8 of the MLP and Policy 2 of the WLP may also have strategic relevance. These policies safeguard locations which potentially contain mineral resources, as well as existing and allocated minerals and waste infrastructure, from proximate new development which may compromise the ability to work or manage  minerals and/or waste. These policies ensure that ECC in its role as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) are consulted on all applications on Mineral Safeguarding Areas and within 250m or 400m of existing or allocated minerals and waste infrastructure, depending on the nature of that infrastructure, unless the development type is specifically excluded by those policies. The MWPA would likely object to the permitting of development that would unnecessarily sterilise a mineral resource or compromise the operation of mineral and waste infrastructure unless certain policy tests are met. See  page 6 of this response for further information on mineral and waste sites relevant to the ANP.  ECC recommends the following text is included within the ‘policy context’ section of the ANP.  *Essex County Council is the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) for the Plan area and is responsible for preparing planning policies and assessing applications for mineral*  *development. The Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 (MLP) forms part of the statutory Development Plan and should be read alongside the Tendring Local Plan. Active and unworked sand and gravel deposits are subject to a Minerals Safeguarding policy (Policy S8), which seeks to prevent deposits being sterilised by non-mineral development. Part of the neighbourhood plan area is covered by sand and gravel deposits, and hence subject to Policy S8. Mineral Consultation Areas seek ECC to be consulted on all non-mineral related development within a distance of 250m around active quarries, mineral infrastructure and mineral deposits permitted for extraction. Essex County Council is the Waste Planning Authority (WPA) for the Plan area and is responsible for preparing planning policies and assessing applications for waste management development. The Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan (WLP) was adopted in July 2017 forming part of the statutory Development Plan and should be read alongside the Tendring Local Plan. The WLP covers the period from 2017 to 2032. It sets out where and how waste management developments can occur and contains the policies against which waste management planning applications are assessed.*  ECC recommends that paragraph 1.10 is amended as below to provide clarity on the new Local Plan for TDC. It should be noted that while ECC has assisted the three North Essex Authorities (who are the Local Planning Authorities) prepare their new Local Plans, it is not a county council plan and reference to ‘Essex’ (in terms of ECC) should be clarified.  *Tendring District Council is preparing a new Local Plan and is in two sections. The Section 1 Local Plan covers strategic matters and has been jointly prepared by Braintree, Colchester, ~~Essex~~ and Tendring Councils, assisted by Essex County Council. It has reached…..* | Agreed. Text will be added as suggested. |
| ECC | While not specific to the Parish, the following provides information for the demand for Extra Care/Independent Living schemes in Tendring district.  ECC are committed to the development of high quality Extra Care schemes that comply with the Essex Independent Living Design Guide. Extra Care schemes are part of a wider accommodation pathway to enable older people to remain as independent as possible with the right housing and support to meet their needs. This approach to specialist accommodation is expected to reduce the demand for residential/nursing home care across the County.  ECC has significantly updated our demand forecasting to focus on a more specific and detailed local level. We have also reviewed our approach to Extra Care in Essex based on our experience of delivering a number of recent schemes and learning from best practice from industry experts.  In terms of demand, in the Tendring district there are a total of 11,008 households with at least one person over the age of 75 and 20,467 people over the age of 75, of which 405 have a care package funded by ECC of between 6-15 hours of care a week (6 hours is currently the minimum care hours criteria for Extra Care).  There are currently three Extra Care schemes in the Tendring district, Rosebank Park (70 units) in Harwich, Beaumont House (60 units) in Walton and Canters Meadow (30 units) in Clacton, with an additional scheme in Clacton, Coppins Court (60 units), due to commence development in Spring 2020.  It is forecast using the Housing LIN @SHOP tool, the tool used by many Authorities to predict demand, that there is currently a need for an additional 292 units of Extra Care in the Tendring district.  ECC has also undertaken our own demand forecasting work from an Adult Social Care (ASC) perspective to identify the numbers and location of people who would most likely benefit from Extra Care to inform the required number of nomination rights and locations of schemes across the County. This forecasting work is based on individuals over the age of 75 with a care package of between 6-15 hours a week and who meet the ‘high suitability criteria’ (based on key the characteristics of existing residents) of living alone, with a long term health condition and in areas with levels of deprivation. Based on this analysis to meet ASC demand, it is anticipated that in addition to the current schemes, there is a need for at least the proposed scheme, Coppins Court in Clacton, with the potential for an additional scheme with ECC nomination for an agreed number of units. However, we would like to further test this demand for the forthcoming scheme in Clacton once this has progressed in late 2020. | Agreed. Text will be added to reflect these figures |
| ECC | It is recommended that Objective 4 is reworded as follows to reflect compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).  *Objective 4: Environment and heritage – ~~Protect~~ Preserve and enhance the environment and heritage of Alresford, including its local wildlife and historic assets.* | Agreed. Text will be amended as suggested. |
| ECC | ECC provides support to Policy ALRES1 C.b. which seeks appropriate and necessary contributions from all residential developments to a range of infrastructure requirements, many of which fall to the responsibility of ECC. | Noted |
| ECC | A comment on Extra Care/Independent Living schemes has been provided under Section 2 of this response. | Noted |
| ECC | ECC provides support to Policy ALRES3 A, which promotes safer routes to schools, and the enhancement of walking and cycling routes. | Noted |
| ECC | ECC in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority, notes the ANP does not include any text with reference to the risk of surface water flooding. The ANP should discuss mitigation against any future flood risks and indicate the importance and benefits of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as part of new developments. It is noted paragraph 8.3 makes reference to SuDS but this is in the context of ‘landscaping’. The ANP should state the benefits of using SuDS and achieve SuDS principle such as to minimize the risk of surface water flooding, improve water quality and quantity, promote landscape features with provision of green infrastructure, biodiversity and amenity benefits.  As Lead Local Flood Authority, ECC recommends that a policy is inserted into the ANP to consider the issue of surface water flooding and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It is acknowledged that the ANP is proposing limited new housing development, but a policy framework is considered necessary for new development to mitigate the risk of surface water flooding. Accordingly, the following policy and supporting text is provided, which was recently found consistent with the NPPF and national Planning Policy  Guidance by the Planning Inspector of the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan (July 2019). Braintree District Council (BDC) Cabinet (September 2019) agreed that the Plan proceed to a referendum, which was held 28 November 2019. The Plan was supported  and will now be recommended for adoption by BDC.  *Policy X – Surface Water Management:*  *‘Any proposed development should include measures to mitigate against future risk to properties, residents and wildlife from flooding and be located away from areas prone to flooding. The use of appropriate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), based on an engineering and ground assessment will be expected on all sites. Should it be demonstrated that infiltration is not possible then surface water should be discharged to a watercourse or if this is not feasible a sewer with appropriate attenuation and treatment to ensure that flood and pollution risk is not increased.’*  *Supporting text:*  *‘SuDS is designed to reduce the potential impact of new and existing developments with respect to surface water drainage discharges. It should be used wherever possible to reduce problems with increased flash flooding after sudden rain, promote groundwater recharge, enhance and maximise above ground features to manage surface water run-off, promote biodiversity and provide amenity benefit through multifunctional space. New developments should consider rainwater harvesting or grey water recycling to mitigate the climate change consequences such as water scarcity and flooding.’*  All future developments should incorporate SuDS schemes which will be in accordance with the updated Essex SuDS Design Guide (to be adopted in 2020). | Agreed. A SuDS policy will be added. |
| ECC | Appendix A comprises a table titled ‘List of sites with planning permission in Alresford Parish, July 2019’. This is not considered to be a correct title. It is assumed that the table could be more accurately titled as showing a list of sites with unimplemented planning permissions for housing development within Alresford Parish (or potentially dwellings which are in the process of being constructed). For example, there are several sites within Alresford which benefit from planning permission for minerals and/or waste development, which are not shown in the table.  The title of the table in Appendix A should be renamed such that it is clear that only housing applications are captured, with the title to also clarify the status of the application (e.g. permitted but not delivered as of X date). Further, the need for this table (or similar) to be included in the ANP is questioned as it may quickly go out of date. It might be more appropriate to keep such record in any monitoring work that the plan makers may wish to carry out following the adoption of the ANP. | Agreed. Table will be renamed. |
| ECC | The following sites within the area pertaining to the ANP are allocated for minerals or waste development in the MLP or WLP respectively and are included for information only.  Their location, along with a 250m buffer (400m in the case of the sewage works) highlighting the zone within which the MWPA would be a consultee for any proposed development is shown in Map 1. Map 1 also shows the spatial extent of Mineral Safeguarding Areas within the plan area.  Minerals Local Plan Allocations and Existing Mineral Infrastructure:   * Site A20 - Sunnymead, Alresford (subject to the below application which is pending a decision at the time of writing) * ESS/17/18/TEN - Land to the South of Colchester Main Road (known as Sunnymead, Elmstead and Heath Farms), Alresford, Essex, C07 8DB - Extraction of 3.8 million tonnes of sand and gravel as an easterly extension to the existing Wivenhoe Quarry, erection of sand and gravel processing plant and ancillary facilities, new vehicular access onto the B1027 Brightlingsea Road, and restoration to agriculture and low-level water-based nature conservation habitats, lowland meadow, woodland planting and hedgerow enhancement using approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of imported inert waste material. * Alresford Creek - ESS/31/10/TEN(R) & IDO/TEN/11/92A – mineral processing plant currently being used to support Lufkins reservoir extraction, concrete batching plant and IDO for mineral extraction in southern part of the site. Permission expires in 2042.   Waste Local Plan Allocations and Existing Waste Infrastructure:   * Site L(i)5 and Site W36 Sunnymead, Elmstead & Heath Farms, Alresford * The above site has been allocated for the recycling and landfilling of inert material although no applications have been made for such uses to date * Thorrington Sewage Treatment Work | Noted. No change (other than changes to paragraph 1.5 agreed above) |
| ECC | NPPF paragraph 170d requires developments to minimise impacts on and provide net gain for biodiversity, including the establishment of coherent ecological networks. This approach is consistent with the Government’s 25-year Environment Plan. Through the plan, Natural England are reviewing existing green infrastructure standards and Green Planning Principles to set a framework to embed environmental net gains into developments, including housing as mandatory.  A policy that requires all development to protect, and where appropriate enhance biodiversity through providing a net gain in flora and fauna is recommended.  *All development proposals should deliver net environmental and biodiversity gains, in addition to protecting existing habitats and species. Any proposals which negatively affect, or have the potential to negatively affect, the natural environment must demonstrate that any negative impacts on biodiversity, including flora and fauna, and local wildlife (including wildlife habitats), will be adequately mitigated and/or offset.*  ‘Building with Nature’ is a voluntary approach that enables developers, who want to go beyond the statutory minima, to create places that recognise high quality green infrastructure. The framework of standards defines high quality green infrastructure at  each stage of the development process, from planning and design, through to long-term management and maintenance. It provides a framework of quality standards, an assessment and accreditation service, and national awards. By providing an accreditation at the plan/design stage, Building with Nature also starts to raise confidence in the planning and development sector that can achieve a collective understanding of why green infrastructure matters, and how to deliver it more consistently to accelerate the delivery of new homes and new places.  It is recommended that any proposed development should consider applying the standards and achieve accreditation to create places that really deliver for people and wildlife. https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about | This is noted but it is considered that this would largely be repeating national planning policy. In order to address the point, reference to the principle of net environmental and biodiversity gain will be added to Policy ALRES7. |
| ECC | The Plan area is located within the Zone of Influence for the following Essex coastal European Habitat sites:   * Blackwater Estuary: Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar; * Dengie: SPA and Ramsar; * Crouch and Roach Estuaries: SPA and Ramsar; and * Essex Estuaries: Special Area of Conservation (SAC).   ECC recommend the Parish Council seek clarification from TDC as to appropriate wording for the ANP regarding the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS), and how it is being implemented within the district. | Noted. A RAMS policy will be included. |
| ECC | Green infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional high quality green spaces and other environmental features (such as footpaths, street trees, play parks and village green) which together delivers multiple environmental, social and economic benefits, by:   * contributing to the quality and distinctiveness of the local environment and landscape character, * ensuring opportunities for community socialisation to promote community cohesion and increase community safety, * creating a green wedge and buffer, * providing opportunities for physical activity, improving health and wellbeing and generally adding to quality of life, * adapting and mitigating against a changing climate and severe weather through the management and enhancement of existing habitats and the creation of new ones to assist with species migration, to provide shade during higher temperatures, reduce air pollution and for flood mitigation, and * encouraging a modal shift from car to walking and cycling by linking publicly accessible green space wherever possible (including through tree lined streets) to form walking and cycling routes.   A new policy could be included recognising the value of wider multi-functional GI for both people and wildlife, which can improve connectivity to existing and new green spaces, and which provide new open space.  *Policy X: Green infrastructure and development:*  *Proposals will be encouraged that seek to conserve, and where appropriate enhance the green infrastructure of the parish, demonstrating how they:*   * *Conserve and where appropriate enhance designated green spaces and/or create new green/open spaces where appropriate.* * *Improve the connectivity between wildlife areas and green spaces through green corridors and/or improvements to the Public, Rights of Way, and cycle and footpath networks.* * *Enhance the visual characteristics and biodiversity of green spaces in close proximity to the development through biodiversity/environment net gain.* * *Ensure their landscape schemes, layouts, access and public open space provision and other amenity requirements contribute to the connectivity, maintenance and improvement of the Green Infrastructure Network.* * *Meet the ANGSt standards and what they can do to address any local deficiency in provision of green space.* * *Take into consideration the principles of Sustainable Drainage (SuDs) and natural flood management techniques, which will enhance biodiversity and ecosystems.* * *Consider the multi-functional use and benefits of local green spaces as part of the Green Infrastructure network.* | This is not considered to be necessary. The Plan already has policies that protect the main Local Green Spaces and seek to enhance PROWs. A policy that includes reference to wildlife areas and green corridors but does not identify where they are will hold little weight. No change. |
| ECC | NPPF, paragraph 149 requires plans to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. NPPF requires Plans to promote sustainable development, and highlights their role in addressing local sustainability, including mitigating and adapting to severe weather from a changing climate. Plans provide an opportunity for communities to consider long-term resilience, whether it’s from water stress, heat stress, energy efficiency and/or flooding.  The ANP makes no reference to mitigating and adapting to climate change. The following should be considered.   * Mitigating climate change: * renewable energy, * energy efficiency, * sustainable transport, * Adapting to climate change: * Flooding, * extreme weather, * Green infrastructure and biodiversity   The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) has produced a guidebook aimed to help support neighbourhood planning groups, (which includes case studies of different communities’ plans), to mitigate and adapt to climate change, tackle fuel poverty and promote environmental sustainability https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2079. | Whilst the principle of such a policy is wholeheartedly supported, no evidence has been collected to support it. This would require a significant amount of work to underpin this and it would be better suited, given the lack of development proposed, to be included as part of any review of the ANP. Also, the emerging Local Plan has policies seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change so, once this is in place, it would address this issue. No change. |
| ECC | The ANP could outline its position on renewable energy for domestic and commercial developments. A new renewable policy would help to outline the communities’ position for renewable energy and the type of technology that could be considered.  ECC suggests reference is included regarding the provision of electric vehicle charging point infrastructure. The Essex Design Guide (2018) states that the level of provision of electric charging points should be appropriate to the development size and type, its level of parking provision and its context and location. A weblink is provided below.  https://www.essexdesignguide.co.uk/design-details/parking-design/parking-for-electriccars-cycles-autonomous-vehicles-and-mobility-aids/  ECC recommend the Steering Group consider including the following policy:  *Policy XX: Renewable Energy:*  *Proposals for community owned or led renewable energy schemes (including microhydro, photovoltaic or bio-mass projects) will be supported subject to the following criteria for the proposed development:*  *• The siting and scale are appropriate to its setting and position in the wider landscape;*  *• It does not give rise to unacceptable landscape or visual impact, either in isolation or cumulatively with other development;*  *• It does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenities of local residents;*  *• It does not have an unacceptable impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance.*  *The installation of electric vehicle charging point infrastructure should be provided within all developments providing parking.* | Whilst the principle of such a policy is wholeheartedly supported, no evidence has been collected to support it. This would require a significant amount of work to underpin this and it would be better suited, given the lack of development proposed, to be included as part of any review of the ANP. Also, the emerging Local Plan has a renewable energy policy so, once this is in place, it would address this issue. No change. |
| Environment Agency | In the light of the current issues of the climate and biodiversity crisis we would encourage local bodies to go further. They should aim to not only conserve but enhance local biodiversity; to increase both species and habitat. We know that complex habitats support more biodiversity than simple ones: We would encourage the creation, and enhancement, of habitats in addition to reducing the impacts of damaging land  management practices. We support new initiatives to provide more diverse habitats in Alresford for the benefit of people and the environment.  Numerous studies have shown the connection between; increased access to green and blue (water based) open spaces and positive mental and physical health. Local initiatives could, for example, include the creation of public open space such as; footpath creation, nature reserves or community woodlands and allotments, all of which could all lead to increased community engagement. This is in addition to developing more enhanced bio-diverse landscapes, furthering environmental education and increasing links with the land for all ages. Free native tree schemes can encourage tree planting of locally native species to promote a more aesthetically pleasing local landscape creating diverse habitat for wildlife and increasing local carbon capture.  Policies to retain and enhance open water courses as well as protecting pits, lakes and ponds in the parish would also be of value and would employ local knowledge to conserve these features | Whilst the principle of such a policy is wholeheartedly supported, no evidence has been collected to support it. This would require a significant amount of work to underpin this and it would be better suited, given the lack of development proposed, to be included as part of any review of the ANP. Also, the emerging Local Plan has policies seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change so, once this is in place, it would address this issue. No change. |
| Environment Agency | We have reviewed the Draft Neighbourhood Plan from a flood risk perspective and note that:   * Site Allocations (pg.14) of the draft Neighbourhood plan show that the settlement development boundary is completely within Flood Zone 1; * Sixpenny Brook and Tenpenny Brook are both currently not modelled therefore the flood risk from these watercourses is currently unknown and would need to be assessed if any development is placed within Flood Zone 3; * The area is within the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan (SMP); * We note that there are no flooding chapters within the plan and therefore nothing to set out the ambition and policies of this proposed neighbourhood plan in regards to Flood Risk and climate change. We recommend that this plan is updated to include fluvial and tidal flood risk as a source of flood risk and that Flood Risk Assessments for development proposals should demonstrate no increase to flood risk on the site or wider area. * We would welcome being reconsulted regarding the draft neighbourhood plan once a section on Flood Risk has been included.   We do not have any capital projects planned in Alresford: There do not appear to be many properties at risk so our comments will be limited to the general flood risk comments described below. We have also included a Technical Appendix describing the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which may be relevant in the area in more detail.  General Flood Risk Comments:  Alresford lies within fluvial and tidal Flood Zone 3a defined by the ‘Planning Practice Guidance: Flood Risk and Coastal Change’ as having a high probability of flooding. All development proposals within the Flood Zone (which includes Flood Zones 2 and 3,as defined by the Environment Agency) shown on the Policies Map and Local Maps, or elsewhere involving sites of 1ha or more, must be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment.  We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the Sequential Test to avoid development in flood risk areas where appropriate. | This is a requirement of national policy so there is not considered to be a justification to include a policy, particularly given that the ANP is not planning for significant new growth. No change.  Other points are noted. |
| Gladman | Policy ALRES1: Alresford Spatial Strategy  Policy ALRES1 identifies a settlement boundary for the Alresford and states that new development shall be focused within this boundary and supported where they comply with other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.  Gladman object to the use of settlement boundaries if these preclude otherwise sustainable development from coming forward. The Framework is clear that sustainable development should proceed. Use of settlement limits to arbitrarily restrict suitable development from coming forward on the edge of settlements does not accord with the positive approach to growth required by the Framework and is contrary to basic condition (a).  As currently drafted, this is considered to be an overly restrictive approach and provides no flexibility to reflect the circumstances upon which the ANP is being prepared. Greater flexibility is required in this policy and Gladman suggest that additional sites adjacent to the settlement boundary should be considered as appropriate.  *Gladman recommend that the above policy is modified so that it allows for a degree of flexibility. The following wording is put forward for consideration:*  *“When considering development proposals, the Neighbourhood Plan will take a positive approach to new development that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. Applications that accord with the policies of the Development Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan will be supported particularly where they address the following key matters:*  *- address evidence-based housing needs of the Alresford Neighbourhood area;*  *- contribute as necessary towards key infrastructure including education, health, transport and movement, community facilities, utilities and public realm improvements through direct provision and/or developer contributions.*  *Development adjacent to the existing settlement will be supported provided that any adverse impacts do not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of development.”*  Indeed, this approach was taken in the examination of the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan. Paragraph 4.12 of the Examiner’s Report states:  “…Policy GMC1 should be modified to state that “Development …shall be focused within or adjoining the settlement boundary as identified in the plan.” It should be made clear that any new development should be either infill or of a minor or moderate scale, so that the local distinctiveness of the settlement is not compromised. PM2 should be made to achieve this flexibility and ensure regard is had to the NPPF and the promotion of sustainable development. PM2 is also needed to ensure that the GNP will be in general conformity with the aims for new housing development in the Core Strategy and align with similar aims in the emerging Local Plan.” | Disagree. The ANP is not required to be planning explicitly for growth but Policy ALRES1 is suitably flexible to allow appropriate growth. |
| Gladman | Policy ALRES4: Local Green Space  Policy ALRES4 states that, “Proposals for built development on this Local Green Space will only be permitted in very special circumstances”.  Gladman remind the Qualifying Body that it is not in the remit of the neighbourhood plan to determine planning applications as this is the sole responsibility of the local planning authority and recommend that this element of the policy is deleted or amended to state that development on the identified Local Green Spaces will not be supported. | Disagree. It reflects the level of protection assigned by the NPPF and national planning practice guidance to Local Green Spaces. |
| TDC | Para 2.4 – We would encourage the inclusion of more detail on designated heritage assets, either at para 2.4, 2.44 or 8.4. Your Council may wish to note that the emerging Heritage Strategy for Tendring recommends the preparation of a ‘local list’ of non-designated heritage assets and this might provide the opportunity to for the Parish Council to suggest buildings and structures of historical or architectural value for consideration. | The point is noted but there is no further information on what additional detail is required, nor whether the current justification is sufficient. Whilst the emerging ‘local list’ is noted, the ANP is identifying NDHAs which are effectively the same as any that go on the local list. The ANP will be amended to cross-refer to the local list and explain this. |
| TDC | Para 2.43 and 2.44 – This section might benefit from more information about the village hall, pavilion and playing field; their current usage and any plans or aspirations for their future. | Agreed. Text will be added. |
| TDC | Paras 3.2, 3.3 and following bullet points – The vision would benefit from setting out what the Parish Council wants Alresford to be like in 2033, in a similar way to the vision contained within the District Council’s emerging Local Plan for Tendring. | Given that the ANP is not allocating sites or accommodating anything other than windfall growth, it is considered that such a detailed vision would be misleading. Paragraph 3.3 is considered to be sufficient. |
| TDC | Para 4.4 (and ALRES2) – Further clarity is required in regards to the Parish Council’s intention to provide housing for older people. Careful consideration will need to be given to this concept. It would be beneficial for the Parish Council to identify, at least in broad terms, areas where this kind of housing would/would not be acceptable. We would be interested to know if landowners have been consulted and what the results of such discussions were. | It is not considered appropriate to identify whether certain locations may or may not be acceptable for development, other than adjacent to the settlement boundary (ALRES1D) and within reasonable walking distance of shops and services (ALRES2C). Such an approach would effectively be allocating sites and the Plan does not have the evidence for this. No change. |
| TDC | Policy ALRES1 – The Parish Council should consider the way in which policies are annotated. The use of letters at every paragraph and to denote criteria may lead to confusion when referring to a specific paragraph. | Agreed. Will change the indented letters a., b., c., etc, to i., ii., iii., etc |
| TDC | Para 5.3 – The Council’s Housing team made the following comments:  *Officers have no concerns from a housing perspective with regard to the Alresford neighbourhood plan. What it proposes fits in with our draft housing strategy in terms of meeting the needs of an ageing population and supporting rural exception schemes and community land trusts. The housing survey has been carried out by the Rural Housing Enabler at RCCE and so it has been done through the correct channels.* | Noted |
| TDC | Para 7.4 – It is not clear if the Parish Council have consulted the District Council’s Playing Pitch Strategy. For completeness, we attach the relevant links below:   * Tendring Playing Pitch Strategy - Assessment Report - March 2017 * Tendring Playing Pitch Strategy - Draft Strategy and Action Plan - May 2017 * Playing Pitch Assessment report * Playing Pitch Strategy | These documents were reviewed but, given the nature of the policies in the ANP, they were not explicitly mentioned. |
| TDC | Paras 7.11 – 7.15 including Policy ALRES5 - The Council’s Tree and Landscape Officer had no further comments to make. | Noted |
| TDC | The Council’s Public Realm Team had the following comments to make:  The current open space strategy for TDC is ten years old now and whilst the overall vision remains the same (open spaces to be a dynamic network at the heart of the community that is safe, well-maintained, accessible to all, good for wildlife and fun for all ages, whilst conserving peace and quiet where possible), a further audit of facilities and consultation with local residents would be beneficial across the District.  In terms of Alresford, there is currently an assumed deficit of open space of -0.30 hectares and of play provision of -1.61 hectares, this forms the basis for requirements relating to planning applications/housing developments in the area.  The green spaces identified by the parish and the comments relating to them are shared by us.  From the comments made in the proposed neighbourhood plan relating to open space, it is clear that, apart from the playing field, other maintained and accessible open spaces are rare and much valued.  We wonder if any thought has been given to a site of open space at the end of De Staunton Close of approximately 649m2 highlighted blue on the attached.  Open spaces are valued and do enhance communities whether they are used for physical recreation, or just to look good and to provide places for people to sit in peace and quiet, they have an incalculable positive benefit for people’s health and well-being, physical and mental.  In times of increased hours worked at home and / or children playing on computers, open spaces provide opportunities for people to come together communally. | This was not a space explicitly identified as being demonstrably special to the community. No change. |
| Colchester Borough Council | Please could I make a repose regarding section 2.42 The Creek, in Alresford Neighbourhood Plan 2019 Pre-submission.  Colchester Borough Council, works with many partners on the management of the river Colne, and the adjoining land to the river.  The Council will be happy to work with Alresford Parish Council on the management of the creek for the local community and visitors. | Noted. Para 2.42 will be amended accordingly. |
| Local resident | It is clear that all the planning applications for new housing in the village in the last 10 years have been for personal gain, some would say greed, rather than for the benefit of the community and the people desperate to buy or rent their first home.  Minimal Section 106 contributions have been demanded by ECC departments for NHS and Schools, and a small contribution to the parish council for new playfield equipment have been sought by TDC because we are supposedly deficient in play and open amenity space in Alresford. As I understand it is something dictated by district planners rather than requested by the Parish council. Sometimes district planners request monies, sometimes they don't and the parish council are not free to spend it as they want. If not spent within a specified time the permission applicant could get it back.    To ensure that every approved new home application that meets the NPFF criteria (be it by district planning approval of appeal) makes a positive contribution to Alresford there should automatically be an Infrastructure Levy applied which will goes in it's entirety to Alresford Parish Council. The council should be allowed to save it until sufficient funds are available to spend on a particular project. Some community enhancements have already been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan but a contribution could be considered to assist the enhancement of medical facilities etc.    TDC does not have a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) so to avoid confusion it could be called Alresford Community Levy (ACL) so that if TDC decides to impose it's own CIL at some point the ACL is simply incorporated within it for that portion to be paid to Alresford Parrish Council. CIL is applied per square metre, ACL could be applied the same. The rate will have to be agreed and would increase annually by inflation.    Unfortunately for the majority of the 300+ houses being built approval was given by appeal so there was no incentive for discussion to help Alresford so the village has gained little from it. This way if the grant of planning permission is made by HM Inspector Alresford still gets something out of it. | The ability to set a Community Infrastructure Levy rests with Tendring District Council and is not a matter the ANP can address.  No change. |
| Local resident | [Name] of [address] has passed on to me his response to the NP draft.  He would like to see a section detailing a report on the impact on Alresford of the Colchester North Garden Community project.  He would also like to see text that makes it clear that the loss of good agricultural to housing in our area is unsustainable as local produce can be grown thus reducing the carbon footprint involved in the transportation of food. | The impact of the Garden Community on Alresford would be very difficult to assess and is not a matter that the ANP can explicitly address. The ANP does acknowledge the new Garden Community and what it will provide in paragraph 10.  No change.  The NPPF already recognises the importance of ‘best and most versatile agricultural land’ and the matter is addressed in emerging Local Plan Policy PPL3.  No change |
| Chair, Alresford Creek Boat Owners Association | ‘The Creek is a valuable, natural asset of significant beauty in the parish used by walkers, naturalists and sailors. Mooring rights are owned by Colchester Borough Council which currently leases the operation and allocation of moorings to the Alresford Creek Boat Owners Association (ACBOA). Many in the local community consider that the area needs a better approach to stewardship, so the environment is both maintained and improved for residents and visitors alike. The Parish Council are seeking to acquire the mooring rights and work with ACBOA to meet this aim.’  1. ACBOA was finally closed down in 2018. Alresford Creek Boat Owner’s Co-operative Ltd was set up to buy the sheds and took over all the operations and assets of ACBOA. ACBOC is a volunteer run non-profit making organisation providing affordable storage and moorings and mutual support social and sailing events for members. We also have a strong interest in preserving the creek as a natural asset and enabling people to enjoy it. We provided information on this directly to the Parish Council at a meeting held at your offices on August the 22nd 2018.  2. ‘Many in the community consider ‘is a sweeping statement that needs to be reconsidered. What is the evidence for this and If it comes from a survey what was the question that was asked?  3. The issues raised by the slip clearing incident which took place a number of years ago now, have been completely resolved to the satisfaction of the landowner, Natural England, the Environment agency and the MMO.  4. The wording of a new mooring agreement and operational agreement between Colchester Borough Council and Alresford Creek Boat Owner’s Co-operative regarding the moorings in the creek has been finalised. Part of the operational agreement includes working in partnership with the Parish Council on matters of mutual interest which we are very keen to do. We would propose that you take the statement about acquiring the Mooring rights out and substitute it with a phrase about working in partnership with ACBOC. I have copied Stephen Collis the CBC officer we are working with on this.  5. Could you please comment on the attached screenshot. This was visible on the website to one of our members who brought it to my attention.  Text  Description automatically generated | 1. This point is noted and paragraph 2.42 will be amended. 2. This point is noted and paragraph 2.42 will be amended. 3. This point is noted and paragraph 2.42 will be amended. 4. Noted. No change. 5. This text was from a previous draft of the Plan that was not the subject of consultation. The matters relevant to the Reg 14 version of the plan, raised in these representations, will be addressed. |
| Local resident | I have received your notification and invitation to participate in the Consultation Paper and have read draft 2B September 2019, and agree with much of the content of that. Please understand that I do not at this point disagree with any of it but my comments herein are in response to objectives 1: Housing and 2: Movement. I had already drafted an e-mail to Councillor Gary Scott, which I never sent, so much of the content of this e-mail is extracted from that draft. It just so happens that your invitation to respond as part of the consultation paper has coincided with my own thoughts.    I have lived in Little Acre for 11 months now and had been meaning to write for sometime since I saw the traffic measuring equipment on the B1027 between Cockaynes Lane and Little Acre, back in September. I am sure the traffic volumes have increased in the 11 months that I have resided here. The number of vehicles passing in both directions often makes any attempts to join the road during rush hour, a game of patience waiting for a suitable safe gap in the traffic.    I am certain the measuring equipment must have been for one of two reasons. Either, it is for consideration of the speed limit, or to check the volume of traffic with a view to see how much more traffic the road can bear, with a view to further  housing development within the Tendring Peninsular, or closer to home in Alresford.    A reduction in the speed limit would of course be welcome by all residents living adjacent to the B1027, and should be welcomed by the village as a whole. This would increase the safety aspect, but traffic noise levels as well. Everybody knows of course that not all drivers adhere to the speed limit in any event, and there are certain motorcyclist who believe speed limits are irrelevant to them. A reduction to 30 mph would be welcome. As you point out in the September draft, the pavement access alongside the B1027, and particularly from Station Road to Cockaynes Lane is narrow, with traffic passing very close to pedestrians. The pavement surface is poor quality for its entire length from station Road to School Road and the Farm Shop. In fact whilst my late wife was alive, I did not once take her westwards to the Farm shop out of fear for her discomfort and even safety. Only once did we venture from Little Acre to Station Road and even that short trip was far from comfortable. The Pavement is uneven and dirty, and the drainage of rainwater is non existent for that short length.    More importantly though is the volume of traffic using the B1027 and in particular during morning and evening rush hours.  I fully understand the pressure on local authorities to grant suitable planning applications but I believe there are limitations on how much more the local environment can take. Colchester is on the point of becoming over developed  and I hope the same circumstances do not manifest themselves here in Tendring. Planners must be aware that there are only three roads, the A120, A133 and the B1027  to take traffic in and out of area and the B1027 is the road least able to be improved because of the local geographical situations, but unfortunately seems to be the first, and perhaps only choice for many people travelling to Colchester.    I currently travel one day a week to London, but the very limited number of trains stopping does seriously impact my departure time from Alresford. I am fortunate, as I currently drive a car, can use the local buses, or trains and have just started thinking about cycling sometime as well, but traffic speeds and volumes, and heavy vehicles will no doubt curtail my anticipated pleasure.    I like my home, I like the village location and ambience, so it would be a great pity to see my retirement days spoilt by over development and increased traffic volumes.    I also accept that there is likely to be more emphasis on special housing requirements for an ageing population, of which I am fast approaching, and in that regard the safety of elderly residents crossing roads, walking to the local shops must be one of the top considerations in the forthcoming years.    I should be grateful if you would pass my comments to any persons who would have any influence over these matters, and am happy to elaborate on any matters if you need any clarification of my thoughts. | All points are noted.  No change. |
| Local resident | Please find below my response to the draft NP.  (1) the seven week consultation started on 15th October, yet it took until 30th October for me to be informed by an A5 notice half-pushed through my letter-box. In the age of electronic communication this can be improved upon;  (2) no-where does it say where housing can be built or not. I can see nowhere that is off-limits and no plans for extending land designation to stop housing or commercial areas (eg- mining next to St Peter's Church);  (3) there is a clear bias on some issues held dear to the different Councillors, yet this isn't made clear in the text of the NP;  (a) which is most important for the transport of residents? the car or the train ? Both viewpoints are expressed but which is greatest? If it's the car, then some car parks need to be enlarged to stop on-street parking;  (b) section 2.42 - ACBOA changed it's name nearly two years ago - which is after the Chairman and his wife stopped attending meetings after NOT getting their own way about a Disciplinary Matter. This is a CLEAR CONFLICT of INTEREST.  Nor does this section make it clear that all of the coastal River Colne, including Alresford Creek, has always been part of Colchester Harbour. It doesn't mention the improvements made by Colchester to all places with moorings over the past 15 years. **Many of these would be outside the finance or expertise of a Village Council** - even Brightlingsea Council doesn't have control their waterways, but defer to the Harbour Master & Commissioners. These also makes sure that there is one set of rules for all of the coastal Colne (and by consultation also the River Blackwater.) As a transatlantic and medal winning sailor this makes perfect sense to me.  And the SSSI is also governed by separate, non-local council, organisations.  (4)  **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS** - all of these issues lie within the aspect of ECC. So these are only aspirational and not the pervue of the APC.  I welcome the need for improved pavements to Wivenhoe and Thorrington as I walk them weekly.   I also regularly catch buses to Colcheste,r yet there is only one covered shelter each way (of eight stops) and this is not mentioned in the NP; services are irregular and effectively stop at 19:20 from Colchester making going out in the evening or even returning from work difficult. Sunday's are a night-mare. ECC has over seen a decline in the service.  **(5) Beautification costs money** - the car park at the Village Hall was extended because of need, so some existing trees were removed. Yet this was never mentioned as a problem at the time. Likewise targetting private businesses and residences seems a poorly thought-out tactic. It would be better to suggest grants that could be applied for to get this improved. And personally I'll go to the Village Post Office whatever the outside looks like. After all it was built at the same time as my house!! Whereas the railway station buildings are tatty, not used and will fall down / become a fire hazard. On one side of the station there is a modern, covered porch area which looks better and is easier to maintain. Remember this is an village of predominantly 1960's houses, not stone-faced cottages in the Cotswolds.  Overall, I like the NP BUT it does show the differing, personal interests of a Parish Council that few villagers trust. Alresford has been Village of the Year for several years without the APC steering the community in any way. | 1. As soon as this issue was brought to the Parish Council’s attention, the consultation period was extended by 2 weeks. The community was notified in the Alresford Advertiser. 2. Policy ALRES1 is clear that the focus for development should be within the settlement boundary and addresses certain types of use which may be acceptable adjacent to the boundary. No change. 3. The objectives and issues addressed in the plan reflect the number of consultation events and activities held throughout the development of the plan. None of these have been included in order to address matters of personal importance to any parish councillor. No change. 4. The desire to increase car parking was not a matter raised significantly through the plan and would require land in order to address. No such land was available. No change. 5. This point is noted and para 2.42 will be amended. However, matters of conflict of interest of another body are not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. 6. This is accepted and the policies have been drafted to ensure that they do not address non-planning matters. However, the Plan is able to reflect other priorities and matters relevant to development. No change. 7. It is not clear what private businesses or residences are being targeted. All policies have been evidenced and reflect the views of the community. No change. |
| Local resident | The plan identifies that the University of Essex is a significant employer for the village. It also pays a lot of attention to sustainability, perhaps a cycle path along Alresford road and Wivenhoe road would be best. Or a cycle path through Cockaynes woods so that commuters could cycle away from the road year round. I personally don't think anyone is going to choose to cycle along the B1027 to the University even with a cycle path, it's just not a pleasant experience as evidenced by National Cycle Route 51 barely touching it. I say that as someone who has to deal with a lot of terrible bus drivers, lorry drivers and car drivers along Alresford road. Cycling through Wivenhoe also allows me to make use of Wivenhoe's services and shops that Alresford lacks.  There is a need for more affordable and social rented housing in the village to serve the needs of many young people who are forced to live with family for longer and longer. Alresford will never be truly sustainable if it isn't supporting all ages of people. The majority of the plan seems to be focused on serving the needs of people who moved here in the 60s and 70s which is not sustainable at all. Right now I look at what I expect to earn in the coming years working at the University and my personal plan is to relocate to another University town that has affordable housing and better cycling connections. | The point is noted, however such routes would have to extend into neighbouring parishes and therefore would be outside the influence of the Neighbourhood Plan. We have sought to focus on routes within the parish which can provide the most benefit. No change.  This is noted and agreed with. However, the proportion and split of housing that is affordable/social rented is a matter addressed by the Tendring Local Plan. No change. |
| Anglian Water | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan 2019 Pre-submission Consultation (Regulation 14). The following response is submitted on behalf of Anglian Water.  I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this response.  It is noted that the Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of criteria based policies which are intended to be used in the determination of planning applications within the Parish but does not identify any specific sites. These do not appear to raise any issues of relevance to Anglian Water.  Whilst it remains out of date, the currently adopted Tendring District Local Plan 2007 does however incorporate policies relating to Sustainable Drainage Systems and water recycling infrastructure. The emerging Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft contains Policy PPL 5 Water Conservation, Drainage And Sewerage, which itself also contains suitable wording relating to Sustainable Drainage Systems and water recycling infrastructure.  As the Development Plan is intended to be read as a whole it is not considered necessary to include similar policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore we have no comments to make relating to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. | Noted.  No change |

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