

## **Changes have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#covid-19>

**Public consultation:** The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require neighbourhood planning groups and local planning authorities to undertake publicity in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area at particular stages of the process. It is not mandatory that engagement is undertaken using face-to-face methods. However, to demonstrate that all groups in the community have been sufficiently engaged, such as with those without internet access, more targeted methods may be needed including by telephone or in writing. Local planning authorities may be able to advise neighbourhood planning groups on suitable methods and how to reach certain groups in the community.

There are also requirements in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 that require at some stages of the process for neighbourhood planning groups and local planning authorities to publicise the neighbourhood planning proposal and publish details of where and when documents can be inspected. It is not mandatory for copies of documents to be made available at a physical location. They may be held available online. Local planning authorities may be able to advise neighbourhood planning groups on suitable methods that will provide communities with access to physical copies of documents.

Recommendation (c) in the Covering Report (published on the Parish Council website on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (<https://horstedkeynesparishcouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20-05-15-HKPC-covering-report.pdf>)) stated:

(c) subject to completion of (a) and (b) above, and when the current coronavirus emergency has abated and it is safe and prudent to proceed, to arrange a period of public consultation lasting at least six weeks in order to bring the plan to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the parish, with detailed timing and arrangements to be discussed and agreed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

***To reflect the latest guidance, the following statement will replace the one included in the Covering Report:***

(c) subject to completion of (a) and (b) above, subject to the latest National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) advice on consultation during the coronavirus pandemic and further discussions with the Local Planning Authority (Mid Sussex District Council), to arrange a period of public consultation under Regulation 14 lasting at least six weeks in order to bring the plan to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the parish, with detailed timing and arrangements to be discussed and agreed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

***At the Extraordinary Meeting (remote using ZOOM) on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm, the Parish Council will be asked to:***

- a) consider the following revised documents and to endorse them as a basis for public consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012-17:
- the draft HKNDP (with a number of new and revised planning policies).
  - Site Assessment of “realistic development options”.
  - Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment).
  - Updated evidence base • Habitat Regulations Appraisal.
- b) authorise the Chair of the Parish Council, in consultation with the planning consultant, to make any further amendments to the above documents arising from this meeting, and to make any necessary further minor editing amendments.
- c) subject to completion of (a) and (b) above, subject to the latest National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) advice on consultation during the coronavirus pandemic and further discussions with the Local Planning Authority (Mid Sussex District Council), to arrange a period of public consultation under Regulation 14 lasting at least six weeks in order to bring the plan to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the parish, with detailed timing and arrangements to be discussed and agreed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.