

**Twineham Neighbourhood Development Plan
2014 - 2031**

Consultation Statement

1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement supports the Submission Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal in accordance with the Community Engagement Statement and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012. It contains the following:

- a) Details of people and organisations consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan
- b) Details of how they were consulted
- c) A summary of the main issues and concerns raised through the consultation process
- d) Descriptions of how these issues and concerns have been considered and addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Localism Act 2011) require a Consultation Statement to set out the consultations undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan. In accordance with these Regulations and the local planning authority's guidance on consultation, the preparation of the Twineham Neighbourhood Plan has involved local residents, businesses and other organisations with an interest in the parish in the preparatory stages for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Guidance from Department for Communities and Local Government (10 Sept 2013) states that: *'the consultation statement submitted with the draft Neighbourhood Plan should reveal the quality and effectiveness of the consultation that has informed the Plan proposals.'* This Statement sets out details of events and consultations. It lists the activities in which the local community has been involved and the ongoing work of volunteers. The aim of the consultations in Twineham has been to ensure that there is as widespread as possible awareness and understanding of the rationale and content of the Neighbourhood Plan and to encourage community engagement to influence and shape the Plan. This Statement demonstrates that there has been extensive community engagement which has informed the community of the progress and evolved the content of the Twineham Neighbourhood Plan.

2. The Plan preparation process

The Plan preparation process has been led by Twineham Parish Council, with decisions delegated to its Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Group has acted as a key means of compiling the evidence base, engaging with the local community and testing the suitability and acceptability of its emerging policies and proposals. The process of preparing and seeking final adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 and has been agreed by Twineham Parish Council. The intention of the Parish Council is to submit the Neighbourhood Plan in late 2015 with a view to the Plan being determined as being in general conformity with the Local Plan and emerging District Plan and therefore ready for Examination.

The process up to Submission has comprised a number of stages:

- Collection of baseline evidence and consultations. Pre Submission Neighbourhood Plan and draft Sustainability Appraisal. These documents set out the vision, objectives, policies and proposals for the Plan area and an assessment of the policies' sustainability for a six week public consultation period during January/February 2015.

- **Submission Neighbourhood Plan.** This document takes into account the representations received on the Pre Submission Plan and has been amended as necessary before submission to the District Council, accompanied by a revised Sustainability Appraisal report, Basic Conditions Statement and this Consultation Statement.

If approved by the District Council, the Neighbourhood Plan will then be subject to an independent Examination. Any recommendations made by the Examiner will be considered by the Parish and District Councils and the Plan again amended before being approved for a local referendum. If supported by a majority vote at the referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted by Mid Sussex District Council as planning policy for Twineham parish.

2.1. Neighbourhood Plan Group

The Parish Council resolved to commence work on a Neighbourhood Plan in the autumn of 2011. A Neighbourhood Plan Group was set up with two parish councillors, the clerk and other co-opted residents. The Neighbourhood Plan is included as an agenda item at all Parish Council meetings and minutes of meetings are publically available on the village website.

2.2. Designation of Neighbourhood Plan area

Twineham Parish Council is a Qualifying Body and as such is able to lead the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. The formal designation of the parish as a Neighbourhood Planning Area was agreed by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) on 9 July 2012 and confirmed in a letter from the District Council dated 16 July 2012.

2.3. Working with MSDC & Neighbouring Parishes

Extensive support and advice has been provided by Mid Sussex District Council including training and briefing sessions on neighbourhood planning as well as individual meetings and communication with officers. Neighbouring parishes have been consulted with regular exchanges of information.

3. Community Engagement and Consultation

3.1. Background

The Parish Council published a Parish Plan in 2006 which had been the subject of extensive public participation and consultation. This provided a good understanding of the issues facing the parish. A copy of the Parish Plan can be found Appendix 2 of the TNP Supporting Evidence and is also available on the Parish Council website.

3.2. Consultation Events

Two main consultation events were held in November 2011 and in September 2013. In addition, the Twineham Review (a regular newsletter issued by Twineham Parish Council) and the Parish Council website www.twinehamparishcouncil.co.uk have kept the parish community informed of progress of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and of the community consultation and events taking place.

November 2011. A Village survey was undertaken and a questionnaire sent to all households and business premises in the Parish. There were 35 responses received from the survey and the outcome and analysis of the survey was presented to the community at an Open Day in Twineham School on

6th November 2011 where 40 parishioners attended the Open Day. All visitors were presented with a variety of graphs giving the results of the survey and a SWOT analysis of the Parish. Visitors were invited to leave comments on:

- Economic development
- Landscape
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- A general comments board

A copy of the questionnaire together with charts and scans of the comments boards can be found in Appendix 3 of the TNP Supporting Evidence.

September 2013. An Open Day was advertised through a mailing to all households and businesses in the Parish and through posters on the Village Notice Boards and held on 28th September. Copies can be found in Appendix 4 of the TNP Supporting Evidence.

The event included a presentation by Planning Aid England on the background to Neighbourhood Plans and how they were working around the country. This was followed by a Q&A session and general discussion with the Twineham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. A separate Young People's Forum was held and facilitated by Planning Aid England and as an incentive a wristband "TWINEHAM - OUR VILLAGE - OUR FUTURE" was given to all young villagers attending the Forum. Visitors were also invited to use coloured stickers on four topic boards (that would form the basis of the emerging TNP policies) on:

- Housing
- Employment & Local Economy
- Landscape & Environment
- Facilities, Roads and Communications

An additional comments board was provided for other thoughts, comments and ideas that visitors wished to be considered

36 parishioners attended the Open Day event and the analysis of these topic boards and the discussion forums has allowed the Steering Group to work up the Neighbourhood Plan policies. Copies of all the materials and photographs can be found in Appendix 4 of the TNP Supporting Evidence.

3.3. Consultation on Sustainability Scoping Report and Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the required Strategic Environmental Assessment was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Group. The Sustainability Scoping document was issued for a six week consultation period from the beginning of August 2012. The document was sent to the following statutory consultees: English Heritage, Environment Agency, Natural England and Mid Sussex District Council. The Scoping report was made available on the Twineham Parish Council website with local residents invited to send comments to the Parish Clerk. No major issues were identified in the consultation responses. The comments were evaluated and the Scoping report

updated to reflect these where appropriate. The Sustainability Scoping Report is available on the Parish Council website.

3.4. Housing Needs Survey

In November 2013 Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS), was commissioned to carry out a parish wide Housing Needs Survey. A Housing Needs survey was posted to every household in the parish. 45 responses were received (a response rate of 38.5%). This survey has helped to identify the requirement for new housing in the Plan. A copy of the Housing Needs Survey Report can be found in Appendix 5 of the TNP Supporting Evidence.

4. Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation

Consultation on the Pre- Submission Neighbourhood Plan and draft Sustainability Appraisal ran from 15th December 2014 until 9th February 2015 (a longer period than the statutory six weeks due to the Christmas holidays). An Open Day was advertised through a mailing to all households and businesses in the Parish and through posters on the Village Notice Boards and held on Saturday, 10th January 2015. Copies of the publicity and the comments made can be found in Appendix 6 of the TNP Supporting Evidence. 31 local residents attended the event.

During the publicity stage and by the deadline of 9th February 2015, a total of 23 comments were made by residents at the Open Day and two letters subsequently received, one from a resident and a letter from Mid Sussex District Council regarding the Sustainability Appraisal.

A table is set out below setting out the comments, responses and any changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan resulting from the pre-submission consultation. From this it can be seen that no changes to any of the Policies are required and there is broad support across the parish for the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.1. Comments made at Open Day January 2015

No	Comment	Response	Change
1	Upgrade A23/A27 junction at Bolney to reduce "rat run" pressure on Hickstead Lane Bolney Chapel Lane	See Para 114 in the Non-Statutory Action Plan (NSAP) of the TNP. Outside scope of NP and outside parish. PC pursuing with Highways Agency & WSCC	None
2	Cash point nearer than Cowfold	PC endeavouring to get machine re-instated at Shell Garage at Hickstead. Outside scope of NP	None
3	Would it be possible to emphasise "affordable housing" for development	See Policy TNP1.2 & Appendix 5 Housing Needs Survey. Very little demand or identified need	None
4	A23/A2300 junction improvement needed	See NSAP 3	None
5	Entrance for horseboxes in Hickstead Lane needs to be improved	Outside scope of NP but PC will consider taking forward with owners and WSCC	None

6	No substantial windfarm/solar farm development	Policy TNP3.1 states that landscape quality must be maintained. Inappropriate energy development will therefore be resisted	None
7	Policy TNP 3.2 "small-scale" should be inserted to avoid large scale energy developments unrelated to the Parish - or perhaps not in view of Twineham Lane	See above	None
8	Emphasis on local families for social housing or local employment	Housing is already allocated according to local need	None
9	Landscaping schemes for new development very important	See Policy TNP3.3	None
10	NSAP 3. The upgrading of the A23/A272 junction will remove traffic from Hickstead Lane - traffic calming in Hickstead Lane is unlikely to achieve a traffic reduction	See Point 1 & Para 114 of NP	None
11	Who owns cheese factory? Would be ideal site for small community development	Site is in private ownership and planning permission has been granted for one new dwelling	None
12	No streetlights	See Para 117 rural character	Para 117 altered to include ref to street lighting
13	Community shop	Outside scope of NP.	None
14	Possibly houses near the school - due regard to local vernacular NOT "Barrett" style homes or modern cul-de-sacs - single dwellings more individual & exciting	This point is covered by Policy TNP1.3	None
15	Small cluster of houses with good access to highway will have less impact on road safety, less impact on the countryside, will enhance community cohesion. This will facilitate a mix of house type remembering local family. No street lighting	This point is covered by Policy TNP1 Delivery of Housing	None
16	Fully support plan. How do you guarantee 6 houses are not built in one place?	This point is covered by Policy TNP1 Delivery of Housing	None
17	Small clusters of houses through the village are far better and will have less impact than single dwellings dotted all over the place, particularly when bearing in mind the number of houses the parish are proposing in the neighbourhood plan	This point is covered by Policy TNP1 Delivery of Housing	None

18	We desperately need upgrade of broadband to support live/work employment	Included in Non-Statutory Action Plan Policy NSAP1	None
19	A great plan so far - it would be superb if the community could get together to suggest possible sites		Noted
20	Well done for all your work		Support noted
21	Looks positive and supports sustainable development		Noted
22	Agree with housing objectives		Noted
23	Broadly in agreement with all above objectives		Noted

5. Conclusion

The information above demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process was open and transparent with suitable opportunities for local people to feed into the process and to raise any issues and concerns. All statutory requirements have been met in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and specifically Part 5, Paragraph 15. The Statement also summarises responses received as part of the Regulation 14 consultation.