



Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan



Topic Paper 7

Transport and Access

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, at the Town Council’s website www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk, or you can call in at the Town Council offices at 18Fort Road Newhaven, or phone us on 01273 516100.

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 7 – Transport and Access sets out the emerging work in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to transport and access in the town such as issues relating to pedestrian access and movements around the town and wider impacts of traffic generally.

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 transport and access in Newhaven and whether the vision and objectives relating to this subject 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 facilities and services:

- Impact of ring road on town centre
- Pedestrian movements from the shift of retail offer from west to east of the river
- Higher incidence of people walking and cycling to work
- Natural and man-made elements severing one part of the town from another and restricting access routes.
- A259 which is a heavily congested urban road and to the trunk road network by the A26.

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 transport and access:

By 2030.....

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 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.

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

Topic Paper 2 also lists nine draft objectives which will support delivery of the overall vision. The following objectives relate to supporting improved transport and access.

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

Considerations

East Sussex County Council is the local transport authority and has a statutory duty to produce a Local Transport Plan which is available to view at, <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/localtransportplan/ltp3/downloadltp3.htm> and covers the period from 2011 – 2026. Amongst other things it sets the programme for maintaining roads, bridges, integrated transport and road safety schemes.

Lewes District Councils (LDC) Proposed Submission Core Policy 13 – Sustainable Travel, sets out that the local planning authority will promote and support development that encourages travel by walking, cycling and public transport, and reduces the proportion of journeys made by car.

The Policy states that this will be achieved by a number of ways including;

- Ensuring that new development is located in sustainable locations with good access to schools, shops, jobs and other key services by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Ensuring that the design and layout of new development prioritises the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport over ease of access by the motorist.
- Ensuring that new residential developments are designed to achieve speeds of 20 mph or less.
- Requiring new development to provide for an appropriate level of cycle and car parking.
- Encourage improvements to existing rail services, new or enhanced connections or interchanges between bus and rail services, and improvements to the quality and quantity of car and cycle parking at railway stations

Opportunities

The Neighbourhood Plan can include specific proposals regarding infrastructure (including transport) that will be delivered by other bodies such as Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council as the Highway Authority. These would be integrated with policies for a range of developments to ensure a comprehensive approach to development.

With this in mind and in view of the requirement by Lewes District Council's Proposed Submission Core Strategy for development to be identified at Harbour Heights, a new link road has been suggested between the site and the A259 at Objective 7. This would reduce traffic impacts on Court Farm Road, Fort Road, and its junction with the one way system in the town.

There are also other issues relating to the impact of traffic volume and congestion which require improving and these may create opportunities for improving the environment for pedestrians and driving experience for motorists. This could be through alterations to the traffic light system, crossings and vehicle priorities and routes.

As Newhaven is required to take new development, East Sussex County Council will be a key partner in seeking to resolve existing highway problems as well as mitigating against the vehicle impacts of new development.

In respect of sustainable transport, this can be supported by the design of new development enhancing the attractiveness of walking and cycling and being well linked to public transport.

These are all issues that you may feel very strongly about, so please let us know what you think about this idea, by filling out the questionnaire referred to below.

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, 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;
- 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

