

Lakenheath Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for sparing your time today to come and learn about the Lakenheath Neighbourhood Plan.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

A neighbourhood plan is a document which, when complete, will be used by West Suffolk Council when deciding planning applications. It must comply with National Planning Policy and the planning strategy in the West Suffolk Local Plan. Through a neighbourhood plan, Lakenheath residents can play an active part in how planning in our village over the next 15 or so years is implemented.

A neighbourhood plan can cover a range of themes, such as:

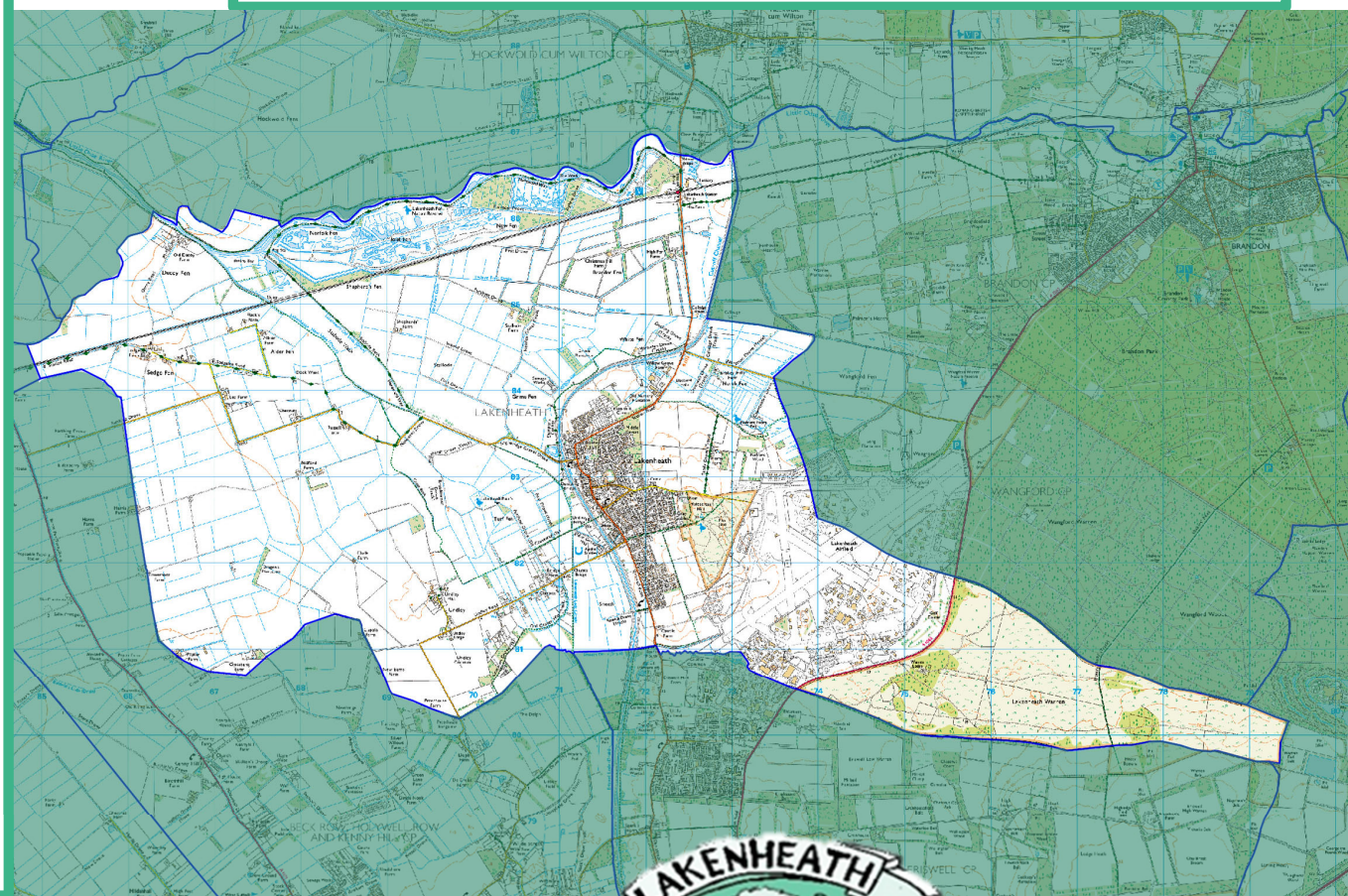
- where new housing would be allowed
- what existing facilities should be protected or new ones provided
- protecting historically important sites
- protecting our countryside and wildlife habitats
- providing guidance on the design of new development

Why does Lakenheath need a neighbourhood plan?

The government has a plan to build many new homes across the country.

The Local Plans in West Suffolk do not identify the important local characteristics and features in our village that should be protected from development.

A neighbourhood plan allows us to decide where we would like any new homes to be built and identify important features that should be protected.



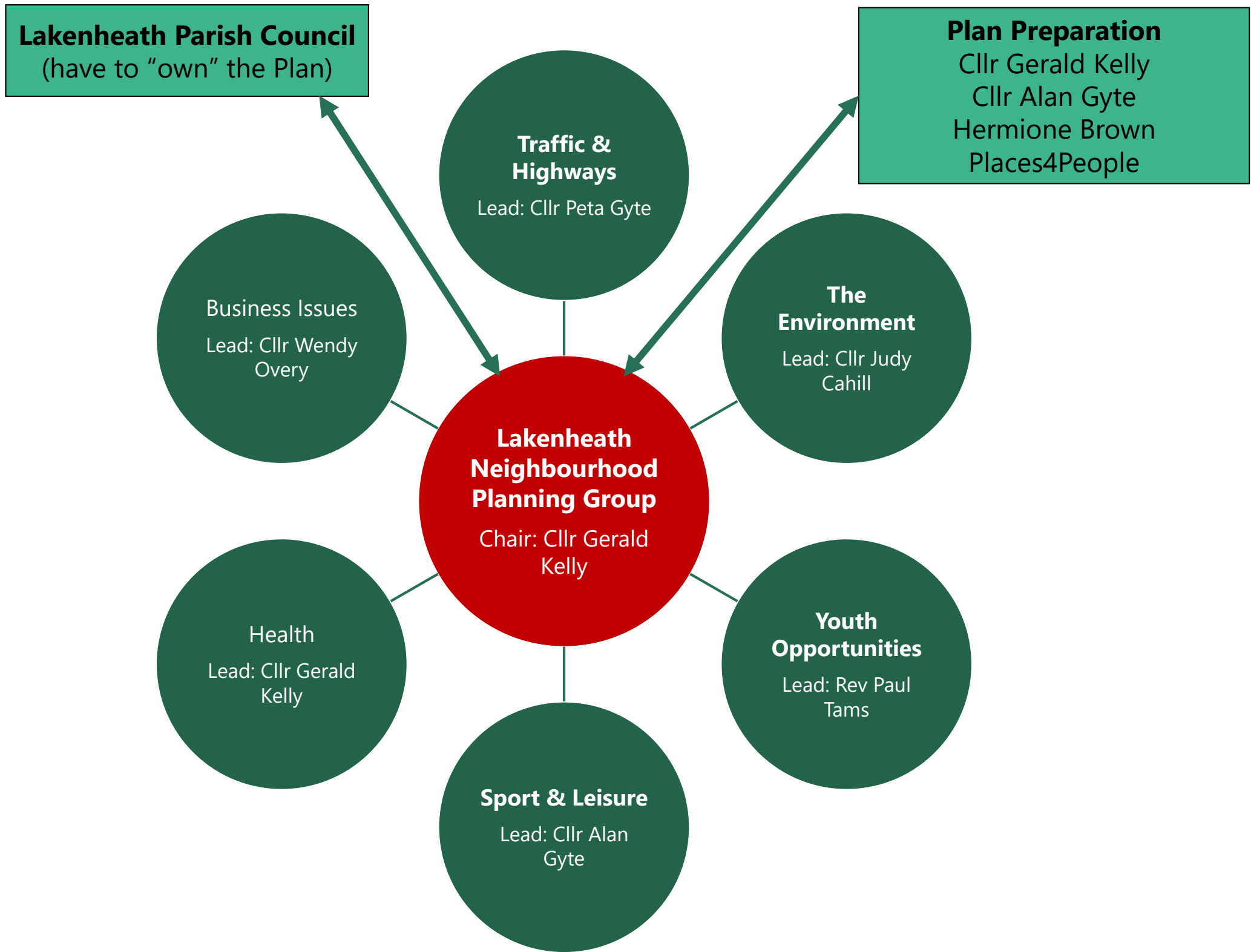
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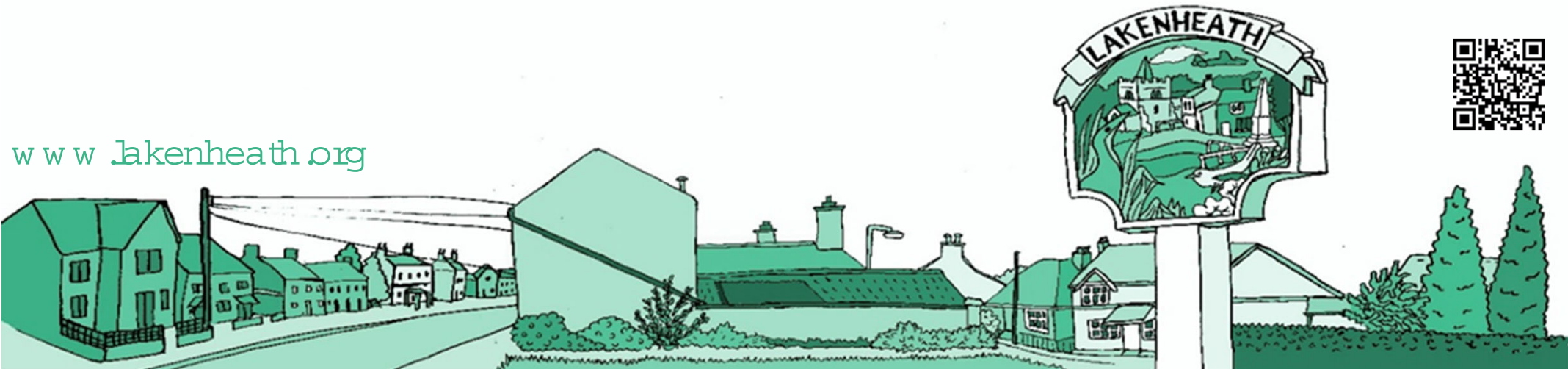
How it's being prepared

The Survey results told us about your likes, dislikes and aspirations for Lakenheath. Some of these will be built into the Plan, some cannot be though that does not mean we will just forget about them. We have split the issues into seven workstreams, and have started looking at what is possible and what is not.



Each workstream has a Lead -in most cases a Parish Councillor – who can be contacted through the website www.lakenheath.org or the Parish Office.

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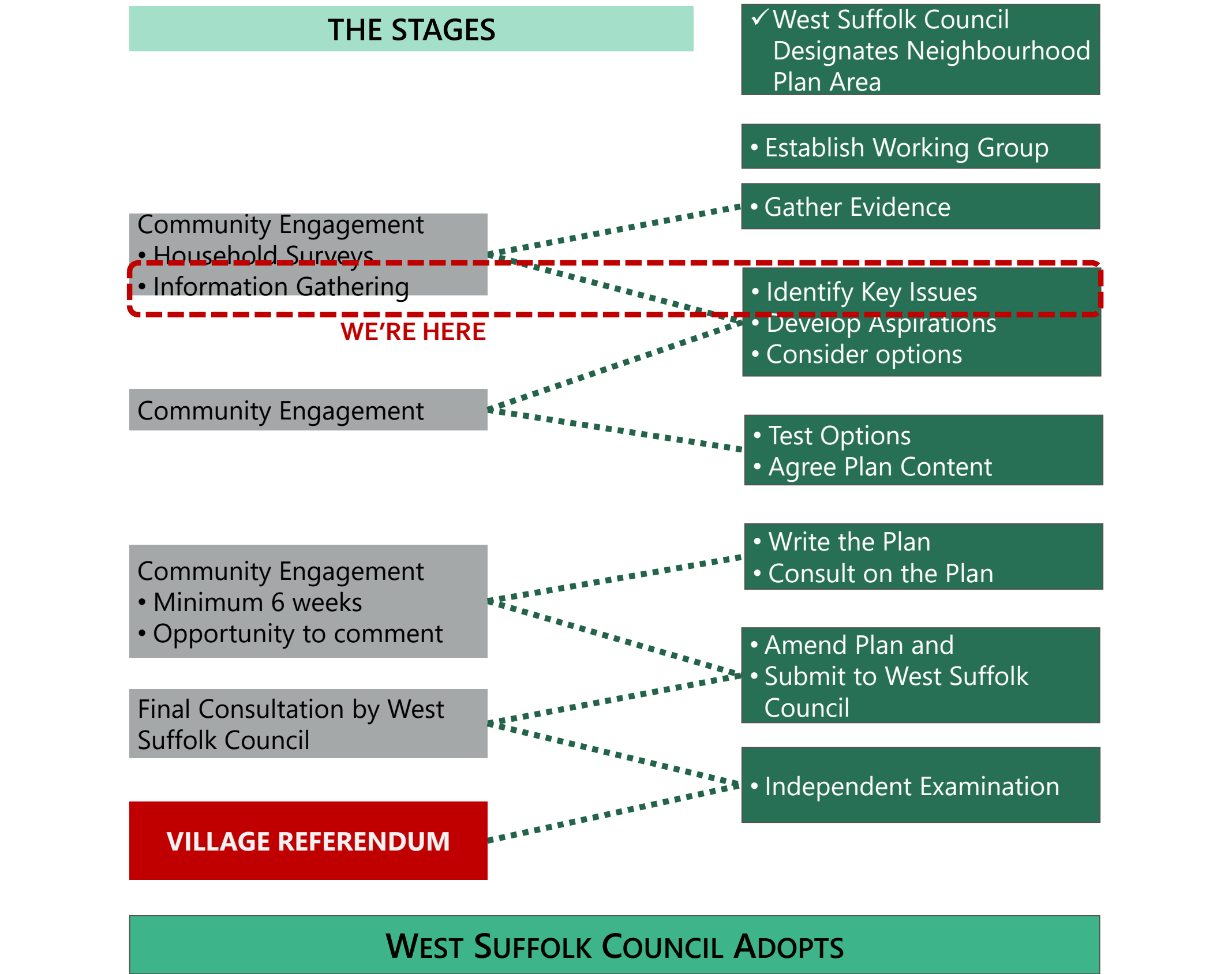


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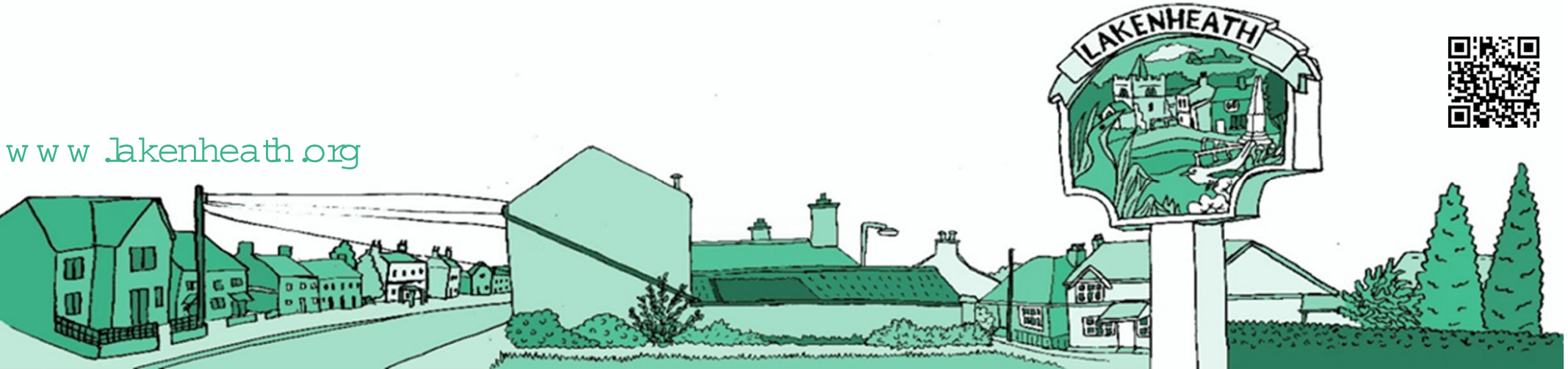
How it's being prepared

The preparation of the Plan needs to follow certain stages in order to abide by Government Regulations.

We've made good progress since starting last year and it is anticipated that the whole project should be finished in 2022.



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Sport and Leisure

Lakenheath has lots to offer in Sport and Leisure!

We have three Football Clubs including the current holders of the Suffolk Senior Cup, (who are now in the FA Cup contest) and juniors are seen regularly on the Playing Field. The senior teams play at the 'Nest' in Back Street; they share the site with the popular Indoor Bowls Club and it is also home to the Scout Hut.



Sport and fitness were top of the "what we like to see". Survey results. With the new Hub opening in Mildenhall, we not going to get a Swimming Pool, but we are already talking about a Trim Trail (outdoor gym equipment) on the Playing Field. The Eriswell Road play area has had a recent upgrade and we have a second play area in Briscoe Way.

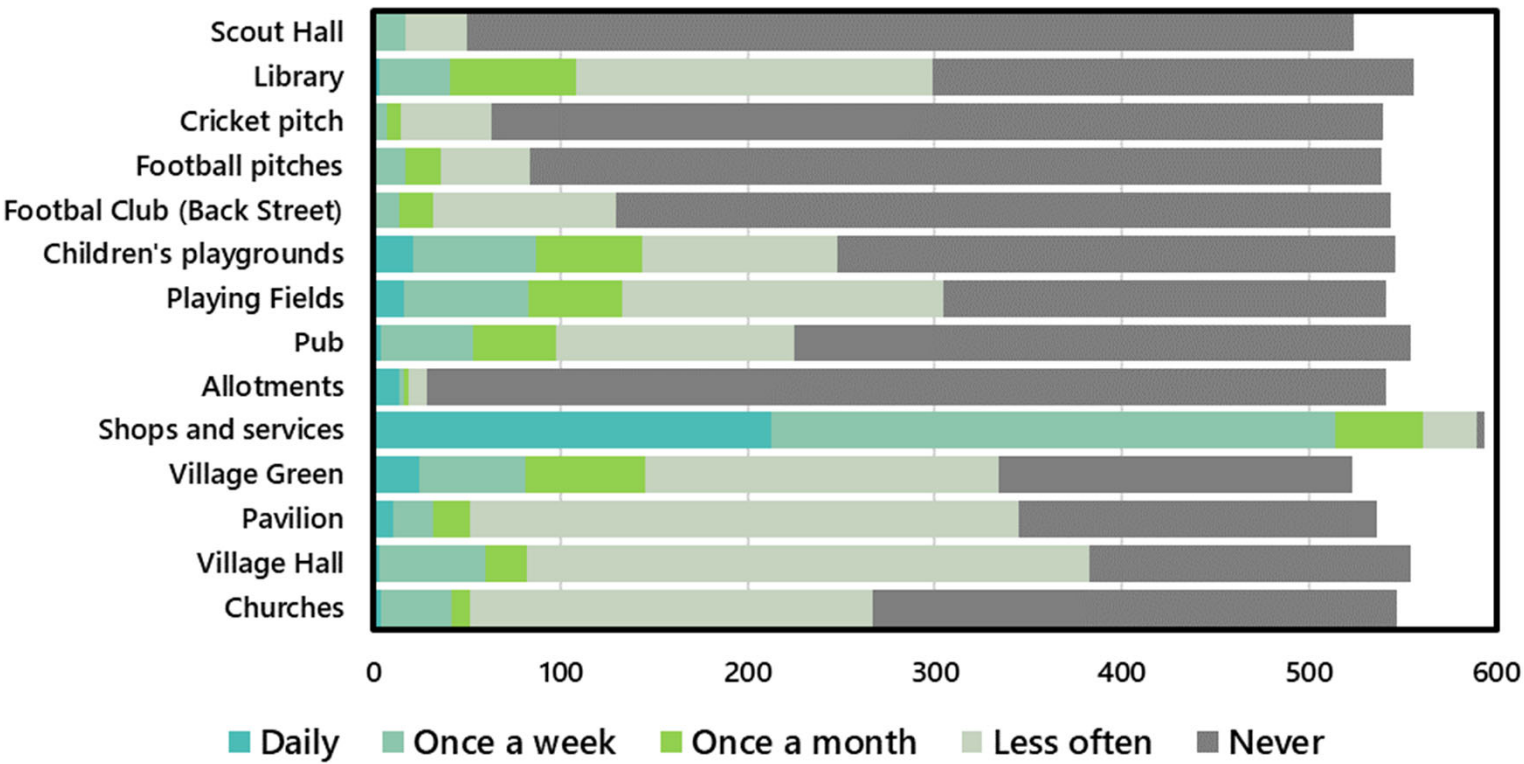
The Village Hall & Community Centre hosts Self Defence and Kick Boxing, along with a range of Fitness and Wellbeing activities, and of course there are Lakenheath Parish Walks.



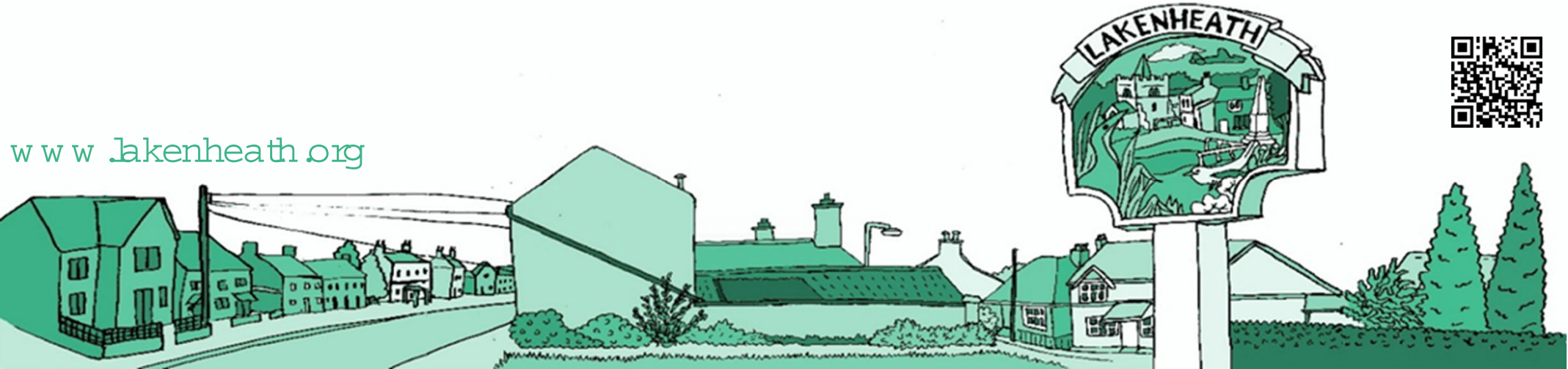
We're also talking about 'Drop In' possibilities at the Village Hall to complement their other Community activities alongside the Friendship Club and similar activities in our Church Halls.

Work is well under way to convert the Baptist Chapel at Sedge Fen to a community facility

Which of our present facilities do you use and how often?



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Traffic and Parking

A Neighbourhood Plan can't directly propose improvements to roads and road building, but we can lobby for improvements if we can demonstrate there is evidence and support for it.

As most of you will know we have two speed indicator devices (SID's) and a dedicated team of speed-watch volunteers who go out regularly in different parts of the village. Most vehicles do slow down when they are spotted, although some do still ignore it, and once past the radar, it is soon forgotten.



We have contacted Suffolk County Council asking for advice on types of suitable traffic calming. They have told us they will only consider Entry Gateways Road narrowing's, Priority Systems, road markings or Vehicular Activated Signs (not SIDS).

We have continually lobbied Suffolk Police to use their mobile Safety cameras, and the Police camera arrived in Lakenheath for the first time last week!

We will not give up! We are doing our best to get something done to improve safety in our lovely village, especially as we will have about a thousand extra cars on the road with the proposed housing developments



The Survey showed that residents felt that Traffic, Parking and the Roads themselves were among the main issues which spoiled Lakenheath.

Following the Survey we are looking at permanent traffic calming measures, in particular on the main road at both ends of the village, in Eriswell Rd. and Station Rd.

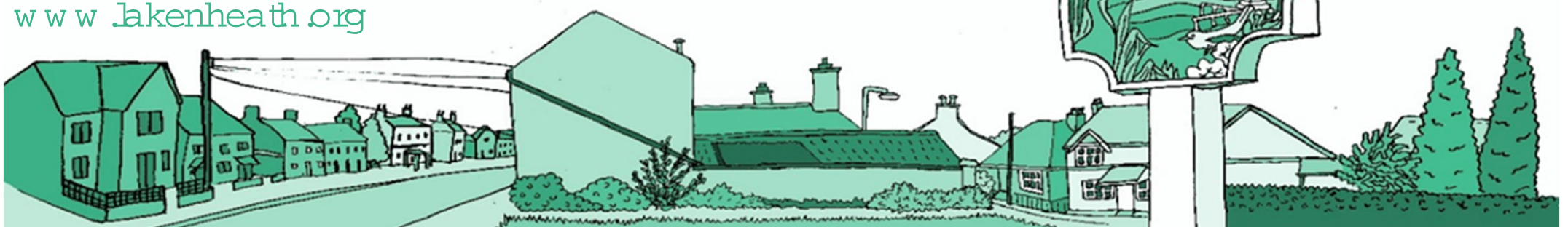
Unless the County Council believe it can be justified in terms of injury accident reduction, funding would have to be found from a parish precept, our County Councillor's local highway budget or another funding source.!



Like speeding, parking should be a matter of personal responsibility, but unless there are sanctions for offenders the risk to residents will grow, especially outside the Co-op.

West Suffolk District Council are responsible for enforcement and one of our District Councillors is discussing options for Parking Enforcement Officers visiting the village on a more regular basis, or even the possibility of us funding our own officer.

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Greener Lakenheath

You said....

Lakenheath is lovely with great views and opportunities for enjoying countryside walks, but some things could be improved such as footpaths, signage, litter and dog fouling



So we have....

.....started working with Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils and the RSPB, looking at our footpaths and the signage

.....looked at tree planting (the Jubilee scheme) and planting bulbs along the verges on Station and Eriswell Roads

....looked at the survey results with a view to have 'Local Green Spaces' listed in the Plan. These must be "close to the Community, demonstrably special and having particular significance to the Community and not an extensive tract of land."

...identified Important Views which create the distinct character of Lakenheath and how it sits within the surrounding landscape

...run the first of our new organised regular Litter Picks with volunteers from the village. While not a new idea, we now have more volunteers and we will be running them a number of times every year. We should acknowledge the residents who, outside the organised events, continue to clear litter daily to improve the Lakenheath for us all.



This is a potentially massive piece of work which will run for years. Let us know if you would like to be part of it!

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