

Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan

**Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic
Environmental Assessment)**

Non-Technical Summary



November 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) 2014-2031 has been prepared by Slaugham Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 1.2. It sets out the Vision and Strategic Objectives of the Parish up to 2031 along with the policies and aims to deliver it's Vision. It also includes housing allocations at St. Martin Close (east) and St. Martin Close (west) contributing to the housing need of the Parish.
- 1.3. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which a Plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 1.4. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the evaluation of the environmental impact of a Plan or programme. It is a requirement, as set out in the European Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 1.5. Government guidance (in a Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM 2005)) suggests incorporating the SEA process into the SA and consider economic and social effects alongside the environmental effects considered through the SEA. This approach has been followed. For simplification, this report is referred to as a Sustainability Appraisal, although it incorporates the SEA.

2. SCOPING REPORT

- 2.1. The Scoping Report of the SA collated baseline data on broad areas of economic, social and environmental issues. 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.
- 2.2. The Scoping Report and baseline data was subject to public consultation with statutory bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency) in July 2016 for a five week period.

3. PRE SUBMISSION SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 3.1. The Pre Submission SA was consulted on alongside the Pre Submission SNP for a 6 week period from 13 November 2017 until Monday 22 January 2018.
- 3.2. The purpose of this consultation was to assess whether the SNP may have effects on a range of sustainability topics and consider alternatives and mitigation to reduce any negative impact.
- 3.3. The Pre Submission SA set out;
 - An appraisal of the SA(inc SEA) methodology

- A summary of the baseline information, identification of the plans, policies and programmes that have an impact on the SNP (with updates) and a summary of the challenges for the future of the Parish.
- The Sustainability Framework; objectives and indicators
- An appraisal of policy options
- Next steps

- 3.4. The SA included an update on baseline data relating to the Mid Sussex District Plan. Since consultation on the Scoping Report in July 2016, Mid Sussex District Council submitted the District Plan to Government in August 2016. The examination of the District Plan commenced in November 2016 with a final hearing session held in February 2018. The Inspector published his Report on the 12 March 2018. The Council considered and adopted the District Plan, at its meeting on the 28 March 2018.
- 3.5. In response to feedback received from Historic England, additional information has been added to the baseline information that has informed the preparation of the SNP and the accompanying SA.
- 3.6. Having reviewed feedback from the Environment Agency no amendments to the baseline data and/or Objectives and Indicators were considered necessary.
- 3.7. Having reviewed feedback from Natural England no amendments to the baseline data and/or Objectives and Indicators were considered necessary.
- 3.8. The Strategic Objectives of the SNP were assessed against the Sustainability Objectives. This demonstrated that most of the Strategic Objectives of the SNP and the Sustainability Objectives are compatible or have a neutral impact which indicated that the SNP was being prepared positively.
- 3.9. The Sustainability Objectives were also assessed against themselves to test their mutual compatibility. This demonstrated that most Sustainability Objectives are either compatible or have a neutral impact.
- 3.10. The Pre Submission SA appraised the draft policies of the SNP to assess the impact on the Sustainability Objectives. This appraisal was undertaken to ensure that the policies selected and taken forward in the Pre-submission Plan are the most sustainable, given reasonable alternatives.

4. SUBMISSION SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 4.1. In response to consultation on the Pre-submission SNP and accompanying SA, circa 63 responses were received. Of those consulted, Natural England and some site promoters provided comments on the SA. These comments were considered and no amendments were deemed necessary to the SA.

- 4.2. In response to the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal , Natural England agreed the housing allocation policies are incompatible with Objective 1 (To conserve and enhance the countryside areas of the Parish) and that those policies will also have a negative impact on that objective and that housing will also impact on Policy 1 (Protecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).
- 4.3. Furthermore Natural England did not agree with the decision to exclude the allocation of 600 dwellings on land to the east of Pease Pottage with regard to assessment of site options (section 5.5). Natural England consider agree with MSDC that due to the over-provision at Pease Pottage, the Parish will not be expected to contribute further towards the District residual figure.
- 4.4. As a result of the overall feedback received, a number of amendments were made to the SNP to strengthen and clarify policies and to ensure alignment with adopted District Plan policies although no substantive changes have been made to the Policies or Aims.
- 4.5. The Submission SNP and accompanying documents including the SA were finalised during June- October 2018.