

## **Report on the Watton Neighbourhood Plan**

Dr David Dent, Chair of the Working Group

The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document expressing the needs and priorities of the Watton community for the development of the Town, its facilities, economy, housing and natural environment. It is based on consultations and input over a number of years obtained from local residents, community groups and businesses.

The plan has to proceed through a number of stages which culminates in the NP Referendum which was held on Thursday 18th January 2024. The result of the Referendum was as follows:

Ballot Papers Issued: 1,058

Votes cast in favour of a 'yes' = 962 (90.9%)

Votes cast in favour of a 'no' = 93 (8.8%)

Votes being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty = 3

In voting YES for the Neighbourhood Plan the community require Breckland Council to use the plan in making decisions regarding implementation of planning policy and the development of the town. The Plan also provides the Town Council with over 30 actions that the community have agreed and prioritised for implementation between now and 2036.

The Plan provides the framework for the future development of Watton determined by the community and the Town Council is responsible with partners e.g. the Wayland Chamber of Commerce and other groups for ensuring its implementation.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for the last time on 12th March to recommend initial priorities for the Town Council.