**Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan**

**Introduction**

The Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan is intended to be a 15-year plan for the whole of the parish. It will allow the local community to have much greater influence on the future planning and development of their local area and when adopted will be a statutory plan which will have real legal force. In future when planning applications are made to South Hams Council, the Council and Planning Inspectors (on any appeal) will be required to make decisions based on the proposals and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as any other material considerations. The Neighbourhood Plan will give the local community much more influence and control over any future development in the parish.

Importantly, this is to be a community-led plan. We therefore need to know your wishes, needs and views to ensure that the plan genuinely represents the wishes and aspirations of the parish community.

In preparing these questions we have taken account of the comments made during the exhibitions held during the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations on 11th and 12th June 2016 and we hope that you will now be able to provide some further comments on the matters that were raised then .

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO WHERE YOU LIVE. HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF THIS PARISH.**

You are now being asked to let us know your views on future housing development - where it should be located, its scale and design - and your views relating to employment, tourism, transport facilities, natural and built environment, infrastructure requirements, community assets and general well being.

THE PROCESS

This questionnaire will be posted into the letter boxes of every single residential and business property in the parish. We are not asking you to provide details of your name or address so the information or views you give to us will not be identifiable.

COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES SHOULD BE POSTED BY 5 JANUARY 2017 INTO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POSTING BOX WHICH HAS BEEN SET UP AT HOLYWELL STORES.

Alternatively, you can post the completed questionnaire to the Steering Group Chairman, Valerie Scott. Her address is Glen Cottage, Bigbury, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 4AP or we can arrange for this to be collected by contacting by contacting Valerie Scott on Tel: 01548 810336 or email: valeriescott@bigbury.net.

We are also to have a pop-in session on Saturday, 10 December between 10am and 12noon at the Memorial Hall. We will be including mulled wine and mince pies to make this a festive occasion and will be there to answer any question or assist with the completion of the questionnaire if required.

The Steering Group will collate and analyse the responses and use this information to prepare a draft Neighbourhood Plan. We will then consult further on the overall vision and objectives of the plan as well as ask for your comments on the detailed policies and proposals.

Amendments to the draft plan will then be made, if necessary, and the finalised version of the Neighbourhood Plan will then go forward for Examination by a Government Inspector. If the plan is found sound parishioners will be given a chance to vote on whether they would like the plan to be adopted.

Bigbury Housing Survey 2016

In addition to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire we are also sending you a Housing Survey. This is a separate document which has been prepared by South Hams Council in order to establish the private and affordable housing needs of the parish. Once completed this housing needs survey needs to be posted in a separate box marked Bigbury Housing Survey 2016 which has also been set up at Holywell Stores. If it is posted by mistake in the Neighbourhood Plan Posting Box we will ensure that it is forwarded to South Hams Council.

Again, if preferred this survey can also be posted to Valerie Scott or she can arrange for it to be collected.

South Hams Council will analyse the results of this survey and let the Parish Council and Steering Group know the results in the form of a report. This information will be used to assess the housing needs of the parish in terms of the amount and type of new housing development required over the next 5 to 10 years. If we do need to allocate a site or sites for some medium-sized developments we will do a further consultation to establish the most suitable site or sites for this. The community will be able to decide on the best site or sites for any future housing development as part of the Neighbourhood Plan and this will allow the community to have much more influence on its location.

We hope that all parishioners will understand the need and benefit to them of completing the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and Housing Survey in order to be able to prepare a plan which truly reflects the needs and wishes of the community and which will enable us to really have an influence on the future of this parish.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS NOW.