

West Hoathly Parish - Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan project has now reached the stage where a draft Plan (enclosed with this letter) is available for consultation with residents.

It is very important that we check the extent to which this draft Plan has local support before it progresses to the next stage.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is founded upon the information gathered from the various public workshops, focus groups and the two parish-wide surveys conducted during 2012. The Plan sets out the vision for the future of our parish and its challenges and priorities. If adopted, **its policies** will shape local planning in the future. **An overview of the Neighbourhood Plan's approach is illustrated overleaf.**

The Plan is NOT solely about housing and other developments. By encouraging a small number of new homes to be built which target our identified housing needs, the Plan will help us retain our local services and facilities. This would also generate some of the funds needed to advance the other goals in the Neighbourhood Plan - such as addressing traffic and parking problems, and retaining the landscape features that make this such an attractive and unique place to live.

Policies

An important way of moving towards our vision is through the planning system. The policies in the Plan provide for new homes which match local requirements on agreed sites. Without a Neighbourhood Plan we would forfeit our ability to influence such decisions and they would be taken out of our hands.

For a policy to be included a NEED has to be demonstrated with supporting evidence (for example, the responses to a survey) and must be in harmony with District and National policies. Unless there are very unusual circumstances a policy cannot overturn policies in the Mid Sussex District Plan or the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

What would you like me to do?

Please read the draft Plan and consider the policies carefully. You can express your opinion on them, preferably online at www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan/Comment, or by completing the enclosed form.

Please note that only comments from named individuals and organisations can be accepted. Comments received by the closing date (Monday, 3rd June 2013) will be published on the *Our Plan* website and the Plan **will be reviewed and possibly amended** in light of the feedback.

What happens to the Plan next?

The draft Plan will be submitted for formal examination by an independent, qualified examiner and modified if necessary to accommodate their input. If all goes well, a *yes/no* referendum will be held later this year to allow Parish residents to decide whether or not our Plan should be adopted by Mid Sussex District Council. If our Plan is adopted, its policies will be added to the District Plan policies for all parish planning applications, as well as guiding parish decision-making and projects.

How can I find out more?

If you would like to know more or have any questions you are welcome to come along to one of the Neighbourhood Plan exhibition sessions:

- **Monday 22nd April** at the Parish Assembly, starting at 8pm in West Hoathly Village Hall
- **Wednesday 24th April**, 8pm - 9pm in Sharpthorne Church Hall
- **Thursday 25th April**, 8pm - 9pm in Highbrook Village Hall
- **Saturday 27th April**, 11am - 1pm in West Hoathly Primary School

or contact Helen Schofield, Parish Clerk, tel. 01342 811301.

The Neighbourhood Plan team
led by West Hoathly Parish Council

THREE STEPS TO A BETTER PARISH

Our Priorities

- Addressing traffic issues on the C319
- Improving pedestrian/cyclist safety
- Protecting the countryside and built heritage
- Retaining and enhancing key services and facilities
- Having more homes for younger families and older residents
- Improving public transport and retaining local employment
 - Supporting an ageing population
- Keeping and enhancing community activities and identity



KEY DATES

DRAFT PLAN POSTED TO YOU BY 16 APRIL

EXHIBITIONS:

PARISH ASSEMBLY -
8PM MON 22 APRIL

SHARPTHORNE CHURCH HALL -
8PM WED 24 APRIL

HIGHBROOK VILLAGE HALL -
8PM THUR 25 APRIL

WEST HOATHLY SCHOOL -
11AM - 1PM SAT 27 APRIL

CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS:
5PM MON 3 JUNE

REFERENDUM BY END 2013

Our Plan Policies

Focussing on:

- * Countryside
- * Traffic
- * Homes
- * Employment
- * Community Wellbeing

+ Mid Sussex Policies

Outcomes

- £ money for road safety
- 🏠 new homes matching local needs
- 👥 more people to retain services
- 🦋 protection of countryside & historic buildings