

FRAMSDEN FIVE YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2018-2023



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Acknowledgements: Author of the Framsdene Website, Framsdene PC and Parishioners

Framsden Village is 10 miles (16 km) north of Ipswich and 3 miles (5 km) south of Debenham, Suffolk. The majority of homes are situated along Framsdén Street with smaller clusters at Peats Corner and St John's Row, in addition to more scattered houses towards Otley and Cretingham.

The estate cottages and school were designed 150 years ago by Lord John Tollemache to provide dwellings for estate workers. Two cottages shared a bread oven and each had an acre of land to grow food for the family and to fatten a pig. These cottages, once home to working families, are now described as 'quaint' and are mostly privately rented.

Framsden is mainly situated within the Helmingham Estate and a lot of property is tenanted. The village is surrounded by arable farmland but enjoys around 16 miles of public footpaths and has conservation areas of ancient meadow and veteran trees. Helmingham Estate's management of much of Framsdén's arable land includes preserving veteran trees, ancient hedgerows, old ponds and ancient meadows, rich in plant and wildlife diversity.

The village pub, The Doberman Inn, has been closed since November 2016 and faces an uncertain future. The Parish Council and MSDC support the retention of the pub. Framsdén is fortunate to host the Helmingham Primary School and Old Schoolhouse Nursery on the edge of the village; accessible by footpath and teaching children from the local villages. We have a village hall, refurbished in 2016/17, hosting village activities and events. Framsdén has a parish church, St Mary's, in the centre of the village, and a Baptist Chapel at the bottom of Jockey's Lane near the junction of the A1120 and the B1077. The historic St Mary's Church has been a successful concert venue in the past and the Baptist Chapel runs a 'Friday Club' for children and young people of the area.

The play area was renovated in 2003 for the younger people of the village by local fundraising and the commitment of the parish councillors.

Framsden windmill is a landmark in the village and has a unique selection of items from the past and bygones to remind us of how life used to be.

The Parish Council's Aim

The aim of the Council is to represent the local community, deliver services to meet local needs and to improve quality of life and community well-being in the village in the following areas:

- Local Services
- Planning & Housing
- Transport
- Policing and Traffic
- The Environment
- Parish Facilities and Activities

The Parish Council's Objectives

The Parish Council has identified key objectives for this Improvement Plan. These are based on the issues raised that matter to our villagers and will guide activity over the next five years.

Framsden is a small Parish Council with restricted means collected through the Annual Precept (just £9,200 for 2017/18). The following Plan, therefore, will ensure that achievable objectives are given precedence in the short and medium term whilst the longer term objectives will require considerable funding and greater planning. The Parish Council works, where necessary, with Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council and local organisations to achieve its ambitions.

The following objectives reflect the Parish Council's aim -

Short Term

- Improving local area communication and email contact with residents
- Play area – To repair or replace the roundabout as part of the Play Area Project
- Equipment in the Play Area to be considered for older children.
- To address the question of suspected rot issues around the floor and sole plate on the south side of the Village Hall.

Medium Term

- Improving the Community Garden
- Broadband provision at the Village Hall
- Speed and accessibility of mobile and broadband services

Long Term

- Improved car parking facilities for the Village Hall users
- Improved facilities within the Village Hall
- Implement an Emergency Plan