

Feedback on the amended NDP for Fressingfield January 2026

Much time and money has been spent on amending this plan and although it pertains to carry forward essential objectives, there is no summary of objectives or clear objectives and changes within this document. Because there is **little clarity** about the changes and amendments to the NDP, this **lays the village and its inhabitants open to inappropriate development**. Furthermore, there is no mention of how infrastructure can be increased and enhanced to provide more homes.

Quote:

The new Plan has a different visual look and feel to the 2020 Plan, which is to reinforce that it is a different document, however the overarching vision and objectives are still consistent with those of the original Plan with the desire to ensure that Fressingfield remains a place which retains its distinct natural and historic characteristics, and where the services and facilities have the capacity to meet the needs of residents.

The Plan promises that consultation on shaping it has not only met but exceeded. I strongly disagree. **I do not recognise that the plan speaks for the village or that the village has been properly consulted.**

In developing this Neighbourhood Plan Review, the Neighbourhood Plan Group have sought to ensure that the statutory minimum standards for consultation on Neighbourhood Plans have been not only been met but have been exceeded. The process that has been followed has included opportunities for both informal and formal consultation. The specifics of the consultation and how it has informed the content of the new Plan is set out in more detail in Chapter 5 of this Plan.

The opening paragraph of the history of Fressingfield in this plan tries to paint a picture of Fressingfield being one of the largest villages in Suffolk with a growing population. In fact, Fressingfield within its rural parish setting is one of the smallest, having less than 500 households and a very small population change since 2011.

Fressingfield is a village in Suffolk, within Mid Suffolk district, within 4 miles of the border with South Norfolk. According to the 2011 Census data, the population was 1021 and comprises approximately 444 households. By the 2021 Census this had increased to 1088 residents and 487 households. The parish boundary covers some 4,600 acres and is the 16th largest of the 500 parishes in Suffolk.

The supporting questionnaire and evidence base for the amended NDP sent to villagers was in my opinion **slanted in favour of development**, with a foregone conclusion to support housing growth without consulting with inhabitants meaningfully.

Questions were leading, urging villagers to respond to what sort of houses and where they would be should development go ahead, rather than a section seeking the views of those who did not want more housing development or radical change within the village. There was no scope to provide feedback for the real wants, needs and concerns of villagers apart from a narrow tick box enterprise.

It feels as if the PC want to impose their ideal of an economically vibrant and bustling village on villagers and future generations, but most inhabitants choose to live, holiday or retire here because of its tranquil, rural peaceful and isolated appeal, particularly with huge developments appearing in Harleston and other nearby areas.

The vision is one that seeks to ensure a living village that is healthy, diverse and attractive, economically vibrant for present and future generations of Fressingfield residents.

Housing will not improve sustainability, and the tipping point of too many houses which seems to be an underlying theme in this plan although not made clear, would be that life here would be unsustainable and ruined for many people.

Abi Maydon 20 January 2026