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You may also visit the offices Monday to Friday, to view other Local Plan documents.

A copy of the Wealden Local Plan and associated documents can be downloaded from the Planning Policy pages of the Wealden website, www.wealden.gov.uk/planningpolicy or scan the QR code below with your smart phone.

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<td>Polegate Town Masterplan</td>
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<td>Key Vision Statement</td>
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<td>The Plan Process</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary of Key Messages</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Next Steps</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Heathfield and Waldron Vision Document</td>
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<td>The Aim of the Approach</td>
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<td>Who is Involved?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Vision</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Plan Process</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Summary of Key Messages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Horam Vision Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Progress</td>
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<td>Geographical Area</td>
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<td>Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Progress</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geographical Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Background

1.1 The Council has prepared a series of Background Papers to accompany the Wealden Local Plan 2013 - 2028. The papers cover a range of issues and provide technical and detailed information, derived from a number of our specialist studies, or summaries of relevant work undertaken by others which inform the strategy and policies of the Wealden Local Plan.

1.2 This Background Paper, entitled 'Summary of Neighbourhood Planning, Master Planning and Vision Documents', includes Neighbourhood Planning, visioning and master-plan work that has been undertaken by Parish and Town Councils across the District.
1 Background
2 Introduction

2.1 Over the past two decades the planning system has been substantially reformed to embed community responsive policy-making and deliver sustainable development. The aim of this spatial planning approach is to deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes, through working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and agencies that help to shape local areas and deliver local services.

2.2 The Government White Paper ‘Strong and Prosperous Communities’ (1) described the role of local authorities as ‘place shapers’ and strengthened the notion that through strategic leadership, communities can be brought together to build a vision of how to address and respond to challenges facing a locality, in a coordinated way. This can be done through partnership, by developing a joint vision and supporting and working with other bodies. The aim is to give local people and communities more influence and power to improve their lives and shape the places where they live.

2.3 The planning system has undergone significant reform through the Localism Act (2011) (2) with its inclusion of neighbourhood planning, which is reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2.4 The Localism Act empowers local communities to shape and manage development in their local area through producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, a Neighbourhood Development Order, or a Community Right to Build Order (3).

2.5 Once adopted, these documents are statutory plans and operate alongside the statutory Local Development Plans prepared by the Local Planning Authority.

2.6 A number of town and parish Councils are currently progressing Neighbourhood Plans, some of which are based on master planning or visioning documents prepared previously.

2.7 This Background Paper provides a summary of the Neighbourhood Plans being progressed within the District and a summary of the visioning and masterplan work to date and key local issues highlighted through these documents. Many of these issues are reflected in or have been addressed through the production of the Wealden Local Plan.

2.8 This background paper also contains links to documents prepared by the Neighbourhood Planning, various master planning and visioning groups.

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1 Strong and Prosperous Communities (Vol 1), Strong and Prosperous Communities (Vol 2)
2 Introduction
3 Context

3.1 As part of the early stages in the development of the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan (2013)\(^4\), Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to consider the vision for and future of their local area, through completion of a parish template.

3.2 Many of the Town and Parish Councils continued this exercise through preparing visions and master plans to shape future development in their local areas. This work engaged local stakeholders and the community in helping build consensus about the future needs of an area and identify priorities for action. A background document (Background Paper number 7) summarising the master plans and vision documents prepared at this time was compiled to support the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan in 2013\(^5\).

3.3 Neighbourhood planning legislation came into effect in April 2012\(^6\), just before the submission of the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan. This has enabled Town and Parish Councils to develop further their visions and master-plans since the adoption of the Core Strategy. Elements of the master planning and visioning exercises outlined in this document form the basis of or will include similar elements in some of the Neighbourhood Plans that are currently being prepared.

3.4 Town and Parish Councils are well placed to represent local views and identify issues and options. Wealden District Council is keen to support these emerging Neighbourhood Plans and master plans to help inform the new Wealden Local Plan. A summary of plans prepared by Town and Parish Councils within the District is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of Town and Parish Council Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town/ Parish</th>
<th>Masterplan or Vision Document</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Adopted as SPG</th>
<th>Neighbourhood Plan Stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crowborough</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Withdrawn (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uckfield</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hailsham</td>
<td>Yes (with Hellingly)</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Regulation 14 consultation complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellingly</td>
<td>Yes (with Hailsham)</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Regulation 14 consultation complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4 Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) Core Strategy Local Plan 2013
5 Core Strategy Submission Documents and Evidence Base Core Strategy Library
## Neighbourhood Planning and Masterplans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town/Parish</th>
<th>Masterplan or Vision Document</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Adopted as SPG</th>
<th>Neighbourhood Plan Stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polegate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Considering Neighbourhood Plan application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathfield</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maresfield</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herstmonceux</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Referendum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartfield</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadlow Down</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frant</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Hoathly with Halland</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadhurst</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Draft plan preparation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Master Plans/Vision documents vs. Neighbourhood Plans

4.1 Master-plans/vision documents and Neighbourhood Plans can take a variety of forms depending on the context in which the plan is to be used and what the parish or community want to achieve. However, in general terms both processes seek to establish principles of how a place may change over a period of time, physically, economically and socially.

4.2 Neighbourhood plans must be based on the broad principles, policies and allocations contained within the adopted Local Authority Development Plan documents and must go through a prescribed process (outlined below) of screening, public engagement and consultation and a public referendum before it can be adopted. Once adopted following a referendum, it has legal force and becomes a planning document – part of the Local Authority Development Plan and must be taken into account in making decisions on planning applications.

4.3 The development of master-plans/or vision documents are not constrained in the same way, but generally include consultation with the community. To be adopted as part of the Local Planning document, either the content of the master-plan has to be incorporated into the plan or be treated as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and subject to the same scrutiny as a Local Plan.

4.4 The benefit of producing a master-plan or Neighbourhood Plan/Vision document is that it gives local people a share in the decisions as to what their town/village/area should look like and to help guide its future development. This provides an opportunity for the community to set out a vision of what is important to it, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities and services that the community need and want to safeguard for the future.

4.5 None of the master-plans or vision documents that have been prepared by Town and Parish Councils have been adopted by Wealden District Council as SPD’s, but many of the master-plans/vision documents prepared or elements of them, provide the basis of Neighbourhood Plans submitted to date.

4.6 Neighbourhood Development Plans are the first plans developed at a Parish Council level with legal force. They will form part of Wealden District Council’s statutory planning documents and are additional to, not a replacement for, the adopted development plan. Adopted Neighbourhood Plans will be used in determining planning applications.

4.7 For this reason, this document is structured to focus on the Neighbourhood planning process underway at present and provides a summary of the progress and content of each Neighbourhood Plan submission and then focuses on previous master-plan or vision documents prepared by the Parish or Town councils that may be the basis of, or support, the Neighbourhood Planning process.

4.8 The master-plan or vision documents of those Town and Parish Councils who have not submitted an application for a Neighbourhood Plan are considered below. Certain
elements of these master-plan or vision documents have helped to shape the Wealden Local Plan.

4.9  The following sections provide a brief summary of the current progress firstly on each of the Neighbourhood Planning submissions, and then each of the town master-plans, a summary of how the local community was involved, and a summary of the key priorities, challenges and needs that have been identified so far. In each case links are provided to the full documents.
5 Neighbourhood Plans

5.1 Wealden District Council has published information regarding the Neighbourhood Planning process on the Council website (7). This includes information on what a neighbourhood plan is, who can carry out a neighbourhood plan and the key stages in the neighbourhood planning process. A brief summary of these processes and the progress on the neighbourhood plans being undertaken within the District at the time of writing this document is given below.

5.2 Wealden District Council’s website, and the individual Town and Parish Council websites, will provide up to date summaries of applications and progress on Neighbourhood Plans within the District, beyond the drafting of this Background Paper.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

5.3 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. Neighbourhood planning is not a legal requirement but a right which communities in England can choose to use.

5.4 Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to:

- make a **neighbourhood development plan**
- make a **neighbourhood development order**
- make a **Community Right to Build order**

5.5 A neighbourhood development plan establishes general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, like including where new homes and offices should be located and what they should look like. They allow local people to decide the type of development for their community.

5.6 A **neighbourhood development order** allows the community to grant planning permission for development that complies with the order. This removes the need for a planning application to be submitted to the local authority.

5.7 A **Community Right to Build** order gives permission for small-scale, site-specific developments by a community group.

5.8 Communities may decide that they could achieve the outcomes they want to see through other planning routes, such as incorporating their proposals for the neighbourhood into the Local Plan, or through other planning mechanisms such as Local Development Orders and supplementary planning documents or through pre-application consultation on development proposals.
Who can carry out a Neighbourhood Plan?

5.9 A relevant body can prepare a neighbourhood plan. A “relevant body” means (a) a Parish Council, or (b) an organisation or body which is, or is capable of being, designated as a neighbourhood forum (s61G(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 (c.20)

The Neighbourhood Planning process

5.10 Although neighbourhood planning takes place at a local level, Wealden District Council have a role in deciding whether candidate neighbourhoods are suitable for neighbourhood plans by considering technical issues such as overlapping of boundaries and making sure that only one group is selected to produce a plan for a defined area.

5.11 In terms of the Plan’s production, there are a number of basic conditions to ensure plans are legally compliant and take account of wider policy considerations (e.g. national policy).

5.12 Neighbourhood plans must;

- have regard to national planning policy;
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and
- be compatible with EU obligations and human rights legislation.

5.13 There are several key stages to neighbourhood planning which are outlined below.

Stage 1: Defining the Neighbourhood

5.14 In areas such as Wealden with a Parish or Town Council, the Parish or Town Council will usually take the lead on neighbourhood planning, aided by Wealden District Council. The neighbourhood area may include the whole of, or may focus on particular parts of the town or parish area.

5.15 It is only possible to have one plan per neighbourhood area but a Parish can contain multiple neighbourhood plans. So, for example, a number of villages (neighbourhoods) could have their own neighbourhood plans within a Parish. Equally, a number of neighbourhood plans can be produced for use within a town.

Stage 2: Preparing the Plan

5.16 Next, Parish or Town Councils will begin collecting their ideas together and drawing up their plans. Wealden District Council has a 'duty to support' in terms of agreeing the area covered, providing general guidance and advice on the shape and content of the Plan, and finally validating whether the plan is in line with the strategic objectives of the adopted development plan.
Stage 3: Consultation

5.17 The Parish or Town Council must then formally consult with the local community where the neighbourhood plan will cover. This is a statutory stage of consultation required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). They must also consult with a number of prescribed statutory consultees such as the County Council, Environment Agency and Natural England. The consultation must last for a minimum period of six weeks.

Stage 4: Submission

5.18 At the end of the consultation period the Town or Parish Council will then consider the responses received and make any further changes to the draft plan. Once they are happy that the draft plan is in compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements the draft plan and any supporting documentation is required to be formally submitted to Wealden District Council. Once received the Council will undertake a second stage of consultation required by Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). This will again be for a minimum period of six weeks.

Stage 5: Examination

5.19 At the end of the consultation period the Council will appoint an independent examiner to examine the draft plan. The examiner will check that the draft plan meets the statutory and regulatory requirements. An Examination report will be produced which confirms whether, in the examiner's opinion, the plan should proceed to the referendum stage. In doing so, the examiner may indicate that modifications are made to the plan to ensure its compliance with the basic conditions. It is then the Council's decision whether to agree with the recommendations in the examiners report.

Stage 6: Community Referendum

5.20 If the examiner recommends that the draft plan proceeds to the referendum stage and the Council agree with this recommendation, the Council will organise a referendum on any plan or order that meets the correct standards. This ensures that the community has the final say on whether a neighbourhood plan or order comes into force. If a simple majority of those who vote support the plan, then it comes into force.

Stage 7: Legal Force

5.21 Proposed Neighbourhood Development Plans or Orders need to gain the approval of a majority of voters of the neighbourhood to come into force. If proposals pass the referendum, the local planning authority is under a legal duty to bring them into force[8]. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is in force, it carries legal weight and forms part of the adopted development plan for the District. Wealden District Council will remain the decision maker but will be obliged, by law, to take what it says into account when considering proposals for development in the neighbourhood.
Progress on Neighbourhood Plans in the District

5.22 There are a number of Neighbourhood Plans currently being progressed by Town and Parish Councils within the District. The approach varies with each plan and is specific to the local area, issues and opportunities within each Neighbourhood Plan area. Progress on each plan is set out in the table below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Area Designation</th>
<th>Regulation 14 Consultation</th>
<th>Regulation 16 Consultation</th>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Referendum</th>
<th>Adoption</th>
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<td>29.11.2013 - 24.01.2014</td>
<td>25.09.17 - 06.11.2017</td>
<td>Final report received</td>
<td>03.05.2018</td>
<td>tbc</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19.03.2017 - 19.05.2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hartfield PC</td>
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<td>Hailsham</td>
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<td>Frant PC</td>
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</table>
6 Maresfield Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

6.1 The application for the designation of the area of the Maresfield Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 25th June 2012. Consultation took place between the 22nd August and the 3rd October 2012. There were no responses received following consultation.

6.2 The application was formally approved by Wealden District Council for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning on the 14th November 2012, subject to a scoping report on the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

6.3 Wealden District Council undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening of the draft plan and consulted with the statutory environmental bodies. It was determined as part of this process that an SEA was required for the Maresfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. A letter of determination confirming the requirement for a SEA, under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004\(^9\), was issued by Wealden on the 12th February 2016.

6.4 The Parish Council has established a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and several working groups to engage with the community and progress a number of evidence studies across the Neighbourhood plan area. This work will support the final submission of the plan to Wealden District Council for examination and then a Referendum prior to adoption. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the parish councils website: [http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/neighbourhood_plan.asp](http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/neighbourhood_plan.asp).

Geographical Area

6.5 The Maresfield Neighbourhood plan includes the geographical area covered by Maresfield Parish Council and includes the three villages of Fairwarp, Nutley and Maresfield.

Vision

6.6 In developing its Neighbourhood Plan, Maresfield Parish Council has indicated:

“Our Vision is to produce a Plan which is led and supported by the community that offers real power, choice and influence in relation to development, to safeguard the future of our three distinctive villages as thriving rural communities and ultimately deliver the shared vision of the whole Parish”.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

6.7 The Maresfield Neighbourhood Plan documentation outlines 8 key objectives for the Neighbourhood plan.
Deliver a range of homes in the parish to meet the strategic needs of Wealden whilst respecting the desires of the residents of the parish.

Support the retention and, wherever possible, provision of shops, services, amenities and community facilities in the villages of the parish.

Deliver development that both protects the valuable natural environment of the parish and respects its rural character, with particular protection afforded to the Ashdown Forest SPA / SAC and High Weald AONB.

Identify and deliver development that meets the needs of all sectors of the community, young or old, affluent or in need.

Support development that promotes sustainable modes of transport, preserves and enhances the local network of footpaths and cycleways and helps provide a safe and efficient local road network.

Deliver development that incorporates high standards of design and energy efficiency whilst remaining in keeping with the distinct character of the Parish’s villages.

Support development that helps meet the needs of the local economy, including mechanisms to help deliver the Ashdown Business Park.

Seek to retain and where possible enhance open space, green space and recreational facilities within the parish that has a demonstrable community value.
7 Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

7.1 The application for the designation of the area of the Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 2nd November 2012. Consultation took place on the plan between the 26th November 2012 and the 14th of January 2013. One response supporting the plan was received. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on the 6th February 2013.

7.2 As part of the Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan, Wealden District Council undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening of the draft plan and consulted with the statutory environmental bodies. It was determined as part of this process that an SEA was not required for the Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan.

7.3 Herstmonceux Parish Council established a Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee and a number of focus groups to engage with the community and progress a number of evidence studies. This work supported the final submission plan. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the parish councils website: http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Parish%20HTML/pc_neighbourhood_plan.html.

7.4 Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan took place between 29th November 2013 and 24th January 2014. Further work was undertaken on the draft plan and a second stage of consultation took place between 19th March 2017 and 19th May 2017. Herstmonceux Parish Council formally submitted the Herstmonceux Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to Wealden District Council, which were formally accepted on 21st October 2017. Wealden District Council subsequently published the Submission Herstmonceux Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents for six weeks formal public consultation between 25th September 2017 and 6th November 2017.

7.5 Eight representations were received which were forwarded to an Independent Examiner, John Slater, BA (Hons), DMS, MRTP, to consider. The final report was received by the Council on 6th February 2017, which set out a number of modifications to the plan to ensure its statutory compliance.

7.6 Each of the recommendations made in the Examiner’s report were considered by the Council and a Portfolio Holder Decision was made on 21st February 2018 to proceed with the referendum stage of the process, subject to the modifications made by the Examiner. The referendum took place on 3rd May 2018. The referendum had a 28.5% turnout and 83.88% voted in favour of the plan.

Geographical Area

7.7 The Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan includes the geographical area covered by Herstmonceux Parish Council and includes the three villages of Herstmonceux, Windmill Hill and Cowbeech.
Vision

7.8 The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following vision for the Neighbourhood planning area:

‘The vision for Herstmonceux Parish is to maintain and protect its rural character whilst keeping it relevant, attractive and economically viable for future generations.’

Strategic Aims

7.9 The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan set out what the community wants to achieve in order to help realise the vision. The following objectives have been identified;

1. To provide a sustainable environment and community to meet the needs of its residents.
2. To protect the natural beauty of the parish landscape, particularly the High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty and Low Weald and protect the natural environment.
3. To protect existing and extend Green Spaces in the parish.
4. To ensure that the design of new buildings conserves the rural character of the parish in the High Weald and Low Weald.
5. To encourage development of smaller dwellings, both for purchase and to rent, for older parishioners who wish to remain in their community.
6. To build and maintain the commercial viability and vitality of Herstmonceux village centre.
7. To provide an opportunity for the provision of business opportunities in the parish.
8. To improve the range and quality of local community services and facilities.
9. To encourage and enable the local community to pursue healthy lifestyles with sports facilities, cycle/ pedestrian routes and access to public rights of way.
10. To support the development of a Community Land Trust in the parish.
8 Hartfield Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

8.1 The application for designation of the area of the Hartfield Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 2nd September 2013. Consultation took place between the 30th September and 11th November 2013. No responses were received following consultation. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on the 4th December 2013.

8.2 The Hartfield Neighbourhood Planning group has established a Steering group to engage with the community and progress a number of evidence studies. This work will support the final submission of the plan to Wealden District Council for examination and then a Referendum. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the parish councils website:

Geographical Area

8.3 The Hartfield Neighbourhood plan includes the geographical area covered by Hartfield Parish Council and includes the village of Hartfield and the smaller settlements of Holtye, Upper Hartfield and Coleman’s Hatch.

Vision

8.4 A number of vision statements have been put forward by the Neighbourhood Planning group following the community consultation for consideration. These include:

"A Parish where young people want to and are able to afford to live or move into, with jobs to keep them here and activities for them to participate in"
"A Parish where elderly residents are suitably provided for with appropriate accommodation and facilities"
"A village with a Post Office"
"A distinct and independent village / Parish"
"A vibrant, thriving, sustainable, invigorated community with local facilities (such as shops, pubs, a school and playschool, church, sports facilities and bus service), as well as a diverse range of housing and business units, undergoing sustainable growth"
"A Parish with fast broadband to attract and meet the needs of residents and businesses"
"A Parish incorporating and surrounded by a beautiful, green, well-protected environment"

Strategic Aims and Objectives

8.5 Following a Neighbourhood Plan consultation event, a number of areas were identified as potential areas for the Neighbourhood Plan to address. These areas include:
Housing

An apparent “gap” between demand and supply of certain types of housing – e.g. there is a shortage of lower cost homes for first time buyers to purchase and with an ageing population we also have a lack of suitable housing that people can move to as they plan for their retirement.

Business and Employment

A desire to maintain and support local employment

Tourism

A need to explore through further consultation, whether a growth in tourism should be encouraged or discouraged, and whether specific policy is required.

Hartfield Parish Design Guide (and Conservation Area Policy)

A need to influence the design of new buildings and possibly develop specific design policy for Hartfield parish and for the village Conservation Area, complementing the existing Wealden Design Guide.

Local Facilities and Assets

A need to identify and protect Assets of Community Value

Car Parking

A need to explore further whether there is sufficient car parking in the parish (and particularly in Hartfield village) to meet day to day demand as well as for village events.

8.6 These are the key areas that will be explored further through the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
9 Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

9.1 The application for the designation of the area of the Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 3rd October 2014. One response was received to the consultation on the plan which took place between the 17th March and the 28th April 2014. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on the 13th June 2015.

9.2 The Uckfield Neighbourhood Planning group has established a Steering group to engage with the community and progress a number of studies around the themes of housing, social infrastructure, environment, transport, retail and economy. Several community engagement events have taken place during 2016 and 2017 and this work is being used to prepare the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.

9.3 Details of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Town Councils website: https://uckfieldplan.co.uk/.

Geographical Area

9.4 The Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan includes the geographical area covered by Uckfield Town Council, and comprises the town of Uckfield.

Vision

9.5 The Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has put together the following Vision Statement for the future of Uckfield, which it has asked the community to comment upon.

- **Uckfield is our town.**
- **It will continue to be vibrant with the character of a small market town and a strong sense of community;**
- **this will be shared by the majority of people living in Uckfield;**
- **People of various backgrounds, qualities and interests will be valued, and their thoughts respected without discrimination;**
- **Education will be encouraged and catered for across all age groups;**
- **Our open spaces and green environment will be safeguarded and valued;**
- **There will be access to a wide variety of leisure and recreational activities;**
- **Green technology will be embraced and all future development will give high priority to sustainability;**
- **Our town will be open to sensitive growth and development; it will not be averse to change;**
- **There will be an entrepreneurial spirit in which businesses will flourish;**
- **Our town will provide opportunities for each and every one of its residents;**
Our transport infrastructure will have improved, be efficient and be sustainable;
Uckfield will be a place in which people of all ages and backgrounds value spending
time.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

9.6 The Steering group has set up a number of thematic focus groups to explore and
put forward policies in relation to:

- Housing;
- Social Infrastructure;
- Environment;
- Transport; and
- Retail and economy.

9.7 These areas will be explored further through the development of the neighbourhood
plan.
10 Uckfield Town Centre Visioning Document

Background

10.1 Uckfield was the first of Wealden's towns to begin work on a town masterplan. The initiative derived from the Town Councils "Uckfield design day", Wealden District Council’s early work on the Local Development Framework and from the acknowledgment that there are specific spatial challenges inherent to Uckfield. These reflect the way in which parts of Uckfield have been developed in the past, and because the town is expected to grow in the future. Local recognition was given to the masterplan process to help address challenges and to help manage future growth of the town in a coordinated way.

The Aim of the Approach

10.2 The aim of Uckfield's Town Masterplan was to develop a strategy for the town which will provide a framework for future decisions, and with the purpose of revitalising, regenerating and improving the area, thus creating a more sustainable community. Some of the regeneration initiatives such as the improvements to Uckfield Town Centre are currently underway. The vision, objectives and ideas presented in the Master plan have influenced the direction and policy in the emerging Wealden Local Plan.

Who is Involved?

10.3 As key landowners within the town, an Uckfield Town Centre Steering Group was set up made up of representatives from East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council, Uckfield Town Council and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (each a landowner in the town). The purpose of the group is to oversee the production of a masterplan through partnership working, with the aim of enhancing and improving the town.

The Plan Process

10.4 Work on the masterplan began in December 2006 when the Town Council produced a community questionnaire which was sent to every household in Uckfield. In addition, a “Vision for Uckfield” Design Day was held which was jointly organised and run with the Royal Institute of British Architects. The purpose of the design day was to gain people’s views on how they would like to see Uckfield and the surrounding area develop, present the results of the community questionnaire, and explore Uckfield’s potential for improvement.

10.5 Following this initial public consultation, Uckfield Town Council produced a proposal document for a town masterplan. The report outlined a vision, draft objectives and themes for the future of the town and identified a number of initiatives that would support the identified key proposals. The proposal report was agreed by the steering group and Town Council in August 2007.
Work on the plan has continued and more recently GVA Grimley (Planning Consultants) have been instructed by the Uckfield Town Centre Steering Group to further develop a masterplan for Uckfield looking especially at design concepts to enhance the urban fabric and grain of the town. Further public consultation was undertaken to take the masterplan into its next stage. This was in the form of a further community questionnaire and open days which were held towards the end of 2008 and 2009. The purpose was to generate and investigate a number of proposed scenarios for the future development of the town.

In October 2009, a more detailed masterplan was finalised and approved by the Town Council. Should you wish to view the latest plan document or gain further information then you may do so via the Uckfield Town Centre website at: www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk.

The Vision for Uckfield

Summary of Key Issues, Challenges and Needs

The vision for the future of Uckfield town centre is that of a contemporary market town with an ‘up-market’ image known for its successful and varied shopping facilities and commercial opportunities, offering an attractive and welcoming environment, maintaining its own distinctive identity and acting as a hub for surrounding towns and villages.

The plan introduces a number of objectives and details how the objectives may be achieved. In summary the plan introduces a mixture of regeneration and new development to improve the town centre. This includes the following:

Strategic aims and objective
Active and Attractive Mixed - Use High Street

The revival of Uckfield’s High Street is seen to be especially important. This will be achieved by enhancing and maintaining the High Street through a number of initiatives including redevelopment, investment in the public realm and a reduced impact of cars and parking.

New Civic Square and Development

This includes creating a new landmark, creating better linkages between the High Street and Luxford's Field, a new civic centre, additional buildings including replacement community buildings and public art.

Luxford's Field

Improvements to Luxford's Field including landscaping, the provision of trees and the relocation of the playground close to the Civic Centre.

Residential Neighbourhood
10.13 The plan promotes its town centre for residential use advocating a high quality and well designed neighbourhood including a mixture of housing types and associated car parking.

New and Expanded Retail on Bell Farm Road

10.14 Uckfield would like to see the regeneration of Bell Farm Road to include a range of retail types with parking and servicing and for an attractive and active street facade.

Employment, Leisure and Community

10.15 In relation to employment, a new office development located west of the expanded detail area would be supported. Uckfield would also like to see additional multi-use spaces for a range of recreation and sport uses and the redevelopment of the school.

Next Steps

10.16 Following approval of this initial master-plan setting out a vision and design concept for the town, the partnership of the Town Council, East Sussex County Council, Wealden and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service employed consultants to specifically test the viability and delivery of this with potential investors and developers. Currently this work is ongoing but is intended to provide a clear direction as to what may be able to be achieved towards the priorities set out in the master-plan itself. These include the provision of necessary infrastructure and a solution to the issue of traffic congestion within the town.
11 Crowborough Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

11.1 The application for designation of the area of the Crowborough Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 10th March 2014. Consultation took place between the 17th March and the 28th April 2014 and 4 responses were received. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on 5th June 2014.

11.2 There was an initial launch and discussion meeting in June 2014 where local residents voiced their support for the Plan. A follow up meeting was held at the Town Hall on 17th September 2014 and from this meeting a Steering Group and four Working Groups were formed. The first meetings of each group took place in October 2014 and minutes of these and subsequent meetings are available on the Town Councils website.

11.3 At the Full Council meeting on 19th January 2016 the Town Council decided not to continue with a Neighbourhood Plan for Crowborough and instead to update the current vision document upon which the Neighbourhood Plan proposals were based. This announcement can be found on the Town Council’s website: http://www.crowboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/council/neighbourhood-plan.

11.4 The vision document that will be reviewed is outlined in further detail on the Town Councils website in the following chapter.
12 Crowborough Town Centre Visioning Document

Background

12.1 Crowborough Town Council established a visioning group in April 2008. The aim of the visioning group was to produce, through partnership working and community involvement, ideas and proposals to help guide the revitalisation and redevelopment of the town over the next 20 years. The visioning group was made up of a number of representatives from Crowborough Town Council, East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council, the Crowborough Partnership (a local business network) and a number of other organisations and community groups.

12.2 The culmination of partnership working, a number of community workshops, on-line surveys and public consultation, was the publication in November 2010 of the Crowborough Town Centre Visioning Document - ‘Top of the Weald - A vision for Crowborough 2010 – 2030’.

12.3 The Vision document formed the basis of the Neighbourhood planning application submitted by Crowborough Town Council. In January 2016 however, as highlighted above, the Town Council decided not to pursue the Neighbourhood Plan but to update the Vision document. This work is being progressed however many groups, organisations and individuals will be involved with delivering the aims of the Vision.

12.4 You can access the Crowborough Town Centre Visioning Document via the Crowborough Town Council website through this link: http://www.crowboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/council/a-vision-for-Crowborough.

The Vision for Crowborough

12.5 The vision document outlined, that by 2030 Crowborough will be:

‘A vibrant, attractive and inviting town with a strong community spirit at its heart. A town in touch with its past, looking to the future and protective of its outstanding heritage and natural surroundings’.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

12.6 The latest visioning document builds on its draft version and outlines eight strategic aims, describes ways in which the key vision can be achieved and identifies short term (1 - 4 years) and medium to long term (5 - 20 years) priorities. Work is continuing to further these aims. The vision for Crowborough and eight key aims and associated priorities are described below.

Aim 1 - A thriving and dynamic town centre serving the needs of the community and appealing to visitors

12.7 In the short term, the priorities are to pedestrianise the High Street to reduce traffic congestion and to give the town centre a 'makeover' to create a safe, clean and attractive environment.
12.8 In the medium and long term, priorities include the regeneration of the High Street, an improved night time economy, a regular weekend market and the creation of a community focal point.

**Aim 2 - A commitment to preserving and enhancing Crowborough’s natural and built environment**

12.9 In the short term Crowborough will prioritise the production of an inventory of existing green spaces in the town, increase the amount of green spaces and preserve existing green spaces and assets. Also, the design principles as set out in the Wealden Design Guide will be supported.

12.10 In the medium term, priorities include protecting and enhancing the natural environment and cultural heritage, reducing carbon emissions and promoting recycling to increase the sustainability of the town. The production of an active strategy to increase the amount of land available for recreational use is also a priority.

**Aim 3 - A distinctive visitor destination with a wealth of accessible cultural treasures**

12.11 In the short term Crowborough would like to achieve its aim by promoting and branding Crowborough as a tourist destination, updating its tourist information service and publications, enhancing the towns gateways and providing relevant signage and supporting new and existing festivals and events.

12.12 In the medium to long term, priorities include the provision of a mix of new tourist accommodation and building on existing tourist attractions.

**Aim 4 - A high quality, integrated transport network for the town**

12.13 In the short term priorities include the creation of a traffic management plan to help with movement in and around the town, increased accessibility, directional signage and the promotion of public transport options to reduce car reliance.

12.14 In the medium to long term, priorities include better public transport links and restructured timetables, the continuation of free car parking, an investigation into the provision of a new transport hub close to the town and improving the area around Crowborough rail station.

**Aim 5 - A confident and resilient business community working in partnership with the wider community**

12.15 Short term priorities include supporting and attracting small businesses in/to the town, building on and expanding on the existing business network, investigating the potential to create a ‘business centre and prioritising the creation of new employment opportunities for young people.

12.16 In the medium to long term, priorities include building on Crowborough’s geographical position as a local service centre, increasing employment in tourism and ensuring that new development contributes to the creation of a sustainable community.
Aim 6 - A town that meaningfully engages with, and is supportive of the needs and aspirations of, its young people

12.17 In the short term Crowborough will prioritise safety for its young people, promote a new Youth Council and improve facilities and activities for young people.

12.18 Long term priorities include seeking fundraising for the creation of a new youth club and encourage new leisure and recreation development.

Aim 7 - Delivering high quality and affordable housing

12.19 Crowborough would like a greater level of affordable housing to help families and young people stay in the town. To achieve this, short term priorities include gaining an understanding of local housing need, enforcing design standards, the provision of new housing sites in appropriate locations, early engagement between the Town Council and potential developers and exploring affordable housing 'exception sites'.

Aim 8 - A new focal point for the town at Pine Grove

12.20 The short term priorities for the above aim include the production of a master-plan for the Pine Grove site, an assessment of the potential for social and business enterprises and the creation of a new community centre.

12.21 Long term priorities include the implementation of design standards at Pine Grove including access to the town and public transport, landscaped open spaces and the potential for affordable housing on the site to be explored.

Next Steps

12.22 Work on the project is continuing and in the future critical areas of the vision will be identified and agreed. It is anticipated that a master plan for the town will be prepared over the next few years following public consultation.
13 Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

13.1 The application for the designation of the area of the Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 17th July 2015. Consultation was undertaken between the 7th September and the 18th of October 2015 and one response in support of the application was received. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on the 5th November 2015.

13.2 Hellingly Parish Council has established a Neighbourhood Planning Steering group to engage with the community and progress the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. A number of evidence studies have been completed focussing on the four key settlement areas; Hellingly Village, Lower Horsebridge, Lower Dicker and Roebuck Park. These studies include business, environment, community and farming. A draft Neighbourhood Plan was published for consultation between 1st December 2017 and 26th January 2018 together with ten topic papers. The Parish Council are currently assessing the responses to the consultation before progressing to the next stage in the plan preparation. Details of the Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the parish council’s website: http://www.hellingly-pc.org.uk/council/neighbourhood-plan.

Geographical Area

13.3 The Hellingly Neighbourhood plan includes the geographical area covered by Hellingly Parish Council and includes the settlements of Hellingly, Lower Horsebridge, Lower Dicker and the Roebuck Park development.

Vision

13.4 The vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is set out in the draft Neighbourhood Plan; 'that the growth proposed for Hellingly Parish within the emerging Wealden Plan will have been successfully delivered, with all appropriate supporting infrastructure and in the most suitable locations locally. Hellingly will remain an essentially rural parish providing a green and accessible lung for the growing town of Hailsham'

Strategic Aims and Objectives

13.5 The neighbourhood plan sets out two broad aims to meet the vision set out above. These are:

- To protect the rural character of the area, and
- To retain the separate character and identity of the four main settlements in the Parish (Hellingly Village, Lower Horsebridge, Lower Dicker and Roebuck Park)

13.6 These objectives form the basis of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
14 Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

14.1 The application for the designation of the area of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 31st March 2016. Consultation on the plan was undertaken between the 26th April and the 7th June 2016. Three responses were received. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on the 19th August 2016.

14.2 Hailsham Town Council has established the Hailsham Neighbourhood Planning group and a Neighbourhood Planning Committee to engage with the community and progress a number of studies principally around the provision of housing and infrastructure. Details of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the parish council's website: http://www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning/.

14.3 A draft Neighbourhood Plan was published for consultation between 25th November 2017 and 26th January 2018. The Parish Council are currently assessing the responses received before progressing with the next stage in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Geographical Area

14.4 The Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan includes the geographical area covered by Hailsham Town Council and includes the town of Hailsham.

Vision

14.5 The vision for the neighbourhood plan is set out in the draft neighbourhood plan;

By 2028 Hailsham will be recognised as a destination for leisure, shopping & culture. It will have embraced and harnessed its growth potential and benefited from the necessary infrastructure to support and retain its strong sense of community, civic pride and social wellbeing. Hailsham will be established as a balanced, well-proportioned and prosperous town offering its residents a high quality of life.

The town centre will be an appealing and pleasant retail and leisure destination which attracts visitors from far and wide (many via public transport from rail services at Polegate) into the unique historic market town served by modern and desirable facilities and amenities. Growth will deliver excellent schooling choices and new further education opportunities, good medical provision and care services.

An improved core retail area will support a diverse mix of independent and national shops and businesses bringing with it strong employment prospects for the town. A network of enhanced and connected green spaces, centred around the Cuckoo Trail will support an active and healthy community. The wetlands remain an asset of recreation and wellbeing for the community of Hailsham. Together with
improvements to pedestrian and cycling links across the town, Hailsham residents will benefit from a safe and healthier alternative to car based travel.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

14.6 The objectives following on from the vision for the neighbourhood plan are;

- Development delivers the necessary facilities and infrastructure in accessible locations for existing and new communities alike.
- Existing pedestrian and cycling routes are preserved and enhanced. The Cuckoo Trail will be improved as a multi-functional route for tourism, travel and recreation, further linking Hailsham to its surrounding communities.
- New developments will create well connected, attractive cycling and pedestrian routes, providing seamless integration with the existing urban areas and public green spaces to encourage a reduction in car based travel.
- Existing habitats and green infrastructure networks are protected and enhanced through sensitive development to encourage local habitat improvement and creation.
- The character and setting of Hailsham’s conservation area, statutory listed buildings and locally listed buildings are protected by fostering a high-quality design approach which promotes design innovation and reinforces the distinct local character areas of Hailsham.
- Improve local air quality and provide reductions in carbon emissions by supporting local renewable energy generation.
- Encourage the appropriate re-development of previously developed land to help meet housing need and encourage the regeneration of Hailsham Town Centre.
- Protect and encourage the development of retail and commercial spaces which meet identified local need, to support new and existing small businesses and local retailers whilst also attracting inward investment into Hailsham.
- Support existing retailers in Hailsham and encourage a diversification of the retail and leisure offers in the town to attract new shoppers and visitors.
15 Hadlow Down Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

15.1 The application for designation of the area of the Hadlow Down Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 22nd January 2016, for the purposes of establishing a Community Right to Build Order to build a new community and re-develop the existing village Hall site for affordable housing. Consultation on the plan took place between the 14th March and 25th April 2016. Seven responses were received, of which 2 were blank. The application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden DC on the 23rd June 2016.

15.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has not yet been posted on the parish Council’s website. The minutes of the meeting on the 16th January 2016, where the application was approved for submission however, can be found on the parish council’s website: http://www.hadlowdown.com/.

15.3 The Parish Council submitted a planning application on 27th December 2017 for the demolition and redevelopment of the community centre site. This application is at the present time still to be determined.

Geographical Area

15.4 The Hadlow Down Neighbourhood Plan includes the geographical area covered by Hadlow Down Parish Council and includes the village of Hadlow Down.

Vision

15.5 The Community of Hadlow Down have a long held vision to build a new community centre. The result of the pre-feasibility study indicated that one of the ways forward was for the Parish Council to apply for the Hadlow Down Parish to become a Neighbourhood Area, which would then allow the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee (HDCCC) who are leading on the project, to proceed with a Community Right to Build Order (CRBO).

Strategic Aims and Objectives

15.6 The community and Parish have identified the need for a new Community Centre to replace the existing Village Hall. After a number of consultations exercises, it was decided that the Community Centre should be combined with the sports pavilion and relocated on the playing field.

15.7 In order to help fund the building of the new Community Centre the strategy involves selling the old village hall site. Consultants have carried out a pre-feasibility study on how to proceed with the two sites: new community centre/pavilion and the old village hall site.

15.8 By pursuing a CRBO there is a possibility that HDCCC can access further grants to help with all of the pre-build expenses such as architect’s fee, costs of surveys, costs of legal fees, etc. which would have to be found from other sources if a traditional planning application was made.
16 Frant Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

16.1 The application for designation of the area of the Frant Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 16th November 2016. Consultation on the suitability of the plan took place between the 16th January 2017 and the 27th February 2017. The Parish meeting passed a resolution on the 21st September 2016, to submit a Neighbourhood Plan.

16.2 One response was received from the consultation process, and the application was formally approved for the purposes of neighbourhood planning by Wealden District Council on 25th April 2017.

Geographical Area

16.3 The Frant Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan includes the whole of the Parish Council area and includes the settlements of Frant, Bells Yew Green and Eridge.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

16.4 The strategic aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan focus on the provision of sustainable development in line with the National Planning Policy Framework document. The particular aim of the plan is to focus on the key policy areas of community, housing, natural environment, built environment and transport, in such a way as to ensure ‘growth caters for the needs of the current generation while ensuring that future generations are not negatively impacted’.

Frant Parish Plan – Action Plan

16.5 Frant Parish Council started to prepare an Action Plan for the Parish Council area in 2010. This was to look at how issues could be resolved arising from aspects such as the environment, additional housing, business development, shopping, traffic, size of vehicles, railways, bus services, deer collisions, parking, recycling, parish communications and safety and security. Further details of this action plan can be found on the Parish Councils website: http://www.frant.info/home/parish-plan/.
17 Polegate Town Masterplan

The Aim of the Approach

17.1 Polegate Town Council began work on its master-plan for the area early in 2008. The Plan was updated in 2012.

17.2 The purpose of the Master-plan for Polegate is to develop a strategy for the Town which provides a framework for making decisions on current and future proposals, in a manner that is advantageous to the overall improvement of the area.

17.3 The Master-plan offers a long term sense of direction through which change can be effectively managed and co-ordinated for the greatest benefit of the Town and local area, with a focus on implementation.

The Objective of the Master Plan

17.4 The objective set out in the Master Plan document is to:

- To provide a strategic document to guide and co-ordinate future development in the Town of Polegate but not to duplicate or seek to repeat national or regional planning policies that are to be found elsewhere
- To provide a document that can inform and supplement the Wealden LDF
- To identify the present local infrastructure and to highlight additions/change/upgrades that may be required to accommodate present and future developments
- To ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are addressed
- To enhance the economic performance and potential of the area
- To improve the quality of life for all residents

Who is Involved?

17.5 The first stage in producing Polegate’s Masterplan involved creating a number of working groups to input ideas and evidence into the masterplanning process. These working groups were established to look at:-

Community Infrastructure

- Roads / transport
- Parking
- Healthcare
- Education and training
- Water drainage and sewerage

Economic Performance

- Retail
Employment

Housing

Leisure and Recreation

- Formal and informal play space
- Sporting facilities
- Clubs and social / community centres

Key Vision Statement

17.6 Polegate's Master-plan outlines nine spatial vision objectives which are summarised below:

- Ensuring that the location of development is co-ordinated and meets Polegate's service and employment needs is co-ordinated with that of Eastbourne and the surrounding areas and that the public transport links to Eastbourne are improved through a quality bus corridor;
- Taking advantage of Polegate’s position at the junction of the A22 and A27 and as a main line rail station, to provide for strategically important employment and civic facilities.
- Improving/redeveloping the Rail Station and adjoining Town centre with more intensive use of land, an improved environment and choice of shops.
- Taking advantage of the by-pass to improve the environment and space available for buses, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improving gaps in Polegate’s housing stock with the provision of good quality new housing, community facilities, including those for the elderly and a new sports hall.
- Identifying land suitable for the provision of a cemetery.
- Respecting and protecting the backdrop and setting of Polegate against the South Downs National Park.
- Providing new parks and open spaces in and around Polegate
- Maintaining strategic green gaps between Eastbourne and Polegate, and Polegate and Hailsham.

The Plan Process

17.7 A number of issues were considered during the 2008 Annual General Meeting, at which residents were asked to discuss in groups matters relating to Polegate. This included discussing community infrastructure, economic performance and leisure and recreation. In addition, a number of spatial vision objectives were outlined.

17.8 Following the consultation exercise, the gathered information was used to produce Polegate's Town Master-plan, which was made publicly available in July 2008. The master-plan has now been updated following a public Town Council meeting on 5th August 2010.
17.9  The latest updated Draft Report is available to view via the Polegate Town Council website at: http://www.polegate-tc.co.uk/files/Masterplan%20DRAFT%20Feb%202012_2_.pdf.

Summary of Key Messages

17.10  The master-plan also includes more detail from the working groups. The key issues raised are summarised below.

Shopping/retail

- Look to focus development and expansion of the retail area around the centre and railway station as a transport hub, working with existing landlords, developers and property companies, to regenerate the centre and provide larger units to attract national multiples.
- Establish a weekly/monthly farmers market
- Revitalise the traders association

Employment

- Adverse to loss of employment space
- Adverse to allocation of employment land at the Core Strategy SDA 4 site
- Adverse to any employment development at Honey Farm
- Supports employment at Dittons Road - Core Strategy SDA5 site providing that a link road is established between SDA4 and SDA5.
- Supports the idea of high quality business parks and the provision of a ‘Public Service Village’ within close proximity of the town centre.

Housing

- Hindsland Fields, Eastbourne Road, should only be considered for the provision of new educational facilities including secondary provision and for residential housing subject to a link road being provided across the railway to Jubilee Way roundabout.
- Underpinning the philosophy that future development of Polegate must be that of an ‘urban extension’ south of the by-pass, no ‘standalone’ site to the north of the A27 or west of the A22 should be considered for any potential development.
- It is imperative that the strategic green gaps between Polegate / Hailsham and Polegate / Willingdon & Eastbourne be preserved in order for Polegate to maintain its own identity.
- Any proposed development should include a good mix of dwellings which would blend in with existing building styles and complement existing housing stock.
- New infrastructure would be required to accommodate further housing e.g. employment land / Folkington Link / further improvements to the A27 / possible no through link road to join the rear area of SD4 with Jubilee Way roundabout / hospital provision / satellite health centre / primary and secondary schools / sewerage works
reservoir / additional railway car parking / residents’ parking permit scheme / park / revitalised and expanded High Street / multi use sport and youth facility.

**Roads and Parking**
- Requirement for an underpass alongside the Folkington Link
- Reduce rat running through Polegate High Street and other roads.
- The need for either a multi storey rail user car park or a park & ride scheme has been identified, for which land at Black Path and Gosford Way could be considered.
- High Street parking should be policed effectively to maximise the benefit of the 2 hour parking restriction.
- Plans for traffic calming measures along Station / Pevensey / Dittons Road are not supported due to the proposed removal of lay-bys causing a further deficit in on street parking spaces and traffic congestion. However, the reduction of the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph is welcomed.

**Transport**
- There is support for the creation of an integrated transport hub of rail and bus services, to be situated at either the existing railway station or on land at Black Path, which is owned by the rail company and which could be developed into a shoppers / railway car park. This could be a partnership between the Town Council and the rail company and could have prioritised usage for the Town's shoppers and rail users.
- A new footbridge could be constructed to link the north and south sides of the Town across the railway crossing and the railway station should be upgraded to form the centre of this enterprise.
- The Polegate – Pevensey rail link (Willingdon Chord) is supported
- There should be a shuttle service to Eastbourne which could include a link to the DGH, with reduced rates for the elderly.
- The Hailsham rail line should be reinstated which would bring more people into the Town to use transport links. Support is given to the Lewes – Uckfield line as this would help remove more traffic from the congested roads.
- The Town Council also support a new station at Stone cross.

**Healthcare**
- Subject to attaining the necessary funding from the PCT, the healthcare teams from both Downland Medical Centre and Manor Park Medical Centre will relocate. At present the changes in the Primary Health Care Trust and lack of funding mean that there is unlikely to be a new health centre. The Town Council would prefer that a site be identified within the boundary of Polegate. It is vital that a satellite surgery remains in the centre of Town to enable residents with mobility issues to retain easy access to medical care.

**Education Training and Skills**
Nursery places should be provided at the existing primary school site as well as pre-school groups provided by the private sector. Polegate Town Council would support a land swap (some housing to be on the current school land at Broad Road, Willingdon) at Willingdon Community School, to facilitate a new secondary provision on Core Strategy Site SD4 and support is given to a school which would be from nursery to 6th form. The school would provide facilities not only for the pupils but for the surrounding community, with a separate sports hall which could be used outside the school’s core hours.

Leisure and Recreation

- Support is given to further expansion/development of recreational facilities within the town boundaries, to include a purpose built youth / sports club and courts for additional leisure activities, such as green bowls, petanque, and tennis and parklands. The Town Council also support a community facility on the Core Strategy Site SDA4.
- The Town Council considers that Brightling Road should be explored for further improvement and development as it has great potential. Access could be greatly improved and children’s play equipment could be added, together with pathways and seating. The natural hay meadow must be preserved as an important conservation area and could possibly be enhanced with the provision of additional seating, from which residents could enjoy the wildlife. The wooded area is of particular interest and all species of wildlife should be encouraged by appropriate planting, i.e. buddleia, lavender etc. and the creation of additional habitats such as bat boxes and wood piles.
- Support is given to the extension / creation of cycle ways, possibly in conjunction with Sustrans.

Clubs and Social

- Further facilities within the Town, especially a purpose built sports/youth hall. The Community Centre, which is the main focus for social clubs and groups, is in need of replacement with a contemporary building which could incorporate a library, computer suite, conference room etc. The Town Council support the provision of a purpose built youth facility and community facility on the Core Strategy Site SD4.

Allotments

- The Town Council is actively seeking additional land which could be cultivated as allotments. The Town Council will endeavour to attain allotment land from any future major developers via s106 Agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments.

Water and Sewerage

- Support must be given to the provision of improved sewerage services to serve the area prior to any housing development taking place.

The Elderly
There is also a need for an affordable respite and convalescent care facility within Polegate. There should also be excellent home-care provisions and support groups for carers, as well as a variety of suitable social activities for retired residents, including health walks and fitness classes.

Next Steps

17.11 The Town Council hope that the Masterplan will provide a foundation for future proposals for the development of Polegate. The Masterplan is a working document and will be subject to regular reviews, amendments and inputting of additional information. It is the aim of Polegate Town Council that consultation will continue, in order to ensure that the Masterplan is representative of the wider community.
18 Heathfield and Waldron Vision Document

The Aim of the Approach

18.1 Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council produced a visioning document for the future of their area in April 2008. The intention is to inform the preparation of plans under the Wealden District Council's Local Development Framework process.

Who is Involved?

18.2 The visioning task was led by Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council’s Planning Committee.

The Vision

18.3 The visioning document outlines priority objectives for the area and elements of Heathfield and Waldron's vision which is 'to continue to live in a green, vibrant and safe community'.

The Plan Process

18.4 The process involved discussions within the Parish Council and various consultations with residents and businesses.

18.5 The Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council’s visioning document is not currently available on the Parish Council’s website. If you wish to have a full copy, contact the Parish Clerk – contact details can be found on the parish council’s website at: http://www.hwpc.org.uk/.

Summary of Key Messages

18.6 The key messages from Heathfield and Waldron's visioning document are summarised below:

Promotion of business

- The continued promotion of business development including broadening the range of employment opportunities and ensuring that there is enough space for businesses to expand.

Central Weald position

- To maintain the area's prominent and central position, to protect the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as far as possible and to keep Heathfield as an attractive and vibrant community.

Landmarks of Heathfield
With Heathfield having its own characteristic features it is important to preserve its historic character and identity. This would include preserving buildings and landscape features within the area.

**Service Centre**

- The retention of the town as a service centre. This would include the retention of emergency services, professional services (including health) and free parking in order to encourage economic sustainability for businesses, employees and residents, and to provide a service centre for the surrounding villages.

**Community Facilities**

- There is a need for an increased provision of leisure facilities, including a swimming pool and more allotments. Furthermore, the existing community facilities need to be adequately maintained.

**Affordable Housing**

- Additional affordable housing is required to keep young people in the area and to ensure a mixed and cohesive community. Alongside this, improved or expanded infrastructure is required, particularly health services, education, public transport and recreational facilities. Also, serious consideration should be given to issues such as energy resources, drainage and the road network.

**Public Space Preservation**

- Continue support to the maintenance and enhancement of public areas such as the business hub of the High Street and the public open spaces. It is thought that this is particularly important as the route of the A267 through the town means the appearance and identity of Heathfield are highly visible.

**Improved Bus Services**

- Public transport needs to be improved and enhanced to support more sustainable travel and to improve accessibility to and from other Wealden main towns and outlying satellite villages.

**Traffic Impact**

- Improved public transport and better roads would ease traffic pressures in and around Heathfield. Also, further traffic improvements can be made in the High Street by the active policing of illegal parking. This would reduce the often experienced traffic jam and would improve the town centre environment.

**Cycle Route Extension**
To benefit local businesses and increase the health and leisure facilities of the area, the National Cycle Network 21 should be extended to provide a route north from the Cuckoo Trail.

In October 2016, Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council held a visioning day for councillors to look at developing a business plan for the Council, which would also start to address some of the issues raised in the Visioning document highlighted above.
19 Horam Vision Statement

19.1 Horam Parish Council have put forward a vision statement for the village. This was ratified by the Parish Council’s Planning Committee on the 27th July 2016. Members decided that it is important to ensure that the village gains some benefits from development.

19.2 This statement reflects issues/concerns and potential provision, such as:

Issues of Concern

- Primary School – concerns re infrastructure and capacity;
- Doctors – concerns re patient capacity;
- Crematorium – potential development should involve extensive road traffic surveys on all three road junctions;
- Important to retain pharmacy.
- Concerns about becoming a ‘dormitory’. Consideration needs to be given to ensure that the village does not a small town.
- Lack of use of public transport – not sustainable. If development is on the outskirts of the village, residents will use their cars.
- Before new development commences should ensure that other developments are finished.

Potential Improvements/New Provision

- Opportunities for Green Space – country walks; log piles and the Cuckoo Trail;
- Housing – hedging preferred.
- Should have more bungalows on larger sites.
- Need improvements to Broadband
- Need more affordable housing
- Need to make best use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments
- East Horam – potential for limited development;
- Sustainable Development – make public transport meet the needs of the community. Currently no early morning or late evening service. Need to extend bus timetable.
- County Council to have commuter bus.
- Need more local rural employment.
- Need more parking provision in the village
- Crematorium – potential development should involve extensive road traffic surveys on all three road junctions;
- Important to retain pharmacy.
- Concerns about becoming a ‘dormitory’. Consideration needs to be given to ensure that the village does not a small town.
- Lack of use of public transport – not sustainable. If development is on the outskirts of the village, residents will use their cars.
- Before new development commences should ensure that other developments are finished.
19.3 The minutes of the Horam Parish Council Planning Committee meeting where this statement was discussed can be found on the Parish Councils website at: http://www.horam.com/parish-council/minutes/.
20 East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

20.1 The application for the designation of the area for the East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 22nd June 2017 and the application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on 15th August 2017.

20.2 The East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council set up a Steering Group to engage with the community and progress the Neighbourhood Plan. This initial engagement is currently on going with a view to publishing a draft Plan later in 2018. Further information relating to the progress of the neighbourhood plan can be found on the Parish Council's website: http://www.easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk/index.html

Geographical Area

20.3 The East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan will cover the geographical area covered by the Parish Council and includes the settlements of East Hoathly and Halland.
20 East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan
21 Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

21.1 The application for the designation of the area for the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Wealden District Council on the 3rd October 2017 and the application was formally approved for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning by Wealden on 8th November 2017.

21.2 Wadhurst Parish Council has set up a Steering Group to engage with the community and progress the Neighbourhood Plan. This initial engagement is currently on going with a view to publishing a draft Plan later in 2018. Further information can be found on the Parish Council’s website:


Geographical Area

21.3 The Wadhurst plan will cover the geographical area covered by the Parish Council and includes the settlements of Wadhurst and Coulsey Wood.
22 Conclusion

22.1 Together all of the master planning/visioning and Neighbourhood Plans outlined above have contributed to the proposals and policies of the Wealden Local Plan, and will continue to inform and shape the development of Wealden in the future.