

Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan 2018 — 2028

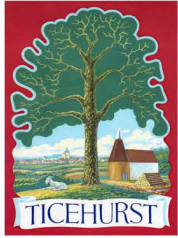
Consultation Statement
October 2018







This consultation statement sets out the comments received during the pre-submission consultation period and the actions taken as a result



This Consultation Statement been prepared by Ticehurst Parish Council, the qualifying body responsible for plan preparation.

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01 Consultation Process & Preparation Timetable

Work on the Ticehurst Parish Neighbourhood Plan began in October 2015, when Rother District Council approved the designated boundary for the neighbourhood plan area (Ticehurst Parish boundary).

Visioning Events & PLACE Assessments, January 2016

Since late 2015, the Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan (TNP) Steering Group has been supported in its work by Feria Urbanism, a professional design and planning practice based in Bournemouth. The process began with site visits made by the consultant team, allowing them to understand the local context. Several key events to engage the community then followed.

A series of three Visioning Events were held on the evenings of 12th, 13th and 14th January 2016. These explored some of the main challenges and issues facing the parish. A specific event was held for each of the settlements of Ticehurst, Stonegate and Flimwell, hence the three dates. Over 200 people signed into these Visioning Events.

Each of the Visioning Events was preceded by a “PLACE” assessment earlier that afternoon. These events were used to establish the main factors affecting the parish under the different categories of Planning, Landscape, Architecture, Conservation, and Engineering (PLACE).

Design Forum, March 2016

The results of the PLACE assessments and the three Visioning Events were used to prepare the ground for a two-day Design Forum held on 9th and 10th March 2016. Over 100 people took part in the design forum when presentations from 13 different community groups were also made. This was a design-led exercise that examined how change can be accommodated, designed, and planned. A series of task groups worked over 48 hours to develop new ideas across the parish.

A final slideshow presented the results of the two-day Design forum. This comprised 260 slides capturing the main ideas and concepts. This was published on the neighbourhood plan website and was accompanied by a video of the final presentation.

Continuous Consultation

The TNP website was set up early in 2016. Two videos on the site explained what was happening: Richard Eastham of Feria Urbanism made an 11-minute video explaining what a neighbourhood plan was; and four members of the steering group made a 7-minute video on why they were working on the plan.

The TNP steering group took part in the annual Village Assembly each April, beginning in 2016.

From the beginning of the neighbourhood plan process, the local parish magazine, News and Views, has been used to inform the parish of the progress being made on the plan. The September 2018 issue

contained the twenty-fifth neighbourhood plan news bulletin. An email list of over 500 is also regularly sent updates. The steering group meets approximately once a month and its minutes are also published on the website. There have also been regular meetings with Rother District Council to discuss the plan.

Interim Report, July 2016

The publication of an Interim Report in July 2016 was a key milestone. This captured the consultation work to date, including the full results of the Visioning Event and the Two-Day Design Forum. The report also set out twenty emerging policy themes and how these could be used as a framework for the final neighbourhood plan.

Draft Policy Headings, November 2016

The ideas generated in the first part of the year were used to inform a series of draft policy headings that were subject to public consultation in November 2016. More than 180 people attended a poster exhibition event on 3rd and 4th November 2016 and submitted 36 booklets of comments on a range of policy proposals.

Business Survey, Autumn 2016

During the autumn of 2016, the Business Survey was undertaken, helping the TNP team to understand the requirements of the many businesses in the parish. The results of this survey were put on the website in early 2017.

Call for Sites, late 2016

In the autumn of 2016, the TNP steering group ran a “call for sites” process. The purpose of this was to gauge the potential land supply for new development across the parish, with the results used to inform the emerging neighbourhood plan for the whole parish area. The TNP steering group asked land owners to nominate any land they would be willing to see developed.

A key consideration in this process is the suitability of sites for development within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The call for sites period ran from 3rd November to 24th December 2016 and resulted in twelve sites being nominated for consideration.

Three more sites had already gained outline planning permission. A further two sites had tried and failed to gain planning permission, even on appeal. More sites are likely to be submitted in the future.

Public Exhibition, December 2016

A further poster exhibition and a series of slideshow presentations were held on 1st and 2nd December 2016. The focal point of the December event was a set of visualisations showing changes to the streets and public spaces. Photomontage images were used to show a combination of measures aimed at reducing speeds, discouraging through-traffic, and increasing driver awareness of the built environment. The concepts also aimed to reduce highway signage and clutter, including painted lines, and to draw out the existing qualities of the parish, some of which is within a Conservation Area. Comments on these ideas were collected, many of them very supportive.

Review of Sites being considered, 2017

In January 2017, a tent was set up in Ticehurst village square, to bring the consultations to a wider audience. The Village Assembly on 25th April 2017 was used to show all 17 sites being considered (12 from the Call for Sites, 3 with outline planning permission and 2 currently in the planning process). The 200 attendees were asked to comment on the sites, as well as on the green spaces and green gaps being proposed in the plan. Following this, the steering group took a stall at the Village Fete on 17th June 2017, using similar exhibits and reaching a different set of parishioners.

Strategic Environmental Assessment, July 2017

Draft neighbourhood plans must be assessed to determine whether they will have significant environmental effects, and a screening opinion request was sent to RDC in April 2017. In July 2017, RDC advised that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required. This was undertaken by AECOM and is presented as a separate document with its findings integrated into the plan, thus allowing the plan to include any necessary mitigation measures. The seventeen sites mentioned above were considered in the initial SEA.

Household Survey, September 2017

In September 2017, a short (one page) survey was distributed to all dwellings in the parish. This was designed to answer some very specific questions on affordable housing and employment which could not be answered by other available data. The results of this survey were put on the website in October 2017.

Regulation 14 Consultation, January & February 2018

The draft plan was published for consultation (Regulation 14) on 2nd January 2018. All dwellings in the parish were posted a two-page leaflet giving information on the consultation, which ran from January 2nd to February 14th, 2018. Posters were used to advertise the consultation throughout the parish, with a final-reminder over sticker in the last week.

700 copies of the plan were printed and made freely available to parishioners: in Ticehurst Village Store, the Annex (used by the Parish Clerk), local pubs and the three parish churches. A response document was given out with the printed plan. The plan was also available on the TNP website, as was the response document which could be filled in online. To get the widest possible response, a team of “Street Champions” offered help in completing the survey by calling at homes and attending schools, churches and local events.

The plan was notified to 30 statutory consulting bodies, with emails sent to 68 individuals. Ten of these bodies responded.

On February 1st and 2nd FERIA Urbanism hosted a drop-in event and exhibition in Ticehurst Village Hall (advertised in the leaflet sent at the beginning of the consultation). During these two days, there were six presentations on the draft plan. These were always well-attended (over 120 people came in total) with lively discussion of the plan. A video of this presentation was put on the website the day afterwards

and circulated to the email list, enabling those who could not attend to see the presentation before the end of the consultation.

During the consultation, there were two pop-up events, in Ticehurst Village Square and in Springfields, to try to reach as many people as possible.

At the request of some Flimwell residents, two members of the steering group attended a meeting with them to hear their concerns.

Pre-Submission Responses

As a result of the consultation, over 300 surveys were completed by parishioners (with about 6,000 written comments). In addition, the statutory consultees provided over 80 responses (particularly Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council). There were also 50 written or email responses. The number of comments was very high, but the overall satisfaction with the plan was also high, with over 96% giving general support to the plan. Details of the consultation comments and the responses from the TNP are given in the Consultation Report.

In April 2018, the TNP was again represented at the Ticehurst Village Assembly and responded to many questions and concerns on the draft plan.

Evidence-based Review of draft TNP

An evidence-based review was commissioned via Locality from AECOM. This examined the draft plan to make sure its policies had evidence to back them up and were written so that they were clear and could therefore be implemented. For each policy, AECOM made recommendations on what needed to be changed to strengthen it.

Revisions to the Plan Spring & Summer 2018

Following the consultation, the draft plan was revised, with 9 of the 19 policies largely rewritten, one policy on Biodiversity added and two of the employment policies amalgamated. The Call for Sites document was rewritten as the Site Assessment document. Several documents were added to the Evidence Base. The SEA was revised, taking into account the revisions to the draft plan and site assessments and focusing on the 11 sites put forward in the Call for Sites (one was omitted as being too small). The Consultation Statement and the Basic Conditions Statement were also written. Responses to all these community events and the Regulation 14 consultation on the draft plan have been used to revise the plan and formulate the submission version of the plan, now subject to a formal six-week consultation managed by Rother District Council.

