

## Drinkstone Parish Council – Planning

### Councillor Portfolios

#### Overview and Update since the last Annual Parish Meeting

The planning system is forever changing at a central government level (Planning for the Future: Planning Policy) as well as local level (Joint Local Plan), however within the village of Drinkstone we now have the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 following a referendum when 82.9% of those who voted, did so in favour of the Plan.

The Plan has been, and will continue to be, used to determine planning applications within the village and provides guidance for both applicants and councillors when considering building proposals. Since the Made Plan was adopted it has increasingly been referred to by Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Department when they consider applications within the village, looking forward, as Mid Suffolk become more familiar with the document we would expect to see it used as a measure and referred to within every application.

The Neighbourhood Plan has ensured aspects such as housing development, sustainability, landscape and biodiversity, heritage assets, building design, views and rural character are considered and protected so the character of the village is not compromised. The housing allocation within the village, designated as a hamlet by BMSDC in the 2019 Joint local Plan has been met.

Looking ahead, one of the key elements that the village does not currently receive is any kind of public transport. Since the removal of the bus service in 2019 residents have to rely upon the motor car and for those who either cannot or do not drive this is an issue and does not help with sustainability. As a Parish Council we will be looking into what options there are to alleviate this situation.

Prepared by

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