

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Neighbourhood Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary

March 2014

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

1. The Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Neighbourhood Plan (HSCNP) is a Development Plan Document that if approved at referendum will become a key planning document for the local area up until 2031. The Plan provides a strategic vision and objectives for development in the Parish and sets out a clear policy framework for the delivery of new development. The strategic vision, objectives and policies have been formulated in accordance with existing higher level policy, notably the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Mid Sussex Local Plan 2004 (MSLP) and emerging Mid Sussex District Plan (MSDP).
2. The HSCNP has been subject to wide ranging stakeholder engagements which has shaped and formed the key planning issues and policies.
3. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) includes the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is an EC Directive that requires all strategic documents to ensure they are in accordance with the aims of sustainable development. The SA (incorporating the requirements of the SEA), has been undertaken in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC, ODPM guidance, 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Directive's', and the 2011 Localism Act.
4. The SA provides an appraisal tool to ensure that the principles of sustainable development, which comprises of economic, environmental and social issues, are positively achieved by the HSCNP. The SA is a 'live' document that has been continually updated as work on the HSCNP has progressed. The document seeks to assess all policies against other options to ensure that the most sustainable policy positions are taken forwards.

SCOPING REPORT (SR) FOR THE SUSTAINABLE ABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)

5. The SR report was published in January 2013 and provided a collection of baseline data for the Parish. The document sought to establish the key sustainability challenges facing the Parish of an economic, environmental and social nature.
6. The document was subject to a consultation process with Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), Natural England (NE), Environment Agency (EA) and English Heritage (EH).
7. The SR assessed and collated all relevant plans, documents and programmes which might have an impact on the formation of policy and provide an understanding of the key sustainability issues faced by the Parish. The document included an overview of the Parish and then environmental, social and economic characteristics. Information was collected on the following topic areas:
 - Landscape, Soil & Geology;
 - Villagescape;
 - Rural Landscape;
 - Biodiversity;
 - Air Quality & Climate;
 - Noise;
 - Archaeology;
 - Heritage;
 - Water & Flooding;
 - Indices of Multiple Deprivation;
 - Human Population;

- Health;
 - Economic;
 - Material Assets; and
 - Transport & Highways.
8. As a result of this appraisal, a series of sustainability issues, problems and trends were identified. This sought to identify the challenges facing the Parish and then assess them if no NP was delivered. A SWOT analysis was also used to review issues facing the Parish. This showed that sustainability issues would be better addressed through the production of an NP.
 9. Once the sustainability issues had been clearly identified, the SR sought to establish a Sustainability Framework. The Sustainability Framework comprised of a number of objective, with relevant indicators, which could be used to assess the identified sustainability issues.
 10. The consultation responses to the SR were incorporated into the Draft SA.

DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

11. The Draft SA was completed in tandem with the Draft HSCNP, which were both subject to public consultation in late March 2013. The following stages were undertaken for the SA:
 - Appraisal of SA (SEA) Methodology;
 - Summary of the Baseline Information and any Updates Following the Production of the SR;
 - Assessment of Sustainability Framework - Objectives and Indicators;
 - Appraisal of HSCNP Policy Options Against the Sustainability Framework;
 - Discussion on Next Steps; and
 - Assessment of all HSCNP Policies Against Other Policy Options.
12. The SA included an update on baseline data relating to the 2011 Census, which at the time the SR was produced had not been available at a Parish level. The SR had therefore relied on the 2001 Census data.
13. Other background documents which had not been assessed by the SR, but had been noted as being important during the consultation of the SR, were also reviewed.
14. As a result of the additional baseline data, the challenges facing the Parish were updated.
15. The Sustainability Objective suggested in the SR were refined and these were tested against the strategic objectives. The draft objectives of the HSCNP were also tested against the Sustainability Objectives. Finally the Sustainability Objectives were assessed against themselves. The aim of all these processes was to identify where sustainability issues were compatible with one another, or where they were incompatible.
16. The appraisal revealed that the Sustainability Framework was appropriate and that the vast majority of key objectives and indicators were compatible. Where incompatibilities were identified these were discussed, so the harm could be better understood. Generally these occurred where there were conflicts between policies to protect the countryside and policies to deliver new housing and infrastructure.
17. The draft SA also appraised all the draft policies of the HSCNP, to ensure that the most sustainable options were being pursued. Each draft policy was assessed against the strategic objectives and then compared with other potential policy positions. Each policy was then assessed as being: significantly positive, positive, possible positives, neutral, possible negatives, negative and significant negative.

18. The aim was to ensure that the most sustainable option was being pursued and if it were not, then the policy should be corrected to ensure compliance with the aims of sustainable development. Where conflicts were identified between draft policies and strategic objectives, these were discussed.

SUBMISSION SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

19. Following the consultation of the HSCNP and SA, 30 consultee comments were received, which needed to be appraised as part of the further development of policy. As a result of this feedback, both documents and number of policies were amended, although no substantive new policy was proposed.
20. The Submission Version was finalised in February 2014. This was some 11 months after the Draft Version. It was therefore necessary to review any new or updated documents and plans that might have been released during that time, that might contain important baseline data that should be considered as part of the HSCNP. Whilst a number of new and updated documents were identified, there was no substantive new baseline data found that conflicted with proposed policy or required a changes to the vision and objectives.
21. As a number of the HSCNP policies had been amended in light of the consultation responses and it was necessary to update and amend the alternative policies list to ensure the most sustainable options were still being pursued. This confirmed that all options being pursued were the most sustainable possible.

APPENDIX 1

Summary Table of Policy Options Sustainability Appraisals

	Objective 1: Protect/Enhance SDNP	Objective 2: Protect/Enhance Countryside	Objective 3: Protect/Enhance Ecology	Objective 4: Protect/Enhance Historic Env	Objective 5: Flooding	Objective 6: Reduce Impact on Climate Change	Objective 7: Address Congestion and Reduce Car Use	Objective 8: Local, Affordable Homes	Objective 9: Safe Villages	Objective 10: Improved Access to Services	Objective 11: Maintain/Enhance Economic Base	Objective 12: Stable Employment	Objective 13: Encourage Tourism
C1	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	0	?✓	0	✓	0	0	*	?*	*
C2	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	?✓	✓	0	✓✓	0	?✓	?✓	?✓	✓✓
C3	✓	✓	?✓	✓	0	?*	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓
C4	?✓	?✓	0	0	0	?✓	✓	0	?✓	0	0	0	0
C5	✓	?✓	0	✓✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓
C6	0	✓	0	✓✓	0	0	0	0	0	?✓	✓✓	✓	?✓
C7	0	✓✓	?✓	0	0	?✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0
A1	0	?*	✓	?✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓✓	?✓	?✓	0
A2	0	✓	?✓	0	0	?✓	✓	0	0	✓✓	0	0	0
A3	0	✓✓	?✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0
A4	0	?*	0	0	0	?✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0
A5	?✓	✓	0	✓✓	0	0	?✓	0	0	?✓	0	0	0
H1	✓	?*	*	*	0	✓	?✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	0
H2	0	*	?*	?*	✓	*	*	✓✓	0	?✓	✓✓	✓✓	0
H3	✓	?*	*	*	0	✓	?✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	0
H4	0	*	?*	?*	✓	*	*	✓✓	0	?✓	✓✓	✓✓	0
H5	0	0	?✓	0	0	?*	✓✓	✓	0	✓✓	✓	✓✓	0
5.3	*	*	*	*	0	?✓	?*	✓✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0
H6	✓✓	✓	0	✓✓	0	0	?✓	0	✓	?✓	0	0	?✓
H7	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	?✓	?✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0
H8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓✓	✓✓	0
H9	0	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓	?✓	✓✓	✓✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0
H10	0	0	0	0	0	0	?✓	✓	0	?✓	?✓	?✓	0
E1	0	*	*	0	0	?*	✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	✓✓	0
E2	0	?✓	?*	0	?*	?*	?✓	0	0	0	✓✓	✓✓	0
E3	0	0	0	✓✓	0	0	0	0	?✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	?✓
E4	0	0	0	0	0	?✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	?✓
E5	?✓	?✓	?*	?✓	?✓	?*	?*	0	0	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
T1	0	0	0	0	0	?✓	✓✓	0	✓	?✓	0	0	✓
T2	0	0	0	?✓	0	✓	✓✓	0	✓	✓✓	?✓	?✓	?✓
T3	0	0	0	?✓	0	?✓	✓✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0
T4	0	0	0	?✓	0	?✓	✓✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	?✓
T5	?✓	✓	0	?✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	?*	?*	0
T6	0	✓	0	0	0	?✓	✓✓	0	0	?✓	0	0	?✓
T7	0	0	0	?✓	0	?✓	✓✓	0	✓	✓✓	✓	?✓	?✓
T8	?✓	?✓	?✓	?✓	0	✓✓	✓✓	0	0	✓✓	✓	✓	✓