WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Consultation Response Form

Consultation Period

5 June 2023 – 17 July 2023

YOUR IDEAS YOUR FUTURE

Wealden District Council

Introduction

Wealden District Council is publishing the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan for consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The purpose of this consultation response form is for you to make your comments on the draft Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan.

Under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), we are required to undertake a six-week consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be the last opportunity to comment on the Plan before it is submitted for independent examination. The consultation on the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan is open between **9am on 5 June 2023 and 5pm on 17 July 2023.**

The documents submitted by Wadhurst Parish Council include:

- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2039. Submission Plan (April 2023).
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2039 Appendix A- Identifying Green Gaps.
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2039 Appendix B- Wadhurst Design Code (March 2023).
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2039 Basic Conditions Statement (April 2023).
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2039 Consultation Statement (April 2023).
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan Pre-submission Stage Sustainability Appraisal (November 2022).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan and Wadhurst Design Code (Pre-Regulation 14) (October 2022)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Regulation 14) (October 2022)
- Map identifying the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates.
- List of evidence base documents
- The Future - What Parishioners Want.
- Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan - Community Aspirations.

Viewing the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting documents are available to view on the following website;

https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse

Printed copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Carillon Cottage, High Street, Wadhurst, TN5 6AA (Open Monday to Saturday 9:30am - 12:30pm)
- Piccolo Café, High Street, Wadhurst, TN5 6AJ (Open Monday to Saturday 9am- 4pm, Thursday to Saturday - 5.30pm-9pm)
- Jempsons Supermarket, High Street, Wadhurst, TN5 6AJ (Open Monday to Saturday 7am to 9pm)
- Wadhurst Library, High Street, Wadhurst, TN5 6AP (Open Monday 2pm-4.30pm, Wednesday 10am-1pm, Friday 2pm- 4.30pm, Saturday 10am-1pm)
- Wealden District Council, Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm, Wednesday 9am - 5pm).

How to Comment on the Neighbourhood Plan

- By post: print and complete this form and send it to Planning Policy, Wealden District Council, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX
- By email: complete this form and send it to Nplans@wealden.gov.uk

You can make comments on any of the information submitted for the consultation. Please make it clear which document you are commenting upon alongside the paragraph/page number. Your comments should address whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions. These are outlined in the Regulation 16 Guidance Notes.

Queries.

If you have any queries relating to the consultation or submitting your comments, please contact the Planning Policy Team on (01892 602008) or email Nplans@wealden.gov.uk

If you or somebody you know, would like this form in large print, braille, audio tape/CD or in another language, please let us know.

1. Personal Details

For any comments to be considered you must at least provide your name and address (this can be an email address). Representations cannot be treated in confidence and copies of all representations, along with your name or organisation, will be made publicly available on the Council's website (in due course) and sent to the Examiner. However, the Council will not publish your personal contact information such as telephone numbers, email or private addresses. By submitting your views you confirm your consent to the above and that you accept full responsibility for your comments.

Personal Details	Answer
Title	Mrs
First Name	Charmaine
Last Name	Noel
Job Title and Organisation (if relevant)	
Address	
Postcode	
Contact telephone number	
Email address	
Interest in the area (for example are you a resident, business owner or do you work in the proposed neighbourhood area)	

2. Comments on the Neighbourhood Plan

Please use the space below to tell us your comments on the Neighbourhood Plan. It would be helpful if you can provide reasons and evidence for your comments. Please use additional sheets if necessary.

The Wealden Local Plan, adopted in 1998, had several policies saved by the Secretary of State in 2007. In 2012, Wealden District Council adopted the Core Strategy Local Plan. The Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan has effectively filled the gap left by these previous plans. However, I believe there is room to strengthen the wording in some policies.

For instance, the aim of 4.1.3, which refers to rural character, could be more assertive in its commitment to the natural environment. I suggest it be reworded to: 'The aim is to conserve and enhance the natural environment, contributing to a resilient and strengthened rural character.' This revised wording emphasizes the importance of both conserving and enhancing the natural environment, and it underscores the role that a healthy environment plays in maintaining and strengthening the rural character of our community.
Strengthening Policy IN3:
I suggest that the following measures be incorporated into Policy IN3: Water Supply and Quality:

Water efficiency measures: Require new developments to incorporate water efficiency measures, such as rainwater harvesting systems, greywater recycling systems, and water-efficient appliances and fixtures. This can help reduce the additional demand placed on the water supply system.
Infrastructure assessment: Require a comprehensive assessment of the existing water infrastructure's capacity before approving any new development. This should include an evaluation of the infrastructure's ability to handle additional demand without compromising service to existing users.
Developer contributions: Make it mandatory for developers to contribute to infrastructure upgrades if the existing system is found to be inadequate to handle the additional demand from the new development. This could be in the form of direct investment in infrastructure upgrades or a financial contribution to a fund dedicated to such upgrades.

The Parish Council could consider adding a specific policy related to medical services. This could involve working with local health authorities, lobbying for more resources, or exploring innovative solutions like telemedicine or community health initiatives.
Housing Policies: The plan includes policies for providing high-quality housing for residents through justified, sensitive, and sustainable development. By ensuring that housing is available and affordable for medical professionals, the village could attract more healthcare providers.
Environment and well beginning.
I would like to see the parish council work with stakeholders to implement new TPO's in Wadhurst. Trees are an important part of our village's character and biodiversity, and they play a vital role in reducing air pollution and improving air quality. I believe that new TPO's would help to protect our trees and ensure that they are around for future generations to enjoy.

I would suggest that the parish council start by identifying key trees that are at risk of being felled. These trees could be protected by TPO's, which would make it illegal to cut them down without permission. The parish council could also work with landowners to develop a more comprehensive tree protection plan for the village.
Additionally, we should develop a tree management plan for the village. This plan would cover all street trees, publicly visible trees, and mature trees in gardens. It would provide guidelines for the maintenance, protection, and replacement of trees, ensuring that our village retains its green character and biodiversity. By implementing these measures, we can make a significant contribution to the Well begining environmental sustainability of Wadhurst.Perhaps one aim could be education, and liaison with nature conservation professionals and groups.
Biodiversity Net Gain in Development Proposals BNG becomes a requirement in Nov.
A new Policy to be added to the local plan.
This policy seeks to ensure that all development proposals within our jurisdiction identify and incorporate opportunities for net gains in biodiversity, in line with best practices and legal requirements. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. As such, we encourage and require all developers to seek ways to enhance biodiversity within and around their projects.
. Objectives
The main objectives of this policy are:
a. To ensure that development activity contributes positively to the enhancement of biodiversity.
b. To encourage developers to incorporate green infrastructure into development designs, creating more habitats and improving linkages between existing habitats.
c. To safeguard, restore, and enhance habitats and species in line with local, regional, and national conservation priorities.

. Policy Guidelines
a. All development proposals must include a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. This assessment should outline how the development will aim to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity, which should be maintained for a minimum of 30 years

3. Examination Participation (please tick if appropriate)

☐ I would like to attend the examination in public, should it be deemed necessary by the appointed examiner.

4. Notification of Adoption (please tick if appropriate)

☐ I would like to be notified of the local planning authority's decision on the adoption of the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan (under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012(as amended)

Data Protection Statement

Wealden District Council is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and will only use and store your personal data in line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2021 and Data Protection Act 2018. We are required to collect and hold your personal information as part of the consultation process in formulating the Neighbourhood Plan. All comments will be publicly available and identifiable by name and (where applicable) organisation. We will not disclose your personal data to any third parties, unless we need to do so to provide a service to you or we are legally required to do so. We may share your personal data with other Council departments in order to provide the service you have requested.

Our Privacy Policy sets out how we collect, use and securely hold your data and can be viewed at: https://www.wealden.gov.uk/transparency-spending-andperformance/data-protection/privacy-policy/ and our planning policy privacy notice at: https://www.wealden.gov.uk/transparency-spending-and-performance/data-protection/privacy-policy/

Signature	Charmaine Noel	17/07/2023 Date

Please print name if submitting electronically