

Notes on meeting held on Saturday 25th July 2026 to update residents on the analysis of the feedback given in the Housing Needs Survey conducted with the village earlier in the month.

55 villagers attended the meeting.

Paul Presland welcomed everybody and chaired the meeting. Thanks were offered to villagers who completed the survey and to members of the NNP working party for analysing the recent Newton Housing Survey.

1. Introductory discussion around the main findings of the survey, the findings of which are attached. Chair explained the importance of allocating sites to Neighbourhood Plans because it gives communities a legal voice in deciding where new building should go. The current NP expires in Feb 27 and out of date Plans carry no authority.
2. New plans will only be accepted if they allocate sites. Possible sites were in the survey and a lengthy discussion took place about respondents' views.
3. Chair reassured villagers that the views of the meeting were just as important as those of the survey respondents.

The following points were made at the meeting.

1. Roundabouts needed at end of Valley Road and Hadleigh Road.
2. Concern about large scale developments destroying the village feel.
3. Smaller infill sites would be better.
4. Any new builds need to be in keeping with recent developments.
5. To remain a village, linear development should be preferred with small scale infills.
6. Important for Zebra crossing to go ahead but with additional traffic calming.
7. Has Babergh met its building requirements for building on grey and brown sites.
8. How many houses could be built on the sites identified as possible sites.
9. When will Babergh decide on which sites meet its housing criteria.
10. New plan should encourage people from the locality eg Cornard and Sudbury to move to Newton.
11. Infill sites easier to manage the building programme and retain our village feel.
12. Large sites will have tendency to keep expanding.
13. What will be the impact of extra building on our BUAB?
14. Little Green Court is a perfect example of a small tasteful infill site.
15. Traffic's speed on A134 needs controlling before anymore building.
16. Should Newton have a by-pass by 2045?
17. New facilities must accompany new building
18. Saracens Head should remain a community asset.
19. Should we have a primary school in the village to attract younger people?
20. Has Babergh ever met its building targets?
21. Will the Labour Gov. ever meet its building target?
22. Need for more affordable homes in the village.
23. Important that new infrastructure supports all new builds, e.g., connected to main sewage systems.

Chair thanked everybody for their contributions and because Babergh expects to make decisions on appropriate sites by the Autumn, it was agreed to hold another village meeting in late Sept / early October 2026