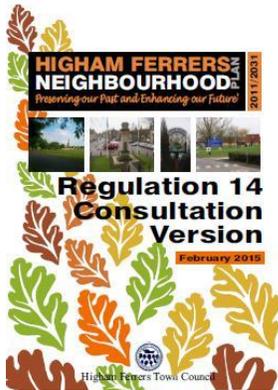
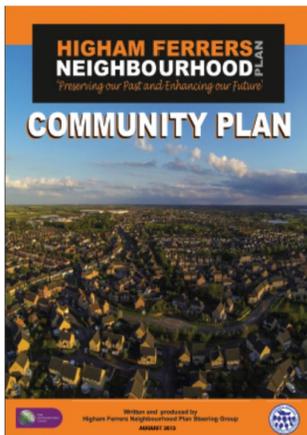


The Neighbourhood Plan



The responses following the Regulation 14 have now all been collated. We had responses from 11 statutory consultees and 47 residents. There were some very detailed comments and they were generally supportive. Many of the comments were not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan but issues that were being addressed through the Community Plan. The comments have now been analysed and comments made and changes agreed to the plan where appropriate. These changes are mostly to strengthen the policies. It is hoped to add one additional policy on the cumulative effect of takeaways. It is hoped that the final version of the plan will be ready by the end of May to be submitted to East Northamptonshire Council. It will then be in their hands to progress it through examination to referendum.

Community Plan- Highways and Transport (H&T) update



A presentation was made to top management at Northamptonshire Highways Department on the 29th January, where the proposals from the Highways and Transport Team were discussed. As the main road through Higham is still classified as an 'A' road, there are restrictions on what can be done. County Highways are looking into the process for downgrading the route. They are also looking to reviewing all parking restrictions on the route to see if they are still valid. Finally they have provided two options for dealing with parking problems around the Co-op Bus Lay- By. By the time this newsletter is published the Town Council will have considered them. We are at the start of what could be a long journey but we are determined to push hard for overdue town centre improvements!

Chowns Mill

What is happening?

The Highways Agency is developing an improvement scheme for the Chowns Mill Roundabout where the A45 and A6 intersect at Higham Ferrers. The scheme will target existing congestion and safety issues at the junction while supporting growth in the local area.

When and where is this happening?

Key dates and project stages (indicative and subject to change):

- Site surveys for detailed design are programmed for March to June 2015.
- Preliminary design is programmed for completion in late 2017.



- Detailed design is programmed for completion in late 2019.
- Award of the construction contract is programmed for 2020.
- Start of works is programmed for late 2020.
- Completion of works is programmed for late 2021.

Why is this happening and what will it cost?

The improvements to the roundabout are being developed to address the existing congestion and safety issues while also providing future capacity to support planned growth in the local area.

At Chowns Mill Roundabout the strategic A45 link is crossed by the locally important A6, in addition the roundabout also provides access from both routes into Higham Ferrers and Rushden. The high volume of turning movements combined with a lack of space on the roundabout result in severe congestion on the roundabout approaches in the peaks and results in frequent collisions.

Development of the scheme has considered the planned developments and economic growth in the region and factored this into the design to ensure the scheme will continue to operate with minimal delays for years to come.

The improvements are to be carried out as part of the Governments Pinch Point Programme which seeks to relieve congestion hotspots and stimulate economic growth. The scheme is currently estimated to cost £15.7 million.

Look on <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a45a6-chowns-mill-roundabout-improvement/> for a concept plan of the scheme.