

HORTON & WRAYSBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SUMMARY VERSION OUTLINING THE KEY POINTS

OUR OVERARCHING VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

To retain and enhance the rural and semi-rural atmosphere of our historic villages, while seeking to deliver sustainable growth within development constraints, keeping it an attractive and safe place for people to live and work, supported by a range of local services.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Our Neighbourhood Plan area has a significant percentage of land that is within the Green Belt and the Flood Plain. We are restricted therefore in being able to develop in any meaningful way to satisfy an increase in population in our ward. The emerging Borough Local Plan is allocating only one new housing proposal within our two parishes, which is in Horton.

There maybe pockets of land, on dry islands with a recognised escape route, that could be developed. But the most common form of building taken place over the past few years has been redevelopments of properties and domestic extensions—and this is the most likely form of future development.

The community has expressed strong views and desire to retain the character of the area, with any building being appropriate to its surroundings and also to protect our green, leafy environment. Our policies have been designed to respond to these demands.

OBJECTIVES & ASPIRATIONS

A series of Objectives linked to the Vision and derived from consultation and research, which identified key issues, are now defined for each of the Neighbourhood Plan themes and relate to its Policies and actions. These Objectives are designed to achieve the Vision and to address the issues raised by the community. The Policies have been developed for each of the following objectives and can be viewed in full along with other documents on the NPlan website - at www.hwnp.co.uk.

LAND USE OBJECTIVES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & WATER MANAGEMENT

- ◆ To ensure the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- ◆ To minimise the risk and impact of flooding whilst supporting flood alleviation measures.

HOUSING

- ◆ To determine the scale, design and type of new housing to ensure that it fits with the character of local areas while recognising the environmental constraints and meeting local housing needs.
- ◆ To ensure that residential development, including redevelopments and extensions reflect the character of the immediate area and are not over-dominant.
- ◆ To ensure any multiple housing development includes a mix of housing types to meet local housing needs, especially smaller properties.
- ◆ To support development of brownfield land no longer viable for commercial use for residential homes.

THE POLICIES for housing development give guidance on delivering high quality design that responds to its surroundings and is appropriate for the area. There is criteria for footprint, scale, bulk and separation, including a set-in minimum for side boundaries to avoid a terracing effect. Multiple housing developments will need a supply of smaller homes — at least 20% where five or more are planned.

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BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ To protect and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets.
- ◆ To retain the rural and semi-rural appearance of our villages.
- ◆ To conserve our important non-designated buildings identified as of community value.

OUR POLICIES are to safeguard the existing heritage and community assets and to support appropriate development that enhances these facilities.

OPEN ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ To protect the existing quality of landscape and encourage local biodiversity value.
- ◆ To maintain and enhance Local Green Spaces including a designated footpath network.

OUR POLICIES would expect any development to conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape and to protect and enhance landscape features such as existing trees and hedgerows. Footpaths are an important part of our area for recreation and will be protected and we will seek further routes through such initiatives as the River Thames Scheme and by negotiations with private landowners. Also protection will be given to our valued ecological networks.

The Plan designates several open areas as Local Green Spaces and identifies footpaths—details can be found in the full document.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- ◆ To seek to protect small and medium size businesses, including our village shops and facilities, something which is commended in national planning guidance.

THE POLICIES will support local businesses in their development and seek to protect against loss of our facilities.

NON-LAND USE OBJECTIVES

During the preparation of the Plan, a number of aspirations were identified by the community for the improvement of our area. These are now documented in the Plan as 'Projects' which, although they do not carry planning weight, are included to provide a focus for community action. It is proposed that these projects be driven forward by the Parish Councils, action groups and other stakeholders to deliver the stated objectives.

TRANSPORT & MOVEMENT

- ◆ To properly maintain our existing network of footways and investigate safe cycle routes
- ◆ To address traffic, parking and associated environmental problems in the villages.
- ◆ To retain and strengthen existing bus and rail services thereby encouraging the use of public transport.

KEY FACILITIES

- ◆ To maintain easy access to medical and pharmacy facilities within the neighbourhood for all age groups and to support community facilities for the wellbeing of our residents.

* To ensure adequate educational facilities including nursery provision and multiple options for secondary schooling.