



PRESS RELEASE

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PARISH SURVEY LETS RESIDENTS OF BOUGHTON ALUPH, EASTWELL AND GOAT LEES HAVE THEIR SAY ON NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR COMMUNITY

As Ashford Borough Council finalise their Local Plan for the Borough up to 2030, residents of Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish are being given a unique opportunity to have their say on new development in their community over the next 15 years.

A team of local volunteers have delivered a copy of a Neighbourhood Plan Survey to every home and business on behalf of the Parish Council asking for views on where new development should or should not take place, its scale, and the infrastructure needed to support growth. Residents have until 17 April to fill in the survey. The survey is also available online at www.parishplan.uk/2030.

The survey results will be independently analysed and will form the foundation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. This will set out a vision for future change and growth together with planning policies for the use and development of land. Once adopted it will be used in making decisions on planning applications in the parish.

Jason Matthews, Chair of Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council said:

“There is strong feeling locally about the amount of new development coming to Ashford Borough. We have all heard of plans to build thousands of new homes and to attract new businesses. Residents of Boughton Aluph and Eastwell want to ensure that growth in our area is sustainable and preserves the rural character of our community.

The Parish Council want to give residents a voice in what happens in our area. As a legal document the Neighbourhood Plan will carry real weight in planning decisions. Developers and local authority planners will have to take notice of it.

Six surveys were completed online within the first hour. We’re encouraging everyone who lives and works in the parish to fill in the survey. This will ensure that our Neighbourhood Plan is based on a proper understanding of the area and of the views, wants and needs of residents and businesses. We want responses from all ages. Spare half an hour now to fill in the survey and you can influence change and growth in our area over the next 15 years”.

-Ends-

Notes for Editors

1. The parish of Boughton Aluph and Eastwell lies in the Stour Valley three miles to the north east of Ashford. Boughton Aluph and Eastwell appear in The Domesday Book of 1086. Cricket has been played on the village green for over 200 years. The community of Goat Lees lies in the south of the parish which also incorporates a part of the Eureka Business Park.
2. The Localism Act 2011 introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. Its origins came from the Government's determination to ensure that local communities are closely involved in decisions that affect them. It allows local people to set out their own planning policies against which planning applications will then be assessed. A Neighbourhood Plan must integrate with and not conflict with local or national planning policy.
3. The Neighbourhood Plan will go through various stages of public consultation and independent examination. There will be a parish referendum on the final draft, where more than 50% of people voting must support the Plan for it to go forward. To date, 170 Neighbourhood Plans have successfully passed through referendum in England.
4. Ashford Borough Council approved the designation of the Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Neighbourhood Area under section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It is one of five designated Neighbourhood Plan areas within the Borough of Ashford. These are in various stages of development. None has yet been put to a referendum.
5. Further information at www.parishplan.uk.

Press Contact

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