

## **Neighbourhood Planning Issues & Challenges Workshop 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

22 attendees, 5 from Highbrook, 9 Sharpthorne, 7 West Hoathly and 1 Selsfield

### **Shops**

Costcutter provides is a very helpful facility. The stock can be limited (mainly standard products) but they are good in terms of price and range and for “emergency” use. They do try and meet requests (e.g. they now stock organic milk and bread).

Good to see the Vinols Cross back as a pub.

It would be very useful if petrol was available nearby.

A shop in West Hoathly is needed.

Consideration should be given to social enterprise support & investment. (community run shop).

It could then be an alternative shop more responsive to community need with surveys of community shareholders etc. to agree what is stocked and being more directly responsive to community needs.

Plawhatch shop is a community shop but it is not accessible from the parish without a car.

Perhaps a mobile shop would be an option.

A cashpoint machine in the parish would be useful. Costcutter does cash back but you need to spend a minimum of £5 to use the facility.

A locally run & managed community shop providing local produce could become a central meeting space perhaps with Internet access and a coffee shop to serve the older and younger people in the community point.

Such a shop could be a delivery point for internet shopping deliveries.

There is a place for both Costcutter and a community shop.

### **Public Transport**

Seen as poor. It is not easy to get to work by bus.

Would be great to have an hourly service Monday – Saturday and a 2 hourly service on a Sunday. This would help the elderly and the young to go to East Grinstead or Crawley.

Would a community bus service work here (c.f. Forest Row/Hartfield)

In Balcombe a “post” bus is used.

There was seen to be a balance between the cost of fuel rising and buses being seen as a viable alternative.

Perhaps buses should go to Forest Row as this could be a ‘hub’ to link up with other services.

### **Sense of belonging**

Comments were generally positive

There were good networking opportunities

A number of community activities and groups

Now 2 pubs to provide central points in the parish

Cohesive community West Hoathly/Sharpthorne not so much with Selsfield & Highbrook

Comments were made that gated properties which blocked themselves off from the community were not conducive to a sense of belonging

### **Housing**

More affordable housing is needed (however concerns about Not In my Backyard)

Social housing and accommodation at a “good” level

Crawley Down has a specific scheme for young people who have grown up in the village.

More houses for people living on their own

2 bedroomed houses to stay as 2 bedroomed houses however if don't extend then families will move away as they grow.

Believed to be brownfield sites around the parish where development could be made.

Young people can't afford to buy locally then there will be no children which will threaten the existence of the school.

The parish will become a retirement complex not a village.

Perhaps it should be made easier for large houses to be made into smaller units

### **Job Prospects**

Working from home – a greater acceptability by large companies and an increase in self-employed working from home. Needs good facilities and better broadband speeds.

Mini business estates needed to encourage start-up companies (Hangdown Mead/Cinder Hill).

### **Facilities for older people**

Generally seen to be good. However access to medical services an issue

### **Facilities for younger people**

Seen as poor

There was a point raised about a community hall able to provide youth clubs, activities through the summer holidays and childcare.

Work has been done and there is a good number of venues available in the parish which can cater for most types of activities and events. This should be publicised.

### **Roads/Pedestrians**

Too much parking and speeding

Need zebra crossings to move between Sharpthorne and West Hoathly

Concern about safety on roads for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders

The parked cars in Top Road do slow traffic down however drivers don't always wait and will mount the verges/pavements to get past.

Having a speed camera may slow drivers down.

### **Conservation Areas/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

This is an area that is a lovely natural environment with rural walks and footpaths

The formal conservation areas should be extended to restrict the urbanisation of the area

Need to recognise that change is needed (i.e. can't keep as is) but want changes to be aesthetic and in keeping

### **Crime**

Compared to the rest of the country this is a good area to live in.

The extent of crime is generally small petty crime

### **Other**

Becoming a transition village in terms of renewable energy