

HORAM PARISH COUNCIL
HORAM
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2023 – 2040
BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT
(INCLUDING AREA STATEMENT)

SEPTEMBER 2023

Horam Parish Council
Horam Neighbourhood Plan, 2023-2040
Basic Conditions Statement
September 2023



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1. Introduction

This document

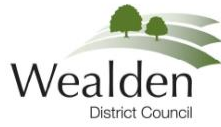
- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to accompany the Horam Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out how the Basic Conditions prescribed by Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met. The Basic Conditions are:
- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan. The prescribed condition is that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or an offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habits Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 1.2 There are two further basic conditions but these only apply to the making of a Neighbourhood Development Order and are thus not considered relevant for this document.

Other supporting documents

- 1.3 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement and this Basic Conditions Statement (incorporating an Area Statement).
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan also makes use of evidence prepared by and on behalf of Wealden District Council as part of the Local Plan process. These and other documents are referenced as appropriate in the Neighbourhood Plan and include:
- Horam Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation Statement (volumes 1 – 5b).
 - Horam Neighbourhood Plan, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Report (included in the appendix to this Basic Conditions Statement).
 - Horam Neighbourhood Plan, Equalities Impact Assessment.
 - Horam Neighbourhood Plan, Design Guidelines.
 - Horam Neighbourhood Plan, Housing Needs Assessment (and supplement to this).
 - Horam Neighbourhood Plan, Local Green Space Designations
 - Horam Parish, Historic Overview, Character and Issues Statement
 - Background papers prepared in support of the Neighbourhood Plan, which include:
 - Approach to Identifying and Protecting Local Heritage Assets
 - Important Views
 - Landscape Character
 - Respecting and Retaining the Separate Identities of Settlements in Horam Parish
 - Water Management and Flood Risk

Key statements, including Area Statement

- 1.5 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and submitted to Wealden District Council by Horam Parish Council. The Parish Council is the qualifying body and is entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for the Horam Parish Council area.
- 1.6 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies that relate to development and the use of land within the neighbourhood area, as shown in Figure 1. The Neighbourhood Area was designated in November 2019 (see Appendix A). The boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area is the same as the Parish Council boundary.
- 1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. There are no other adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans which cover the neighbourhood area.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2023 to 2040. This is in line with the emerging Wealden District Council Local Plan, which has the same time horizon.
- 1.9 The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain any policies which relate to excluded development as defined by section 61k of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.



Location Plan

Scale 1:25000

Date Printed: 04/06/2019

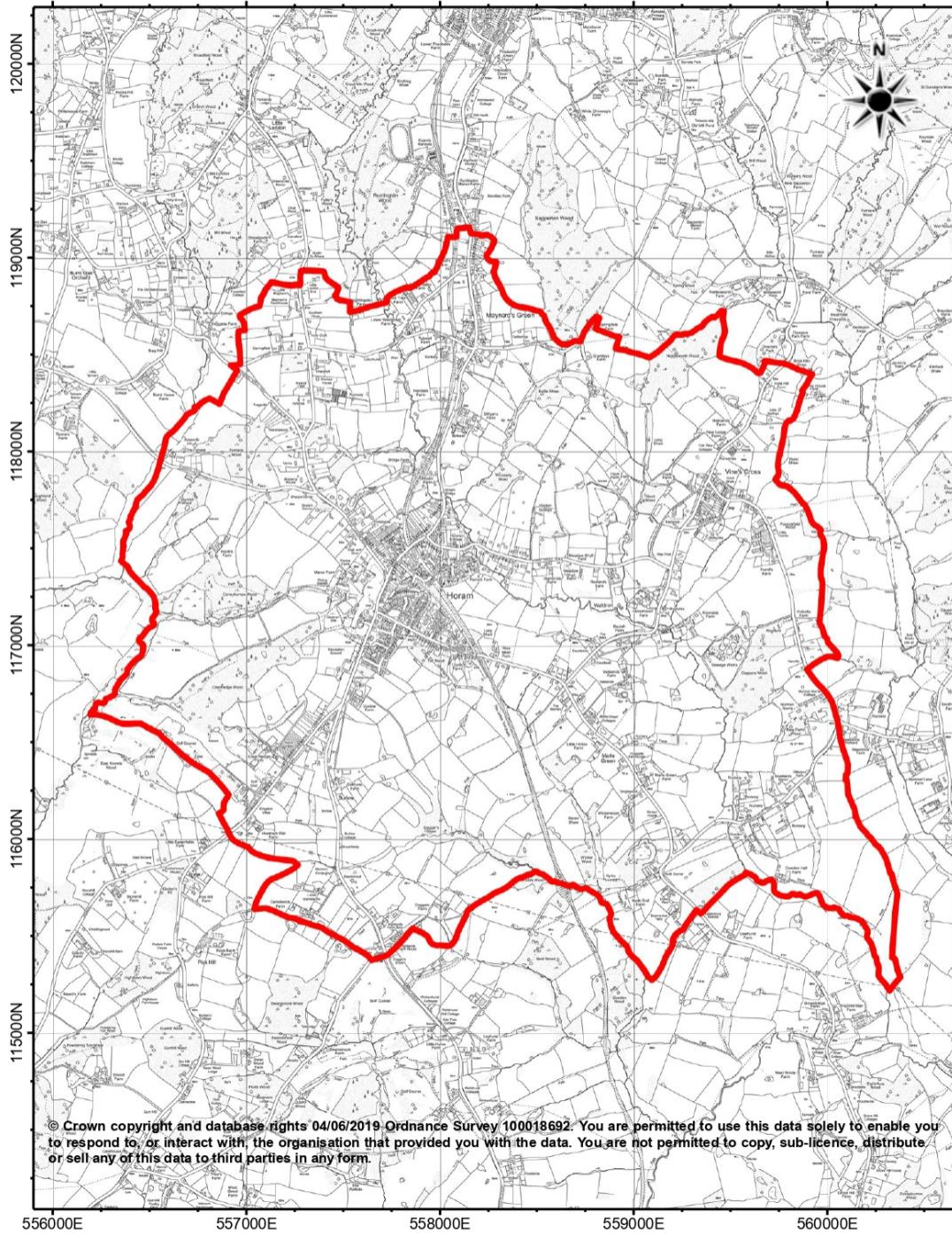


Figure 1. The designated Horam Neighbourhood Plan Area

Vision and objectives

- 1.10 The Basic Conditions Statement refers, where appropriate, to the vision and objectives stated in the Neighbourhood Plan. They are:

Vision

*The essentially **rural character** of Horam parish and its settlements, which is a primary attribute for local people, is retained.*

*The parish's landscape character, that reflects its location in the 'Southern slopes of the High Weald', with high woodland and tree cover and hedgerows, enclosing generally smaller fields as well as settlements, is retained and enhanced, including through a "**landscape-led**" approach to development.*

*The influence of the Parish's topography on **the pattern and form of settlements**, on visual linkages with the surrounding countryside, and on the tendency for flash flooding of the Waldron Ghyll, have been recognised and reflected in development proposals.*

*The general "**greenness**" of the Parish, not only the fields and woodlands of its countryside but also in terms of its trees, hedges and green spaces within built-up areas, are retained and enhanced, including by identification of a 'green infrastructure' network that **promotes biodiversity and reinforces connections with the surrounding countryside**.*

*Opportunities for **walking, cycling and horse riding**, provided notably by the Cuckoo Trail as well as the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network and highways, continue to be encouraged, including through new and improved links and routes, in ways that increase access to the countryside and to local shops and services.*

*The **distinct identities of individual settlements** have not been further eroded.*

*Horam retains a core of businesses and community **facilities that well serve the surrounding area**, which has been supported by a range of initiatives to encourage their use by both residents and visitors.*

*The nature and mix of development have clearly helped meet **local needs**.*

*The **local vernacular** of building forms and materials has been effectively reflected in new buildings, whilst also contributing to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.*

*The **heritage of the parish** has been respected, while references to Horam's historical ties with the railway and the wider parish's ties with iron making and brick making are recognised.*

Objectives

- 1.11 The vision for Horam has been developed into a set of objectives which are intended to help inform preferred directions of future growth and other interventions. These are grouped by theme and help structure policies in the Plan. They are:

<i>Character and Design</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that future development is consistent with protecting and maintaining the largely rural character of the Parish. 2. To safeguard the Parish character and heritage with particular regard to design. 3. To ensure new developments are in sustainable locations and supported by access to sufficient local infrastructure.
<i>Housing Development</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To promote a balance of social mix and age distributions within the Parish.
<i>Countryside and Environment</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To protect and enhance the natural environment and tranquillity of the Parish. 6. To conserve and enhance areas of natural habitat. 7. To help address climate change. 8. To avoid flood-risk caused by new developments.
<i>Local Economy</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. To encourage businesses within the Parish that help to meet local needs & are compatible with the character and amenities of the Parish.
<i>Transport and Movement</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. To encourage cycling, walking and public transport services.
<i>Community Cohesion</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. To maintain and foster Horam's community spirit.

Neighbourhood Plan policies

1.12 The policies within the submission version Neighbourhood Plan are:

HCD1	Settlement pattern and landscape character
HCD2	Local settlement gaps
HCD3	Waldron Ghyll valley
HCD4	Important Local Views
HCD5	Design of development
HCD6	Local Heritage
HHD1	Housing type, size and mix
HHD2	Affordable Housing
HCE1	Nature and biodiversity
HCE2	Trees and hedgerows
HCE3	Dark skies and Lighting
HCE4	Local green space designations
HCE5	New amenity green spaces
HCE6	Flood risk
HLE1	Horam village centre
HLE2	Employment
HLE3	Visitor accommodation and facilities
HTM1	Traffic Management
HTM2	Active and healthy travel
HTM3	The Cuckoo Trail
HTM4	Public transport
HCF1	Community facilities
HCF2	Sport, leisure and recreation facilities
HCF3	Infrastructure
HCF4	Allotments and Food Growing Opportunities

Neighbourhood Plan projects

- 1.13 In addition to the policies listed above the Neighbourhood Plan also includes a set of wider projects and community aspirations. These do not comprise land use and development policies and are not subject to the same tests of the Basic Conditions, but are listed below for comprehensiveness and referred to as appropriate in the Basic Conditions Statement.

H(i)	Local heritage
H(ii)	Wildflower verges
H(iii)	Land at corner of A267
H(iv)	Natural flood management
H(v)	Traffic management
H(vi)	Encouraging walking and cycling
H(vii)	Bus services
H(viii)	Youth centre

2. National Planning Policy

Introduction

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan must show that it has regard to national policies contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the 2021 (updated 2023) version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ and associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) published by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- 2.2 The NPPF states at paragraph 18 that neighbourhood plans should contain non-strategic policies. At paragraph 21 it states that strategic policies (in the Development Plan) provide a clear starting point for non-strategic policies and that strategic policies *'should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies'*.
- 2.3 The power of a neighbourhood plan is clearly set out in paragraph 30 of the NPPF, which states that *'once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area'*.
- 2.4 This section demonstrates that the Horam Neighbourhood Plan has regard to relevant goals within the NPPF in relation to:
 - Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
 - Building a strong, competitive economy
 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres
 - Promoting healthy and safe communities
 - Promoting sustainable transport
 - Supporting high quality communications
 - Making effective use of land
 - Achieving well-designed places
 - Protecting Green Belt land
 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
- 2.5 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan has eleven primary objectives (as set out in para 1.11). Table 1 below shows which of the NPPF goals each objective addresses. The sections following this provide a summary of how policies in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan conform to the NPPF goals.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

Table 1. Alignment of Horam NDP Objectives with NPPF

Horam Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Relevant NPPF goals
Objective 1: To ensure that future development is consistent with protecting and maintaining the largely rural character of the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (Section 15 of the NPPF).
Objective 2: To safeguard the Parish character and heritage with particular regard to design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (Section 16 of the NPPF). Achieving well-designed places (Section 12 of the NPPF).
Objective 3: To ensure new developments are in sustainable locations and supported by access to sufficient local infrastructure (this objective also forms the basis of policies around community infrastructure – see section entitled ‘Community Cohesion’)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting healthy and safe communities (Section 8 of the NPPF).
Objective 4: To promote a balance of social mix and age distributions within the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering a sufficient supply of homes (Section 5 of the NPPF).
Objective 5: To protect and enhance the natural environment and tranquillity of the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (Section 15 of the NPPF).
Objective 6: To conserve and enhance areas of natural habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (Section 15 of the NPPF).
Objective 7: To help address climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (Section 14 of the NPPF).
Objective 8: To avoid flood-risk caused by new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (Section 14 of the NPPF).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting healthy and safe communities (Section 8 of the NPPF).
Objective 9: To encourage businesses within the Parish that help to meet local needs & are compatible with the character and amenities of the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building a strong, competitive economy (Section 6 of the NPPF). Making effective use of land (Section 11 of the NPPF). Ensuring the vitality of town centres (Section 7 of the NPPF)
Objective 10: To encourage cycling, walking and public transport services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting healthy and safe communities (Section 8 of the NPPF). Promoting sustainable transport (Section 9 of the NPPF).
Objective 11: To maintain and foster Horam's community spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting healthy and safe communities (Section 8 of the NPPF).

Delivering a sufficient supply of homes

NPPF Section 5, paras 60 - 80

2.6 The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development but does recognise that proposals for development will come forward over the Plan period and thus includes policies that seek to ensure that proposals for new homes help meet local needs. In particular:

- **Policy HHD1** supports the NPPFs intention of delivering a sufficient supply of homes by supporting proposals for development that contribute to a balanced mix of housing and help meet local needs.
- **Policy HHD2**, which supports delivery of affordable homes, including the new First Homes product, and which requires these to be well-integrated within the wider community by way of design and location.
- **Policy HCD5** also recognises that proposals for development will come forward in the area and where they do, they should respond to the rural character of the area.

Building a strong, competitive economy

NPPF Section 6, paras 81 - 85

- 2.7 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan reflects this section of the NPPF through:
- **Policy HLE1**, which notes that office and employment uses in Use Class E are appropriate uses within Horam village centre.
 - **Policy HLE2**, which supports proposals for employment development, including that suitable for small businesses, within built-up areas.
 - **Policy HLE3**, which supports the visitor economy through appropriate location of accommodation and supporting facilities.

Ensuring the vitality of town centres

NPPF Section 7, paras 86 - 91

- 2.8 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan, at **Policy HLE1**, establishes appropriate use types and design principles for development and land use in the village centre. It also seeks to protect Use Classes E and F from loss, recognising the role and function of the village centre at the heart of the community and providing for everyday needs.

Promoting healthy and safe communities

NPPF Section 8, paras 92 - 103

- 2.9 The NPPF states that planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. Relevant policies in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan are:
- **Policy HCF1**, which seeks to retain existing community facilities and also supports proposals for new facilities, particularly where they are accessible and flexible, allowing use by all members of the community.
 - **Policy HCF2**, which supports the provision of new sports, leisure and recreation facilities.
 - **Policy HCD5**, which establishes principles in respect of high quality design and the laying out of development such that it is safe and accessible to all.
 - **Policy HCE4**, which designates local green spaces of value to the community, including those which are used for leisure and recreation purposes.
 - **Policy HCE5**, which supports the delivery of new amenity green space within development and establishes principles that supports good design of thus for use and enjoyment by all.

- **Policy HTM2**, supports provision of new walking and cycling routes. This is supported by project / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements as well as road safety improvements. These are intended to help make active and healthy travel a more attractive proposition and reduce reliance on the private car, supporting healthier lifestyles.

Promoting sustainable transport

NPPF Section 9, paras 104 - 113

- 2.10 **Policy HTM2** of the Horam Neighbourhood Plan promotes sustainable transport through active travel routes well incorporated into new development and linking with key destinations and facilities across the area. The policy requires infrastructure to be well integrated in development such that it is safe, attractive and convenient to use. It is supported by project / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements as well as road safety improvements that help make walking and cycling a more attractive proposition.
- 2.11 Alongside this, **Policy HTM3** supports access improvements to and along the Cuckoo trail for walking and wheeling, and **Policy HTM4** looks to proposals for new development to be designed to incorporate new bus routes or be well connected with existing routes to support use of these.
- 2.12 Furthermore, policies associated with community infrastructure, the village centre, employment uses and visitor accommodation all refer to development being accessible by foot and cycle.

Supporting high quality communications

NPPF Section 10, paras 114 - 118

- 2.13 The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any specific policies in respect of mobile, broadband or digital connectivity, and thus defers to the Local Plan and national policy in this respect.

Making effective use of land

NPPF Section 11, paras 119 - 125

- 2.14 The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should promote effective use of land. Relevant policies in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan are:
- **Policy HCD1**, which supports development that maintains the settlement pattern and responds positively to the character and scale of the area.
 - **Policy HCD2**, which seeks to retain the open nature and character of land between settlements, and thus directing development to existing built up areas.

- **Policy HCD5**, which supports development that is of a scale and density consistent with the character of the area.
- **Policy HLE1**, which supports mixed-use development within Horam village centre.
- **Policy HLE2**, which supports employment development in sustainable locations.

Achieving well-designed places

NPPF Section 12, paras 126 - 136

- 2.15 This section of the NPPF stresses the importance of high quality design in buildings and places.
- 2.16 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan draws upon the Design Guide that sits alongside the Plan, as well as Background Papers, including those associated with landscape character, and which identify character areas and qualities that should be reflected in new development. This is summarised in the NDP and referenced in **Policy HCD1** which requires development to conserve and enhance the landscape character, settlement pattern and features of the Parish, including relationship between built areas and surrounding landscape. **Policy HCD5** of the Neighbourhood Plan also establishes a series of principles to help achieve good quality, well designed new development in the Parish.
- 2.17 Furthermore, **Policy HHD2** requires new affordable homes to be built to the same design standards as market homes, and **Policy HCE5** requires new amenity green spaces to be well-integrated within new development, creating safe, attractive and inclusive spaces for the enjoyment of all.

Protecting Green Belt land

NPPF Section 13, paras 137 - 151

- 2.18 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan area is not located within the Green Belt. This section of the NPPF is thus not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

NPPF Section 14, paras 152 - 173

- 2.19 This section of the NPPF supports the transition to a low carbon future. Relevant policies in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan are:

- **Policy HCD5**, which supports proposals that incorporate sustainable building design and construction measures.
- **Policy HCE6**, which seeks to minimise the risk of flooding through the location of development and the use of sustainable drainage systems and which should be designed to have multi-functional benefits, including improvements to biodiversity.
- **Policy HTM2**, which supports active and healthy modes of transport, including walking and cycling. This conform to the NPPF's aims (paragraph 152) of supporting the transition to a low carbon future and contributing to reductions in greenhouse gases by reducing overdependence on cars. It is supported by project / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements, and road safety improvements, which are intended to make walking and cycling more attractive propositions.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

NPPF Section 15, paras 174 - 188

2.20 This chapter of the NPPF promotes the positive impact that planning policies and decisions can have on natural environment, specifically through protection and enhancement of landscapes, biodiversity, character and soil quality. Relevant policies in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan are:

- **Policy HCD1**, which seeks to conserve and enhance the landscape character of the Parish and High Weald AONB, including retention of the small-scale and enclosed landscape character and historic pattern of fields and woodlands across the Parish.
- **Policy HCD3**, which seeks to maintain and enhance the biodiversity and amenity value of the Waldron Ghyll valley, classifying this as a 'valued landscape' in line with para 174 (a) of the NPPF, recognising the significant contribution it makes to the landscape of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- **Policy HCD4**, which seeks to ensure that development is sensitive to key local views across the Parish, which include those across the landscape.
- **Policy HCE1**, which requires development to protect, conserve and enhance important local habitats and support the creation of new environments that create a connected network of green infrastructure.

- **Policy HCE2**, which seeks to protect and support the planting of new trees and hedgerows.
- **Policy HCE3**, which seeks to limit the impact of light pollution, including impacts on species and the natural environment.
- **Policy HCE4**, which seeks to designate local green spaces of value to the community for protection, and which include spaces designated because of their wildlife value.
- **Policy HTM3**, which seeks to enhance the quality (and use) of the Cuckoo Trail.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

NPPF Section 16, paras 189 - 208

- 2.21 Paras. 189 and 190 of the NPPF promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets to ensure their enjoyment into the future.
- 2.22 **Policy HCD5** of the NDP conforms to this in that it establishes design principles which include the requirement for development proposals to respect the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the Plan area as set out in the Horam Design Guide, and which includes conservation areas and other heritage assets.
- 2.23 The Plan also recognises the importance of non-designated heritage assets to the history and evolution of the Parish, with **Policy HCD6** requiring applications that affect these to conserve and enhance these where possible,

Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

NPPF Section 17, paras 209 - 217

- 2.24 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan does not include policies which relate to this NPPF aim, therefore decisions on this matter will need to refer to the Wealden Core Strategy, the East Sussex, south Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Plan, and Waste and Minerals Sites Plan.

3. Sustainable Development

Achieving sustainable development

- 3.1 The NPPF, at paragraph 7, states that the *'purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'*. Sustainable development is defined as *'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'* (paragraph 7).
- 3.2 The NPPF views sustainability as made up of three objectives: economic, social and environmental. These objectives are interdependent and should be pursued in mutually supportive ways. The objectives are:
- *Economic*: to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
 - *Social*: to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.
 - *Environmental*: to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 3.3 The following sections summarise how the objectives and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute toward sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF. This demonstrates that the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals.

Economic objectives

NPPF definition:

- 3.4 *'Building a strong, responsive and competitive economy'*

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

- 3.5 **Objective 9** To encourage businesses within the Parish that help to meet local needs and are compatible with the character and amenities of the Parish.

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies:

- Policy HLE1: Horam Village Centre.
- Policy HLE2: Employment.
- Policy HLE3: Visitor Accommodation and Facilities.

Commentary on how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the NPPF Economic objectives:

- 3.6 The Horam Neighbourhood Plan is committed to creating an environment in which businesses can thrive. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan require any new growth to be well connected and integrated with the existing built form, supporting use of existing services and facilities. The Plan also recognises the importance of the visitor economy, establishing policies that support provision of accommodation. Furthermore, the Plan notes the importance role and function played by the village centre in terms of providing for everyday services and as a social hub. The Plan seeks to reinforce the role of the village centre.

Social objectives

NPPF definition:

- 3.7 *'Support strong, vibrant and healthy communities'*

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

- 3.8 **Objective 3:** To ensure new developments are in sustainable locations and supported by access to sufficient infrastructure.
- 3.9 **Objective 4:** To promote a balance of social mix and age distributions within the Parish.
- 3.10 **Objective 10:** To encourage cycling, walking and public transport services.
- 3.11 **Objective 11:** To maintain and foster Horam's community spirit.

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies:

- Policy HHD1: Housing Type, Size and Mix.
- Policy HHD2: Affordable Housing.
- Policy HCE5: New Amenity Green Spaces.
- Policy HTM2: Active and Healthy Travel.
- Policy HTM3: The Cuckoo Trail.
- Policy HCF1: Community Facilities.
- Policy HCF2: Sport, Leisure and Recreation Facilities.
- Policy HCF3: Infrastructure.
- Policy HCF4: Allotments and Food Growing Opportunities.

Commentary on how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the NPPF Social objectives:

- 3.12 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a range of policies that support social inclusion, health and wellbeing. It supports new housing, particularly where it maximises affordable homes, and seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, being places which support community interaction. The Plan acknowledges that these facilities, along with active travel routes that connect with them, can contribute towards good placemaking and a healthier society.
- 3.13 The Plan also puts community safety at the heart of its policies, with projects intended to help deliver traffic and pedestrian safety measures. It also supports well designed places which meet good practice principles and reflect the character and identity of the area.
- 3.14 Furthermore, the Plan includes policies in respect of new green space, sports and leisure facilities, and allotment provision, supporting social inclusion, health and wellbeing.

Environmental objectives

NPPF definition:

- 3.15 *'Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment'*

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

- 3.16 **Objective 1:** To ensure that future development is consistent with protecting and maintaining the largely rural character of the Parish.
- 3.17 **Objective 2:** To safeguard the Parish character and heritage with particular regard to design.

- 3.18 **Objective 5:** To protect and enhance the natural environment and tranquillity of the Parish.
- 3.19 **Objective 6:** To conserve and enhance areas of natural habitats.
- 3.20 **Objective 7:** To help address climate change.
- 3.21 **Objective 8:** To avoid flood risk caused by new developments.
- 3.22 **Objective 10:** To encourage walking, cycling and public transport services.

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies:

- Policy HCD1: Settlement pattern and landscape character.
- Policy HCD3: Waldron Ghyll Valley.
- Policy HCD4: Important Local Views.
- Policy HCD5: Design of Development.
- Policy HCD6: Non-designated Heritage Assets.
- Policy HCE1: Nature and Biodiversity.
- Policy HCE2: Trees and Hedgerows.
- Policy HCE3: Dark Skies and Lighting.
- Policy HCE4: Local Green Space Designations.
- Policy HCE6: Flood Risk.
- Policy HTM1: Traffic Management.
- Policy HTM2: Active and Healthy Travel.
- Policy HTM4: Public Transport.

Commentary on how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the NPPF Environmental objectives:

- 3.23 The Neighbourhood Plan has a strong focus on the environmental qualities of the Parish. It seeks to ensure that development is located and designed in such a way that it responds positively to the rural character and open nature of the setting of Horam. It also seeks to protect natural features and delivery new green infrastructure. Furthermore, policies support the use of sustainable design and construction, and encouraging active travel through provision of a network of safe and connected walking and cycling routes, supporting a move away from use of the private car and thus helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

4. The Development Plan

- 4.1 For Neighbourhood Plans to meet the Basic Conditions set out in the Neighbourhood Planning regulations they need to demonstrate general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan.
- 4.2 The NPPF establishes what should be covered by a strategic policy in a Local Plan. It states that such policies should provide a clear starting point for any non-strategic policies that are needed and should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies. It states that such policies should help to deliver²:
- Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure, and other commercial development;
 - Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - Community facilities (such as health and cultural infrastructure); and
 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaption.
- 4.3 The Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted in February 2013. The Core Strategy Local Plan and its supporting studies set out the future for development in Wealden up to 2027.
- 4.4 Wealden District is preparing a new Local Plan. However, this process has been significantly delayed. In December 2022, work on the Wealden Local Plan consultation was put on hold as a result of reforms to the planning system in England, namely, the consultation on 'Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy'. At the time of writing, there are no emerging Strategic Policies in the review of the Local Plan to be considered in the Basic Conditions Statement. The Neighbourhood Plan does though include a commitment to review, and this may be triggered by adoption of the new Local Plan. Until such time as the new Local Plan progresses further, this Basic Conditions Statement thus considered the Horam Neighbourhood Plan against the strategic policies of the adopted Core Strategy Local Plan.

² See para 20, NPPF, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

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- 4.5 This section of the Basic Conditions Statement demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan (The Wealden Core Strategy). The Horam Neighbourhood Plan aims to build on the policies contained within the Core Strategy by providing neighbourhood level planning policy where it has been found appropriate. The table below demonstrates how the policies of the Horam Neighbourhood Plan conform with the strategic policies established in the Wealden Core Strategy.

Local Plan (Core Strategy) Strategic Policy	Horam Neighbourhood Plan policy
<p>WCS1:</p> <p>Provision of Homes and Jobs 2006 - 2027</p>	<p>This policy establishes the scale of development to be accommodated in the District over the Plan period.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not duplicate this, nor identify land for development. It does though, through its suite of policies, establish a framework within which proposals for new development will be considered acceptable (as expanded upon in commentary below).</p> <p>In addition, Policy HHD1 outlines the breakdown of housing, in terms of type, size and mix, that would be appropriate in the Plan area in order to meet local needs as set out in the Local Housing Needs Assessment that has informed the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>WCS2:</p> <p>Distribution of Housing Growth 2006 - 2027</p>	<p>This policy notes that, across the rural villages in the district, 455 new homes should be provided. The Core Strategy also notes, at Spatial Planning Objective SPO3, that the majority of housing across the District will be focused in and around existing towns, with only 'limited growth' in villages capable of sustainable development. No specific reference is made in the policy or spatial planning objective to Horam.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that proposals for development will come forward and includes a series of policies that create the framework within which proposals for new development should respond, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HCD1: which seeks to ensure that new development reflects the established settlement pattern and landscape character.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HCD5: which establishes design principles for new development, related to local character and design qualities. • Policy HHD1: which establishes the type, size and mix of new homes that might be considered appropriate, to help meet local needs.
WSC3: Distribution of Employment (B Class) and Retail (convenience and comparison)	<p>This policy does not establish a requirement for employment or retail floorspace in the 'rural area' of the District, which includes Horam.</p> <p>However, the Neighbourhood Plan recognises the importance of providing local employment opportunities, and the role and function of the village centre at the heart of the community, providing for everyday needs. Although the Neighbourhood Plan does not identify land for development, it does recognise that change may happen and that proposals for development may come forward. As such, it establishes, through Policies HLE1 – HLE3, a set of principles where such development would be supported.</p>
WCS4: Strategic Development Areas	<p>This policy is not relevant to the Horam Neighbourhood Plan as it introduces strategic growth locations across the District – none of which are in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
WCS5: Managing the Release of Housing Land	<p>This policy notes that the release of land for development will be dependent upon the timely provision of infrastructure. The Neighbourhood Plan does not duplicate this, but does note the importance of infrastructure and, at Policy HCF3, notes that proposals for major development should outline how infrastructure should be delivered and, where multiple land owners are involved, the mechanisms involved to ensure delivery.</p>

<p>WCS6:</p> <p>Rural Areas Strategy</p>	<p>This policy states that, in the Plan period (2006 – 2027), 100 new homes should be provided in Horam.</p> <p>This figure has been exceeded. The Housing Needs Assessment prepared in support of the Neighbourhood Plan refers to completion data provided by WDC which states that over the period 2011 – 2022, 270 dwellings (net) have been built in the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan does not therefore make any allocations for new development. It does though recognise that proposals for new development will come forward and through Policies HCD1, HCD5 and HHD1 establishes criteria that is intended to shape the mix, form and location of any new development that might come forward.</p>
<p>WCS7:</p> <p>Effective Provision of Infrastructure</p>	<p>This policy states that development will be permitted where sufficient capacity in the existing infrastructure network already exists, or where improvements to that can be made through development. This is reflected and further developed in Policy HCF3 of the Neighbourhood Plan which notes that proposals for major development should outline how infrastructure should be delivered and, where multiple land owners are involved, the mechanisms involved to ensure delivery.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan also acknowledges the importance of social and community infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HCF1, which seeks to protect community facilities from loss and establishes principles to meet in the delivery of new facilities. • Policy HCF2, which supports proposals for new and improves sports, leisure and recreation facilities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy HLE1, which notes that social and community uses (Use Class F) are appropriate uses in and are encouraged to locate in Horam Village Centre.
WCS8: Affordable Housing	<p>This policy establishes thresholds for the delivery of affordable housing and design of this in alignment with the NPPF.</p> <p>This is reflected in Policy HHD2 of the Neighbourhood Plan which further develops this to include reference to First Homes and how affordable homes should be well integrated with areas of market housing. It also cross refers to the Local Housing Need Assessment undertaken specifically for the Plan area – though set in the context of and having regard to the District-wide local housing needs assessment - and which provides information on the breakdown of affordable housing needs in the Parish.</p>
WCS9: Rural Exception Affordable Housing	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to address proposals for exception sites and thus defers to Local and National Policy in this regard.</p>
WCS10: The Travelling Community – Provision for Gypsies and Travellers	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to address provision for Gypsies and Travellers and thus defers to Local and National Policy in this regard.</p>
WCS11: The Travelling Community – Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople: Site Criteria	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to address provision for Gypsies and Travellers and thus defers to Local and National Policy in this regard.</p>
WCS12: Biodiversity	<p>This policy seeks to prevent the loss of biodiversity and where possible, create a net gain in biodiversity. It also establishes an approach to the requirement for delivery of Suitable Natural Green Space associated with sites within the catchment of the Ashdown Forest.</p>

	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to address mitigations associated with the Ashdown Forest and thus defers to Local and National policy in this regard.</p> <p>However, the Neighbourhood Plan does further develop and expand upon the approach to biodiversity set out in the Core Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HCD3 supports enhancements to the biodiversity of the Waldron Ghyll Valley, including opportunities for net gain, new woodland and restoration of wetland areas. • Policy HCD5 which sets out design criteria for new development, including the provision of trees, hedges and plant cover. • Policy HCE1, which establishes criteria for delivery of new, connected spaces for nature and biodiversity. • Policy HCE2, which seeks to manage the impact of development on trees, and encourage planting of new trees, woodland and hedgerows. • Policy HCE3 which seeks to limit the impact of light pollution on the natural environment.
<p>WCS13: Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>This policy notes that a Green Infrastructure Strategy will be implemented to protect, improve and enhance the network of green spaces across the District. It also notes that development should not result in the loss of green spaces, and that new housing development should provide new green space where appropriate. This is reflected and further developed in the Horam Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HCE1 which seeks to avoid loss of natural habitats and features, and sets out principles for creation of a connected network of green spaces.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HCE2, which seeks to protect trees and hedgerows from loss and supports delivery of new areas of planting. • Policy HCE4, which designates Local Green Spaces of value to the community for protection • Policy HCE5, which sets out design principles for delivery of accessible and functional green spaces in new developments. • Policy HCE6, which supports delivery of sustainable drainage systems that are multi-functional and designed to deliver benefits for biodiversity and amenity. • Policy HCF3, which supports proposals for new allotments and wider opportunities for food growing in the Plan area. • Policy HTM3 supports environmental and access improvements to the Cuckoo Trail.
<p>WCS14:</p> <p>Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development</p>	<p>This model policy notes that planning applications will be determined in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>The Horam Neighbourhood Plan, as demonstrated in this Basic Conditions Statement, embodies the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF and is thus aligned with the Core Strategy in this respect.</p>

5. Strategic Environment Assessment / HRA

- 5.1 The draft Horam Neighbourhood Plan was screened for SEA and HRA by Wealden District Council in May 2023 in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 5.2 The SEA regulations require the competent authority (Wealden District Council) to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect and therefore whether SEA is needed.
- 5.3 The SEA screening conducted by Wealden District Council concluded that there are not likely to be significant environmental effects arising directly from the decisions taken through the Horam Neighbourhood Plan. As such, it concluded that it is not necessary for a full SEA to accompany the Horam Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.4 At the same time as the SEA screening, screening under the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was also prepared for the Horam Neighbourhood Plan, the purpose of which was to determine whether significant effects on a Natura 2000 site could be ruled out on the basis of objective information and best scientific knowledge.
- 5.5 The HRA Screening concludes that the Horam NDP will in itself, not result in a 'likely significant effect' on a European site, in particular the Ashdown Forest SAC or Pevensey Levels SAC and Ramsar site. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 5.6 For comprehensiveness, a copy of the SEA and HRA Screening Report is included in Appendix B.

6. Sustainability Appraisal

‘Light touch’ appraisal

- 6.1 Even though the Screening has determined that SEA is not required, a ‘light touch’ Sustainability Appraisal (SA), proportionate with the Neighbourhood Plan, has been prepared for the Plan area. This reflects best practice and is based upon the Sustainability objectives prepared by Wealden District Council for the purposes of the emerging Local Plan (as set out in the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report, June 2023).
- 6.2 The objectives are listed in the table below, alongside which commentary is provided indicating how the Horam Neighbourhood Plan responds to these objectives and will thus help contribute to the delivery of sustainable development in Horam through its blend of policies that will deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

Wealden SA Objective	Horam Neighbourhood Plan Response
Climate Change Mitigation: To become a net-zero carbon district by 2050 or sooner tackling the climate emergency through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reducing energy and fuel consumption.	<p>Policy HCD5 sets out design principles which includes support for development that embodies high standards of sustainable design and construction. Policies HTM1-4 support walking cycling and use of public transport, reducing the use of the private car and the impacts of this on climate change. Policies HCE1 and HCE2 also support the planting of new trees and hedgerows which will help mitigate the impact of carbon emissions.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Climate Change Adaptation: To reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change through adaptation and adjustment.	<p>Policy HCE6 sets out an approach to sustainable drainage that seeks to minimise the risk of flooding from development, including surface water flooding. Policy HTM2 supports active travel, and Policy HTM4 supports use of public transport, encouraging a move away from the private car. Policy HLE3 supports home working and thus seeks to minimise the impacts on climate change through out-commuting.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>

<p>Flood Risk: To manage and reduce our vulnerability to flood risk taking into account climate change.</p>	<p>Policy HCE6 states that development should be located away from areas of flood risk and supports the use of sustainable drainage. In addition, projects in the Neighbourhood Plan support the use of Natural Flood Management techniques and solutions</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Significant Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Water Resources and Water Quality: Protect our water resources and reduce water demand and consumption.</p>	<p>Policy HCE6 sets out the approach to sustainable drainage systems in the Plan area and requires the design and delivery of these to be multi-function, delivering a wide range of benefits in line with the four pillars of SuDS, which include maintenance and protection of the natural water cycle, managing the amount and quality of run off.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Soil, Land & Minerals: Use land efficiently and maintain, conserve and enhance soil quality and mineral resources.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not identify land for development, and thus does not have a direct impact on soil, land or minerals, and nor does it include policies specifically in relation to soils and minerals. However, in terms of land, policies HCD1 and HCD2 seek to ensure that development responds to the settlement pattern and landscape character. Policy HLE2 and HLE4 support employment and visitor uses where they are within existing built up areas (or involve reuse of previously developed land).</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.</i></p>
<p>Waste: Reduce and minimise waste and promote resource efficiency through re-use and recycling (circular economy)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include policies specifically in relation to soils and minerals, deferring to the Waste and Minerals Plan.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.</i></p>

<p>Pollution: To reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p>	<p>Policy HCE3 sets out an approach to minimise the impact of light pollution on the night sky and natural environment, including the behaviour patterns of people and wildlife. Policy HTM1 seeks to manage the impact of traffic, including speed and congestion through the Plan area, and thus noise pollution associated with this.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Green & Blue Infrastructure: To improve the quality and connectivity between functional habitats and greenspaces to provide for people and nature recovery.</p>	<p>Policy HCE1 and HCE2 seek to minimise the loss of natural features, and support the provision of enhancements to and provision of new planting. The policies also promote delivery of green spaces that create a connected network and are permeable for wildlife. Furthermore, Policy HCD3 seeks to minimise the impact of development on the Waldron Ghyll valley and, where appropriate, to enhance biodiversity value and restore wetland areas .</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Biodiversity: To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan emphasizes the role of green corridors and supports general greening of the Plan area. Policy HCE1 seeks to avoid the loss of or damage to areas of biodiversity. Equally, Policy HCE2 seeks to retain and protect existing trees and hedgerows. Furthermore, Policy HCE4 designates local green spaces of value to the community, including those which are considered important for wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Landscape & Townscape: To protect and enhance the district's urban and rural landscapes.</p>	<p>Policy HCD1 requires development to respect the defined settlement pattern and landscape character of the Parish, and Policy HCD2 seeks to minimise the impacts of development on the separate identity of the different character of settlements in the Parish by maintaining the sense of openness between these. Furthermore, Policy HCD5, which is supported by a</p>

	<p>Design Guide, requires development to reflect the character, scale and form of the area within which it is located.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Historic and Cultural Heritage: To protect and enhance the district's historic environment and cultural heritage assets.</p>	<p>Policy HCD5 requires development to reflect the character of different settlements and surrounding landscape, as draw out in the Horam Design Guide, and separate Landscape studies. These highlight the historic evolution of the area and how this should be reflected in proposals for new development. Furthermore, Policy HCD6 notes that new development should be sensitive to non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.</i></p>
<p>Digital Infrastructure: To improve digital infrastructure and connectivity to ensure it meets the needs of all of our communities.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include policies specifically in relation to digital infrastructure, deferring to a combination of Local and National Policy, including Building Regulations.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.</i></p>
<p>Sustainable Travel & Accessibility: To encourage efficient patterns of movement, promote sustainable and active travel and ensure access to key local services and facilities.</p>	<p>Policy HTM2 and HTM3 of the Neighbourhood Plan support active travel and integration of active travel measures in new development, as well as maximising use of the Cuckoo Trail, helping connect communities with key services and facilities both within and outside of the Parish. This is reflected in policies associated with the design of new development, the village centre, employment uses, visitor accommodation and community facilities, all of which include reference to support access by foot and bicycle. The Plan also notes, at Policy HTM4, that where development is of a size to support bus travel, then it should incorporate bus routes within the development and or by located</p>

	<p>within close proximity of a bus service to help encourage use of that.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Housing: To provide housing that meets local needs.	<p>While the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, it does provide a framework for accommodating sustainable growth and where it meets local needs. Policy HHD1 of the Neighbourhood Plan breaks down the mix and size of homes that should be delivered in the area to help meet local needs as identified by the supporting Housing Needs Assessment prepared alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. Policy HHD2 expands upon this in respect of affordable housing, the delivery of First Homes and Specialist Homes for an ageing population.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Health & Wellbeing: To protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the district's population and reduce health inequalities.	<p>Policy HCF1 welcomes provision of new community facilities in Horam, and sets out the approach to retaining existing facilities in the Parish. Policy HCF2 supports new sports and leisure facilities, and HCF3 requires proposals for major development to set out how new infrastructure will be delivered. In addition, the suite of green space, design and travel policies in the Neighbourhood Plan all seek to support active and health modes of travel as well as access to green space for leisure, recreation and general wellbeing.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Quality of Place: To create safe and attractive places which contribute towards quality of life and community cohesion.	<p>Policy HCD5 sets out principles for new development such that this responds to and reinforces the distinct character and qualities of the area, as well as supporting creation of good quality public realm that is well overlooked, accessible and user friendly for all ages. The Plan recognises the importance of the village centre and provision of community facilities which are important to community cohesion.</p>

	<i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i>
Social Deprivation: To tackle social deprivation by improving access to societies resources for all and ensuring inclusivity.	<p>Policy HHD2 supports deliver of affordable housing in the Plan area and Policy HCF1 seeks to retain existing community facilities as well as establish principles for new facilities, which are intended to be accessible to all. Equally, Policy HCE5 requires new amenity green space to be well designed and integrated into development so that it can be used by all. Furthermore, Policies HTM1-3 seek to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive, allowing people of all ages and abilities to be able to move around. In addition, provision of anew youth centre, located at the Recreation Ground, is supported as a project in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Economy & Employment: To maintain high levels of employment and encourage sustainable economic growth across the district including higher value jobs.	<p>Policy HLE1 of the Neighbourhood Plan supports proposals for new employment uses in the Parish, including small businesses well related to the local area. The role of the visitor economy is also recognised with policies supporting visitor accommodation and supporting facilities in the Parish.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Town & Village Centres: Protect and enhance the viability and vitality of town or village centres.	<p>Policy HLE1 recognises the importance of the Village Centre at the heart of the community, being a place for social cohesion and providing for dayto-day needs. The policy establishes appropriate use types that will be welcome in the area, and seeks to restrict the loss of services and facilities. Furthermore, Policy HTM3 supports improvements to the Cuckoo Trail, enabling use of this for residents, providing a link from surrounding villages to Horam Village Centre.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
Education & Skills: To improve the level of	The Neighbourhood Plan does not include a specific policy in respect of education. However, it does

<p>skills, education and training of the district's population.</p>	<p>support the provision of new community facilities (at Policy HCF1) and, at Policy HCF3, requires applicants of larger developments to demonstrate how supporting infrastructure will be delivered (and which might, as appropriate, include education or contributions towards educational facilities).</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.</i></p>
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7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Horam Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.
- 7.2 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Horam Neighbourhood Plan complies with the Basic Conditions, and, subject to any modifications recommended by the Examiner, should proceed to referendum.

Appendix A: Neighbourhood Plan Designation

The Neighbourhood Area was designated on the 14th November 2019, and was approved by the Planning and Development Policy Holder under delegated powers. The application and decision notice are presented in this appendix.



Horam Parish Council
The Horam Centre
High Street, Horam
East Sussex
TN21 0EH
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(Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
mornings)
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www.horam.com

24th September 2019.

Planning Policy, Wealden District Council,
Council Offices, Vicarage Lane,
HAILSHAM, East Sussex. BN27 2AX

Dear Sir / Madam

Neighbourhood Plan for Horam Parish.

I am writing to you, on behalf of Horam Parish Council, to give notice that we wish to make an application under Regulation 5C of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the Horam Neighbourhood Plan.

This application is accompanied by a map identifying the area to which the application relates, being the entire parish area of Horam.

This area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons:

The proposed area for the Neighbourhood Plan is in line with the recognised administrative area for Horam Parish.

Horam Parish has an area of 1,038.81 hectares. In 2011 it had a resident population of 2642.

The Parish comprises of the village of Horam and a number of settlements – Vines Cross, Maynards Green, Marle Green and Burlow surrounded in open countryside.

Horam lies immediately south of the High Weald AONB, positioned on the side of a valley above Waldron Ghyll and is north of the Low Weald. The landscape to the south east is fairly enclosed and is characterised by a patchwork of fields and east to west running stream corridors.

The Parish is bounded by the Parishes of Heathfield to the North, Warbleton to the East, Hellingly to the South and Chiddingfold to the West.

There are extensive tracts of agricultural land and many wooded areas, including some areas of ancient woodland. Hedgerows and trees border many of the roads and lanes.

Contd./



We wish to protect the environment including tranquil countryside (day and night) and rural hinterland to the settlements within the Horam Parish and influence the nature and type of housing within it to ensure new development conserves the rural character.

Horam Parish Council is the relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) being the Parish Council for the entire area applied for.

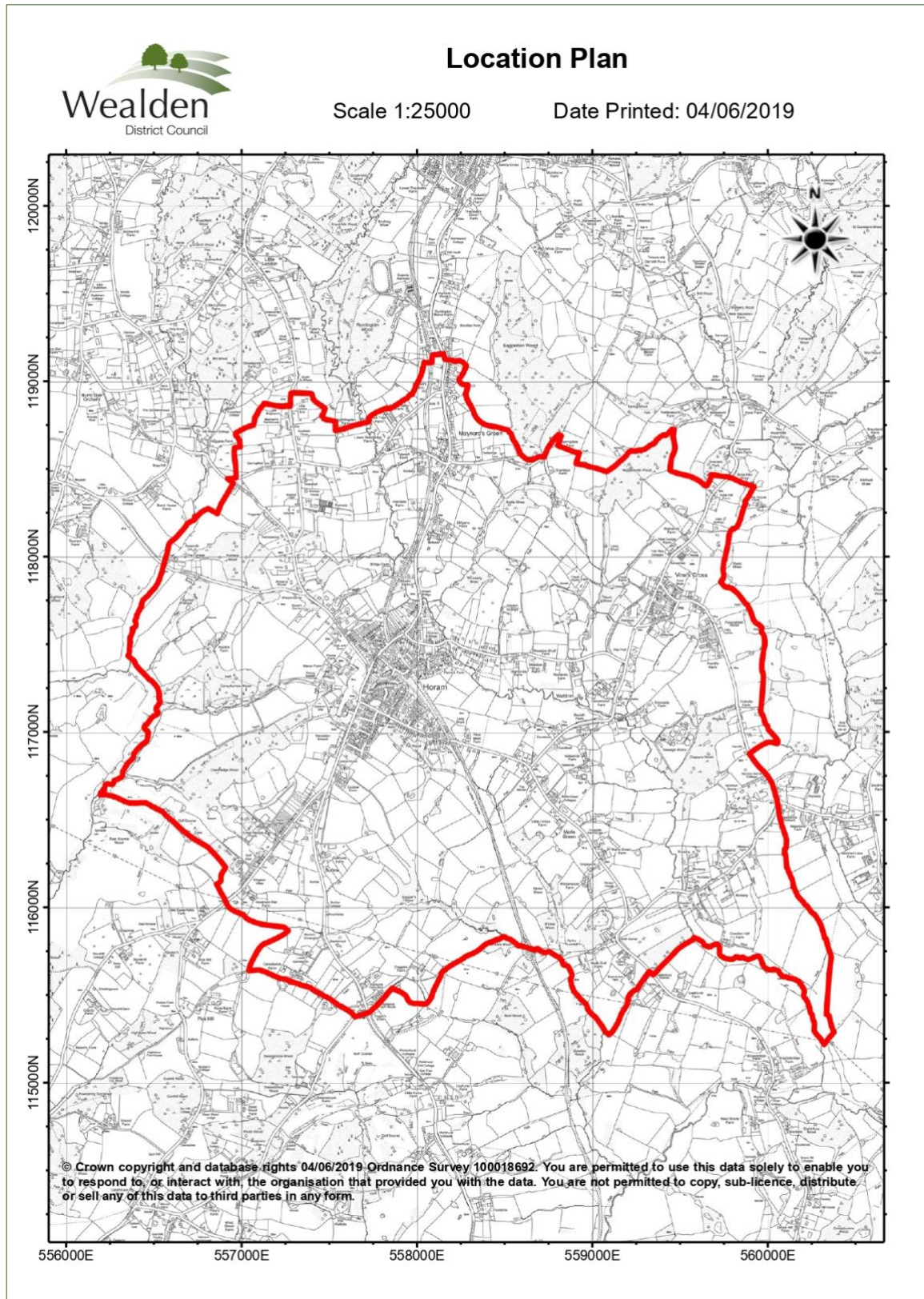
Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Clerk to Horam Parish Council.

E-mail: clerk@horam.com



DECISION NO. IND56/2019 - PD

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Planning and Development Portfolio Holder DECISION

NAME OF DECISION MAKER	Planning and Development Portfolio Holder	DATE: 6 November 2019
PORTFOLIO HOLDER	Planning and Development Portfolio Holder	
SUBJECT OF REPORT:	HORAM PARISH COUNCIL: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS A NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA FOR THE PURPOSES OF PREPARATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.	
DECISION MADE:	To approve the application submitted by Horam Parish Council and designate formally the parish of Horam as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning.	
REASONS FOR DECISION:	Horam Parish Council, as a relevant body for the purposes of designation, has applied for designation of the whole Parish as a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). It is concluded that it is appropriate to approve the application to designate the extent of Horam Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.	
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	N/A	
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:	The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has a duty to take decisions at key stages in the neighbourhood plan process and provide advice or assistance to a Parish Council that is producing a neighbourhood plan. Officers have attended an initial meeting with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss their ideas at the preliminary stages. The LPA will need to consider how best to resource future advice or assistance as the Horam Neighbourhood Development Plan progresses. The level of advice or assistance will need to be considered against other Council / planning priorities.	

Other Implications	<u>Applies</u>	Other Implications	<u>Applies</u>
Legal	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Human Resources	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Human Rights	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Equalities and Diversity	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Crime and Disorder	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Consultation	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Environmental	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Access to Information	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Sustainability	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Exempt from Publication	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Risk Management	<input type="text" value="No"/>		
INTERESTS, AND NATURE OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND ANY DISPENSATIONS:	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>		

SIGNED:
Planning and Development Portfolio Holder
(Planning and Development Portfolio Holder)

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 6 November 2019

FINAL DATE FOR CALL-IN: 13 November 2019

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION: 14 November 2019
(if not called in)

Appendix B: SEA / HRA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report undertaken of the Horam Neighbourhood Plan is presented in a free-standing appendix to the Basic Conditions Statement.

Screening under the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) was undertaken at the same time and is also presented as a free-standing appendix.

Horam Parish Council
Horam Neighbourhood Plan: 2023 - 2040
Basic Conditions Statement
September 2023



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