

4. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Challenges and opportunities for the Neighbourhood Plan

4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address, as far as possible, the following issues that were identified through community consultation:

- House prices in the parish are high when compared to neighbouring villages. There is a shortage of smaller homes suited to the budgets and needs of both young families and downsizers.
- The parish benefits from an attractive landscape setting, covered by various statutory designations; this network of green infrastructure should be safeguarded against inappropriate development.
- Traffic congestion is high, exacerbated by the parish's rural location and inevitable high-car ownership. Shorter, intra-parish movement by foot and cycle can be difficult where pavements are narrow or missing.
- The village has limited but important facilities and recreational assets, which provide a valuable local resource.
- A wealth of heritage assets can be found within the parish, which should be preserved. Together with the landscape setting, these contribute to that which makes Ewhurst special and distinct from neighbouring settlements.
- The impacts of climate change should be considered at the local level and, where possible, mitigated.

Vision for the Neighbourhood Plan

4.2 In consultation with the community, the vision for Ewhurst and Ellens Green to 2032 is:

The Parish of Ewhurst and Ellens Green will accommodate necessary change that retains and improves its rich biodiversity and rural environment, and which sustains its community - its people, its facilities and its heritage.

In 2032, the Parish will still be predominantly rural and undeveloped, providing an attractive countryside setting for the village of Ewhurst (including Ewhurst Green), the hamlets of Ellens Green and Cox Green, and the scattering of mainly historic rural development.

Ewhurst village will be the focus of a strong, vibrant, healthy and self-sustaining community, and the main location for managed, sustainable development, growth and change. The historic and cultural heritage of the Parish, in both the countryside and the settlements, will be retained and improved.

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

4.3 Some aspects of the vision can be achieved on the basis of the LPP1 and emerging LPP2 policies, specifically around safeguarding existing employment and discouraging coalescence. The proposed objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are therefore as follows:

Housing
Objective 1: To ensure that new housing provides opportunities to meet local needs, in particular older people and those with special housing needs.
Design, Local Character and Heritage
Objective 2: To ensure that development within the parish is of high quality, sustainably designed, and preserves and enhances local character and heritage.
Countryside and Natural Environment
Objective 3: To safeguard, maintain and enhance the parish's rich biodiversity and network of valued green spaces that contribute to its rural setting.
Community Facilities, Assets and Services
Objectives 4: To ensure the continued provision of local facilities, assets and services, which are both important to, and used by, the local community and which play a part in its strength and togetherness.
Pedestrians, Cyclists, Traffic and Transport
Objective 5: To encourage sustainable modes of travel – including by foot and bicycle – within the parish in order to reduce traffic congestion and promote pedestrian safety.

Overview of the Neighbourhood Plan policies

4.4 Sections 5 to 9 of this Plan contain, by topic area, the policies. The table below lists these and indicates which objectives (as above) are being addressed:

Policy number and name	Objective addressed
Policy EEG1: Meeting local housing needs	1
Policy EEG2: Community assets	4
Policy EEG3: Character of development	2
Policy EEG4: Design of development	2
Policy EEG5: Conserving heritage assets	2
Policy EEG6: Local Green Spaces	3
Policy EEG7: Green infrastructure network and delivering biodiversity net gain	3
Policy EEG8: Encouraging sustainable movement	5