



Whitby Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2040

Public Consultation 1st Dec 2025 - 30th Jan 2026

Available to View at
Whitby Library
Flowergate Hall
Eastside Centre

View and Respond ONLINE at
**[https://www.whitbycommunitynetwork.org/
whitby-neighbourhood-plan-draft-consultation](https://www.whitbycommunitynetwork.org/whitby-neighbourhood-plan-draft-consultation)**



Dear Residents,

In September 2022, subsequent to a Town Poll involving a question over second homes and holiday lets, Whitby Town Council voted to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan. It took until January 2024 until this process finally moved forward. A Steering Group was established made up of WTC Councillors, as well as members of the community, chaired by a Whitby Community Network CIC (WCN) director, with the web page for the process hosted by the same organisation.

Since that point the Steering Group has undertaken many surveys of the public, formulating ideas of how to restrict the problems impacting on the town, whilst at the same time guiding development in a direction that would benefit the diverse needs of the people who live and work here. We are pleased to say that we now have a DRAFT Whitby Neighbourhood Plan and now want the public's views on this Plan, before it is sent to North Yorkshire Council (NYC).

Why does Whitby parish need a Neighbourhood Plan?

Development is dictated by a Local Plan, but communities can add additional constraints using a Neighbourhood Plan to define how it applies to their locality. So why does Whitby parish need one?



During the development of this plan, the Steering Group commissioned a “Housing Needs Survey”. This revealed that ***up to 44.5% of all dwellings had no permanent resident!*** The scale is shocking. It highlights how residents needs are not being catered for by the current Local Plan, or current NYC and UK government strategy.



The green space analysis performed by WCN also highlighted that the parish is nearly below minimum standard in terms of green space provision – significant numbers of residents simply do not have open spaces that they can go to and enjoy. This was highlighted recently by ***a proposal by NYC to sell off and build yet more houses on the grass open space opposite the Whitby GP surgery*** – precisely the type of space that needs to be preserved for residents.

The DRAFT Consultation

This important stage invites residents, businesses, and community groups to share their views on the draft plan that will shape the future of Whitby for the next 15–20 years. The Plan sets out locally driven planning policies to guide development, protect heritage, and enhance community infrastructure. Policies cover housing, design, green spaces, heritage, active travel, accessibility, business, tourism, and climate change.

The consultation is open from 01 Dec 2025 until 30 Jan 2026. Details of the consultation including how to make comments on the plan can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan web page:

- <https://www.whitbycommunitynetwork.org/whitby-neighbourhood-plan-draft-consultation/>

Hard copies are also available to read at Whitby Library, Flowergate Hall, and Eastside Community Centre.

As this is a formal stage, comments on the plan must be made in writing, preferably either using the web-form from the above web page, or using the response form and emailing it to the email address whitbynplan@gmail.com. Hard copy responses will be collected from the relevant venue.

What will happen after this consultation?

Subsequent to this consultation the Plan will be reviewed/amended if required, then formally submitted to NYC. NYC will then undertake a further formal Public Consultation, followed by the Plan having an independent examination. The process concludes with a Referendum for the people of Whitby Parish, with a simple majority needed, before the Plan is adopted by NYC. We would hope for this to occur in late 2026.

Thank you.