



Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Review & Update – Community Engagement Strategy

1. Purpose of Early Engagement

The early stage of the Neighbourhood Plan review is about listening and evidence-gathering, not drafting policies. Engagement at this stage will:

- Identify how the parish has changed since the plan was made;
- Understand community views on whether policies remain effective;
- Test local appetite for change, including housing, design, environment and infrastructure;
- Build transparency and trust before options are developed.

This engagement will inform:

- The scope of the review;
- Which policies may need updating, replacing, or carrying forward unchanged.

2. Principles Guiding Engagement

Engagement will be:

- **Proportionate** – appropriate to a plan review, not a new plan;
- **Inclusive** – reaching a wide cross-section of the community;
- **Transparent** – clear about what can and cannot be influenced;
- **Early** – undertaken before decisions are formed;
- **Two-way** – focused on listening, not consultation on fixed proposals.

3. Key Stakeholders

Engagement will target:

Local community

- Residents (all age groups and tenures)
- Local businesses and home workers
- Landowners and farmers
- Community organisations and voluntary groups

Statutory and strategic bodies (early notification, not consultation)

- Parish Council
- Local Planning Authority (Neighbourhood Planning Officer)
- District councillors
- County Council (highways, education where relevant)

4. Engagement Scope (Early Review Stage)

Engagement will focus on:

- Whether the vision and objectives remain appropriate;
- What has worked well in the existing plan;
- What has not worked or is no longer relevant;
- Local issues emerging since the plan was made (e.g. housing pressures, climate resilience, traffic, infrastructure);
- Awareness of new national and local planning policy changes.

It will not, at this stage, ask the community to comment on:

- Detailed site options;
- Draft policy wording;
- Specific development proposals.

5. Engagement Methods

A mix of low-cost, accessible methods will be used.

a. Information and Awareness

- Plain-English briefing note explaining:
 - Why the plan is being reviewed;
 - What stage the process is at;
 - How people can get involved.
- Parish website page dedicated to the review (consider whether we can revive the old, dedicated website).
- Noticeboards and social media posts.
- Parish bulletin article/attachment.
- Parish magazine

b. Community Survey

- Short questionnaire (online and paper versions).
- Focused on:
 - Key issues and priorities;
 - Perceptions of existing policies;
 - Views on future change (including growth, design, environment).
- Non-statutory survey and so usual communications methodology to be used
- Paper copies available at key locations for inclusivity.

c. Drop-in Listening Event

- Informal, staffed session in a familiar venue.
- Use maps and simple prompts (e.g. “What should stay the same?” / “What needs to change?”).
- No preferred options presented.
- Notes recorded anonymously.

d. Targeted Conversations

- Short meetings or written input from:
 - Community groups,
 - Local businesses,
 - Young people (via school or youth groups if appropriate),
 - Older residents’ groups.

6. Communications and Messaging

All communications will:

- Be clear that this is a review, not a blank slate;
- Explain the limits of neighbourhood planning (e.g. housing numbers are set strategically);
- Emphasise that early views will shape what is reviewed, not pre-determine outcomes.

Key message:

“This is the stage where we decide *what needs attention* — not *what the final answers are.*”

7. Recording and Use of Feedback

- All feedback will be logged and summarised.
- Responses will be analysed thematically (not by numbers alone).
- A short “What We Heard” report will be published, setting out:
 - Main themes;
 - Areas of consensus;
 - Areas of divergence;
 - How the feedback will inform the next stage.

8. Governance and Roles

- The Parish Council retains overall responsibility.
- A Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group (if in place) will:
 - Oversee engagement activity;
 - Ensure neutrality and fairness;
 - Report to the Parish Council.
- The Local Planning Authority will be kept informed but not asked to approve engagement outcomes.

9. Indicative Early-Stage Timetable

Activity	Indicative Timing
Launch communications	Week 1
Community survey live	Weeks 2–4
Drop-in listening event	Week 3
Targeted group engagement	Weeks 3–4
Analysis and reporting	Weeks 5–6
Parish Council review of findings	Week 7

10. Outputs from This Stage

This engagement will produce:

- Clear evidence of community priorities;
- A justified scope for the plan review;
- A strong audit trail for examination;
- A community that understands and supports the review process.



Neighbourhood Plan Review – Community Engagement Plan Have Your Say on the Future of Our Area

We are starting an early review of the Neighbourhood Plan made in 2022 and want to hear from everyone who lives, works or runs a business in the parish. This stage is about listening and understanding local views before any decisions are made.

What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out planning policies for the parish. Once approved, it forms part of the statutory development plan and is used when deciding planning applications.

The Plan is reviewed periodically to ensure it:

- reflects changes in the community;
- aligns with new national and local planning policies; and
- responds to emerging local issues and priorities.

Why Are We Reviewing the Plan Now?

Since our original Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in July 2022, the Government has introduced new national housing targets and a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Our Neighbourhood Plan is not a stand-alone, autonomous, document; it must align with national and county strategic and policy changes. So the Parish Council has instigated a review of the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it continues to carry weight in planning decisions. Although neighbourhood plans do not expire, those more than five years old that have not been updated to reflect significant policy changes are often treated as out of date. Recent planning appeals have shown that such plans may be given reduced weight or set aside, weakening local influence. This review will help ensure the Plan remains up to date, policy-aligned and effective in shaping development in the parish.

What This Stage Is – and Is Not

This stage is about:

- Listening to community views;
- Understanding local priorities;
- Deciding the scope of the review (what needs attention).

This stage is not about:

- Drafting new policies;
- Consulting on specific development sites;
- Commenting on planning applications.

What Can You Tell Us?

We would like your views on:

- What has worked well in the current Neighbourhood Plan;
- What has not worked or is no longer relevant;
- Key issues facing the parish (e.g. housing, design, traffic, environment, facilities);
- What you value most about the area and want to protect;
- What you think may need to change over the next 10–15 years.

How You Can Get Involved

We are using a range of ways to make it easy for everyone to take part:

1. Community Survey

- A short questionnaire available online and in paper form;
- Designed to be quick and easy to complete;
- Paper copies available at the Village Community Shop.

2. Drop-in Listening Event

- An informal session where you can speak to Neighbourhood Plan team members;
- No presentations or proposals – just conversation and listening;
- Dates, times and venue will be advertised locally.

3. Community Groups and Local Organisations

- We will also speak directly with local groups, businesses and organisations;
- If you represent a group and would like to be involved, please contact us.

What Happens Next?

Once the engagement period closes:

- All feedback will be reviewed and summarised;
- We will publish a short “What We Heard” report explaining the main themes;
- The Parish Council will use this information to decide how the Neighbourhood Plan should be reviewed.

Further consultation will take place later if changes to the Plan are proposed.

What the Neighbourhood Plan Can and Cannot Do

It is important to be clear that:

- Neighbourhood Plans can shape where and how development happens locally;
- they must work within national planning policy and the Local Plan; and
- they cannot stop all development or reduce housing numbers set at a strategic level.

Staying Informed

Updates will be shared through:

- The parish noticeboard;
- The parish website; and
- Parish bulletins and social media.

If you would like to receive updates directly, please contact:

Name / email / phone]

Thank You

Your views are essential in helping us decide how the Neighbourhood Plan should evolve.

This is your opportunity to influence the future direction of the parish – before any proposals are written.

(Note: “This engagement is an early, informal listening exercise and is not a statutory consultation. The Parish Council has publicised it through its usual communication channels to ensure a proportionate and inclusive approach.”)