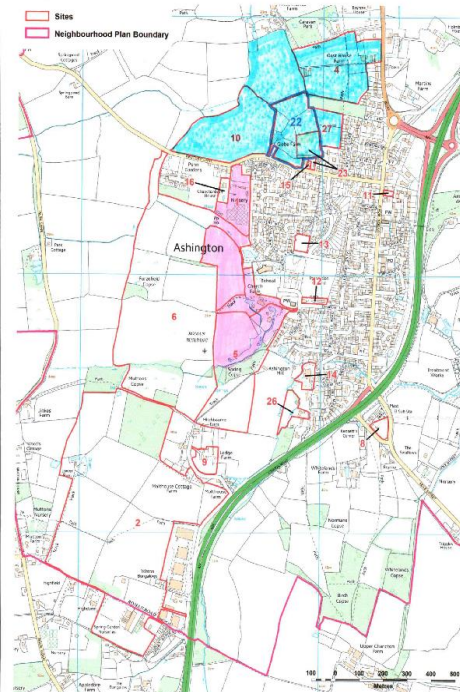


ASHINGTON PARISH Neighbourhood Plan



The Public Meeting scheduled for 20th March is cancelled due to Government advice...

Briefing Note for Residents on HDC Local Plan Review documents:



Neighbourhood Plan sites - @225 homes

@75 accessed off Rectory Lane, @150 accessed off Church Lane

Number determined from official 'Housing Needs Study' as appropriate for a village the size of Ashington

No objections from Statutory Authorities and only one restriction (regarding heritage)

Plans to deliver infrastructure & community benefits that residents need/want following years of consultation.

HDC Sites @400 homes

@75 accessed off Billingshurst Road, @325 accessed off Rectory Lane

OR all accessed off Billingshurst Road if 'relief road' is built through all sites
OR access is combination of Rectory Lane and Billingshurst Road

No planning basis for this number – disproportionate 40% increase on a village with moderate services & facilities, significantly more than other villages
No retail proposed, No jobs proposed, no plans to improve bus services
Footpath links to the village centre will be improved but are only a benefit to residents living on the new developments..

No consultation nor actual plans regarding infrastructure to serve the Development or any wider community benefits.

Main issues:

Employment – where do you work? Out of the village? The nearest new employment sites proposed by HDC are 5-10+ miles away. The proposed new homes are not to serve existing or new employment sites in Ashington. Ashington is already a commuter village.

Services & Facilities – Ashington has a 'moderate' level of services & facilities. No Healthcare (despite HDC thinking we have). High numbers of new homes will overburden existing provision.

What will parking at the Co-op be like with 600 new homes? Residents are reliant on Storrington/Steining as 'hubs' – no assessment of impact of 600 homes on them has been done...Where do you go to access services & facilities?

Sustainable transport – residents in Ashington are very reliant on the private car to access jobs, shops, services, Healthcare etc. Nearest railway station is >7 miles, bus services are limited/infrequent and north-south only. Few walking/cycling options exist and too far away to be realistic. How do you travel around?

School – simply not big enough for HDC proposed +400 homes, Neighbourhood Plan 225 homes had no objection from WSCC Education. HDC sites are distant from school meaning high use of private car – parking/safety issues?

Neighbourhood Plan – HDC's sites rejected by the Neighbourhood Plan as less sustainable than sites chosen, HDC's numbers based on no evidence, proposals undermine the Neighbourhood Plan that the community has contributed to.

To make the proposals acceptable: more local jobs, improve services/facilities (bigger/new school, more community facilities, Health Centre), better public transport BUT here's a quote from an HDC document: 'a development of this scale is also likely to significantly increase pressure on existing services and facilities but may not be of such a scale to provide significant upgrades to current services or provide new facilities or road upgrades' (Site SA693, @600 homes, Henfield, rejected by HDC). This statement will equally apply to Ashington.

To respond to the HDC Consultation you must first Register:

<https://strategicplanning.horsham.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/register>

You can then View and Comment:

<https://strategicplanning.horsham.gov.uk/consult.ti/LocalPlanReview/consultationHome>

There is a Guidance Note on how to complete online returns:

https://strategicplanning.horsham.gov.uk/gf2.ti/f/950722/64217157.1/PDF/-/Guidance_Note_of_How_to_Comment_Using_Online_Consultation.pdf

Key Sections you should look at:

Chapter 3 Spatial Strategy – Reg 18 plan fails to achieve the Vision because no jobs, no evidence/likelihood of improvements to facilities/services, no sustainable transport options, no detailed Infrastructure Delivery Plan for Ashington

Chapter 5 Economic Development – 63% increase in homes in Ashington is strategic in scale but no employment is proposed. Will simply lead to a larger commuter village, lack of sustainable transport options.

Chapter 6 Housing Numbers – no evidence of engagement with Ashington over increased numbers of homes, disproportionate in scale for Medium Village with limited facilities. No plans to improve services & facilities eg school.

Chapter 10 Infrastructure, Transport & Healthy Communities – poor existing infrastructure and no plans to improve it, poor transport links and no plans to improve them, no healthcare facilities and no plans to add them, little consideration given to, and no community consultation, on new community facilities.

Fundamentally - How can development in Ashington be classed as sustainable when residents will be almost wholly reliant upon use of the private car for anything but their day to day needs and even then, our village shops & facilities may be unable to cope. How is this achieving Low Carbon objectives?

Residents MUST submit comments to HDC by 30th March 2020 – no comments after this date will be considered.

If you have any questions before 30th March then please contact the Parish Clerk:

clerk@ashingtonpc.org.uk, 07851 009655 or contact us on Facebook (Ashington Parish Council).

We will be posting all important village news, updates etc on our Facebook page: Ashington Parish Council. Please Follow Us to keep up to date and share information with your friends & neighbours.