



Introduction

The passing of the Localism Act in 2012 opened the way to parish councils producing Neighbourhood Plans. This allowed councils to have a far greater say on the planning of future development within their parish. Newick Parish Council therefore agreed at its Parish Council Meeting on 29th June, 2012 to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the entire Civil Parish of Newick for the period to 2030. It was agreed by the Council that a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be formed from the Council which would in turn report back to the Planning Committee and the whole Council. An application was made to Lewes District Council to develop such a plan and after the statutory requirements had been performed this was supported by the District Council.

The first tasks of the Steering Group were to set a date for a Consultation Day for the gathering of initial information and opinions, and to send the following letters etc as part of its consultation procedure:-

Letters to all residents of the Parish, delivered with the Autumn Newsletter at the end of October.

Letters to Secretaries of all Clubs, Societies and Associations, sent out before the end of October.

Letters to all local businesses identified in the Newick Directory, sent out before end of October.

Letters to all land owners and potential developers for land that had been identified in the LDC's SHLAA, sent out before the end of October.

Letters to all other owners of land (other than gardens) abutting the Newick Planning Boundary, sent out in early November.

The date of the Consultation day was included in all of the above letters but in addition a flyer was delivered to all residents of the Parish, reminding them of the Consultation Day being held on 17th November, 2012 at Newick Village Hall, to gather information and opinions.

Information about the Consultation Day was also put on the Newick Community Website.

Residents were also asked to write to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group if they could not get to the Consultation Day or wished to add further opinions not given on that day. The five submissions received are listed after the Conclusions to this report.

The Consultation Day was organised around six topic groups, a stand for each of which was looked after by one of the Councillors from the Steering Group as identified below. The information and opinions collected at each stand are presented in the relevant sections of this report, each of which were prepared by the Councillor responsible for the relevant stand.

<u>Topic Group</u>	<u>Councillor Responsible</u>
Background/Introduction/Engagement	Cllr. Mrs. Cathy Wickens
Economic Activity & Local Businesses	Cllr. Mrs. Jean Sheppard
Education, Sport and Youth Provision	Cllr. Cris Allen
Environment & Sustainability	Cllr. Mrs. Jenny Smerdon
Housing Development	Cllr. John Lucas
Infrastructure	Cllr. Mrs. Melanie Thew

The main report sections are presented below in the above sequence. A box was provided by the refreshments hatch for any additional views people may wish to express and these comments were collated by Mrs Linda Farmer, Admin Support Officer to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. In addition, Tal Kleiman and Susie Mullins of LDC's planning department ran two half hour sessions, outlining the Neighbourhood Planning process and answering attendees questions.

A map of Newick and photographs of some of the stands are included in this report. The overall conclusions drawn from this consultation day are presented at the end of the report.



Conclusions

The consultation day was well attended by all sectors of the community except for “young people”, i.e. those of secondary school age and up to about 24 years old.

A considerable number of those who attended live West of the village, outside the Parish boundary, and most of these live in North Chailey but consider Newick as their village. Yet the feeling was also expressed that the boundary between Chailey and Newick should be preserved. The two potential development sites near this boundary that had been identified in LDC’s SHLAA, Mitchelswood Farm in Newick and the corner of Oxbottom Lane in Chailey, received relatively little support from attendees because they wished to preserve the separation between Newick and Chailey.

There was also an overwhelming feeling that the A272 is a problem both in terms of volume and speed of traffic and consequently safety. Therefore the two possible development sites mentioned above and the Newick Hill site, which is another of LDC’s SHLAA sites, were all considered to be poor options as they would exacerbate the already known problems on the A272. It should be noted however, that otherwise the Newick Hill SHLAA site did receive positive comments due to its location. A number of attendees felt there was a need for a roundabout at the junction with Newick Hill and the A272 but a similar number stated that Newick should continue not to have street lighting.

The need to preserve the village green and a proposal that the pond be reinstated were both mentioned by significant numbers of attendees. A similar number stated a need for more parking to be provided on or near the green, albeit sympathetically.

There were five potential development sites which received in the main positive feedback. These were the field by the telephone exchange and 55 Allington Road, both of which are LDC SHLAA sites, the open space between Vernons Road and The Rough, the field opposite the telephone exchange, and The Rectory and its grounds. The reasons cited for support for these sites were proximity to the green/central facilities and/or the school, relative lack of impact on the appearance of the village, improvement of under-used or poorly maintained pieces of land and less need for local car use than would be the case for the other potential sites. Overall there was little negativity about further development, but the need to phase development over the next eighteen years was mentioned, as was the need to ensure that new housing is of designs that blend in with the existing character of Newick, and provide adequate off-street parking.

The profile of attendees clearly showed that once living in Newick, residents like to stay in Newick even if moving house, tend to stay in Newick into retirement, and wish to preserve the village and rural feel of Newick. Overwhelming expression was given to the view that more affordable homes, downsize homes (or warden assisted) and starter homes are needed and that large executive style homes should be avoided. A need for housing for people whose services the Parish needs was also mentioned.

Comments regarding the adequacy of facilities and environmental considerations were also numerous. The most frequently mentioned needs were for allotments, play facilities for the very young, facilities for Youth, and modern and suitable facilities for sports clubs.

There was a mixed response about services and amenities in the village. A surprising number of attendees work either in or near Newick but it was hard to establish if, for example, the frequent comments in support of better bus services, maintaining the existing shops especially the post office, parking, need for a cafe, more local employment, a cycle path, Broadband and a greengrocer came from this group or were generally held feelings. There were many responses concerning the local environment (including verges, footpaths and orchids).

The above conclusions take account of the written submissions made by those who could not attend on the day or wished to make additional comments. The comments collected appear to indicate that the Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statement, which had been approved previously by the Parish Council, is broadly in line with the wishes of the majority of the attendees at this Consultation Day.

The two sessions run by LDC's planners proved popular, with their brief presentations being followed by many questions. Due to the timing of the event, many questions concerned LDC's Draft Core Strategy, as opposed to Neighbourhood Planning, but all questions were answered.

Ways forward: It is also concluded that to make further progress the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group now needs to:

1. Organise a way of capturing the opinions of the age range 11 – 24
2. Gather responses from local businesses
3. Write to the Diocese of Chichester about the possible future use of the Rectory
4. Write to Chailey Parish Council about the Oxbottom Lane site
5. In order to reduce the future incidence of uninformed or irrelevant comments, provide some factual information to residents before the next consultation day, such as:
 - a. The school isn't full (or wouldn't be if it took fewer children from outside the Parish)
 - b. Street lighting will be needed if we have a roundabout
 - c. The adequacy of all services, e.g. water, sewerage, energy supplies and health centre, to cope with additional housing has already been established by LDC
 - d. The Green is a protected area
6. After the next Consultation Day, give consideration to developing policies on the following:
 - a. Sports and recreational facilities
 - b. The Village Green and the local environment
 - c. Housing needs
 - d. Allotments
 - e. Shops and services
 - f. Traffic and parking
 - g. Public transport
 - h. Employment and business
 - i. Community facilities

List of Written Submissions Received

Letter from Mr A and Mrs I Bowden dated 29.10.2012

Notes from Mr A E Mayes received 15.11.2012

Letter from Newick Pre-School dated 17.11.2012

Email from Mr T Turk, 25.11.2012

Email from Mrs M Molloy dated 05.12.2012

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, 8th March, 2013