**Neighbourhood Planning**

**Wivelsfield Green Neighbourhood Plan**

**Neighbourhood Plan Update – 16th November 2015**

**Statutory Consultation - Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment - Consultation Period Monday 16th November to 5pm 30th December 2015**

**Why do we need to do a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment)?**

Neighbourhood plans are required through European legislation to consider environmental impacts. This process involves a screening stage whereby the local planning authority considers whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. In July 2015, an update to an earlier screening opinion was published by Lewes District Council which, on the basis of reasons including updated National Planning Practice Guidance and recent case law, concluded that a SEA would be required for the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan.

As a result, the Parish Council has prepared a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to inform the Neighbourhood Plan process.

**Consultation Documents**

The Sustainability Appraisal is being made available for consultation alongside the Draft Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan (February 2015). These documents can be accessed via the link below:

<http://community21.org/communities/wivelsfield/plans/6122_wivelsfield_parish_neighbourhood_plan>

The documents are also available to view at the Parish Council Office at the following address:-

Adj to The Cock Inn, North Common Road, Wivelsfield Green, East Sussex, RH17 7RH.

The Opening hours are:

Monday 9.00am – 11.30am

Tuesday 9.00am – 12.00pm

Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm

**How to make comments**

In your response it would be useful if you could indicate your overall view:-

Agree with the Appraisal – Object to the Appraisal – Disagree with the Appraisal

Please ensure that your name, organisation or company and contact details are included in your response otherwise your comments will not be considered.

Your comments should be submitted in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council. The preferred method for response is requested by email - neighbourhoodplan@wivelsfield.net – otherwise please send in writing to the address above.

Note - This consultation relates to the Sustainability Appraisal for the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan and so we request that, insofar as possible, comments specifically relate to the SA. We acknowledge that the SA process that has been undertaken may influence your view of the Neighbourhood Plan, however please note that earlier comments in respect of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan made during the February 2015 Draft Plan consultation should not repeated and these comments will be considered again during a full review of the neighbourhood plan evidence base prior to submission of the updated Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council.

**Explanatory information**

Following the February 2015 Draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation, an amended plan was submitted to Lewes District Council for examination (although the plan was not published under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations). The updated SEA Screening Opinion by LDC required the preparation of a SEA and so the plan was pended to allow the SEA process to take place and inform a revised version of the plan that will be submitted to LDC in due course. Therefore, the SEA appraises the policy options and draft policies contained in the February 2015 draft plan and an update to the SEA, taking into account consultation feedback, will appraise the final policies of the submission version of the neighbourhood plan (as well as any further policy options), which is submitted to LDC for examination.

**What Happens Next?**

Following consultation on this SEA Report, an updated version will be prepared and submitted alongside the neighbourhood plan to Lewes District Council for examination. The updated SEA will incorporate feedback from consultees and will include a full review of all sites through the SEA process. In addition to the updated SEA, a full review of the neighbourhood plan evidence base, including the Site Assessment Report, will inform the plan submitted to the District Council.

Access to further information and how to respond to the SA - SEA can be found via the Community21 website link.

**Ian Dawson**

**Chairman Wivelsfield Parish Council**

All the background and supporting documents to the Plan, photographs, project plans, meeting minutes, etc. can be found on the **Community21 Web Site** - click the link below to access this site.

[**http://community21.org/communities/wivelsfield/**](http://community21.org/communities/wivelsfield/)