



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Progress for Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan

23 March 2017

This spring sees the next steps towards the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hailsham.

A lot has happened since the launch of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee earlier this year including the launch of various questionnaires for local residents and businesses.

Furthermore, a community engagement event held at the Hailsham East Community Centre in February enabled people to have their say on what sort of homes should be provided in and around the Hailsham area in the future, taking into consideration local environment and sustainability, design, traffic and transport, economy, services and facilities.

Statistics obtained from an analysis of the comments put forward at the public consultation event have revealed strong support for the Neighbourhood Planning Committee's objectives.

"Our public consultations have generated a lot of interest and responses," said Councillor Glenn Moore, chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee. "Through such consultations involving residents and local businesses we aim to ensure that the local community has the opportunity to voice its opinion on how the town should grow in the future and the facilities and services it would require to do so."

Town Clerk John Harrison commented: "Through our various public consultations and community engagement events, residents, businesses and the wider community have been updated on the work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning Committee and its working groups to date."

"Community input has been enabled at various key stages of the neighbourhood plan process and the opinions, ideas and information captured from the local community will help directly inform and shape the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan."

Hailsham Town Council appointed a suitably qualified consultant last year to help in the preparation of the town's Neighbourhood Plan, the aims and objectives of which will be to:

- Create a vision for sustainable development within the parish of Hailsham
- Conserve and enhance the historic setting of the parish, including open spaces
- Support the expansion of local business and optimise employment capacity
- Identify transport infrastructure requirements within the parish
- Determine education, health and community facilities needs of parishioners

During the next few months, the Town Council's neighbourhood planning consultants will carry out a review of the Wealden Local Plan, the draft of which was published by Wealden District Council earlier this month, recommending a lower housing requirement than in the earlier Issues, Options & Recommendations document. Any remaining gaps in the evidence base will be identified.

An agreement will be made on the vision and objectives of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan and following this, an initial policy list draft will be produced prior to the preparation of a pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan document.

It is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process will be carried out in parallel to the draft Local Plan timescales.

For more information on the Plan's progress and latest announcements visit www.hailshamneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

- HAILSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MISSION: *"To formulate and deliver a Neighbourhood Plan that reflects the views and visions of those living within the agreed parish boundaries. By statute, the Neighbourhood Planning facility will provide the community of Hailsham with a genuine opportunity to influence the shape of the town for the benefit of current and future generations..... The Neighbourhood Planning team must complete the Neighbourhood Plan at the same time as Wealden District Council's Hailsham Area Action Plan (HAAP)."*

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