

## VISION AND OBJECTIVES WORKSHOP

### Format

The session will take approximately 1.5 hours and will involve 2 practical workshops to share thoughts as well as record ideas. It is important that everyone attending is able to get involved in all the discussions. Attendees will be the Steering Group and task group members and it is important that all attendees are impartial and do not have vested interests.

The session will start with an overview of the parish by the Chair/Vice Chair, which should include its spatial characteristics and qualities, designations and constraints, the planning context, development pressures and opportunities. Together these provide the context for the main part of the session which will be a collaborative working session to help develop future objectives and set out parameters to guide and test the Plan.

### Preparation

In preparation for the session, it is useful if everyone reviews:

1. The key constraints such as flooding and designations, heritage and other areas that might influence the Plan.
2. The existing character, qualities and assets of the settlement.
3. The work done to date including; consultation, outputs of any public events and any issues that have been identified as being important to the development of the Plan.
4. Concerns about unsympathetic change, threats to assets, open spaces and so on
5. Ambitions for the future of the parish and its settlement.
6. Requirements for the parish in the District Council's Local Plan.

**It may be useful to make notes of any gaps which you identify while review the information collated to date so that it can be discussed at the session.**

## Scope of the workshop

### Purpose

The purpose of this session is to begin to establish the scope and possible content of the Plan through defining a draft vision and objectives. This will provide a clear spatial expression to the Plan, showing how and where Hurst Green parish and its settlements may grow and the impact on infrastructure, facilities and the natural environment.

### Developing a vision and objectives

- Clarify what your Neighbourhood Plan is aiming to achieve.
- There is no requirement to develop a vision or objectives, but you may find it useful to have one or the other, or both, to help guide the preparation of your Neighbourhood Plan.
- A vision and objectives can help to make it clear what your Neighbourhood Plan is aiming to achieve.

### Vision

A good vision does not have to be very long but will:

- Be long term, for example looking forward 15-20 years, to the period that is covered by the Local Plan.
- Be strategic, setting out a broad picture of your aspirations for your neighbourhood but will not include lots of details.
- Describe what you want your neighbourhood to look like, so people can form an image of the homes, businesses, shops, community facilities and open space it will contain.
- Consider what land use and development challenges will need to be addressed over the period covered by your Neighbourhood Plan.

### Workshop 1 practical exercises

1. Use the (yellow) coloured sheets provided and write down what the community event feedback suggests that are important to the people of Hurst Green (**group**)
2. Use the post-its provided (stick on pink paper) and write down some aspirations of what you want your vision to be, it does not have to be full sentences (**individual**)

Example:

**'Salehurst and Robertsbridge will continue to be a thriving safe and friendly village where people want to live, work and play. We will maintain and enhance our village whilst supporting sustainable development that respects our location within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for the benefit of all residents and visitors alike.'**

## Objectives

Objectives are more specific and set out what the Neighbourhood Plan aims to achieve. Look at each part of the vision and decide what needs to be done to achieve it.

The community event feedback suggest themes that people have identified through their comments and these themes through task groups will be used to develop your objectives.

**The task groups and themes which could be developed in the plan policies are:**

1. Education & Training
2. Leisure
3. Business, Economy & Tourism
4. Infrastructure
5. Housing

## Workshop 2 practical exercises

1. Who are the people in each task group? Do we want to keep those we already have? Are there any other task groups or themes to add to the list? **(open discussion)**
2. Use the **(pink)** coloured sheets provided and write down what the community event suggests that are important to the people of Hurst Green under each theme **(group)**
3. Use the post-its provided **(stick on yellow sheet)** and write down some of your objectives for each theme, it does not have to be full sentences **(individual)**

## Examples

*The Vision is an important statement of what the Neighbourhood Plan will aspire to overall but more specific objectives are needed to deliver this. The objectives cover a range of economic, social and environmental issues that form a basis for the sustainability performance of the Plan.*

**The following objectives under the themes are therefore proposed for the plan:**

- 1. Economy**
  - a) *To sustain a thriving village centre with mix use shopping and service provision offering a range of goods and services to the local community and visitors.*
  - b) *To foster a sustainable community that promotes employment creation, across commercial, retail and industrial sites.*
  - c) *To retain the local retail and service provision.*
- 2. Education**
  - a) *To improve and extend the local educational facilities in line with future housing developments.*
  - b) *To seek adequate education provision for children of the village of all ages.*
  - c) *To promote informal or social educational facilities for younger people.*
- 3. Environment**
  - a) *To protect and enhance local open spaces and access to the countryside.*
  - b) *To plan for climate change and work in harmony with the environment to conserve natural resources.*
  - c) *To encourage development which meets current energy efficiency standards and where possible higher standards to achieve low carbon and/or renewable energy generation.*

#### 4. **Housing**

- a) *To plan and deliver a range of housing mix, sizes and types that is integrated into the community which reflects both current and future housing needs of the village.*
- b) *To protect, maintain and enhance the nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic character; by guiding development that is sympathetic with the surroundings.*
- c) *To promote principles of good design and high quality that encourages local context and rural locality.*

#### 5. **Infrastructure**

- a) *To promote cycle networks and non vehicular connectivity for a sustainable village life.*
- b) *To reduce the harmful impact of road traffic and parking on the local community.*
- c) *To seek timely and effective maintenance of existing infrastructure.*
- d) *To maintain and improve effective flood defences.*
- e) *To seek improvements for pedestrian safety on the high street.*

#### 6. **Leisure**

- a) *To secure the long term future of existing community leisure and cultural facilities for all ages.*
- b) *To promote the provision of new facilities to address the future needs of the village.*

## **Moving the vision and objectives forward**

### **Implementation**

It is useful to consult your local community on the draft vision and objectives in order to find out if everybody agrees with them, whether there is anything crucial missing, or whether they can be improved in any way.

### **To be discussed:**

- Dates for consultation (end of March TBC)
- Method of consultation (drop in session TBC)
- Sign off by the parish council (prior and after consultation)

### **Output**

The session notes will be drafted into a report and issued to the steering group for comment w/c 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This report will guide the next steps in terms of agreeing to the proposed scope of the Plan as well as provide a basis for discussion on the scope of the Plan. This material can also be used by the steering group for further public consultation. The report will provide:

- **A Vision statement:** This will embody the very essence of what the Plan will aspire to achieve.
- **Key Objectives:** These will translate the vision into a set of short written statements on what the Plan is intending to achieve.
- **Outline Scope:** A set of issues relating to the key objectives and spatial plan will be provided as a basis for developing the evidence base for the Plan.
- **Engagement Activities:** Outlining tasks to be completed or undertaken to inform the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Project Plan:** An indicative project plan with the key milestones outlined.