

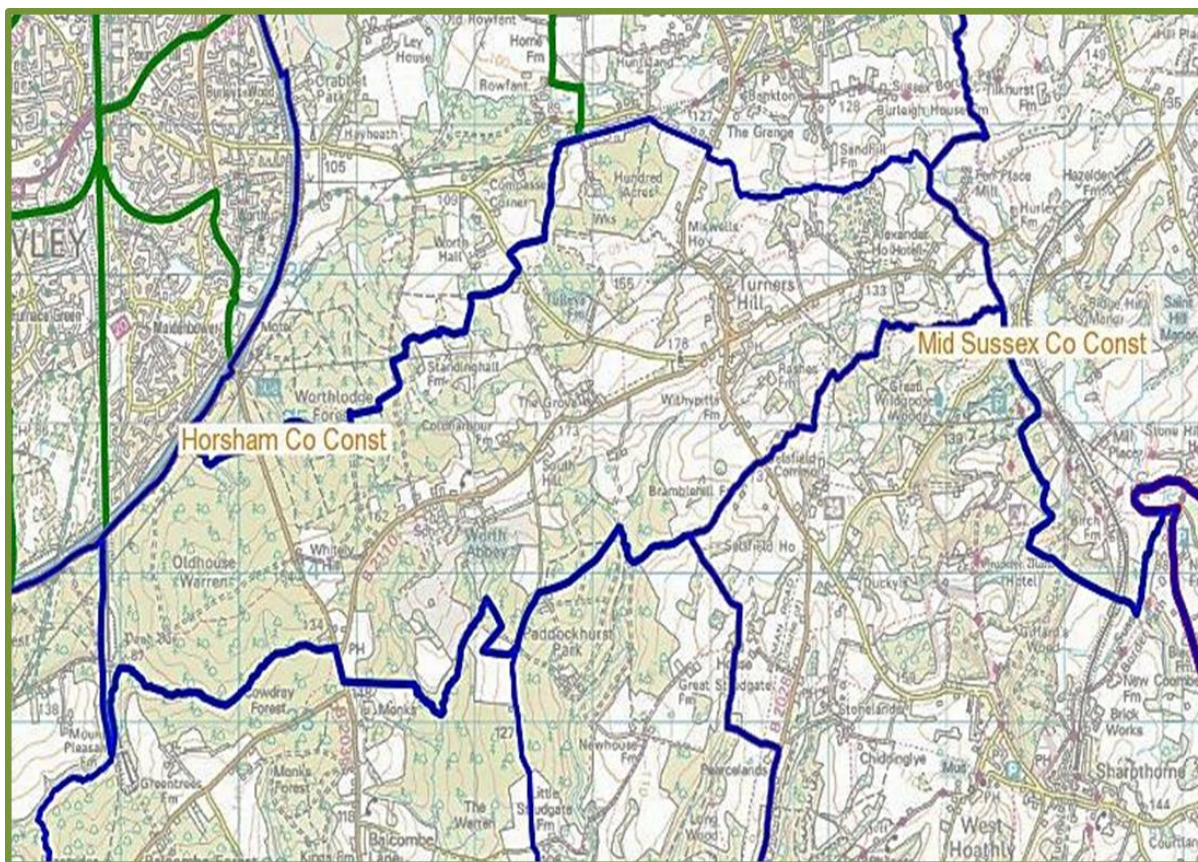
# **TURNERS HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**2014 – 2034**

## **Sustainability Report: Non-Technical Summary**



Turners Hill Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The whole of the parish area has been designated a Neighbourhood Area for this purpose by Mid Sussex District Council, the Local Planning Authority covering Turners Hill.



A Sustainability Appraisal, as defined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, aims to predict and assess the social, environmental and economic effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of plans or programmes, in order to ensure that the strategies, policies and plans within these contribute to and promote sustainable development. Although not a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, an Appraisal provides a means of demonstrating the Plan will promote sustainable development.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment, as defined by European Directive 2001/42, aims to predict and assess the environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans, policies and strategies. It is a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes. In which case, Neighbourhood Plans may be required to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion published by Mid Sussex District Council in May 2013 requires all Plans in its area that are intending to allocate land for housing or employment use to undertake an Strategic Environmental Assessment.

In the UK, the Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Therefore where this report refers to the Sustainability Appraisal, it can be assumed this also means the Strategic Environmental Assessment. It therefore aims to predict the effects of the policies and proposals of the Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan and has been used to inform its production to ensure that the policies promote sustainable development.

## **The Sustainability Appraisal Report**

The Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for how Turners Hill parish will evolve and a delivery plan for how that will be achieved. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period from 2014 to 2034. It is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the District Plan and with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Sustainability Appraisal follows a repetitive process, providing a view of the likely implications on sustainable development of different options for policy areas in the Plan as well as the overall Plan strategy. The findings of this work have been taken into consideration in determining the content of the Neighbourhood Plan and are documented within the Sustainability Report.

The Sustainability Appraisal process has widened the range of issues and options considered in formulating the proposals for the Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan, in particular by focussing attention on the need to consider a range of potential environmental, social, and economic effects. In turn, this has enabled the most sustainable policy approaches to be identified for inclusion within the Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Sustainability Objectives**

Sustainability Objectives have been chosen to represent the economic, environmental and social issues facing the Parish – enabling the assessment to show whether policies would result in balanced, ‘sustainable’ development, or would favour one of these three themes over another.

There are 15 Sustainability Objectives for Turners Hill Parish Neighbourhood Plan:

- 1 To preserve and protect the countryside and open spaces of Turners Hill parish whilst ensuring any changes benefit the community as a whole.
- 2 To retain the distinctiveness of the village and settlements and the gaps between them whilst encouraging some growth which addresses the deficit dwelling stock (young families, single people, older people) and complements their surroundings.
- 3 To protect the outstanding landscape setting of the village through the reuse of previously developed land and buildings where appropriate, including reuse of materials.
- 4 To ensure all NEW homes are built to high standards of design, construction and resource efficiency, and homes in countryside and conservation areas are of outstanding design.

5 To increase resource efficiency of buildings, and the proportion of energy generated and used from renewable sources in the parish, and to use sustainably produced and local products where possible in new development.

6 To substantially reduce the impact on residents' lives of the volume, speed and weight of traffic within the parish and to improve pedestrian safety

- Implementation of a traffic scheme to provide a village centre with 20mph speed limit
- Reduced through traffic
- Walking and cycling routes to service centres and between parish settlements
- Adequate parking spaces in village areas

7 To protect the historic environment of the parish, and to enhance the village streetscape and local distinctiveness.

8 To encourage the community to shop locally and utilise local business.

9 Facilitate employment opportunities in the parish (local businesses, working from home, self-employment).

10 To make the parish an attractive place for businesses and to protect and support local businesses providing essential service offerings for the local community including the development of a sustainable visitor and tourism sector.

11 To ensure that the community has adequate access to the key services it needs, including health facilities, convenience shops, and schools

12 To ensure a cohesive and safe village community which has a high quality and healthy lifestyle

13 To ensure a supply of homes consistent with the parish identified housing needs and to meet the local social objectives of homes suitable for younger families, single people and older people.

14 To have an efficient, quick and co-ordinated public transport service that meets the needs of residents and visitors – in particular -

- commuters to link with major travel hubs
- ability to access health services
- other social, domestic and pleasure purposes
- people visiting the parish

15 To sustain and enhance the diverse selection of clubs/societies/sports/worship for all age groups.

## **Methodology**

A Scoping Report was prepared in 2012 containing a summary of what we already know about Turners Hill. Feedback from the Environment Agency and MSDC was received and as a result modifications were made.

Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Plan Policies and allocated sites was carried out in mid-2014. After consultation on the Draft Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan and Draft Sustainability Report the policies were revised.

Each policy or identified site was appraised against each Sustainability Objective and scored according to its impact on the Objective: significantly negative; negative; neutral; positive; significantly positive, or whether the impact is not known. The Neighbourhood Plan contains the outcome of this assessment.

### SUMMARY TABLE OF POLICY OPTIONS - SUSTAINABLE APPRAISALS

Policy number	1 /ENV Countryside Protection	2 /ENV Village Identity	3 /ENV Landscape & land use	4 /ENV New homes design	5 / ENV Energy Efficiency	6 /ENV Traffic Issues	7 /ENV Historic environment	8 /ECON Use of Local Business	9 /ECON Local Employment	10 /ECON Business development	11 /SOC Access to Key services	12 /SOC Health & Safety	13 / SOC Supply of Homes	14 /SOC Public Transport	15 /SOC Community Activity
1	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	+
1	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	+
2	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	+
3	0	+	0	++	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	-?	0	+
4	+	+	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
5	++	++	+	0	0	++	0	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	+
6	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
7	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	+	++	++	++	+	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	0	0
9	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+
10	++	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0
11	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
12	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0
13	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+
14	++	0	+	++	++	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	++	++	0	0	++	+	+	0	+	+	++	0	-?	+
16	0	+	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	0	+
17	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+
18	-?	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
19	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	++

### Habitat Regulations Assessment

Mid Sussex District Council has undertaken a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to test whether the Mid Sussex District Plan, in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Ashdown Forest. The HRA identified a 7km 'zone of influence' within which new housing developments must counter its effect by putting in place measures which reduce



visitor pressure. The Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan area is mainly within the 7km zone of influence, and therefore new residential development proposed in the Plan must have due regard to the Habitats Regulations.

## **Sustainability Framework**

The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan were compared against the Sustainability Objectives and this showed that the Plan does not conflict with the aims of Sustainable Development. Some issues are not covered by the Plan, such as climate change, flooding, and waste disposal as these are outside the scope or influence of the Parish. Policies of the National Planning Policy Framework, and adopted policies at County and District level will ensure development fulfils all Turners Hill Parish's Sustainability Objectives.

## **Recommendations of Sustainability Appraisal**

The Sustainability Appraisal concluded that implementation of the Plan policies will not have a negative impact on the sustainability objectives of the Parish. The implementation of the Plan will contribute to the objectives of sustainable development within the Parish.

It is recommended that to avoid negative impacts, development applications should be considered in the light of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole; taking into consideration the policies of the National Planning Policy Framework and the District Plan in place at the time, where issues are not covered directly by policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Development within Turners Hill will be monitored, and if development is shown to be falling short of the Sustainability Objectives set, some policies may be amended or new policies created to mitigate any negative effects. The Sustainability Report contains Sustainability Indicators to measure the success of the Sustainability Objectives.

## **Next Steps**

The Submission Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan will be examined by an independent inspector who Turners Hill will decide whether the process of producing the Plan has met legal requirements. If the Plan passes the examination, it will be proposed for adoption by Turners Hill Parish. The Plan will be adopted if more than 50% of people voting in a referendum vote for the Plan.