

Goudhurst NDP Code of Conduct

Policies and procedures

[Http://ndp.goudhurst.co.uk/Steering](http://ndp.goudhurst.co.uk/Steering)

Goudhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan

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The objective of this site is to allow the community to monitor and take part in the in the development of Goudhurst Parish **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**.

Neighbourhood planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. A Neighbourhood Development Plan is one way in which we can create our vision for our community and shape future development in the parish.

Who asked for a plan?

On 22nd September there was a public meeting in Goudhurst Village Hall attended by some 238 residents. The overall concept of the plan was outlined and there was 100% agreement that a Neighbourhood Development Plan would benefit the parish. This was formally registered with TWBC.

Why prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Over the coming years Goudhurst, like many other communities will face challenges for new development. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) housing allocation has been increased significantly by central government and TWBC have already made [Requests for Sites](#) some of which are within our parish. It is not a sustainable argument to say that Goudhurst will resist all change and the absence of a community vision for our parish could leave us more vulnerable. A Neighbourhood Development Plan provides a strong framework enabling the residents of Goudhurst to have a real influence over what development takes place, where it takes place and the rate of growth.

Next Steps

More detail around the overall process can be found by following the links on the left. We will be providing updates on this site, through email and on appropriate social media. If you would like to have a more active role and contribute to the development of the plan please contact enquiries@ndp.goudhurst.com.

Code of Conduct for Goudhurst NDP Steering and Working groups

2016 Version

Goudhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan

This code sets out the expectations on and commitment expected from members of our steering and working groups.

The Steering Committee has the following core functions:

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives our NDP
- Agreeing priorities and targets
- Meeting any statutory duties supported by Goudhurst PC

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Appointing the chair
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Engaging with stakeholders

Ensuring financial probity, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

As individuals on the board we agree to the following:

Role & Responsibilities

- We understand the purpose of the steering and working groups and our relationship with Goudhurst Parish Council
- We accept that we have no legal authority to act individually or as a group
- We accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the steering or its delegated working groups. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the steering meetings.
- We have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice
- We will encourage open dialogue and will act appropriately.
- We will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other groups.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints we will follow the procedures established by Steering group.
- We will actively support and challenge

Commitment

- We acknowledge that accepting office of steering or working group involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.

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- We will each accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- We will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- We will get to know the working groups and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in group activities.
- We accept that in the interests of open governance our full names will be published on the NDP website.

Relationships

- We will strive to work as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.
- We will express views openly, courteously and respectfully in all our communications with other committee and group members.
- We will support the chair in their role of ensuring appropriate conduct both at meetings and at all times.
- We are prepared to answer queries from other board members in relation to delegated functions and take into account any concerns expressed

Confidentiality

The overall activity is in the public domain and so the majority of the information used and published will be free from any questions of confidentiality. There may be instances where personal data is acquired and in these circumstances:

- We will observe complete confidentiality for personal data
- We will not share or publish information owned by other organisations without consent
- We will follow the data protection policies of Goudhurst Parish Council

Conflicts of interest

- We will record any pecuniary or other business interest if any such conflicted matter arises in a meeting we will offer to leave the meeting for the appropriate length of time.
- We will also declare any conflict of loyalty at the start of any meeting should the situation arise.

Breach of this code of conduct

- If we believe this code has been breached it will be raised with the chair and the chair will investigate and seek to resolve any difficulties or disputes in constructive ways.
- If the chair has breached this code then the deputy chair will fulfil the function.

The Seven Principles of Public Life

(Originally published by the Nolan Committee: The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established by the then Prime Minister in October 1994, under the Chairmanship of Lord Nolan, to consider standards of conduct in various areas of public life, and to make recommendations).

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Selflessness - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity - Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity - In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability - Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness - Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty - Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership - Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.