

Ansty, Staplefield and Brook Street Neighbourhood Plan

**Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic
Environmental Assessment**

Non-technical summary

January 2016

Introduction

1. The Ansty, Staplefield and Brook Street Neighbourhood Plan (ASBSNP) is a Development Plan Document that if approved at referendum will become a key planning document for the local area up until 2031. The Plan provides a strategic vision and objectives for development in the Neighbourhood Plan area and sets out a clear policy framework for the delivery of new development. The strategic vision, objectives and policies have been formulated in accordance with existing higher level policy, notably the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Mid Sussex Local Plan 2004 (MSLP) and Mid Sussex Emerging District Plan (MSEDP).
2. The ASBSNP has been subject to wide ranging stakeholder engagements which has shaped and formed the key planning issues and policies.
3. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) includes the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is an EC Directive that requires all strategic documents to ensure they are in accordance with the aims of sustainable development. The SA (incorporating the requirements of the SEA), has been undertaken in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC, ODPM guidance, 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Directives', and the 2011 Localism Act.
4. The SA provides an appraisal tool to ensure that the principles of sustainable development, which comprises of economic, environmental and social issues, are positively achieved by the ASBSNP. The SA is a 'live' document that has been continually updated as work on the ASBSNP has progressed. The document seeks to assess all policies against other options to ensure that the most sustainable policy positions are taken forwards.

Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal

5. The Draft Scoping Report was published in October 2014 and provided a collection of baseline data for the Parish. The document sought to establish the key sustainability challenges facing the Parish of an economic, environmental and social nature.
6. The document was subject to a consultation process with Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), Natural England (NE), Environment Agency (EA) and Historic England (HA).
7. The Scoping Report assessed and collated all relevant plans, documents and programmes which might have an impact on the formation of policy and provide an understanding of the key sustainability issues faced by the Parish. The document included an overview of the Parish and then environmental, social and economic characteristics. Information was collected on the following topic areas:
 - Nature conservation;
 - Landscape;
 - Water;
 - Soil and Geology;
 - Heritage;
 - Air and Climate;
 - Human characteristics;
 - Roads and transport;
 - Infrastructure; and

- Economic characteristics.
8. As a result of this appraisal, a series of sustainability issues were identified. This sought to identify the challenges facing the Parish and then assess them if no neighbourhood plan was delivered. A SWOT analysis was also used to review issues facing the Parish. This showed that sustainability issues would be better addressed through the production of a neighbourhood plan.
 9. Once the sustainability issues had been clearly identified, the Scoping Report sought to establish a Sustainability Framework. The Sustainability Framework comprised of a number of objectives, with relevant indicators, which could be used to assess the identified sustainability issues.
 10. The consultation responses to the Scoping Report were incorporated into the Draft SA. Separately the Scoping Report was updated to reflect the comments made and subsequently issue along with the Draft ASBSNP at Regulation 14 Consultation Stage.

Draft Sustainability Appraisal

11. The Draft SA was completed in tandem with the Draft ASBSNP, which were both subject to public consultation at Regulation 14 Consultation Stage in July and August 2015. The following stages were undertaken for the SA:
 - Appraisal of SA (SEA) Methodology;
 - Summary of the baseline information and any updates Following the production of the Scoping Report;
 - Assessment of Sustainability Framework - Objectives and Indicators;
 - Appraisal of ASBSNP Policy Options Against the Sustainability Framework; and
 - Assessment of all ASBSNP policies against other policy options.
12. The Draft SA appraised all the draft policies of the ASBSNP, to ensure that the most sustainable options were being pursued. Each draft policy was assessed against the strategic objectives and then compared with other potential policy positions. Each policy was then assessed as being: significantly positive, positive, possible positive, neutral, possible negative, negative and significant negative.
13. The aim was to ensure that the most sustainable option was being pursued and if it were not, then the policy should be corrected to ensure compliance with the aims of sustainable development. Where conflicts were identified between draft polices and strategic objectives, these were discussed.

Submission Sustainability Appraisal

14. Following the consultation on the ASBSNP and SA at Regulation 14 Consultation Stage, several consultee comments were received, which needed to be appraised as part of the development of policies in respect of site allocations. As a result of this feedback, the SA was reviewed and minor amendments made. However, no new policies were added nor were any substantive changes to existing draft policies made.
15. The Submission Version of the SA (Regulation 16) was finalised in November 2015. This was some four months after the Draft Version. It was therefore necessary to review any new or updated documents and plans that might have been released during that time, that might contain important baseline data that should be considered as part of the ASBSNP. However, no

new and updated documents were identified that provided any substantive new baseline data or information. As a result, there was no new information that conflicted with any proposed policy or required a change to the vision and objectives.

16. Whilst minor amendments were made to a number of the ASBSNP policies in light of the consultation responses it was not deemed necessary to update and amend the alternative policies list to ensure the most sustainable options were still being pursued.

Appendix 1 Summary table of policy options sustainability appraisals

Policy	Sustainability Objectives									
	1 Address housing needs	2 Ensure healthy lifestyle	3 Access to key services	4 Protect landscape setting	5 Reduce impact on climate change	6 Improve safe movement	7 Protect historic environment	8 Preserve/enhance natural beauty	9 Retain character and distinctiveness	10 Maximise potential of employment
AS1	++	+	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0
AS2	-?	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	0
AS3	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	+	++	0
AS4	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AS5	-?	0	0	+	0	+	0	-	+	0
AS6	+	+	+	-?	+	-?	0	0	-?	+
AS7	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
AS8	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AS9	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
AS10	-?	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
AS11	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
AS12	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
AS13	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
AS14	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	+