



[VISION AND OBJECTIVES]

Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan
March 2016

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Introduction

The Steering Group with guidance from Moles Consultancy, held a workshop on 10th November 2015 to discuss and formulate the draft vision and objectives for the Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish Council have decided to do a Neighbourhood Plan which could take between 12 and 18 months to achieve.

The key aims of the Neighbourhood Plan are to:

- To create local planning policies for Salehurst and Robertsbridge which development proposals need to adhere to;
- To protect against inappropriate and speculative development and to provide greater control over development;
- To bring forward action on facilities and improvements, which are needed by the village.

This document outlines views from the Steering Group based on personal experiences as residents, but also based on consultation with the parish.

The Draft Vision and Objectives document was consulted upon with the community in February 2016, and was refined to address comments received.

Scope of workshop

Developing a vision and objectives

- Clarify what your Neighbourhood Plan is aiming to achieve.
- There is no requirement to develop a vision or objectives, but you may find it useful to have one or the other, or both, to help guide the preparation of your Neighbourhood Plan.
- A vision and objectives can help to make it clear what your Neighbourhood Plan is aiming to achieve.

Vision

A good vision does not have to be very long but will:

- Be long term, for example looking forward 15-20 years, or the period that is covered by the Local Plan.
- Be strategic, setting out a broad picture of your aspirations for your neighbourhood but will not include lots of details.
- Describe what you want your neighbourhood to look like, so people can form an image of the homes, businesses, shops, community facilities and open space it will contain.
- Consider what land use and development challenges will need to be addressed over the period covered by your Neighbourhood Plan.

Objectives

Objectives are more specific and set out what the Neighbourhood Plan aims to achieve. If you have a vision, look at each part of the vision and decide what needs to be done to achieve it.

Examples of objectives

1. To develop a vibrant and prosperous neighbourhood by encouraging development that supports a range of good quality jobs, businesses, shops and services that meet the needs of local people and protects and enhances the quality of the local environment.
2. To provide new and diverse leisure and recreational activities in order to promote healthy and crime free lifestyles, particularly for youngsters.

Implementation

You may find it useful to consult your local community on the draft vision and objectives in order to find out if everybody agrees with them, whether there is anything crucial missing, or whether they can be improved in any way.

Working groups and themes which will be developed in the plan policies:

- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Leisure

Vision of the Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 – 2028

The Vision of Salehurst and Robertsbridge in twelve years time seeks to capture all the community's views and aspirations for the village. It therefore forms the basis on which the objectives and proposed policies will be formulated.

The Vision is:

'Salehurst and Robertsbridge will continue to be a thriving safe and friendly village where people want to live, work and play. We will maintain and enhance our village whilst supporting sustainable development that respects our location within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for the benefit of all residents and visitors alike.'

Objectives for the Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 – 2028

The Vision is an important statement of what Salehurst and Robertsbridge will aspire to overall but more specific objectives are needed to deliver this.

The objectives cover a range of economic, social and environmental issues that form guidance for the sustainability performance of the Plan.

The following objectives under the themes listed below are therefore proposed for the plan:

1. Economy

- a) To sustain a thriving village centre with mixed use shopping and service provision offering a range of goods and services to the local community and visitors.
- b) To foster a sustainable community that promotes employment creation, across commercial, retail and industrial sites.
- c) To retain the local retail and service provision.

2. Education

- a) To improve and extend the local educational facilities in line with future housing developments.
- b) To seek adequate education provision for children of the village of all ages.
- c) To promote informal or social educational facilities for younger people.

3. Environment

- a) To protect and enhance local open spaces and access to the countryside.
- b) To plan for climate change and work in harmony with the environment to conserve natural resources.
- c) To encourage development which meets current energy efficiency standards and where possible higher standards to achieve low carbon status and/or renewable energy generation.

4. Housing

- a) To plan and deliver a range of housing mix, sizes and types that are integrated into the community, which reflects both current and future housing needs of the village.
- b) To protect, maintain and enhance the nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic character by guiding development that is sympathetic with the surroundings.
- c) To promote principles of good design and high quality that encourages local context and rural locality.

5. Infrastructure

- a) To promote cycle networks and non vehicular connectivity for a sustainable village life.
- b) To reduce the harmful impact of road traffic and parking on the local community.
- c) To seek timely and effective maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- d) To seek to maintain and improve effective flood defences.
- e) To seek improvements for pedestrian safety on the high street.

6. Leisure

- a) To secure the long term future of existing community leisure and cultural facilities for all ages.
- b) To promote the provision of new facilities to address the future needs of the village.