

Twineham Neighbourhood Plan

2014 - 2031

Sustainability Report

Non-Technical Summary

Twineham Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The whole of the parish area has been designated a Neighbourhood Area for this purpose by Mid Sussex District Council, the Local Planning Authority covering the parish of Twineham

A Sustainability Appraisal, as defined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, aims to predict and assess the social, environmental and economic effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of plans or programmes, in order to ensure that the strategies, policies and plans within these contribute to and promote sustainable development. Although not a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, an Appraisal provides a means of demonstrating the Plan will promote sustainable development.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment, as defined by European Directive 2001/42, aims to predict and assess the environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans, policies and strategies. It is a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes. In which case, Neighbourhood Plans may be required to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion published by Mid Sussex District Council in May 2013 requires all Plans in its area that are intending to allocate land for housing or employment use to undertake an Strategic Environmental Assessment.

In the UK, the Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Therefore where this report refers to the Sustainability Appraisal, it can be assumed this also means the Strategic Environmental Assessment. It therefore aims to predict the effects of the policies and proposals of the Twineham Neighbourhood Plan and has been used to inform its production to ensure that the policies promote sustainable development.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report

The Twineham Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision as to how the parish of Twineham will evolve and a delivery plan for its achievement. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period from 2014 to 2031. It is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the District Plan and with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Sustainability Appraisal follows a repetitive process, providing a view of the likely implications on sustainable development of different options for policy areas in the Plan as well as the overall Plan strategy. The findings of this work have been taken into consideration in determining the content of the Neighbourhood Plan and are documented within the Sustainability Report.

The Sustainability Appraisal process has widened the range of issues and options considered in formulating the proposals for the Twineham Neighbourhood Plan, in particular by focussing attention on the need to consider a range of potential environmental, social, and economic effects. In turn, this has enabled the most sustainable policy approaches to be identified for inclusion within the Twineham Neighbourhood Plan.

Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Objectives have been chosen to represent the economic, environmental and social issues facing the Parish – enabling the assessment to show whether policies would result in balanced, ‘sustainable’ development, or would favour one of these three themes over another.

Methodology

A Scoping Report was prepared in 2012 containing a summary of what we already know about Twineham. Feedback from the Environment Agency and MSDC was received and as a result modifications were made.

A Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Plan Policies was carried out in 2014. Each policy or identified site was appraised against each Sustainability Objective and scored according to its impact on the Objective: significantly negative; negative; neutral; positive; significantly positive, or whether the impact is not known. The Neighbourhood Plan contains the outcome of this assessment

Sustainability Framework

The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan were compared against the Sustainability Objectives and this showed that the Plan does not conflict with the aims of Sustainable Development. Some issues are not covered by the Plan, such as climate change, flooding, and waste disposal as these are outside the scope or influence of the Parish. Policies of the National Planning Policy Framework, and adopted policies at County and District level will ensure that any development Twineham Parish’s Sustainability Objectives.

Recommendations of Sustainability Appraisal

The Sustainability Appraisal concluded that implementation of the Plan policies will not have a negative impact on the sustainability objectives of the Parish. The implementation of the Plan will contribute to the objectives of sustainable development within the Parish.