



Community Questionnaire

Two versions of the questionnaire will be available: an electronic version and a paper version. We hope that most people will complete it electronically, but if you would prefer a paper version then this can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk.

The questionnaire is available to complete now.

It can be accessed using the QR code below or by visiting sheepparish.com.

For a paper version, the Parish Clerk can be contacted by email:

info@sheepparish.com or telephone 07734 539661

Completed questionnaires must be submitted by Monday 30th November 2026.

Should you require assistance or have any questions, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Arrangements will be made to collect completed paper copies of the questionnaire when they are delivered.



All photographs have been taken in Sheepy Parish

Front page: All Saints Church Sheepy Magna, Sheepy Parva Lake, Our Farming Community.

Back page: View Of Open Countryside (Sibson/Sheepy Road), Our Farming Community, Cock Inn Sibson.

Centre pages (left) Wellsborough, Upton, Wildflower Patch (Sheepy Glade), Our Farming Community.

Centre pages (right) Ancient Oak Tree Sheepy Magna, Wild Orchid (Wildflower Meadow), Sheepy Playing Field, Hornsey Rise Wellsborough (before and after development)

SHEEPY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Community Questionnaire - October 2026

Protecting our parish from unwanted change and championing what we do want

What is a neighbourhood plan?

Neighbourhood plans offer communities direct power to shape the development and growth of their local area. These devolved planning powers allow communities to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure and facilities should be provided.

Our current plan has been very successful and effective in stopping unwanted development and has provided an evidence base to support parish-wide improvements. An update of the plan will mean that these successes can continue.

Earlier this year, Sheepy Parish Council sent a leaflet to all households in the Parish to inform residents of its intention to update the Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan.

This much-needed update of the plan will ensure it remains effective, especially as there is soon to be a new borough-wide Local Plan and a new National Planning Policy Framework has just been published.

Our existing Neighbourhood Plan, adopted following a successful local referendum (91% in favour with a 31% turnout), has enabled us to play a much stronger role in shaping and protecting the area in which we live and work.

The Neighbourhood Plan has protected important green space and set guidance for the type, scale, character and location of future developments rather than them be simply imposed upon us. It has also protected the area from unwanted and speculative development.

The existing Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2018 to 2036, but to maintain the protections it gives us it needs to be reviewed every five years. The last update was in 2022, so a review is now timely.

Ideally, we also need to align the plan period with that of the Local Plan - 2024 to 2045.

Following two successful and well-attended information evenings earlier this year we have a Steering Group to help guide the development of the updated Neighbourhood Plan. Their role is to ensure the views and opinions of residents are properly considered, and the needs and wishes of our local community is reflected in the plan.

There are several activities that the Steering Group will undertake to gather the evidence it needs to meet these objectives and to support the development of the new Neighbourhood Plan.

As well as evaluating how effective the policies in the current plan have been, there is also a need to update the evidence we previously collected.

We last used a questionnaire to help identify the needs and wishes of our community.

However, this was 10 years ago (2016). To make sure that we have up-to-date information, we are inviting parishioners and businesses in the parish to complete a new questionnaire.

Every individual member of a household or business can complete one.

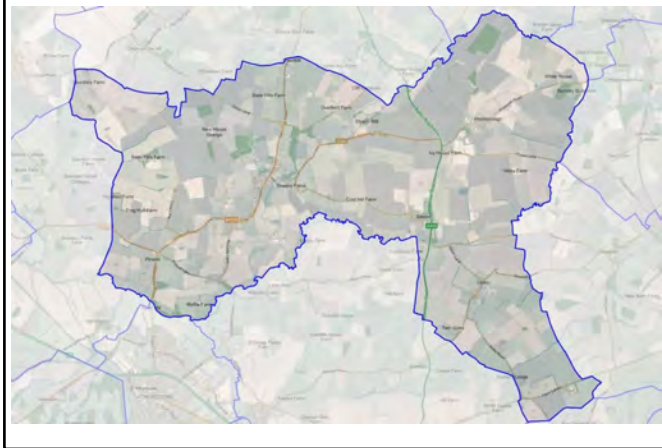
Please see box on back page for further details

Who is affected?

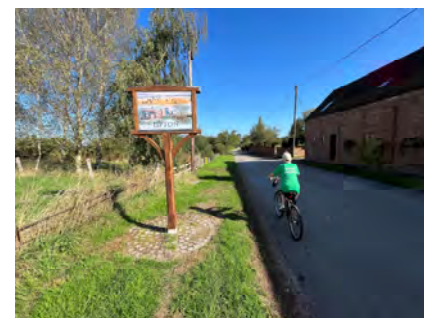
The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood area covers the Parish of Sheepy.

The parish comprises a large rural area (3,090 hectares) with a population of 1,260. There are 525 households (2021 Census).

The parish contains the settlements of Sheepy Magna, Sheepy Parva, Sibson, Wellsborough, Upton, Pinwall and Cross Hands as well as the surrounding countryside.



In the current Neighbourhood Plan, a site was identified for new housing development (Hornsey Rise, Wellsborough). This was required because a requirement was imposed on the parish by the Borough Council. This, in turn, was a contribution to the national target set by the Government. A strength of our existing plan has been that having allocated a development site and delivered this, we have avoided the types of speculative large-scale housing developments seen elsewhere in the borough.



The pressure for new housing remains and policies in the new Local Plan are likely to allow some additional small-scale housing development in rural areas, including in rural villages, of which Sheepy Magna is one. Therefore, to prepare for this and to ensure the community's views are considered and to safeguard the protections that an up-to-date Neighbourhood Plan gives us, we will need to undertake an assessment of possible locations in and adjoining Sheepy Magna village that could potentially accommodate a small-scale housing development.

The questionnaire will invite you to give your views on this. See back page for information.



Additionally, we will carry out, what is known as, a 'Call for Sites'. Landowners will be invited to indicate if they would consider making some of their land available for new housing. It is important to recognise, that offering up a site does not mean it is suitable nor that it will be developed for housing. A rigorous assessment of all the sites will be carried out and the community consulted on the outcome. By identifying one or more sites that the community considers acceptable (through the Neighbourhood Plan process) means that if there is a requirement for new housing, it can be in a place(s) that the community has chosen.

Once all the evidence has been gathered, the Steering Group and Parish Council will produce a draft new Neighbourhood Plan. Residents and businesses across the parish will be consulted again. Ultimately, a final version of the plan will be prepared and submitted for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. If it passes this examination, a community referendum will be held. If a majority of residents are in favour, then the plan will be adopted (made) and its policies will become legally-binding.

