

Holt's Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036

You may be aware that the Holt Town Council has been working on an updated Neighbourhood Plan that will last through to 2036. The Holt Society has been a Consultee in this process which commenced in 2016 and has now reached a point where all parties (the Holt Town Council, the NNDC and the various consultees) are agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to a vote at a public referendum. This will take place on Thursday 29th June 2023. This article aims to give our members a brief introduction to the plan and to encourage you, if you are a registered voter in Holt parish, to take part in the referendum.

The Neighbourhood Plan itself consists of 39 pages but is broken down into seven policy elements. Our summary is very much an 'overview'. Should you wish to view the full text, this can be found at <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/media/8617/holt-neighbourhood-plan-referendum-version.pdf>

The key aims of the plan, as taken from the Introduction by Holt Town Council, are;

- Promoting sustainable development, particularly appropriate housing for the community.
- Seeking high quality design and standards of amenity, whilst conserving heritage assets.
- Promote mixed use development.
- Consider patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and to focus significant development in locations which are, or can be made, suitable.
- Protecting green space to serve the local community Once our Plan is adopted, following a favourable local referendum, it will form part of the 'development plan' alongside the North Norfolk Local Plan.

Together they are the starting point for deciding how future development should take place in Holt, including type and quality of that development to ensure that it meets local objectives and needs.

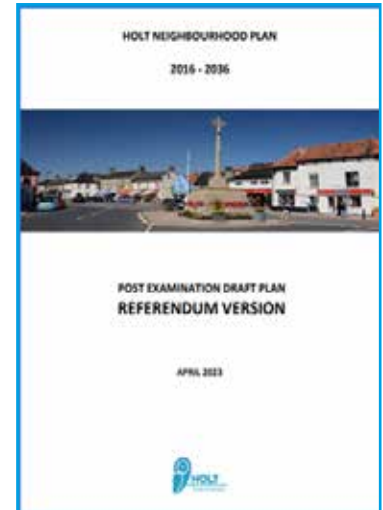
The seven policies will in future be the criteria upon which planning and development decisions will be based, assuming that the vote on the 29th June is positive.

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| 1. Design Guidance | 4. Employment Growth in Holt | 7. Open Space |
| 2. Housing Type & Standards | 5. Community Facilities | |
| 3. Green Infrastructure | 6. Connectivity In and Around Holt | |

The Holt Society Committee is pleased to see the following list of possible future enhancements to our town which can be found in a section entitled Community Aspirations (page 36). Some of these are clearly long-term but others are due to be adopted in the near future or, in the case of the 'Farmers Market' and the cycle parking, are already in operation.

- Footpath to Country Park along the Norwich Road.
- Support introduction of the Holt Green Wheel.
- Support introduction of the Norfolk Orbital Railway.
- Develop and improve public transport links (bus and train).
- Facilitate the creation of a 'Farmers Market or Street Market' to promote local produce.
- Enhance Holt's three retail loops.
- Shop front improvements.
- Making small improvements to replace red paving, improve A148 roundabout.
- Remove unnecessary street furniture.
- New pedestrian crossing on High Street.
- Improve bus stops.
- Provide more cycle parking in town centre.
- Establish new commercial space/employment land.
- Seek additional residential care facilities.

The Society was pleased to be part of the development of the Plan which is very much in line with two of our own key objectives; 1. To preserve Holt's architectural heritage and distinct identity and 2. To engage with planning and development issues. To that end we thank the Holt Town Council for the opportunity to be a consultee. The Committee would urge you to take part in the referendum on the 29th June in order that the views of Holt's inhabitants are reflected in the ultimate decision.



Holt Society Annual General Meeting

On the 3rd April the Society held its AGM in The Venue (Holt Community Centre). This year we had one of the highest attendances at 63 which indicates the support that the Society enjoys. Thanks go to all those who attended and to the Committee members responsible for the organisation.

Having said a sad 'au revoir' to Steve Benson who retired after many years at the helm, the election of officers, listed below, was approved en-bloc. However, we do still have vacant spaces on the committee and would welcome volunteers for Honorary /Minute Secretary, Publicity Officer and one further Committee Member. If you would like more information do please contact the Chairman on 01263 711223.

The new committee, as listed below, was proposed by E Sidgwick and seconded by J Headland. The vote was carried unanimously.

Chairman - Keith Gosden; Vice Chairman - Tony Leech; Treasurer - Geoff Davies; Membership Officer – Robin Back; Events Officer – Polly Binns; Committee members Julie Goldsworthy and Susan Williams. The positions of Secretary, and Publicity were left vacant.

Our speaker, Michael Gurney DL, delivered a passionate slide show entitled 'My family and the work of a High Sheriff.' This was well-received and a vote of thanks was given by Polly Binns.

The AGM was the occasion of the launch of *Georgian Holt at Work and Play* by Margaret Bird who was thanked and presented with a gift before signing copies. The publication sold well at the meeting and has continued to do so. Copies can be ordered via our web site or at the Holt Book Shop.



The Wreck of the Gloucester, Johan Danckett's (c1682). Credit: Royal Museums, Greenwich

Supporting Holt Primary School

We are delighted to announce that following the huge success of the talk by Julian Barnwell on the finding of HMS Gloucester, just off the Norfolk coast' committee members Polly Binns and Susan Williams have been able to work with Holt Primary School to arrange and sponsor a visit to the Norwich Castle Museum Gloucester exhibition for the pupils in Years 3 and 5 at Holt Primary School.

Using the surplus from the talk, coupled with income from the sale of our children's book, *Escapades in Holt*, we have been able to donate around £600 to the school. This has enabled us to work with the headteacher, Simon Walters and his staff to schedule a visit in June to the Norwich Castle Museum. 27 Year 3 (7-8 year-olds) and 26 Year 5 (9-10 year-olds) children will have the opportunity to travel by Sanders coach, accompanied by staff and volunteers, to the museum where they will attend a workshop and be able to view the Gloucester Wreck exhibition.

The discovery and recovery of some of the artefacts is a massive internationally important project in this region, which will resonate throughout all the children's future school years. So, to go and experience the exhibition at this early stage is such an exciting opportunity for them.

We are very pleased to be able to support Holt Primary School to undertake this visit. The Society feels very strongly that it should be encouraging such educational opportunities, which help develop this young audience to understand the historic world around them.

Our thanks go to all those who attended our talk, 'The Discovery of the Gloucester 1682: a Well-kept Secret' in February this year, along with those who helped the funding by purchasing *Escapades in Holt*. Without their support the Holt Society would not be able to grant such a unique opportunity for this generation to enjoy.

Holt Coronation Community Cake

When the call came from the Town Council to bake a cake for the 'Picnic in the Park' event on the George V playing field in Peacock Lane on the 6th May, the Society stepped up to the mark. Did you get a slice?



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Holt after the Fire: what the re-pewing of the church reveals.

Speaker: **Susan Smart**

TUESDAY JUNE 6th 2023. St. Andrew's Church. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start and the evening will last about 2½ hours.

This will be the first outing from Sue's recent extensive body of research on the emergence of St Andrews after the fire and it reveals fascinating evidence of the roles and influence of various families and individuals. With details from the '1727 re-pewing' document and probate records, we will hear about how Holt society looked just after the great fire that engulfed Holt and St Andrew's in 1708.

After a 'talk and walk' round the church, light refreshment will be available. This is a members only event; tickets £7. A booking notice will be sent out shortly and, due to the limited numbers, advance booking is essential.

Wildlife walk on Holt Lowes

Leader: **Tony Leech**

TUESDAY JULY 25th 2023 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Starting at Holt Country Park main car park (NNDC car park charge).

There is no charge for this fascinating walk, and booking is not required; simply join us on the day. Walking shoes/boots are recommended.