



# Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan



## Topic Paper 5 Environment & Open Spaces

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. The Topic Papers are being used to provide a focus for discussion on a number of themes considered relevant to the town.

**This Topic Paper 5 – Environment and Open Space, sets out the emerging work in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to the environment and open spaces, including options for additional amenity, recreational and play space in and surrounding the town.**

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 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; whether you agree with the key issues and problems relating to the environment and open space in Newhaven and whether the vision and objectives are likely to deliver the improvements/change that you would like to see.

This 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.

## Key Issues and challenges

‘A Profile of Newhaven’ (available on the Town Council’s website) identified the following key issues and challenges for the town in respect of the environment and open space:

- Improvement needed to public realm within town centre for community and visitors
- Older parts of the town have little public amenity space
- Strengthen connectivity of retail areas east and west of the river
- Natural and man-made elements sever one part of the town from another.
- Improvement to legibility of route-ways within the town to join up different neighbourhoods
- Severance impact of ring road on town centre
- Poor environmental quality to town centre gateways

- Industrial ‘clutter’ on North Quay (outside Neighbourhood Plan scope as not within NP designated area)
- Stark contrast between urban and rural landscapes
- Shortfall in allotment provision
- Flood risk identified to areas within the town
- Unprotected cliffs
- Impacts of Climate Change
- Poor air quality in congested parts of the town
- Undersupply of formal recreation provision and play spaces

The above key issues contributed to the development of a ‘vision’ for Newhaven.

## Vision

The following paragraphs have been taken from the overall draft vision set out in Topic Paper 2 and relate to aspirations and aim in the Neighbourhood Plan in respect of the environment and open spaces.

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.*

## Objectives

Topic Paper 2 also lists nine draft objectives which will support delivery of the overall vision. The following objectives relate to the environment and open space:

### 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

## Consideration

One of Newhaven's strengths is that it sits in the context of a high quality landscape, much of which is designated in the South Downs National Park. The National Park designation means that new development must conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

Lewes District Council's (LDC) Proposed Submission Core Strategy Core Policy 8 – Green Infrastructure, states that the local planning authority will promote a connected network of multi-functional green infrastructure by protecting and enhancing the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces throughout the district. This will be achieved by:

- Identifying where there is potential for the enhancement or restoration of existing green infrastructure and opportunities for the provision of new green space.
- Ensuring that development maintains and/or manages identified green infrastructure, where appropriate.
- Requiring development to contribute to the green infrastructure network and make provision for new green infrastructure and/or linkages to existing green infrastructure, where appropriate.
- Resisting development that would undermine the functional integrity of the green infrastructure network or would result in the loss of existing green spaces, unless either mitigation measures are incorporated within the development or alternative and suitable provision is made elsewhere in the locality.

In respect of poor air quality, LDC Core Policy 9 – Air Quality, seeks to reduce traffic levels in areas of reduced air quality, particularly in town centre locations, and promote the opportunity for cycling through the provision of cycleways.

LDC Core Policy 10 – Natural Environment and Landscape Character, amongst other things seeks to conserve and enhance the natural, locally distinctive and heritage landscape qualities and characteristics of the district, including hedgerows, ancient woodland and shaws, and seeks to ensure that new development will not harm nature conservation interests, unless the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the harm caused

## Opportunities

Having an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will enable the Town Council to receive 25% (rather than 15%) of the Community Infrastructure Levy. This will ensure additional money is available for open space and recreation improvements which will have more demands placed upon it, with new development coming to the town.

In addition the Plan could allocate land for open space, recreation and allotment use, while Plan policies could require new development, to provide new green infrastructure and improve pedestrian links around the town.

## 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** 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](mailto:admin@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk), or download from the Town Council's website [www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk); **We would be grateful if you would submit your comments by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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;
- 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

**8<sup>th</sup> July at Meeching Hall, Fort Road, 10am – 3pm**

**8th July at Lewes Road Hut, 5pm – 8pm**

**15<sup>th</sup> July at Denton and Mount Pleasant Social Centre, 10am – 2pm**



