

## **Bungay Neighbourhood Plan Group September 2020**

Our consultant has sent a comprehensive letter to refute ESC's comments regarding the draft neighbourhood plan. We await ESC's response.

We have received the following thoughts in response to the planning white paper and impact on neighbourhood development plans.

*Well, first we need to bear in mind that this is a consultation, and so we don't know at the moment which elements will fall away and which will be adopted. There are also a lot of unanswered questions with respect to NPs, but the overall focus of the White Paper is to strengthen the plan making process (which I guess will include neighbourhood planning) whilst trying to 'simplify' (or limit) the decision making process.*

*I think Locality have summed it up pretty well, so it is worth reading what they have to say.*

*Overall there will be a shift away from the more generic development management policies (such as managing impacts on amenity or protecting trees etc) towards more specific geospatial planning. So, it does look as though the scope of NPs (and local plans) will be reduced or at least changed, in that they will have fewer development management policies, whilst having a greater focus on policies/ guidance for specific spatial areas/ locations. This is almost certainly going to involve a greater focus on design policies and guidance and having policies for what growth and change will look like in specific areas/ locations – so, a focus on what places should actually look like in terms of heights, densities, materials etc. Bungay has a design codes document already, which will prove especially useful.*

*I think rather than getting too immersed in the consultative white paper, it would be more productive to progress the NP as quickly as possible as it is likely that well advanced or recently adopted plans will still carry weight during a transition period.*