

Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan



Topic Paper 2 Draft Vision and Objectives

June 2014



Introduction

Newhaven Town Council are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the town and are consulting with the community, so that they can make their views known on how they would like to see Newhaven grow and change in the future, and what they would like to keep and protect. The framework for this consultation process is set out in the “Newhaven to 2030 Consultation Strategy”.

The Town Council took the first steps a while ago with the Big Planning Event in 2012 and the resulting “People’s Report” which has been used, along with the “A Profile of Newhaven”, to prepare this and the other Topic Papers. You can view these and all the other documents related to the Neighbourhood Plan, on the Town Council’s website www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk, or you can call in at the Town Council offices at 18Fort Road Newhaven, or at the library in the high street.

To aid the consultation process and provide a focus for discussion, the Town Council have put together a number of Topic Papers that cover a range of themes considered relevant for the town.

This Topic Paper 2 sets out the work that has been carried out so far, to develop a vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. These will form the basis for the Plan and provide an opportunity for the local community, including businesses and local organisations, to say whether they like the ideas put forward on how the town could grow and change, or if they think there should be alterations.

The full range of Topic Papers are as follows:

Topic Paper 1. Introduction and Background

Topic Paper 2. Vision and Objectives

Topic Paper 3. Housing (with an appendix)

Topic Paper 4. Facilities and Services

Topic Paper 5. Environment and Open Space

Topic Paper 6. Employment and Tourism

Topic Paper 7. Transport and Access

Wanted - Your Views

The Town Council would welcome your views on the draft vision and objectives, which can be done by completing the questionnaire that is being delivered to all households in the town at the beginning of July. Other ways of completing a questionnaire and getting involved are set out at the end of this Topic Paper.

What is the purpose of a Vision and Objectives?

The vision and objectives describe what the ‘best version’ of Newhaven would be like in 2030 and how this could be achieved. Ideas for these have come from previous community consultation, as well as aspirations for the town from Lewes District Council’s planning documents and the local characteristics of the town set out in ‘A Profile of Newhaven’.

The year 2030 was chosen, as this is the same date that the Lewes District Council Core Strategy plans for and so the Neighbourhood Plan must plan till this date too, if it is to be legally acceptable.

Having a clear vision and set of objectives the community support, will provide the guiding principles of the Neighbourhood Plan. These will help the Town Council decide on the type of planning policies that will need to be written later on in the plan making process, in order to assist in the delivery of the vision.

Not all of the vision can be controlled by land use planning and so there will be parts that will require co-operation and joint working with organisations and service providers. Such partners are being included in the consultation of these Topic Papers.

A Vision for Newhaven

The vision is like a guide for the Neighbourhood Plan, as it expresses what needs to be improved upon in the town and what needs to be achieved. What we have written is only a draft. We want to know if you think we have missed ideas out, or if we are describing a place that you wouldn't want Newhaven to be like in 2030. It is written in 'council speak' as the Neighbourhood Plan will eventually be a formal planning document and we want to make sure that we capture every detail.

Draft Vision for Newhaven

By 2030.....

Newhaven will have a quality built and natural environment with development respecting and maximising the potential of its historic and natural assets, whilst protecting the integrity of the countryside and coastal landscapes. Waterside access and a high quality riverside environment will have been achieved and supported, by a healthy working relationship with the port owners and the local community.

In order to improve safety and manage risks against the effects of climate change including sea level rise and pollution, measures will have been introduced that reduce the risk of river and tidal flooding, improve air quality and ensure a sustainable environment.

New housing will have been delivered to meet the local need and wider housing needs of the district, including affordable housing and a mix of housing types, to ensure an equitable balance of property sizes, essential for a sustainable community.

Residents will enjoy a good quality of life and to encourage healthy living, residents within the town will have access to a range of good quality recreational facilities including open spaces, footpaths and cycleways that provide access to the adjoining coast and countryside.

The town will have a strong and diverse economic base which meets the employment needs of the local community and wider area, with its reputation as a hub for the 'clean and green' sector fully established.

The town centre will provide an accessible focus to community life, revitalised with high quality public spaces and a greater range of uses and activity. The character of the historic assets of the town will have been enhanced and the connectivity of the retail areas west and east of the river will have been strengthened.

The local highway network will enable easy vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access within the town and access to the regional highway network and adjoining towns and cities. There will be facilities for a comprehensive and integrated public transport network serving the town and accessing the wider region.

Educational facilities will meet the needs of the local community and also act as a hub, linked to further and higher educational establishments which train for a diverse range and scale of enterprises and businesses.

The community will be sharing their seaside town with tourists and visitors, with the town acting as a destination in its own right, as well as the continental gateway to the National Park and beyond.

By 2030, the strategic importance of Newhaven will have been consolidated with the town being well known in the region for port generated activities and the cross channel ferry service.

Objectives to achieve the Vision for Newhaven

Having identified a vision that describes what Newhaven could be like in 2030, the next task is to identify how the vision can be achieved, by setting out objectives or actions which will help deliver it.

The objectives must be in broad conformity with planning policies at the District Council level and so includes the objective of delivering new homes, but it will be for the local community to decide where these new homes will go, what type they will be and what they will look like and this subject is covered in Topic Paper 3 - Housing.

The Town Council has identified the following draft objectives and these too have been developed with reference to community engagement at the Big Planning Event and evidence from the 'Profile of Newhaven' document.

Draft Objectives to Help Achieve the Vision

Objective 1: Housing

To meet the requirements of the Lewes District Proposed Submission Core Strategy, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to identify sites to deliver a minimum of 830 new homes for Newhaven. Housing development will:

- reflect the requirements of the Core Strategy, by an allocation for housing on land at Harbour Heights
- support the redevelopment of brownfield sites to housing where appropriate with due regard to ensuring the availability of employment for local people
- ensure that developments include a suitable mix of housing to meet local needs and provide a range of dwelling sizes to help foster a balanced community with homes in all sections of the market
- provide adequate car parking according to the house type and location

Objective 2: Good Quality Design

All future development will be well designed and will aim to:

- respect the scale, style and setting of the site with special reference to historic and maritime townscapes and infrastructure where development is in these areas,
- use materials which respect their setting and the local character
- be of the highest quality design
- provide appropriate public and private spaces around buildings
- be energy efficient using energy saving technologies
- be flood resilient

Objective 3: Community Quality of Life, Health and Well-being

The Plan will protect existing community facilities and services considered important for a vibrant community and support the development of new ones, which benefit local people and visitors by encouraging:

- new facilities for families, the elderly, young people and children
- the provision of infrastructure to keep pace with population growth
- development which supports the provision of a new multi-function community hall
- the protection and improvement of existing open spaces and recreational facilities and assist in delivery of additional green infrastructure
- safe and attractive cycle and walking routes, connecting all parts of the town to each other including key destinations
- seek opportunities for providing indoor recreation space in particular for younger people

Objective 4: Reducing flood risk and protecting water quality

The Plan will encourage new ways of reducing flood risk and water pollution throughout the town by:

- supporting the implementation of the Coastal Futures 'Vision and Action Plan' (identified in The Profile of Newhaven)
- making sure that developments minimise the impact on water quality and subsequent health risks during flooding conditions
- reducing the impact of surface water runoff and improving drainage while mindful of the impact of geological features such as springs

Objective 5: Facilities and Services

The plan will seek ways to maintain and improve upon the level of services and facilities to support the community through:

- an improved pedestrian focused town centre
- retaining the town centre as a community hub
- encouraging a diverse town centre with a range of uses and services
- supporting development proposals that respect the 'old town'
- improving sustainable transport and pedestrian activity

Objective 6: Environment and Open Space

To maintain and improve the environment for the community and visitors the plan will:

- protect existing areas of green space within the parish and improve their quality

where required

- seek to provide substantial new provision of open space
- provide additional areas of green space within new developments to meet new need
- create linkages between neighbourhoods and developed areas and address gaps in existing networks by the creation of new rights of way where possible
- ensure accessible green space should at least meet or exceed 'Fields in Trust' standards for play spaces and sports pitches
- identify additional land for allotments

Objective 7: Transport and Access

The Plan will support new ways of managing the traffic in and around Newhaven by:

- encouraging pedestrian and cyclist safety through lower traffic speeds and traffic volumes
- supporting cycling through the addition of new bike parks close to the town centre and creating a network of pedestrian and cycle routes which are accessible for the disabled
- supporting local and strategic traffic management proposals to serve new developments including the provision of a new access road onto the A259 to serve Harbour Heights
- support the provision of a new transport interchange facility in the vicinity of Newhaven Town Station with improved facilities and experience for pedestrians, cyclists and people travelling by bus or taxi

Objective 8: Economy and Employment

The plan will help businesses create jobs by:

- ensuring that existing employment sites are kept for employment use, where there is an identified need
- supporting new employment uses in suitable locations including new mixed use development such as live/work units
- supporting designations for specific areas of Newhaven to attract new investment
- supporting refurbishment and environmental improvements to existing employment areas for adaptation and attracting new employment use
- supporting development or uses that are associated with a positive visitor experience including recreational/leisure uses
- encouraging tourism, arts and cultural uses to create a niche market

Objective 9: Sustainability and climate change

The Plan will encourage moves towards a low-carbon economy which includes local food production, high standards of energy conservation and the use of renewable energy through:

- application of higher energy standards
- exemplary design of new build such as green technology and vertical horticulture
- encouraging development that uses combined heat and power technology
- identifying allotment site/sites
- future proofing development against the impacts of climate change

Your Voice Your Say

You can tell us what you think about these objectives and whether you think that we have missed anything out, by filling in the questionnaire that will be delivered to all households in the town at the beginning of July. In addition, set out below are other ways you can make your views known.

How to get involved

Local communities really do have power to shape the places in which they live. As the Neighbourhood Plan will be a community led document, your views and support are **really important** to the Town Council and are essential, if we are to deliver a Plan that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of those that live and work in the town.

There are a number of ways that you can make your views known and the community can get involved.

- You can **complete the questionnaire** (which will ask for your views on the draft vision and objectives) that will be delivered to each household in the town and return it to the Town Council. The questionnaire will also be available from the Town Council offices at 18 Fort Road, or can be posted to you, simply phone 01273 516100, email admin@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk, or download from the Town Council's website www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk; **We would be grateful if you would submit your comments by Friday 1st August**
- Comment on the **Profile of Newhaven** which is available to read on line at the address above or is available to view at the Town Council's offices or the local library.
- You can **sign up to the Citizens Panel**, which will be used to continue with this and the other stages of the Neighbourhood Plan's consultation and other plans of the Town Council.
A "Citizens Panel Membership Form" is available from the Town Council offices in Fort Road, can be posted to you simply phone 01273 516100, or are available to download from the Town Council's website www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk;
- You, or your group/organisation, can **be involved in one or more of the Focus Groups** that are being established to look at the topics covered in the Neighbourhood Plan in more detail. Phone the Council Offices for more details;
- You can **attend one of the exhibitions** below, which have been organised to provide information and opportunities to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and how it might affect the community where you live;

Exhibition dates

8th July at Meeching Hall, Fort Road, 10am – 3pm

8th July at Lewes Road Hut, 5pm – 8pm

15th July at Denton and Mount Pleasant Social Centre, 10am – 2pm

