

The NP4Yaxham Working Group consisting of parish councillors and residents continues to function although infrequently. As a formal Working Group of the Parish Council it allows us representation at planning meetings in addition to the Parish Council . We also make representations in writing on planning appeals such as Dumpling Green and Elm Close as well as planning applications in the parish. There are always the same serious concerns from residents particularly about surface water and foul drainage as well as potential traffic congestion quite apart from the effect of new development on the rural landscape character.

Our Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan was "made" in 2017 and its policies are taken into consideration when Breckland makes planning decisions on applications in the village. As always in planning, the government will have its way and no sooner than a Plan is finished and adopted whether Neighbourhood Plan or Breckland Local Plan in 2019 then consultations on potential new legislation appear. This means that all the Plans need to be reviewed at some point to remain up to date with latest policy. Because of this endless circle, there is a great reluctance to invest more time and a great deal of voluntary effort to review our NP4Yaxham until we are sure what the government is intending to change/amend etc. Our Plan was the first in Breckland in 2017 and since then only another 5 Neighbourhood Plans have followed. Covid has naturally had an effect but so too has Breckland which has never been enthusiastic about Neighbourhood Plans.

So, in April 2021, we are watching and waiting to see if and when a review of our NP4Yaxham is necessary.