

West Hoathly Parish Neighbourhood Plan

“Kick-off Meeting”
8th February 2012



Kick-off Meeting Purpose

- Establish Common Understanding of NP
 - Why do it? / What is the process? / How do we start?
- Encourage Community Participation
- Set an Outline Timetable & Key Stages
- Agree Initial Meetings and dates
- Identify potential information sources

Kick-off Meeting Agenda

- Set the scene and Introductions JD
- Neighbourhood Planning Briefing CT
- Agree an Outline Timetable All
- Identify Information Sources All

Why do it?

- Because we **can now have a Statutory Voice** on important decisions about our area
- Because we want to ensure we can **fulfil our community's needs** into the future
- Because **if we don't** there could be **unwelcome risks to our valued environment**

Would we rather be:-

a) **carried along in the dark in a Ghost Train**

Or

b) able to **see** the way ahead and **steer** where **we want to go?**



Neighbourhood Planning in Mid Sussex

Claire Tester

Head of Economic Promotion and Planning, MSDC

Introduction



- Neighbourhood Planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work.
- The ability to produce Neighbourhood Plans is set out in the Localism Act
- Draft Neighbourhood Planning Regulations have been published – likely to be finalised in May 6

District Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy



- District Plan aims to increase the self-sufficiency of communities so they are less dependent on other areas for housing, jobs and other facilities.
- Much of the delivery of the District Plan's strategy will be through Neighbourhood Plans. Some interim information being sought for the District's Plan.
- Community Infrastructure Levy will be a set charge based on floorspace. Charges out for consultation for 6 weeks starting tomorrow.
 - Highest rate in the countryside approx £21,150 per house
 - Village rate approx £18,900 per house

Process for Neighbourhood Plans



Application to agree the Plan Area



Draft Regulations require:

- Plan identifying area and supporting statement to be submitted to the District Council
- District Council to publicise the application for 6 weeks

Nb. This can't be done until the Regulations come into force in May

Plan Preparation – early stages (can be done now)



- Decide what kind of place you are trying to create
- Establish the issues and options for your area
- Scope your Sustainability Appraisal – establish your environmental, economic and social objectives so that you can test your options against them
- Gather the evidence you need to decide which options are the right ones for your area
- Engage with your community

You are not starting from scratch. Much of the above can be based on previous work on Parish Plans / Healthchecks, Action Plans and Village Design Statements, supplemented where necessary by further public consultation

Plan Preparation (formal stages)



- Draft your Plan
- Publicise your Plan “in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on a business in the relevant neighbourhood area”
- Consult statutory consultees (such as WSCC, Southern Water etc)
- Give those people and organisations not less than 6 weeks to respond
- Amend Plan if necessary
- Submit the draft Plan to the District Council

Submission Document



The submission must include:

- the Plan itself
- a consultation statement saying who has been consulted, how, what issues were raised and how they have been addressed
- a written statement saying how the Regulations have been complied with

Initial Check and Pre-Examination



- The District Council will do an initial check that you have followed the Regulations
- It will then appoint an independent and appropriately qualified Examiner (in consultation with the Town/Parish)
- The District Council will publicise the Plan for a further 6 weeks, with all responses sent to the Examiner

Examination



- The Examiner will consider the Plan and the representations received. The considerations will be:
 - Is the Plan in general conformity with local and national policies?
 - Is it in line with other laws (such as Human Rights)?
- If it does not meet these tests then the Examiner will recommend changes
- If these are significant further consultation may be needed
- Otherwise the Plan will be amended and proceed to the referendum stage

Referendum



- The Examiner will recommend the area for the referendum
- Normally this would be the same as the Plan area, unless development is proposed which impacts on an adjacent area
- The referendum is carried out by the District Council (which will normally try to combine it with another election)
- The referendum question will be something like “should the neighbourhood plan be adopted, yes or no”
- If more than 50% of the voters say “yes” then the District Council must adopt the Plan as part of the statutory Development Plan.

Resources



- Plan preparation and initial public consultation is for the Town/Parish Council to lead and resource
- The pre-Examination consultation, Examination and Referendum are for the District Council to resource
- In addition, the District Council will provide advice and access to existing evidence documents to assist in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan
- The Government is grant funding some other bodies to help in the plan preparation. Currently:
 - Locality
 - The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment
 - CPRE/NALC
 - RTPi

A Process for West Hoathly – Part 1

- Identify and make available relevant Information
- **Workshops to identify and agree:-**
 1. **The Parish Issues / Challenges over a 20year view**
 2. **A Parish Vision**
 - **Based on the Futures Study, New District Plan and our own knowledge**
- **Begin Wider Consultation @ Parish Assembly Exhibition April 2012**

A Process for West Hoathly – Part 2

- Revisit Issues and Vision based on input received
- Specific Workshops on main issue topics (eg employment & business, housing) to refine and identify potential strategies
- Consolidate and Evaluate Strategies against
 - Infrastructure, Housing, Employment etc
- Develop Draft NP Key components with options and implications against issues and vision
- Checkpoint survey and consultation to further refine options
- Finalise Draft NP for approval steps submission
- Public Referendum

Information / Evidence available

- 2009 West Hoathly Parish Futures Study
- 2009 WH Village Conservation Area Appraisal & Consultation
- MSDC 2004 villages planning guidance
- New MSDC District Plan
- MSDC Housing / Landscape Studies
- AONB and Ashdown Forest Plans
- 2001 Census data (2011 to publish from 7/2012)
- Business rates list

Kick-off Meeting Purpose

- Objectives
 - Establish Common Understanding of NP
 - Why do it? / What is process? / How do we start?
 - Encourage Community Participation
 - Set an Outline Timetable & Key Stages
 - Agree Initial Meetings and dates
 - Identify potential information sources and data