

# *NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN*

*ARNE PARISH 2018 - 2034*





# OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISION

***Arne Parish has a unique natural environment formed by past cultural, economic, social, industrial and agricultural practices. While recognising and protecting its heritage, we seek to ensure the long term sustainability and viability of the parish through environmental and economic measures that will develop the community and its charm, so that all its residents, young or old, will continue to live in a community where they feel safe, cared for and happy.***



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This first Arne Parish Neighbourhood Plan follows a series of initiatives to canvass the opinions and desires of residents living in the parish. These views have been invaluable in establishing priorities for the future of the parish up until 2034 and are summarised as follows:

- 1.1 Arne Parish is a very special place in which to live, work and visit. Its long-term sustainability is crucial and its character must be protected.
- 1.2 Arne Parish Council is cognisant of the pressure for additional housing in the United Kingdom.
- 1.3 Within the parish, there is an appetite for a limited amount of small scale housing development of good quality and sustainable in design, and in keeping with the local character and distinctiveness of the area. This is needed to meet the needs of local residents and their close relatives. New housing must be closely integrated within existing communities.
- 1.4 More affordable housing would be attractive particularly to local young people with families, and people with limited incomes. Accordingly, Arne Parish Council, will support an element of affordable housing, ensuring that it remains as affordable housing stock for local people in perpetuity.
- 1.5 Measures to ensure sustainable development, e.g rainwater harvesting, solar gain, will be supported.
- 1.6 Other than in exceptional cases, future development should be infill within the existing

settlement boundaries to support the unique character of the villages and protect the open countryside.

- 1.7 Ecological sites within the parish are important and understandably attract both local people and visitors. The integrity of these sites must be protected.
- 1.8 The risk of flooding is of concern to residents. Future planning applications must address and meet these concerns.
- 1.9 Stoborough Primary School is an important community facility and will be given full support when adapting to future needs.
- 1.10 Existing local businesses are strongly supported. The need to attract new enterprises is recognised, thereby maximising employment opportunities.
- 1.11 Residents recognise that tourism is important to the economy of the parish. A reasonable balance needs to be struck to ensure that there is no adverse effect on areas of local beauty and tranquility.
- 1.12 The Plan identifies existing green spaces and community facilities which will be protected.
- 1.13 Proposals that allow community facilities to modernise and adapt to future needs will be supported, where appropriate.
- 1.14 The Plan identifies several projects that could be addressed, e.g. in the areas of road safety, crime prevention, police liaison, youth engagement, faster broadband, and health and social care issues.

## CONTENTS

Our Parish	P. 5
History of the Parish	P. 6
Environmental Background	P. 8
Housing Background	P.10
Development Constraints	P.11
Policies	P. 14
Projects	P. 24

## 2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Neighbourhood planning originates from the Localism Act of 2011. The idea behind localism is that decision-making is passed to a more local level, from local government to local communities. A neighbourhood plan is a community-led planning framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It focuses on the use and development of land and will be part of the statutory development plan for an area, if successful at referendum. This statutory status gives neighbourhood plans far more weight than some other local documents, such as parish plans, community plans and village design statements. As such, a neighbourhood plan is a powerful tool in shaping the development of a community.

2.2 Arne Parish Council published its intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan at a council meeting in July 2013. A steering group was set up in January 2014 with a membership largely of Parish Councillors but also other community representatives from within the parish. Reporting to the Steering Group, seven working groups were set up to explore various areas of parish life. These groups were a) Environment, b) Housing, c) Traffic management and accessibility, d) Crime and Policing, e) Health, f) Community Well-being and g) Business and Employment. Each of these groups met regularly to identify the issues within their area of consideration. Although some of their findings have not converted to policies, many of their issues have been identified as projects for future Parish Council action.

2.3 From the outset, it became very clear that the work carried out by the housing working party would form the larger part of the Neighbourhood Plan, in terms of planning and development, and this is evidenced within the policies in this document.

2.4 The Steering Group has intensively scrutinised all the available, potentially suitable areas for development within the parish, based on the information in what is known as the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) produced by Purbeck District Council. The sites were identified as a result of its canvassing of local landowners and developers, followed by their appraisal by the District Council's Planning team.

2.5 Additionally, the Parish Council has conducted a programme of community engagement, consulting widely with residents via, for example, open public forums held in April 2014 and November 2014. It has also sought the views of its residents through a detailed Arne Parish Neighbourhood Plan Survey distributed to all households in October 2014, completed by an estimated 65% of households.

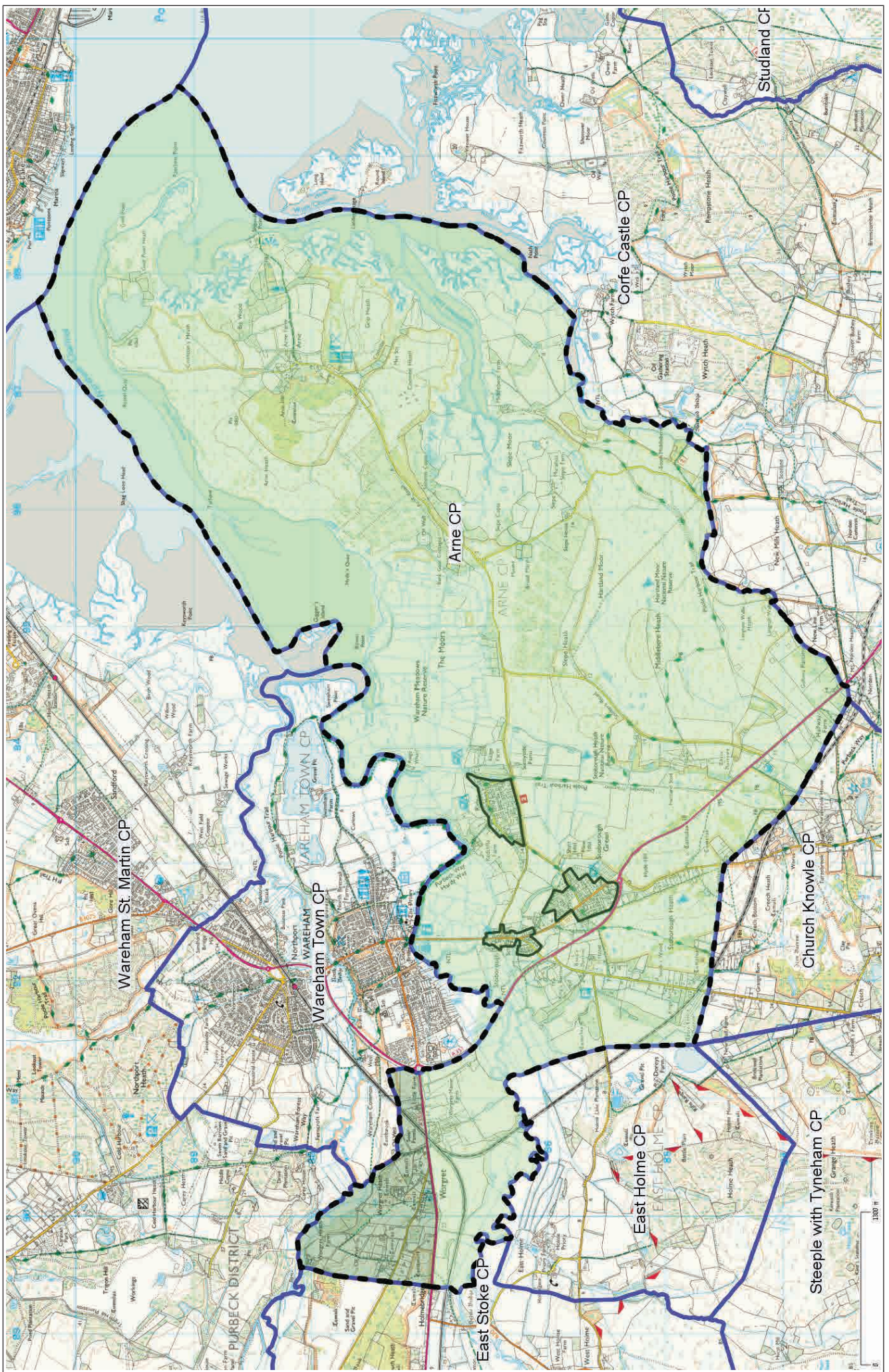
2.6 Two 'drop-ins', seeking the views of residents about possible developments at two sites in West Lane, Stoborough, were also held in June 2016.

2.7 A significant and proportionate evidence base, including data collected through our Neighbourhood Plan survey and the community meetings, together with a review of the Parish Plans of 2003 and 2010 and new research has helped to make sure that policies outlined in our Neighbourhood Plan are based on a proper understanding of the area; it assures that the policies reflect the views, aspirations, wants and needs of our local people. Other sources of evidence that have been scrutinised, include Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Conservation Area Appraisal, Heritage Asset designation descriptions, Public Rights of Way information, Dorset Rural Services survey, Housing Needs review and Local Green Spaces assessment.

2.8 This Neighbourhood Plan is part of the development plan for Arne Parish for the period 2018 to 2034 alongside the adopted Purbeck Local Plan and Minerals and Waste Plans. Its main function is to guide decisions on planning applications, which legally should be made in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise. It also provides a record of community views and projects that may usefully be taken into account in all matters affecting Arne Parish.

***The Parish Council extends its thanks to Stoborough Primary School for its support in providing meeting spaces for our public consultations and for the very regular meetings of the Steering Group.***





Map 1: Arne Parish Boundary - AONB area highlighted in pale green - darker green to North-West Green Belt



### 3. OUR PARISH

3.1 Arne is a rural parish which borders the southern boundary of Wareham Town, separated by the River Frome, and extends eastwards along the Wareham Channel out to the edge of Poole Harbour at Arne. (Wareham, with a population circa 5,500, is one of the major centres in the district of Purbeck.)



**Above: River Frome at Redcliffe and right: c1900**

The 2011 census shows the total population of Arne parish as 1,399 with an almost equal male/female balance. 182 residents are between 0-15 years old, with 733 between 16-64. There is a significantly high proportion of residents over 65 years of age, representing 31.7% of the Arne population, compared with 18% nationally. 563 residents were in employment with 51.3% in high skilled occupations. 80.9% of households are owner occupied, with 6.6% in public rented accommodation and 11.4% in privately rented homes. 2015/16 Council Tax records shows the total number of properties in the parish is 634, with 4.7% as second homes and no long-term-empty homes.

3.2 Development in Arne Parish is highly constrained by policy restrictions. Areas of national or higher nature conservation and AONB landscape cover almost the entire parish - with the exception of land to the north of the A352 Wareham Road at Worgret, much of which has Green Belt status. There are also flood risk zones which must be avoided.

3.3 Residents appreciate this exceptional environment and acknowledge the responsibility they have to protect it for future generations who choose to live and work in and visit the area. They want to keep and, if possible, improve the range of community facilities such as the primary school, the village hall, the church at Arne and the variety of assets that the community has identified as exceptional.

3.4 They also want to ensure that the management of traffic around the parish is controlled for the safety of all residents, particularly school children, and to work with local police to ensure new development helps to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime.

3.5 Residents recognise that local businesses and tourism are important to the economy of the parish



and they want to support the emergence of a sustainable economy which meets local employment needs, supporting those existing businesses whilst attracting new enterprises, providing they are in keeping with the special qualities of the area.

3.6 Significantly, residents see the need for modest growth in housing, provided it is controlled, designs are in keeping with the character of existing settlements, and the sustainability of the parish is enhanced.

3.7 In particular, additional housing should meet the needs of local people who wish to remain in the area. Affordability, especially for young people looking to establish homes and send their children to the local school is a major focus. Additionally, residents wish to support and sustain the vitality and health of older residents, who currently live in the parish, some of whom may wish to down-size without leaving the area and are looking for housing which will meet their needs. This Neighbourhood Plan aims to reflect these concerns and many others highlighted by our committed and enthusiastic residents. The consultation effort in preparing the Plan has been considerable and is detailed in the introduction. Whilst the Plan is in general conformity with the principles of the Purbeck Local Plan, it importantly looks to ensure that, from the date of the Plan being adopted, the views of people living in Arne Parish have a legal status in the planning process, as intended by the Localism Act 2011.

## 4. HISTORY OF THE PARISH

by Ben Buxton, Wareham Town Museum

The history of the parish is full of surprises. For instance, salt was produced on an industrial scale in Roman and medieval times, the first railway in Dorset was built here in 1806, and over 700 bombs rained down on Arne in a single night during the last war.

### Neanderthals

The earliest evidence of humans in the parish is a distinctive type of flint tool made by Neanderthals, a species living in Britain between about 100,000 and 40,000 years ago, before modern humans arrived. It is a hand axe, or cutting tool, found in the Worgret area and can be seen in Wareham Museum. At this time, the geography of the parish would have been rather different: the sea level was much lower and what is now Poole Harbour was a series of river valleys.

For the prehistoric and Roman periods we rely on archaeology. There hasn't been much archaeological work in the parish, but just over the River Frome at Bestwall, excavations in advance of gravel quarrying showed that people were hunting, living and working there from around 8,000 years ago, from the Mesolithic period, up to medieval times.

The heathland which forms so much of the parish developed from early attempts at farming about 3,000-4,000 years ago. Bronze Age farmers began clearing the scrubby woodland to create agricultural land, but the sandy acid soil was soon exhausted. Grazing animals prevented trees growing back, and people cut gorse and turf for fuel, and heather for bedding. These practices continued into the twentieth century. From a historical point of view, heathland is valuable because it preserves signs of past human activity, such as clay and sand pits, tracks and field boundaries. Another legacy of these Bronze Age people is their burial mounds or barrows. One of these, King's Barrow near Grange Road, Stoborough, was used as a convenient source of road material when the turnpike road was built in 1767. The Reverend John Hutchins of Wareham described the remarkable and unique burial: 'the body of the deceased had been wrapped in deer skins, and placed within a section of a hollowed-out trunk of an oak tree.'

Between about 100 BC and AD 400 – the late Iron Age and Roman periods — salt was produced on the shores of Poole Harbour. It was made at Shipstal and Salterns Copse, by boiling sea water in rectangular basins made of the local clay. The Iron Age pottery industry was massively expanded during Roman times to satisfy the demand for tableware from the locals

who adopted the sophisticated Roman way of life. The enterprising potters even won contracts to supply the Roman army on Hadrian's Wall. The pottery is known as Black-Burnished Ware. Pottery kilns have been found on the site of the Wareham by-pass at Worgret, and across the Frome at Bestwall. There was a Roman settlement on the site of Wareham. Pottery was also being made near Redcliffe Farm and east of Stoborough.

After the Romans left Britain around AD 410, the Anglo-Saxons began settling in the east of England. The inhabitants of Dorset resisted their advance, as they had the Roman invasion. West of Worgret there are some enigmatic lengths of bank and ditch – Battery Banks – which may date to this period and could have had some defensive function. By AD 700 the Saxons had taken over Dorset and established a town at Wareham. A mill was built at this time in the valley of the Frome, and was used for grinding grain and crushing iron ore for smelting.

Two of the main settlements in today's parish, Stoborough and Worgret, originated in Saxon times, and they are named in the Domesday book of 1086. Stoborough (originally Stanberge) means "stony hill or barrow" which may refer to the hillock behind the former New Inn on the west side of Corfe Road. Worgret (originally Weregrote) means "gallows for criminals".



Church of St. Nicholas, Arne

Arne is first mentioned in 1268 and means either a building, or 'heap of stones or tumulus', which may refer to Arne Hill or the bronze age tumulus (barrow) on the hill. At the time, Arne was owned by Shaftesbury Abbey, and 20 of its tenants were producing salt, using lead containers for boiling seawater. The Church of St Nicholas was built in about 1200, when there must have been quite a large population in the area. It was the centre of the medieval parish of Arne, but this was later incorporated into the parish of Holy Trinity,

Wareham. This included Stoborough, which never had a place of worship. The present form of the parish dates to 1894.

There was a hunting lodge at Slepe in medieval times, when the whole of the Isle of Purbeck was a hunting area (forest). Later, in the 16th century, rabbits were farmed at Middlebere.

In the 17th century Purbeck ball clay became valuable. Tobacco smoking and tea drinking were becoming popular, and fine quality Purbeck clay was ideal for clay pipes and teacups. The Manor of Arne - a Saxon system of landholding - became valuable, and attracted merchants from Poole. Thomas Hyde contracted to supply Wedgwood, the maker of fine ceramics in Stoke-on-Trent, with clay and in about 1768 built a pier - Hyde's Quay - on the Wareham Channel to export clay. We now think of Arne as remote but at that time it was closely linked to Poole, and there was a ferry to Poole from Gold Point. Agricultural improvements were also taking place: heathland was being reclaimed for arable farming and grazing at Arne village and Slepe. Land was also reclaimed from the sea, such as at Arne Moors in the late 18th century.



**The revolutionary plateway c1895**

In 1806 a railway, the first in Dorset and only the second in the south of England, was built here. Benjamin Fayle built the line, technically a plateway, to revolutionise the transport of clay from pits at Norden to a quay at Middlebere, in order to beat his competitors the Pike Brothers. The Pikes built their own line from a pit at Furzebrook - now the Blue Pool - to a quay at Ridge Wharf, in 1840. Clay was dug in pits and mines in the parish until about 2008 when the pit at Arne closed.

Another industry came to Ridge in 1875, when Thomas Powell opened a Portland cement works. Chalk and marl were brought from Cocknowle and fired in kilns; Old Kiln Road in Ridge preserves the name.

During the First World War there was a huge army camp at Worgret, housing troops in wooden huts while

they trained before being sent to the front. The Second World War affected the parish in various ways. Ridge Wharf was commandeered by the navy for servicing landing craft, and the clay railway closed. A battery of four anti-aircraft guns was built on the top of Arne Hill, part of the defences of the cordite factory at Holton Heath. A decoy was built near Bank Gate cottages, the idea being that as soon as German planes began a night attack on the factory, the decoy - a mock-up factory building - would be lit to make the pilots of following planes think that was the target, and aim at it. On the night of 3rd June 1942 this worked so well that the Arne peninsula was hit by over 700 bombs. Remarkably, no-one was seriously hurt. A month later, the whole peninsula was taken over by the army for military training and all the inhabitants had to leave. They were allowed back after the war, although most buildings were severely damaged, and houses at Shipstal, Slepe and Coombe were not reoccupied.

Since the Second World War, there have been developments in housing, roads, recreation and tourism. Before the war, housing had been built on a piecemeal, ad hoc basis. After 1945, Stoborough and Ridge were the focus of housing development. The local authority houses at Stoborough Green were built between 1946 and 1952. Scott Close was added in 1994. Hollow Oak Road was built in 1958 with scientists and engineers at the new atomic research establishment at Winfrith in mind. Oak Tree Close and Tuckers Mill Close followed in the 1960s, and developments at Ridge in the 1970s. Stoborough Meadow was built between 1995 and 2000.

Over the years, tourism has continued to expand. The Lookout Holiday Park opened in 1950 and now consists of over 240 pitches. Like many other parishes within Purbeck, there is an increasing tendency for houses within Arne Parish to be holiday homes. Ridge Wharf became a boat yard in the 1950s. While the clay industry has declined, oil arrived in the 1970s, with oil wells at Worgret and Arne, and the railhead at Furzebrook for the export of natural gas by rail. This closed in about 2005. The southern section of the Wareham bypass opened in 1988.

Stoborough has always been the biggest single settlement in the parish. In 1643, during the Civil War, the people "willingly permitted our town of a hundred families to be burned" by the Parliamentary forces occupying Wareham to prevent the Royalists from using it as a base for besieging Wareham. There were serious fires in 1816 and 1817; in the latter, a tannery was destroyed. A visitor in 1850 wrote of Stoborough: "To do Justice to the filthy aggregate of human dwell-



ings passing under that name is scarcely possible. There are hardly half-a-dozen houses in it fit to be inhabited, and yet almost every hovel swarms with more than its proper complement of inmates.” The school was built in 1874, following the Education Act of 1870. This served Arne from 1922, when its own school closed. The first village hall was brought to the green in 1920, in the form of a large wooden hut from the former army camp at Worgret. This was replaced by the present hall in 1956. There was also a hall at Worgret from the 1930s to the 1960s.



**Stoborough 1908**

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

5.1 As you head south past the Saxon walls of Wareham and then cross the River Frome into Arne Parish, you enter the most botanically biodiverse countryside of England. Your attention is taken by the stunning views, particularly across water at high tide, often with waterfowl, deer and the cattle that graze and so effectively maintain the pasture. One is able to appreciate that the Isle of Purbeck was cut off from the mainland by bog and water but is now conjoined to the mainland by two bridges. Arne Parish Council believes that this landscape must be maintained.



**Stoborough Heath**



**Wareham Channel from Slepe Heath**

5.2 Arne Parish covers 2,483 hectares, of which three-quarters have international protection designations. Three national nature reserves, Arne Reed beds, Hartland Moor, and Stoborough Heath, are managed by Natural England. Sites of Special Scientific Interest include: Arne, Blue Pool & Norden Heaths, Hartland Moor, Poole Harbour, the River Frome, Stoborough and Creech Heaths, the Moors, Wareham Meadows and Worgret Heath. These areas are under the management of Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust and RSPB among others. Many of these also have Ramsar designation, in line with an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Slepe Heath is now under the management of the National Trust and has been opened to the public.

5.3 The northern side of Stoborough and Stoborough Green and extensive parts of the moors are flood plains. Along with landowners, the Environment Agency is responsible for managing risks from flooding arising from main rivers and the sea; Dorset County Council is responsible for managing risks from flooding arising from ordinary water courses - ditches, culverts, streams/rivers, surface water and ground water as well as managing highway drainage and roadside ditches; Dorset County Council is also responsible for coastal erosion risk management, whilst Wessex Water is responsible for management of flooding from foul sewers.

5.4 The natural beauty of the Purbeck area has attracted green tourism and the industries associated with conservation. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy the landscape, with the parish included in part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage package for tourists. This has a beneficial impact on employment in the area. These effects are valued by residents.

5.5 Residents value their environment for



recreation, for encouraging tourism, for aesthetic reasons and for reducing hazards such as flooding. The strength of support for the environment has increased over the years.

5.6 The largest part of Arne Parish consists of land with international protection, e.g. Heathland under the EC Habitats Directive and other national designations, as recognised in the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 (2012).

5.7 Residents are largely willing to encourage careful expansion of both green tourism and small scale businesses, if the rural ambience associated with farming is maintained.



**Dartford Warbler**



5.8 Farming plays a very important role in the management of the countryside, for example the maintenance of the water meadows and drainage that diverts and absorbs water in ways that minimise flooding, and less intensive stock-farming that uses less fertiliser than more intensive or arable agriculture. Such farming needs adequate flood-free land for grazing in winter.



5.9 Residents are in favour of measures to improve the environment of the parish, including measures to restore wild-flowers that are currently rare, managing and planting new trees and woodlands and improving access to the countryside to allow people to understand and enjoy its many benefits.

**View from Middlebere Lake**



## 6. HOUSING BACKGROUND

6.1 Arne Parish Council is cognisant of the pressure for additional housing in the United Kingdom. The Parish also has its own relatively modest demands for new-build housing to support the needs of the local community.

6.2 To help determine future housing policy for the Parish, the Council has consulted widely with residents via open public forums in April 2014 and November 2014, and also sought the views of its residents through a detailed Neighbourhood Plan Survey distributed to all households in October 2014.

6.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Survey addressed the demand for housing development by asking about the need for, quality of and size of desired development. Careful analysis of the data received from these information and opinion-gathering exercises provided clear evidence for additional small-scale housing that would meet the needs of local residents and/ or their close relatives - about thirty new housing units. There was also an indication of approximately 30% of households in the parish needing to move within the next five years associated with a requirement to 'downsize' due to ageing.

6.4 The vast majority, 71% of respondents, indicated a preference for up to thirty homes over the lifetime of this Plan, some of which must be affordable for local people and their families - and must be closely integrated with existing communities. It is evident that residents of the Parish strongly support 'small pockets of new housing, rural in nature,' to meet the needs of local people.

6.5 Analysis of all the various data sources suggests that a reasonable housing target for Arne Parish would be four to six new dwellings per annum to 2034 with an overall cap set at thirty. A lower target could be considered if opportunities for rural exception sites were prioritised. As population projections suggest that the number of older residents is likely to increase in comparison to other age groups, and the local housing stock has many large family homes, the housing sites and mix should favour smaller one or two bedroom homes, particularly geared towards affordability and the needs of the elderly.

6.6 The Council now seeks to promote and support the principle of 'in-fill' development together with rural exception sites adjoining existing settlements within the Parish where affordable homes can be built on smaller sites which may accommodate one, two

or, perhaps, three properties which will be suitable for the expressed needs of local people. Based on this principle, applications can be judged on their merits, and how they comply with the general housing policies contained in this Plan.

### 6.7 Economic Growth

Support should be given to proposals that would stimulate economic growth in the parish provided that they do not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment (including landscape and wildlife designations), residential amenity or from traffic movements. This may include the intensification, expansion or re-use of existing, redundant or derelict employment sites (for B class and similar uses), or new small-scale employment sites, or provision to allow working from home, especially if the proposed development is well related to existing buildings and accessible on foot or by cycle or public transport to an existing settlement.

6.7.1 This Neighbourhood Plan wishes to create the environment to stimulate economic growth in the parish, thus creating jobs and prosperity and reducing the need for people to travel long distances to work.

6.7.2 Small businesses in the parish are based around tourism, including a hotel and two public houses, agriculture, mining, small-scale manufacturing (including boat-building, electronics and software), and nature conservation. There is minimal unemployment in the parish. More than half of Arne Parish residents are retired. Most residents who do work are employed in public service - local government, education, and the NHS. Other employment is in manufacturing, retail, financial services, agriculture, tourism, construction, and nature conservation together with local mining and associated transport.

6.7.3 There are limited employment opportunities within Arne Parish for these skills and only a very small proportion of residents work for employers in the parish, with a significant proportion working from home. The bulk of residents work in Wareham, Purbeck, Poole or Bournemouth with some working further afield.

6.7.4 Arne Parish Council will nurture existing employment sites and will carefully examine proposals to enhance them; opportunities will be sought to restore derelict or underused business sites to a productive economic role. Additionally, the council will encourage appropriate new business growth in the parish, provided this does not adversely affect residential sites and includes access on foot, cycle or by public transport. Change of use will be considered only if



the existing use is no longer economically viable. The sites most favoured for new business development are in Furzebrook Road and existing outlying buildings.

6.7.5 Using home as a working base for at least part of the week offers benefits for some employees, for example in helping working parents with childcare or other carer responsibilities and clearly, of course for the self-employed. Planning permission for development that enables working from home or within a short distance from the parish must be encouraged.



**Stoborough Rush Hour 2018**

## **7. DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS**

This Plan has throughout its development used Purbeck District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAAs) to guide the availability of potentially suitable development land for future housing needs. Several of these assessments have been published since 2014 and this Plan reflects the latest situation as presented in The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2018.

Principle grounds for exclusion of a site include moderate to high risk of flooding - flood risk zones 2 or 3 - and/or if the site is within 400m of heathland – known as the 400m buffer zone.

Other considerations are whether the site is in the green belt, is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), is in a conservation area, is in a local nature reserve, or in a site of nature conservation.

Sites are also ruled out if they are unrelated to a settlement boundary - national policy discourages isolated homes in the countryside.

### **7.1 Flood Risk Zones**

Arne Parish is delineated to a certain extent by the River Piddle to the north-west but principally by the River Frome to the north and Poole Harbour to the east. In addition, the northern arm of the Corfe River runs through the east of the parish. The resulting flood risk zones are shown in the maps though of course much of this is actual historical flood plain. These areas are shown in blue on Maps 2 and 3 on the next pages. although where the area overlaps an SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest - the area is shown in green.

### **7.2 SSSIs.**

Natural England selects land which it believes has features of special interest, such as its wildlife, geology or landform. Arne Parish has extensive areas of these sites which are shown in green on Maps 2 and 3 below.

### **7.3 400m Buffer Zone**

Much of the parish is protected heathland and the 400m protection zone is indicated on the map of Stoborough and Ridge below - Map 3.

### **7.4 AONB**

The whole of Arne Parish is within the AONB except for a small section to the north of the A352 in Worgret. This small section is, however, in green belt. This boundary is marked by a red line on the map of Worgret - Map 2.

### **7.5 National Nature Reserves**

Arne Parish includes Stoborough Heath and Hartland Moor National Nature Reserves shown in yellow on Maps 2 and 3 and of course there is the RSPB Arne Nature Reserve spreading out to the east of Arne Parish.

### **7.6 Settlement Boundaries**

Arne Parish has three settlement boundaries: Stoborough Village, Stoborough Green and Ridge. Worgret and Arne are described by Purbeck District Council as villages without settlement boundaries. Settlement boundaries are marked in black on Maps 2 and 3.





**Map 2: Worgret**

### 7.7 Sites at Worgret

All the sites indicated in red on Map 2 have been deemed unsuitable in principle in the PDC SHLAA because the sites are not closely related to Wareham or any other settlement boundary. There is also the potential impact on the Dorset AONB of development which is likely to appear prominent and obtrusive in the landscape.

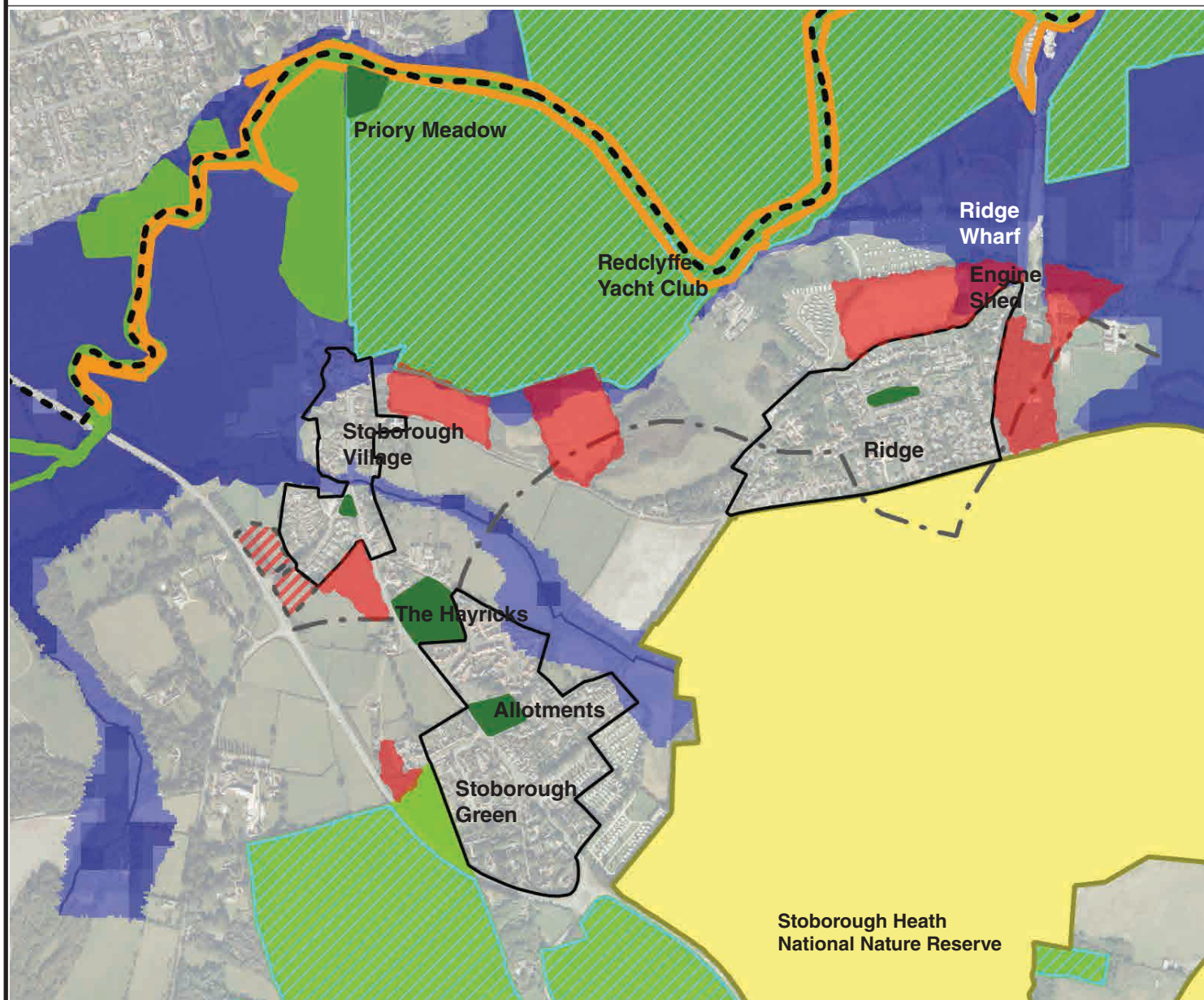
The 2014 survey of Arne Residents independently mirrored these same concerns of isolation, effect on the landscape and the potential scale of proposals at Worgret.

### 7.8 Sites at Ridge and Nutcrack Lane (Map 3)

Ridge does have a settlement boundary and sites that have been excluded in previous SHLAAs are shown in red.

The only site that was confirmed as available was the one to the east of Ridge alongside Sunnyside. However this site was also excluded as Sunnyside creates a strong existing boundary to the eastern edge of the village and breaching this was considered to have a significant landscape impact. Furthermore, the Tree Protection Orders on the site present a significant physical constraint that would be extremely difficult to overcome. This site also includes the listed Engine Shed which local residents are keen to preserve. Furthermore, PDC's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2018 warns that any development on the eastern half of Ridge has the potential to increase flood risk through additional surface water run-off. Any development to the north and east of Ridge may increase flood risk with climate change impacts on fluvial and tidal flooding. There is no mention at all of these sites in the 2018 edition of the SHLAA.












**Map 3: Stoborough and Ridge Settlements**

### 7.9 Sites at Stoborough (Map 3)

The potential site to the south at Stoborough Green is excluded as it is in the 400m heath protection zone. The site just to the north of the protection zone opposite the Hayricks has not been confirmed as available. Neither of these sites has appeared in the 2018 SHLAA.

The development of the two sites alongside West Lane hatched in red on the maps is strongly opposed by local residents due to the existing congested, narrow and unpaved nature of West Lane. However development of these sites is being supported by Purbeck District Council under its proposed small sites policy.

### KEY to Maps 2 and 3

ARNE PARISH BOUNDARY	---
SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY	—
400M HEATH PROTECTION BUFFER ZONE	- - - -
NP EXCLUDED/PDC INCLUDED SITES	
NP/PDC EXCLUDED SITES	
FLOOD RISK ZONES	
VILLAGE GREENS/ALLOTMENTS	
NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES	
SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)	
AONB SOUTH OF BOUNDARY	

## 8. POLICIES

### 8.1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

8.1.1 Affordable housing includes a wide range of schemes including shared equity homes, affordable and social rented homes. The rent or sale price is controlled so that they remain at an affordable price with regard to local incomes, and occupancy is restricted to local people who cannot afford to buy or rent on the open market. Starter homes and affordable private rented schemes are likely to be included as affordable dwellings from 2018.

8.1.2 The local need for housing is set out in Section 6. This policy is intended to apply to all housing sites, although a flexible approach will need to be taken on single dwelling sites and dwellings created through change of use or subdivision, or where other constraints including viability may limit options.

8.1.3 To be eligible for affordable housing, applicants must (i) have lived in the parish for at least five years, or (ii) have a close family connection within the parish.

8.1.4 In allocating affordable housing, in the unlikely scenario that there are no people qualifying with a local connection, applicants resident in the parish for a minimum of 12 months, and residents in the adjoining parishes for the last 5 years where residence has been out of choice, will then be prioritised before cascading to the remaining areas of Purbeck.

8.1.5 The Parish Council supports the second homes policy as detailed in Purbeck District Council's Local Plan.

### POLICY 1: HOUSE TYPES

Housing sites should deliver a mix of home types, taking into account current evidence of local need, and should mainly include affordable housing types, one and two bedroom open market homes, and homes specifically designed for an ageing population - such as sheltered housing and units designed for multigenerational living. Private garden space should be provided where feasible, and should include a mix of sizes. Any affordable housing provision will be subject to planning condition or obligation to ensure that, whenever they become available, they shall first be allocated to those persons with a local connection.



The Causeway



## 8.2 LOCAL CHARACTER POLICY

8.2.1 Arne Parish Council expects proposals to: -

- Positively integrate with their surroundings;
- Reflect the diverse but localised traditions of building materials;
- Avoid and mitigate effects of overshadowing, overlooking and other adverse impacts on local amenity;
- Demonstrate support for biodiversity;
- Reflect the good practice advice, including appropriate densities, contained in the Stoborough Conservation Area appraisal and the Purbeck District Design Guide .

8.2.2 Features of local interest noted through the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan included:

- Engine Shed, Ridge: a charming example of hidden history on the former Furzebrook Railway serving the Ridge Clay Works; a grade II listed building.

- Stoborough Village Pump and War memorial: This was identified as an important undesignated heritage asset during the preparation of this plan - it contains the names of eleven participants in the First World War and seven in the Second.



**Stoborough Village Pump**

## POLICY 2: LOCAL CHARACTER

New development must demonstrate how it responds to its context and the established character of the area and take account of the Purbeck District Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document and Stoborough Conservation Area Appraisal. Development proposals should use materials and appropriate detailing which reflect the local distinctiveness and rural character of Arne Parish.

Harm should be avoided to all heritage assets, taking into account their setting and significance, and including features noted in the Conservation Area Appraisal, the Historic Environment Record and the Stoborough Village Pump and War memorial at the junction of Corfe Road & West Lane. Mature tree specimens should be retained within any development sites with appropriate regard given to their future growth and root protection areas. Additional tree planting will be encouraged as part of any landscaping requirements.

## 8.3 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN POLICY

8.3.1 To reduce risk of flooding, housing applications should be designed to minimise surface water runoff and avoid areas known or likely to be at risk of flooding - including those areas highlighted in Purbeck District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1, January 2018).

8.3.2 To enhance local character and provide additional ecology and climate change benefits, developers should preserve existing mature trees and plant new trees.

8.3.3 The orientation of housing should where practical enable use of insolation (sunlight) for heating and/or PV energy and/or ground-source heating.

## POLICY 3: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Measures that contribute to the sustainability of a development will be supported, including: rainwater harvesting, tree planting, orientation and roofing to maximise the benefits from solar gain.

## 8.4 SMALL SITES POLICY

Analysis of comments received at public open forums and from the Neighbourhood Plan Survey provided evidence of the demand for small-scale housing that would meet the future needs of local residents and their families. There was also an indication of approximately 30% of households in Arne Parish needing to relocate within the next five years associated with a requirement to 'downsize' due to ageing.

A clear majority of respondents indicated a preference for about thirty new homes over the lifetime of this Plan, some of which must be affordable for local

people and their families and closely integrated with existing communities. It is evident that residents of the Parish strongly support 'small pockets of new housing, rural in culture', to meet the needs of local people. It is important that the cumulative effect of the sites does not give rise to significant environmental impacts, most notably to the European heathlands, but also in terms of landscape impact given the significance of AONB and Green Belt designations. This should be avoided subject to careful consideration of the size, location and design of sites, and reinforces the importance of achieving 'small pockets of new housing, rural in culture'.

### POLICY 4: SMALL SITES

Future housing growth in Arne Parish will be limited to small-scale developments to meet local housing need, subject to the following criteria:

- be within, adjoining or otherwise well-related to the defined development boundaries for Stoborough or Ridge, excluding any sites within the 400 metre buffer around protected heathlands
- be in keeping with the distinctive character of Arne Parish and its settlements
- not harm the landscape or settlement character, or heritage designations
- take full account of the potential effect they will have on neighbouring properties
- not be at risk of flooding (including from tidal, river, surface water and ground water sources), or give rise to increased flood risk to properties off-site
- not result in the total supply permitted from small sites exceeding about thirty dwellings in total during the plan period, and no more than twenty dwellings should be permitted in the first five years of the plan being made
- not exceed six dwellings on any one site or eventually become a larger site than six dwellings through the subsequent development of adjacent 'small' sites
- be restricted so that they could not become second homes (for dwellings outside the defined settlement boundary)
- constitute an appropriate mix of sizes of homes in line with Policy 1.

## 8.5 INFILL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

8.5.1 The Parish Council supports the principle of 'infill' development where affordable homes can be built on smaller sites which may accommodate one, two or even three properties suitable for the expressed needs of local people.

Although new homes will not be permitted inside the 400 metre buffer around the protected heathland sites (which therefore rules out the potential for infill

development in Stoborough Green and the north-western part of Ridge), replacement dwellings and non-residential development within these settlements is still acceptable in principle. Similarly, the development of rural exception sites for affordable housing may be permitted outside of these boundaries in accordance with the Local Plan, provided that they are not within the 400 metre buffer around the protected heathland.

### POLICY 5: INFILL DEVELOPMENT

Sympathetic infill development within the defined settlement boundaries of Stoborough, Stoborough Green and Ridge will be supported, provided:

- full account will be taken of the potential effect that it will have on neighbouring properties and on the character of an area, as defined in Policy 2, and the development does not result in a net increase in the number of residential dwellings within the 400 metre buffer around the protected heathland.



## **8.6 SHELTERED HOUSING POLICY**

8.6.1 The main purpose of this policy is to accommodate elderly local residents who need to downsize to suitable accommodation, perhaps with an element of care or warden-led service. Large-scale provision is unlikely to be acceptable and, as a guide, an upper limit of ten units seems appropriate. To be eligible, occupants would normally be 60+ years and in need of some specialist support.

Any planning permission for sheltered housing would be conditioned or subject to a legal agreement to restrict change of use to open market housing.

Communal facilities would be acceptable in principle as part of any scheme and could potentially be available to local residents, if this would assist with their viability.

8.6.2 The type of accommodation envisaged would be classified as C2 use and could possibly be permitted within a 400 metre buffer around the edges of protected heathland. To ensure the cumulative impact does not give rise to significant impacts on the heathland, no more than 20 units should be built under this policy.

### **POLICY 6: SHELTERED HOUSING**

The main purpose of this policy is to accommodate elderly local residents who need to downsize to suitable accommodation, perhaps with an element of care or warden-led service. Large-scale provision is unlikely to be acceptable and, as a guide, an upper limit of 10 units seems appropriate. To be eligible, occupants would normally be 60+ years and in need of some specialist support. Any planning permission for sheltered housing would be conditioned or subject to a legal agreement to restrict change of use to open market housing. Communal facilities would be acceptable in principle as part of any scheme and could potentially be available to local residents, if this would assist with their viability.

## **8.7 MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL SITES**

8.7.1 This policy relates to development proposals that impact on the protection and management of wildlife areas. Its intention is to provide additional socio-economic and cultural benefits if practical and achievable, that will benefit local residents and visitors to the area. It is recognised that the requirements of the policy need to be reasonable and that a balanced approach needs to be struck, in relation to the proposed impact of the development. It is also recognised that,

in addition to development, tourism and recreation can potentially create disturbance or trampling, which would be harmful to the wildlife interest, and this potential adverse impact needs to be avoided and therefore monitored carefully. The policy will encourage sympathetic management of the natural environment in and around the parish to enhance the quality of the landscape, improve biodiversity, and to reduce and manage flood risk.

### **POLICY 7: MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL SITES**

Measures to improve opportunities for visitor access, education and recreation of designated wildlife sites will be supported, provided that such improvements would not adversely affect the integrity of these sites and the surrounding environment.

**8.8 STOBOROUGH SCHOOL POLICY**

8.8.1 Stoborough Primary CE School is an important community facility Arne Parish fully supports. During the academic year 2001-2002 the governors successfully applied to change to Voluntary Aided status in an attempt to further strengthen links with the local church and the Diocese of Salisbury.

Stoborough Primary School is the school of choice for a high proportion of parents in Arne Parish for their children from the age of 5 to 11. Parents can exercise their right to choose from a range of secondary schools within Dorset from the age of 11, but most currently opt for The Purbeck School, and this seems to be an increasing trend. Residents regard the school as an indispensable part of the Parish of Arne, and the headteacher and governors are committed to continued involvement in the community.

8.8.2 There is little doubt about the school’s long term viability, although it cannot expand further on its current site. Accordingly, the school has identified

some aspirations for the future: a) a larger playground and playing fields, incorporating a solution to the flooding problems, b) more parking areas, c) a foot-path alongside Nutcrack Lane to enable safe access of parents and children on their way to Stoborough School; d) an access bridge across the stream at the junction of West Lane and Corfe Road; and e) installation of traffic calming measures, including a 20mph limit outside the school.

8.8.3 In December 2016, as a result of the Parish Council and school working together, some traffic calming measures have been put in place. The Parish Council continues to work with the school’s traffic action group to achieve additional measures. Arne Parish Council will support any planning applications that enhance the long-term sustainability and viability of the school within the parish.

8.8.4 This policy will need to be read alongside other policies relevant to design, flood risk etc. which may require further consideration of the exact layout or design of the proposals.

**POLICY 8: STOBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In accordance with current planning policy, proposals that allow the school to continue to adapt for future needs, including the provision of improved play areas and visitor parking in an accessible location will be supported.





## 8.9 COMMUNITY FACILITIES POLICY

Proposals will be supported that allow such facilities to modernise and adapt for future needs, including diversification schemes linked to the long-term operation of that facility as a viable concern.

8.9.1 The provision of a new community hub will be kept under review and, if appropriate, pursued to meet local needs, such as education, health services, cultural facilities, recreation and sport facilities, and be well-located in relation to the main population that it is intended to serve.

## POLICY 9: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities as listed below are important to residents and should be retained:

- Stoborough Village Hall; St Nicholas Church, Arne; George V post box in Corfe Road Stoborough
- The Lookout Store; The Kings Arms public house; The Halfway Inn; Redclyffe Yacht Club
- Ridge Wharf Yacht Centre; Stoborough Garage; Redclyffe Caravan Camp Site and Winter Boat Storage.

Where appropriate, the Parish Council will seek to have them included on the Community Assets Register.



Stoborough Village Hall



The Lookout Store



The Kings Arms in Stoborough

## 8.10 KEY PEDESTRIAN ROUTE POLICY

8.10.1 There are a wide range of pedestrian and cycle routes which are used both for day to day trips and for recreational purposes, by local residents and visitors alike. Two routes that are particularly important within Arne Parish are:

- Footpath along the River Frome: part of the Purbeck Way, extensively used as a route into Wareham from Ridge and Redcliffe
- Footpath along former Pike's Tramway: accessed from Arne Road at one end and Corfe Road at the other; popular walking area with access to local heaths

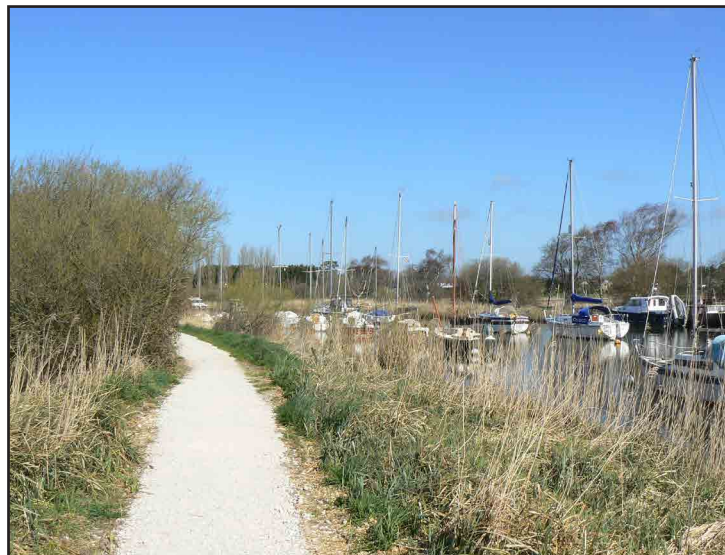
8.10.2 Existing bus routes are vital links to the nearby towns of Wareham and Swanage and the major conurbations of Poole and Bournemouth. Their retention will be strongly supported as they too are valued by the local community, but their continued provision is unlikely to be influenced by the scale of development likely to come forward to meet local needs.

## POLICY 10: KEY PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

The existing network of pedestrian and cycle routes will be protected. Proposals to provide new connecting routes or improve existing routes - such as through better route alignment, better surveillance, wheelchair and pushchair access - will be supported



**The start of the Tramway from Sunnyside**



**The towpath from Redcliffe to Wareham along the river Frome**



## 8.11 TOURISM POLICY

8.11.1 Tourism-related uses include holiday accommodation, visitor attractions such as information centres and leisure attractions.

8.11.2 Significantly valuing the richness of local nature, residents believe that the parish should be a centre for tourism, not only for visiting sites of beauty and interest, but also for visiting places of historical, archaeological and paleontological interest in and around the parish itself. A number of visitor facilities also provide services for local residents, such as the yacht club. However, it is extremely important that there is a reasonable balance so that tourism development does not have an adverse effect on areas of local beauty and tranquillity.

8.11.3 Major organisations involved in creating opportunities for tourism in the parish are Natural England, the RSPB and the National Trust. Each operates semi-independently of the others and the Parish Council, although Parish Council initiatives

have improved communication significantly. To ensure this communication improves further, Arne Parish Council has convened an advisory group of representatives from the key bodies involved in business and conservation locally, including representatives from private companies and other groups. Currently the council is monitoring the impact of the increased tourist numbers at RSPB at Arne.

8.11.4 Furthermore, Arne Parish lies close to other tourist centres like Wareham, Swanage, Corfe Castle and the villages of Kimmeridge and Church Knowle. The steam railway at Norden is also a major attraction. The Council will support strategies to attract tourists visiting those places.

8.11.5 The significant contribution the clay mining and processing industry has played in the historical narrative of the region must be acknowledged. The Minerals and Mining Museum at Norden provides a focal point for visitors interested in learning about the lives of miners in nineteenth century Arne Parish and its neighbourhood.

## POLICY 11: TOURISM

In accordance with local policy, the conversion of existing buildings to tourism-related uses will be supported, provided the proposed use and associated changes do not result in an adverse impact on the environment (including landscape and wildlife designations), residential amenity or from traffic movements.



Redcliff Yacht Club

**8.12 GREEN SPACE POLICY**

8.12.1 The Local Green Space designation has been used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves, where it is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land. Identified areas within Arne Parish are:


- The Hayricks, Stoborough Meadow: owned and continually improved by Arne Parish Council; a recreational area for children of all ages within the parish
- The Allotments, New Road/Corfe Road: owned by Scott Estate, leased to Arne Parish Council, used extensively by Arne residents
- Village Green, Barndale Road, Ridge: used extensively for community activities.
- Village Green, adjoining Corfe Road and West Lane: adorned by a Christmas Tree in December and used by the local Baptist Church for occasional services
- Priory Meadow: recreational space overlooking Wareham Quay and the water meadows, with information about the plants and animals that inhabit the area. Managed by the Wareham and District Development Trust

- Tramway, engine shed and clay washing ponds in Sunnyside, Ridge: an important area of local heritage value
- The green space at Holme Lane

8.12.2 In addition, the following areas are also particularly notable, but are already protected due to their wildlife designations:

- Slepe Heath: immortalised as Egdon Heath in Hardy’s Return Of The Native; important site for wildlife, including Dartford warblers, nightjars and woodlarks; acquisition made possible by a legacy left to the National Trust
- Stoborough Heath: includes Sunnyside Farm; home to rare plants, including marsh orchids, smooth cat’s ear and brown-beak sedge; managed by Natural England
- Hartland Moor: lowland heath and mire, extensively grazed by cattle and ponies; owned/managed by The National Trust & Natural England
- RSPB Arne / Hyde Heath: a wealth of wildlife in a beautiful setting

**POLICY 12: LOCAL GREEN SPACES**

Areas of open space, marked as  on Map 3, will be retained. Where demand exists and the location is appropriate, recreational facilities, such as children’s play equipment and exercise equipment, will be permitted, where they are sensitively designed and sited. The intention is that areas of important open space will remain permanently undeveloped. Where development of a green space is allowed, any recreational facilities and/or land that are lost must be replaced with facilities of an equivalent or better standard and in an accessible location, where impacts on landscape, environment and local character are minimised. The provision of allotments and a Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) with a 400m2 minimum activity zone will be supported, and should be prioritised as part of any requirements for open space on housing sites





**The Allotments**



**The Hayricks**



**The Hayricks**



**Priory Meadow**



**Stoborough Heath**



## 9. PROJECTS

### 9.1 FLOOD HAZARDS PROJECTS

9.1.1 The maintenance of the water meadows and associated drainage network is critical for flood management and for maintaining the agricultural framework within Arne Parish. To ensure the appropriate management of all the ecosystem services that this area provides, the cooperation of Natural England and the Environment Agency with local authorities is essential for maintaining these areas and the surrounding farmland.

9.1.2 The Arne Parish section of Purbeck District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) will be kept under annual review, with changes in

hazards reported to PDC and Environment Agency as they occur and the continued monitoring of need for strategic adaptation to changing weather patterns.

9.1.3 The SFRA reports that flap valves around Stoborough and Redcliffe are inadequate. PDC and the Environment Agency will be lobbied to have these improved.

9.1.4 The Moors at Arne project is of major concern to residents and lobbying will continue to ensure the final planning application will engender a net improvement in flood risk as specified in the SFRA together with guarantees regarding on-going maintenance of the banks.

### PROJECT 1: FLOOD HAZARDS

The Parish Council will report changes in flood hazards to the District Council, County Council and Environment Agency as they occur, and assist with Purbeck District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as it applies to Arne Parish.

### 9.2 ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS

9.2.1 The main means of local transport in Arne Parish remains the car. The main route through is the A351 which bypasses Stoborough going towards Corfe Castle. The B3075 passes from Wareham over the causeway and on through Stoborough. There are many uncategorised narrow lanes over the heathlands. There is the constant likelihood of traffic congestion, heightened at certain times of day and year with tourist traffic and heavy goods vehicles. Any additional development will increase traffic volumes on an already saturated road network.



Nutcrack Lane

9.2.2 Arne Parish residents supports initiatives to access basic services, reduce the need to travel by car and encourage cycling, walking and use of public transport.

9.2.3 The Purbeck District Local Plan, supported by Arne Parish in this respect, encourages the provision of footpaths to enable safe walking and increase fitness and well-being.

9.2.4 The completion of the footpath along the A352 especially over the railway bridge between Puddletown Road and The Purbeck School roundabout would enable residents to walk to school and beyond.

9.2.5 A safer crossing across the bypass from Stoborough Heath would be achieved by the installation of a traffic island and linking the footpaths from Old Furzebrook to Furzebrook Road.

9.2.6 Parish records and the surveys of 2002 and 2014 have for many years highlighted problems with Nutcrack Lane in relation to vehicle speed and safety for pedestrians. There is significant support for a combined footpath and cycleway between Ridge and Stoborough, along Nutcrack Lane.



9.2.7 There remains a need for improvements for safety at the Arne Road/New Road junction, which could be attained for example by changing the priority from New Road into Arne Road.

9.2.8 Residents support increasing the length of pavement from the Hayricks on the east side of Corfe Road to the north and to south to allow safer pedestrian access, each with a safe crossing.

9.2.9 Residents support a 30mph speed limit for the residential part of Puddletown Road and for safety improvements at the junction of Puddletown Road with the A352. Puddletown Road is used by large lorries from local quarries and a variety of other traffic avoiding the A352.

## PROJECT 2: ROAD SAFETY

Arne Parish Council will work with Dorset County Council as the Highway Authority and the local community for measures to improve road safety and to support improved ways of managing traffic in and around the parish, in particular:

- a 20 mph speed limit during school access hours on the roads outside Stoborough Primary School
- a safer road crossing between Stoborough Green and the Hayricks recreation area
- off-road pedestrian and cycle routes linking the school, recreational areas and outlying settlements

## 9.3 CRIME PREVENTION PROJECTS

9.3.1 Recognising that the parish is, at present, a low crime area, there is significant community support for the police in sustaining the low number of incidents of crime. Residents are active in promoting Neighbourhood Watch schemes and other complementary initiatives. Appreciation of the police for doing a good or reasonable job is very high and this has been improving over the years. Approval for police emergency response is consistently high.

9.3.2 Our surveys show that concern about crime has diminished over the years in the parish, with concern about vandalism having the sharpest decline. Concern about drunkenness has also reduced. Experience of mugging or indecent behaviour is very

uncommon, although concern about both has increased slightly. Fear of theft and burglary has declined sharply.

9.3.3 Strategies to reduce crime further, suggested by residents, include activities for young people and improved street lighting, although this would need to be welcomed generally, given the rural nature of the area and potential enjoyment of dark skies.

9.3.4 The importance of ensuring the design of buildings and spaces that promote active surveillance and a clear distinction between public and private areas, with access to private areas more restricted, has also been highlighted by residents.

## PROJECT 3: CRIME PREVENTION

Arne Parish Council will encourage the active participation of residents in maintaining the current positive trend in low incidents of crime by promoting Neighbourhood Watch schemes and working with the Police Alert scheme

## 9.4 POLICE LIAISON

9.4.1 Residents acknowledge the current positive trend in low incidents of crime within the parish. There remains a strong desire among residents for a greater police presence. Residents also support better consul-

tation with the police, a view which has remained remarkably constant. They also believe that it is important for the Parish Council to be provided with regular and official updates of the crime statistics for the area, compared with Purbeck as a whole, to alleviate the residents' perception of the crime rate in the parish.

### PROJECT 4: POLICE LIAISON

The Parish Council will work with the police to publicise and raise awareness of crime rates in the area.

## 9.5 LITTER/FLY-TIPPING

9.5.1 Residents consistently approve of measures to reduce littering and fly-tipping. The most popular suggestions have been the provision of more bins or other disposal facilities, heavier fines and better surveillance, e.g. with hidden cameras to identify

persistent offenders. Generally, the current placing of litter bins is considered 'poor'. In response to the concerns expressed by residents, Arne Parish Council has instituted an annual 'Parish Clean-Up Day' and the active participation of significant members of the community was welcomed in October 2015 and again in May 2017.

### PROJECT 5: LITTER/FLY-TIPPING

To combat the blight on the local community caused by littering and fly-tipping, Arne Parish Council will work with the police and other relevant agencies to raise public awareness and encourage participation of residents in initiatives to alleviate the situation

## 9.6 GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

9.6.1 There is extensive support for the Purbeck Good Neighbours service already operating within the parish and beyond. Therefore, the Parish Council encourages its use to support the elderly and infirm

socially within the community. Greater voluntary participation of Arne Parish residents in the scheme, for example by providing drivers willing to take patients to the GP surgery, hospital and dental appointments, is encouraged.

### PROJECT 6: PURBECK GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

The Parish Council will raise awareness and encourage the take-up of the Purbeck Good Neighbours service

## 9.7 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

9.7.1 The community, in general, is satisfied with the current provision of open space. Young people have aspirations, including a skate park, provision of 'jungle apparatus', fitness circuits, a football pitch, football and netball cages and cricket nets, all centred in the Hayricks. There is significant provision just outside the parish for youngsters at the Purbeck Youth Centre, but there remains a goal to have 'somewhere for kids like us to hang out at the weekends' within the parish, although this is not yet well-articulated.

9.7.2 The Hayricks open space is rated as good or excellent in terms of contributing to the recreational needs of the parish.

9.7.3 The Parish Council now operates both a website and an annual magazine in which leisure and cultural activities can be advertised. There is scope for examining whether the online capability could be used to greater extent to engage young people, both by providing more information about coming events, especially at the village halls, and by creating new interactive opportunities.



## **PROJECT 7: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

Arne Parish Council will encourage young residents to engage better in community affairs, by increasing awareness of recreation initiatives on offer, by means of all forms of parish communication.

### **9.8 FASTER BROADBAND PROJECTS**

9.8.1 The internet is driving business innovation and growth, helping people access services and opening up new opportunities for leisure and learning. There have been improvements in Stoborough and Arne Village, but many of Arne Parish's residents and businesses are still unable to take advantage of these opportunities as internet connection speeds at their properties remain lower than 4Mbps. However BT Openreach have now started work in Ridge which

is to get the latest ultrafast technology. A key initiative for the parish is to continue to pursue the elimination of 'not-spots', by installation of adequate links from superfast hubs to all properties within the council's boundary. All new dwellings and employment buildings should include ducting capable of accepting fibre to enable at least superfast broadband. Poor mobile phone coverage is another factor which frustrates residents so improved 4G coverage also needs addressing.

## **PROJECT 8: FASTER BROADBAND**

Arne Parish Council will continue to lobby providers to supply superfast broadband (>24mbps) and 4G mobile services to the whole of Arne Parish.

### **9.9 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROJECTS**

9.9.1 Residents in Arne need access to a range of primary care, hospital and social care services. Until recently, Wareham Hospital provided over twenty types of out-patient services, including chemotherapy, and sixteen in-patient beds providing rehabilitation, palliative and end of life care. Following a review initiated by the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning group (CCG), major changes for health and community services in Purbeck are underway. Wareham Hospital no longer has in-patient beds and is to become a new Community Hub, bringing together GPs, nurses, therapists, consultant doctors, social workers and mental health nurses. The CCG proposals indicate that the new Community Hub would provide a wider range of diagnostic and treatment services than are currently available at Wareham Hospital.

9.9.2 We understand that discussions are well advanced among key stakeholders to locate the proposed Community Hub as a new build on the site of the decommissioned middle school on Worgret Road in Wareham. We also understand that integration of a modern GP facility is to be part of the new Hub. Arne Parish Council supports the increased provision of health and social services locally which would reduce the need for residents of Arne Parish to travel to other hospitals for treatment. We urge all parties involved to take this opportunity to bring together and improve the range of services and facilities through a new Community Hub in Wareham.

## **PROJECT 9. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

APC will monitor future changes to local health and social care delivery to be implemented by the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and liaise with local service providers and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that future health and social care provision meets the needs of local residents.

## FOOTNOTE

The ultimate purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to ensure that any future development in the Parish is not only sustainable but also contributes positively to the delivery of the vision set out at the start of this Plan. It is, therefore, important that the Neighbourhood Plan policies are implemented efficiently and effectively. This is the role of the Local Planning Authority as the decision maker responsible for evaluating planning applications. However, the Parish Council expect to contribute to that process by working in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure that any significant development proposals that may come forward are consistent with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Whilst some policies may have a single outcome, specific to one single area, other policies might have more than one possible outcome. This could make monitoring too complex for it to have any value. However, Arne Parish Council undertakes to monitor activity on at least an annual basis, to consider delivery of the Plan policies and the extent to which targets have been met. These reports will be available to view on the Parish Council web site.

Arne Parish Council commends this Plan to all residents of the parish. Through it, and on behalf of everyone who has taken many opportunities to comment and contribute, we hope that we are presenting a Plan for constructive change to meet the needs of current and future residents, whilst protecting and enhancing those well-love features that contribute to the essence and character of our beautiful parish.

*Arne Parish Council is indebted to all those parishioners who have assisted in the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan, through attendance at public consultations; involving themselves with working parties or providing invaluable feedback on our proposals*