

West Hoathly Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Challenges and Issues Summary

This document attempts to summarise the ideas discussed at the 29th February Neighbourhood Plan workshop and also refers back to the report from the 2009 Parish Futures Study. Whilst several of the top issues raised recently were also the top items in 2009, some others appear to have been addressed in the meantime – for example, the supply of allotments and Parish communications.

Main Attractions of the Parish

In summary the main positive things people associate with our area come down to:

1. The Countryside and the historic built parts of the area
2. The intensity and range of community activities and support
3. The Pubs
4. Proximity to a range of towns, London and the coast and their employment
5. Having a primary school
6. The generally low crime incidence
7. Effective local communications through The Chronicle and the Hoathly Hub

Challenges and Issues facing the Parish

The points raised can be summarised under major, medium and low impact issues reflecting the emphasis that was placed on them by attendees. The level of priority needs to be tested with the wider community.

Major Impact Issues

- Traffic speeds/volume and pedestrian and cyclist safety
- Housing size/cost distribution and shortage of homes suitable for younger families and down-sizing older residents
- Demographic “tilt” towards older people
- Public transport services
- Sustainability of the West Hoathly Primary School and related groups

Medium Impact Issues

- Range of shops and range of products on offer including local produce
- Facilities to assist an ageing population – medical (primary and hospital), support, travel
- As a parish there is no focal centre which is depended on for services (e.g. primary medical care is provided by surgeries in Crawley Down, East Grinstead, Forest Row and Lindfield)
- Energy and Water use efficiency – existing and new homes
- Facilities for teenagers including travel options
- Local employment opportunities

Low Impact Issues

- Broadband performance
- Some opportunistic rural crime
- Extent of Parish-wide cohesion