

Horsted Keynes NP Vision Statement – Updated Dec 2014

In 2031 Horsted Keynes remains an attractive rural village, centred on the existing village green, providing a safe and convenient environment for the whole population. The village and its surroundings attract visitors from all over the region who contribute significantly to the ongoing viability of the community assets.

General economic development has resulted in a demand for additional accommodation throughout the region. The arrival of fast broadband and good mobile telephone reception has allowed the development of new businesses within the parish and increased the amount of home working undertaken. Households within Horsted Keynes have increased at a rate similar to that of the last ten years, and new housing has comprised mainly more affordable small and medium sized family properties, generally on developments beyond the current village boundaries. The addition of new families has offset the tendency towards an ageing population and maintained the demographic balance in line with that of the region as a whole.

The increased population has improved the viability of the consumer businesses within the village, enabling the retention of all the current facilities (shop, post office and pubs) and the establishment of a new small, non-licensed, café. Just outside the village centre the Bluebell railway now links to both East Grinstead & Haywards Heath and remains a major tourist attraction.

St Giles School has continued to thrive and the increased village population has resulted in a significant rise in the school roll, the majority of whom are resident within the parish. The village churches, St Giles and St Stephens, remain important institutions catering for the spiritual needs of the community.

All existing sports and other green spaces within the village have been retained and supplemented by additional areas within the new residential developments, including a community orchard, community garden, meadowland areas and new allotments. Community Infrastructure Levies have also enabled the improvement of existing footpaths and recreational areas, including a new and extended children's playground and the provision of out-door gym equipment for adults.

The village is enjoying the benefits of renewable energy generation systems including both those installed as part of the new housing developments and independent community sponsored schemes both within and close to the parish.

The village has retained its bus service and some road improvements and traffic management measures have been installed to regulate on-street parking and improve road safety. The new residential developments have been spread throughout the parish looking where possible to minimise additional through traffic, and sufficient parking has been provided within these areas to avoid the generation of significant additional parking within the existing village.