# Barnham Broom residents mobilise against South Norfolk’s 40-home green meadow plan



In the tranquil village of Barnham Broom, a proposed development of 40 new homes has sparked considerable discontent among residents. South Norfolk District Council seeks to transform a green meadow located at the heart of the village on Bell Road as part of its Village Clusters Allocation Plan (VCHAP), which aims to facilitate the construction of a minimum of 1,200 homes across 48 village clusters by 2038. However, local opposition has surged, with over 420 signatures gathered on a petition against the plans, representing a significant portion of the village's population of 666.

Many residents express that the proposal threatens the essence of their community. Kate Hayes, a long-term villager, referred to the situation as “scandalous,” asserting that it could irreparably harm Barnham Broom. “This isn’t just about the SNDC meeting housing targets – it’s about the very soul of Barnham Broom,” she added, highlighting feelings of being ignored in the decision-making process.

Concerns extend beyond simple opposition to housing; residents point to the lack of public accountability from the parish council. Both Jan Plasted and Glenn Ireland, other community members, echoed feelings of betrayal, calling for the preservation of the green space. Plasted noted that while she supports the need for affordable housing, the meadow should be kept intact, reflecting a broader sentiment of respecting the village's rural character.

The response from the council has been measured, with cabinet member Lisa Overton-Neal stating that the plans have undergone two public consultations. She acknowledged that the development would soon be presented to the cabinet and full council for further consideration. However, local councillor Richard Elliot expressed his sympathies for the community's frustrations and maintained that he would advocate for alternative development options. Elliot underlined the balancing act facing the council: meeting housing needs while safeguarding the village’s character and green spaces.

This debate is not an isolated incident. Previous planning proposals within Barnham Broom have faced scrutiny, including plans for smaller developments that were rejected due to concerns about infrastructure strain, particularly on the sewage system, and threats to local wildlife. Such incidents underscore the rising tension between housing development and environmental stewardship within rural communities.

Moreover, the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) has also identified Barnham Broom for potential housing development, although experts have warned that large-scale constructions could adversely affect both the built and natural environment. The feedback received during these consultations will be essential as community members brace for the upcoming examination by the planning inspector, which is anticipated in autumn.

As discussions continue, it is evident that the residents of Barnham Broom are calling for more meaningful engagement with their local council, aiming for a development approach that aligns with community values and preserves the integrity of their village's heritage. If the council is to succeed in harmonising housing needs with environmental and social considerations, it will require not only careful planning but also a genuine partnership with the voices of Barnham Broom.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25193675.barnham-broom-villagers-angry-councils-housing-plan/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/23863019.list-updated-south-norfolk-villages-set-1-200-homes/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25193675.barnham-broom-villagers-angry-councils-housing-plan/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://gnlp.oc2.uk/document/13/4546), [[5]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23822099.plans-two-homes-barnham-broom-near-norwich-rejected/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25193675.barnham-broom-villagers-angry-councils-housing-plan/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/find-planning-application)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25193675.barnham-broom-villagers-angry-councils-housing-plan/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.oc2.uk/document/1/150), [[7]](https://gnlp.oc2.uk/document/41/8549)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25193675.barnham-broom-villagers-angry-councils-housing-plan/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/23863019.list-updated-south-norfolk-villages-set-1-200-homes/> - The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) has been updated to include 48 villages, including Barnham Broom, where 40 homes are proposed on land at the corner of Bell Road and Norwich Road. The plan aims to accommodate 1,200 homes across these villages by 2038. Some sites have been reduced in size or removed since the initial proposal in January. The VCHAP is set to go out to the public and parish councils for feedback in December.
3. <https://gnlp.oc2.uk/document/13/4546> - The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) includes Barnham Broom as a Service Village, proposing a southern extension to existing estate development on Bell Road for approximately 20 dwellings. Four sites have been proposed for consideration, with concerns about potential heritage impacts and environmental constraints. The plan suggests that large-scale development could significantly impact the built and natural environment, with the two sites to the west having more constraints than those to the east.
4. <https://southnorfolkandbroadland.oc2.uk/document/1/150> - The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) assesses various sites for potential development. Site SN0055, located east of Spur Road and south of Norwich Road in Barnham Broom, is shortlisted for a development of up to 25 dwellings on a 1-hectare site. The site is well-located in terms of access to services and facilities, although improvements to footways may be necessary. The site is rural in character, with frontage hedges providing the setting to non-designated heritage assets; consequently, estate-scale development is unlikely to be appropriate. However, the site could be considered suitable for a small-scale allocation of up to 25 units, potentially with some units fronting both Norwich Road and Spur Road.
5. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23822099.plans-two-homes-barnham-broom-near-norwich-rejected/> - Plans for two semi-detached homes on Spur Road in Barnham Broom were rejected by South Norfolk Council after local residents raised concerns about additional pressure on the sewage system and potential threats to wildlife. Neighbours expressed worries that the development would worsen existing sewage problems and harm local wildlife, including declining owl, bat, and kestrel populations. Barnham Broom Parish Council also submitted an objection to the proposals.
6. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/find-planning-application> - The South Norfolk and Broadland planning application search allows users to find planning applications within the council's area. Users can search by application reference number and access information on planning applications, including how to comment on them. The council also provides weekly lists of applications received and decisions made, ensuring transparency and public involvement in the planning process.
7. <https://gnlp.oc2.uk/document/41/8549> - The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) includes Barnham Broom as a Service Village, proposing a southern extension to existing estate development on Bell Road for approximately 20 dwellings. Four sites have been proposed for consideration, with concerns about potential heritage impacts and environmental constraints. The plan suggests that large-scale development could significantly impact the built and natural environment, with the two sites to the west having more constraints than those to the east.