

NEEDHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL

Kevin Hunter
Town Clerk

Kelaine Spurdens
Assistant Town Clerk

email:
clerk@needhammarkettc.f9.co.uk
www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NeedhamMktTC



Town Council Office
Community Centre
School Street
Needham Market
IPSWICH
Suffolk
IP6 8BB

Tel/Fax: 01449 722246 (Office)
Answerphone

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To the Parish Clerk/Parish Meeting Contact

Dear Clerk/Parish Meeting Contact

Needham Market – Neighbourhood Plan for the Town

You may be aware that Needham Market Town Council has started to produce a neighbourhood plan for the town. The Town Council is fully committed to including neighbouring parishes in its information gathering stage to ensure that you have a voice in the setting of the Town Council's policy making – before those policies have been created for consultation.

The approach the Town Council wishes to take in the first instance is; to convene a meeting where representatives from our neighbouring parishes can attend and share their feedback with us and, prior to that, encouraging our neighbouring parishes to prepare for the meeting by stimulating thoughts by way of putting a number of questions to you. The questions are by no means exclusive and we fully respect there may well be other issues that are important from your perspective.

Your Council is accordingly invited to send representation to a meeting on Monday 14th April at 7pm in Needham Market Community Centre. Please could you let me know who will attend from your parish. I will send an agenda in due course. The aim will be to make the meeting 'workshop' style.

The questions, set out below, relate to a number of topics which will assist the Town Council as it builds up a picture of how best to approach the future (the Neighbourhood Plan will have a 15 year horizon). Those topics/questions are:-

- Do you feel that there are local bonds that exist between the town of Needham Market and your parish? What are those bonds? Q1
- Are those identified bonds still working properly? Are they sufficiently robust or do they need to be stabilised or developed? Q2

- Do you think there are issues that give cause for concern in the relationship between the settlements? Q3

As part of the national planning process, planning for the development of new homes, industry and services used to be done at both County and District levels. Their approach saw Needham Market as a “Key Service Centre”. As it had most of the services to help local communities to thrive it was considered an appropriate place to allow further development.

- Do you believe Needham Market’s status as a “Key Service Centre” is still appropriate? Q4

Apart from establishing your community’s perceptions of Needham Market we are keen to gather comments about specific services that your residents may be using in Needham Market.

- Please tell how you feel about shopping, recreation, health or other facilities/services in Needham Market Q5
- Are there any facilities/services which are not fit for purpose or missing but which could benefit all? Q6

We are asking the same questions of each of the surrounding parishes and you may wish to consider your relationships with them too. These comments may be added at the end of the attached response sheet along with anything not covered above but which you feel is important.

We would like to receive your comments at any stage over the plan preparation period – but if you want to influence our thinking at the first step your response on (or before if you are able to return the response sheet in advance) 14th April will be appreciated.

Kind regards,

Kevin Hunter
Town Clerk

Q1	Do you feel that there are local bonds that exist with the town of Needham Market and your parish? What are those bonds?
Q2	Are those identified bonds still working properly? Are they sufficiently robust or do they need to be stabilised or developed?
Q3	Do you think there are any issues that give cause for concern in the relationship between the settlements?
Q4	Do you believe that Needham Market's designation as a Key Service Centre – able to take future residential and industrial development - is still appropriate?
Q5	Please tell how you feel about shopping, recreation, health or other facilities/services in Needham Market
Q6	Are there any services or facilities which are not fit for purpose or missing but which could benefit all?