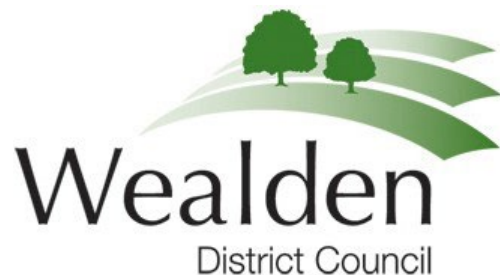


WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Consultation Response Form

Consultation Period
5 June 2023 – 17 July 2023



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	Mr
First Name	Ian
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.

In my personal experience, within 500 meters of my home, I have witnessed the distressing removal of large, mature trees and hedges due to development, despite the existence of Wadhurst District Council policies aimed at protecting our local trees, landscape, and biodiversity. These actions have not only disrupted the natural beauty of our community but have also, in my view, violated the spirit of these policies. I have observed eight substantial trees being legally removed by homeowners, with no replacements planted, a sight that has left a noticeable void in our local landscape. Additionally, the removal of hedges due to development has further eroded the natural barriers and habitats that our local wildlife depends on. These experiences have underscored for me the urgent need for stronger protections and enforcement of our environmental policies, to ensure the preservation of our community's natural heritage for future generations.

1. Maintaining and enhancing the local tree population and biodiversity in the face of development.

I propose the implementation of a policy that mandates the planting of three new trees for every single tree removed due to development. This would help to ensure that our local tree population and biodiversity are preserved and enhanced, even as development occurs. Furthermore, to discourage the premature removal of trees before a planning application is made, a punitive approach should be adopted. This could involve requiring the planting of ten new trees for every tree felled prematurely. This would serve as a deterrent against such actions and further protect our local environment.

In addition to the proposed tree replacement policy, it's crucial that we also prioritize the safeguarding of hedges. Hedges are an integral part of our local ecosystem, providing essential habitats for a variety of wildlife and contributing significantly to our landscape's character. As such, any development plans should include clear measures to protect existing hedges and, where necessary, provisions for the planting of mixed native new ones. This will ensure that our community maintains its rich biodiversity and continues to benefit from the numerous environmental services that hedges provide.

Safeguarding hedges as they play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, providing habitats for wildlife, and contributing to the beauty of the ANOB landscape.

I would like a new Policy to be added to the local plan on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

This policy seeks to ensure that all development proposals within the parish 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, encourage and require all developers to seek ways to enhance biodiversity within and around their projects.

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.

b. Ecological Surveys: Developers should commission surveys to identify existing biodiversity and important habitats on the site. The results of these surveys should inform the design of the development and any necessary mitigation measures.

c. Mitigation Hierarchy: Developers should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, restore, and offset) to prevent harm to biodiversity. Where harm cannot be avoided, it should be minimised, and any residual harm should be compensated for by enhancing biodiversity elsewhere.

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)

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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-and-performance/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	Ian Noel	17/07/2023 Date
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Please print name if submitting electronically