

West Hoathly Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Challenges and Issues Summary

This document attempts to summarise the ideas discussed at the 29th February Neighbourhood Plan workshop. I have also referred 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 of community activities and support
3. The Pubs and existing retail premises
4. The generally low crime incidence
5. 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 will need to be tested with the wider community in due course.

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
- Public transport services
- Sustainability of the WH Primary School and related groups

Medium Impact Issues

- Range of shops and range of products on offer incl local produce
- Facilities to assist an ageing population – medical, support, travel
- Energy and Water use efficiency – existing and new homes
- Facilities for teenagers including travel options
- Local employment opportunities

Low Impact Issues

- Broadband performance
- Isolated crime hotspots
- Extent of Parish-wide cohesion

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16/3/2012