

## **Call for residents to get involved in UDC's Community Consultation on the new Local Plan, November 2020 to April 2021**

**Uttlesford District Council invites our community to engage** in a series of conversations about our **new local plan**. It's a chance to speak about **the issues that matter to YOU**. Feedback will be used to shape the new local plan, which will address **housing, economic and infrastructure needs of the district** over the next 15 years or more. It's an opportunity to share ideas, over the six months **until spring 2021**.

How will the consultation be carried out?

**A Community Stakeholder Forum has been put together, featuring representatives from local groups and organisations; Forum members are independent volunteers from our community (they don't work for UDC) - their views are their own, and your view is equally necessary.** The Forum begins the conversation on a **wide range of themes - such as climate change, healthy lifestyles and homes. Each theme commences with an expert presentation, followed by a lively discussion with the Forum, and questions are then taken from members of the public.** Each Forum meeting lasts approximately 2 hours, and the events are live-streamed online, and uploaded for people to watch later. After the Forum discussion, UDC hopes this conversation will be taken up by people within the district, with everyone welcome to contribute. Each theme forms a mini-consultation, debated by the Forum and chaired by Angela Dixon of Saffron Hall - and then it's over to UDC residents to participate. Will you share your views? It'd be much appreciated. I hope you have time to get involved.

Here's how to join in on the Local Plan public consultation.

**Theme 1, 'where you live'**, kicked off on Wednesday 11 November, with UDC asking: what do you value about where you live and how you would like to see it improve in the future? The conversation was introduced by Dr Noha Nasser, eminent architect and academic, presenting on the characteristics of a walkable '15 minute neighbourhood'. The Community Stakeholder Forum then discussed what makes a neighbourhood special, and what needs improving. **The consultation on 'where you live' is open for comments until 9 December.** If you go to UDC's website, you can read a short document, watch the video presentation, and submit comments, which will be discussed by the Forum.

**Theme 2, 'character and heritage'**, was discussed by the Forum on 25 November; this second mini-consultation began with a presentation by landscape architect and master-planner, Noel Farrer. Online, you can see the presentation and the discussion document. Mr Farrer focused on the climate emergency, and need to reduce car-dependency in our rural area. The lively presentation is worth viewing and responding to. **This segment of the consultation closes on 23 December 2020.**

**Theme 3, 'climate change' takes place on December 9, at 7pm.** This will be an exciting session. If the climate emergency speaks to you, then please participate (see 'how to participate' below). Urgent change is necessary to avert the climate catastrophe - floods, wildfires, and disappearing glaciers are today's reality, and bode ill for the future. We must act now, and also persuade our leaders to do so. We have one planet, and should hand it to future generations in good condition. Join in, and please let UDC know your views.

**Theme 4 – 9**, to be announced in due course.

**How to participate in the Forum meetings:** All CSF events are live-streamed so that anyone can listen in. The recorded session is uploaded so anyone can watch it later. Pre-registration will be available via the Council's new Local Plan website. ([www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan))

**Details about the Local Plan and consultation, information on the nine themes, the key dates and how to comment will be posted on the council's website at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan) and social media channels.**

Everyone who has an interest is encouraged to sign up for regular local plan information and updates by subscribing to the e-newsletter service here (<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6865/Local-Plan-news> )

## **FAQs**

### **Q: Who should respond?**

A: anyone who lives in Uttlesford and has a view on our local area. Whoever you are, however long you've lived here - your views are relevant.

### **Q: How do I respond?**

A: Go to UDC's website, at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan). Watch the Forum meetings, or if you are busy, watch it later and then respond online, or download a Word document and send that in (just follow the instructions) by the deadlines that are published online.

### **Q: I have no access to technology - how can I respond?**

A: For those unable to access/use the website, if you want to respond then please let UDC know either by calling 01799 510510 or writing to: Local Plan Team, Uttlesford District Council, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER. UDC has sent leaflets about the Local Plan Consultation to every postal address in the District, so everyone should hopefully have received one direct to their door.

### **Q: what sort of issues should I talk about?**

A: Anything you care about. You are invited to dream big, and imagine your ideal community. Here are just a few ideas, but you will doubtless have your own : public transport upgrade required to electric buses (clean, green tech); cheaper and more frequent bus services including school buses; rail links improvement; libraries access; affordable housing for young/elderly/disabled; Post Office services in rural areas; exercise facilities for elderly/other groups; community spaces, e.g. facilities for mums and babies; refuges/help for domestic violence; investment in water and sewage (low water pressure, investment in water services, planning for drainage); seating benches to gather and meet, or rest while out and about; the climate emergency, reducing carbon, & what can we as residents do?; employment opportunities in our area; food bank usage and welfare benefits issues.

Your views are important. This is your local plan, so dream big – and please participate if you can!

Samantha Naik

Newport Parish Council (and Community Stakeholder Forum member)