



**EARSWICK**

**PARISH COUNCIL**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY

*October 2015*

## A Vision for the future of Earswick



### Welcome to the Earswick Neighbourhood Plan Update

**The Earswick Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party** wish to thank all those residents who provided the excellent response we received to the recent residents' questionnaire; out of 340 households, we received 224 replies, a response rate of 66% and well ahead of other surveys. This provides us with a great foundation to start building the draft plan for Earswick.

The questionnaires have been passed, unopened, to a firm of consultants for analysis.

Meanwhile the purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with an update on progress to date, share with you some of the messages of support that we have received and to advise you of the next steps of this process.

We have been extremely encouraged with the high levels of support we have received from residents throughout the village for the neighbourhood plan and look forward to discussing with you the results from the questionnaires.

Please continue to write to us at [earswickneighbourhoodplan@aol.co.uk](mailto:earswickneighbourhoodplan@aol.co.uk) with your views and comments.

*"I very much endorse the principle of neighbourhood planning. For me, a Neighbourhood Plan is arguably more important than a Local Plan, as it represents planning at its most grassroots level with residents deciding for themselves how they want their communities to evolve over time. I am very happy to support the principle of a Neighbourhood Plan being drafted in Earswick village."* **Julian Sturdy, MP, York Outer**



**Our neighbourhood plan is two things:** firstly it is our community vision for the future of the village. Secondly it is a formal planning document setting out the agreed strategy that is then submitted to City of

York Council for approval. Once approved, by a local referendum, our neighbourhood plan will form part of planning law and will be the starting point when any future development is proposed within the village.

Earswick Parish Council has been recognised as the **ONLY** qualifying body to produce a neighbourhood plan for the parish of Earswick.

An Earswick Neighbourhood Plan would bring numerous benefits to the village including:

- ☐ The ability to influence how, when and where our village develops, and for what purpose
- ☐ The ability to preserve those aspects of our village that are important to us
- ☐ The ability to encourage services and development that are not currently here
- ☐ The ability to identify and seek to secure funding for community projects

***“A neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been agreed at a referendum and will sit alongside the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority once it is brought into legal force. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan.” Department of Communities and Local Government.***



**Many communities and villages such as ours** are coming under considerable pressure for more development in order to meet increasing housing needs. Indeed in our own village the previous draft of the City of York (CYC) Local Plan identified the potential for over 2,000 houses to be built on greenbelt land to the east of the Strensall Road. On behalf of residents the Parish Council has fought to have this proposed development removed from the Local Plan and continues to fight against having an area of land on this scale “safeguarded” for potential future development.

Following the announcement in May 2015 that Thirteen Group had written to CYC expressing a desire to withdraw their plans for development of this site the Parish Council met with the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Local Plan Working Group who stated that it is highly unlikely that a development of this scale would be allowed to be built in Earswick. As regards the safeguarding of land for future development (15 years +) again informal discussions with CYC indicate that **even if** some safeguarding of land were to be included in the Plan it would not be on the scale of that previously proposed.

**However as a responsible Parish Council we want to know what YOU think.**

**For that reason** the Parish Council took the decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan at its' meeting on 8 December 2014 under the terms of the Government's Localism Act. Following a preliminary workshop in March 2015, **to which all residents of the village were invited**, the Parish Council reiterated its commitment to developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Earswick and sought volunteers from all parts of the village to form a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. (Copies of all these decisions can be found on the Parish Council website).



**Terms of reference and membership of the Working Party** were approved by the Parish Council at its' Annual Meeting in May 2015 and the following month the Parish Council advised City of York Council of the intent of the residents of Earswick parish, in consultation with other stakeholders, to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and a copy of the neighbourhood area application was forwarded to the City Council. This has now been published on the City of York Council website.

**A public meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan** was held in the Village Hall on Monday 14th September 2015 at which residents were briefed on the Neighbourhood Plan and the process involved. A representative from the City of York Council was also in attendance who explained the involvement of the York Council in both the Council's Local Plan and the various Neighbourhood Plans from villages in the York area. Recently every resident has had the opportunity of expressing their views through the initial residents' questionnaire. This will enable us to identify the key issues that matter to you.

*"We very much support Neighbourhood Plans as they can assist in villages determining their own futures, very relevant with the development of the city's draft local plan." Strensall Ward Councillors Paul Doughty and Helen Douglas*



**Next Steps:** A further in depth residents survey based on these key issues will follow together with open workshops giving everyone the opportunity to ensure that their voice and ideas are heard. The Working Party will also be contacting other stakeholders to find out their views and then in the New Year a draft Neighbourhood Plan for Earswick will be presented to residents at an open evening.

**YOU will be included in the decision making process throughout the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and of course will have the ultimate decision as to whether or not the Neighbourhood Plan is accepted through a referendum. This approach is open, transparent and democratic in that every resident can express his or her OWN view on development and the key issues affecting the village.**

**Both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties in York are strongly in favour of parishes developing such plans and are anxious to include these in the York Local Plan. That is why we are developing our Neighbourhood Plan now so that our views are taken into account in the York Local Plan. After it is produced is TOO LATE!!**

*The government has continued to prioritise local communities having a greater say in their areas and at the last Local Election we as a party emphasised our support for Neighbourhood Plans in York. As we work on the Local Plan, the Conservative Group in York has committed to working with local communities in shaping their areas and Neighbourhood Plans offer an excellent avenue to do this.’* **Councillor Chris Steward, Leader of City of York Council.**

*“The Liberal Democrat Group is fully supportive of Earswick Parish Council developing a Neighbourhood Plan. I agree that any plans for the expansion of villages like Earswick should be a community-led process which ensures sustainability in the long-term.”* **Councillor Keith Aspden, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in York**



#### **Who is the Earswick Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (ENPWP)?**

You may be wondering who we are. We are a diverse group of volunteer residents and other community stakeholders who are committed to developing an effective neighbourhood plan based on the views of Earswick’s residents. We are empowered by

Earswick Parish Council but are a separate body whose remit is exclusively the development of a neighbourhood plan.

Members of the Working Party are:

Bill Gambold (Chairman), Fir Tree Close

Ian Yeowart, High Garth, The Village

Francis Martin, Willow Grove

Derek Jones, Earswick Chase

John Williams, Garden Village

Sian Wiseman, Shilton Garth Close

Jim McTurk, Earswick Chase

Graham Tate, Stablers Walk

**Further Information** on the Earswick Neighbourhood Plan Working Party or any other aspect of the Earswick Plan, is available on the Earswick Parish Council website: [www.earswick.org](http://www.earswick.org) under the sub-heading Neighbourhood Plan.

