

West Hoathly Parish - Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan project has again reached the stage where a draft Plan (enclosed with this letter) is available for consultation with residents. This stage repeats the consultation in the spring of 2013; since then extensive further work has taken place to identify additional possible sites for new homes and to rigorously assess which sites would best support the community's future needs and priorities.

This local consultation is a very important formal step in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish; please take the time to read and understand it.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is founded upon the information gathered from the many public workshops, focus groups and the two parish-wide surveys conducted during 2012. It also incorporates the feedback from the spring 2013 consultation and significant new content as a result of the New Homes Task Force's work focussed on policy WHP13. The Plan as a whole 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 enabling a number of new homes to be built aimed at our identified housing requirements, 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. Among other things the policies in the Plan provide for new homes which match local requirements on specified sites. Without a Neighbourhood Plan we would forfeit our ability to influence such decisions and they would be taken out of our hands. Unless there are very unusual circumstances a policy cannot overturn policies in the Mid Sussex District's 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. Express your opinion on any of 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, 14th July 2014) will be published on the *Our Plan* website and the Plan will be reviewed and amended in light of the feedback.

What happens to the Plan next?

The draft Plan will be submitted to Mid Sussex District Council for a further consultation period and formal examination by an independent, qualified examiner who may recommend changes to the Plan. If all goes well, a *yes/no* referendum will then be held 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 drop-in information sessions:

- **Wednesday 4th June,** 7:30pm – 9:30pm in **Highbrook** Village Hall
- **Thursday 5th June,** 7:30pm – 9:30pm in **Sharpthorne** Church Hall
- **Saturday 7th June,** 10:30am – 12:30pm in **West Hoathly** Primary School

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

www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan

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 4TH JUNE

DROP-IN INFORMATION SESSIONS:

HIGHBROOK VILLAGE HALL -
7:30PM WED 4 JUNE

SHARPTHORNE CHURCH HALL -
7:30PM THUR 5 JUNE

WEST HOATHLY SCHOOL -
10:30AM-12:30PM SAT 7 JUNE

CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS:
5PM MON 14 JULY 2014

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

WWW.HOATHLYHUB.INFO/OURPLAN/DRAFT