

“Ringmer to 2030”

SA/SEA Scoping Report for the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan

July 2012

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1. Introduction

1.1 Ringmer Parish Council has commenced work on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, which will form a part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) once it has been adopted. In accordance with European and national legislation, documents prepared under the Local Development Framework (LDF) must be subject to the Sustainability Appraisal process and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Therefore, the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA requirements will need to apply to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. This report sets out the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating a SEA, for consultation with the relevant environmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

1.2 The report is structured as follows;

Section 2 summarises the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and how Ringmer Parish Council has progressed it to date. This section also presents an introduction to the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA process.

Section 3 sets out how the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan will be influenced by a number of other plans, policies and objectives. This section is linked to Appendix A that contains a review of the plans, policies and objectives.

Section 4 presents the current baseline information, setting out the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the parish. Any difficulties in collecting this information have been documented.

Section 5 outlines the key sustainability issues the parish faces.

Section 6 sets out the sustainability objectives and indicators as a basis on which to measure the effectiveness of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and options considered in its development.

Section 7 presents a summary of the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process and the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. The structure and level of detail to be provided in subsequent Sustainability Appraisal reports is also identified.

How to comment on this report

- 1.3 This Scoping Report has been issued for consultation. Comments on the Scoping Report can be made between Friday 6 July & Friday 17 August 2012. At this stage we would welcome your views on the economic, social and environmental characteristics identified for the parish, and the sustainability issues, objectives and indicators. We would also appreciate it if you are able to identify any additional plans, policies and other documents that we have not identified in Appendix A of this report. Comments can be sent:

By e-mail: clerk.ringmerparishcouncil@btconnect.com

By post: The Clerk, Ringmer Parish Council, Ringmer Village Hall, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5QH

2. Background

Ringmer Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 Ringmer Parish Council has begun the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Ringmer parish under the Localism Act, 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan, when completed and approved, will form part of the Lewes District Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF consists of a number of Local Development Documents (LDDs) that will replace the policies contained within the District Council's Local Plan.
- 2.2 The central element of the LDF is its Core Strategy, which is still under development. An Emerging Core Strategy was published in September 2011 and has been subject to consultation. Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority expect their Core Strategy to be adopted in 2013.
- 2.3 The Ringmer Village Plan was adopted in 2003, after an extensive local opinion survey and consultation. An Employment Strategy for Ringmer was developed from this in 2006 and a Strategy for Residential Development in Ringmer was developed in 2009. Both were subject to extensive consultation with residents prior to adoption. The Ringmer Village Plan and the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan application under the Vanguard scheme (made in partnership with Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority) shared the aim of enabling Ringmer to become a more sustainable rural community, with increased local employment and a decreased need for commuting. The consultations undertaken in developing the Village Plan will contribute to the evidence base from which the Neighbourhood Plan will be developed, but will not dictate its contents.
- 2.4 The Parish Council commenced the early engagement process on the Neighbourhood Plan in Spring 2011. Following the publication, for consultation, of this Scoping Report the Parish Council will also publish a draft Neighbourhood Plan. Comments received on these documents will help inform the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan document, which should be issued for consultation later in 2012.
- 2.5 This Scoping Report sets out the first few stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process, which incorporates the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

What is Sustainable Development?

- 2.6 Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It is about considering the long-term social, economic and environmental issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way. The UK Government has set five guiding principles to achieve the sustainable development purpose. These principles form the basis for policy in the UK and are as follows:

(a) Living within Environmental Limits

Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

(b) Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society

Meeting the diverse needs of present and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.

(c) Building a Strong, Stable and Sustainable Economy

Providing prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

(d) Promoting Good Governance

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity.

(e) Using Sound Science Responsibly

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

- 2.7 The commitment to the achievement of sustainable development was set out in legislation introduced at both a European and national level; in 2004 the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was implemented in the UK, as was the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. This sets out the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

- 2.8 A Sustainability Appraisal aims to predict and assess the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from documents such as a Neighbourhood Plan. It is a process for understanding whether policies, strategies or plans promote sustainable development, and for improving those policies etc to deliver more sustainable outcomes.
- 2.9 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) aims to predict and assess the environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans, policies and strategies, such as a Neighbourhood Plan. It is a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and policies. The SEA process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Therefore, where this report refers to the Sustainability Appraisal it can be assumed that this also means the SEA.

Compliance with Government Regulations and the SEA Directive

- 2.10 In undertaking the appraisal process, the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations), which transpose the Directive into English law, will be followed. In addition, this appraisal process will follow the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the National Planning Policy Framework (para.165). The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Plan Making Manual, which is contained on the Planning Advisory Service website, has and will guide the appraisal process. Of particular importance is the Sustainability Appraisal guidance, which has replaced the 2005 government guidance on ‘Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents’.

3. Plans, policies and other documents relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 To establish a clear scope for the sustainability appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan it is necessary to review and understand the wider range of plans, policies, strategies, guidance, evidence papers and initiatives that are relevant to it. These range from documents produced by the European Union to the Ringmer Village Plan. These documents inform the key sustainability issues and in turn the sustainability objectives. Appendix A of this report sets out in detail the documents identified as informing and affecting the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 There is a hierarchy of EU, national, regional and local documents that affect the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. One of the main plans that will influence the development of the Neighbourhood Plan is the Lewes District Core Strategy, which is still under development. The Neighbourhood Plan is required to conform with this Core Strategy, which will include contributing to the District's employment and housing requirements.
- 3.3 There are likely to be some conflicts between the different documents that will impact upon the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will need to identify such conflicts and resolve them where possible. One of the main conflicts is the importance of accommodating development to meet community needs whilst ensuring that the highly valued character of the parish, widely described as its "village feel", is maintained and enhanced. The central importance to residents of Ringmer's "village feel" has been emphasised in successive consultations, including those for the 1988 Ringmer Village Appraisal, the 2003 Ringmer Village Plan and those carried out in 2011-2012 for this Neighbourhood Plan. The term describes residents' perceptions of Ringmer's scale, its geography, its heritage, its relationship to the surrounding countryside and its vibrant social dynamic as a rural community. The maintenance of Ringmer's "village feel" despite necessary development is identified as a key requirement of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.4 Through consulting upon this Scoping Report the parish council wish to ensure that all relevant policy issues have been identified, and that all the plans, policies and other documents that are relevant in a rapidly developing policy context are included in Appendix A. The parish council will thus welcome any comments through the consultation on this report drawing our attention to any conflicts and challenges that we have not identified or identifying any relevant documents that are not included in Appendix A.

4. The baseline situation: a portrait of Ringmer parish

General characteristics

- 4.1 Ringmer parish is located in Lewes District and the county of East Sussex. It lies north-east of the county town of Lewes, with Ringmer village 3 miles and the Broyleside 4 miles from Lewes. The parish covers an area of 2,589 ha, extending from downland in the south of the parish to a typical Low Wealden landscape to the north.
- 4.2 The total **population** of the parish is 4,624 (2011 mid-year estimate), compared to 97,653 for Lewes District. This represents about 4.5% of the total District population, 77% of which lives in the District's five towns. In terms of population, Ringmer is the largest parish in the District's rural Low Weald. Although about 20% of Ringmer parish lies within the South Downs National Park boundary, over 98% of the parish population lives outside the National Park.
- 4.3 **Local shops and services** are found in Ringmer village, but many serve a larger area than Ringmer itself. These include the bank (which has recently extended its hours of opening to 9.30-4.30 Monday-Friday), the health centre, the pharmacy, the dentist, a public house, a garage, the Ringmer Children's Centre and, in particular, the secondary school, Ringmer Community College and Sixth Form, which now has Academy status. There are no local shops or services in the Broyleside, though there is an agricultural machinery and equipment supplier serving a wide area. The rural parts of the parish include three public houses, a garden centre, a second garage with a convenience store at Lower Clay Hill and a major builders' supplier with a retail arm. There is no supermarket in Ringmer, and Ringmer residents use those in Lewes and Uckfield or further afield. Parking restrictions in Lewes make Ringmer's shops and services attractive to many residents in outlying areas of Lewes, just a short car journey away. The convenient and free parking in Ringmer village is essential for the viability of these services. For major items and comparison shopping Ringmer residents can use Brighton, Shoreham, Eastbourne or Tunbridge Wells or, increasingly, shop online. The city of Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Gatwick/Crawley provide employment and leisure opportunities, and there is significant commuter traffic to destinations across East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Greater London.
- 4.4 There are **no trunk roads**, managed by the Highways Agency, in Ringmer parish. The most usual point of access to the trunk road network for Ringmer residents is via the B2192 and A26 to access the A27 at Southerham roundabout. Ringmer's principal roads are the A26, which runs north-south between Lewes and Uckfield through the western rural part of Ringmer parish; the B2192, which runs from the A26 at Earwig Corner through Ringmer village and the Broyleside north-eastwards towards Heathfield and the Weald; and the B2124 which runs from the B2192 at the southern edge of the Broyleside towards the A22 trunk road, and thus Hailsham and Eastbourne. All three roads have a single carriageway in each direction.

Environmental characteristics

- 4.5 The **landscape and historic environment** of the parish is highly valued by residents. There is a diverse and attractive countryside, including chalk downland, agricultural land divided by many ancient hedgerows, the bank of the River Ouse with brookland, four former hunting parks and areas of ancient and more modern woodland. The Broyle, an area of 720 ha in the north-east of the parish, forms a distinctive landscape element. It was a large wooded deer park and common, enclosed in 1767 by the first

Parliamentary Enclosure Act in Sussex. The ancient woodland was completely cleared at enclosure, and the Broyle retains a distinctive open landscape of straight wide roads and large hedged fields. There are two main settlements with planning boundaries, Ringmer village and the Broyleside. There are in addition several small hamlets in the countryside, some of which are the remains of medieval settlements that pre-date Ringmer itself. The parish includes elements of two distinct landscape character areas, as identified in the National Character Assessment, which are the South Downs and the Low Weald. Ringmer village stands at the transition between them. The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment has identified and defined the landscape character of the County, which includes Ringmer parish, in more detail (this includes more localised character areas). Problems, pressures and detracting features of the landscape areas are defined, such as the removal of hedgerows and damage to ancient woodland (the Low Weald) and the scrub invasion of chalk grassland.

- 4.6 Ringmer includes one **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**, the Plashett Wood. SSSIs are of national importance and are designated based on their nature conservation and/or geological value. Plashett Wood was last assessed to be in an unfavourable but recovering condition. The internationally important Lewes Downs **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)** lies on the border of Ringmer parish, and separates Ringmer from Lewes. SACs are areas that have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, helping to increase the protection for a variety of animals, plants and habitats and are seen as a vital part of the global effort to conserve the world's biodiversity. **Ancient Woodland** is an important ecological resource that deserves protection. About half of the Plashett Wood ancient woodland lies in Ringmer parish, and there are additional fingers and plots of ancient woodland within Plashett Park Farm, immediately to the south of the Plashett Wood and in the same ownership. These are shown on the District Council's recently updated Ancient Woodland Inventory, which provides a more accurate picture of the extent of this important biodiversity resource in the District.
- 4.7 The parish is home to significant amounts of **important species and habitats**. The most important are the chalk downland to the south (part of which adjoins the Lewes Downs SAC) and Plashett Park Farm and the Plashett Wood to the north. Plashett Park Farm and Plashett Wood have provided records of a remarkable diversity of birds and bats, including many rare and protected species. Badgers and wild deer are found throughout the parish and there are large and thriving populations of Great Crested newts and slow-worms in Ringmer village and its surrounding pastureland.
- 4.8. Lewes District Council is a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and has thus pledged to tackle the causes of climate change and prepare for its consequences. The District's domestic consumption of energy contributes to climate change. Presently, annual **carbon dioxide emissions per capita** is slightly higher in Lewes District (2.4 tonnes) than the national average (2.3 tonnes), but is the same as both the East Sussex and the South East averages. On average, each domestic consumer in Lewes District used 4,503 Kilowatt Hours (kWh) of electricity in 2008. This is similar to the average for East Sussex (4,505 kWh) and the South East (4,543 kWh), but is a little higher than the average for Great Britain as a whole (4,198 kWh). In terms of domestic gas consumption, each consumer in Lewes District used 15,948 kWh of gas in 2008. This compares favourably with the national average (16,906 kWh) and the South East average (17,022 kWh) but is slightly higher than the East Sussex average (15,946 kWh). It should be noted that consumption of energy resources have been steadily decreasing since 2003. There are no separate data for Ringmer parish.

- 4.9 The general and social characteristics sections identify some of the key characteristics associated with transport in the district. As in other rural areas, a high proportion of daily travel is undertaken by private car. A cycleway intended to connect Ringmer to Lewes at present runs only to the Ringmer parish boundary, and there is no safe cycle route connecting Ringmer village to the Broyleside. There is a well-established and well-maintained network of public rights of way in Ringmer parish, but beyond the reach of these access to the most attractive countryside areas is limited.
- 4.10 Ringmer parish benefits from a high quality built environment, especially in the early hamlets and the Conservation Area around Ringmer Green. Ringmer parish is home to 49 **Listed Buildings**, including the **Grade I** medieval **Ringmer church** and several other medieval houses. **Grade II*** are considered to be particularly important buildings of more than special interest and only one building in Ringmer parish falls into this category. **Grade II** buildings are buildings of special interest, thus warranting every effort to preserve them. Ringmer parish has 47 Grade II buildings. This list has not been systematically reviewed for over half a century, and is not believed to represent, or to accurately identify, Ringmer's built heritage. Ringmer has one Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Clay Hill motte, which is believed to have been the site of an archiepiscopal hunting lodge serving the Plashett Park.
- 4.11 With regards to characteristics on waste, on average, each person in Lewes District produces 343kg per of **domestic waste per annum**, which compares favourably to the East Sussex average (486kg). No information specific for Ringmer parish has been located. There is a weekly collection of general domestic waste and a fortnightly collection of specified recyclable materials from Ringmer doorsteps. There is a small recycling facility for a restricted range of materials at Anchor Field. However, recycling cardboard and disposal of green waste or large electrical items requires a journey by private car from Ringmer to the nearest District recycling facility at Ham Lane, Lewes, through some of the most congested and polluted streets of the town. There is a large commercial composting facility in Isfield, just across the Ringmer parish boundary, that processes green waste from as far away as Eastbourne and Surrey, but it is not currently accessible to Ringmer residents. Approximately a quarter of waste collected in Lewes District is either recycled, composted or has its energy recovered, whilst the rest is sent to landfill. This does not compare well to the East Sussex average, where approximately 56% is either recycled, composted or has its energy recovered, whilst the rest is sent to landfill. However, the recently completed Energy from Waste Incinerator in Newhaven is expected to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase the amount of energy that is recovered from waste collected throughout Lewes district.
- 4.12 In general, **air quality** across the parish is good. The principal issue arises from peak hour traffic queuing along the B2192 towards the Earwig Corner junction with the A26 in the morning, and queuing along the A26 at Malling Hill towards the same junction in the evening. These queues form in the immediate vicinity of the Lewes Downs SAC. Traffic from Ringmer to and from central areas of Lewes, including the railway station and the Ham Lane recycling centre, contributes to traffic flows in problematic areas of Lewes such as Station Street and Fisher Street.
- 4.13 The **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** (SFRA) identified that there is significant risk of flooding in Lewes District both from inundation by the sea and from the River Ouse. Ringmer is an inland parish, but some parts are low-lying and served by tidal rivers; the River Ouse forms the parish's western boundary and Glynde Reach part of its eastern boundary. Ringmer sewage works, which drains into Glynde Reach, is barely 5m above mean sea level. Ringmer has some areas of flood plain and brookland, along the River Ouse, Glynde Reach and their tributary streams, but there has been no

development in these areas, so that flooding there is of little consequence. However, there has been a significant history of run-off flooding of residential and commercial buildings in many low-lying areas of the parish due to inadequate drainage. The area of greatest concern is recurrent flooding from the Norlington Stream, which affects some dozens of houses towards the southern part of the Broyleside. Such flooding is exacerbated by the rapid run off from the Broyle business estates between the B2192 and the B2124. The likelihood of flooding is anticipated to increase due to climate change causing more extreme weather conditions.

- 4.14 The whole of the South East of England, including Lewes District, is classed as a **Water Stressed Area**, meaning that prudent use of the District's water resources is sought. Despite this, water use in the South East area is currently higher than the national level, but the introduction of compulsory metering (due before 2020) is anticipated to reduce this. Ringmer is supplied with water by South East Water, which has a major water supply works within the parish at Barcombe Mills, but whose supplies appear particularly stressed. Waste water is removed by a different company, Southern Water, which undertakes both activities for Lewes and other nearby communities.
- 4.15 Ringmer parish, lying just below the scarp of the Downs, has a **variety of soils**. The most fertile soils are those just below the scarp of the Downs, along the banks of the Ouse and a band of Lower Greensand that runs across the parish through Wellingham and Norlington. There are a small number of **contaminated sites** within the parish, from either present or former industrial activity or small local landfill sites. The ponds of a former brickworks have been converted to the use of a thriving animal rescue sanctuary.

Social characteristics

- 4.16 In 2001 only 1.3% of Ringmer residents described themselves as **non-white**, compared to 2.1% in Lewes District and 8.7% in the UK overall. 98% of Ringmer residents were born in the UK, compared to 97% of District residents and 94% of UK residents. 75% of Ringmer residents defined themselves as **Christian**, compared to 72% in both Lewes District and the UK. The remainder described themselves as of no religion or declined to say, with all other religions far below 1% of Ringmer residents. This information may well prove significantly out of date when the 2011 census results become available. 22% of Ringmer residents were **aged 65 or older** in 2011, compared to 24% of residents in Lewes District. Both values are significantly higher than the national average (17%). The proportion of residents **aged over 85** is 5%, higher than the average for Lewes District (4%) and more than twice the national average (2%). This may reflect the facilities for the elderly, including sheltered housing and care homes, in Ringmer parish. As future projections are that the proportion of residents over 65, and especially the proportion over 85, is likely to increase, there will be a need to focus on planning to meet the needs of an ageing population.
- 4.17 The **health** of the residents of Lewes District is good. Life expectancy from birth is 80.5 for males and 84.3 for females, which is higher than the national averages (77.8 and 82.0) and the East Sussex averages (79.2 and 83.0). Furthermore, only 8.5% of the population of Lewes District is categorised as being in not good health, lower than the national average (9.2%). There are however large variations across the District, with 12.8% of the residents of Peacehaven East being not in good health compared to the 4.3% of residents in the Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St. John (Without) ward being placed in this category. This information is not available separately for Ringmer parish as a whole (there are two superoutput areas entirely within Ringmer parish, but a third combines a section of Ringmer with two adjoining estate-dominated

parishes which have rather different social characteristics), but the best available evidence suggests that the health of Ringmer residents reflects that of the District as a whole.

- 4.18 The **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** measures levels of deprivation across a range of issues including income, skills and training and living environment. IMD is measured in superoutput areas (SOAs), rather than by parish. There are two SOAs entirely within Ringmer parish, but a third SOA includes both eastern Ringmer, with the Broyleside settlement, and also the two adjoining parishes of Glynde and Beddingham. These two parishes are very different in nature from Ringmer, as a very high proportion of their housing is rented from the Glynde Estate, and Beddingham parish has an exceptionally low median household income. All three SOAs have less deprivation than the national average. One Ringmer SOA (western Ringmer, including part of Ringmer village) is in the least deprived decile of UK SOAs, by overall IMD, or by the separate IMDs assessing child or older people's deprivation. The second Ringmer SOA (the remainder of Ringmer village) is in the 3rd least deprived decile overall and also for older people and the 5th decile for child deprivation. The remaining SOA, including both eastern Ringmer and the adjoining parishes, is in the 5th decile overall and the 3rd or 4th decile for deprivation affecting older people and children. While there are some SOAs in Lewes District showing considerable deprivation, these are all in Lewes town or the coastal communities.
- 4.19 **Crime** figures suggest that Ringmer can be considered a safe place to live, even by the standards of Lewes District. The 2008/09 statistics show that there were 55 crimes recorded per 1,000 residents in Lewes District, which is far lower than the national average (85 crimes per 1,000 residents) and slightly lower than the East Sussex average (62 crimes per 1,000 residents). The comparable figure for Ringmer in 2011/2 was 39 crimes per 1,000 residents. The five principal crime categories in Ringmer parish in both 2011/2 and 2010/1 were burglary (non-dwelling), theft from a vehicle, other theft, criminal damage to a vehicle and other criminal damage, with between 15-22 cases in each category in 2011/2. 42 of the 181 crimes recorded were for the four categories of criminal damage combined, while 48 crimes involved vehicles. In 2011/2 there were 3 burglaries from dwellings, and a very small number of more serious crimes.
- 4.20 Lewes District is not considered an affordable district to buy a house when compared with national figures or county wide figures. According to July 2009 figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the **median house price** in Lewes District was £215,000, higher than the national (£174,995) and East Sussex averages (£195,000) Similarly, the **ratio of house prices to earnings** stood at 7.39 to 1 in 2009, which is higher than the national ratio of 5.49 to 1 and the East Sussex ratio of 6.78 to 1. Comparable data for Ringmer parish have not been identified, and both house prices and household earnings vary considerably across the District. However, evidence collected from local estate agents is that Ringmer house prices are significantly lower than those for comparable properties in Lewes town and some other rural villages, but significantly higher than those in the coastal towns within the District. A similar, though not identical, pattern is seen in household income.
- 4.21 The estimated number of **households** in Ringmer parish in 2011 was 2,015, comprising 4.5% of the 42,979 in Lewes District. 79% of Ringmer households were owner-occupied, compared to 78% in Lewes District, the remainder in each case being evenly divided between those rented from the council or a housing association and those rented privately. The percentage owner-occupied is about 10% higher than the national average. Average household size was 2.3 in both Ringmer and Lewes District.

4.22 On 31 March 2011 there were 2,267 **households on the waiting lists for local authority housing in Lewes District**. Of these households 69 (3%) expressed a first preference to be accommodated in Ringmer. The proportion of households seeking accommodation in Ringmer was thus below statistical expectation, and at the lower end of the range for communities within the District. As travel expenses are particularly high for rural residents, and families seeking affordable accommodation likely to possess relatively low incomes, it is particularly important that affordable housing is made available at the locations where it is required. About 25% of the households on the District housing list already occupied local authority or housing association property, but were seeking to transfer to a different type of property or a different location. Only about 15% of households on the list were classified in the two highest categories of housing need (bands A and B), with 85% classified as having no current housing need (band D) or limited housing need (band C). The majority (85%) of those on the District list sought accommodation with 1 or 2 bedrooms.

4.23 **Educational achievement** amongst Ringmer’s primary school children is excellent. This is shown by 89% of Ringmer children achieving key stage 4 standard or above in English and maths by the end of key stage 2 in 2009-2010, compared to 71% in Lewes District overall and 72% for East Sussex.

4.24 When considering all residents between 16 and 74, census figures show that only 23% of Ringmer residents have **no qualifications**. This percentage is lower than the values for Lewes District (26%) and the UK (29%). Conversely, a higher percentage of Ringmer residents are **graduates** (24%), than in Lewes District (21%) or the UK (20%).

4.25 **Car ownership**, including multiple car ownership, is much higher in Ringmer than in the District or the UK as a whole (table below). The Ringmer households without cars are overwhelmingly pensioner households (too old too poor to drive). Half of all Ringmer households with a car in 2001 had two or more cars. When compared to residents in Lewes town, only half the proportion of Ringmer households managed without a car, while twice as many Ringmer households had two or more cars. This difference is even more stark if pensioner households are excluded.

Cars per household	Ringmer	Lewes District	UK
None	15%	21%	27%
Two or more	42%	33%	29%
Three or more	10%	7%	6%

4.26 The high Ringmer car ownership figures reflect the dependence of rural life on travel by private car. The **main roads** serving Ringmer are a non-trunk road section of the A26 (which runs from Lewes to Uckfield through western Ringmer), the B2192 and the B2124. All three roads have a single carriageway in each direction, and are representative of the rural A/B road network that has the highest national accident rates. The B2124 and B2192 join together at the southern end of the Broyleside, so that their combined through traffic then travels along the B2192 through Ringmer village. Ringmer has very poor access to the trunk road network. To reach the most direct access point, the A27 roundabout at Southerham, Ringmer residents have to travel via the B2192 and A26. This access route becomes very congested at peak hours, with long queues at the Earwig Corner junction of the B2192 and A26, followed by a series of restricted junctions at A26/Church Lane, A26/Phoenix Causeway and the A26/A27 at Southerham. The North of Lewes Traffic Survey (2011) identified Earwig Corner as the principal current pinch point, but noted that relieving this alone would simply exacerbate problems at the subsequent junctions. The intention of Wealden District Council, included in its Core Strategy approved in 2012, to allow development of 1,000 additional houses on a

strategic site by the A26 at Uckfield will generate substantial additional traffic (estimated at 700 vehicle movements per day) through this congested system. Traffic attempting to avoid this bottleneck results in rat-running along small Ringmer lanes inadequate to cope with more than very local traffic.

- 4.27 There is **no railway or railway station** in Ringmer parish. Ringmer residents wishing to travel by rail will normally access rail services at Lewes, but station parking is very expensive, and the bus service from Ringmer to Lewes and Brighton does not pass near Lewes railway station. There is a railway station at Glynde but with services to Sussex coastal towns only. There is no public transport between Ringmer and Glynde, and if any significant number of Ringmer residents chose to use Glynde station the parking there would quickly be overwhelmed.
- 4.28 There is a regular weekday **bus service** between Brighton, Lewes and Ringmer which terminates at the Broyleside. A second bus service between Brighton, Lewes, Uckfield and Tunbridge Wells passes along the A26 through western Ringmer. There are special services bringing students to Ringmer Community College and Sixth Form from a number of destinations, and occasional services from Ringmer to Eastbourne.
- 4.29 Despite these relatively good rural bus services, a high proportion of Ringmer residents whose employment is outside Ringmer commute to their employment by car. Travel for supermarket and other shopping is also overwhelmingly by private car. The 2012 Lewes DC Retail Survey reported that 87% of Ringmer residents do their main food shopping using their own private car. This figure, one of the highest in the District, rises to 92% if the few who do their main food shopping in Ringmer village are excluded.

Economic characteristics

- 4.30 For most of the 20th century the major Ringmer employer was the Ringmer Building Works, whose closure in the 1980s had a substantial negative impact on local employment and necessitated an even higher level of out-commuting for employment. Strenuous efforts to increase local employment over the past two decades have met with significant success. New employers have been attracted to the Broyleside site formerly occupied by the Building Works, a number of redundant agricultural sites have been converted to alternative employment uses and there has been an increase in working from home. Many of the new businesses and many of those working from home are dependent on high quality e-communications. The great majority of the new businesses located in Ringmer employ fewer than 10 people. The largest employer in the parish is Ringmer Community College and Sixth Form. While many businesses serve a local market, there are others, including very small businesses, that operate on a national or international scale. Due to this diversity, and the lack of common interests, no formal business association or organisation has developed in Ringmer.
- 4.31 According to 2010 estimates, the **median household income** for Ringmer parish (£32,054) is higher than the average for Lewes District (£29,609) and national average (£28,445) but slightly lower than the South East average (£33,232). The 2001 census **unemployment** rate in Ringmer parish (3.1%) is lower than the District average (3.5%) and national averages (5.0%). These unemployment data must be regarded as significantly out of date.
- 4.32 An above average proportion (31%) of Ringmer residents are **employed** in health, education and public administration, compared to both Lewes District and the UK overall. While only a minority (4%) are employed in agriculture, this is a substantially higher proportion than for Lewes District overall, as would be expected for a rural parish. Employment in manufacturing (9%) is, by contrast, substantially lower than both Lewes

District and national averages. The proportion employed as professionals, managers or senior officials was higher (30%) in Ringmer parish than in Lewes District (28%) or in England & Wales (26%).

- 4.33 A new Lewes District Retail Study is due for publication in 2012. Preliminary evidence, based on a household survey, is that the **local shopping facilities** in Ringmer are comparatively well used by residents and are valued. They are considered to be performing relatively well by District standards, but not to attract many shoppers from outside Ringmer. However, it should be noted that no shopper surveys were conducted, so that shoppers resident outside the District, including those employed in Ringmer but not resident here, and passing trade would not have been detected. The survey noted that most Ringmer residents needed to shop outside the parish for main food (supermarket) shopping and most comparison shopping. The Study also noted a high level of internet shopping by District residents, though specific data for Ringmer residents are not available.
- 4.34 **Tourism** is of high importance to the regional economy and plays a significant role in Ringmer. The Glyndebourne Opera House, the East Sussex Glider Club, Raystede Animal Welfare Centre and the Bentley Wildfowl Centre are all popular tourist destinations within, or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of, Ringmer parish. There are a small number of holiday-let units and some B&B accommodation available in Ringmer parish, along with a registered seasonal caravan and camping site at Lower Clay Hill. There is a second caravan site at Shortgate, just beyond the parish boundary. The creation of the South Downs National Park is considered unlikely to have any significant effect on the popularity of these attractions or the demand for these facilities.

Difficulties in Collecting Data/ Data Limitations

- 4.35 As health and multiple deprivation data, water consumption rates and refuse collection and recycling rates are not available at a parish level, it has not been possible to collect precise information relating to Ringmer parish. There are two superoutput areas that are entirely within Ringmer parish, but the third combines a section of Ringmer with two adjoining estate villages that are very different in character. Data available thus cannot be relied on to reflect the situation in Ringmer parish.
- 4.36 Some of the figures have been sourced from census data. As the census data for 2011 are not yet available, some of the information may not reflect the current situation and therefore analysis from such figures may not fully represent the present state of the parish.
- 4.37 The diversity of businesses, the high proportion of very small businesses working from domestic accommodation and the absence of any business association or organisation in Ringmer make the collection of accurate information about local employment challenging.
- 4.38 Ringmer parish council is keen to obtain additional and more up-to-date sources of information relating to the baseline data for the District through consultation on this document. If more information is obtained then it is possible that changes to the key issues and sustainability objectives and indicators may be required.

5 Key sustainability issues affecting Ringmer parish

5.1 Identifying the key sustainability issues facing Ringmer parish is an important part of the Sustainability Appraisal process. These issues were gathered from a variety of sources, such as:

- (a) A review of the plans, policies and other documents affecting development in the parish (found in Appendix A).
- (b) Collection and analysis of the baseline information (found in section 4)
- (c) Work undertaken on compiling the draft Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan

The key sustainability issues are summarised as follows:

Economic issues

- There is a need to maintain the present number and quality of employment opportunities in Ringmer parish and to provide additional local employment opportunities, to contribute to the East Sussex economy and to reduce the need for the present high level of out-commuting for employment.
- To support local employment and working from home, it is essential that the most modern e-communications are available throughout the parish.
- Agriculture and the management of woodland, trees and hedgerows remain important elements of the rural economy. It is important that opportunities in these areas are maintained and enhanced, and that the local processing and marketing of agricultural and woodland products facilitated.
- There is a need to maintain and where possible enhance the local provision of services for Ringmer residents, both to benefit the local economy and to reduce the need to travel.
- It is important to maintain and where possible enhance the role of Ringmer village as a rural service centre offering a range of services to a wider catchment area. Ringmer Community College and Sixth Form, the Ringmer Health Centre, Ringmer Library, Ringmer Children's Centre, provision for the elderly, the bank, post office, pharmacy, veterinary surgery and local shops are recognised as key elements in this provision and the provision of adequate, accessible and affordable parking is identified as a key requirement.
- It is important to maintain and enhance the contribution of tourist attractions in, and immediately around, Ringmer to the local economy.
- Overall Ringmer is a relatively prosperous community. Median household incomes and educational qualifications are above the national and District averages and deprivation and unemployment rates are lower. Nevertheless, the parish does include a significant proportion of households experiencing deprivation, and it is important to ensure that the needs of these households are met.

Social issues

- It is considered by the community to be a top priority that Ringmer retains its "village feel" as a vibrant, successful, balanced and inclusive rural community.
- There is a need to provide the amount and types of housing necessary to maintain a balanced community, and especially the types of housing that will enable those employed locally to live locally.

- Ringmer has no railway access and, as in other rural areas, commuting to employment and access to non-local shops and services is predominantly by private car. In-commuting to Ringmer Community College and Sixth Form and Ringmer employment by private car is also significant. Congestion on the local road system, especially at peak commuting and hours, must be reduced, either by reducing demand or by infrastructure improvements. It should be noted that the principal pinch points on the local main road network lie within the SDNP.
- Inconsiderate on-road parking is a major cause of neighbourhood disputes. The provision of adequate off-road parking for residential, business and leisure use is essential to maintain community cohesion and avoid unnecessary and hazardous local congestion.
- It is a very high priority for a village community that Nursery and Primary School places are available within the village for all children whose parents wish to use them.
- There is a need to provide the services necessary for the number of very elderly and disabled residents within the community, which is already high and expected to increase. These include facilities for supported living and the provision of care homes.
- There is a need to provide additional community meeting facilities in Ringmer village and to provide such facilities for the Broyleside settlement.
- It is important to ensure that Ringmer remains a safe place to live and that the present low crime levels are maintained.
- It is important to maintain and enhance access to the countryside for recreational purposes. The serious under-provision of accessible natural or semi-natural countryside in Ringmer parish must be addressed.
- To maintain a healthy population it is important to preserve and enhance the opportunities for outdoor play, recreation and leisure activities, and for healthy modes of travel. The Ringmer-Lewes cycleway must be completed and safe new cycle and pedestrian routes should be provided between Ringmer village and the Broyleside, and to access employment areas and tourist attractions in the rural parts of the parish.

Environmental issues

- It is essential to protect and enhance Ringmer's most important and most highly valued countryside landscapes, including the section of the SDNP within Ringmer parish and the Green Gap between the two settlements.
- It is essential that development in Ringmer avoids causing damage to the Lewes Downs SAC, immediately adjacent to the parish boundary.
- It is important to maintain and enhance biodiversity within the parish, by protecting areas of high wildlife value including chalk downland, ancient woodland and hedgerows, the Plashett Wood SSSI, wildflower meadows, brookland, ponds and other areas and features of importance to protected and threatened species.
- Ringmer's countryside is recognised as having intrinsic value to local residents and the wider community. It is essential that wherever possible new developments should be accommodated on previously developed land.
- It is important to ensure that Ringmer's historic buildings and features are better protected and conserved than they are at present.
- It is important to maximise the amount of waste that is recycled or put to other constructive uses, and to minimise the proportion sent to landfill.
- As Ringmer is in a water stressed area, it is important to protect and make good use of available resources and to minimise water use.

- Parts of Ringmer, including the Ringmer sewage works, are low lying. The sewage works currently operates at very close to its capacity. Surface water drainage is problematic in some areas of Ringmer, and there is a history of flooding affecting both developed and countryside areas of the parish. The foul and surface water drainage of developed areas of the parish must be improved, and flood risk should be reduced.
- Climate change, driven by enhanced carbon dioxide production from the consumption of unsustainable fuels or production of other greenhouse gases, threatens the natural environment. Development should minimise impact on climate change.

5.2 Consultees are requested to express their views if they believe there are any errors or omissions in the key sustainability issues identified above.

6. Sustainability objectives and indicators

- 6.1 As one of the main aims of the current planning system is to bring about sustainable development, the sustainability appraisal will need to assess the ability of the Neighbourhood Plan to contribute towards sustainable development. The Scoping Report set out in section 2.6 an agreed definition of what sustainable development is. The definition has been used, along with the key sustainability issues identified in the previous section of this report, to create the objectives and indicators that will be used to test the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2 The majority of objectives match or are in accordance with the Regional Sustainability Framework for the South East, which the Neighbourhood Plan should be in conformity with.
- 6.3 In addition, to be in accordance with European and national legislation, documents prepared under the LDF, including the Neighbourhood Plan, must be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA process aims to predict and assess economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from documents such as the Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA process has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal and thus, where the proposed sustainability objectives relate to characteristic areas that are associated with the Strategic Environmental Assessment, they are suffixed with SEA.

ECONOMIC objectives & indicators

Objective 1:

To increase the present level of employment opportunities in Ringmer

Indicators for objective 1:

Numbers employed in Ringmer parish

Numbers and levels of activity of employment sites in Ringmer parish

Level of occupancy of employment sites in Ringmer parish

Proportion of Ringmer residents whose employment is based in Ringmer parish

Proportion of Ringmer residents out-commuting to employment by private car

Availability of up-to-date e-communications in all areas of Ringmer parish

Objective 2:

To maintain a productive and prosperous agricultural and woodland/tree/hedgerow management sector within the Ringmer economy

Indicators for objective 2:

Value of production in these sectors

Employment in agriculture and woodland/tree/hedgerow management

Availability of local marketing outlets for locally-produced products of these sectors

Objective 3:

To maintain and increase the range of services available in Ringmer parish

Indicators for objective 3:

Range of retail premises in Ringmer parish

Range of services available in Ringmer parish

Proportion of Ringmer residents travelling by private car to access shops & services elsewhere

Objective 4:

To maintain and increase the contribution of tourism in and immediately around Ringmer to the local economy

Indicators for objective 4:

Numbers and activity of tourism-based businesses in and immediately around Ringmer parish

Employment in tourism

Availability of B&B and self-catering accommodation in Ringmer parish

Objective 5:

To increase, relative to appropriate comparators, median household incomes in Ringmer and to reduce the proportion of Ringmer households experiencing deprivation

Indicators for objective 5:

Changes in median household income, relative to changes in appropriate comparators (e.g. Lewes District, South East England, England)

Unemployment rates for Ringmer residents

Educational attainment of Ringmer children

Proportion of households categorised as experiencing deprivation

SOCIAL objectives & indicators

Objective 6:

RESIDENTS' TOP PRIORITY: To maintain Ringmer's "village feel" as a vibrant, successful, balanced and inclusive rural community. There are both social and landscape aspects to "village feel".

Indicators for objective 6:

Social aspects

Residents' perceptions that Ringmer remains a vibrant rural village community

Range of retail premises in Ringmer parish

Range of services available in Ringmer parish

Range and activity of community organisations providing social, leisure and recreational activities

Availability in Ringmer of nursery and primary school places for all Ringmer children seeking them

Availability in Ringmer of facilities required by older and disabled people

Age distribution and household income distribution of Ringmer residents

Landscape aspects

Protection of the Ringmer Green Conservation Area and public open spaces

Quality of access to the countryside from Ringmer village and the Broyleside

Provision of accessible natural and semi-natural countryside, including woodland

Village scale of the built environment

Built environment of rural rather than urban or suburban style and design

Objective 7:

To deliver of the target numbers of new market-sector houses and affordable houses proposed in the “*Ringmer to 2030*” on schedule, and appropriately distributed within Ringmer parish

Indicators for objective 7:

Provision of new market-sector houses of appropriate types, against the “*Ringmer to 2030*” target

Provision of new affordable houses, against the “*Ringmer to 2030*” target

Balance of new housing provision between Ringmer village, the Broyleside and the rural areas of Ringmer parish

Affordability of market sector housing in Ringmer

Numbers of households with a strong Ringmer connection (including Ringmer employment) seeking Ringmer accommodation and assessed as categories A or B on the Lewes DC housing list

Availability of accommodation suitable for the elderly or disabled

Objective 8:

To reduce congestion on the road system connecting Ringmer to Lewes and the A27 trunk road and at pinch points on the local road system, while maintaining and improving road safety

Indicators for objective 8:

Proportion of Ringmer residents out-commuting to employment by private car

Proportion of Ringmer residents travelling by private car to access shops & services elsewhere

Peak hour traffic queues on the B2192/A26

Infrastructure improvements of the B2192/A26 route to Lewes and the A27 trunk road

Completion and level of use of cycleways connecting Ringmer village to Lewes, the Broyleside to Ringmer village and accessing rural employment sites

Public transport (bus) services between Ringmer and key destinations, including the railway network

Traffic flows at key pinch points on the local road network (including Bishops Lane & Church Hill)

Traffic flows on lanes designated for local recreational use (Norlington Lane, Green Lane, the northern part of Broyle Lane, Potato lane and the southern section of Neaves Lane)

Traffic speeds on the restricted section of the B2192 and on other restricted roads

Road safety data on accidents and casualties

Objective 9:

To avoid exacerbating existing vehicle parking problems by ensuring that all new and amended residential, employment or leisure developments include sufficient off-road parking

Indicators for objective 9:

Monitoring of all Ringmer planning applications to ensure that planning approvals for new developments include provision for sufficient off-road vehicle parking, and that that planning approvals for existing premises do not compromise existing necessary parking provision

Objective 10:

To maintain and improve the present low crime rates in Ringmer parish

Indicators for objective 10:

Sussex police crime statistics

Objective 11:

To maintain and improve access to the countryside for recreational purposes

Indicators for objective 11:

Quality of access to the countryside from Ringmer village and the Broyleside

Provision of accessible natural and semi-natural countryside, including woodland

Number and condition of public and licensed footpaths in Ringmer parish

Traffic flows on lanes designated for local recreational use (Norlington Lane, Green Lane, the northern part of Broyle Lane, Potato lane and the southern section of Neaves Lane)

ENVIRONMENTAL objectives & indicators**Objective 12:**

To protect and enhance Ringmer's most important and highly valued countryside landscapes, and also the Lewes Downs SAC (immediately adjacent to the parish boundary)

Indicators for objective 12:

Quality of the landscape in the part of the parish within, or impacting upon, the SDNP

Quality of the landscape in the rural areas of the parish identified as of especial value to residents in sections 4.3-4.5 of "*Ringmer to 2030*"

Levels of recreational use of the Lewes Downs SAC by Ringmer residents

Peak hour traffic queues on the sections of the B2192 and A26 adjacent to the Lewes Downs SAC

Objective 13:

To maintain and enhance biodiversity within Ringmer parish by protecting areas of high wildlife value including chalk downland, ancient woodland and hedgerows, the Plashett Wood SSSI, wildflower meadows, brookland, ponds and other areas and features of importance to protected and threatened species.

Indicators for objective 13:

Amount and quality of chalk downland

Amount and quality of ancient woodland and hedgerows

Quality of the Plashett Wood SSSI

Amount and quality of wildflower meadows and traditionally managed brookland

Numbers and quality of ponds and lakes

Populations of threatened and protected species

Objective 14:

To protect and enhance Ringmer's countryside

Indicators for objective 14:

Proportion of new development taking place on previously developed or previously used land

Permanent loss of countryside to new development

Impact of new development on adjoining countryside areas

Degradation of countryside by inappropriate agricultural activity
Quality of the landscape in the rural areas of the parish

Objective 15:

To enhance the protection of Ringmer's built heritage and the understanding of Ringmer's history

Indicators for objective 15:

Systematic review of the English Heritage list of listed buildings in Ringmer parish
Avoidance of inappropriate new development affecting Ringmer's five ancient settlements
New development in key areas preceded by adequate archaeological investigation

Objective 16:

To enhance the amount of waste recycled and to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill

Indicators for objective 16:

Volume of waste produced
Proportion of waste effectively and economically recycled

Objective 17:

To ensure that drinking water is used effectively in this water-stressed area

Indicators for objective 17:

Installation of water meters in Ringmer domestic and employment premises
Water use per domestic household
Proportion of households possessing water butts or grey water systems
Effective water use systems installed in new residential and employment premises

Objective 18:

To ensure effective drainage and avoid flooding of residential or employment premises throughout Ringmer parish

Indicators for objective 18:

Headroom capacity at Ringmer sewage works and assessment of its vulnerability to flood risk
Effectiveness of foul drainage systems throughout Ringmer parish
Effectiveness of surface water drainage throughout developed areas Ringmer parish
Existing residential and employment premises at risk of flooding
Number of planning applications approved in areas of known flood risk or contrary to advice given by the EA on flood risk/flood defence grounds

Objective 19:

To minimise Ringmer's contribution to climate change

Indicators for objective 19:

New development to meet high energy conservation standards
New development located to minimise travel by the private car
Provision of safe alternative travel options to private car usage
Provision of additional woodland as a carbon sink

7. Next stages for the Sustainability Appraisal and the Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction:

- 7.1 This document has set out baseline information for Ringmer parish, has highlighted the national and local requirements and influences affecting the production of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal, has identified the key sustainability issues facing Ringmer parish, and has set out the proposed sustainability objectives and indicators that the Neighbourhood Plan, and options considered for it, will be appraised against.
- 7.2 This following section of the document explains the next steps in the process of preparing and appraising the emerging Neighbourhood Plan document.

Next Steps:

- 7.3 Consultation on this Scoping Report, along with the consultation on the application for the designation of the parish of Ringmer as a neighbourhood area, constitutes the first formal consultation stage for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal process. At this stage, we would welcome any views and data that could be used to improve the baseline information, the sustainability issues and the objectives and indicators. Furthermore, we would welcome any relevant documents that have not been considered in the Scoping Report.
- 7.4 Following the consultation on the Scoping Report, changes will be made to the sustainability objectives and indicators, where appropriate. Policies considered for inclusion in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan will be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and indicators (also known as the sustainability framework), enabling a preferred strategy and policies to be identified. Also at this stage, the key principles of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan will be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, to see where both set of objectives conform and where there are tensions. These processes will thus inform the content of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, which is due to be consulted upon later in 2012. This consultation document will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal report.
- 7.5 Comments received at the Draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation stage will be assessed, with amendments being made to the appraisal of options, where this is considered necessary, and any further options that have been identified through this consultation being appraised. The Sustainability Appraisal will be used to assess the potential impacts of the strategy and policies that are set out in the Submission Neighbourhood Plan. The appraisal will also consider ways of mitigating the potential adverse impacts of these policies and maximising beneficial effects. The Submission Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal is expected to be put out for consultation in late 2012.
- 7.6 Following consultation and consequent amendment, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal will be formally submitted for examination. The Examination of the Neighbourhood Plan is planned to take place in late 2012 or early 2013, with the hope that the Neighbourhood Plan will be approved by referendum and adopted by the District Council in 2013.

Appendix A: Documents affecting and informing the Neighbourhood Plan

National, International & Regional plans, policies and evidence

The National Planning Policy Framework (April 2012)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2116950.pdf>

Localism Act (2011)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations issued under the Localism Act (March 2012)

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/neighbourhoodplansresponse

The South East Plan (2009)

[Webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning/815640/](http://web.archive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning/815640/)

Although the intention to abolish the South East Plan has been announced by ministers, and relevant provisions are included in the Localism Act (2011), it currently remains in force.

East Sussex in Figures

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/local/factsandfigures/eastsussexinfigures/default.htm

East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals development Framework Submission stage (February 2012)

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3F05A399-A3FB-40C7-A2F6-035B87ACC364/0/waste_minerals_plan_proposed_submission_draft.pdf

East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2010)

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/download.htm>

East Sussex Local Transport Plan (2011)

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/localtransportplan/default.htm

South East Water Water Resources Management Plan, 2010-2035 (2010) (currently being revised for 2014)

www.southeastwater.co.uk/pls/apex/PROD.download_file?p_doc_id=185

Southern Water Water Resources Management Plan (2009)

www.southernwater.co.uk/Environment/managingResources/publicConsultation.asp

The Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

The SEA Directive (EU, 2001)

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/general_provisions/l28036_en.htm

Lewes District Council & SDNP Authority plans, policies and evidence.

Saved policies from the Lewes Local Plan (2003)

This local plan will in due course (anticipated 2013) be replaced by the new Local Plan based on the forthcoming Core Strategy.

<http://www.lewes.gov.uk/planning/localplan.asp>

Emerging Core Strategy (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Emerging_Core_Strategy_Final.pdf

Emerging Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Emerging_Core_Strategy_SA_Final.pdf

Affordable Housing and CIL Viability Study (Dec 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_AH_CIL_viability_study.pdf

Employment Land Review Report (2010)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_ELReport.pdf

Housing Background Paper (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Housing_Background_Paper.pdf

Informal Recreational Space Study (2005)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_recreational_space_study.pdf

Infrastructure Position Statement (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Infrastructure_Position_Statement.pdf

Landscape Capacity Study (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Landscape_Capacity_Study_Final.pdf

Lewes Town Transport Study (Jul 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Lewes_Town_Transport_Study_July_2011.pdf

Ringmer Conservation Area Appraisal (2003)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_caa_Ringmer.doc

Rural Settlement Study (2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Rural_Settlement_Study_2011.pdf

Shopping and Town Centre Study (2012)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_LD_Shopping_and_town_centre_study.pdf

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_sfra_ldc_final_report09.pdf

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Report (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_SHLAA_Main_Report.pdf

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Appendices (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_SHLAA_Appendices_Report.pdf

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Map of Ringmer (Sep 2011)

www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_SHLAA_map_Ringmer.pdf

Ringmer Parish Council plans, policies and evidence.

The Ringmer Village Appraisal (1988)

Published by Ringmer Parish Council

The Ringmer Village Plan (2003)

Published by Ringmer Parish Council

The Ringmer Village Plan Employment Strategy (2006)

www.tdbs.btinternet.co.uk/employmentstrat/strat.pdf

The Ringmer Village Plan Strategy for Residential Development (2009)

www.tdbs.btinternet.co.uk/ringmercouncilreports/3/housing_policy_jul09.pdf

Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan: Discussion Seminars: Notes of Proceedings (Nov/Dec 2011)
www.ringmerparishcouncil.org.uk: see under “Ringmer to 2030”

Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition: Consultation Sheets (Feb 2012)
www.ringmerparishcouncil.org.uk: see under “Ringmer to 2030”

Name of plan, policy or evidence	Broad aims/relevant policies	Implications on Neighbourhood Plan/ Sustainability Appraisal
National, International and Regional Plans, Policies & Evidence		
National Planning Policy Framework (April 2012)	The NPPF guides the new planning system, replacing the set of Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes that guided the former planning system. It reaffirms previous guidance by stating that the planning system should contribute to the delivery of sustainable development and sets out the guiding principles for its achievement.	The Neighbourhood Plan should conform to national planning policy set out in the NPPF.
Localism Act (2011)	The Act introduces major changes to the Local Government. Of particular importance, is its creation of the Neighbourhood Planning tier of the planning system.	The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared according to the legislation and regulations that govern it.
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012)	Sets out the processes involved for the creation of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.	
The South East Plan (2009)	Sets out the planning framework for the South East, of which Ringmer Parish is a part.	At the time of writing the SEP exists, but it is likely to be abolished before the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted. Thus, it is unlikely to have a large impact on the Neighbourhood Plan itself although its evidence base may be relied on if needed.
East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan (2006)	The East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan (2006)	The Neighbourhood Plan will be informed by these documents.
East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan – Proposed Submission Stage (2012)	sets out the strategy for waste management and planning in the City of Brighton and Hove and East Sussex, of which Ringmer Parish is a part. This plan will be replaced by the forthcoming Waste and Minerals Core Strategy and a Waste Sites Development Plan Document	
East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (ESCC, 2010)	The document describes the area, of which Ringmer Parish forms a part, and identifies problems and pressures that	This document will be taken into account when considering landscape policies.

Name of plan, policy or evidence	Broad aims/relevant policies	Implications on Neighbourhood Plan/ Sustainability Appraisal
	should be overcome.	
East Sussex Local Transport Plan (2011)	<p>The overarching objectives of this plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve economic competitiveness and growth • Tackle climate change • Improve safety, health and security • Provide sustainable transport opportunities to enhance social inclusion • Improve quality of life 	As the statutory transport plan for East Sussex, of which Ringmer Parish is a part, the Neighbourhood Plan should conform with relevant aspects of the plan.
The Water Resources Management Plans produced by Southern Water and South East Water	These explain how each company proposes to ensure that there is sufficient security of water supplies and sufficient provision of foul and other drainage to meet the anticipated demands of all its customers and protect the environment over the 25 year planning period from 2010 to 2035	The Neighbourhood Plan, will, where relevant, take account of these plans.
European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	Sets out detailed requirements for the assessment of environmental impact of plans such as Neighbourhood Plans.	The SA incorporates the requirements of this Directive as has been followed to appraise the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)	National interpretation of the SEA Directive and Habitats Directive.	The Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan will have to comply with the requirements.
Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority Plans, Policies & Evidence		
Lewes District Local Plan (2003)	At the time of writing the saved policies of the Local Plan guide development in Ringmer Parish.	The Neighbourhood Plan will be required to conform to the strategic-level policies set out in the Local Plan and/or Core Strategy current at the time of its adoption.
Emerging Core Strategy (Sep 2011)	The Core Strategy, will, when adopted, include strategic-level policies to guide development in Lewes District, which includes Ringmer Parish.	
Employment Land Review (2010)	The document assesses employment land in the District, including some within Ringmer Parish and considers the future employment land need.	The Neighbourhood Plan will take into account the available evidence base documents published by Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority, in so far as these affect Ringmer parish.
Housing Background Paper (Sep 2011)	The document explained how the District's housing target has been identified.	
Informal Recreational Space Study (Sep 2005)	The study looks at the provision of informal recreation space in the District and includes a section on Ringmer.	
Landscape Capacity Study (Sep 2011)	The document assesses certain landscapes in the District, some	

Name of plan, policy or evidence	Broad aims/relevant policies	Implications on Neighbourhood Plan/ Sustainability Appraisal
	of which are in Ringmer, and looks at whether they have capacity to change.	
Lewes Town Transport Study (July 2011)	Investigated a set of scenarios, including strategic development in Ringmer, to see the impacts on the transport network	
Ringmer Conservation Area Appraisal (July 2003)	The appraisal describes the Conservation Area in Ringmer, setting out the qualities that make it unique	
Rural Settlement Study (2011)	Assessed the rural settlements in the District, looking at their services. Ringmer village is categorised as a Rural Service Centre, and the Broyleside as a Local Village.	
Shopping and Town Centre Study (2012)	The study looks at the current shape of the town centres in the district and their future needs. It also examines shopping trends of people in different parts of the district, including in Ringmer.	
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009)	The assessment identified the areas at risk of flooding in the district, including areas of Ringmer.	
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (Sep 2011)	Assessed various sites in the District, including sites in Ringmer, submitted by developers for consideration as potential development sites.	
Ringmer Parish Council Plans, Policies & Evidence		
Ringmer Village Appraisal (1988)	Analysis of the Ringmer community and its priorities carried out in 1988, including evidence collection via a detailed household survey of community views on facilities and services, and the preferred direction of potential future development. Broadly similar in scope and content to the 2003 Village Plan.	Provides a historical context to the consistency of current residents' views on a range of issues relevant to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
Ringmer Village Plan (2003)	A Village Plan for Ringmer parish developed on the basis of extensive opinion surveys conducted amongst Ringmer residents and the views expressed by other stakeholders.	Forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.
Ringmer Village Plan Employment Strategy (2006)	Development of the 2003 Village Plan to include detailed policies for the development and location of new employment opportunities in Ringmer. Its	Forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, and provides a starting point for the development of employment policies.

Name of plan, policy or evidence	Broad aims/relevant policies	Implications on Neighbourhood Plan/ Sustainability Appraisal
	development included extensive consultation with residents.	
Ringmer Village Plan Strategy for Residential Development (2009)	Development of the 2003 Village Plan to include detailed policies for the types and amounts of new residential development needed in Ringmer. Its development included extensive consultation with residents.	Forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, and provides a starting point of the development of policies for residential development.
Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan – Discussion Seminars: Notes of Proceedings (Nov/Dec 2011)	Evidence collection of the views of residents and other stakeholders about a wide range of potential draft policies proposed for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. Also an opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to suggest additional or alternative policies.	Forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.
Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition: Consultation Sheets (Feb 2012)	Evidence collection of the views of residents and other stakeholders about a wide range of potential draft policies proposed for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. Also an opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to suggest additional or alternative policies.	Forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.

v.1.11 4 July 2012