

Barton Mills Parish Council Planning Policy

8th March 2021

This statement forms the Barton Mills Parish Council Planning Policy and is an informal statement of our methods of our views and operation. It forms a view going forward on from March 2021, over the next few years. This statement was approved at the Parish Council meeting on 2nd March 2021.

1. The Parish council may adjust this policy at any date in time and may object or not object to individual applications which do not necessarily adhere to this policy.
2. At the Annual General Meeting of the Council, the Parish Council will appoint a Councillor with a responsibility for planning who will take a more in-depth investigation in planning matters, in order to advise the Council.
3. The Parish Council will consider and comment on all applications within the Parish and occasionally on those outside the Parish which have an impact on the Parish. The Parish Council will attempt to make constructive comments rather than just “object or support”.
 - a. Unless the Parish Council see a specific reason, they will not normally comment on ‘Tree applications’, in the expectation that the District Tree Officer will make a professional judgement.
 - b. The Parish Council will take into account relevant County, District and Parish policies and will pay particular attention to the village settlement boundary when considering any comments.
 - c. The Parish Council will consider any comments by the District and County Councillor who may have specific knowledge on applications when considering any comments.
 - d. The Parish Council would expect that the District and County Councillors will support the Parish Council views, although they are under no obligation to do so.
4. The Parish Council acknowledge that District Council policy is heavily influenced by the current settlement boundary and that in addition individual applications will carry more scrutiny when inside the village conservation area.
5. Barton Mills is formerly designated as a “secondary village” and County guidelines therefore, is against any significant development outside the settlement boundary or changes to the settlement boundary.
6. The Parish Council is in favour of modest and controlled development, in order to ensure that the village remains vibrant. This was reflected in the most recent Village Plan from 2002 which had around 75% in favour of small, limited or modest development. The Village Settlement boundary has been almost unchanged since the 1980’s and there is very little infill now available to enable the village to expand.
7. The Parish Council did not make comment on the recent settlement boundary review as no amendments were made that affected the Parish.
8. The Parish Council have commented on the recent “call for sites” and are in favour of sites WS017, land west of Church Lane, WS018, land rear of 21 Mildenhall Road. The Parish Council against the inclusion of sites WS015 and WS016, land at the end of Grange Lane
9. The Parish Council had indicated provisional support for the development of the Suffolk County Council field behind the existing PC exception site. This was under the strict condition that more substantial detail on the proposal should be supplied as the current proposal did not meet planning or commercial requirements.
10. The Parish Council had indicated provisional support for the development of the balance of the car boot field based on the drawing supplied. This was under the strict condition that the scheme should not be a high density, sound limiting against the A11 proposal should be supplied and other factors such a reduced speed limit on the Newmarket Road included.
11. The Parish Council are at an advanced stage on pursuing an exception site housing scheme (priority for villagers) scheme in the North Western corner of the car boot field. It is planned that this will provide around 15 homes for rental and shared ownership for people with local connections.
12. The Parish Council are in the early stages of investigating a formal “Parish Neighbourhood Plan”.