



Rudgwick Neighbourhood Development Plan - News

Chairman's Report

I don't expect the Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) is at the top of your list of things to think about at the moment but since so many of you took the time to attend the public meeting in January, read the draft plan and send us your comments, I thought we should update you on the current status of the plan and what we expect to happen next.

We had well over a hundred responses from local individuals to the plan with over 75% of those declaring their support for it. In addition we had responses from a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees including the Rudgwick Preservation Society (RPS) and Horsham District Council (HDC). The input from RPS was most helpful and constructive and we have now incorporated many of their suggestions into the latest draft of the plan.

The input from HDC ran to fourteen pages, much of which focused on planning technicalities and what we can and can't say in our policies. Since the close of the public consultation period we have been working closely with the consultant who is advising the RNP Steering Group on revising the plan. The revisions are quite extensive as we have had to make changes to comply with regulations and maximise the chances of success when we get to the examination stage.

The main plan has also been made more concise, reducing its length by almost half and moving some content into the supporting evidence. This makes the plan a much more digestible read with the evidence documents available as backup.

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The result of all these changes is that we believe the revised plan is materially different to the previous iteration and we will be recommending to the Parish Council that the Regulation 14 Consultation be re-run in line with guidance on the matter. The consultation will take a different format to the last consultation due to COVID-19 and details of the consultation will be published in due course. When the time comes, we would like as many of you as possible to read the revised plan and let us have your feedback .

The Parish Council will be asked to approve the revised plan and its supporting documents at its meeting on 11 May with the consultation starting shortly after. We intend to publish a further RNP News in the June issue of the Rudgwick Magazine, summarising the changes we have made to assist your understanding.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we look forward to your feedback once the updated plan is published.

Ian Maclachlan - RNP Chairman

Expected Timeline of Events:

- ◆ **4th May:** Revised draft plan and associated supporting documents published on RPC website.
- ◆ **11 May:** Rudgwick Parish Council considers approval of the Revised draft plan and associated supporting documents to go to Regulation 14 consultation
- ◆ **18th May - 13th July:** Regulation 14 consultation
- ◆ **By end of August 2020:** Plan updated in light of comments, approved by Parish Council and submitted to HDC (Regulation 15)

Following submission of the plan, HDC will conduct a consultation under Regulation 16 and then the plan will be Examined. Following that there will need to be a referendum vote, requiring a simple majority in favour, before the plan can be 'made' & carry full weight.

A Local and Neighbourhood Planning Update

a personal view by Paul Kornicky, member of the RNP Steering Group

The current Local Plan for Horsham District Council (HDC) is the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF). It was adopted in November 2015 and runs from 2011 to 2031. This plan contains an annual housing requirement for the district of 650 homes, plus 150 to assist Crawley BC meet its shortfall. Hence the annual requirement for Horsham district is 800, giving a 20 year total of 16,000 homes.

Under that plan, Neighbourhood Planning was meant to contribute a minimum total of 1,500 homes over the 20 year plan period throughout the district. Specific numbers were not set by the HDPF for each Neighbourhood but were to be established locally. For Rudgwick, this 'minimum fair share' was subsequently determined as 50. It was also accepted that 19 of the homes currently being developed on the Windacres Farm/Rudgwick Metals (Berkeley Homes) site could count towards this requirement. This was because the implemented site has 19 more homes than on the initial (unimplemented, but approved) plans.

HDC is required to review the Local Plan every 5 years and in 2019 alerted Neighbourhood planning groups as to its progress, advising a number of key points:

- The new Horsham District Local Plan (HDLP) would run to 2036 i.e. adding 5 years to the existing plan.
- The mandatory use of a standard formula to establish a minimum housing need figure for the district.
- A consequent step-change increase in housing numbers requiring further release of greenfield sites.
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requiring HDC to set housing requirement figures for designated neighbourhood areas.
- The option for Neighbourhoods/Parishes to 'delegate' to HDC the site assessment and consequent site allocation process

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The Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee carefully assessed all of these factors. It became clear that HDC was expected to not only set Rudgwick's 'revised' housing requirement in early 2020 but also to publish its evaluation of sites, even if we also undertook a separate assessment. The committee decided that it would therefore be best to also have HDC allocate Rudgwick sites, leaving the Neighbourhood Plan to concentrate on other factors such as design, amenity and services etc.

In mid February 2020 HDC published a draft of the HDLP for a public consultation, which expired at the end of March. You may have contributed to this consultation. With specific reference to Rudgwick, the following points should be noted:

- Rudgwick remains classified as a 'medium village' in the hierarchy of settlements, with a 'moderate level of services'.
- There are proposals to extend the built up area boundary (BUAB) in Cox Green & also at Summerfold (Thakeham Homes development)
- Rudgwick has been set a ('greenfield site') housing requirement figure of 50 up to 2036. **All** existing planning permissions together with further BUAB infill and (e.g.) barn conversions, are in addition.
- Two (greenfield) sites (SA442 & SA574) have been identified as having the **potential** to be allocated for development (see below) but are not **actually** allocated at this early stage.
- All the other submitted sites have currently not been so identified.

SA442 is a 2.2Ha site, north of Furze Road estimated as 15 housing units. SA574 is a 4.9Ha site, north of the A281 in Bucks Green estimated as 120 housing units albeit with a note that a lower density is likely to be appropriate. The details of SA442 & SA574, including maps, can be found in the Reg 18 Site Assessment Report at www.horsham.gov.uk.

HDC's website states: *"We have received thousands of comments from individuals and organisations. Once comments have been considered and the draft Plan has been further refined, we will consult on the final Submission Draft of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) in Autumn/Winter 2020, aiming for a Government inspector to examine it in 2021".*

So, it is clear that the HDLP still has some way to go. It remains the goal of the Steering Group to 'make' our Neighbourhood Plan beforehand! **END**