

Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Progress so far

Neighbourhood plans can influence the designs of new homes, other buildings and the linking spaces in between. They can also express a view on streets and infrastructure, tourism, leisure and community facilities and environmental issues.



Earlier this year, Hawkhurst Parish Council ran several successful public consultation events to help reveal the issues that most matter to the local community. Working with FERIA Urbanism, a team of professional planners and designers, it tested how these issues could be best addressed by a neighbourhood plan. The emerging concepts and ideas were further tested over the summer months through a questionnaire.

These key issues and the possible ways they could be addressed will be reflected in both the shared vision for Hawkhurst and in the diagrams, drawings and well-written policy text that will comprise the final neighbourhood plan.

A community-led plan to help guide the future of Hawkhurst



<http://hpc.visithawkhurst.org.uk/home/ndp/>

Summer Questionnaire Results

What are your favourite places in Hawkhurst right now and why?



“The Colonnade is a central unique feature of Hawkhurst, widely recognised and the heart of the village”

“The surrounding footpaths for recreation”

“My home in a lovely village!”

“The Moor is a classic village green space”

“KINO is a fantastic venue!”

What You Said



Summer Questionnaire Results

Which bits of Hawkhurst do you think could be improved and why?



“The traffic flow at the junction of the A229 and A268 is a huge bottleneck which causes constant frustration”

“Area around the traffic lights. It reflects badly on whole village”

“All Saints Church is a derelict eyesore”

“George V playing field needs proper changing facilities”

“Ugly modern buildings, such as the Tesco petrol station”

What You Said



Summer Questionnaire Results

Which topics do you think the neighbourhood plan should focus on?



1. Traffic
2. Countryside Protection
3. Supporting Independent Shops and Businesses
4. Housing Growth
5. Health Services

Your Top
Five Topics



Summer Questionnaire Results

Access & Movement Policies



“It’s always a good idea to encourage walking and cycling. We currently have to go to Bedgebury for cycling and it would be lovely to have cycling on our doorstep”

“Footpaths that could be used all year round is a great idea if it’s practical to achieve”

“I would support some sort of roundabout at the crossroads. We also need to work hard as a community to stop speeding in our village”

“Many people are unaware of the beautiful footpaths and cycle paths in Hawkhurst so publicity is the key”

What You Said



Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Access & Movement Policies



What other ideas
do you have? Please
write on this poster



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Summer Questionnaire Results

Housing Policies



“We do need more houses but these need to be developed in small, good quality clusters and be energy efficient”

“Strengthen planning guidelines, such as the need to frame countryside views, incorporate good architectural features and existing trees”

“We need more affordable housing for younger buyers but they need to be small developments”

“We must get away from the 'Lego' pre-production off-the-shelf designs”

“New developments need to take into account the existing volume of traffic, and safe access from housing developments onto existing roads”

What You Said



Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Housing Policies



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Summer Questionnaire Results

Community Infrastructure Policies



“We need to protect sensitive sites like Highgate Hill and Whites Lane to preserve their place in the village and protect the wealth of wildlife they can offer”

“Community facilities must be as central as possible to the main population base”

“We like the positive promotion of the expanding light industrial site at Gills Green”

“I believe that high quality redevelopment for community needs should override the listed status of the All Saint’s Church”

What You Said



Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Community
Infrastructure Policies



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Summer Questionnaire Results

Landscape Policies



“It is essential that the site selection for new housing does not negatively impact upon the village’s positive relationship with the surrounding countryside”

“Hawkhurst is a rural village based around agriculture which must be preserved and enhanced. It is farmers who created our current AONB landscape and they must be encouraged to continue to preserve it”

“More small green spaces are needed, mainly in built-up areas but also more needs to be done to improve what is already here... they need regular care and attention”

“Positive control of new housing development within the protection of AONB... and we need to provide additional green spaces where possible”

What You Said



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Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan

Landscape Policies



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Summer Questionnaire Results

If the Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan could only do one thing, what should that be?



“Give Hawkhurst a sense of community... a place people want to be not just on a route for people to pass through”

“Make sure housing is built in the right places so that we protect our environment and the identity of Hawkhurst as a thriving village”

“Build a new community hall linked to outdoor activities at King George V playing fields”

“The idea of a roundabout at the crossroads may help keep the traffic moving... it usually flows very well when the lights don't work!”

“Enforce better use of the central crossroads area... so much space, so badly used, so scruffy!”

What You Said



Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan

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What other ideas do you have? Please write on this poster



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The Neighbourhood Plan Process

What happens next?

The questionnaire process over the summer has helped validate many of the ideas contained in the interim report.



The Parish Council, together with the FERIA Urbanism professional planning team in support, will now begin the task of preparing the first full draft of the neighbourhood plan.

The draft neighbourhood plan will contain photographs, drawings and diagrams, together with planning policy text.

The draft plan will be subject to continued testing and public consultation at further exhibition and drop-in event on **Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November 2015.**

Keep in touch! Please continue to send your views on all the ideas so far to the Parish Council

