

Overall Vision:

In 2025 the Parish of West Hoathly is a group of villages, small settlements and sparse rural properties, each with its own distinct identity which is constantly preserved and enhanced. All age groups are represented, valued and cared for and there is a strong sense of parish-wide community, with everyone playing a role to increase the quality of local life. Visitors who respect the values are welcomed. The countryside is cherished, enjoyed and respected by all. The adoption of innovation is encouraged when it benefits the community and its sustainability.

Ref	Defining Characteristics	x-ref
1.	<p>The Countryside:</p> <p>The countryside retains its diversity of wildlife and is peaceful and quiet. The far-reaching views are protected and opened up when practicable. Development in the rural areas is only accepted when in harmony with its surroundings and is for the long-term benefit of the whole community. Ancient rights-of-way are protected and our footpaths and bridleways are a pleasure to use, being accessible to as many people as is feasible. The landscape retains its ancient characteristics of woodlands and uneven field pattern and the land being farmed is not diminished.</p>	
2.	<p>Villages and Settlements:</p> <p>The villages and small settlements have not increased in number but most have grown in population slightly. Families are encouraged to move into the area and old people are able to relocate to smaller properties within the Parish. All residents take a pride in the appearance of their environment and any new development is sympathetic to the existing ethos of its surroundings.</p>	
3.	<p>Heritage Assets:</p> <p>The Parish's two formally defined village Conservation Areas in Highbrook and West Hoathly have been respected and maintained to a high quality standard by their residents and the public authorities. Changes within these areas and their boundaries which enhance the heritage value are implemented according to a detailed design guide on which local residents have been consulted.</p> <p>The ongoing goals of the Conservation Areas are to preserve historically valuable buildings and settlement structures for the benefit of their occupants, for the appreciation by the wider community and tourist visitors and for future generations. The many individually graded listed buildings in the Parish have been maintained to a high standard to ensure their survival and attractiveness and have retained their architectural integrity. Ways have been found and approved to improve the energy efficiency of listed and other older but sound buildings in order to reduce energy use and costs – thereby easing the total costs of sustaining them.</p>	

4.	<p>Homes:</p> <p>The Parish housing stock has evolved quickly through an increase in the numbers of smaller, lower cost homes with a variety of tenure types. This is achieved mainly through new build properties with some additional homes from larger houses being split. As a result it is possible for younger occupants with children to become residents and for down-sizing older current residents to stay in a familiar area whilst vacating larger homes for growing families.</p> <p>All new homes have been and are being built to very high standards of design, construction and energy and water efficiency. Where an opportunity arises for a new building within an existing Conservation Area or in the countryside, an outstanding design quality is always demanded.</p> <p>Existing homes are widely upgraded where feasible to improve energy efficiency to new build standards. The high local geography and resources such as sustainable wood supplies are being capitalised upon to reduce the total imported domestic energy requirements. Where possible renewable-based communal heating and energy systems are encouraged and harnessed. Schemes and techniques to reduce processed water demands are widely understood and adopted.</p>	
5.	<p>Public Transportation:</p> <p>An efficient, quick and coordinated public transport service is being run specifically to convey secondary school students to and from their schools in East Grinstead. The service is flexible enough to cater for after school activities.</p> <p>Commuters have access to a service by which they can reach and return from major travel hubs (East Grinstead, Three Bridges and Haywards Heath trains, Gatwick Airport) in a time-efficient way and without using private cars. Ad hoc travellers to hospitals, shops and other services can use a demand-based community travel. Using communications technology individual's travel needs are coordinated to allow scheduling and routing of the service on a real-time basis in appropriately-sized highly fuel efficient vehicles.</p> <p>The restored rail link to East Grinstead contributes to the travel options for residents and tourists.</p> <p>Shared community personal electric transport facilities suit some local journey needs and their safety has been enhanced by the reduction in car use and changed philosophy on road "ownership".</p> <p>Publicly accessible electric vehicle recharging facilities are provided in suitable locations.</p>	

6.	<p>Roads & Traffic:</p> <p>Within the village areas and along unclassified lanes people have regained ownership of the roads and adjoining spaces. These are now walker, cyclist, and horse-rider friendly environments into and through which motor vehicles are allowed to travel. The C319 (Selsfield Road, Chapel Row, The Hollow, Top Road) is unattractive for through traffic and traffic volumes and vehicle sizes have been significantly reduced as a result.</p> <p>Additional permissive walking routes have been opened to facilitate “A-B” walking travel. A safe cycling route to East Grinstead and Forest Row is now available. Vehicle travel out of and into the Parish is reduced as more services and facilities are now provided within the Parish area. The use of electric / fuel cell / hybrid cars and personal transport devices is widespread contributing to reduced noise, improved air quality and dramatically reduced carbon fuel usage. Sufficient parking areas are provided to avoid congestion in villages.</p>	
7.	<p>Commercial Services:</p> <p>Within the Parish there are commercially viable retail outlet(s) which are valued and patronised by the community and which carry a range of foods and other products sufficient for most everyday requirements. Where possible fresh produce is sourced from within or nearby the Parish.</p> <p>A service is provided allowing deliveries of online goods and groceries to a central point for collection after working hours avoiding missed / repeated deliveries and traffic in residential roads and difficult-to-find rural properties.</p> <p>A range of hospitality premises differentiated by price and character provide eating, drinking and accommodation options which are attractive to residents and visitors. Trades and craft services are encouraged to set up their businesses within the Parish and to particularly promote their offerings to and build trust with the local population.</p>	
8.	<p>Employment:</p> <p>There are more opportunities for people to work both full- and part-time within the Parish cutting down the traffic and giving residents more time to engage with the community. Employment is supplied by long-established businesses, a small business park which attracts new small businesses, and also by shops and services for visitors. An increasing number of people are self-employed and/or working from home, supported by super-fast broadband throughout the Parish and reliable childcare is available from early morning to late evening. New small-scale home-office accommodation is considered sympathetically. There is provision of shared facilities (such as IT support, call centre services etc.) for the self-employed.</p>	
9.	<p>Education Services for the Young:</p> <p>Pre-School and Primary education opportunities exist within the Parish which are recognised as outstanding and valued by the local community throughout the Parish area. The education establishments play an integral role in and are embraced by the whole community. Access to the school is easy from throughout the Parish without every parent driving to school.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged and supported in running childcare businesses up to year 6 within the Parish which provide employment opportunities and accommodate parents pursuing their occupations elsewhere.</p>	

10.	<p>Leisure and Culture:</p> <p>A wide range of venues of different sizes, facilities and locations are available and accessible to residents for sporting, cultural, performing and social clubs and groups. There are a diverse selection of active clubs and societies supported by and welcoming residents from the whole Parish and providing diversions for all age groups. Parish organisations encourage and draw in touring cultural offerings reducing the need to travel elsewhere.</p>	
11.	<p>Medical Services:</p> <p>There is a small health centre within the Parish which has a doctor and/or nurse in attendance at defined times during the week, especially convenient for parents of young children and older people. Access to the latest remote monitoring technology is also available from there and prescriptions can be collected at a central point. It is easy for everyone to attend local hospitals when necessary from anywhere within the Parish even if they are unable to get there by themselves.</p>	
12.	<p>Security and Crime:</p> <p>The community takes a pride in the Parish and there is a strong sense of ownership of community assets. There is a high awareness of necessary individual security measures and residents share <i>best-practice</i> techniques. To deter vandalism there is a high level of community alertness, with potential wrong-doers being challenged when possible or reported promptly to the police. The police are frequently seen throughout the Parish and there is a continuity of personnel and contact methods using new technology as well as traditional means.</p>	
13.	<p>Community:</p> <p>There is a strong sense of community which is nurtured and encouraged. There exists a high level of awareness of the needs of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups and a willingness to provide support. There is a widespread engagement by residents in matters affecting and benefitting the Parish area and a desire to become involved in projects for both community enhancement and enjoyment. The community has and capitalises upon an advanced technology-based community social network which underpins the cohesion, enjoyment and well-being of residents</p>	