



Meeting 9th January

The NHPlan Clerk & Steering Group member Tiena Currell met with HDC's new Neighbourhood Plan Officer Norman Kwan & Catherine Howe (HDC Planning). The meeting was to review progress to date and discuss future support from HDC (in light of the issues raised with the Henfield Neighbourhood Plan).

To date only ONE Neighbourhood Plan has been formally adopted in the Horsham District. Others, including Ashington, are at various stages of completion. Some Parishes have not started yet.

HDC had previously adopted a 'light touch' approach to support for Parishes but the Henfield situation has caused a re-think and HDC are now offering to get more involved. A revised 'offer of support' will be made available to Parishes on the HDC website. The NHPlan Clerk will keep an eye out for this. There is pressure on HDC to see Neighbourhood Plans delivered, therefore they are planning on giving more support to parishes.

The Neighbourhood Plan Officer at HDC will review the work done to date by the Neighbourhood Plan team. On the face of it the work looks good but it will be studied in detail and feedback given.

There is a new methodology for calculating Housing Need and HDC will send this to the NHPlan Clerk. The Ashington Housing Needs Survey of 2012 is out of date and should not be used as evidence in the Neighbourhood Plan. The new methodology is complicated and technical and may require the services of a Planning Consultant to prepare. There may be questions that need to be asked of residents so the NHPlan Clerk will delay the Detailed Questionnaire until she can assess whether questions need to be added regarding Housing Need.

Once Housing Need is known then both HDC and WSCC will need to be consulted with regard to housing numbers, school places, impact on infrastructure, e.g. highways, as these may limit the amount of housing need that can actually be delivered without unacceptable impacts on infrastructure. The Neighbourhood Plan is not the correct means of delivering infrastructure such as new schools - this would be done by HDC through its strategic review of the HDPF.

Once the Housing Need is known then a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) can be prepared. These may also need to be done by a Planning Consultant. Shermanbury have a good example of a SA/SEA.

With regard to the Site Assessment work done to date there will be an opportunity to review it at the meeting that HDC has arranged for 25th January (1.30-5pm). HDC are preparing a template site assessment form for Parishes to use but it is possible that the form created by the NHPlan Clerk (Parts 1 and 2) will cover everything. If anything is missing then it can be added to the Part 2 assessment form that has not yet been sent to developers.

The criteria for rejecting sites after Part 1 assessment were agreed by HDC as they simply follow the HDPF policies. Part 2 assessment should be delayed until after the

meeting on 25th January. The NHPlan Clerk can send out Part 1 rejections after 25th. The NHPlan Clerk will send HDC a map of all sites submitted (numbered) and Part 1 site assessment 'results' for review.

All sites passing through to Part 2 assessment should present detailed proposals to residents. This will include what they are proposing to build and any community benefits that they will deliver (taken from the State of the Parish report). Residents should express site preferences and a priority given to each site. Housing Need should then be tied together with residents preferences.

The issue of how long the Plan is taking was discussed and reassurance was given by HDC that it is a time consuming process but that it is important to get all necessary information gathered, the correct processes done and not risk making omissions/errors.

Karen Dare
18 January 2017