

Albourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)

Submission Version



October 2015

Version at 3/8/15

CONTENTS	PAGE
Non-Technical Summary	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Appraisal Methodology	6
3. Baseline Information	8
4. Sustainability Framework – Objectives and Indicators	14
5. Appraisal of the APNP Policy Options against the Sustainability Framework	21
6. Next Steps	22
Appendix 1. Review of other plans, programmes, policies, strategies and initiatives that may influence the content of the APNP.	23
Appendix 2. Baseline Data for Albourne Parish	25
Appendix 3. Albourne Parish Policy Options Sustainability Appraisals	31
Appendix 4. Summary Table of Policy Options Sustainability Appraisals	54

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Albourne Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The whole of the parish area has been designated a Neighbourhood Area for this purpose by Mid Sussex District Council, the Local Planning Authority covering Albourne

A Sustainability Appraisal, as defined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, aims to predict and assess the social, environmental and economic effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of plans or programmes, in order to ensure that the strategies, policies and plans within these contribute to and promote sustainable development. Although not a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, an Appraisal provides a means of demonstrating the Plan will promote sustainable development.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment, as defined by European Directive 2001/42, aims to predict and assess the environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans, policies and strategies. It is a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes. In which case, Neighbourhood Plans may be required to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion published by Mid Sussex District Council in May 2013 requires all Plans in its area that are intending to allocate land for housing or employment use to undertake an Strategic Environmental Assessment.

In the UK, the Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Therefore where this report refers to the Sustainability Appraisal, it can be assumed this also means the Strategic Environmental Assessment. It therefore aims to predict the effects of the policies and proposals of the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan and has been used to inform its production to ensure that the policies promote sustainable development.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report.

The Albourne Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for how Albourne parish will evolve and a delivery plan for how that will be achieved. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period from 2014 to 2031 to coincide with the plan period of the Mid Sussex District Plan. It is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the District Plan and with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Sustainability Appraisal follows an iterative process, providing a view of the likely implications on sustainable development of different options for policy areas in the Plan as well as the overall Plan strategy. The findings of this work have been taken into consideration in determining the content of the Neighbourhood Plan and are documented within this report.

The Sustainability Appraisal process has widened the range of issues and options considered in formulating the proposals for the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan, in particular by focusing attention on the need to consider a range of potential environmental, social, and economic effects. In turn, this has enabled the most sustainable policy approaches to be identified for inclusion within the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Sustainability Appraisal report (SA) is in respect of the Albourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP) - Submission Version, October 2015.
- 1.2. The Parish is located within Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and the southern area of the Parish falls within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). The Parish contains the village of Albourne (comprising the previously separate historic settlements of Albourne, Albourne Street and Albourne Green). Outside this village core, the parish is surrounded by open countryside with scattered and sporadic development.
- 1.3. Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places in which they live and work. The APNP has been driven and prepared by the Parish Council, with input from local residents, local businesses and community groups. Throughout this process APC has consulted publicly via open meetings, presentations and written surveys.
- 1.4. The APNP is important for the future of the Parish. If successfully supported at a public referendum, it will become a key material consideration in guiding development in the district and determining planning applications, up to 2031.
- 1.5. Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with higher tier planning documents, including the Mid Sussex District Plan and the South Downs National Park Local Plan.
- 1.6. The obligation to undertake a SA is set out in Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This requires Local Development Documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The process involves examining the likely effects of the plan and considering how they contribute to social, environmental and economic well-being.
- 1.7. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the evaluation of the environmental impacts of the plan or programme. The requirement for SEA is set out in the European Directive 2001/42/ EC adopted in UK law as the “Environmental Assessment of Plans or Programmes Regulations 2004”.
- 1.8. The SEA process is very similar to the Sustainability Appraisal process, with more prescriptive guidance that needs to be followed in order to meet the SEA Directive’s requirements. Government guidance (in a Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM 2005)) suggests incorporating the SEA process into the Sustainability Appraisal, considering economic and social effects alongside the environmental effects considered through SEA. This approach has been followed. For simplicity, this report is referred to as a Sustainability Appraisal, although it incorporates the SEA.

- 1.9. The purpose of this SA is to assess whether the APNP has effects on a range of sustainability topics and to consider alternatives and mitigation to reduce any negative impact.
- 1.10. Much of the data used in the preparation of the SA comprises ‘baseline information’ which is contained and presented in a Scoping Report to this SA. The Scoping Report collated baseline data on broad areas of economic, social and environmental issues. It analysed a range of environmental protection objectives established at International, European, national or local level which were relevant to the APNP. It considered the implications of other plans and documents and set out a series of Sustainability Objectives. The Scoping Report also set out the proposed methodology for undertaking the SA.
- 1.11. The Scoping Report and baseline data has been subject to public consultation with statutory bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency, SDNPA and MSDC). The results of this consultation are set out in this SA, together with consequential changes emerging from the feedback. Updates on the baseline data are also set out.
- 1.12. This report is structured as follows:
- Section 2 - details the SA (inc SEA) appraisal methodology;
- Section 3 - summarises the baseline collection work, identification of the plans, policies and programmes that have an impact on the APNP, with updates on both of these in light of feedback on the Scoping Report and further release of data from the 2011 Census. It also includes a summary of the challenges for the future of the Parish;
- Section 4 - sets out the objectives and indicators (collectively known as the Sustainability Framework) which will be used to appraise the various policy options. The APNP objectives are tested against the Sustainability Objectives for compatibility;
- Section 5 - contains the individual policy appraisals, testing realistic options against the Sustainability Framework.
- Section 6 - sets out the next steps
- 1.13. The SA process has established a range of sustainability issues and options to be considered in formulating the proposals for the APNP. It has ensured consideration of a range of potential social, economic and environmental effects. This has enabled the most sustainable policy options to be identified for inclusion with the consultation draft APNP.

2. APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

2.1. This SA has been prepared in accordance with the following Government guidance:

- 2 National Planning Practice Guidance.
- SEA guidance from the ODPM “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment directive” 2005

2.2. Based on this guidance, a five stage approach has been undertaken in preparing this SA:

Stages in the SA process	
Stages	Tasks
Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	Identify other relevant plans and programmes. Collect Baseline Information Identify Problems Develop objectives and the Sustainability Framework Consult on the scope of the SA
Stage B - Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	Test the Plan objectives against SA objectives Develop alternative options Assess the effects of policy options against the SA objectives Consider mitigation Propose measures to monitor the effects
Stage C - Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal	Present the predicted effects of the Plan, including alternatives.
Stage D - Consult on the draft APNP SA	Give the public and consultation bodies opportunity to comment on the SA Assess significant changes to APNP
Stage E - Monitor the effects of implementing the Plan	Prepare for appropriate responses where adverse effects are identified

- 2.3. Stage A and the associated tasks have been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Scoping Report. This was published for formal consultation in December 2012. The feedback from this consultation and the consequential changes to the baseline data and Sustainability Framework are detailed below in this report. The Scoping Report and responses to it, are an intrinsic part of the SA process, and should be read in conjunction with this report.
- 2.4. Stage B is the main focus of this report. It involves measuring the likely significant social, economic and environmental effects of the strategy and policies contained within the consultation draft APNP.
- 2.5. Section 4 of this report sets out the Sustainability Framework and tests the objectives of the APNP against this framework. Section 5 sets out the policy appraisal. This highlights the different advantages and disadvantages of each option, showing the preferred policy is the most sustainable option, given reasonable alternatives. The following symbols and colours are used to record this:

YY	Significant positive impact on the sustainability objective
Y	Positive impact on the sustainability objective
Y?	Possible positive or slight positive impact on the sustainability objective
0	No impact or neutral impact on the sustainability objective
X?	Possible negative or slight negative impact on the sustainability objective
X	Negative impact on the sustainability objective
XX	Significant negative impact on the sustainability objective

- 2.6. This scoring system is consistent with the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken by MSDC in connection with their production of the District Plan. The appraisal tables provide a summary explanation of predictions of the effect the policy options will have on the objectives.
- 2.7. The results of Stage B are comprised in this report, which collectively comprises Stage C.
- 2.8. In accordance with Stage D, this report is to be the subject of public consultation alongside the consultation draft APNP. Stage E will not take place until the APNP is adopted and the effects monitored, as detailed in Section 6 of this report.

3. BASELINE INFORMATION

- 3.1. As part of Stage A of this SA process, a review of other plans, programmes, policies, strategies and initiatives that may influence the content of the APNP was undertaken, together with the collation of extensive baseline data for the Parish. This was presented in the Scoping Report and is re-produced at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

Updated Review of Other Plans, Programmes, Policies, Strategies and Initiatives that may Influence the Content of the APNP

- 3.2. In response to the consultation on the Scoping Report the following consultees considered the following documents should be added to the list of Background Documents that have influenced the content of the APNP:
- South Downs National Park Authority - The South Downs National Park Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Draft - September 2012)
 - Natural England - The Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Natural England - Nature Nearby, Accessible Greenspace Guidance (March 2010)
 - The Environment Agency - The South East River Basin Management Plan (2009)
 - The Environment Agency - The River Adur Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- 3.3. These documents have been added to the baseline information that informed the preparation of the SA and the APNP.

3.4. Census Data Update

At the time of the information gathering process for the Scoping Report of the APNP (published in December 2013), not all 2011 census information was publicly available at a Parish level, therefore data was taken from the census survey collated in 2001. However, more recently, the data collated from the 2011 survey that can be interrogated at a Parish level been published by the Office of National Statistics and this has been added to this report.

- 3.5. Set out below is an update on baseline data from the 2011 census survey in respect of demographic information.

3.6. The Parish of Albourne has a population of 644, an increase of 7.3% (44 people) from the last census. This figure comprises of 320 males and 324 females. The demographic breakdown for the Parish remains fairly similar to the 2001 Census for the age cohorts within the age ranges 25 to 74. However the 2011 data shows a sharp drop in the number of children in the 0-4 cohort (from 7.8% in 2001) and a sharp increase in the 16-24 age group (from 6.3%). Additionally Age cohort 75+ shows a substantial increase (from only 3.3% in 2001) with this small age group making up more than half of the overall population increase from 2001:

- 0-4: 25 (4%)
- 5-15: 97 (15.1)
- 16-24: 64 (9.9%)
- 25-44: 144 (22.4%)
- 45-64: 211 (32.8%)
- 65-74: 59 (9.2%)
- 75+ 43 (6.7%)

3.7. The population is split across 263 dwellings, an increase of 8.2% over 2001. Of these, 256 (97.3%) were occupied at the time of the census, giving an average house size of 2.45 persons per house and 2.52 persons per occupied house. This is a slight increase from the 2001 Census. Dwellings in the Parish comprised of:

- 105 (40%) detached units
- 100 (38%) semi-detached units
- 43 (16.3%) terraced units
- 8 (3%) flats
- 3 (1.1%) converted buildings
- 1 (0.4%) units inside commercial premises
- 3 (1.1%) caravans

Of the total Parish population one person reports living in a communal establishment.

3.8. The total number of occupied households is shown as 256 (up 9.4% vs. 2001). Overall rental numbers have risen by 18%, despite a small fall in the reported number of socially rented properties. The non-rental sector shows a 6% mix change in favour of owned outright vs. mortgaged,

- 83 (32.4%) were owned outright
- 108 (42.2%) were mortgaged
- 28 (10.9%) were social rented
- 30 (11.7%) were private rented
- 0 (0%) shared ownership
- 7 (2.7%) rent free

3.9. Of the total number of occupied households: (256)

- 58 (22.7%) were single person
- 100 (39.1%) were two persons
- 34 (13.3%) were three persons
- 42 (16.4%) were four persons
- 18 (7%) were 5 persons
- 3 (1.2%) were 6 persons
- 0 (0%) were 7 persons
- 1 (0.4%) were 8+.

3.10. The usual resident population aged 16-74 is shown as 478, up 8.6% from 2001. Within this there was an overall increase of 19% in the economically active/working population, driven almost entirely by growth of 44% in the self employed population. Student categories are up, but broadly in line with the parish population growth in this category. Apart from this all economically inactive categories are down in real terms, except for unemployment, which remains low at 1.5%, but up from 0.9% in 2001.

- 187 (39.1%) were in full time work
- 108 (22.6%) were self-employed. .
- 65 (13.6%) were in part time work
- 53 (11.1%) were retired
- 18 (3.8%) were full time students who are economically inactive
- 17 (3.6%) were looking after family
- 10 (2.1%) were full time students who are economically active
- 7 (1.5%) were unemployed
- 7 (1.5%) other economically inactive.
- 6 (1.3%) long term sick/disabled,

3.11. Of the total population: (644)

- 322 (50%) had very good health
- 232 (36%) had good health
- 72 (11.2%) had fair health
- 16 (2.5%) had bad health
- 2 (0.3%) had very bad health.

- 3.12. Whilst not updating the Indices of Multiple Deprivation Measures from 2010, the 2011 census data does include deprivation baseline data. This data considered the dimensions of deprivation based on the four selected household characteristics - Employment (any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick); Education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); Health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or very bad' or has a long term health problem.); and Housing (Household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating).
- 3.13. On this basis households were classed as having: no deprivation dimensions, 1, 2, 3 or 4 measures of deprivation. Of the total occupied households:
- 152 (59.4%) had no deprivation dimension
 - 79 (30.9%) had one measure of deprivation
 - 19 (7.4%) had two measures of deprivation
 - 6 (2.3%) had three measures of deprivation
 - 0 had four measures of deprivation.

CHALLENGES FACING ALBOURNE PARISH

The baseline information and plans, programmes, policies, strategies, guidance and initiatives help to determine the sustainability issues and challenges facing the Parish. Whilst the parish generally offers a high quality of life, the APNP will need to manage a number of issues over its lifetime in order to ensure the parish remains sustainable, meets the needs of current and future residents, and ensure that any negative impact of development is properly mitigated. These challenges include:

- The need to protect and enhance the historic buildings and natural environment of the parish.
- Loss of agricultural and horticultural land for development;
- Pressures for development in the countryside.
- Lack of affordable housing for Albourne residents.
- Provision of support and flexibility to local businesses and organizations.
- Traffic speed, pedestrian safety and parking constraints
- Poor access to services and facilities

4. SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK – OBJECTIVES & INDICATORS

This SA seeks to test the contribution the APNP make towards achieving sustainable development, through the identification of a number of objectives and indicators, known as the Sustainability Framework. These are used to judge the sustainability impacts of the policies within the plan. The objectives are based on the three strands of sustainability; i.e. social, economic and environmental. The indicators are chosen to quantify and measure the achievement of each objective. The Sustainability Framework has emerged through careful appraisal of relevant International, National, Regional, District and Local Plans and Programmes, the collection of baseline data, local knowledge of sustainability challenges faced in the Parish and a SWOT analysis.

The Sustainability Framework was the subject of consultation at the Scoping Report stage and has been refined in light of feedback. The sustainability objectives and their corresponding indicators are set out below. Colour coding of the objectives is provided to indicate which relate to environmental; social or economic:

Environmental Objective
Social Objective
Economic Objective

Objective 1 - Countryside - To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Albourne in terms of its geology, landform and water systems; its settlement patterns, historic farmsteads and its routeways, ancient woodlands and small fields.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition and extent of areas of ancient woodland within the parish. • Number of tree preservation orders within the parish • Loss of any of these features through grant of planning consent • Number and extent of developments on parish Greenfield sites • Condition of footpaths and ROW's in the Parish • Number of developments permitted contrary to advice provided by the SDNP authority or Natural England

Objective 2 - Housing – To ensure that those in housing need with genuine local connections with Albourne have the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed and affordable home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new home completions • Number of affordable home completions • Occupation and Turnover rates of HA owned housing stock • Number on Common Housing Register (Bands A,B,C) • Number of homes constructed to CfSH standards • Assessment of new homes against Natural England ANG Standard

Objective 3 - Accessibility - Seek to ensure that the community has adequate access to the key services it needs, including health facilities, convenience shops, schools and recreation/leisure facilities

- Assessment of new homes against N/England Retail units data – accessibility/transport method
- Average distance by population segment from each key service
- Level of informal, formal sports and equipped play space
- Planning applications for recreation and leisure facility provision

Objective 4 - Crime - To ensure a safe and cohesive village and parish community

- Crime statistics
- Number of developments achieving ‘secured by design’
- Neighbourhood and Farm Watch reports

Objective 5 – Health – To ensure that the community has a high quality and healthy lifestyle

- Census data and trends on health
- Availability of sports and leisure facilities
- State and extent of footpath network
- Number of transport/traffic initiatives

Objective 6 - Countryside - To protect the landscape setting of the village through the use of previously developed land and buildings where appropriate, including the reuse of materials.

- Number of brownfield/previously developed sites reused and nature of new use.
- New employment floor space on previously developed land
- Number of new homes on previously developed land
- Quantity and quality of agricultural land lost to development

Objective 7 – To reduce the parish’s impact on climate change through increasing energy efficiency in existing and new homes

- Number of developments built to BREEAM & CfSH standards
- Number of green energy developments and installations in the Parish
- Reduction in energy use in public buildings in the parish
- % of dwellings using full/partial “alternative energy sources

Objective 8 – To maintain and improve the quality of water courses and aquifers in the parish, and to conserve water and achieve sustainable water resources management.

- Data from water suppliers on water consumption
- Type of operations within catchment area
- Data from Environment Agency on water quality
- Water usage of Albourne Parish Council

Objective 9 - Ecological - To protect and enhance the bio-diversity of the Parish, its wildlife habitats and species.

- Condition and extent of the areas of ancient woodland in the parish
- Sussex Wildlife Trust records
- Woodland Trust records
- Data from Sussex Biodiversity Records Office
- Council for the Protection of Rural England records
- Environment Agency records of the quality of local watercourses
- Data from EU Stewardship schemes

Objective 10 – To encourage local food production and community growing within the village community.

- Number of allotments provided
- Number of applicants on allotment waiting list
- Amount of other land identified and made available for additional growing space/community use.

Objective 11 – Business - To encourage the community to shop locally and utilize local businesses

- Number of shops/service providers within parish and within a five mile radius
- Number of incentive schemes / initiatives to encourage local shopping/usage
- Availability of local delivery

Objective 12 - Business – To protect and support local business, including the development of a sustainable visitor and tourism/leisure sector

- Number of businesses in the Parish (including tenure and nature of business)
- Number of people employed within the Parish (by job type)
- Unemployment Rates
- Amount of new employment land
- Amount of employment land lost to other uses
- Amount of vacant employment land
- Visitor/Membership numbers/Financial wellbeing data for all key tourism/leisure service providers
- Planning applications for tourism development

Objective 13 - Highways – To reduce the impact of travel on the village, improve pedestrian safety and reduce the need to travel by car

- Accident data
- Police Speed data
- Traffic calming – road speed reduction initiatives implemented
- Car ownership data
- Proportion of journeys to work by sustainable methods
- Monetary investment in sustainable transport schemes from developments (S106 monies)
- Number and condition of safe crossing points in the village
- Reduction in volume and square meterage of highway traffic signage

Objective 14 - Heritage - To protect and enhance the historic environment of the Parish, and to enhance the village streetscape and local distinctiveness

- Geographic extent and condition of the Conservation Area
- Number and condition of listed buildings
- Listed Building and Conservation Area Planning applications – data/outcome analysis

Objective 15 – Recycling - To encourage reuse, recycling and food composting in the parish

- Nature and availability of recycling bins
- Land fill waste vs. recycling materials volume data
- Number of new recycling, reuse and composting initiative implemented

Objective 16 – Flooding - To ensure development does not take place in areas at risk of flooding, or where it may cause flooding elsewhere.

- Number of properties at risk of flooding as defined by the Environment Agency (EA)
- Number of applications approved contrary to the advice of the EA on flood risk grounds
- Number of new developments that include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- Number and location of properties flooded by extent/nature of flooding.

The APNP sets out a number of strategic objectives. These are important as they state what the Plan is aiming to achieve through its overall strategy and accompanying policies. The strategic policies have been chosen in order to help solve or mitigate as many of the issues and challenges for the Parish as possible through the planning system.

The following are the 5 strategic objectives for APNP:

Strategic Objectives for the Albourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan
1 - Keeping the village-feel and sense of place
2 - Protecting and enhancing the environment
3 - Promoting economic vitality and wellbeing
4 - Ensuring a balanced, cohesive and safe community
5 - Supporting healthy lifestyles

The Strategic Objectives have been assessed for compatibility with the 16 Sustainability Objectives, as detailed below:

			APNP Objectives				
			1 village-feel	2 environment	3 economic vitality	4 community	5 healthy lifestyles
Sustainability Objectives	1	Countryside-Albourne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X		
	2	Housing	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	3	Accessibility				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	Crime	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	Health					<input type="checkbox"/>
	6	Countryside-re-use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X		
	7	Climate change		<input type="checkbox"/>			
	8	Water		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	9	Ecology		<input type="checkbox"/>			
	10	Food production	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11	Business – localism			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	12	Business – tourism		X	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	13	Highways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	14	Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	15	Recycling		<input type="checkbox"/>			
	16	Flooding		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Compatible
X	Incompatible
	No link/ neutral

The table demonstrates that most of the APNP objectives and Sustainability Objectives are compatible, or have a neutral impact. This indicates that the APNP is being prepared positively with the aim of solving some of the sustainability issues identified and that the Sustainability Objectives are appropriate to measure the extent to which it does.

The areas of incompatibility are generally where the objectives for growth are in conflict with the objectives for preserving the village-feel and sense of place and the environment. In such situations, an appropriate balance must be struck between the need for growth and the benefits this brings, with the negative impacts this may have on environmental objectives. Mitigation may be in the form of criteria within policies, or other policies within the plan.

A comparative assessment has been undertaken of the objectives to test their mutual compatibility. This is shown in the table on the following page. This confirms that most objectives are either compatible or have a neutral impact. Where objectives are not compatible, this is where the need for development is set against those that are focused on conserving and enhancing the environment. In such situations, the SA identifies the most suitable option, having regard to all of the sustainability objectives. In recommending the preferred policy option, weight is placed on the sustainability objectives most closely linked with the specific policy being appraised.

Sustainability Objectives	1	Countryside-Albourne																
	2	Housing	X															
	3	Accessibility																
	4	Crime																
	5	Health					☐											
	6	Countryside-re-use	☐	X														
	7	Climate change		☐				☐										
	8	Water	☐					☐										
	9	Ecology	☐						☐			☐						
	10	Food production			☐		☐											
	11	Business – localism			☐													
	12	Business – tourism	X						X							☐		
	13	Highways						☐										
	14	Heritage	☐	X					☐							☐		
	15	Recycling										☐						
	16	Flooding						☐			☐							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sustainability Objectives																		

☐ Compatible	X Incompatible	No Link / Neutral
--------------	----------------	-------------------

In order to meet the strategic objectives of the APNP and address some of the challenges facing the Parish, a range of policy areas have been selected for inclusion within the Plan. These have been appraised to determine whether they have a positive or negative impact, using the Sustainability Framework

5. APPRAISAL OF THE APNP OPTIONS AGAINST THE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

In preparing the APNP, a range of policy areas have been considered and a range of options for each policy have been identified. These have been prepared based on the review of other relevant plans, programmes, policies, strategies and initiatives, the extensive baseline data for the Parish, and the overarching strategic objectives of the APNP.

All policy options have been appraised, to assess the impact on the 16 sustainability objectives set out in the Sustainability Framework. These appraisals are set out in the tables attached at Appendix 3. This appraisal ensures that the policies selected and taken forward in the Consultation Draft APNP are the most sustainable, given all reasonable alternatives.

Whilst a number of the individual policies may have a negative impact, particularly on a specific small number of objectives, overall the policies in plan, taken as a whole will have a significant positive impact on the sustainability of the Parish. Furthermore, the negative impacts have been positively mitigated, as far as reasonably possible, such as by the location of new housing development on sites that are most sustainably located relative to the siting of services and facilities and on impact on the countryside and setting of the settlements. The table attached at Appendix 4, demonstrates the overall positive impact of the selected policy option on the social, economic and environmental objectives.

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1. This SA report will be consulted on alongside the submission draft of the APNP and will follow the same consultation procedure. This will be for a minimum period of 6 weeks.

6.2. This SA process is an iterative process. Further options and feedback arising from the consultation process will be considered and addressed through the SA process during the next stage of its production.

6.3. The information within this report has been taken into account in preparing the submission draft APNP. This SA report and any subsequent changes will be taken into account in all subsequent stages of drafting the APNP.

6.4. Once adopted, the effects of implementing the APNP are to be monitored to assess any impacts, including unforeseen adverse impacts. This will need to allow for remedial action to take place. On this basis, each sustainability objective is accompanied by a range of practical indicators. These are to be used to assess the achievement of the policies against the 16 sustainability objectives.

APPENDIX 1

OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES, POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE CONTENT OF THE APNP

- EU Directive 2001 - Strategic Environmental Assessments.
- A Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive - September 2005.
- Localism Act 2011.
- Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, Consultation - October 2011.
- National Planning Policy Framework - March 2012.
- Statutory Instruments No.637, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) Saved Policies of the Local Plan (2004).
- MSDC PPG17 Assessment - September 2006.
- MSDC A revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory Report - February 2007.
- MSDC Landscape Capacity Study - July 2007.
- MSDC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - March 2008.
- MSDC Transport Study - 2013.
- MSDC Strategic Housing Market Assessment - 2014.
- MSDC Retail Study Update - 2015.
- MSDC Economic Development Strategy - April 2010.
- MSDC New Market Town Study - August 2010.
- MSDC HEDNA - 2015.
- MSDC Habitat Regulation Assessment - October 2011.
- MSDC Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Consultation Draft, Main Report - 2015.
- MSDC Housing Land Supply 2011/2012.
- MSDC Infrastructure Development Plan - 2015.
- MSDC Revised Habitat Regulations Assessment - May 2012.
- MSDC Mid Sussex Transport Study, Stage 1 Final Report - December 2012.
- Northern West Sussex Economic Appraisal Part 1. Employment Land Review - September 2009.
- Northern West Sussex Employment Land Review Part 2. Final Report - October 2010.

- Northern West Sussex - Mid Sussex Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update - 2012
- The Environment Agency - The South East River Basin Management Plan (2009)
- The Environment Agency - The River Adur Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- West Sussex County Council (WSDC) The State of the County, An Economic, Social and Environmental Audit of West Sussex - November 2006.
- WSCC Strategic Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Doc. Preferred Options - 2007.
- WSCC Landscape Strategy & Vision - September 2010.
- WSCC Indices of Deprivation 2010 Results and Analysis Report - May 2011.
- WSCC Economic Growth in W/Sussex an Economic Strategy for W/Sussex 2012-2020 - 2012.
- WSCC West Sussex Life 2012 - September 2012.
- WSCC Waste Forecasts and Capacity Review 2012 - October 2012.
- WSCC Planning School Places - 2012/13.
- South Downs National Park Local Plan (emerging)
- South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan 2014-2019
- South Downs National Park (SDNP) Housing Requirements Study: Final Report - October 2011.
- SDNP Employment Land Review - May 2012.
- SDNP Authority - The SDNP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Draft - September 2012).
- National Heritage Map - Albourne
- Multi-agency Geographic Information System - Extract Map – Albourne
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map - Albourne.
- Natural England - The Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan
- Natural England - Nature Nearby, Accessible Greenspace Guidance (March 2010)
- South East Water, Water Resources Management Plan, 2010-2035.
- Southern Water, Water Resources Plan - 2009.
- NHS Mid Sussex Health Profile 2012.
- Indices Of Multiple Deprivation 2010.
- Census Data 2001
- Census Data 2011.
- DEFRA Noise Maps.

APPENDIX 2 - BASELINE DATA FOR APNP

GENERAL PARISH CHARACTERISTICS

Albourne is located in the Low Weald of Mid Sussex between Crawley and Brighton, in the County of West Sussex. The Parish of Albourne covers an area of 771 hectares. .

The village comprises three historic settlements; *Albourne* – the area adjacent to the church and including the manor house at Albourne Place; *Albourne Street* – a street of largely medieval houses lying within the village Conservation Area and *Albourne Green* – the area lying alongside the B2116 road. This latter settlement is now connected to Albourne Street by the two c1950 local authority housing developments known as Hunters Mead and Barleycroft. There is an additional cluster of development further west along the B2116 at and towards High Cross, and historic sporadic development along Truslers Hill and Shaves Wood Lanes and along the eastern side of the B2118 (the old A23).

The Local Economy

The parish is home to some 40 companies. Office accommodation is located at Albourne Court, Softech House and at High Cross Farm. Light industrial and storage facilities are available at Jammesons Farm and High Cross Farm, with further facilities at Valley Farm and the Firsland Industrial Estate, both of which lie adjacent to the parish boundary. Leisure activities provide further locally available employment with a Country Club, Golf Course, Equestrian Centre and Quad-biking Centre all located within the parish boundary.

2011 Census data shows that some 11% of Albourne's working population work fulltime from home. The average distance travelled to work is 20km with 17% of the working population working in London and 61% within the Gatwick/Brighton diamond.

Landscape

Outside of the main settlement, the parish is predominantly rural with a pattern of smaller and larger fields, scattered woodlands and shaws, connected by native hedgerows. Until recently agricultural activity drove a virtual equal split between arable and pasture use. More recently the selling off and sub-division of farmland allied to increased "horsiculture" activity is shifting the balance much more in favour of pasture. Additionally alternative leisure uses have taken land out of agricultural use altogether. It is estimated that Albourne's four major leisure activities cover more than 10% of the parish area.

The southern half of the parish lying on Gault clay and lower Greensand outcrops is rolling country with steep sided valleys, rising to over 150ft near the southern boundary, and dominated by Wolstonbury Hill on the southeast horizon. The lower Greensand which is capped by thin spreads of plateau Gravel, forms two ridges running roughly east-west, with the northernmost of these running through the centre of Albourne village and on to Hurstpierpoint. The northern half of the parish on Weald clay is flatter and lies mostly below 100ft and is crossed by three oak lined lanes which lead to Twineham, Sayers Common and south to Poynings respectively.

Biodiversity

There are no SSSI's in the parish. There are large areas of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) in the south of the parish. All the following woodland lies within the South Downs National Park (Shaves Wood, Calves Wood, East Wood and Holmbush Plantation). Approximately one third of the parish is currently under a DEFRA sponsored Stewardship Scheme.

Heritage

The parish contains 28 Listed Buildings with 10 of these lying within the Village Conservation area. 24 of the listed buildings are dwellings with the other 4 comprising the Parish Church of St Bartholomew, two barns and one granary. All buildings are listed Grade II except Albourne Place which is the parish's only Grade II* building.

The Conservation Area displays a wide range of building materials – timber-framing, local clay bricks and tiles and some flint, timber weather-boarding and sandstone. The wider parish also displays largely vernacular characteristics but with the expected use of some more modern materials.

Archaeology

The landscape around Albourne is a post-medieval landscape of mixed field sizes and boundaries. A major Roman Road crosses the southern section of the parish. Farming and land management have had the greatest impact on the historic layout of the Parish. There are no Battlefields, World Heritage Sites or Historic Parks and Gardens.

Air and Climate

Air quality is generally high due to the prevailing south-westerly winds that blow from the English Channel. The land to the west of the parish is heavily rural giving rise to little or no air pollution. The strip of land to the east of the parish lying between the old and new A23 trunk roads is not heavily populated but is blighted by the impact of the new road in terms of both air pollution and road noise. The climate is temperate with summer maximums of 34c and minimums of 6c, winter maximums of 14c and minimums of minus 13c

Noise

There are no DEFRA noise maps available for the area, nor have MSDC undertaken any noise studies into the area. There is a major noise source in the form of the A23 which forms much of the eastern Parish Boundary, and lies some 350metres from the village centre where noise levels are significant due to the deteriorating and out of date road surface. There are also two other B roads which pass through the Parish, including the B2116, a major east west route across Mid Sussex. As a whole, due to its largely rural nature, much of the Parish can be reasonably considered as quiet, with pockets of noise problems, primarily emanating from the A23 Trunk road.

Water and Flooding

Albourne averages 443mm of rainfall per annum with an average of 114 rainfall days. The parish drains northwards and westwards to the River Adur. The chief stream (Cutler's Brook) runs roughly east-west across the parish between the two lower greensand ridges described in the Landscape eventually joining the Adur just north west of Henfield. Apart from other irregular and localised flash flooding, this brook creates two flood risk areas where it passes under two minor roads – Church Lane (which links the village to the church) and Truslers Hill Lane which links the High Cross area of the village with the junction at the A281 where it meets the Muddleswood Road. Both of these routes are impassable on a number of days in an average year. An additional area of flooding is along much of Reeds Lane, which provides a link between the western part of the parish and the village of Sayers Common and the A23 Trunk road beyond.

Social characteristics

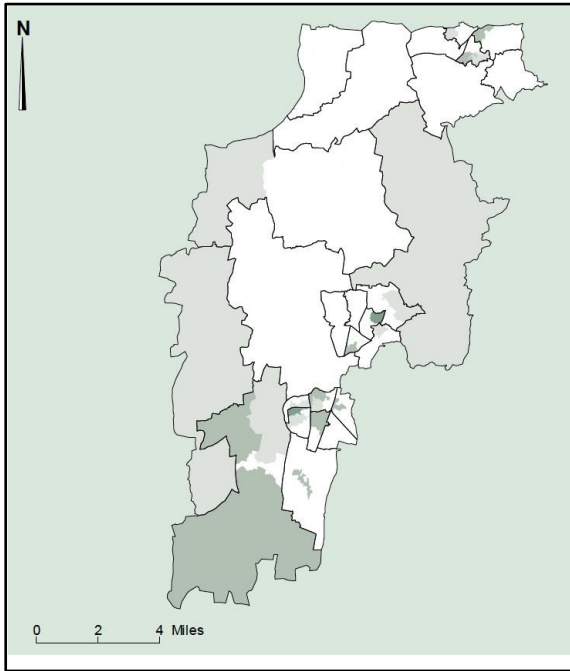
The 2011 Census data shows the population of the parish as 644, with 377 shown as economically active. The age profile shows 19% below the age of 16 and 16% above the age of 65. 76% of residents are owner occupiers, with 13% in social housing. Albourne is not a deprived area when measured against national statistics. However some residents find it difficult to access the benefits enjoyed by others, and there are some elements of the community, particularly the elderly and those who live alone, who do not enjoy the same level of prosperity or access to the limited services.

The socio-economic background of the resident population would suggest that its health would be above the national average and on a par with the district. This is borne out by the key 2011 Census health question. Albourne respondents describing their health as Very good or good were 86% (identical to Mid Sussex District and some 5% higher than the national figure. Similarly 2.6% described their health as bad or very bad were 2.6% (vs. 3.6% for the district and 5.5% nationally).

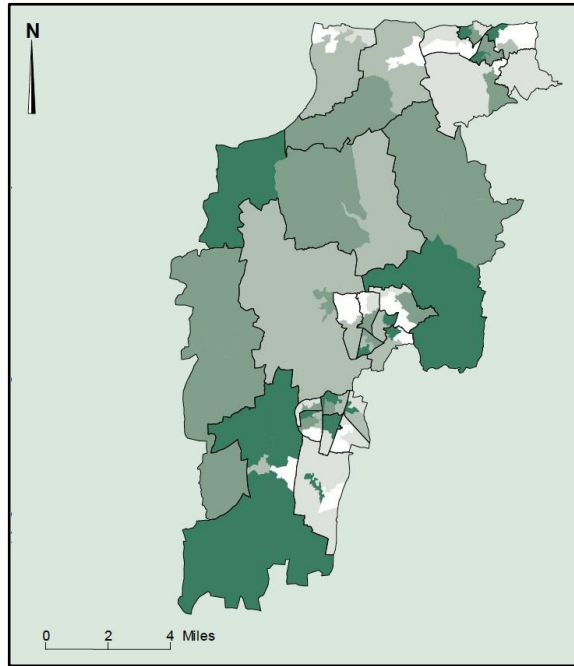
Deprivation data for Albourne is derived from a single LSOA's which also covers the parishes of Twineham and Bolney. The overall ranking for this LSOA lies just outside the top 20% of least deprived areas nationally, consistent with the fact that overall, Mid Sussex is in the least deprived 20 Local Authorities in the whole of England and 43% of Mid Sussex LSOA's are within the least deprived 10% in England. However, this overall picture masks the fact that two dimensions score relatively poorly being very close to the 30% mark which is deemed a measure of some form of problematic deprivation, It is clear that there is a problem with access to housing and services, driven by geographical remoteness (distance to shop, GP, school & post office) and to a somewhat lesser extent by "wider barriers to housing" (affordability). Living Environment also scores relatively poorly, although analysis of this and related indicators does not reveal any major drivers behind this score.

The table below shows data for each dimension component for the LSOA which covers the parish of Albourne shows the component ranks. Each score is ranked out of 32,482, with 1 being the most deprived and 32,482 being the least deprived.

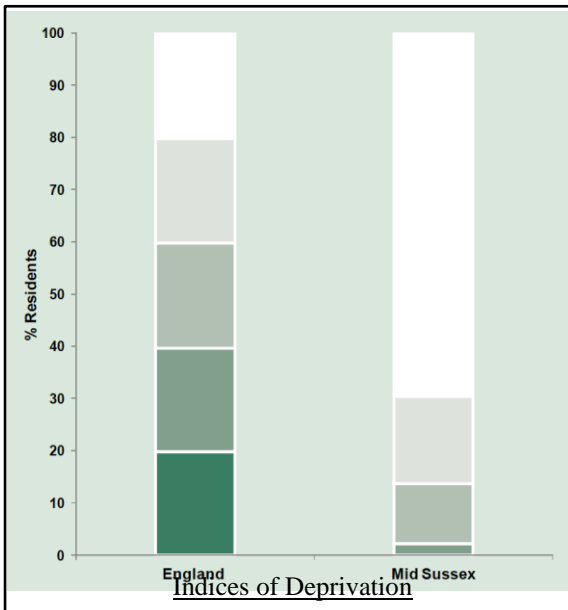
Overall Rank	25685
Income	25767
Employment	30756
Health	30860
Education/ Training. Overall Rank	23963
Barriers to Housing/Services Overall Rank	9354
Crime	19441
Living Environment	9750



Whole of Mid Sussex Comparative



Whole of England LSOA - Mid Sussex



The whole of Mid Sussex Comparative shows deprivation measures relative to District. The darker green is relatively more deprived, the lighter shades are relatively less deprived. Albourne parish is the left lower section above the large southern dark green section of the Mid Sussex Map.

The whole of England LSOA, shows deprivation in the district relative to the whole of England. The darker shades are relatively more deprived, the lighter shades relatively less deprived.

The left-hand bar charts illustrate LSOA's in England, split into to 5 equal measures. The comparative chart for Mid Sussex is then shown on the right-hand side. This shows that in Mid Sussex there are no LSOA's in the most deprived 20% and very few within the most deprived 40%. The largest number of LSOA's in Mid Sussex fall in the least deprived 20% (shaded white).

Key

Infrastructure

The material assets and facilities within the Parish are limited. The only retail facility is a country store selling agricultural and horticultural goods and equipment. There is no Post Office, food shop or filling station. The village does have a Church of England controlled Primary School. Current roll is 197 with only 24 pupils resident in Albourne. As can be seen the school supports not only Albourne parish but also the neighbouring parishes with Hurstpierpoint (58) and Sayers Common (44) the largest pupil bases. The village has two places of worship – The Parish Church of St Bartholomew (Church of England) and the Sussex Vale Gospel Hall (Plymouth Brethren Christian Church). The village has a Village Hall (which supports a daily Under 5's facility and a range of evening leisure facilities) and a Village Green (a MSDC owned and maintained recreation ground) with a children's play area, small football pitch and basketball court.

Details of the parish's employment and commercial leisure facilities can be found in the Local Economy section above.

There are hourly buses to Crawley, Brighton and Burgess Hill. Bus service access to Hassocks station is via Stone Pound (a short walk away). The Census data shows that less than 0.5% of economically active residents use the bus service to get to work and that this % has fallen from 0.8% in 2001. A small survey, suggests that the primary reason for this is that return journey timeframes from Crawley and Brighton are sub-optimal, and that bus/train timings do not allow London terminal arrival times before 09.15. 2011 Census data shows that the average household in Albourne has 2 cars (1.99) and that the % of households with no car is 6%. Access to the trunk road infrastructure is good with quick and easy access to Brighton, Crawley and Gatwick.

APPENDIX 3

APNP Policy Option Sustainability Appraisals

POLICY C1 OPTIONS	A	B	C	
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	YY	Y	Y	
Objective 2. Social – Housing	XX	Y?	Y?	
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	X	Y	X?	
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O	O	
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O	O	
Objective 6. Environmental – Countryside	Y	Y	Y?	
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	Y	Y	Y	
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	Y	X?	X?	
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	YY	Y	Y?	
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	XX	Y?	Y?	
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	XX	Y?	Y?	
Objective 13. Social - Highways	Y	Y	Y?	
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	YY	Y	Y?	
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O	O	
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	YY	Y	Y?	

Option A – To have a policy that permits no development in the countryside

Option B – To have a policy that protects the countryside from future development unless in compliance with the provisions of the district plan

Option C – To not have a policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance

Appraisal – Whilst all three options would provide protection for the countryside, it is considered that Option B provides more sustainability benefits arising from it than the other two options. Option A provides blanket protection with no provision for potentially acceptable forms of development in the countryside. Option C would require compliance with broader, less specific national policies. Whilst protection would still be offered it would lack local focus and provide less specific guidance.

Preferred Policy Option B

POLICY C2 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	YY	Y		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	X	X		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	O	O		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	Y	Y		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	Y	Y		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	Y	Y		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	YY	Y		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	X?	X		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	O	O		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y	Y		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that limits development within the South Downs National Park to that which conforms to the objectives of the South Downs National Park Authority

Option B – Not to have such a policy but to rely on higher tier planning guidance

Appraisal – The options are similar, but Option A offers a more targeted approach at the local level and acknowledges the specific aims of this National Park Authority in their interpretation of national policy and legislation.

Preferred Policy Option A

POLICY C3 OPTIONS	A	B	C	D
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	Y	YY	YY	Y
Objective 2. Social – Housing	X?	XX	X	X?
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	X?	X?	X?	X?
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O	O	O
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O	O	O
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	Y?	YY	YY	Y?
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	Y?	Y?	Y?	Y?
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	Y?	YY	YY	Y
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	Y	YY	YY	Y
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	O
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	X	XX	X	X?
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	X	XX	X	X?
Objective 13. Social - Highways	Y?	Y?	Y?	O
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O	O	O
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	Y?	Y	Y	Y?

For Policy Options and Appraisal – see following page

Policy C3 Options

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to prevent the coalescence of settlements but not define any specific Local Gaps.

Option B – To have a policy that seeks to prevent the coalescence of settlements and define Local Gaps all around the defined built up area of the plan.

Option C – To have a policy that seeks to prevent the coalescence of settlements and define Local Gaps only to areas which are perceived to be the most vulnerable to coalescence – specifically to the east and north of the plan area between the settlement of Albourne and the settlements of Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common and Twineham.

Option D – Not to have such a policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance and other policies within this plan

Appraisal – **Option A** would provide limited sustainability benefits and would be a less targeted policy option. By not recognizing which are the significant gaps, no measured policy can be offered. **Option B** would be a limiting and broadly negative policy which would result in limited sustainability benefits aside from protection of the countryside and environment. **Option C** would positively respond to the need to protect settlement identify by offering targeted and focused areas to limit development. This would offer environmental protection, whilst not undermining infrastructure and housing provision. **Option D** would not provide a targeted local strategy and would not provide a policy framework to positively deliver sustainable protection of settlement identify. Given the inability to locally protect settlement identity there may be negative impacts on plan objectives which are considered important to the setting of villages.

Preferred Policy Option C

POLICY C4 OPTIONS	A	B	C	
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O	O	
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O	O	
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	O	O	O	
Objective 4. Social – Crime	O	O	O	
Objective 5. Social – Health	O	O	O	
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O	O	
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O	O	
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O	O	
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O	O	
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O	O	
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	O	O	O	
Objective 13. Social - Highways	O	O	O	
Objective 14. Environmental – Heritage	YY	YY	Y	
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O	O	
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O	O	

Option A - To have a policy that prevents any development within the Plan’s Conservation Area.

Option B – To have a policy that allows development that enhances and does not detract from the Plan’s Conservation Area.

Option C – Not to have a policy relating to the Plan’s Conservation Area and rely on higher tier planning guidance.

Appraisal – Options A and B would both have similar aims – to preserve and enhance the important Conservation Area. These would both assist in the protection to the cultural and historic heritage of the village. However Option B provides greater flexibility by allowing development which could enhance the nature and setting of the Conservation Area. Option C would still afford protection, but may lack local focus.

Preferred Policy Option B

POLICY H1	A	B	C	D
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	X?	X	X	XX
Objective 2. Social – Housing	Y?	Y	YY	YY
Objective 3. Social – Accessibility	X	X	XX	XX
Objective 4. Social – Crime	O	O	O	O
Objective 5. Social – Health	O	O	O	O
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	X	X	XX	XX
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	X	X	X	X
Objective 8. Environmental – Water	X	X	X	XX
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	X?	X	X	XX
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	O
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	Y	Y	Y	Y
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	Y?	Y	YY	YY
Objective 13. Social – Highways	X	X	XX	XX
Objective 14. Environmental – Heritage	X?	X	X	X
Objective 15. Environmental – Recycling	O	O	O	O
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	X	X	XX	XX

For Policy Options and Appraisal – see following page

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to meet the future needs of the Parish based on zero population growth, but allows for forecasted changes to household formation, and supports some 16 houses to be built over the plan period. This volume of growth would be very likely to be met by organic/windfall growth.

Option B – To have a policy that seeks to meet the future needs of the Parish and reflecting the policies and strategic sites in the District Plan period supporting some 21 new homes over the plan period.

Option C – To have a policy that seeks to meet the future needs of the Parish, based on jobs resulting from projected District economic growth at 3% GDV per annum, and allowing for the larger towns to absorb a greater share of economic growth and housing, and supports some 34 new homes to be built over the Plan period.

Option D – To have a policy that seeks to meet the future needs of the Parish, based on ONS housing assessment growth for Mid Sussex District and applying an equal proportion to the Parish based on population, and supports some 51 new homes to be built over the plan period.

Appraisal – Option A and B whilst offering some sustainability benefits, would be unlikely to contribute to the affordable housing shortfall and fails to offer any substantial benefit over and above options with higher overall housing numbers. Option C and D provide similar housing and economic benefits but the more significant levels of growth in Option D more negatively impact upon the environmental policy objectives.

Preferred Policy Option C

POLICY H2 OPTIONS	A	B	C	
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	YY	X?	X	
Objective 2. Social – Housing	XX	Y	Y	
Objective 3. Social – Accessibility	Y	Y?	Y?	
Objective 4. Social – Crime	O	O	O	
Objective 5. Social – Health	O	O	O	
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	Y	YY	Y	
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	X	X	X	
Objective 8. Environmental – Water	X	X	X	
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	YY	Y	Y?	
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	Y	Y?	
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	Y?	Y	Y	
Objective 13. Social – Highways	X?	X?	X	
Objective 14. Environmental – Heritage	X?	Y?	Y?	
Objective 15. Environmental – Recycling	O	O	O	
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	X	X	X	

Option A – To have a policy that restricts Parish housing development during the plan period only to sites within the current agreed Village built up area.

Option B - To have a policy that sets a principles-based criteria by which proposed housing development inside and outside the Village built up area can be assessed.

Option C – Not to have a policy relating to the location of any future Parish housing during the Plan period and to rely on higher tier planning guidance.

Appraisal – **Option A** provides comparatively more protection to environmental objectives but would be less likely to meet social and economic objectives, particularly given the paucity of remaining sites. **Option B** recognizes the need for sustainable housing development outside the built up area boundary and seeks to apply an objective assessment of such development against the objectives of the plan. **Option C** is less likely to ensure that future development achieves a balance across the objectives of the plan, and may result in development in unsustainable locations.

Preferred Policy Option B

POLICY H3 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	X	X?		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	X?	YY		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	Y?	X?		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	YY	X		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	X?	X		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	X?	X		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	Y?	X?		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	Y	Y		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	Y	Y		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	X?	X		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y?	X?		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	X?	X		

Option A – To have a policy that restricts Parish housing development during the plan period to those sites that meet requirements of the APNP principles-based criteria for housing sites.

Option B – To have a policy that reflects the requirements of APNP principles based criteria for housing sites, but provides for exemption for exception sites identified that can meet our affordable housing requirement as specified in the APNP by offering 100% affordable housing for rent for those meeting the current “local” criteria extant for the Holders development.

Appraisal – Option A provides comparatively more protection to environmental objectives and would ensure that housing sites would be more optimally placed. However, and given the likely paucity of exception sites, this option may prove restrictive in the provision of affordable homes and would therefore be less likely to meet social and economic objectives. **Option B** recognizes the need for sustainable housing development outside the built up area boundary, retains the need for objective assessment of such development against the objectives of the plan, and gives additional flexibility for the provision of affordable homes for local people.

Preferred Policy Option B

POLICY H4 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	X?	X		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	Y	Y?		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	Y	Y?		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	X	X		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	X?	X?		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	X?	X?		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	X?	X		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	O	O		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	X?	X		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y?	Y?		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	X?		

Option A – To have a policy that puts forward specific and preferred sites, including exception sites, for future housing over the Plan period that have been assessed against all NP objectives .

Option B - To not have a policy that specifies specific or preferred sites for housing and rely on the open market and higher tier planning policies

Appraisal – Option A provides for sites to be selected which will achieve an appropriate balance between the various NP policies. Option B may result in future housing being placed in inappropriate or unsustainable locations.

Preferred Policy Option A

POLICY H5 OPTIONS	A	B	C	
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O	O	
Objective 2. Social – Housing	Y	Y?	X?	
Objective 3. Social – Accessibility	O	O	O	
Objective 4. Social – Crime	O	O	O	
Objective 5. Social – Health	O	O	O	
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O	O	
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O	O	
Objective 8. Environmental – Water	O	O	O	
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O	O	
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	Y?	Y?	Y?	
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	Y?	Y?	Y?	
Objective 13. Social – Highways	O	O	O	
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	O	O	O	
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O	O	
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O	O	

For Policy options and appraisal - see following page

Option A – To have a policy that on housing developments of 4 or more units there will be a 30% “affordable” homes provision. On residential developments of 1-3 dwellings, and in other circumstances where on-site provision is not practicable, a commuted payment towards off-site provision will be required, equivalent to providing 30% on-site affordable housing

Option B – As Option A but with affordable provision set at 40% or higher.

Option C – To have no such policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance

Appraisal - All three of the proposed options would positively contribute to some sustainability objectives. **Option B** might yield a higher threshold but this might jeopardize the viability of housing schemes, which would then impact economic objectives and may reduce the likelihood of affordable housing being delivered. **Option C** is likely to deliver affordable housing but may not provide a statutory requirement for smaller sites. **Option A** provides for sustainability benefits and ensures that the likely smaller site requirement is enshrined in Neighbourhood Plan requirements.

Preferred Policy Option A

Policy Update - On 10th July 2015, MSDC issued revised guidance on the subject of policy relating to the affordable housing element of any proposed development. In the light of this guidance, it is clear that APC’s intended policy in this area is unsustainable and contrary to national guidelines and MSDC’s interpretation of these guidelines. Accordingly no specific policy will be set for this area and this plan will rely on Mid Sussex District Plan policies.

POLICY E1 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	X	X		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	Y	Y?		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	Y	Y?		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	X?	X		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	YY	Y		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	YY	Y		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	X?	X		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	X	X		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	X?	X		

Option A – To have policies that support the activities of all businesses in the plan area and allows them to grow and prosper. These policies are to include the aim to maintain a wide and diverse range of office, commercial and light/other industrial facilities within the plan area.

Option B – To have no specific policies relating to business in the plan area and to rely on higher tier planning guidance.

Appraisal – Option A recognizes the important employment and service provision role provided by local companies and seeks to provide specific and tailored support appropriate to the plan area and plan objectives. Option B may not provide such support.

Preferred Policy Option A

POLICY E2 OPTIONS	A	B	C	
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	YY	X?	X	
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O	O	
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	XX	Y	Y	
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O	O	
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O	O	
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	YY	X?	X	
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O	O	
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	Y?	X?	O	
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	Y	X?	X	
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	X	Y	Y	
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	XX	Y	Y	
Objective 13. Social - Highways	Y	X?	X?	
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	YY	X?	X?	
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O	O	
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	Y	X?	X?	

Option A – To have a policy that prohibits any further commercial or industrial development in the plan area. .

Option B - To have a policy that sets a principles-based criteria by which such development in the plan area can be assessed

Option C – Not to have a policy relating to the location of future commercial or industrial development and to rely on higher tier planning guidance.

Appraisal – **Option A** provides comparatively more protection to environmental objectives but would be less likely to meet social and economic objectives. **Option B** recognizes the desirability of commercial and industrial development to facilitate employment and service provision and seeks to apply an objective assessment of such development against the objectives of the plan. **Option C** is less likely to ensure that future development achieves a balance across the objectives of the plan, and may result in development in unsustainable locations.

Preferred Policy Option B

POLICY E3 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	Y	X		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	Y?	X?		
Objective 5. Social - Health	O	O		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	YY	X		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	YY	X		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	O	O		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	O	O		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that promotes the provision of superfast broadband within the plan area.

Option B – To have no policy that promotes the provision of superfast broadband

Appraisal – Option A would seek to positively improve infrastructure in the Parish. This has benefits for businesses and home working capability. This would be likely to have a positive impact on a number of sustainability objectives, notably business. Having no policy would not positively plan for this infrastructure need.

Preferred Policy Option A

POLICY E4 OPTIONS	A	B	C	D
Objective 1. Environmental – Countryside	Y	X?	YY	X?
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O	O	O
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	X	YY	XX	Y
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O	O	O
Objective 5. Social - Health	X	Y	XX	Y
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	YY	X?	Y	X
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O	O	O
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O	O	O
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	Y	X	YY	X
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O	O	O
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	X	YY	XX	YY
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	X	YY	XX	YY
Objective 13. Social - Highways	Y?	X?	YY	X
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	X?	Y?	Y?	Y?
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O	O	O
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	Y	Y?	YY	X?

Option A – To have a policy that supports the development of facilities connected with tourism/leisure only within the defined village built up area

Option B – To have a criteria-based policy that supports the development of facilities connected with tourism/leisure within the Plan area

Option C – To have a policy that prohibits the development of facilities connected with tourism/leisure within the plan area.

Option D – To have no policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance and other policies within the Plan.

Appraisal - Option A would focus tourist facilities on the areas with more infra-structure, but would prohibit tourism development in the wider Plan area, including the SDNP. **Option B** – this policy which seeks to promote tourism opportunities, subject to criteria assessment would provide a balance for such development across the Parish, subject to impact safeguards.

Option C would be likely to have a negative impact on economic and tourism objective and would be a negative policy. **Option D** would provide a broad framework for tourism, but would lack any local focus. It may not therefore result in the best economic and most sustainable environmental objectives.

Preferred Policy Option B

POLICY T1 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	YY	Y		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	Y	X?		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	Y	Y?		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	YY	X?		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y	X?		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to improve safety for both road users and pedestrians along the Albourne stretches of the B2116 and B2118

Option B – To have no such policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance and other policies within the plan

Appraisal – Option A would reflect one of the key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and would provide a positive framework for delivering a number of sustainability objectives. Option B would lack local focus and priorities.

Preferred Policy Option - A

POLICY T2 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	Y?	X?		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	Y	Y?		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	Y	X?		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	X?	O		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	YY	X?		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y	X?		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to improve safety for road users, pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders along the Albourne stretches of the villages minor roads – Church Lane, The Street, Shaveswood Lane, Truslers Hill Lane and Reeds Lane.

Option B – To have no such policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance and other policies within the plan

Appraisal – Option 1 would reflect one of the key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and would provide a positive framework for delivering a number of sustainability objectives. Option 2 would lack local focus and priorities.

Preferred Policy Option – A

POLICY T3 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social – Accessibility	YY	Y?		
Objective 4. Social – Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social – Health	Y	X?		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental – Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	O	O		
Objective 13. Social – Highways	YY	X		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	Y	X?		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to introduce a scheme to manage traffic congestion and improve car parking arrangements, particularly that associated with village school traffic.

Option B – To have no such policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance and other policies within the plan

Appraisal – Option A would reflect one of the key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and would provide a positive framework for delivering a number of sustainability objectives. Option B would lack local focus and priorities.

Preferred Policy Option - A

POLICY T4 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	Y?	X?		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	O	O		
Objective 4. Social – Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social – Health	O	O		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	Y	Y?		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	X?	Y?		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	X?O	Y?		
Objective 13. Social – Highways	YY	X		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	YY	X		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to reduce and downscale road signage and other roadside clutter with specific focus on the B2118 (former A23 trunk road)

Option B – To have no such policy and rely on higher tier planning guidance and other policies within the plan

Appraisal – Option A would provide a positive framework for delivering a number of sustainability objectives. Option B would lack local focus and priorities.

Preferred Policy Option - A

POLICY A1 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	YY	X?		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	Y	X?		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	Y	X?		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	O	O		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	O	O		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to provide improved facilities for the users of both Albourne Village Hall and the adjacent Childrens Playground

Option B – To have no such policy and rely on other policies within the plan

Appraisal – Option A would provide a positive framework for delivering a number of sustainability objectives. Option B provides no specific benefits and would lack local focus and priorities.

Preferred Policy Option - A

POLICY A2 OPTIONS	A	B		
Objective 1. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 2. Social – Housing	O	O		
Objective 3. Social - Accessibility	Y	X?		
Objective 4. Social - Crime	O	O		
Objective 5. Social - Health	Y?	O		
Objective 6. Environmental - Countryside	O	O		
Objective 7. Environmental – Climate Change	O	O		
Objective 8. Environmental - Water	O	O		
Objective 9. Environmental – Ecology/Diversity	O	O		
Objective 10. Social – Food Production	O	O		
Objective 11. Business – Local Shopping	O	O		
Objective 12. Business – Local Support	O	O		
Objective 13. Social - Highways	O	O		
Objective 14. Environmental - Heritage	O	O		
Objective 15. Environmental - Recycling	O	O		
Objective 16. Environmental – Flooding	O	O		

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to deliver upgraded and expanded play equipment at the Recreation Ground.

Option B – To have no such policy and rely on other policies within the plan

Appraisal – Option A would provide a positive framework for delivering a number of sustainability objectives. Option B offers no specific benefits and would lack local focus and priorities.

Preferred Policy Option A

APPENDIX 4

Summary Table of Policy Option Sustainability Appraisals for APNP

	OBJ. 1 ENVIR.	OBJ. 2 SOCIAL	OBJ.3 SOCIAL	OBJ. 4 SOCIAL	OBJ. 5 SOCIAL	OBJ. 6 ENVIR.	OBJ. 7 ENVIR.	OBJ. 8 ENVIR.	OBJ. 9 ENVIR.	OBJ.10 SOCIAL	OBJ.11 BUSINESS	OBJ.12 BUSINESS	OBJ.13 SOCIAL	OBJ.14 ENVIR.	OBJ.15 ENVIR.	OBJ.16 SOCIAL
	COUNTRYSIDE PRESERVE & ENHANCE	HOUSING	ACCESS TO KEY SERVUCES	CRIME & SAFETY	HEALTH	COUNTRYSIDE LANDSCAPE SETTING	CLIMATE CHANGE	WATER	ECOLOGY BIODIVERSITY	COMMUNITY GROWING	LOCAL SHOPPING SUPPORT	LOOAL BUSINEESS SUPPORT	HIGHWAYS	HERITAGE	RECYCLING	FLOODING
C1	Y	Y?	Y	O	O	Y	Y	X?	Y	O	Y?	Y?	Y	Y	O	Y
C2	YY	X	O	O	Y	Y	O	Y	YY	O	O	X?	O	Y	O	O
C3	YY	X	X?	O	O	YY	Y?	YY	YY	O	X	X	Y?	Y	O	Y
C4	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	YY	O	O
H1	X	Y	X	O	O	X	X	X	X	O	Y	Y	X	X	O	X
H2	X?	Y	Y?	O	O	YY	X	X	Y	O	Y	Y	X?	Y?	O	X
H3	X?	YY	X?	O	O	X	X	X	X?	O	Y	Y	X	X?	O	X
H4	X?	Y	Y	O	O	X	X?	X?	X?	O	O	O	X?	Y?	O	O
H5	O	YY	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Y?	Y?	O	O	O	O
E1	X	O	Y	O	O	Y	O	O	X?	O	YY	YY	X?	X	O	X?
E2	X?	O	Y	O	O	X?	O	X?	X?	O	Y	Y	X?	X?	O	X?
E3	O	O	Y	Y?	O	O	O	O	O	O	YY	YY	O	O	O	O
E4	X?	O	YY	O	Y	X?	O	O	X	O	YY	YY	X?	Y?	O	Y?
T1	O	O	YY	O	Y	O	O	O	O	O	O	Y	YY	Y	O	O
T2	Y?	O	Y	O	Y	O	O	O	O	O	O	X?	YY	Y	O	O
T3	O	O	YY	O	Y	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	YY	Y	O	O
T4	Y?	O	O	O	O	Y	O	O	O	O	X?	X?	Y?	YY	O	O
A1	O	O	YY	O	Y	O	O	O	O	O	Y	Y	O	O	O	O
A2	O	O	Y	O	Y?	O	O	O	O	YY	Y?	O	O	O	Y	O