

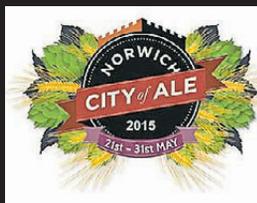
# Cheers all round as ale festival breaks records

The fifth Norwich City of Ale festival has been hailed a success.

Organisers reported record numbers of people enjoying the 10 day celebration of ales and beers throughout the city, bringing in thousands of pounds to the local economy. The event, from May 21 to 31, saw pub quizzes, live music, tasting events, and 45 pubs on ale trails.

Dawn Leeder, co-chairman of the City of Ale said: "This has been a record-breaking year in many ways, with the largest ever number of pubs, breweries and beers."

"It's great to see ever more city pubs dedicated to real ale and yet more breweries opening in the county. These are very good times for pubs and brewing in the region - not to mention real-ale lovers. We'd like to thank all those who took part, the pubs, brewers and, of course, our many sponsors."



There was also a charity beer on sale, called Wymer's Gold, which was available in pubs to commemorate City of Ale's fifth anniversary. From each pint sold, 50p was donated to the Hamlet Centre Trust, which supports children and young adults with disabilities.

Stefan Gurney, executive director of the festival's main sponsor, the Norwich Business Improvement District, said: "The festival has seen more ales, brewers and pubs taking part, meaning it has grown to become a key date in the Norwich calendar of events, adding to the rich vibrancy of Norwich."



City of Ale co-founders Dawn Leeder and Phil Cutter launch this year's festival with the City of Ale bus at the City Hall.

Picture: DENISE BRADLEY

# Villagers have their say on development

Rosa McMahon

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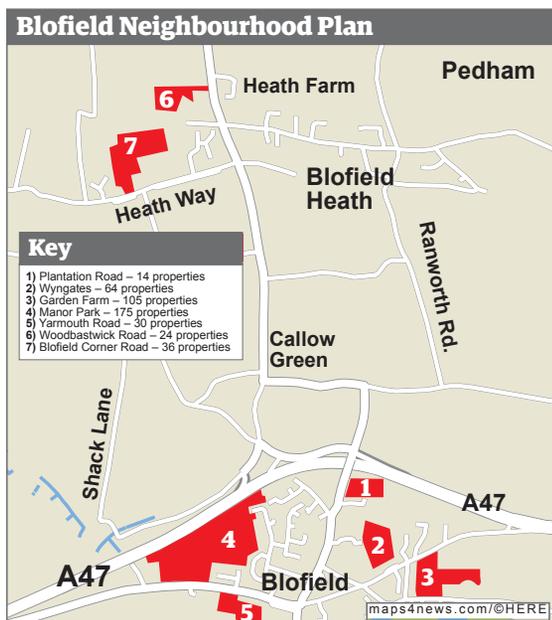
A community which will grow by around 50pc over the next decade has been mapping out how its future could look.

Blofield and Blofield Heath - a parish of around 800 homes - could see another 448 built. In a bid to prepare for the population growth, Blofield Parish Council have been drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan.

At the penultimate consultation before the document is submitted to Broadland District Council, locals had their say on what is important to the area.

Rachel Leggett, an independent consultant leading the Blofield Parish Neighbourhood Plan, said play equipment, community space, transport and local services were all common issues people wanted to know more about.

The proposals will see a population growth of around 1,000 people, and houses built on Plantation Road,



Wyngates, Garden Farm, Manor Park, Yarmouth Road, Woodbastwick Road and Blofield Corner Road.

Concerns from residents who took part included fears

over services and schools.

→ The plan is due to be sent to Broadland District Council in September. If could then go to a local referendum.

# EASTONS

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