

3. A VISION FOR WADHURST PARISH

Vision for the Neighbourhood Plan

3.1 Through a combination of questionnaire surveys, public consultations, email correspondence and conversations with local businesses, the Steering Group collected the views of parishioners and local businesses to understand what they wished to see for the future of the Parish. There were various consultation events, which have informed the Vision and Objectives. The Vision for Wadhurst seeks to capture parishioners' aspirations for the Parish. It therefore forms the basis on which the Objectives and Policies have been formulated.

3.2 In consultation with the community, the vision for Wadhurst Parish for 2036 is:

Wadhurst Parish will continue to be a collection of friendly and vibrant distinct communities. The Parish will retain and support its rural 'village feel', historic character and heritage. Justifiable, sensitive and sustainable development will be supported, whilst robustly protecting the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Parish economy and its popular High Street will be revitalised by improvements to the roads, traffic control, parking and active support of businesses. Sustainable ways of improving travel and leisure activities and facilities, which promote wellbeing, will be sought wherever possible.

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

3.3 The WNP has five objectives, as follows:

Objective 1 – Character, Heritage and Design: To provide sympathetically designed high quality housing for parishioners, that meets local housing needs while enhancing the distinctive natural and built character of the Parish through justified, sensitive, sustainable development and healthy placemaking. Recognising and protecting the individual and distinctive settlements that comprise the Parish.

Objective 2 – Getting Around: To address local transport issues, including traffic and parking issues and promoting sustainable transport options by improving connectivity to facilities within and beyond the Parish by integrating and, where possible, extending the existing network of footpaths and bridleways.

Objective 3 – Local Economy: To support and extend business, employment and associated training opportunities – including provision of infrastructure required – to grow the local economy, and to support the development of the Parish as a sustainable and environmentally friendly destination for those visiting the High Weald.

Objective 4 – Environment: To enhance and maintain the rural character and landscape features of the Parish, that led to the area's designation as the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This includes promoting opportunities for supporting and improving biodiversity, safeguarding valued green spaces and access to these, and protecting key viewpoints afforded by the Parish's ridgeline location.

Objective 5 - Community Wellbeing and Leisure: To retain and, where possible, expand the range of facilities and amenities available for local residents.