

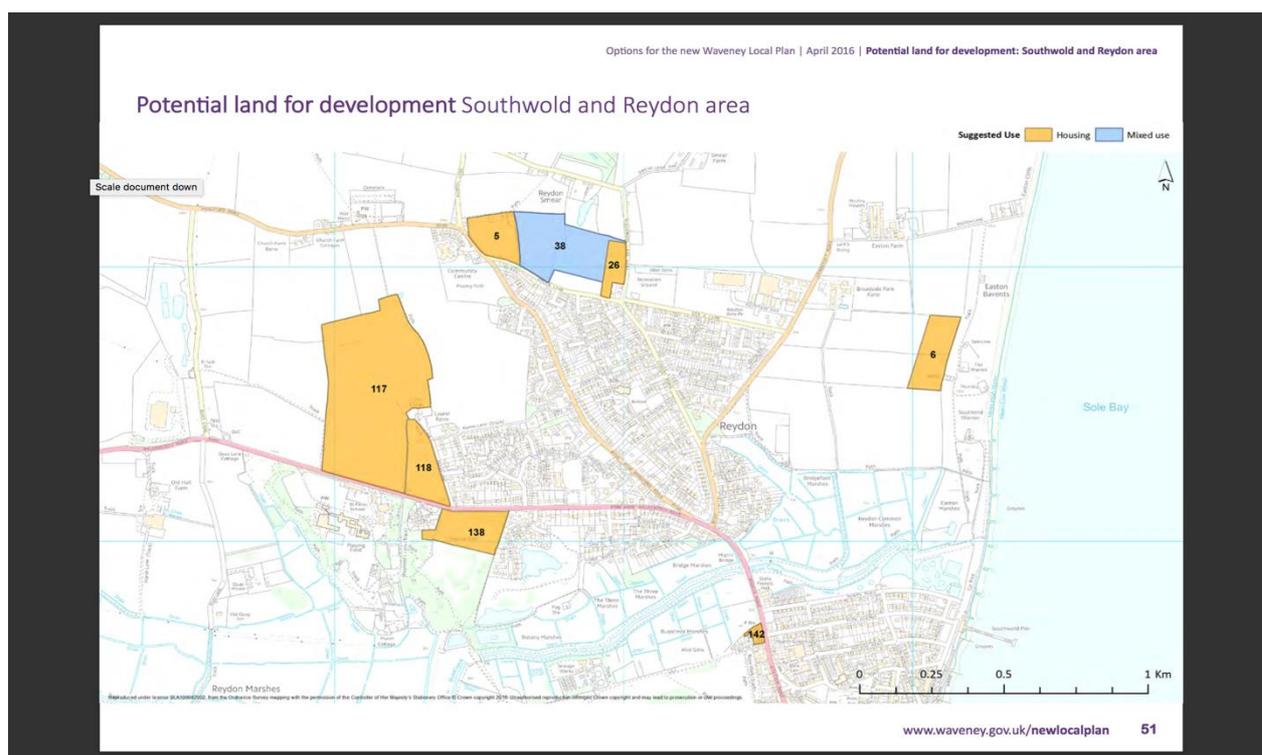
## SOUTHWOLD AND REYDON SOCIETY

### MAGAZINE ARTICLE FOR JUNE 2016

Two critical and intertwined issues face us: the new Waveney Local Plan (see <http://www.waveney.gov.uk/newlocalplan>) and the Save Our Southwold campaign (SOSA) for Southwold hospital (see <http://www.sosa.help>).

The draft Waveney plan envisages population growth generating a need by 2036 for 7700, 8500 or 9525 new homes in the WDC area along with a growth of jobs between 4000-5,500. Scenarios presented assume 3% or 6% of the new houses will be built in Reydon and Southwold, between 231 and 572 new homes (although only between 104 and 435 after taking into account houses built or with planning permission since 2011, the baseline date). This raises the question of who will live in these; without new local employment, it will likely be second homers and retirees.

The map identifies potential development areas here, but WDC emphasise that these are simply sites whose owners are willing to sell and that this is just the beginning of the consultation process with no decisions taken.



Needless to say the Society remains concerned to protect the AONB and to support development which meets the needs of local people. We feel that we should conclude how many homes, and of what sort e.g. affordable, we need and put that to Waveney to consider.

The second issue is whether or how the community should embrace the future of Southwold Hospital site. A packed public meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> gave unanimous support for

the community to try to secure ownership of the buildings through, for example, shares issued by Community Land Trust which could be crowd funded. A questionnaire was presented on possible uses such as flexible space for start up businesses and the library

SOSA will go ahead now with a feasibility study to include the market value of the site, the current state of the buildings and whether they should be retained, what uses could be accommodated, the costs of conversion, and the income stream required to make it work.

Lastly, we continue to monitor the new community health strategy. At a meeting with Health East (CCG), we learnt that the interim community team (OHT) is coping well, making good use of the two beds procured at Oaklands (48% occupancy). Provision has included spot purchasing of short term care at home. Emergency admissions from Southwold and Reydon to James Paget are the lowest in the CCG area. We feel that all the Sole Bay Health Centre team should be congratulated on this achievement.

The mooted Care Home scheme is on track to open in 2018. The CCG will be closely involved with the developer and provider when these are appointed to ensure that the NHS funded provision meets local need and is integrated with the OHT.

Regarding the ambulance service Health East reported that the performance of the East of England Ambulance Service in the Waveney/Yarmouth CCG area is 75% of most urgent calls met within the 8 minute target and 87% of priority but not life-threatening met within the target of 19 minutes (in both cases, performance should be at 95%). No figures are available for Southwold and Reydon as our area is judged too small to calculate. Work to improve the service is continuing and, locally, our GP's feel that progress is being made.

Dexter Kirk, S&R Society Committee member.