

HORAM PARISH COUNCIL
HORAM
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2023 – 2040

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

VOLUME 1: SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 2023

Horam Parish Council
Horam Neighbourhood Plan, 2023-2040
Consultation Statement
Volume 1: Summary
September 2023



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1. This document

- 1.1 This is the Consultation Statement prepared to accompany the Horam Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the process of consultation that has been undertaken in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, and how that has informed the submission version.
- 1.2 The Consultation Statement is presented across five separate volumes:
 - Volume 1 presents a summary of the consultation undertaken.
 - Volume 2 presents an overview of the initial consultation events to generate ideas for the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Volume 3 presents a summary of consultation associated with the objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Volume 4 presents a summary of consultation associated with policy ideas for the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Volume 5a presents a summary of the formal Regulation 14 consultation on the pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Volume 5b presents the comments received from WDC at the Regulation 14 stage and how these have been responded to by the Parish Council to help inform the submission version of the Plan.
- 1.3 The document you are reading now comprises Volume 1 of the Consultation Statement.
- 1.4 Consideration has been given to all comments and responses made in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5 The consultation responses informed the content of the pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan that was subject to consultation at the Regulation 14 stage. The responses to the Regulation 14 consultation showed strong support to the policies and projects within it, ratifying the work undertaken before it, and showing a strong link back to the ideas, suggestions and concerns raised through earlier rounds of consultation.

2. Key stages and timeline of events

Initial Neighbourhood Plan activities

- 2.1 Initial consultation events for the Neighbourhood Plan took place in February and March 2020. This sought feedback on challenges and opportunities for the Parish and which might inform the content of this. Almost 400 responses were received during this round of consultation.
- 2.2 Subsequent to the survey a 'Placecheck' consultation was organised and undertaken in early 2021. This coincided with the Covid-19 period of lockdown and thus took place on-line. It allowed respondents to, spatially, indicate those things they like about the area, those they don't, and those things that need working on.
- 2.3 Responses to the initial consultation and Placecheck events were used to prepare a set of objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.4 A summary of the consultation process and messages received at this stage is presented in Volume 2 of the Consultation Statement.

Consultation on objectives

- 2.5 During April and May 2022 the next round of consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken. The purpose of this was to ask whether the draft objectives were a fair reflection of earlier consultation comments, whether there were other ideas or changes to consider. Almost 300 responses were received to this consultation.
- 2.6 Alongside this, a children's poster competition was organised in partnership with the Primary School to capture the thoughts and ideas of younger members of the community, as well as raise awareness of the Plan with their parents and guardians.
- 2.7 The outcomes of this round of consultation were a set of revised objectives and the generation of a logo for the Plan based on entries to the poster competition. The responses also helped generate ideas for policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.8 A summary of the consultation process and messages received at this stage is presented in Volume 3 of the Consultation Statement.

Consultation on policy ideas

- 2.9 During October and November 2022 consultation was undertaken on emerging policy ideas generated for the Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation sought views on these.
- 2.10 Exhibitions were held to present the ideas and allow people to ask questions about these. This was supported by household leaflets, online material and surveys. Around 160 people attended the exhibitions with 280 responses received to the consultation.
- 2.11 There was a positive response to the ideas, with agreement expressed by the majority of respondents to all of these.
- 2.12 A summary of the consultation process and messages received at this stage is presented in Volume 4 of the Consultation Statement.

Regulation 14 consultation

- 2.13 Following feedback to the consultation outlined above work on the draft of the Neighbourhood Plan commenced. A meeting was held with Wealden District Council to discuss this in November 2022 with a first draft of the Plan shared with the District Council for comment in February 2023. Comments on this and supporting material were provided in April 2023 and discussed with the District Council.
- 2.14 In parallel to this, the District Council screened the draft Plan for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment, involving consultation with the statutory consultees. The Screening report was received in May 2023 and screened out the Neighbourhood Plan from assessment.
- 2.15 Work towards production of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan, including amendments to reflect responses from the District was then undertaken. Consultation on the Regulation 14 version took place between May and July 2023, falling between the local elections (and associated pre-election 'Purdah' period) and school summer holidays.
- 2.16 A summary write-up of the Regulation 14 consultation is presented in Volume 5 of the Consultation Statement. This includes copies of material used and responses received from residents, statutory consultees and other interested parties. There were almost 220 responses to the consultation.
- 2.17 The responses to the consultation showed strong support for the Plan and policies within it, with Figure 1 (overleaf) indicated the overall level of support for each policy (from those who completed the survey).

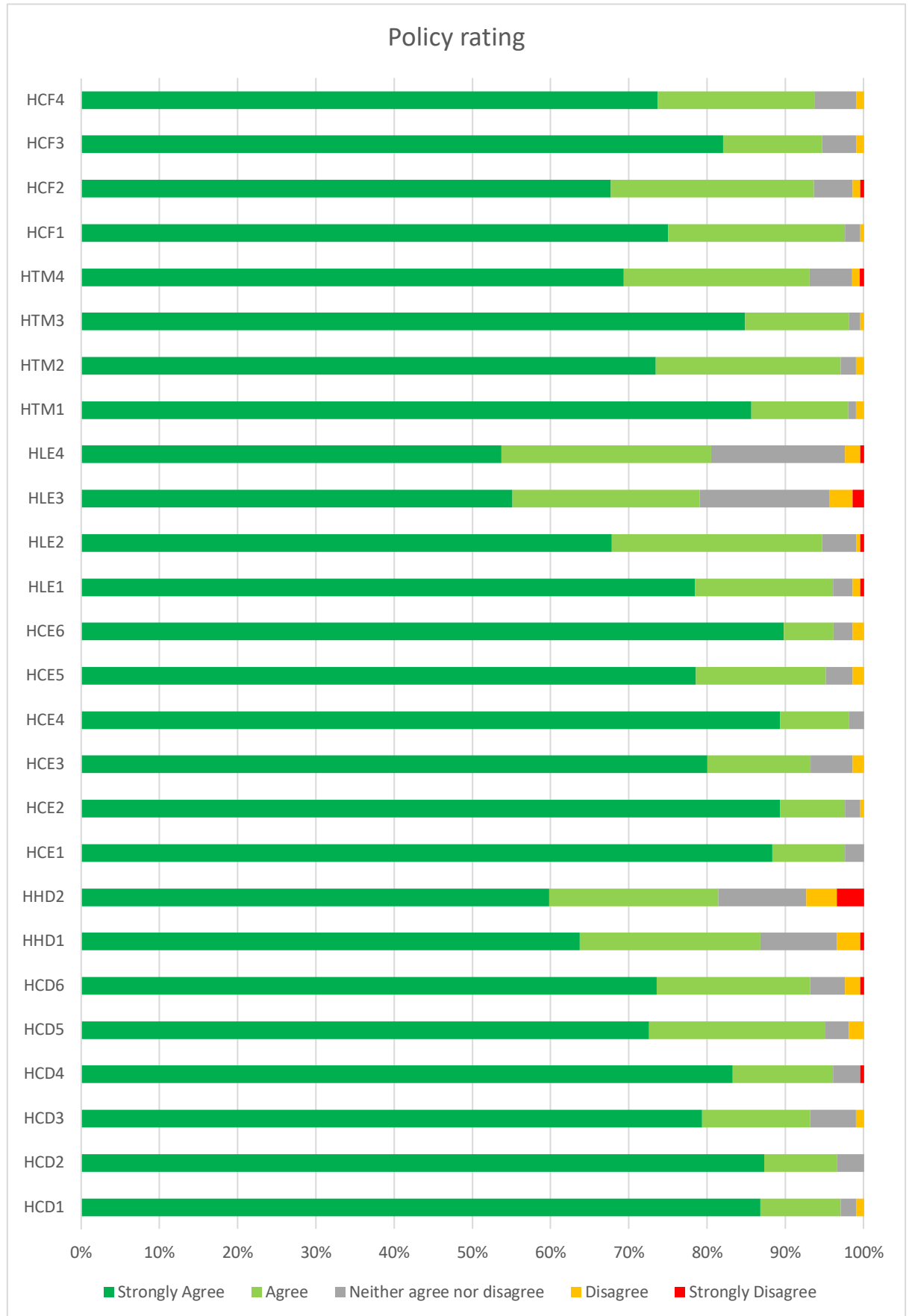


Figure 1: Chart displaying overall responses to each of the policies in the draft Plan

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