

HIGHCLERE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN –VISION AND OBJECTIVES

VISION

To conserve and improve the Parish so that by 2035 a vibrant Highclere will be a village where :

- housing needs are delivered through coherent, needs-based planning and quality design
- the outstanding natural setting is widely enjoyed and conserved with quiet lanes, dark skies and exemplary road safety
- a widely-shared identity and focused activity hubs support the social and economic cohesion of its diverse parts
- local business growth is both attracted and encouraged, and
- sustainability is at the heart of all objectives and technology is embraced to support and enhance it in the social, business and built environments.

OBJECTIVES

Entries with a contribution to sustainability are marked (S) below.

Housing and Built Environment

To ensure that new housing in the Parish meets the needs of the current and future residents in a way that enhances the character of the community and surrounding countryside, we will :

- Protect, maintain and enhance the nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic character by guiding development that is sympathetic with the surroundings.
- (S) Promote principles of good design, energy efficiency and high quality that encourages local context within a rural locality.
- Plan and deliver greater variety of housing mix, sizes and types that are integrated into the community, with choices for all age and income groups, which reflects both current and future housing needs of the Parish.
- Support through the planning process the harmonisation of new development into existing street scenes and enhance where necessary the front boundary enclosure treatment.
- Ensure any new commercial development, or residential development of three dwellings or more, incorporates green vehicle recharging/refuelling points.
- Identify a potential housing site that could support a community sponsored small scale housing scheme for affordable housing to meet local need. (Homes England - Community Housing Fund Grants)

To maintain a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, we will :

- Insist that sufficient off-road parking provision be made in all residential and commercial developments
- Ensure that appropriate traffic studies are carried out for multi-dwelling applications

Any future housing planning permissions should financially contribute to Parish sponsored community projects and enhancement.

NB If supported by the Parish there is the prospect of securing the Government sponsored New Homes Bonus Grant. Up to 40% of the NHB can be used by the village to improve or provide physical / social infrastructure such as – flood prevention, bus subsidies, play areas, allotments, green infrastructure and financial support of local groups.

Environment and Landscape

To protect the outstanding landscape setting of the parish, we will :

- Ensure any new housing does no harm to wildlife habitats and corridors, heritage assets or treasured views and protects and conserves the character of the area
- Develop and maintain a Conservation Area Appraisal to identify key views and green spaces.
- Maintain the PROWs in the parish replacing the stiles with self-closing gates to allow easy access to all members of the public including wheelchairs.
- Develop policies, leveraging the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre which reflect and support
 - the Regeneration Plan for Great Penwood
 - the Maintenance Plan for Little Penwood
 - the North Wessex Downs Management Plan
- Actively discourage the use of high close board fencing and walls to maintain a village rather than a suburban outlook
- (S) Extend the Penwood recycling facility to encourage broader category use

Community and Services

To encourage greater community engagement and a more widespread sense of identity, we will :

- Secure and maintain an area of informal open space
- Increase the quantity, quality and breadth of communication and access to it
- Establish a second community hub zone in Penwood co-ordinated with the current Highclere Village Hall / Westridge Centre
- Encourage the co-ordination of local voluntary groups
- Encourage measures which increase community safety and security

Business and Employment

To promote sustainable and vibrant economic activity, we will :

- (S) Encourage local employment with policies to support home-working, new small-business accommodation and a local business hub.
- Promote early uptake of and demand for FTTP Broadband (Fibre to the Premises)
- (S) Develop a local Collection/Delivery point for on-line shopping
- (S) Support planning applications that provide sustainable live/work accommodation
- Constantly monitor the needs of existing businesses to encourage continued viability, with appropriate attention paid to the Highclere Estate and Stud.

Sustainability

To ensure that any development achieves a high standard of sustainability we will :

- Identify those locations within the parish that have best access to services
- Encourage development of community facilities that minimise the need for travel outside of the local area
- Encourage innovative use of materials and designs that result in building with low or zero carbon footprint and minimum use of resources, such as water and electricity
- Seek opportunities to protect the natural environment and increase bio-diversity
- Encourage measures to increase car pooling
- Encourage where feasible re-use and repurposing of existing buildings in preference to demolition and new build

POSSIBLE PARISH-SPONSORED COMMUNITY PROJECT AREAS

- (S) Identify the opportunities and implement cycle-paths to surrounding villages and towns
- Extend 30 mph signs along the A343 past the Penwood crossroads.
- Install ANPR devices to manage speed to 30 mph along the A343 through Highclere.
- Extend 30 mph for roads towards Penwood and Woolton Hill from the Penwood crossroads.
- Install traffic lights at the Penwood crossroads.
- Reduce speed limit to 20 mph on all lanes throughout the village without a footpath.
- Introduce one-way street systems for Tubbs Lane, Westridge, Star Lane, Pantings Lane and Church Lane.
- Trim selected hedges throughout the village annually to ensure good junction visibility.
- Mark off 25% of all one way lanes for cycle/ pedestrian use.
- (S) Introduce a local Minibus under the Basingstoke & Deane Volunteer Driver Scheme
- (S) Introduce a Car club based upon the existing Neighbourcare scheme already in use.
- Install car park bays on Foxes Lane through Penwood, Tubbs Lane and other roads where parking on drives is not practical.