

VISION *for* 2030

Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan



Adopted Version



VISION for 2030



Vision for Hurst Green

The community vision for the Parish of Hurst Green seeks to capture the purpose and aspirations for Hurst Green village and the surrounding areas, including Silver Hill and Swiftsden.

It forms the basis on which the proposed objectives, future policies and community initiatives will be formulated.

The community vision is that by 2030:

Health and Happiness

Hurst Green will be a thriving, safe and friendly village within the High Weald, along with the hamlets of Swiftsden and Silver Hill, which foster a healthy lifestyle and encourage residents to live active, social and meaningful lives.

Business, Economy & Tourism

We will strongly support local prosperity and will create a thriving village community, that supports existing and new local businesses, and seeks to boast a prosperous, well-presented village, where people want to live, work and visit.

Housing

We will support sustainable and sensitive housing development that enables us to deliver on our vision and objectives, developing the facilities that are needed to address the current and future needs of our community.

Travel and Transport

We will seek to remove all non-local traffic from the Parish's existing roads, creating an environment that reduces the speed of motor traffic and encourages walking, cycling and low carbon transport over car-use for shorter journeys.

Land and Nature

We will go to great lengths to protect and promote our outstanding natural environment and will seek to improve access to the countryside and our nearby green spaces, restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife.

*Find out more on our website at:
www.hurstgreen2030.uk*

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Our Neighbourhood Plan

To deliver the 2030 vision, Hurst Green Parish Council is creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This plan will supersede the current 2009 Parish Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a document that allows local people to create a blueprint for our future and develop planning policies that reflect local priorities and has real legal weight. The whole community then decides at a local referendum vote on whether to bring the plan into force.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the members of the various task groups working on the plan are made up of volunteers and Parish Councillors from the community, all freely giving their time.

Using the feedback from resident surveys and from the public engagement events held throughout 2018 and 2019, several key aims for the plan were proposed. These aims were subsequently prioritised by the community at public engagement events held in July 2019 and also via an electronic survey which was promoted on social media. Lastly a widespread public consultation ran during the Autumn of 2019, which saw every household in the parish receive a printed copy of this document and a consultation form.

Key Aims:

1. Protect against inappropriate and speculative development and to provide guidance and greater influence over how Hurst Green should be developed in the future.
2. Improve public safety and reduce the harmful impact of road traffic, while providing sufficient parking for the community.
3. Develop local planning policies for Hurst Green to which development proposals should adhere to.
4. Create an environment that encourages residents to live active, social, meaningful lives that promote good health and well-being.
5. Bring forward action on facilities and improvements, which are needed by the village of Hurst Green; and the hamlets of Silver Hill and Swiftsden.
6. Improve the visual appearance and overall perception of Hurst Green as a place where people want to live, work and visit.
7. Enhance our existing, and create new, open green spaces and improve access to the countryside.
8. Increase business, retail and tourism opportunities to encourage local employment, and grow the local economy.
9. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment and improve the general street scene around the parish.

We hope the Neighbourhood Plan process and the vision for Hurst Green, will attract individuals from all walks of life to the process and move them to community volunteerism, providing input, helping deliver on these aims and mobilising others to get involved so that together, we can make the 2030 vision a reality.

SPORT & LEISURE



Sport & Leisure Objectives

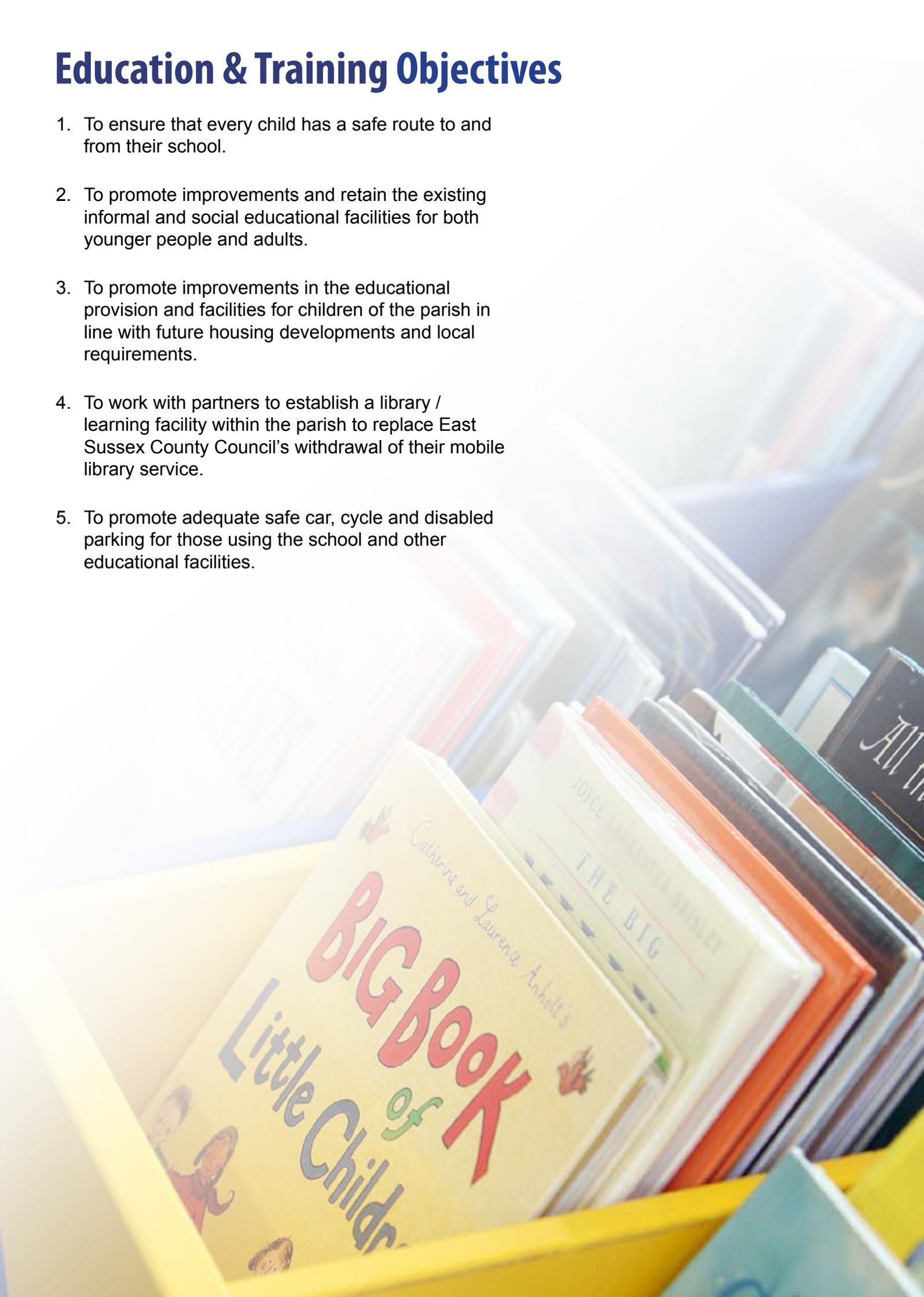
1. To secure and improve the long term future of our existing community leisure and cultural facilities for all ages.
2. To improve existing and plan for new recreation and sports facilities to meet community needs for all ages, including:
 - 2.1. Enhancing the existing Drewett's Field sporting and recreation facilities by creating a multi-use all-weather sports area, levelling and improving the existing football pitch, repairing the lost tennis courts, installing an outdoor gym, a bike path and an outdoor grass amphitheatre.
 - 2.2. To secure and promote the continued use of the village's allotment site.
 - 2.3. To investigate the level of interest and possibility for an outdoor bowling green and associated bowling club.
3. To promote the provision of a new leisure and cultural complex to address the future needs and wellbeing of the community including:
 - 3.1. Replacing the existing Drewett Field's pavilion with a new multi-use facility that includes changing facilities and adjacent car & cycle parking facilities.
4. Create diverse spaces for community members to gather, exercise and relax, while protecting and enhancing local open and green spaces, including:
 - 4.1. Joining together the existing village park with a new community facility in the former Catholic Church, installing new boundary fencing (separating the car park area), planting, additional play facilities and picnic tables.
 - 4.2. Creating a new public nature reserve at Stage Field, Silver Hill, opening up acres of public land by planting a new wood, installing accessible footpaths and trails, providing information boards and facilities to encourage families and individuals to connect with the AONB and the superb views.
 - 4.3. Preserving Burgh Wood and enhancing, through dialogue with the owners, access to the wood for all. Further possible initiatives include seeking permission to install map boards at the entrances and signposted walks.
 - 4.4. Seek to establish a village green and new additional public green spaces for residents.
5. To improve and promote access to the countryside including:
 - 5.1. Creating and signposting a circular walk to take walkers through or near to Hurst Green's public open spaces.
 - 5.2. Introducing new footpath signage and information boards that that provide relevant local history and natural and wildlife information throughout the parish.
 - 5.3. Installing public map boards at key locations throughout the parish that show where our public spaces, facilities and key walking routes are located.

EDUCATION & TRAINING



Education & Training Objectives

1. To ensure that every child has a safe route to and from their school.
2. To promote improvements and retain the existing informal and social educational facilities for both younger people and adults.
3. To promote improvements in the educational provision and facilities for children of the parish in line with future housing developments and local requirements.
4. To work with partners to establish a library / learning facility within the parish to replace East Sussex County Council's withdrawal of their mobile library service.
5. To promote adequate safe car, cycle and disabled parking for those using the school and other educational facilities.



HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT



Housing & Environment Objectives

1. To ensure that any new housing development promotes good townscape principles (mass, density, layout) and is visually attractive, compatible with the character of the surrounding area, and is of a scale, design and finish appropriate to our rural locality.
2. To support affordable homes for local people who are low or moderate income earners.
3. To sensitively deliver high quality homes across a range of housing mix, sizes and types that are integrated into the community, and reflect both current and future housing needs of the community.
4. To conserve and enhance the environment, ecosystem and biodiversity, ensuring that new development gives protection to habitats and existing wildlife.
 - 4.1. To ensure that wherever possible that any new development retains existing mature trees and hedgerows.
 - 4.2. To maintain and enhance the wooded and rural character of the village by encouraging the integration of soft landscaping in new developments and where appropriate screening and integration with any adjacent countryside.
5. To promote access to adequate and high quality, private, open outdoor (garden) space for all new dwellings.
6. To create a strong visual identity for the village of Hurst Green.
 - 6.1. Define the parish's gateways and install 'white gate' fences at road entrances to Swiftsden, Silver Hill and Hurst Green.
 - 6.2. Create and install new village signs in Hurst Green, Swiftsden and Silver Hill.
7. To protect, maintain and enhance the nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic character, by guiding development that is sympathetic with our open landscape setting.
8. In conjunction with infrastructure improvements, improve the streetscape within the community.
 - 8.1. Promote connections between areas of the village, without the need to use pathways adjoining the strategic road network (A21).
 - 8.2. Produce an individual street scene improvement plan for each road in the Parish that will remove clutter and provide a greater sense of place.
 - 8.3. Support the recreation of the village green and to seek to provide new public green space.
9. To protect views of key buildings and landscapes and encourage any new developments to provide access to improvement of vistas.
 - 9.1. Produce a policy that requires planning applications to consider and demonstrate the effect of the development on views or key buildings.



BUSINESS, ECONOMY & TOURISM



Business, Economy & Tourism Objectives

1. To create a thriving village community, that supports existing and new local business, and seeks to boast a prosperous, well-presented village, where people want to live, work and visit.
 - 1.1. Retain existing local retail and employment sites and support proposals which lead to the improvement, modernisation or upgrading of current employment sites subject to there being no adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbours.
 - 1.2. Encourage the return of local business to vacant retail sites in] the village to provide a wider variety of retail shops and further cater for the everyday needs of the community.
 - 1.3. Support the return of a community cafe/shop as a place for the community to gather, or an alternative proposal provided that it directly benefits the village community.
 - 1.4. Support the return of a local village pub to Hurst Green, as well as local restaurants, and other opportunities to socialise in the village.
 - 1.5. Seek to upgrade and maintain sufficient communication networks, and high-speed internet facilities in the village to support the changing nature of employment including an increase in home-working and flexible work spaces.
2. To encourage the growth of the local economy, specifically:
 - 2.1. To support planning applications involving farms / farmsteads / estates and land use change, providing they seek to provide local employment and make use of local resources and are sensitive to landscape settings and will protect and enhance the environment.
 - 2.2. To support planning applications that seek to attract new business opportunities to the parish, offices, trade specialists, accommodation and services, to support and attract increased business to the village and further grow the local economy.
3. To encourage the growth of tourism, specifically:
 - 3.1. To support planning applications for schemes designed to enhance the tourism economy and which can demonstrate that they are designed in ways sensitive to townscape and/or landscape settings and will protect and enhance the environment.
 - 3.2. To support a sustainable community that seeks to protect, preserve or restore historical landmarks and promote local heritage sites such as Devil's Leap (Burgh Wood), Seven Streams and Stage Field and any tourism related development necessary to deliver this.
4. To support the improvement of the visual appearance of the village and parish.
 - 4.1. Encourage and support the on-going maintenance of public areas, footpaths, renovation and repair of shop fronts, damaged fences, business signage and notices to further enhance the overall presentation of the village for the benefit of residents, visitors and tourists alike.
 - 4.2. To ensure that all advertising notices are appropriate, and do not detract from the AONB by seeking to define an Area of Special Control of Advertisements within the parish.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Infrastructure Objectives

1. Significantly reduce the amount of on-street and on-pavement parking throughout Hurst Green village.
 - 1.1. Provide every household with at least one off-street car parking space within 300m of their home.
 - 1.2. Provide a free-car park for users of the Village Hall and ensure that there is enough space for hall users to park.
 - 1.3. Review the current provision for, and enforcement of disabled blue-badge parking throughout the parish.
2. To ensure that new development has adequate parking and servicing provision including car parking and cycle storage.
 - 2.1. To seek to introduce a local policy that requires at least 2, off street, parking spaces per new build property.
3. To support a reduction in the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.
 - 3.1. Provide cycle parking facilities at key locations throughout Hurst Green, including at the Village Hall, the Community Cafe/Shop and at any newly created green spaces.
4. To reduce the harmful impact of through road traffic on the local community.
 - 4.1. To support provision for a by-pass to reduce the amount of through traffic passing through the village.
 - 4.2. Introduce vehicle weight limits on all rural roads in the Parish - to avoid HGV's or large vehicles using roads that are unsuitable for them.
5. To promote safety improvement solutions for the A21, A265 and A229.
 - 5.1. Work with Highways England (HE) and East Sussex Highways (ESH) to build a roundabout at Coopers Corner.
 - 5.2. Work with HE and ESH to build a roundabout at the A21/Station Road junction.
 - 5.3. Enhance the street lighting within the village with sensitivity to preserving our dark skies.
6. To promote and encourage infrastructure improvements to ensure the standard of services within the village are raised to meet increasing demand.
 - 6.1. Seek to establish a Doctor's surgery and pharmacy and a Dentist's surgery.
 - 6.2. Seek a solution to the spring water flowing down the Bodiam Road.
 - 6.3. Seek to provide a public car park for Holy Trinity church.
 - 6.4. Seek a solution to the low water pressure often experienced in some parts of the parish.
7. Improve the pedestrian environment.
 - 7.1. Ensure that all new developments provide safe access for all parishioners to local facilities and public transport links.
 - 7.2. Provide safe and convenient paths for those pushing a pushchair, in a wheelchair, walking with a stick or frame, or using a mobility scooter.
8. Ensure that all financial contributions received by the Parish Council from developments (S106 and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy) are used on projects and initiatives that meet the identified needs of the immediate community.
9. To seek to provide locations and the installation of public-access defibrillators in openly accessible (unlocked) cabinets across the parish.

This document was designed and produced by volunteers at no cost to Hurst Green tax-payers and was printed using a Government grant. Objectives within this document are areas which the Steering Group expect to explore. While the plan is expected to contain policies on all areas, some objectives may be better suited to and become community projects.