

## ESSENCE OF THE PLAN

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Based on extensive consultation, the community has aligned around the following as their summary view for the future of the parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green:

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|---------------------------|---|
| What we value:            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Our rural setting,</li><li>➤ Access to green spaces,</li><li>➤ Our heritage assets.</li></ul>   |
| What we want to do:       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Protect our rural environment &amp; heritage assets,</li><li>➤ Improve sustainability,</li><li>➤ Improve biodiversity.</li></ul>  |
| Any more homes should be: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In limited numbers based on modest local growth,</li><li>➤ Affordable,</li><li>➤ In keeping with rural setting,</li><li>➤ Providing more options for young families, the elderly &amp; less mobile.</li></ul> |

## VISION

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*A small rural parish located near prosperous towns that nurtures modest organic growth and continues to evolve towards a more sustainable lower-carbon future.*

*Peaceful settlements with a rural character where residents prosper and enjoy both their communities and the surrounding countryside as well as having easy access to employment, vital services and leisure activities. Confidence that the highly-valued natural environment, biodiversity and landscape are continuously improving and that important heritage assets and views are maintained for future generations.*

*Housing development is limited, in keeping with the rural environment, governed by local growth, the need for affordability and with more options for young families, the elderly and less mobile.*

## OBJECTIVES

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Realisation of this vision requires the following objectives to be delivered in alignment with existing and emerging Borough and National Policies

1. Retain and enhance the rural character of the parish and its settlements;
2. Ensure the inherently limited sustainability of our small village settlements is not damaged by inappropriate development and is nurtured with improvements to community facilities and internet access;
3. Accommodate and encourage organic growth of the parish and the evolving needs of residents by encouraging the development of a modest number of extra homes that are affordable and suited to different stages of individual and family life.
4. Ensure the parish is fit for a low/zero-carbon future via:
  - Adopting advanced standards for insulation, renewable power generation/heating and internet access for both new homes and significant alterations and extensions ,
  - Enabling and encouraging widespread usage of zero emission vehicles by easy access to charging points,
5. Enhance the environment, biodiversity, landscape, and access to the countryside and green spaces via clear policies and an alliance between parish residents and landowners. Specifically address shortfall of accessible Green Space in Bishops Green;
6. Ensure our heritage assets, key views and the rural character of settlements are retained and enhanced by good stewardship and that design policies ensure new development and refurbishments are in keeping with existing housing character.
7. Strengthen the community and reduce the need for travel outside the parish by development of employment opportunities and community facilities suited and scaled not only to our rural environment but also the needs/wishes of residents.
8. Reduce concerns over road safety and help community health and well-being by improvements to road layout, parking and traffic management hardware and by actions to encourage more walking and cycling.
9. Underpin delivery of the Vision and Objectives by establishing and progressing community-led programmes in Transport, Socio-Economic Development and Facilities/Services.