Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2027

Submission Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic Environment Assessment)

July 2017

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APPENDICES

A	Updated and amended Scoping Report (main report only)
B	List of plans and policies and screening letter
C	List of consultees for the Scoping Report

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report forms the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Submission Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP). A Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, becomes a formal part of the planning system and will be a Local Development Plan document. The HPNP is an important planning tool for shaping the development and growth of the Parish.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

1.2 As sustainability is an important consideration in land use planning, a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken on the contents of the plan. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 states that the aim of the planning system is to deliver sustainable development. This has been carried through in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires that neighbourhood development plans contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Although not a statutory requirement, a sustainability appraisal of a Neighbourhood Development Plan is a positive step to meeting this basic condition.

1.3 Neighbourhood Plans are also required to demonstrate that they are legally compliant and are compatible with EU obligations (as incorporated into UK law). An important component of this is compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (transposed into English Law through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations) by considering whether there are likely to be any significant environmental effects as a result of implementing the plan.

1.4 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the evaluation of the environmental impacts of a plan such as the HPNP. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is conducted in conformity with the SEA Directive. However, whilst an SEA is concerned with environmental effects, a Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that considers the environmental, social and economic consequences of a plan and its policies, and seeks to identify ways of

achieving a proper balance between these three considerations. For simplification, this report is referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout.

1.5 The HPNP must be in conformity with higher level planning policy, primarily the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and the NPPF. This document has been subject to its own Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) and this report has been informed by information contained within that assessment.

1.6 This Report appraises the options (or reasonable alternatives) considered through the preparation of the HPNP and subsequently the policies contained within the HPNP, against the sustainability framework developed through the Scoping Report (November 2016). This will help to gauge the extent to which the HPNP contributes towards sustainable development.

1.7 Before the Scoping Report is written, it is usual to undertake a Screening Opinion. A screening opinion was produced by Wealden District Council on 28 June 2016. Following consultation with the statutory environmental bodies (English Heritage, Natural England and Environment Agency) it was concluded that the HPNP would not have significant environmental effects and that a full SEA will not need to be prepared. In addition, it also stated that the HPNP does not require an assessment under the Habitats Regulation. However, the Parish Council has discussed this matter further and has agreed that it would undertake an SA on the HPNP in order to ensure the Plan takes into account matters relating to sustainability.

1.8 A copy of the Scoping Report is attached as **Appendix A** (main report only)**.** Matters outlined in the Scoping Report relating to relevant plans and policies are attached as **Appendix B.** The Screening Opinion is also attached as **Appendix B.**

2.0 BACKGROUND

What is Sustainable Development?

2.1 Sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"[1]. It is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. In doing so, social, environmental and economic issues and challenges should be considered in an integrated and balanced way.

2.2 The NPPF states the Government's intentions with regards to sustainable development[2], in particular the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

ECONOMIC ROLE – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land and the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure

SOCIAL ROLE – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of the present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being

ENVIRONMENTAL ROLE – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

[1] Quote from 'Our Common Future', also known as the Brundtland Report from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) published in 1987:

[2] Paragraph 7 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Consultation and Implementation

2.3 An important part of the SA process is consultation with statutory environmental bodies, wider statutory consultees and members of the community. The SA will be subject to the same statutory consultation arrangements as the HPNP. Consultation responses received in relation to the Scoping Report in September 2016 are set out in Chapter 4.

3.0 APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

Introduction

3.1 The appraisal methodology has been prepared taking into account the processes set out in the relevant guidance[3].

3.2 The diagram below describes the different stages in the SA process and how they relate to the stages of Plan production. The steps in stage A relate to the SA Scoping Report which was consulted on in August/September 2016. This report forms stages B and C and is known as the SA Report. This is set out in more detail after the table.

STAGE	**TASKS**	**COMPLETED?**
A	**Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope** • Identifying other relevant plans and programmes • Collecting baseline information • Identifying problems • Developing objectives and the Sustainability Framework	Sustainability Framework determined and set out in the Scoping Report. Baseline and Framework updated following feedback and comments
B	**Developing the alternatives and assessing effects** • Testing the plan objectives against	Plan objectives, strategy and policies, plus all reasonable alternatives at this stage are set out and appraised within this SA.

STAGE	TASKS	COMPLETED?
	SA/SEA objectives • Developing alternatives • Testing policy options against the SA/SEA objectives • Considering mitigation • Proposing measures to monitor effects	
C	**Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report**	This document forms the first stage of Stage C
D	**Consult on the SA Report**	To be completed
E	**Monitor implementation of the plan**	To be completed

[3] Sustainability Appraisal guidance within the DCLG Plan making Manual/SEA guidance from ODPM A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005

STAGE A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

Sustainability Appraisal of the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Scoping Report (July 2016 and amended November 2016)

3.3 Many of the tasks outlined in Stage A were undertaken during the Scoping report stage. This included collecting the baseline information for Herstmonceux and developing the Sustainability Appraisal framework. These areas of work have been updated to take into account the responses received during the consultation periods on the Scoping Report.

STAGE B: Developing the alternatives and assessing effects

Predicting Sustainability Effects of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

3.4 Stage B is the main focus of this Report. This stage uses the Framework set out in the Scoping Report to appraise the planning policy options/reasonable alternatives considered as a part of developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.5 The process of appraising the options/reasonable alternatives will highlight which option is the most sustainable and also how, if necessary, it can be

improved. Symbols are used to record the performance of each option/alternative against each objective in the sustainability framework.

3.6 The assessment and predictions of the effect of policy options on the sustainability objectives is set out within the SA. These predictions and judgements have been made based on the background baseline information and the comments/feedback provided by the Parish Council through their discussions with the residents and local community.

STAGE C Appraisal of the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan

3.7 This stage is similar to Stage B, it appraises the preferred planning policy and will state if the policy could be improved to be more sustainable. This is set out in this SA Report.

STAGE D Consulting on the plan and the SA Report

3.8 At this stage we will ask people if they think the SA is correct, or if they think the policy could be made more sustainable.

STAGE E Monitoring the implementation of the plan

3.9 It is important for planning policies to be monitored, to make sure they are sustainable and to check there are no negative impacts.

4.0 SCOPING REPORT CONSULTATION

Background

4.1 The Scoping Report identified a number of social, environmental and economic sustainability issues facing the settlements. The Scoping Report was consulted on for a 5-week period from 3 August 2016. The revised version, which takes the comments into account is attached as **Appendix A.**

The red text highlights the changes that were made following the representations received.

Consultation Responses

4.2 The consultation included the statutory bodies with environmental responsibilities – the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England as well as a number of other organisations and authorities. It was also placed on the Parish Council's website. **Appendix C** sets out the list of consultees invited to comment on the Report.

4.3 All the responses have been collated and those that are of relevance to the SA have been considered and incorporated within this document. A summary of the comments made and responses are set out in the table below.

Name and address	Organisation	Summary of Comment	Response	How the HPNP should be changed/ amended
Natalie Bumpus Planning Policy Officer Tel: 01892 602567 natalie.bumpus@wealden.gov.uk	Wealden District Council	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report. The Council welcomes the Parishes commitment to undertaking an SA for the Neighbourhood Plan and offers the following comments. The SA Scoping Report identifies the relevant plans, policies and programmes that the SA of the Herstmonceux NP should consider, together with appropriate baseline information for the area which highlights the issues and problems the plan seeks to address. From this the Scoping Report develops a clear set of Sustainability Objectives and an SA Framework within which to assess the NP policies moving forward.	Thank you for your comments.	None.
Chris Flavin Senior Strategic Planner 01273 481397	East Sussex County Council	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Report for Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) for the Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan. Having reviewed the Scoping Report and liaised with colleagues our view is that the document provides a framework which can be supported by the County Council.	Thank you for your comments.	None.

		We look forward to receiving the Regulation 14 consultation on the pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan when it is ready.		
Hannah Packwood 02030257090 07909 885 904 hannah.packwood@environment-agency.gov.uk	Environment Agency	**Page 11 (SWOT Analysis)** We support the opportunity identified as 'consider options for improving biodiversity within the district'. We suggest that the wording 'improving biodiversity' could be made more specific to include improving the connectivity, quantity and quality of habitat, of particular importance to us is wetland habitat.	Thank you for your comments. The additions have been made.	Changes to the SWOT table in line with the EA comments – outlined in red in the amended Scoping Report.
		Page 11 (SWOT Analysis) We agree with the challenge identified as 'Concerns with the waste water treatment works regarding capacity'. We are working with Wealden District Council and Southern Water Services on the Wealden Local Plan to make sure that the required waste water treatment improvements are in place to support the allocations emerging in the Plan. Our objective is to make sure that the water quality in the Pevensey Levels is improved to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and to make sure the site is protected and where possible improved through new development.	Thank you and noted.	No change.

		Page 13 Themes and Objectives We support Objective 2 regarding protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the parish.	Thank you and noted.	No change.
		Page 30 Key Policy Documents and Strategies – Flood Risk We support the inclusion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in your list ad that you are seeking to take the results of this document into account. Please note that Wealden District Council are updating their SFRA as an evidence base for their Local Plan so your consideration should reflect the most recent and up to date evidence on flood risk available. Please bear in mind that should you begin to consider sites for development the National Planning Policy Framework seeks to direct development to sites with the lowest possible risk of flooding (flood zone 1). Should you in the future consider sites for allocation that are in an area of flood risk, we would expect to see full account of this in the policy, adequate assessment of the site in the Level 2 SFRA and the application of the Sequential Test.	Thank you and noted. We will ensure all references within the SA and HPNP are the most recent and up-to-date.	No change.
		Page 30 Key Policy Documents and Strategies – Open Space and Biodiversity Wealden District Council are currently undertaking an Open Space and Recreation Study as an evidence base for the Wealden Local	Thank you for your comments. Once the Open Space and Recreation study is a public document, it will be referred to within the SA and HPNP.	No change.

		Plan. You could consider adding this document to your list. We support the inclusion of the Biodiversity Action Plan in your list.		
Catherine Tonge Lead Adviser Sustainable Development	Natural England	Thank you for giving Natural England the opportunity to comment on this assessment. The document appears to deal reasonably with the natural environment and indicates that the plan is likely to lead the protection and enhancement of designated and otherwise important landscapes and habitats. I therefore have nothing to add to our previous comments at this stage. If there are issues I have not covered, please let me know and I will respond as quickly as possible. If discussion would be helpful, please contact me.	Thank you for your comments.	No change.
Robert Lloyd - Sweet Tel. 01483 252028 Robert.lloydsweet@HistoricEngland.org.uk	Historic England	We found the three sentence resume of the Parish's heritage assets to be a rather limited approach to understanding its value, current condition and likely trajectory and would question how useful this will be in assessing the plan options and their relative impacts, desirability or need for migratory measures. We would recommend providing some context and analysis of the designated heritage assets. I have suggested some text below:	Thank you for your comments and for the information on the heritage assets. We will provide further details within the Scoping Report however, a section will be included within the HPNP and SEA on heritage assets and historic landscapes should policies be included that refer to heritage matters. In particular, this will take into account feedback from the	To include further detail on the heritage assets under paragraph 3.14 -written in red.

		"Herstmonceux Parish contains a mix of historic landscape types including the flat and open landscape of the Pevensey Levels in the south and rolling farm and woodland of the High Weald, in the north and east. These contain a number of different distinctive character features and heritage asset types often found in patterns that contribute to local distinctiveness. **The Pevensey Levels are a notably recent landscape having mainly developed over the past 1000 years after the tidal inlet was cut off from the sea by a shingle bank. Having developed into a salt marsh, this was latterly drained for agriculture from the high medieval period. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement, such as suggested 'lake villages' at East Bourne and the Roman period Saxon Shore Fort at Pevensey, are located on the periphery of this area although isolated settlements on low clay islands within the inlet or developing marshes may be indicated by the –ey places name endings, suggesting the potential for small foci of archaeological remains of, at least, Anglo-Saxon origin. The levels landscape today is characterised by its openness, bisected by slightly raised lanes with isolated farmsteads including some historic farm buildings as points of interest in panoramic views from the slightly higher land at its edges (Lower Lane for example). In**	HPNP consultations on how these assets are valued by the community.	

		addition to smaller historic settlement on the islets the area may provide evidence of medieval drainage and stock management associated with monastic houses, as well as evidence of salt making. **The Wealden landscape by contrast is typified by a more intimate and well-wooded landscape with small, irregular fields separated by historic hedgerows and sunken lanes interspersed with numerous deciduous woodlands of varying size. Historically the ancient ridgeway route (Cinderford Lane, West End, Gardner Street, Windmill Hill Road) along the watershed between Pevensey Haven and Wallers Haven provided a focus of settlement reflected in the number of listed buildings that are found in this area. it is also likely to be a focus of undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of historic settlement. Elsewhere the distribution of listed buildings across the Wealden area of the Parish suggests a typical pattern of dispersed 'woodland' settlement of small hamlets and farmsteads often surrounding small greens, many of which have been swelled in size during the 20th and early 21st century by commuter housing (such as Cowbeech and Stunts Green). Many of the listed buildings are 17th or early 18th century (or older) cottages and farmhouses, or associated farm buildings providing a strong**		

		character based on the typical vernacular architecture and materials of the region. The High Weald is known to be a focus of the medieval and early post-medieval iron founding industry and finds of forging sites, including water management systems are common although often undesignated. Consideration of the potential for presence of archaeological remains should be included in the assessment of sites as options for new development. **Herstmonceux Castle, including its registered historic parkland and estate buildings and the later heritage of its listed Science Centre provide a unique cluster of heritage assets which provide expansive views across the levels and, in return are prominent features in the landscape."** This is only a suggested text and we would encourage the steering group to adapt it to fit their better personal knowledge of the area and its heritage. We would also encourage you to consider how this heritage is valued. Do the historic buildings and landscape contribute to the sense of place and distinctiveness? do the numerous small settlements create well-integrated small communities or do the historic public houses, footpath routes or visitor attractions contribute to the local economy via tourism or make the area a more attractive and		

		interesting place to live? Considering this value will help in identifying ways of capitalising on this shared inheritance and sustaining its value.		
		The SEA regulations also require you to consider what the condition of heritage assets is at present and whether any trends can be identified in their condition. Whilst this might include considering whether historic buildings have been demolished or archaeological sites destroyed it is also worth considering whether other changes have affected heritage assets such as changes to management of the landscape or the appearance of features in views that have affected their quality (the intrusion of power lines in views of the Pevensey Levels is noted in Natural England's National Character Area descriptions for them. This information will be important to take into consideration in assessing the likely state of the environment with or without the plan as well as ensuring that plan options don't contribute negatively to any existing or emerging issues and seek to address them where possible. We hope these comments are helpful but will be pleased to answer any queries relating to them if necessary.	Thank you. The SG are undertaking background work on the state of the Parish and this will inform some of the HPNP policies.	No change to the Scoping Report.
Claire Tester MRTPI Planning Advisor	High Weald AONB	Thank you for consulting the High Weald AONB Unit on this Scoping Report. I am pleased that you have decided to undertake this Sustainability Appraisal as it will help your neighbourhood plan	Thank you for your comments.	No change.

01424 723018		contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, which is one of the basic conditions.		
		Under paragraph 3.11 'Landscape Character & Ecology' I suggest that you refer to the High Weald AONB Management Plan. I note that you have included reference to the Management Plan under 'Key Policy Documents and Strategies' but it is also relevant to this section as it contains a lot of information and indicators that would help you establish whether your plan will conserve and enhance the AONB as required under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act2000.	Thank you for your comments. This section provides baseline information that is specific to Herstmonceux Parish. The AONB Management Plan is clearly an important document but is quite a high level detailed plan. It is listed in in the appendix as you note. We have used some of the information within the Plan plus the maps – provided in the link in your comment below and added this to para 3.11. Within the HPNP, a greater level of detail on the qualities and future of the AONB and any possible impact on the landscape as a result of proposed development within the HPNP will be assessed and considered. However, please note that the HPNP is not seeking to allocate sites for development.	Further details added to 3.11 in red.

		I also suggest that you include in **paragraph 3.11** reference to the AONB landscape components data for Herstmonceux available on our website at http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/parish-information.html This webpage also includes a link to our guidance on producing neighbourhood plans in the AONB which you may find useful.	Thank you for your comments. We have looked at this information and added relevant sections to the Scoping report.	Further details added to 3.11 in red.

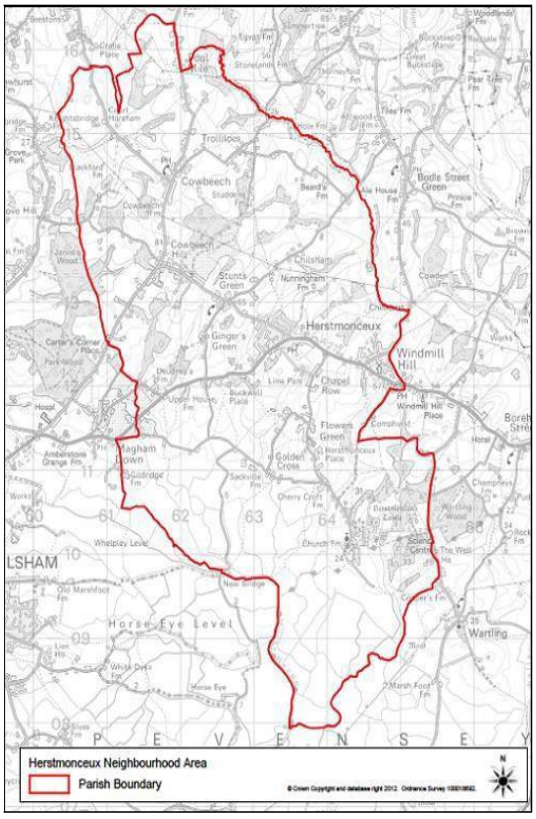
5.0 PARISH PORTRAIT

5.1 Wealden District Council has designated Herstmonceux Parish as a neighbourhood area in order to allow the Parish Council the opportunity to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Map 1 shows the Neighbourhood Plan boundary.

5.2 This section considers the key headline information relating to Herstmonceux Parish[4].

5.3 The parish of Herstmonceux is located in the south-eastern area of Wealden District within East Sussex. It is largely situated around the main A271 road which runs between Ninfield and Bexhill in the east and Hailsham in the west. Predominantly rural in nature, the parish contains the settlements of Herstmonceux, Cowbeech and Windmill Hill.

[4]The baseline information provided within this chapter has been taken from the pre-submission earlier version of the neighbourhood plan Nov 2013, the draft SEA 2013, the State of the Parish report 2013 the Scoping Report Nov 2016 and the 2016 Evidence Gathering report. These have been based on the 2011 census. Copies of the reports are available from the Parish Council and from http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/NeighbourhoodPlanning/PPolicy_Neighbourhood_Plans_Preparation.aspx



Map 1 – Neighbourhood plan boundary

5.4 The unique name of the parish dates from the twelfth century marriage of a member of the local de Herste family with a nobleman of the Norman French De Monceux family. It is perhaps best known for Herstmonceux Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument which was the former home of the Royal Greenwich Observatory and the locally produced Sussex Trug baskets.

5.5 Relative to its population size, the parish benefits from: -

- **A range of shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses.**
- **A Church of England Church, a Free Church and a Friends Meeting House.**
- **Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School with over 200 pupils on the roll.**
- **Herstmonceux Pre-school Group.**
- **Health Centre and an outreach surgery from Collington Surgery, Bexhill on sea.**
- **Fire Station.**

- **A modern village hall.**
- **Recreation areas for cricket, bowls, football, tennis, stoolball, multi games area, skateboard park and children's playground.**
- **Village Green.**
- **Village Information Centre.**
- **Over 40 local clubs and interest groups for all ages.**
- **Tourist attractions: Herstmonceux Castle (Bader international Study Centre - part of Queen's University, Canada), Observatory Science Centre including four original Royal Greenwich Observatory telescopes and Listed Windmill.**
- **Twinning Association with Varengeville sur mer in Normandy**
- **Active Parish Council with Social Media.**
- **Parish web site www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk with information about businesses, services, clubs and societies.**
- **Local Post Offices at Herstmonceux and Windmill Hill.**
- **Vitality Villages – an active community health and well-being group.**
- **Local charity fundraising groups e.g. Cowbeech Group.**

Landscape Character & Ecology

5.6 The northern section of the Parish falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)[5]. The High Weald AONB website states that it is one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe: home to amazing ancient woodland full of undiscovered archaeology; wonderful wildlife and welcoming villages; sweeping views and a myriad of interconnecting paths and tracks where you can walk in the footsteps of Anglo-Saxons, get close to nature and enjoy peace and tranquillity at the heart of the busy South East. the AONB Management Plan is structured around the five key components of this character:

[5] http://www.highweald.org/high-weald-aonb-management-plan.html

- **Geology, landform, water systems and climate***: deeply incised, ridged and faulted landform of clays and sandstone. The ridges tend east-west, and from them spring numerous gill streams that form the headwaters of rivers. Wide river valleys dominate the eastern part of the AONB. The landform and water systems are subject to, and influence, a local variant of the British sub-oceanic climate.*
- ***Settlement:** dispersed historic settlements of farmsteads and hamlets, and late medieval villages founded on trade and non-agricultural rural industries.*
- ***Routeways: ancient routeways** (now roads, tracks and paths) in the form of ridge-top roads and a dense system of radiating droveways. These routeways are often narrow, deeply sunken, and edged with trees, hedges, wildflower-rich verges and boundary banks.*
- ***Woodland**: the great extent of ancient woods, gills, and shaws in small holdings, the value of which is inextricably linked to long-term management*
- ***Field and heath**: small, irregularly shaped and productive fields often bounded by (and forming a mosaic with) hedgerows and small woodlands, and typically used for livestock grazing; small holdings; and a non-dominant agriculture; within which can be found distinctive zones of heaths and inned river valleys.*

5.7 The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment 2014 [6] states that the key features and characteristics of the landscape around Herstmonceux are as follows:

Remnant Historic Landscapes: Small pockets of Ancient Woodland, and extensive tracts of small-scale fields provide the historic setting to the settlement. The presence of ancient landscape features is particularly pronounced to the north and west of the settlement.

Significant Views/Key Ridgelines: Key views to a restored windmill towards the east near Windmill Hill. Key views to the top of Isaac Newton's telescope building situated in the observatory near the Castle 2.5 miles away can be

6 http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/CoreStrategy/CoreStrategyLibrary/Planning_Evidence_Base_Landscape.aspx

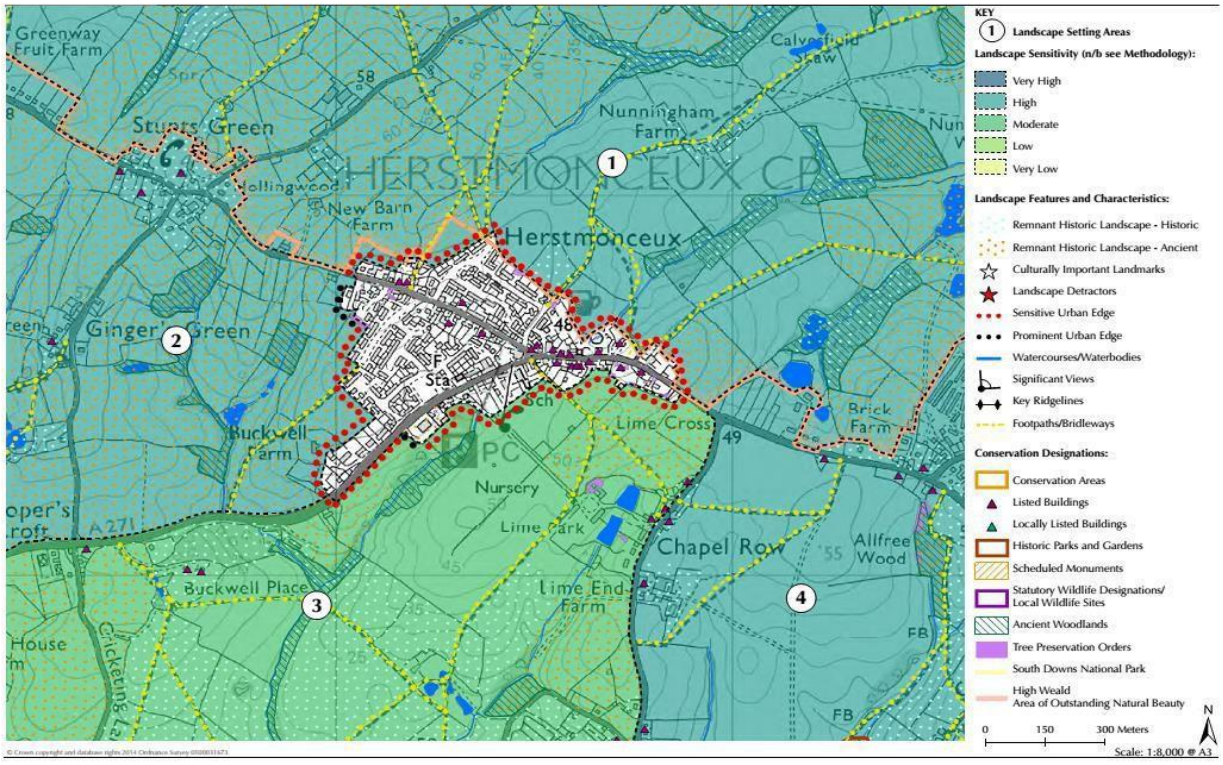
seen above the tree line. The gently undulating hills and ridgelines facilitate important long distance, panoramic views across Pevensey Levels.

Urban Edges: Most of the urban edges are sensitive but a slight prominent edge can be found on the south side of the A271 just as you leave the village and to the south as you leave the village heading toward Stunts Green.

Watercourses/Waterbodies: Watercourses are scattered around the village, encompassing several ponds and small streams.

Footpaths/Bridleways: The village is well connected to the surrounding countryside by a network of footpaths and bridleways.

5.8 The Map below is extracted from the Landscape Assessment



5.9 The southern section of the Parish falls within the Pevensey Levels RAMSAR site, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest and Herstmonceux Park, which is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Parish contains no local nature reserves. The Parish contains multiple areas identified by Natural England as Priority Habitats.

These are primarily ancient and semi-natural woodland and are subject to Habitat Action Plans.

Demographics[7]

5.10 The usual resident population of the parish is 2,613 people (1,241 males, 1,372 female). Of these:

- People aged 15 and under (17% of parish population compared to 18% across the District and 19% across England).
- People aged 16 to 64 (58% of parish population compared to 59% across the District and 65% across England).
- People aged 65 and over (24% of parish population compared to 23% across the District and 16% across England).

Housing

5.11 There are 1,188 dwellings located within Herstmonceux Parish:

- 43% of dwellings were Detached (compared to 22.3% England).
- 33% of dwellings were Semi-detached (compared to 31% England).
- 13% of dwellings were Terraced (compared to 25% England).
- 7% of dwellings were flats/apartments (compared to 22% England).

5.12 There are 1,129 households located within Herstmonceux Parish:

- 44% were owner-occupied households, owned outright (compared to 31% England).
- 34% were owned with a mortgage or loan (compared to 33% England).
- 1.1% were shared ownership (compared to 0.8% England).
- 5% were social rented from council (compared to 9% England).
- 3% were social rented other (compared to 8% England).
- 10% were privately rented – by landlord or letting agency (compared to 15% England).

[7] See footnote on page 17 for reference sources

Employment and Economy

5.13 Of the 2,613 usual residents of the parish, 1,850 were aged between 16 and 74 and 1,312 (71%) are economically active. Of these:-

- 573 were employed full-time (44%).
- 286 were employed part-time (22%).
- 375 were self-employed (29%).
- 32 were unemployed (2%).
- 46 were full-time students (4%).

5.14 Of the 2,613 usual residents 538 (29%) are economically inactive. Of these:

- 326 were retired (61%).
- 70 were students (13%).
- 71 were looking after home or family (13%).
- 49 were long-term sick or disabled (9%).
- 22 were classified as 'other' (4%).

5.15 There is a limited variety of independent retailers and service providers based in the parish, which reflects it small population size. This includes:

- Two post offices and grocery shops.
- A pharmacy.
- Four pubs, restaurants and catering services.
- Trug makers and cabinet makers.
- Hairdressers and beauty salons.
- Florist and pet supplies.
- Craft shop.
- Antique shops.
- Garden centres/garden services.
- Estate agents, builders and building services.
- Agriculture, orchards and a farm shop.
- Acupuncture and podiatry clinics.
- Regional main car dealership and local car service facilities.
- Agricultural suppliers and engineers.
- Refrigeration services.

- Fishing lakes.
- Cattery.
- Bed and breakfast providers.
- Numerous independent sole traders offering a variety of services.
- Home workers.
- Tourist attractions: Herstmonceux Castle and Gardens, Science Centre and Listed Windmill.

Infrastructure

5.16 The Wealden Local Plan Strategic Infrastructure background paper 2015 refers to capacity issues at the local primary school which is full with limited space to expand. There is also concerns about waste water treatment works issues around Herstmonceux and the availability of fresh/drinking water.

Access and Transport

5.17 10% households had no car or van (compared to 12% across District and 26% across England) and 50% households had 2 or more cars or vans (compared to 48% across District and 32% across England). The parish is served six days a week by an hourly bus service (until 7pm) between Hastings and Eastbourne.

Heritage

5.18 Herstmonceux Parish contains a mix of historic landscape types including the flat and open landscape of the Pevensey Levels in the south and rolling farm and woodland of the High Weald, in the north and east. These contain a number of different distinctive character features and heritage asset types often found in patterns that contribute to local distinctiveness.

5.19 Herstmonceux Castle, including its registered historic parkland, estate buildings and Listed Science Centre provide a unique cluster of heritage

assets which provide expansive views across the levels and, in return are prominent features in the landscape.

5.20 The Parish contains a large number of Grade II listed buildings and structures. The distribution of listed buildings across the Parish suggests a typical pattern of dispersed 'woodland' settlement of small hamlets and farmsteads often surrounding small greens. Many of the listed buildings are 17th or early 18th century (or older) cottages and farmhouses, or associated farm buildings providing a strong character based on the typical vernacular architecture and materials of the region. There is no Conservation Area designated in the parish.

5.21 Listed buildings include:-

Allfrey House, Windmill Hill	Hollies, Butler's Lane, Herstmonceux
Appleshaw, Herstmonceux	Hormes House, Herstmonceux
Arnocks and Arnocks Cottage, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux	Lime-End Farmhouse, Herstmonceux
Barclays Bank and Bank Flat, Herstmonceux	Little Butlers, Church Road, Herstmonceux
Barn at Cherry Croft Farm, Lower Road, Herstmonceux	Little Manor, Herstmonceux
Batchelors and the Garden Wall to the East, Cinderford Lane, Herstmonceux	London Cottage, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux
Beadles Cottage, Cowbeech	Meadow Cottage, West End, Herstmonceux
Bedlam Green, West End, Herstmonceux	Mill House, Herstmonceux
Bellevue and Perrywinkle Cottage, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux	Milland Cottages, Church Road, Herstmonceux
Blackford Farmhouse, Herstmonceux	Milland Farmhouse, Church Road, Herstmonceux
Broyles Cottage, Herstmonceux	Miller's House, Herstmonceux
Buckwell Place, Herstmonceux	Moieties, Cowbeech
Carriers, West End, Herstmonceux	Monk's Rest, Herstmonceux
Carter's Corner Farmhouse, Herstmonceux	Old School House, Comphurst Lane, Herstmonceux
Chapel Cottage, Cowbeech	Pastures, Chapel Row, Herstmonceux
Cherry Croft, Church Road, Herstmonceux	Pernes, Chapel Row, Hertmonceux
Chestnut Cottages, Herstmonceux	Rays Cottage, The Old Bakehouse, Herstmonceux

Chilsham Green Farmhouse, Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux

Church Farmhouse, Church Lane, Herstmonceux

Cleavers Lyng, Church Road, Herstmonceux

Comphurst, Comphurst Lane, Herstmonceux

Corner Cottage, Herstmonceux Cotoneaster, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

Court Horeham, Hammer Lane, Herstmonceux

Courtlands Farmhouse, Herstmonceux Cowbeech Farmhouse, Herstmonceux Deudney's Farmhouse, Herstmonceux East Lodge, Chapel Row, Herstmonceux

Elm Cottage, Herstmonceux

Elm Tree House, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

Eversley, Gardner St, Herstmonceux Field House and Field Cottage, Herstmonceux

Gainsborough Cottage, Herstmonceux Ginger Green Farmhouse, Herstmonceux

Herstmonceux Castle, Herstmonceux

Herstmonceux Congregational Church, Herstmonceux

Herstmonceux Place (Grade I)

Herstmonceux Science Centre, Bradley Road, Herstmonceux

Higham House and Higham Cottage, Herstmonceux.

Rose Cottage, Chapel Row,

Herstmonceux

Stunt's Green Farmhouse, Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux

The Brewers' Arms Inn, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

The Keys, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

The Merry Harriers Inn, Hammer Lane, Cowbeech

The Old Post Office, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

The Parish Church of All Saints, Church Road, Herstmonceux

The Stables to the West of Buckwell Place House, Herstmonceux

The Sundial Restaurant, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux

The Windmill, Windmill Hill

Thorndean Farm Cottages, Cowbeech Thorpe House, Windmill Hill

Toad Hall, West End, Herstmonceux Victoria Lodge and Pope's Farmhouse, Herstmonceux

Walled Garden to the North of Herstmonceux Castle, Herstmonceux Wisteria Cottage and Primrose Cottage, Herstmonceux

Yew Tree Cottage, Herstmonceux

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

6.1 As part of the Sustainability Appraisal it is necessary to identify the key sustainability issues facing the parish. These have been informed through the following sources:-

- A review of the plans and policies produced by Wealden District Council where reference is made to Herstmonceux.
- An analysis of baseline data on Herstmonceux.
- An assessment of feedback from consultation events undertaken by the Parish Council for the Neighbourhood Plan to date (Draft Plan consultation 2013/14[8]) and the Survey Report March 2016[9].
- The SA produced for the Wealden District Local Plan (Issues and Options) 2015.

6.2 A survey was developed and undertaken by the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in conjunction with the Parish Council as part of the consultation exercise to inform the HPNP. The results of this are outlined in the 2016 Evidence Gathering Report[10]. Some of the key issues are listed below – a full account can be found in the report:

6.3 Any future development should:-

- Preserve and enhance existing green spaces for walks.
- Include at least the minimum required parking for that development.
- Be in keeping with the surrounding styles of development.
- Incorporate water conservancy measures and renewable energy. Link the parish through upgraded cycle and footways - to potentially reduce vehicle traffic into the village at peak times.

[8] http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Parish%20HTML/pc_neighbour_plan_responses.html
[9] http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Documents/NeighbourhoodPlan/Survey%20report%20March%202016.pdf
[10] http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Parish%20HTML/pc_neighbourhood_plan_2016.html

- Consult on the Police Secured by Design minimum standard for security and the layout of the sites.

6.4 The majority of respondents felt the HPNP should have policies to aim for the following:-

- Allotments.
- Protecting and enhancing our community local green spaces in the parish.
- Protecting areas of Ancient Woodland.
- The environmental impact of the management of sewage and waste water on to the waterways (including streams) which feed on to the Pevensey Levels (SSSI Site).
- Improving public footpaths.
- Conservation Areas - flower and tree planting.
- Resist any development in or immediately adjacent to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Impact of layout and design of developments on crime and safety.

6.5 A majority of respondents highlighted that they would like to see more: employment opportunities in Herstmonceux including shops and retail facilities, and workshop units. Key issues from a consultation session with the business community included:-

- **Promote** Herstmonceux as a visitor and business area.
- **Re-invigorate** the Business Association.
- **Parking** Herstmonceux Parish Council should revisit the discussions with Herstmonceux Primary School and WDC on the use of the public car park.
- **Improve infrastructure** such as broadband, mobile telephone connectivity and signage to make the area more attractive to business and visitors.

6.6 A Design Guide was produced by the Parish Council in September 2016. All development proposals should make a positive contribution to their surroundings and key points are summarised in the Evidence Paper and the full details are within the Design Guide. These are available from the Parish Council.

6.7 A meeting was held at Herstmonceux Village Information Centre on 26 May 2016 to discuss cycle and walking routes in the parish. The key points of discussion included – supporting a new route between Windmill Hill and Herstmonceux which would be accessible for walkers, cyclists, families with young children in buggies and users of mobility scooters and wheelchairs. A meeting was held at The Old Bakery following a Friends of the Windmill Committee Meeting in June 2016. The Windmill is a tourist destination in the community with a potential for adding to the support of other business in the parish such as B&B's, pubs, hotels, local restaurants and other attractions as well as the local shops. It was discussed that development opportunities in the HPNP could make provision for parking for visitors, coach parties from schools and the general public at Windmill Hill.

6.8 Engagement with village groups and organisations by members of the Steering Group, as part of the information gathering process for the HPNP, was undertaken in 2016/17. These were: -

- Herstmonceux C of E Primary School – 2 May 2016
- Luncheon Club AGM - 9 May 2016
- Craft Club – 9 May 2016
- Herstmonceux WI – 9 May 2016
- Extend (Exercise) Class – 19 May 2016
- Local Cyclists – 26 May 2016
- Village Fete at the Church - 11 June 2016
- Open Day at the Woolpack - 15 June 2016
- Windmill Hill windmill – 27 June 2016
- Herstmonceux Scouts – 30 June 2016
- Herstmonceux Cubs – 5 July 2016
- Herstmonceux Guides – 6 July 2016
- Youth Group – 8 July 2016
- Business Association – 1 August 2016
- Local Walking Groups – 5 September 2016
- Herstmonceux Bridleway Group – 16 February 2017

6.9 It is clear that the major concerns centred around housing development and this seems to be the main focus. There are specific needs for residents of the parish and in particular issues around provision of housing for those that wish to remain in the village, those wishing to downsize and the lack of suitable housing for this, particularly the building of bungalows as opposed to houses.

6.10 Other comments were centred around traffic issues through the parish and the lack of a suitable bus services. This particularly affects those that would like to not have to use a car to go work. Until such time as the bus services meet these needs the use of cars and associated issues around the number of cars per home remains a serious issue along with associated parking facilities. This is in particular reference to parking on pavements and grass verges. One of the biggest problems is with school staff and staff from other businesses using the main car park preventing local residents and visitors from using it when coming to Herstmonceux to use local businesses.

6.11 Comments were also made about protecting the look of the parish and all that is associated with that to include green spaces, facilities for recreational activities especially cycling and walking through the parish, opportunities for start-up business and improving employment possibilities in the parish all of which are equally important in their own right to the above issues.

6.12 The sustainability issues are set out under the headings of economic, environmental and social and provided as a SWOC (**S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, **C**hallenges) table – see below.

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
• Good local community identity and spirit with many active societies • Village of Herstmonceux set within a rural location. • Good footpath and bridleway links to open countryside.	• Limited opportunities for brownfield development or sites coming forward within built up area boundary. • Over-reliance on the car for transport.

• Considered to be a safe village and Parish. • A good number of heritage assets. • Healthy population. • A good supply of shops and enterprises bearing in mind the population size of the Parish. • Reasonable proximity to major centres of employment but primarily by car. • High quality surrounding landscape. • Reasonably high skilled and qualified workforce. • Village Hall and new Health Centre facilities. • Internationally renowned heritage and tourism offer with Herstmonceux Castle	• Cost of housing is high. • Poor traffic management through Herstmonceux village centre. • Inadequate bus services connecting to major employment centres, surrounding villages and shops. • Poor access to superfast broadband services.
Opportunities • Improve provision and value of open space. • Consider options for improving biodiversity to include improving the connectivity, quantity and quality of habitat, particularly the wetland habitat within the Parish. • Provide safe opportunities to walk and cycle. • To shape and control future planning decisions by refining District-wide policies to suit the parish's own circumstances • To secure planning-related funding to invest in supporting infrastructure. • To maximise the benefits of new housing in the parish to meet both local affordable needs and the demands in the open market for specific housing types and tenures. • To identify viable community assets to protect from inappropriate development proposals. • To provide and improve facilities for young people, older people and people with disabilities.	**Challenges** • Traffic issues in the village centre is a priority. • Housing development should make adequate parking provision. • To locate sites that support small scale housing schemes whilst protecting the countryside and protected areas. • Capacity at the local primary school. • Concerns with the waste water treatment works regarding capacity.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK - OBJECTIVES

7.1 This SA seeks to test the contribution the HPNP will make towards achieving sustainable development, through the identification of a number of objectives and indicators, known as the Sustainability Framework. These are used to assess the sustainability impacts of the policies within the HPNP. The objectives are based on the three strands of sustainability; i.e. social, economic and environmental. The indicators are chosen to quantify and measure the achievement of each objective. The Sustainability Framework has emerged through appraisal of relevant National, Regional, District and Local Plans and Programmes, the collection of baseline data, local knowledge of sustainability challenges faced in the Parish and a SWOC analysis.

7.2 The Sustainability Framework was the subject of consultation at the Scoping Report stage. The objectives chosen represent the issues and challenges facing Herstmonceux. The sustainability objectives and their corresponding indicators are set out below. These include those within the Scoping Report plus amendments that were felt important following the consultation feedback.

Themes and Objectives

SA Objective	Potential Indicators	
1. Use of previously developed land - make the most efficient use of land by prioritising brownfield sites for development, the re-use of existing buildings and promoting higher development densities.	• The percentage of dwellings on brownfield sites.	**Environmental**
2. Biodiversity - conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Parish. The percentage of dwellings on brownfield sites.	• Hectares of land with biodiversity interest affected by development. • Impact on Pevensey Levels	**Environmental**

	RAMSAR site.	
3. Countryside and Heritage – conserve and enhance, especially the best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, and the historic and built environment.	• Development of land in lower landscape sensitivity areas. • Existing green infrastructure & rights of way protected or enhanced. • Hectares of development on high quality agricultural land. • Hectares of development affecting the Setting of designated heritage and natural assets.	**Environmental**
4. To support the development of high quality housing in sustainable locations on windfall sites.	• Number of new housing completions.	**Social**

5. To ensure everyone has access to community facilities including facilities for the elderly, education, childcare, leisure and recreation facilities and public open spaces.	• Number of schemes resulting in improved or losses to community facilities, sport, recreation or open space.	**Social**
6. To retain the availability of opportunities for local employment. To maintain and improve the local retail and tourism offer across the Parish.	• Amount of new employment floor space. • Amount of new retail floor space created.	**Economic**

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan objectives

7.3 The Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan sets out a number of strategic objectives. These state what the Neighbourhood Plan is aiming to achieve through its overall strategy and policies. An assessment has been made as to whether the 10 Neighbourhood Plan objectives are consistent with the 6 objectives of the sustainability appraisal. This exercise helps identify where potential areas of conflict lie and where mitigation may be required.

7.4 The objectives for the HPNP are as follows:-

1. To provide a sustainable environment and community to meet the needs of its residents.
2. To protect the natural beauty of the parish landscape, particularly the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Low Weald.
3. To protect existing and extend Green Spaces in the parish.
4. To ensure that the design of new buildings conserves the rural character of the parish in the High Weald and the Low Weald.
5. To encourage development of smaller dwellings, both for purchase and to rent, for older parishioners who wish to remain in their community.
6. To build and maintain the commercial viability and vitality of Herstmonceux village centre.
7. To provide for the provision of business opportunities in Windmill Hill and Cowbeech.
8. To improve the range and quality of local community services and facilities.
9. To encourage and enable the local community to pursue healthy lifestyles with sports facilities, cycle/pedestrian routes and access to public rights of way.
10. To support the development of a Community Land Trust in the parish.

7.5 In order to identify any potential synergies or inconsistencies/conflicts, the compatibility of the draft Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and the SA

Objectives were tested against each other. The results are shown in the Table below with further explanation in the following text.

7.6 It should be noted that potential conflicts between plan objectives and SA objectives are unavoidable, to some degree, given the focus on providing housing and growth at a national and District level. However, this presents an opportunity to ensure consideration is given to mitigating the impacts as far as practicable, for example through policies that protect the valued landscape, improve accessibility to services and designate green spaces.

	Neighbourhood Plan objectives										
Sustainability Objectives		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
	1	√		√		x					x
	2	√		√							
	3	√	√	√	√	x					
	4	√	x	x	√	√					√
	5	√		√			√		√	√	
	6	√					√	√			

Key:

√	Compatible
x	Incompatible
	No link/neutral

7.7 The table demonstrates that most of the HPNP Objectives and Sustainability Objectives are compatible, or have a neutral impact. This indicates that the HPNP is being prepared positively with the aim of solving some of the sustainability issues identified and that the Sustainability Objectives are appropriate.

7.8 Overall the Table above shows that the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives are broadly compatible with the SA Objectives. However in many instances this compatibility will depend upon how the policies are implemented and there may be some tensions which arise.

7.9 The areas where there are most likely to be tensions between the SA Objectives and those of the Neighbourhood Plan are where the plan objectives seek to bring forward development and the SA Objectives that seek to protect landscape, green space and areas of heritage. For example, SA Objective 2 seeks to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Parish however this may raise issues with the Neighbourhood Plan objective which is seeking to provide housing for older people. However, although tensions may be present, they can be addressed through other policies and objectives within the Neighbourhood Plan, such as those seeking to ensure good design in developments, and indeed through the other objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan which seek to protect the character and landscape of the Parish for example.

7.10 The Table below provides a brief summary of the compatibility issues for the SA Objectives and the HPNP Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Effect on Compatibility with Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
1. Use of previously developed land - make the most efficient use of land by prioritising brownfield sites for development, the re-use of existing buildings and promoting higher development densities.	Aside from the positive compatibility of this SA Objective with HPNP Objectives 1 and 3, which seek to promote a sustainable local environment and protect the Parishes green spaces, the compatibility with the remaining HPNP Objectives will be dependent on the implementation of relevant policies within the HPNP. However, there is the potential for tensions between HPNP Objectives 5 and 10 as the issues concerned with making a brownfield site suitable for development may make the construction of smaller dwellings unviable and this may mean the site is not compatible with supporting a Community Land Trust.
2. Biodiversity - conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Parish.	Whilst there is positive compatibility with NDP Objectives 1 and 3, overall the compatibility of this SA Objective with the other HPNP Objectives will be

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Effect on Compatibility with Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
	dependent upon the implementation of relevant HPNP policies. In particular, Policy 1 concerning the overall spatial planning principles for the Parish; Policy 2 the designation of local green spaces; Policy 11 the design of development and Policy 12 windfall sites. An increase in housing development may place pressure on biodiversity of a site for example, and the fact that there could be the possibility for potential tensions emphasises the need for sensitive and innovative planning and design measures that can achieve positive sustainability outcomes (Policy 11). Other policies within the Wealden Local Plan such as those on biodiversity and green infrastructure will assist in providing a balance and help facilitate mitigation and protection measures in conjunction with the HPNP.
3. Countryside and Heritage – conserve and enhance, especially the best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, and the historic and built environment.	As with SA Objective 1, there is positive compatibility with some of the HPNP Objectives (namely Objectives 1-4) and a neutral impact on others, but there is also the potential for conflict with HPNP Objective 5 as this seeks to encourage development, albeit of smaller dwellings for older persons, which may not sit well with conserving and enhancing the countryside and heritage of the Parish. Indeed any proposals for housing may have an impact on heritage and/or the countryside depending on the location However; this can be addressed through the implementation of other policies within the HPNP, notably those on design (Policy 11) and the spatial plan for the Parish (Policy 1).
4. To support the development of high quality housing in sustainable locations on windfall sites.	This SA Objective seeks to support development proposals that may come forward as windfall sites, and in that

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Effect on Compatibility with Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
	regard has positive compatibility with HPNP Objectives 1; 4; 5 and 10 as these seek to provide housing to meet local needs whilst ensuring good and appropriate design. There is clear potential for incompatibility with HPNP Objectives 2 and 3 as these seek to protect the natural beauty of the Parish and its green spaces. However, Policies 2 and 11 within the HPNP will help reduce any potential conflicts as they seek to protect local green spaces and ensure the design of developments take into account the character of the Parish in terms of landscape, heritage, and countryside and built form.
5. To ensure everyone has access to community facilities including facilities for the elderly, education, childcare, leisure and recreation facilities and public open spaces	There is positive compatibility with HPNP Objectives 1; 3; 6; 8 and 9 as these all include elements which seek to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors within the Parish such as improving the range and quality of local community services and facilities; encouraging healthy lifestyles through supporting provision of sports facilities, open spaces and access to the rights of way network and to maintain the commercial viability and vitality of Herstmonceux village centre. However, overall the compatibility of this SA Objective with other HPNP Objectives will be dependent upon the implementation of the relevant HPNP Policies that support them, namely those concerning employment land; sports and recreation provision and retail provision.
6. To retain the availability of opportunities for local employment. To maintain and improve the local retail and tourism offer across the Parish	This SA Objective is specific in its focus and therefore is only likely to affect some of the HPNP Objectives, having a positive compatibility with HPNP

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Effect on Compatibility with Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
	Objectives 1; 6 and 7. These HPNP Objectives seek to support and improve the economy of the Parish through the maintenance of the vitality and viability of Herstmonceux village centre and to provide potential business opportunities in Cowbeech and Windmill Hill, as well as Herstmonceux. The overall compatibility will still be dependent upon the implementation of relevant HPNP Policies, namely Policy 3; Policy 4 and Policy 10

7.11 Although the compatibility assessment above shows there to be some potential conflicts between the SA Objectives and the HPNP Objectives, much will depend on the implementation of the policies within the HPNP alongside those provisions of the NPPF and more strategic policies within the Local Plan for the District. The Policies within the HPNP will compliment and support each other in terms of addressing potential conflicts (as detailed in the Table above) for example through policies concerned with design which will ensure development proposals take account of the character of the Parish and the need to protect and enhance this. Where conflicts arise, this offers opportunities to find solutions to ensure sustainable development is progressed.

7.12 In order to meet the strategic objectives of the HPNP and address some of the challenges facing the Parish, a range of policies have been included within the Plan. These policies, and their reasonable alternatives, were assessed against the SA Objectives to determine their potential contribution towards achieving sustainable development within the Parish.

7.13 It should be noted that any alternatives considered for the plan need to be reasonable and therefore those alternatives deemed 'not reasonable' do not need to be subject to appraisal against the SA Objectives. Examples of

unreasonable alternatives could be policies which do not help meet the overall vision of the Plan and its objectives.

7.14 It also needs to be recognised that the SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a policy to take forward within the Plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified for each alternative, such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select a policy to take forward. Factors such as public opinion from consultation with parishioners, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account.

8.0 POLICY APPROACHES AND OPTIONS

8.1 In preparing the HPNP, a range of potential policy areas have been considered and reasonable alternatives for each policy have been identified. These have been prepared based on the review of other relevant plans, programmes, policies, strategies and initiatives, the baseline data for the Parish, and the overarching strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

8.2 All policy options have been appraised, to assess the impact on the 6 sustainability objectives as set out in the Sustainability Framework. These appraisals are included in the tables set out in section 9 of this SA Report. The overall appraisal ensured that the policies selected and taken forward in the HPNP are the most sustainable, given all reasonable alternatives.

8.3 This exercise has taken into account the policies of the Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and the Sustainability Appraisal (Background paper 10) 2011. Policy WCS6 Rural Areas Strategy within the Core Strategy (2013) allocates 70 additional dwellings within Herstmonceux. This figure has now been achieved. The Wealden Local Plan Issues, Options and Recommendations (WLPIOR) (2015)[11] document considers options for broad locations around towns and villages including Herstmonceux. Issue 26 (on page 193 of the

[11] http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/Wealden_Local_Plan/PPolicy_WLP_IsseusOptionsRecommendations.aspx

WLPIOR) considers the delivery of 120 dwellings within and around Herstmonceux (this takes into account consents granted on greenfield land after April 2015). The options are North East Herstmonceux, North Herstmonceux, West Herstmonceux, East Herstmonceux and South Herstmonceux. The preferred option for testing was to initially focus the delivery on infill, subject to an urban capacity study, with potential allocations to meet requirements in all sectors, whilst avoiding development in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

8.4 However, Herstmonceux Parish Council has agreed that the HPNP is not going to allocate sites for development but will support windfall sites coming forward provided the proposed development complies with other policies within the HPNP, the NPPF and the Local Plan for Wealden District. For this reason, the SA does not set out a number of issues and options for development but considers several policy approaches to assist with the spatial focus of the plan. The Parish Council also considered a number of general issues where options were not identified but where broad approaches for consideration and discussion have been included in this SA. These issues, where no alternative approaches have been proposed include:

What approach should the Neighbourhood Plan adopt in terms of a spatial strategy?

Herstmonceux is considered to be a Local Service Centre within the Core Strategy Local Plan. Policy WCS6 Rural Areas Strategy states that within these areas, development is acceptable and that the Development Boundary will be retained at Herstmonceux. The overall strategy within the Core Strategy Local Plan is to ensure appropriate development which protects, supports and increases the range and quality of facilities and services available to the rural areas and which helps sustain rural living, reinforces the accessibility of settlements, whilst meeting needs and community aspirations. The WLPIOR 2015 considers that the focus initially should be on infill development pending work on an urban capacity study. The HPNP plan essentially meets this spatial strategy and will develop it so it is applicable to the Parish.

What approach should the Neighbourhood Plan adopt to best meet local housing need?

Due to the rural nature of the Parish and the levels of environmental protections and designations, the Parish Council considers that the HPNP should support windfall housing sites and not allocate specific sites for development. In order to best meet local housing need, the Plan will support policies within the Local Plan on housing mix and affordable housing. Whilst feedback from the consultation with the community noted the need to provide housing for local people and starter homes, due to the sensitivity of the landscape and local environment within the Parish and in accordance with the Local Plan, the HPNP will not allocate specific sites for development. Housing for local needs can still be supported through windfall developments.

Should the Neighbourhood Development Plan resist the loss of employment sites?

In a rural location such as Herstmonceux, it is considered a range of employment sites can offer employment opportunities so that local residents have the option of working locally. The Parish Council felt that the most sustainable option is to resist the loss of employment sites to other uses, taking into account that employment sites falling within class B1a office can be converted to residential under permitted development prior approval. The HPNP could adopt a criteria process to assist with the consideration of applications for the redevelopment of employment sites. This would comply and be in line with District wide policies.

9.0 APPRAISING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

9.1 A wide range of policy areas have been included within the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. These will be appraised using the Sustainability Framework to undertake the evaluation.

9.2 In the absence of the HPNP, it is considered there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing Herstmonceux Parish. Without the Plan, opportunities for the following issues may be compromised:

- Greater involvement of local people in local/community planning,
- Be able to protect and retain community facilities.
- Opportunities to protect green space of value to the community.
- Opportunities to improve sports and recreational facilities.
- Opportunities to improve the village centres and the retail offer.
- Opportunities to resist the loss of employment sites.
- Opportunities to seek good design and layout within new developments.
- Opportunities to improve parking within Herstmonceux.
- Opportunities to support new housing development.

9.3 This assessment ensures that the policies within the HPNP are the most sustainable, given all the reasonable alternatives. The appraisal process has been undertaken using the methodology outlined in section 3. Whilst it is predicted that many of the policies will have an overall positive or neutral/unknown impact, it is inevitable that some of the options appraised will present negative sustainability impacts. This will be mostly in cases where the sustainability objectives are not compatible with one another. Where negative impacts are predicted to arise, mitigation has been suggested.

9.4 The policies contained in the Pre-Submission HPNP are:-

Policy 1: A Spatial Plan for the Parish
Policy 2: Local Green Spaces
Policy 3: Resisting the Loss of Employment Locations
Policy 4: Retail Development in the Parish
Policy 5: Sports, Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Herstmonceux Parish
Policy 6: Redevelopment of the former public toilet site
Policy 7: Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground

Policy 8: Rights of Way in Herstmonceux Parish

Policy 9: Creation of new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux.

Policy 10: Mobile Phone Connectivity and Broadband

Policy 11: The Design of Development in the Parish

Policy 12: Windfall Sites

Policy 13: Older People's Housing Needs

Policy 14: Herstmonceux Community Land Trust

Policy 15: Infrastructure Investment

9.5 Tables Aa – Aq as shown below, set out all of the policies as originally drafted in the HPNP and a set of reasonable alternatives (options) for each. These are then assessed against the sustainability objectives, providing a conclusion on the preferred option. Table B summarises all of the drafted policies together and assesses these against the objectives. The policies assessed in Table B are those that have taken on board any changes following the consideration of reasonable alternatives. The HPNP contains an Action Plan which includes aspirations that the community would like to see be achieved within the parish. These are also included in Table B.

9.6 The following colours and symbols are used to assess each policy:

++	Greater positive impact on the sustainability objective
+	Possible positive or slight positive impact on the sustainability objective
-	No impact or neutral impact on the sustainability objective
?	Possible negative or slight negative impact on the sustainability objective
??	Greater negative impact on the sustainability objective

Table Aa Policy 1 Spatial Planning Principles for the Parish

Policy 1 Spatial Planning Principles for the Parish

All development proposals within the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP) will be supported provided that:-

1. Development conforms with Policy 11 within this Neighbourhood Plan and takes into account infrastructure capacity.
2. Development within or affecting the setting of the High Weald AONB should seek to conserve and enhance its landscape and scenic beauty, having particular regard to the impacts on its character components, as set out in the High Weald AONB Management Plan.
3. Development addresses identified local need and deliver community benefit, particularly within the settlements of Herstmonceux, Cowbeech and Windmill Hill, unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise.

Herstmonceux Parish Council will seek to work with the local planning authority, applicants and other stakeholders to support the formulation of any development proposals which conform with this policy.

Where policies in the HPNP are silent or subject to review under current regulations, planning applications will be supported provided that:-

1. The proposals are in conformity with the Local Plan.
2. Any adverse impacts of the proposals do not significantly outweigh the benefits when determined against the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.

Policy 1 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	**+**	**+**	**++**	**++**	**++**	**-**
B	**+**	**-**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**+**
C	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to take into account design matters and the needs of the community and supports strategic, District wide policies.
Option B – To have a policy that refers to built-up area boundaries and preferred locations for new development (housing, employment and community)
Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan.

Appraisal: The assessment shows that Option A – to include a policy as drafted in the HPNP has a positive impact on several of the sustainability objectives (SO). In particular, the option is a strategy that supports the protection of the character of the parish and design/quality development. It also supports community wishes and facilities. Option C relies on other local/district wide planning policies and national policies. Whilst these policies will also seek to protect areas of countryside and heritage, support the development of brownfield sites and community facilities etc, this option is considered to have a neutral impact on many of the sustainability objectives because it does not focus on the key characteristics of the parish and the requirements of the community, as established through the HPNP consultation events. Option B relates to a policy that refers specifically to where development should be focused within the parish – making references to built-up area boundaries. It has a slight positive impact on a number of objectives as it is assumed that by having preferred locations for development, these will take into account, to some extent, the need to protect heritage and the countryside for example. However, without a full and detailed evaluation of all constraints and areas of value and protection and undertaking an Issues and options exercise on all possible areas/sites/locations for development, this Option is not considered deliverable in the HPNP.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Ab Policy 2 Local Green Spaces

Policy 2: Local Green Spaces

The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan designates the following locations as Local Green Spaces. These are as shown on the Proposals Map.

1. Herstmonceux Recreation Ground, Herstmonceux.
2. Denefield Green, Fiennes Road, Herstmonceux.
3. Lime Cross Recreation Area.
4. Herstmonceux Castle Grounds and Gardens.
5. Herstmonceux Allotments at Greenway Fruit Farm, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux.
6. Land owned by Herstmonceux Scouts and Church adjacent to Herstmonceux Recreation Ground.

Support will be given to providing new sustainable links to any Local Green Spaces and to improving existing ones. Proposals for any development on Local Green Spaces will be resisted, other than in very special circumstances. In the case of Herstmonceux Castle and Grounds, proposals that are for the purposes of tourism, recreation, leisure and education, and that are designed to sustain the historic interest and landscape amenity of the green space, will be supported based on the advice given by Historic England on such proposals and meeting any strategic policies contained within the Local Plan.

Policy 2 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	**-**	**++**	**++**	**-**	**++**	**-**
B	**-**	**-**	**?**	**-**	**?**	**-**

Option A – To have a policy that sets out the sites to be allocated as local green spaces.
Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework regarding advice on Local Green Spaces and request that Wealden District Council assess and include sites for Herstmonceux parish in the emerging Wealden Local Plan.

Appraisal: Option A is the culmination of extensive background research undertaken by the steering group. This is located within the Local Green Spaces background document January 2017. This policy has been assessed as having a greater positive impact on a number of objectives. The spaces have been assessed as being appropriate to include in the policy as judged against the criteria in the NPPF. In each case, the green spaces are an integral part of the town and are therefore regarded as special to the local community. Other sites were included in the initial trawl of suitable sites for allocating as local green spaces and these are included in the background document. The reasons for rejecting sites are set out in the document as they were not deemed to comply with the NPPF advice. Option B has been assessed as having a slight negative impact on objectives 3 and 5. Whilst there could be an opportunity to include allocations for local green spaces within the emerging Wealden Local Plan , this is not guaranteed and it is unlikely a District wide document would include such allocations for each parish. Therefore – without specific allocations within adopted neighbourhood development plans, there are no opportunities to protect these areas as green spaces of value to the local community.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Ac Policy 3 Resisting the Loss of Employment Locations

Policy 3 Resisting the Loss of Employment Locations

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan seeks to improve the sustainability of parish employment by supporting employers in the parish, promoting economic growth, creating a sustainable community and supporting local employment sites.
Proposals that would result in the loss of land and buildings in employment use, including those that fall within Use Class B1, B2 and B8 and Sui Generis (in a class/group of its own) will be resisted unless:-

1. Permitted Development Rights apply.
2. It can be demonstrated that there is no longer a market for the current use, or an alternative type of employment use as proven by independent evidence.
3. The use with equivalent floor space can be secured and delivered in a suitable alternative location at a reasonable distance within the settlement subject to conforming with strategic policies with in the Local Plan.
4. An alternative employment use, with an equivalent job capacity, can be secured and delivered in a suitable alternative location at a reasonable distance within the settlement subject to conforming with strategic policies within the Local Plan.

The HPNP is keen to retain key employment sites within the parish. These are outlined below and shown on the Proposals Map. Any change of use from employment/commercial uses of these sites will need to comply with the provisions of this policy.

The HPNP is keen to retain key employment sites within the parish. These are outlined below. Any change of use from employment/commercial uses of these sites will need to comply with the provisions of this policy. The sites are:-

Collins Garage, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux
Herstmonceux Robins, Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux
Lime Cross Nursery and café, Herstmonceux
Herstmonceux Herstmonceux Integrative Health Centre
Warwick and Radcliffe Pharmacy, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux
Simon Turner Refrigeration and Motor Services, Cowbeech
Herstmonceux Curtis and Shaw, Cowbeech
Maytime Engineering, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux
The Truggery Workshop, Herstmonceux
Flowers Green Plants, Church Road,
Perfect Plants, Church Road, Herstmonceux
Henners Vineyard, Church Road,
Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery, Windmill Hill
Furnace Brook Fishery Lakes, Cowbeech
Business Units at Penlands Farm Church Road,
Business units at Sackville Farm, Lower Road, Herstmonceux
Herstmonceux Castle
Herstmonceux Science Centre

The improvement and enhancement of these key employment sites will be supported provided that the following points are taken into account:-

i. There is no detrimental impact on neighbouring properties or the landscape.
ii. Traffic generation is acceptable and there are adequate levels of parking on site or nearby.
iii. It includes opportunities to support sustainable travel.
iv. The design, materials, massing of the proposed extension/redevelopment plus any landscaping scheme can mitigate any impacts on the street scene and local amenities.
v. Proposals meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations.
vi. Extensions are located within the curtilage of the business premise/planning unit.

Policy 3 Options	**Objective 1: Use of previously dev land**	**Objective 2: Biodiversity**	**Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage**	**Objective 4: High quality housing**	**Objective 5: Access to community facilities**	**Objective 6: Local employment**
A	**??**	**-**	**-**	**?**	**+**	**++**
B	**?**	**-**	**-**	**?**	**++**	**++**
C	**?**	**-**	**-**	**?**	**-**	**++**

Option A – To have a generic/light touch policy that resists the loss of employment land in B1 use and no criteria is given as to how to assess applications.
Option B – To have a policy that provides criteria on how applications for the loss of employment and commercial sites are to be considered as well as highlighting other commercial uses that are important to the local economy.
Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

Appraisal: Option A will have a significant negative impact on objective 1 – the use of previously developed land – in particular for housing development. It is considered that having a blanket resistance to the loss of employment sites with no criteria as to when these could be acceptable will mean there are less opportunities to develop brownfield sites for other uses, especially housing. Option B is in line with national and local planning policies and recognises that in some circumstances, the loss can be acceptable and provides criteria against which to base a future planning application. It would have a slight negative impact on Objective 1 as it may still lessen the opportunities to bring forward previously developed land. Option C would be acceptable as it would rely on national and local policies and these would have the same impact on the objectives as Option B (Option B is aligned to other planning policies). However, Option B relates to local circumstances and those uses that are important to the local economy and therefore has a greater positive impact on objective 5.

Preferred Policy Option: B

Table Ad Policy 4 Retail Development in the Parish

Policy 4 Retail Development in the Parish.

The HPNP will seek to retain:-

- Key local retail facilities - falling within A1 and A2 Use Class, including post offices and convenience stores
- Key hospitality services such as restaurants/cafes falling within A3 Use Class, public houses falling within A4 Use Class and take-aways falling in A5 Use Class.
- Community and visitor facilities at Herstmonceux Village Information Centre.

With regard to retail development:

- Proposals involving changes of use of ground floor premises from retail to non-retail uses or residential will only be permitted where it can be shown that the development would not harm the vitality of local shopping facilities or the amenities of the area unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise
- Proposals for the redevelopment of existing retail units, or change of use class, will only be permitted where it can be shown and supported by evidence that a village centre retail or commercial use is no longer suitable or viable and that the development is proportionate in size, scale, form and height to surrounding buildings
- Development must also comply with Policy 11 of the HPNP on Design and have no detrimental impact on neighbouring businesses or properties
- Proposals to improve the appearance of and traffic management within Herstmonceux village will be supported and encouraged as well as supporting improved opportunities for sustainable travel.

Policy 4 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	-	-	++	++
B	-	-	+	-	+	+
C	-	-	-	-	+	+

Option A - Have a policy which seeks to retain key local retail, hospitality and community facilities within the Parish as a whole;
Option B - Have a policy that seeks to retain key local retail, hospitality and community facilities within Herstmonceux, Cowbeech and Windmill Hill only;
Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

Appraisal: When assessed against the sustainability objectives – Option A is considered the most sustainable. It will have a slight positive impact on objective 3 as it is likely that some areas will contain buildings of heritage interest and these could be retained should existing uses also be retained. Often a change of use also indicates a redevelopment and possible loss of historic buildings/shop fronts. Option A will also have a greater positive impact on objectives 5 and 6 as these relate to access to community facilities and employment opportunities. By focusing on the whole of the Parish, the Option considers community benefits on the widest possible scale. Options B and C will have slight positive impacts on objectives 5 and 6 also, based on the content of national and local policies on protecting retail facilities. Whilst Option B would protect the retail facilities within the main settlements, this would not be in conformity with the Local Plan for the District and would also ignore any potential for assets such as farm shops to come forward, which may not be within the main settlements but nonetheless form an important retail and community facility. Option A recognises that all retail and hospitality facilities may have important community value and be important commercial assets for the community and that consideration would be given to this.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Ae Policy 5 Sports, Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Herstmonceux Parish

Policy 5 Sports, Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Herstmonceux Parish

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP) supports and protects the existing areas used for sports, leisure and recreation in the Parish.

Proposals for development of existing sport, leisure and recreational sites (as shown on the Proposals Map) within the Parish and land used for outdoor sport will be resisted, except in very special circumstances. Any buildings should enhance sporting or recreational activities on the land.

Proposals for the development of such buildings will be supported if their scale and design is in keeping with the character of the location and the impact on the amenity of surrounding properties and landscape is acceptable.

The HPNP supports:

- The proposed development of a sports and youth facility at Lime Cross Recreation Area.
- The proposed recreation area as detailed in the S106 Agreement with the developers of the land at Lime Cross, Herstmonceux.
- The proposed recreation area as detailed in the S106 Agreement with developers of the land at Lime Roughs, Herstmonceux.

Policy 5 Options	**Objective 1: Use of previously dev land**	**Objective 2: Biodiversity**	**Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage**	**Objective 4: High quality housing**	**Objective 5: Access to community facilities**	**Objective 6: Local employment**
A	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**++**	**-**
B	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**+**	**-**

Option A – To have a policy that refers to protecting and enhancing the existing sports and recreation areas within the parish
Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

Appraisal: Option A scores as having a significant positive impact on objective 5– access to community facilities. Option B scores as having a slight positive impact on the same SO because national and local planning policy (for Wealden) will contain policies about ensuring there is adequate leisure and recreational space within each area. Option A will show all the existing sports and recreation sites on a

proposals map and will ensure it is clear which sites are covered by this Option. The detail and certainty of option A makes it the preferred option.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Af Policy 6 Redevelopment of the former public toilet site, Herstmonceux

Policy 6 Redevelopment of the former public toilet site, Herstmonceux

Subject to meeting the Habitat Regulations, Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals for non-residential redevelopment of the former public toilet site as shown on the Proposals Map, if it becomes available. The Parish Council's preference is for the site to be developed as a fully accessible public toilet with baby changing facilities and two individual office units. Other uses alongside the new public toilet could be considered including retail (A1), café (A3), small office (B1a) or a community use.

Policy 6 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	++	-	-	++	??	-
B	++	-	-	-	++	++
C	++	-	-	-	++	-
D	++	-	-	-	?	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to develop the site as residential (with no toilet facilities)
Option B – To have a policy that seeks to develop the site as commercial use (offices or retail) and toilet facilities Option C – To redevelop the site as toilet facilities only
Option D - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

Appraisal: Option A is assessed as having a greater negative impact on objective 5 as developing the site for residential (with no toilet facilities - residential and toilet facilities together are not considered to be compatible) would result in the loss of a site for community use or with the potential to redevelop for community use. This option would have a positive impact on objectives 1 and 4. Option B has a positive impact on a number of objectives including use of previously developed land, community facilities and employment. The mix of uses would be acceptable. Should Option B be achieved as proposed, it will offer significant benefits to the local community through the reinstatement of a community use as well as small scale employment provision. Having a policy on this within the NDP sends a clear signal that the Plan is encouraging action and providing the positive planning conditions within which that action can be pursued. Option C would not include any commercial development but would retain the public toilet use. This may not be viable and would not have the dual benefits afforded to Option B of bringing forward commercial and community uses. Option D is considered to have a slight negative impact on objective 5 as there is no guarantee the existing community use could be safeguarded when assessed against national and local planning policies especially on a site which is within the built up area boundary, in a sustainable location and previously developed land. Not having a policy which would maximise use of the site (as with Option B) would miss the opportunity of providing the significant community benefits already mentioned.

Preferred Policy Option: B

Table Ag Policy 7: Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground

Policy 7: Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground

Subject to meeting the Habitat Regulations, the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals for the refurbishment and extension of the car park and improvements to the access road to Herstmonceux Recreation Ground, p r o v i d e d t h a t : -

i. The extension of the car park is to be located in the northwest section of the Recreation Ground as shown on the Proposals Map.

ii. The car park will provide parking spaces for a minimum of 25 cars. The car park will be accessed off Hailsham Road

iii. Provision is made for cycle parking through the provision of cycle racks or as appropriate.

iv. Lighting will be shielded, low level and downward facing to prevent light pollution.

v. Any surfacing to the car parking will be in keeping with the rural location.

vi. Due to the proximity to the school, adequate fencing will need to be erected around the car park and to be in keeping with the location.

vii. Any plans should include details of proposed hard and soft landscaping that would help integrate the car park into the surroundings and mitigate any impact on the existing recreation ground

The preferred location is shown on the Proposals Map

Policy 7 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	**??**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**++**	**-**
B	**++**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**+**	**-**
C	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**+**	**+**

Option A – To have a policy that allocates a site for a new car park in Herstmonceux adjacent to the existing car park on the recreation ground.
Option B – To have a policy that supports the redesign of the existing car park in Herstmonceux behind the Woolpack Inn to provide more spaces.
Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District.

Appraisal: As the extended carpark within the recreation ground will result in the loss of some greenfield land, option A scores as having a greater negative impact on objective 1 which is to make use of brownfield land. However, Option A, should it be achieved, offers significant community benefits in that it would provide easier access to the recreation ground and school, which at present are accessed across the busy A271 from the existing car park behind the Woolpack pub.

Having a policy on this matter sends a clear signal that the Plan is encouraging action and providing the positive planning conditions within which that action can be pursued.

Option B would entail the re-use of previously developed land and therefore scores as having a greater positive impact on Objective 1. It has a slight negative impact on Objective 5which is focussed on recreation and open space. The location of the existing car park is not close to the recreation ground. Access to the school is across a busy road. Option C means that any application for a new or extended car park will be judged against national and local policies and the outcome will be site dependent. The Option of having no locally specific policy will miss the opportunity to provide the community benefits offered by Option A. However, any new or extended car park is likely to have a slight positive impact on employment and access to community facilities and option C has been assessed as such.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Ah Policy 8: Rights of Way in Herstmonceux Parish

Policy 8: Rights of Way in Herstmonceux Parish

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan promotes and supports the network of public footpaths, byways and bridleways in the parish. The Parish Council supports the formation of a Bridleway Group.
Any new developments should, where practicable, ensure that there is access to the Rights of Way Network. The Parish Council supports the maintenance and enhancement of existing Rights of way where they are found to be in a poor state of repair. The Council also supports the creation of new rights of Way that links the settlements to the surrounding countryside.

Policy 8 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	+	-	++	-
B	-	-	+	-	++	-
C	-	-	+	-	++	-
D	-	-	-	-	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to provide links from new development to existing Rights of Way and supports and promotes the existing network
Option B – To have a policy that seeks to improve specific Rights of Way that are in need of upgrading regardless of any links to new development.
Option C – To have a policy that seeks to create new Rights of Way whether linked to new development of not.
Option D - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District.

Appraisal: Options A, B and C have been assessed as having the same impact on the objectives. All of these options will have a lesser positive impact on objective 3 and a greater positive impact on objective 5 as they all involve either improving or creating new network links. Option D has a neutral impact on all the objectives as whilst national and local policies support the maintenance of the rights of way network, there is no specific reference to these within the parish or a positive intention to improve or maintain them.

Preferred Policy Option: A/B/C – A combination of these options. This has resulted in a change to the drafted Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table Ai Policy 9: Creation of new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux.

Policy 9: Creation of new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan will work with local landowners, residents and cyclists/cycle groups to provide a safe network of routes in the parish. Any plans should include details of proposed hard and soft landscaping that would help integrate the shared access into the surrounding landscape

Policy 9 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	++	-	++	-
B	-	-	-	-	-	-
C	-	-	?	-	?	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to create a new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux
Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to create a new shared access.
Option C – To not create a new shared access. This is not seen as a reasonable alternative as the proposal was raised out of the public consultation to create a shared access. However, it is assessed against the objectives.

Appraisal: Option A is assessed as the most favourable option when appraised against the objectives. It will have a positive impact on objectives 3 and 5. Option B has a neutral impact on all the objectives as whilst national and local policies support the maintenance of the rights of way network, there is no specific reference to this particular project to create a new shared access. Option C has a negative impact on objective 3 and 5 as there is no commitment to create a new shared access as supported by the local community.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Aj Policy 10: Mobile Phone Connectivity and Broadband

Policy 10: Mobile Phone Connectivity and Broadband

- Proposals to improve mobile telephone connectivity and extend superfast broadband to serve domestic and business properties in and across the parish will be supported.
- The priority is to provide coverage to a minimum of 2G and better coverage of 3G and 4G. If new installations are required, existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used wherever possible and the location and design of any new sites reflect the importance of heritage assets and sensitive landscapes.

Policy 10 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	**-**	**-**	**-**	**+**	**+**	**++**
B	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**+**	**+**

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to improve connectivity and broadband for both new residents and businesses.
Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the Local Plan.

Appraisal: Option A scores as having a greater positive impact on employment as this issue has been specifically raised by the business community within Herstmonceux. Broadband and telecommunications are considered to be poor within the local area. These improvements will also have a positive impact on community groups, shops and other local services. Option B may have positive impacts on objectives 5 and 6 as national and local policies support improvements in the infrastructure but there is no specific reference to the parish or the specific needs within the area.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Ak Policy 11: The Design of Development in the Parish

Policy 11: The Design of Development in the Parish

All development proposals will be required to demonstrate that their design is in accordance with the provisions of the Wealden Design Guide in relation to the Low Weald Character Area and the Herstmonceux Design Guide prepared for the Neighbourhood Plan.
The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan requires all development proposals to demonstrate that their design has positively responded to the Herstmonceux Design Guide by:-

1. Ensuring that the design and layout of the development achieves a sense of place by protecting and enhancing the quality, distinctiveness and character of settlements. Respecting or enhancing the character of the site and its surroundings in terms of its proportion, form, massing, density, height, size, scale, materials and detailed design features.
2. Ensuring development of and in proximity to designated and local heritage assets and their settings conserves, preserves, reflects and enhances the historic asset and the historic environment in accordance with their significance.
3. Ensuring development safeguards, respects and enhances the natural environment, the biodiversity, landscape and wildlife corridors and the countryside.
4. Incorporating, where appropriate, biodiversity, landscaping and public and private open spaces and supports the creation of wildlife corridors.
5. Ensuring that the layout and design takes account of the potential users of the development to provide safe, convenient and attractive links within the development and to existing networks for people with disabilities and restricted mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.
6. Providing vehicular access and parking suitable for the development's use and location. All parking should conform to the standards in the East Sussex County Council Guidelines
7. Ensuring that the development does not cause an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenities of occupiers of existing or proposed nearby properties.
8. Incorporating sustainable design and construction techniques to meet high standards for energy efficiency and water efficiency.
9. Ensuring appropriate provision for the storage of waste and recyclable materials
10. Incorporating sustainable drainage systems with maintenance regimes to minimise vulnerability to flooding and climate change.
11. Encouraging the use of renewable and low carbon energy technology, as appropriate
12. Ensuring that adequate infrastructure, services and community facilities are, or will be, made available to serve the development.
13. Ensuring that site layout and building design helps to provide a safe and secure environment in line with Secured by Design Guidelines

If possible, all new developments should be connected to fibre landlines to improve access to broadband services.

Policy 11 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access t o community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	**-**	**++**	**++**	**++**	**-**	**-**
B	**-**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**-**	**-**

Option A – To have a policy that sets out the design principles for the parish to ensure design is in keeping with the prevailing character of the surrounding area and sets out standards for parking and sustainability.
Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to provide the design principles and standards.

Appraisal: Both options would ensure design is given due consideration. However, Option A seeks to ensure development is sympathetic and in keeping with the local area which will have a positive impact on sustainability objectives 2, 3 and 4. It will provide greater detail on the characteristics of the parish and the standards the community wish to see in all new development. Option B would not provide local context or local character and although it will have a slight positive impact on objectives 2, 3 and 4, the extent of this is less that Option A because of the more general nature of national and District wide policies compared to the local nature of neighbourhood plan policies.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Al Policy 12: Windfall Sites

Policy 12: Windfall Sites
Development proposals on windfall sites shall be supported by the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan provided that:-

1. Development is located within the Development Boundary.
2. The proposed development is of a scale and nature that is appropriate to the site and its immediate surroundings, including height of development, materials used, density of development and impact on the landscape.
3. The proposal retains and safeguards valuable green assets including trees, hedgerows and other natural features which contribute to the character of the Parish and/or settlement.
4. The proposal results in no net loss of biodiversity and where appropriate contributes towards habitat creation to enhance biodiversity;
5. The development proposed does not adversely affect the residential amenity of any neighbouring properties.
6. The proposed development accords with Policy 11 - Design Principles of this plan and respects the key characteristics and setting of the Parish.
7. The layout and any green space/landscape scheme contribute to maintaining and improving the local environment.
8. The development respects, conserves and, where possible, enhances the historic and built environment, including sustaining or better revealing the significance of heritage assets.

Proposals for development on sites outside the Development Boundary will be considered on a case by case basis, taking into account the policies in the HPNP, the NPPF, the Local Plan for the Wealden District and having particular regard to the potential impact on the countryside, the High Weald AONB, areas of landscape value and traffic generation

New housing developments will be expected to provide for a mix of dwelling size, type and tenure that meet the identified housing needs of the community. This includes affordable housing, and where appropriate, Starter Homes and housing for older people.

Policy 12 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	+	+	?	++	-	-
B	++	-	-	++	-	?
C	++	+	?	++	-	?
D	?	-	-	??	-	-
E	+	-	+	+	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that supports windfall development in all locations with criteria to guide developers.
Option B – To have a policy that supports windfall development in the development boundary only with criteria to guide developers.
Option C – To have a policy that supports windfall development in all locations but with preference to those within or adjacent/abutting the development boundary and brownfield sites with criteria to guide developers.
Option D – To have a policy that does not support any new housing development.
Option E – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to enable windfall sites to come forward.

Appraisal: Options A, B, C and D all score positively against a number of objectives. Option C supports both objectives 1 and 4 as this option gives preference to sites within the development boundary and those adjacent. This effectively protects the open countryside from inappropriate development. Option D will have a greater negative impact on objective 4 as it will not enable any housing sites to come forward. Options A and C will have a slight negative impact on objective 3 as they do not rule out sites coming forward in the countryside. Options B and C also have a negative impact on objective 6 as they do rule out that employment sites within the built up area boundary could be developed for housing. Option E does not rule out housing coming forward as national policies support the need for housing. However, local policies do not support housing on non-allocated sites outside built up area boundaries, hence why this option only scores as having a slight positive impact on objective 4.

Preferred Policy Option: C - this has resulted in a change to the policy as drafted in the Pre-Submission to include the sequential criteria

Table Am Policy 13: Older People's Housing Needs

Policy 13: Older People's Housing Needs

The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals for the development for a range of housing for older people, available to rent or to purchase, and the provision of sheltered and affordable housing, provided that proposals are in conformity with other relevant policies..

Particular support shall be given to proposals that are located close to village facilities and services and which provide smaller dwellings built to appropriate standards, such as those for accessible and adaptable dwellings as set out within the Building Regulations M4 (2), specialist care homes and purpose built sheltered housing.

Policy 13 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	-	++	+	-
B	-	-	-	+	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that supports Older People's housing.
Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to bring forward housing for older people.

Appraisal: Option A will have a greater positive impact on objective 4 as it will specifically focus on a type of housing for a section of the community. This option will respond to the findings of the housing survey that will reveal the need for this housing within the parish. Option B will not be able to bring forward this type of development within the parish unless the District wide policies are specific in their policy direction. National and local policies do support the need for older people's housing and therefore this option scores as having a slight positive impact on objective 4.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table An Policy 14: Herstmonceux Community Land Trust

Policy 14: Herstmonceux Community Land Trust

The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports the current development of Herstmonceux Community Land Trust as a community-controlled and owned organisation for the purpose of acquiring, developing and holding land and property assets in the Parish of Herstmonceux.

Policy 14 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	**+**	**-**	**-**	**++**	**-**	**-**
B	**-**	**-**	**-**	**?**	**-**	**-**

Option A – To have a policy that supports Community Land Trusts..
Option B – To not have a policy on Community Land Trusts.

Appraisal: Option A has a positive impact on objective 4 as it supports the means for bringing forward and developing housing through community controlled schemes. Option b will have a slight negative impact on objective 5 as it provides no support or means to allow this to happen within the parish.

Preferred Policy Option: A

Table Aq Policy 15: Infrastructure Investment

Policy 15: Infrastructure Investment

The following projects shall be considered for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) investment in the future, with regards to CIL receipts that the Parish Council receives:-

1. Improvements to Herstmonceux Village Centre, in pursuit of Policy 4.
2. Redevelopment of former public toilets, in pursuit of Policy 6.
3. Development of recreation facilities at Lime Cross Recreation Area and Lime Roughs, in pursuit of Policy 5.
4. Improvements to the refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground, in pursuit of Policy 7.
5. Community Land Trust capital programme, in pursuit of Policy 14.
6. Creation of a new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux, in pursuit of Policy 9.
7. Support of Herstmonceux Village Hall.

Policy 14 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	+	-	+	+	++	+
B	+	-	+	+	+	-
C	-	-	-	-	??	-

Option A – To have a policy that sets out the projects for investment
Option B – To have a policy on infrastructure investment but without specific projects highlighted. Option C – To not have a policy on Infrastructure Investment.

Appraisal: Option A has a greater positive impact on objective 5 as it clearly sets out the projects that the community have identified for investment. These are community focussed projects that are for the benefit of the parish. By setting out the projects, it is clear where the investment will go. The policy as drafted includes projects that will have an impact on providing housing (through the CLT), employment,heritage and town centre and several involve the use of previously developed land. By not having a policy on infrastructure investment (option C), there will be no clear link between the funding available to the parish through CIL and the community improvement needs. Option B does provide some support for infrastructure improvements and it could give a general focus to where the funding should go and this might include heritage, housing, community and employment but it will not directly reflect the priories of the community.
Preferred Policy Option: A

TABLE B - POLICY APPRAISALS

Policies as amended following the consideration of options in the SA	**Obj 1: Use of previously dev land**	**Obj 2: Bio diversity**	**Obj 3: Country side and Heritage**	**Obj 4: High quality housing**	**Obj 5: Access to community facilities**	**Obj 6: Local employment**
Policy 1: A Spatial Plan for the Parish	+	+	++	++	++	-
Policy 2: Local Green Spaces	-	++	++	-	++	-
Policy 3: Resisting the Loss of Employment Sites	?	-	-	?	+	++
Policy 4: Retail Areas in the Parish	-	-	+	-	++	++
Policy 5: Sports, Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Herstmonceux Parish	-	-	-	-	++	-
Policy 6: Redevelopment of the former public toilet site, Herstmonceux	++	-	-	-	++	++

Policy 7: Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	??	-	-	-	++	-
Policy 8: Rights of Way in Herstmonceux Parish	-	-	+	-	++	-
Policy 9: Creation of new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux.	-	-	+	-	++	-
Policy 10: Mobile Phone Connectivity and Broadband	-	-	-	+	+	++
Policy 11: The Design of Development in the Parish	-	++	++	++	-	-
Policy 12 Windfall Sites	+	+	-	++	-	-
Policy 13: Older People's Housing Needs		-	-	++	+	-
Policy 14: Herstmonceux Community Land Trust	+	-	-	++	-	-
Policy 15: Infrastructure Investment	+	-	+	+	++	+
Aspiration 1: Retention of Assets of Community Value.	-	-	+	-	++	+
Aspiration 2: Creating Wi-Fi Hotspots in the Parish.	-	-	-	-	+	+
Aspiration 3: Telephone mast	-	-	-	-	-	+
Aspiration 4: New signage for Herstmonceux	-	-	-	-	+	+

10.0 NEXT STEPS

10.1 This SA report will be consulted on alongside the Pre- Submission version of the HPNP. This will be for a minimum period of 6 weeks.

10.2 The information within this report has been taken into account in preparing the Pre-Submission plan. Once 'made', the effects of implementing the HPNP are to be monitored to assess any impacts, including unforeseen adverse impacts. This will need to allow for remedial action to take place. On this basis, each sustainability objective is accompanied by a range of practical indicators. These are to be used to assess the achievement of the policies against the sustainability objectives.

APPENDIX A

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SCOPING REPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Submitted for Consultation with Statutory Authorities

by Herstmonceux Parish Council

Updated November 2016

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APPENDICES

A	**Screening Opinion**
B	**List of consultees for the Scoping Report**
C	**Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan boundary**
D	**Key policy documents and strategies**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Herstmonceux Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan in order to guide development in the Parish until 2031 As sustainability is an important consideration in land use planning, a Sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken on the contents of the Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, becomes a formal part of the planning system and will be a Local Development Plan document. The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP) is an important planning tool for shaping the development and growth of the village and Parish.

Sustainable Development

1.2 Sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It is about ensuring better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. In doing so, social, environmental and economic issues and challenges should be considered in an integrated and balanced way.

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012. This document sets out the Government's planning policies for England. The NPPF states the Government's intentions with regards to sustainable development, in particular the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

1.4 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) aims to predict and assess the social, environmental and economic effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan and to ensure that the policies within it contribute to and promote sustainable development. Whilst the Parish Council has been advised by Wealden District Council that a SA is not required, the Parish has taken the view that undertaking a SA is good

planning practise and will thus ensure that sustianability is at the heart of the Plan.

1.5 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the evaluation of the *environmental* impacts of a plan such as the Neighbourhood Plan. The requirement for a SEA is set out in the European Directive 2001/42/EC adopted into UK law as the "Environmental Assessment of Plans or Programmes Regulations 2004".

1.6 The SEA process is very similar to the Sustainability Appraisal process. Government guidance suggests incorporating the SEA process into the Sustainability Appraisal and to consider the *economic and social* effects alongside the environmental effects considered through SEA. For simplification, this report is referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout.

The Screening Opinion and Scoping Report

1.7 Before a Scoping Report is written, it is usual to undertake a Screening Opinion. A screening opinion was produced by Wealden District Council **(see Appendix A)** which considered the need for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment. Following consultation with the statutory environmental bodies (English Heritage, Natural England and Environment Agency) it was concluded that the Neighbourhood Development Plan would not have significant environmental effects and that a full SEA will not need to be prepared. However as stated above, the Parish Council have agreed to undertake a SA.

1.8 The Scoping Report identifies the sustainability matters relevant to Herstmonceux and sets out the sustainability objectives for the SA of the Neighbourhood Plan. These objectives build upon the strategic and sustainability objectives within the adopted Wealden Core Strategy 2013 and Sustainability Appraisal and the emerging Wealden Local Plan (and accompanying draft Sustainability Appraisal), expanding upon these to provide

a more local focus on the needs and aspirations of the Herstmonceux community.

1.8 The Scoping Report will be the subject of consultation with a number of agencies and stakeholders. A full list is attached as **Appendix B.** The comments and responses will feed into the draft Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal and may result in further issues being identified.

How to Comment on this Report

19 This Scoping Report is available for comment as part of a 5-week consultation period from 3 August 2016. All comments should be sent to:-

Mrs Janet McInnes
Clerk to the Steering Group
Herstmonceux Parish Council
The Parish Office
4 The Old Forge
Gardner Street
Herstmonceux BN27 4LG

Tel: 01323 833312
nplan@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

2.0 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Neighbourhood Planning

2.1 Neighbourhood planning is a tool that allows communities to decide the future of the places they live and work. The Government states that neighbourhood planning empowers communities to shape the development and growth of a local area through the production of a neighbourhood development plan, a neighbourhood development order or a community right to build order. Neighbourhood plans will enable local people to consider policies on whether there are enough homes in their area, on town centre revitalisation, on the protection of green spaces, and opportunities for regeneration for example[12]. The basis for the new form of local planning is set within the Localism Act 2011 and the NPPF 2012.

The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan

2.2 **Appendix C** shows the boundary of the HPNP. The parish of Herstmonceux is located in the south-eastern area of Wealden District within East Sussex. It is largely situated around the main A271 road which runs between Ninfield and Bexhill in the east and Hailsham in the west. Predominantly rural in nature, the parish contains the settlements of Herstmonceux, Windmill Hill and Cowbeech.

The Policy Framework

2.3 The Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan will need to comply with both national and local planning policies. A review of the key local policy documents and strategies has been undertaken for the HPNP and these are attached as **Appendix D.** The aims and objectives from these policy documents, together with the Sustainability Issues for Herstmonceux (section 3 of this report) have

12 http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/neighbourhoodplanningvanguards/

been used to develop the Neighbourhood Plan sustainability framework set out in chapter 4.

3.0 HERSTMONCEUX – SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

3.1 As part of the Sustainability Appraisal it is necessary to identify the key sustainability issues facing the parish. These have been informed through the following sources:

- A review of the plans and policies produced by Wealden District Council where reference is made to Herstmonceux.
- An analysis of baseline data on Herstmonceux.
- An assessment of feedback from consultation events undertaken by the Parish Council for the neighbourhood plan to date (Draft Plan consultation 2013/14[13]) and the Survey Report March 2016[14].
- The SA produced for the Wealden District Local Plan (Issues and Options) 2015.

Key Messages

3.2 This section considers the key headline information relating to Herstmonceux Parish[15].

Demographics

3.3 The usual resident population of the parish is 2,613 people (1,241 males, 1,372 female). Of these:

- People aged 15 and under (17% of parish population compared to 18% across the District and 19% across England).
- People aged 16 to 64 (58% of parish population compared to 59% across the District and 65% across England).
- People aged 65 and over (24% of parish population compared to 23% across the District and 16% across England).

[13] http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Parish%20HTML/pc_neighbour_plan_responses.html
[14] http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Documents/NeighbourhoodPlan/Survey%20report%20March%202016.pdf
[15] This baseline information has been taken from the pre-submission earlier version of the neighbourhood plan Nov 2013 and the draft SEA 2013. These have been based on the 2011 census. http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/NeighbourhoodPlanning/PPolicy_Neighbourhood_Plans_Preparation.aspx

Housing

3.5 There are 1,188 dwellings located within Herstmonceux Parish:

- 43% of dwellings were Detached (compared to 22.3% England).
- 33% of dwellings were Semi-detached (compared to 31% England).
- 13% of dwellings were Terraced (compared to 25% England).
- 7% of dwellings were flats/apartments (compared to 22% England).

3.6 There are 1,129 households located within Herstmonceux Parish:

- 44% were owner-occupied households, owned outright (compared to 31% England).
- 34% were owned with a mortgage or loan (compared to 33% England).
- 1.1% were shared ownership (compared to 0.8%England).
- 5% were social rented from council (compared to 9% England).
- 3% were social rented other (compared to 8% England).
- 10% were privately rented – by landlord or letting agency (compared to 15% England).

Open Space and Community Facilities

3.7 Relative to its population size, the parish benefits from:

- A range of shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses.
- A Church of England church, a Free Church and a Friends' Meeting House.
- Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School with over 200 pupils on the roll and Herstmonceux Pre-school.
- A Health Centre.
- Fire Station.
- A modern village hall.
- Recreation areas for cricket, bowls, football, tennis, stoolball, multi games area, skateboard park and children's playground.
- Village green.
- Village Information Centre.
- Over 40 local clubs and interest groups for all ages.
- Tourist attractions: Herstmonceux Castle (Bader international Study Centre - part of Queen's University, Canada), Observatory Science

Centre including four original Royal Greenwich Observatory telescopes and Listed Windmill.

- Twinning Association with Varengeville sur mer in Normandy.
- Active Parish Council.
- Local Post Offices at Herstmonceux and Windmill Hill.

Employment and Economy

3.8 Of the 2,613 usual residents of the parish, 1,850 were aged between 16 and 74 and 1,312 (71%) are economically active. Of these:

- 573 were employed full-time (44%).
- 286 were employed part-time (22%).
- 375 were self-employed (29%).
- 32 were unemployed (2%).
- 46 were full-time students (4%).

3.9 Of the 2,613 usual residents 538 (29%) are economically inactive. Of these:

- 326 were retired (61%).
- 70 were students (13%).
- 71 were looking after home or family (13%).
- 49 were long-term sick or disabled (9%).
- 22 were classified as 'other' (4%).

3.10 There is a limited variety of independent retailers and service providers based in the parish, which reflects it small population size. This includes:-

- Two post offices and grocery shops.
- A pharmacy.
- Four pubs, restaurants and catering services.
- Trug makers and cabinet makers.
- Hairdressers and beauty salons.
- Florist and pet supplies.
- Craft shop.
- Antique shop.
- Garden centres/garden services.

- Estate agents, builders and building services.
- Agriculture and orchards and a farm shop.
- Acupuncture and podiatry clinics.
- Regional main car dealership and local car service facilities.
- Agricultural suppliers and engineers.
- Refrigeration services.
- Fishing lakes.
- Cattery.
- Bed and breakfast providers.
- Numerous independent sole traders offering a variety of services.
- Home workers.
- Tourist attractions: Herstmonceux Castle (Bader international Study Centre for approximately 200 students), Science Centre and Listed Windmill.
-

Landscape Character & Ecology

3.11 The northern section of the Parish falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The key components of natural beauty in the High Weald AONB are[16]:-

1. Geology, landform, water systems and climate
   -Sandrock outcrops
   -Gill streams
2. Settlement:
   -Dispersed settlement pattern
   -Historic farmsteads
3. Routeways:
   -Droveways
   -Sunken lanes
4. Woodland:
   -Ancient woodland
   -Archaeological remains

[16] http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/parish-information.html

5. Field and heath:

-Unimproved grassland

-Heathland

-Historic field boundaries

3.12 The southern section falls within the Pevensey Levels RAMSAR site and Site of Special Scientific Interest and Herstmonceux Park, which is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Parish contains no local nature reserves. The Parish contains multiple areas identified by Natural England as Priority Habitats. These are primarily ancient & semi-natural woodland and are subject to Habitat Action Plans.

Infrastructure

3.13 The Wealden Local Plan Strategic Infrastructure background paper 2015[17] refers to capacity issues at the local primary school which is full with limited space to expand. There is also concerns about waste water treatment works issues around Herstmonceux and the availability of fresh/drinking water.

Access and Transport[18]

3.14 10% households had no car or van (compared to 12% across District and 26% across England) and 50% households had 2 or more cars or vans (compared to 48% and 32%). The parish is served six days a week by an hourly bus service (until 7pm) between Hastings and Eastbourne.

Heritage

3.15 Herstmonceux Parish contains a mix of historic landscape types including the flat and open landscape of the Pevensey Levels in the south and rolling farm and woodland of the High Weald, in the north and east. These contain a number of different distinctive character features and heritage asset types often found in patterns that contribute to local distinctiveness.

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17 http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/Delivery_and_Site_Allocations_Local_Plan/PPolicy_WLP_IsseusOptionsRecommendations.aspx

18 Extracts from the Herstmonceux Parish Design Statement 2011.

3.16 Herstmonceux Castle, including its registered historic parkland and estate buildings and the later heritage of its listed science centre provide a unique cluster of heritage assets which provide expansive views across the levels and, in return are prominent features in the landscape.

3.17 The Parish contains a large number of Grade II listed buildings and structures. The distribution of listed buildings across the Wealden area of the Parish suggests a typical pattern of dispersed ‘woodland’ settlement of small hamlets and farmsteads often surrounding small greens. Many of the listed buildings are 17th or early 18th century (or older) cottages and farmhouses, or associated farm buildings providing a strong character based on the typical vernacular architecture and materials of the region. There is no Conservation Area designated in the parish.

The Sustainability Issues for Herstmonceux

3.18 The sustainability issues are set out under the headings of economic, environmental and social and provided as a SWOC (**S**trength, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, **C**hallenges) table – see below.

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
• Good local community identity and spirit with many active societies • Village of Herstmonceux set within a rural location. • Good footpath and bridleway links to open countryside. • Considered to be a safe village and Parish. • A good number of heritage assets. • Healthy population. • A good supply of shops and enterprises bearing in mind the population size of the Parish. • Reasonable proximity to major centres of employment but primarily by car. • High quality surrounding landscape. • Reasonably high skilled and qualified workforce. • Village hall and new health centre facilities. • Internationally renowned heritage and tourism offer with Herstmonceux Castle.	• Limited opportunities for brownfield development or sites coming forward within built up area boundary. • Over-reliance on the car for transport. • Cost of housing is high. • Poor traffic management through Herstmonceux village centre. • Inadequate bus services connecting to major employment centres, surrounding villages and shops. • Poor access to superfast broadband services. • To use the Plan to achieve non-land use planning goals like better traffic management and an improved public transport network.
Opportunities	**Challenges**
• Improve provision and value of open space. • Consider options for improving biodiversity to include improving the connectivity, quantity and quality of habitat, particularly the wetland habitat. within the Parish. • Provide safe opportunities to walk and cycle.	• Traffic issues in the village centre is a priority • Housing development should make adequate parking provision • To locate sites that support small scale housing schemes whilst protecting the countryside and protected areas. • Capacity at the local primary school. • Concerns with the waste water treatment works regarding capacity.

• To shape and control future planning decisions by refining District-wide policies to suit the parish's own circumstances • To secure planning-related funding to invest in supporting infrastructure. • To maximise the benefits of new housing in the parish to meet both local affordable needs and the demands in the open market for specific housing types and tenures. • To identify viable community assets to protect from inappropriate development proposals. • To provide and improve facilities for young people, older people and people with disabilities.	

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK - OBJECTIVES

4.1 In order to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal process, it is necessary to identify sustainability objectives and indicators (by which to measure these objectives) to enable an assessment to be made of the emerging options of the Neighbourhood Plan. The sustainability objectives and indicators combined are known as the Sustainability Framework.

4.2 The objectives and policies within the adopted Core Strategy 2013 and Sustainability Appraisal 2013 and the emerging Wealden Local Plan (Issues and Options 2015) and Sustainability Appraisal (Consultation draft 2015) have been considered.

4.3 The primary aim of the sustainability framework is to assess all realistic and relevant options for the Neighbourhood Plan in order to determine which option is the most sustainable, given alternatives. The sustainability indicators have also been developed to provide a mechanism to measure how the Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, is contributing towards sustainable development.

4.4 The proposed sustainability objectives and associated indicators (framework) for the Sustainability Appraisal of the HPNP are set out below.

Themes and Objectives

SA Objective	Potential Indicators	
1. Use of previously developed land - make the most efficient use of land by prioritising brownfield sites for development, the re-use of existing buildings and promoting higher development densities.	• The percentage of dwellings on brownfield sites.	**Environmental**
2. Biodiversity – conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Parish.	• Hectares of land with biodiversity interest affected by development.	**Environmental**

	• Impact on Pevensey Levels RAMSAR site.	
3. Countryside and Heritage - conserve, enhance especially the best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, and the historic and built environment.	• Development of Land in lower landscape sensitivity areas. • Existing green infrastructure & rights of way protected or enhanced. • Hectares of development on high quality agricultural land. • Hectares of development affecting the setting of designated heritage and natural assets.	**Environmental**
4. To provide high quality housing in sustainable locations and to bring forward affordable housing to meet the needs of existing and future residents.	• Affordable housing completions.	**Social**
5. To ensure everyone has access to community facilities including facilities for the elderly, education, childcare, leisure and recreation facilities and public open spaces.	• Number of schemes Resulting in improved or losses to community facilities, sport, recreation or open space.	**Social**
6. To retain the availability of opportunities for local employment. To maintain and improve the local retail and tourism offer across the Parish.	• Amount of new Employment floor space. • Amount of new retail floor space created.	**Economic**

5.0 NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 This document sets out the baseline information for Herstmonceux, the current issues facing the parish and the sustainability objectives that the Neighbourhood Plan should strive to achieve.

5.2 Herstmonceux Parish Council welcomes views and feedback on the scoping report and a copy has been sent to all organisations outlined in **Appendix A.** It is also available on the Parish Council website at: http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/Parish%20HTML/pc_neighbourhood_plan.html

5.3 The proposed timetable for developing and producing the Neighbourhood Plan and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal will be confirmed but it is expected to be ready for publication in draft in late 2016.

5.4 Comments made on this Scoping Report will be taken into account when preparing the final SA on which to test the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and options contained within. Where necessary, further assessment of the options will be undertaken, along with any updating of baseline data, plans and policies.

5.5 A Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and these will both be subject to an Examination.

Appendix B

ASK FOR: [redacted]
DATE: 28th June 2016
YOUR REF: Draft Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan

Wealden District Council

Mrs Janet McInnes
Herstmonceux Parish Council
4 The Old Forge
Gardner Street
Herstmonceux
BN27 4LG

Nigel Hannam
Director of Planning Policy and Economic Development

Dear Mrs McInnes,

Re: Determination under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

I am writing with regards to the Draft Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and the recent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion which was undertaken by Wealden District Council. Wealden District Council prepared an SEA Screening Opinion for the Draft Herstmonceux NDP and consulted on this with the statutory bodies; the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

The preparation of, and consultation on, the Screening Opinion was undertaken to meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, specifically Regulation 4(1); Regulation 9(2) and Regulation 11(1) and 11(2).

Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency have considered the Screening Opinion and have responded that, based on the information provided, the Draft Herstmonceux NDP does not require assessment under the Habitats Directive to be undertaken nor does it require an SEA.

In accordance with the Screening Opinion and the resulting consultation responses it is the conclusion of Wealden District Council, under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 that it is unlikely for significant environmental effects to arise as a result of the scope and policies of the Draft Herstmonceux NDP. As such, the Draft Herstmonceux NDP does not require an SEA to be undertaken.

However, it is important to remember that this determination is a 'snapshot in time' and that if the scope and/or policies contained in the outline of the Draft NDP should change, then a new screening process will need to be undertaken to determine whether an SEA will

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KEY POLICY DOCUMENTS AND STRATEGIES

Name of Document	Summary	How it relates to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)
National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012	This document sets out the Governments planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework for District and Neighbourhood Plans.	HPNP will need to pay particular regard to this national Planning Framework.
Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy 2011	This document was statutorily adopted in 2013. It defines built up area boundaries and a number of key policies.	As the adopted Local Plan for Wealden, policies will need to be taken into account in the HPNP.
The Wealden Local Plan - Issues, Options and Recommendations 2015	The Issues, Options and Recommendations is the first stage of the preparation for our new Wealden Local Plan.	As work on the new Local Plan progresses, the background studies and the emerging policies will need to be taken into account in the HPNP.
The Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan 2016	This document is the Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan, which reviews the Wealden District (Incorporating the South Downs National Park) Core Strategy Local Plan Policy WCS8 concerning affordable housing. This Local Plan is limited to affordable housing provision and the adopted Core Strategy Policy WCS8 concerning affordable housing,	Should the HPNP seek to allocate sites for housing, this document will need to be taken into account.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2008	The objective of the Level 1 SFRA are to collate and review available information on flood risk for the study area. The aim of Level 2 study is to provide	Any key conclusions to the study that relate to the Parish of Herstmonceux

	supplementary information to the Level 1 SFRA on specific tidal flood risk issues. This supplementary information will be used to determine the suitability of key development areas in areas of flood risk.	will need to be taken into account in HPNP.
Strategic Framework for Tourism in Wealden 2010	It shows how tourism can make the best possible contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wealden. It sets out the strategic principles, programmes and actions for the tourism sector for the next five years to 2015.	Although a little out of date, this Framework will assist with outlining priorities for tourism and economic development for Wealden and will need to be taken into account within the HPNP. Tourism is an important part of the Herstmonceux's offer.
The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).	The SHELAA is an essential piece of evidence which is required to support the Local Plan process. It is a technical assessment which considers the availability, suitability and achievability of land in the District for possible development	This is an ongoing piece of work and a call for sites is currently underway (July 2016). This work will inform any decisions on sites for Herstmonceux.
Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment 2014	The main purpose of the study is to contribute to the Councils Local Plan evidence base and help underpin decisions on how best development could be accommodated, having regard to the landscapes within the District, for the plan period. The assessment will also help to develop landscape management and protection policies within the Local Plan	The landscape setting section on Herstmonceux will need to be taken into account in the HPNP.
High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Identifies the important features of the AONB and sets out guidance and objectives on the ways in	As the parish is partly located within the AONB, HPNP will need to take full account of the aims of AONB

(AONB) Management Plan, 2014	which these features can be protected, restored and enhanced	designation and the land and countryside management issues in this document.
Register of Listed Buildings	Lists and describes the buildings included in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest	The NP will take account of the need to protect and conserve this asset.
Biodiversity Action Plan for Sussex	Focuses resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Sussex by means of local partnerships, taking account of national and local priorities	HPNP will need to take account of nature conservation and biodiversity issues.
Weald Ancient Woodland Inventory 2006	The Weald Ancient Woodland Survey was set up in recognition of the increasingly important role of ancient woodlands and the deficiencies of the existing ancient woodland inventories.	This is a comprehensive summary of the ancient woodland matters that the Np will need to take into account.
Rural Community Profile – Herstmonceux Parish Council 2012	This profile brings together quantitative data for the area, to help decide which actions and activities to prioritise locally. Each of the sections shows data for Herstmonceux, comparing with other areas (local authority and national averages), and with trends over time where data is available.	This provides useful background information on Herstmonceux.
Herstmonceux Parish Survey Report 2013	This was undertaken by the NP steering Group.	This provides useful back ground information on Herstmonceux.
Herstmonceux State of the Parish Report 2013	This was undertaken by the NP steering Group	This provides useful back ground information on Herstmonceux.

Appendix C

List of Consultees for Scoping Report

Statutory Consultees

Natural England

Environment Agency

Historic England

Other Consultees

Wealden District Council

East Sussex County Council

District and County Councillors for Herstmonceux

Southern Water

High Weald AONB Unit