



November, 2023

Dear Resident,

On behalf of Finchingfield and Wethersfield Parish Councils, a team of local volunteers are working on a Joint Neighbourhood Plan. Once complete, this will form part of the Braintree District Council's Local Development Plan. Within the limits of National and District strategic planning policy, a Neighbourhood Plan allows residents to highlight local challenges and aspirations, decide on a community vision and objectives and determine a range of planning policies or actions to take. The Neighbourhood Plan team aim to develop our plan through an open inclusive approach and design objectives that centre on the people at the heart of our community. The Information Drop-in Sessions held in October were the first stage of this and the team would like to express our thanks to the large numbers of residents who came along.

The enclosed Survey Pack is the next stage by which we are trying to ensure that residents' voices are heard. Surveys form a vital part of the evidence gathering process, so it is important we receive as many responses as possible. We would therefore ask you to fill out the surveys yourselves and encourage or help your friends and neighbours to do so as well. After the surveys are analysed, there will be further opportunities for residents to provide input through discussion groups, more information drop-ins and a residents' referendum as we progress.

This pack is made up of **TWO** different surveys. Their design reflects legal rules and feedback received from Pilot studies and Information Drop-ins in October. Each has several multiple-choice questions, as well as a number of free format options for you to respond as you choose.

We kindly ask that you return BOTH surveys by December 8th, 2023 in the Freepost envelope or use the online links provided. Each should take no more than 8-10 minutes to complete.

1. The Housing Needs survey (parts 1 and 2) (Use white paper form or this online link):

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FWNP2023>

This survey will be analysed by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)¹. They are an independent charity that helps communities throughout rural Essex and have a great deal of experience in administering Housing Needs surveys for local authorities.

The purpose of these questions is to help establish if there is any need for alternative or affordable housing within the parishes.

All responses are confidential and only aggregated results will be included in the final report to the Neighbourhood Plan team.

¹ For further information, see <https://www.essexrcc.org.uk/>

Please complete only ONE Housing Needs survey per household (unless there are multiple households living with you).

If you have any questions about completing this section or would like additional forms please contact Laura Atkinson, Rural Housing Enabler on 01376 574330 or by email at laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk

2. Residents' survey (with a supplement for Resident Business owners²) (Use yellow paper form or this online link):

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FWNPResidents23>

This survey covers a wide range of community issues, including protecting our heritage and landscape, communal spaces, traffic, and renewable energy. All responses are entirely anonymous.

As many people in your household as you wish can complete this survey. This includes younger members of your household but they may wish to complete a shorter version of this survey which we will provide links to on social media.

If you have any questions about completing this survey, would like the link to the younger generation survey or would like additional paper forms, please contact the Neighbourhood Plan team by email at fwnpteam@gmail.com

We kindly ask that you return BOTH surveys by December 8th, 2023 in the Freepost envelope or use the online links provided. Each should take no more than 8-10 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your participation in OUR Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Johnny Strange
Chairman
Finchingfield and Wethersfield
Neighbourhood Plan

Laura Atkinson
Rural Housing Enabler

² Non-resident business owners and other parties will be consulted separately