

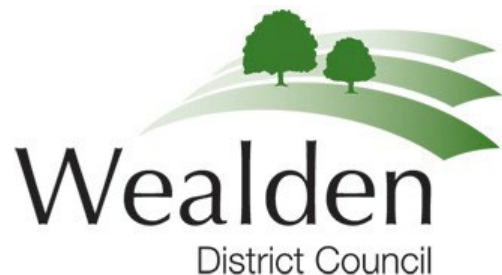
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Horam Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Consultation Response Form

Consultation Period

11 December 2023 – 6 February 2024



Introduction

Wealden District Council is publishing the Horam 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 Horam Neighbourhood Plan.

Under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), we are required to undertake a minimum 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 Horam Neighbourhood Plan is open between **9am on Monday 11 December 2023 and 5pm on Tuesday 6 February 2024.**

The documents submitted by Horam Parish Council include:

- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Submission Version (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Basic Conditions Statement (Including Area Statement) (September 2023).
- Addendum to Basic Conditions Statement (November 2023)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report Horam Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Regulation 14) (May 2023).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion Horam Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Regulation 14) (May 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Consultation Statement Volume 1: Summary (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Consultation Statement Volume 2: Initial Consultation (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Consultation Statement Volume 3: Consultation on Objectives (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Consultation Statement Volume 4: Policy Ideas (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Consultation Statement Volume 5a: Regulation 14 (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Consultation Statement Volume 5b: Appendix to Regulation 14 Consultation Report (WDC Comments and Response) (September 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan. Addendum to Consultation Statement: Consultees (November 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan. Addendum to Consultation Statement: Volume 5a (November 2023).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040. Equalities Impact Assessment (August 2023).
- Background Paper- Respecting and retaining the separate identities of settlements in Horam Parish (September 2023).
- Background Paper- Approach to identifying and protecting local heritage assets (September 2023).
- Background Paper- Landscape Character (September 2023).

- Background Paper- Important Views (September 2023).
- Background Paper- Water Management and Flood Risk (September 2023).
- Horam Parish Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidelines (September 2023).
- Horam Parish: Historic Overview, Character and Issues Statement (November 2021) v6.
- Horam Housing Needs Assessment (October 2022).
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Assessment- Supplementary Note Regarding Housing Mix.
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan Local Green Space Assessment (September 2023).

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:

- Horam Parish Council, The Horam Centre, 3 Bank Buildings, High Street, Horam, TN21 0EH. Office open Tuesday 9.30am-12.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm, Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm, Friday 10am-1pm.
(office closed from 20 December up to and including 1 January 2024)
- Wealden District Council, Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm, Wednesday 9am -5pm.
(office closed from 25 December up to and including 1 January 2024).

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 your 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 on the Horam Neighbourhood Plan, you confirm your consent to the above and that you accept full responsibility for your comments.

Personal Details	Answer
Title	
First Name	Diane
Last Name	Russell
Job Title and Organisation (if relevant)	Planning & Design Advisor, High Weald National Landscape (AONB) Partnership
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 and / or supporting documents. It would be helpful if you can provide reasons and evidence for your comments. Please use additional sheets if necessary.

In general, the High Weald AONB Unit supports the broad strategy of the Horam Neighbourhood Plan to preserve the historic landscape character and the natural environment, particularly the AONB and its setting, settlement pattern, green spaces, dark skies and biodiversity for the health of people and wildlife. References to the High Weald AONB Management Plan are welcomed, and the objective to preserve the distinctive character of the built environment through high quality design is also supported and references in the document to the High Weald Housing Design Guide are welcomed.

We previously made a number of comments on the Horam Neighbourhood Plan at Reg 14 consultation stage, and these have broadly been satisfactorily addressed in the Reg 16 Submission version. However, we do have a small number of outstanding comments on the Reg 16 Plan, and these are set out below:

Policy HCD3: Waldron Ghyll valley

Point 2 of this policy might be better framed as one of the yellow shaded Project boxes within the NP, since it appears to be more associated with sustainable land management practices and projects, in the same manner as Projects H(ii) (wildflower verges), and H(iv) (Natural Flood Management), for example. We also recommend the reference to biodiversity net gain within the sentence is replaced with the term 'nature recovery' - nature recovery is a more inclusive term, encompassing a range of initiatives, including LNRS, BNG, and farming practices and environmental land management schemes, so it would be the more appropriate term to use in the context of Point 2.

Policy HCD4: Important local views

We are concerned that Point 2 of this policy appears written back to front; since it is a policy which sets out to protect locally important views, it would be better worded with the emphasis switched, i.e. “ Proposals for development which would have an adverse impact on important local views identified on Figure 13, for example by virtue of the height, massing or obstructive location of buildings, will be not be supported. ”

Policy HCE1: Nature and biodiversity

The second sentence of Point 2 appears negatively written with regard to conserving biodiversity and habitats, contradicting the first sentence and appearing to accept certain loss of natural assets as 'unavoidable', which should not be the case within the protected landscape of the AONB. Off-site compensatory provision should only ever be a last resort as part of the mitigation hierarchy and is not necessarily appropriate in all circumstances, for example within the AONB, where existing habitats should be conserved and enhanced. We request this second sentence of Point 2 be deleted.

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 Horam 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	Diane Russell	Date 5th February 2024
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Please print name if submitting electronically