

Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy Planning Workshop

Tuesday 12th August 2014

Topic: Environment and Countryside, Transport and Traffic

1. Local Green Spaces and 'green gaps' designation
2. Rural character, Agricultural land and Biodiversity
3. Limited parking and cycle paths

Key points:

Protecting agricultural land, Local Green and Open spaces

Rural character, Agricultural land and Biodiversity

There was a general consensus for the neighbourhood plan to contain policies that will seek to retain what few green gaps still exist between Wivelsfield parish and neighbouring towns and parishes. This is to address the serious level of encroachment and to also avoid the two towns on the edge of the parish creeping towards Wivelsfield parish.

There is a lack of recreation spaces in the Theobalds area in the parish

- Westwood (which is on the edge of Wivelsfield but in Westmeston parish) is widely and more used by residents in Wivelsfield for recreation, walking and dog walking that the residents in Wivelsfield will not want to see that open space lost to development and will support its retention. More access (footpaths, cyclepaths, etc) can be developed to link Wivelsfield parish into Westwood for residents continuous use of this open space
- MSDC designated SHLAA site (Land at Greenhill Way/Ridge Way near Wivelsfield (located in Wivelsfield parish) is owned by MSDC. Haywards Heath Town Council is hoping to acquire this land and retain as an open space. The Wivelsfield neighbourhood plan could support this idea to help retain this land as an open space and a gap.

Land behind Farncombe Close (Gleesons site) to be designated as an open space if the outcome of the appeal does not favour their application for development.

The village green does not have a designated status and although most people will like to see that happen, there are future plans to put a pavilion on the green. If designating it as an open space prevent this happening then it may not be the right time to designate it as an open space unless a caveat can be provided.

Land behind school (SHLAA site) to be designated as an open space.

There are no allotments in the parish and although the issue was not brought up earlier, this is something the parish will welcome if land can be identified for it.

Any new developments to actively promote and enhance biodiversity and not negatively impact on it.

Support the creation of open spaces/leisure spaces on agricultural lands but not for residential purposes. Support conversion of if any, redundant farm buildings into relevant residential dwellings or for farm related activities.

The neighbourhood should seek to retain the existing rural character of the parish and any new development should seek to respect the local characteristics of the parish

Limited parking

There is a general consensus about limited parking especially for the school and the local shop but identifying a site to allocate for parking seemed to prove difficult. A couple of sites were suggested such as developing some of the greenfield sites next to the school for parking such as Green Park Farm on South Road and Travis Perkins (Builders Merchants) opposite the shop on Green Road.

The first part of Hundred Acre Lane was also suggested but concerns were raised about its iciness during winter with a number of falls occurring there.

It was therefore suggested that aspirational policies on future parking provisions could be proposed and possibly linking parking with new developments to help alleviate this problem

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13/08/14