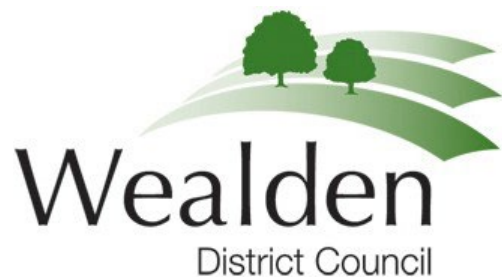


WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Consultation Response Form

Consultation Period
8 January 2024 – 26 February 2024



Introduction

Wealden District Council is publishing the East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan for consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The purpose of this consultation response form is for you to make your comments on the draft East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan.

Under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), we are required to undertake a minimum six-week consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be the last opportunity to comment on the plan before it is submitted for independent examination. The consultation on the East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan is open between **9am on Monday 8 January 2024 and 5pm on Monday 26 February 2024**.

The documents submitted by East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council include:

- East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan. Submission Version (Regulation 15) Version 19 (26 August 2023).
- East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan Character Appraisal. Version 6 (20 August 2023).
- East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal. Version 4 (26 August 2023).
- East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement. Version 6 (24 November 2023).
- East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement. Version 4 (24 November 2023).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Regulation 14) (February 2022).
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Regulation 14) (February 2022).

Viewing the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting documents are available to view on the following website;

<https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse>

Printed copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- East Hoathly Village Stores, 2 High Street, East Hoathly, BN8 6EB. Open Monday to Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am- 1pm.
- Kings Head, 1 High Street, East Hoathly, BN8 6DR. Open Monday 5pm-9pm, Tuesday to Saturday 12am-10pm, Sunday 12am-9pm.

- Muffins Café, 9 High Street, East Hoathly, BN8 6DR. Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm.
- Staverton Nursery, Eastbourne Road, Halland, BN8 6PU. Open Monday to Saturday 8am to 5.30pm.
- The Blacksmiths Arms, Lewes Road, Halland, BN8 6PN. Open Monday to Saturday 12am to 9.30pm, Sunday 12am to 7pm.
- Wealden District Council, Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm, Wednesday 9am -5pm.

How to Comment on the Neighbourhood Plan

- By post: print and complete this form and send it to Planning Policy, Wealden District Council, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX
- By email: complete this form and send it to Nplans@wealden.gov.uk

You can make comments on any of the information submitted for the consultation. Please make it clear which document you are commenting upon alongside the paragraph/page number. Your comments should address whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions. These are outlined in the Regulation 16 Guidance Notes.

Queries

If you have any queries relating to the consultation or submitting your comments, please contact the Planning Policy Team on (01892 602008) or email Nplans@wealden.gov.uk. If you or somebody you know, would like this form in large print, braille, audio tape/CD or in another language, please let us know.

1. Personal Details

For your comments to be considered, you must at least provide your name and address (this can be an email address). Representations cannot be treated in confidence and copies of all representations, along with your name or organisation, will be made publicly available on the Council's website (in due course) and sent to the Examiner. However, the Council will not publish your personal contact information such as telephone numbers, email or private addresses. By submitting your views on the East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan, you confirm your consent to the above and that you accept full responsibility for your comments.

Personal Details	Answer
Title	Mr
First Name	Michael
Last Name	Priaulx
Job Title and Organisation (if relevant)	
Address	
Postcode	
Contact telephone number	
Email address	
Interest in the area (for example are you a resident, business owner or do you work in the proposed neighbourhood area)	

2. Comments on the Neighbourhood Plan

Please use the space below to tell us your comments on the Neighbourhood Plan and / or supporting documents. It would be helpful if you can provide reasons and evidence for your comments. Please use additional sheets if necessary.

We support Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version EHHNP Policy 6 - Natural Environment (page 108) but it is not currently sound or effective due to a lack of reference to national policy regarding ecology which does not fall within the Biodiversity Net Gain metric, e.g. all building-based biodiversity such as bats, swifts, house sparrows and house martins. National Planning Policy Guidance NPPG Natural Environment 2019 paragraph 023 highlights the value to wildlife of swift bricks, bat boxes and hedgehog highways.

In summary, as a minimum, please add: "Swift bricks, bat boxes and hedgehog highways to be included in new developments, in accordance with best practice guidance."

Please also add: "Swift bricks to be installed in new developments including suitable extensions, in accordance with best-practice guidance such as BS 42021 or CIEEM which require at least one swift brick per home on average for each development", and

"Existing nest sites for building-dependent species such as swifts and house martins should be protected, as these endangered red-listed species which are present but declining in East Sussex return annually to traditional nest sites. Mitigation should be provided if these nest sites cannot be protected."

In more detail, the reason for this is that bird boxes/ bricks and other species features, plus existing nest sites, are excluded from the Biodiversity Net Gain metric, so require their own clear policy. However, if these features are installed in unsuitable locations or insufficient numbers they will not be effective.

Swift bricks are the only type of bird box specifically mentioned as valuable to wildlife in national planning guidance, along with bat boxes and hedgehog highways (NPPG Natural Environment 2019 paragraph 023).

Swift bricks are considered a universal nest brick suitable for a wide range of small bird species including swifts, house sparrows and starlings (e.g. see NHBC Foundation: Biodiversity in New Housing Developments (April 2021) Section 8.1 Nest sites for birds, page 42: https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/S067-NF89-Biodiversity-in-new-housing-developments_FINAL.pdf).

Swift bricks are significantly more beneficial than external bird boxes as they are a permanent feature of the building, have zero maintenance requirements, are aesthetically integrated with the design of the building, and have improved thermal regulation with future climate change in mind. Therefore, swift bricks should be included in all developments following best-practice guidance (which is available in BS 42021:2022 and from CIEEM: <https://cieem.net/resource/the-swift-a-bird-you-need-to-help/>)).

Many other Local Authorities are including detailed swift brick requirements in their Local Plan, such as the Wiltshire Local Plan Regulation 19 stage, which requires an enhanced number of 2 swift bricks per dwelling (policy 88: Biodiversity in the built environment, page 246 - "As a minimum, the following are required within new proposals: 1. integrate integral bird nest bricks (e.g., swift bricks) at a minimum of two per dwelling;" <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19>), so this enhanced level should also be considered.

The protection of existing nest sites is a vital part of the conservation of building-dependent species which return to traditional nest sites.

3. Examination Participation (please tick if appropriate)

☐

I would like to attend the examination in public, should it be deemed necessary by the appointed examiner.

4. Notification of Adoption (please tick if appropriate)

☒

I would like to be notified of the local planning authority's decision on the adoption of the East Hoathly with Halland Neighbourhood Plan (under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended))

Data Protection Statement

Wealden District Council is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and will only use and store your personal data in line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2021 and Data Protection Act 2018. We are required to collect and hold your personal information as part of the consultation process in formulating the Neighbourhood Plan. All comments will be publicly available and identifiable by name and (where applicable) organisation. We will not disclose your personal data to any third parties, unless we need to do so to provide a service to you or we are legally required to do so. We may share your personal data with other Council departments in order to provide the service you have requested.

Our Privacy Policy sets out how we collect, use and securely hold your data and can be viewed at: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/transparency-spending-and-performance/data-protection/privacy-policy/> and our planning policy privacy notice at: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/transparency-spending-and-performance/data-protection/privacy-policy/>

Signature	Michael Priaulx	26/02/24
		Date

Please print name if submitting electronically