



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

AGENDA

NOTICE IS GIVEN OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING to be held in the **Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices, Market Street, Hailsham**

Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

1. **Public Forum**
(No more than 15 Minutes)
2. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence of appointed members.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive notice of declarations of personal or prejudicial interests in respect of items on this agenda.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
4.1 To resolve that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on Thursday 5th September 2024 may be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Neighbourhood Plan Review**
To consider the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan
6. **Funding**
To discuss funding available

John Harrison
Town Clerk
26th September 2024

Councillors:

Barry Carpenter
Anne Blake-Coggins
Dave Chapman
Jo Crittenden
Paul Holbrook
Mary Laxton (Chair)
Nathalie Hayes
Colin Mitchell

Councillors

C. Bryant
N. Hayes
G. White

Report to:	Neighbourhood Plan Committee
Date:	3rd October 2024
By:	John Harrison, Town Clerk
Title of Report:	Neighbourhood Plan Review

1.PURPOSE:

To consider the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan

2. Update from Jon Herbert, Troy Planning

I'm pleased to provide you with a note on progress, including several attachments. These have been prepared separately so we can continue to expand and develop them as work on the Plan and Design Code progresses. They will present background, supporting information to the Plan and Design Code, from which we can extract key points for inclusion in those documents. The content of these is summarised below. This is quite a long email: apologies!

On other matters, the Horam NDP was successful at Referendum yesterday with a 94% vote in favour of making the Plan. This will formally be made by WDC in mid-October. The Referendum version of the Plan is here:

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/UploadedFiles/Referendum-Version-Horam-Neighbourhood-Plan-Final.pdf>

2.1 Consultation Initial

This is the copy of the two-pager prepared as a first form of 'soft' consultation to inform people on projects delivered by the Town Council (supported through the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy) and to ask for ideas on future improvements people would like to see.

An online version of this is available, which we would encourage people to complete. It is open until 31st October. At the next meeting we should discuss / agree how and where this is being promoted / advertised.

2.2 Consultation ReLaunch

We have begun to think about the next round of consultation and have prepared a survey that asks for views on the first Neighbourhood Plan (eg: are the vision and objectives in that still relevant / what should the Plan consider now) as well as input to the Design Code, asking people what they like, or don't, about where they live, what their vision for the Town Centre is, and what they understand by good (or bad) design (including an opportunity for people to upload photos).

This is currently presented as one combined survey form, but it could be split in two (e.g.: one for the Plan, one for the Design Code) if that is considered easier for people to manage.

At the next meeting we should discuss / agree how the consultation might run: we should have some drop-in / in-person events. If we could align these with other activities being held in the town that might help capture more people and help us plan what other material might be needed (some images with the opportunity for people to place sticky dots on ideas / things they like or don't could be one way to do this)

2.3 Analysis Consultation

This presents a summary of the emerging findings of the initial consultation, having a focus on the Lego event organised by Mary. The key messages emerging from this are a desire for local children to see more, better, and more varied play, leisure and recreation space provided across Hailsham. This is really helpful and aligns with findings in WDC studies and mapping prepared by Natural England showing there to be a lack of open space, good quality space, and access to that, across most of Hailsham.

We have used this to present ideas for policies in the Neighbourhood Plan as well as some wider ideas that could be teased out. It would be good to get your feedback on these (see page title 'Options') in the attachment.

2.4 Analysis Town Wide

This presents mapping of the form and structure of the town, areas of growth, facilities, movement network and environmental constraints. It takes the same form of the mapping prepared for the first Plan but updates and develops this further. It has been prepared to help provide the narrative behind and help justify some of the emerging thoughts and ideas for policies and projects across Hailsham.

The ideas are summarised on the page entitled 'Headline messages' in the attachment. It would be good to get your feedback on these.

2.5 Analysis Movement

This presents mapping taken from the new Local Transport Plan being prepared by East Sussex County Council as well as from their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). These documents support the aims and aspirations in the made Neighbourhood Plan, with the LCWIP specifically referring to the aspiration for Hailsham to be a 'ten-minute town'.

The County-wide ideas presented need aligning with more local ideas, with the Neighbourhood Plan presenting an opportunity to expand upon these. We pose some questions for consideration in respect of (a) the concept of the mobility hub and how and where it might be expanded across Hailsham, (b) what interventions might be needed to encourage people to make a mode shift away from the car to walking, cycling and bus for shorter everyday journeys, and (c) ideas for possible interventions, linking the concept of the Park and Ride with a town centre 'hub'. This is presented as a 'Proposition'. People may or may not agree with this, and there will likely be other options to be teased out, but it is there for the purposes of discussion. We'd be interested in your thoughts on this.

2.6 DesignCode Structure

This presents the proposed structure and content of the Design Code, and is a work in progress version of the document that will be updated over the course of the project. It is provided to help give you an idea of how this will come together. It is being prepared in MS Word at the moment to help us manage the text input, but will eventually be updated with supporting graphics as a desk-top published document (using Adobe InDesign). We have begun to prepare the first few sections of this (intro / relationship to policy / are context etc).

2.7 DesignCode Variety

We have begun to sketch out some ideas for a Code around the creation of variety and interest in new development areas, using the lessons from more established residential areas to illustrate how this might be possible. These ideas will of course need teasing out and developing further through the code and consultation undertaken, but do seek to pick up on comments made through work on the last Neighbourhood Plan as well as some of the discussions we have had since about the character of new development that has and is coming forward.

2.8 DesignCode Street Types

As above, we have begun to sketch out some ideas around the hierarchy of streets in new development areas. Three street types are shown: (1) a central street which is intended to be the main connecting route through development and which should connect with the existing and future development areas, better integrating development, (2) a more typical and quieter residential street, and (3) a homezone / play strete / garden street type approach, which is designed as more a place for people than vehicles. These all need further developing with dimensions provided and further analysis of parking provision undertaken, but are shown as an emerging response to some of the issues already identified (but which will need to be further developed in response to consultation comments).

Both this and the 'Design Code Variety' document include placeholders for images. Instead of using Hailsham specific images to illustrate issues we instead propose to use similar examples, including those of recent development, from places elsewhere, but where the issues are similar to those in Hailsham. This is to avoid questions from local residents as to why we may have included images of their street / neighbourhood as a 'bad' example.

I do appreciate there is a lot here, but hope it shows good progress!

We have yet to hear back from Wealden - we had requested mapping and contacts at ESCC we could speak with in respect of transport and community infrastructure. We'll continue to chase.

One other, relatively minor point: for the purposes of branding and identity you'll notice that we've moved away from the use of orange in the first Plan to greens, reds, blues and yellows in this set of documents to match with the Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan logo.

I look forward to meeting with you again next week

Kind regards
Jon