



# Henfield Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2031

## Community Facilities and Infrastructure Focus Group Report



28<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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## Summary

The scope of the Community Facilities and Infrastructure (CFI) Focus Group was to consider the need for policies regarding:

- – Village Centre (secondary)
- – Car parking (primary)
- – Broadband
- – Education
- – Community Buildings
- – Medical Facilities
- – Utility Infrastructure;

to make recommendations to the HNP Steering Group regarding the above policy areas.

The findings of the Focus Group divide into the following themes:-

- Maintaining current infrastructure capacity and ensuring it keeps pace with future developments
- Services for older people
- A place for young families
- Protection and enhancement of community assets and facilities
- The Haven
- Henfield Hall
- Thriving village centre with adequate car parking
- A better place for walking, cycling and access to facilities
- New and enhanced leisure facilities.

Each of these is considered in Section 3 of the report.

There is currently a high level of satisfaction with community facilities and infrastructure but future investment will be needed to ensure these continue to be of a high standard. The age of some community buildings and facilities, the need to keep up with modern standards and increasing footfall as the population of Henfield parish increases, will drive the initiatives.

**On the whole the Focus Group concluded that policies are required to ensure that the above facilities are protected and enhanced. 1.**

## Introduction

1.1 As part of the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, a Steering Group was formally set up on 2 August 2017 to oversee the production of the Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of Henfield Parish Council, which holds overall responsibility.

1.2 Five Focus Groups were established - to help gather detailed local information to inform the Neighbourhood Plan. These Focus Groups were: Housing & Development, Environment and Countryside, Community Facilities and Infrastructure, Transport and Travel and Local Economy.

1.3 The specific policy areas and policies for the Community Facilities and Infrastructure Focus Group to address were:

- Village Centre (secondary)
- Car Parking (primary)
- Broadband
- Education

- Community Buildings
- Medical Facilities
- Utility Infrastructure

1.4 The members of the Focus Group were Wendy Whittaker, Helen Prance, Cristina Piatti and Doug Walford.

## **2. Vision of the Focus Group**

2.1 In 2031 Henfield continues to be a thriving village community where people want to live, with a diverse range of community assets and facilities, inclusive of and delivering to all sections of Henfield society.

2.2 Health services, social support, educational facilities, utility infrastructure, roads footpaths and car parking have been improved and capacity increased in advance of need generated by new development.

2.3 An extensive and integrated network of routes exist to safely access village facilities, neighbouring communities, the countryside and public transport on foot, by cycle and mobility vehicle.

2.4 Leisure facilities have been expanded and enhanced to offer an increased range of activities, appealing to a broad range of people (something for everyone) and sustaining the high quality of life, in particular conserving and taking advantage of Henfield's natural resources.

2.5 The village centre is the vibrant hub of the community, providing a comprehensive range of shops, services, entertainment and meeting spaces which are needed and used by village residents, neighbouring communities and visitors.

## **3. Work undertaken by the Focus Group**

### **Approach**

3.1 The Focus Group reviewed the work carried out by the previous Community Facilities and Infrastructure Focus Group which reported in May 2014.

3.2 The Vision statement (above) and the Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis (Annex A) both of which had been drafted in 2014 and tested at the public Open Events held on 8 and 14 February 2014 are substantially unchanged, but have been updated to reflect the position in 2017. These were further tested at the Open Events on 4 and 8 November 2017, where the public expressed their support.

3.3 Meetings were held with key stakeholders, including subject experts. The report's conclusions were also presented for validation at the Open Events on 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and reviewed in light of feedback from these events, and from the Community Survey and other published evidence produced since the original Henfield Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) process. See Annex B for the Stakeholder Communications Strategy Grid; Annex C for the Activity Log; Annex D

for the Key Sources of Evidence Used; and Annex G for Working Papers and Other Information Sources.

3.4 The Community Survey of September 2017 asked specific questions to gauge current levels of satisfaction with community facilities and infrastructure and to test support for priorities. The results have informed the following conclusions and policy recommendations.

3.5 The research carried out by the Focus Group together with the consultation undertaken highlighted the following priority areas:-

- Maintaining current infrastructure capacity and ensuring it keeps pace with future developments
- Services for older people
- A place for young families
- Protection and enhancement of community assets and facilities
- The Haven
- Henfield Hall
- Thriving village centre with adequate car parking
- A better place for walking, cycling and access to facilities
- New and enhanced leisure facilities

3.6 The conclusions and general recommendations are set out below.

3.7 Finally, in the light of their findings, the Focus Group reviewed potential policies areas.

## **Conclusions and General Recommendations**

### ***Maintaining current infrastructure capacity and ensuring it keeps pace with future developments***

3.8 Current provision is good, and residents continue to indicate a high level of satisfaction with the current level and quality of infrastructure provision. (See Community Survey). However maintaining infrastructure to this high level and quality is a key issue for the community.

3.9 Residents have seen new developments threatening infrastructure and fear that further development will happen before the investment has been made to expand the infrastructure to meet the new demand. In particular they value timely access to a broad range of services at the Medical Centre and the availability of school places for village children at St Peter's School.

3.10 The Medical Centre intends to deliver increased capacity at the current time by better organization of resources and has no immediate plans to expand its premises. However the public consider the Medical Centre as the most important community facility in the village and, particularly if the future need arose, would support any development and expansion of premises (Community Survey and feedback at Open Events.) Improved pharmaceutical services are also a widespread concern whether at the Medical Centre or elsewhere.

3.11 Broadband needs to be able to support both home working and the future provision of remote health services. There needs to be fibre optic cabling

throughout the parish area, and in advance of resurfacing/paving. Improved broadband speeds throughout Henfield parish are essential to the future of the village.

3.12 In addition, recognising the importance of electronic communication, consideration could be given to Village wi-fi.

3.13 Policies are needed to maintain the strength and protect the infrastructure capacity in these areas:-

- Educational facilities
- Health services and social support and
- Utilities infrastructure: (electricity supply, gas supply, water, drainage and sewerage)

In particular policy should ensure provision at the current level of quantity and quality exists before increased demand from further development.

### **Services for older people**

3.14 Over 65s make up 29.3% of the population compared with national average of 16.3% and pensioner households make up 35.7% of households. People move into Henfield and stay, often in the same, large house. They do not always wish to downsize. This has implications both for the character of the village and the relative priority which should be given to various services.

3.15 The demographic profile contributes to the fact that Henfield is busy during the day, but is quieter in the evenings. It also contributes to the strong volunteer culture.

3.16 The previous Focus Group concluded that the demographics indicated that policy should cover the following:-

- Residents able to access facilities and services
  - Community transport, particularly for access to services not located within the village e.g. hospitals
  - "Footpaths" able to take mobility scooters
  - Range of services within the village
- People able to continue in their own homes
  - Mutual support encouraged
  - Use of voluntary support maximised
  - Services to the home where feasible e.g. Delivery of shopping
  - Internet / ensuring people not disadvantaged by not being on-line
- 'Day centre' services
- Integration of services for older people

3.17 The proposed policy areas below address the priority of services for older people.

### **A place for young families**

3.18 Increasingly the environment, access to small high quality schools and general village atmosphere appeals to young families who want to move into the new estates. Policy should cover the needs of this group: pre-school provision, the

Primary School, playgrounds and open spaces, and day-time activities for the parents.

3.19 The policy areas below address the priority of a place for young families.

***Protection and enhancement of community assets and facilities***

3.20 Henfield has a large number of community assets and facilities, well beyond what might be expected for a village of its size, and there is a high level of satisfaction with these but strengths will not remain strengths if they are allowed to stagnate. A list and some background information about these are attached at Annex E.

3.21 There are more than 100 clubs and societies which operate within the village. This fosters the sense of community and inclusion, ensures community buildings are well used and is a source of volunteers to help manage community assets.

3.22 However many of the assets and facilities are ageing and will need investment to keep them at a high standard. Over the life of the HNP there will be demand for more modern facilities and as population grows for more capacity within these facilities.

3.23 Adoption of the Henfield Neighbourhood Plan will give access to community infrastructure levy (CIL) at 25%, as well as S106 contributions. The age and limited space of some existing assets and facilities mean that enhancement, expansion and/or replacement projects are needed, rather than the creation of new assets. There are few areas where the community currently needs a completely new asset or facility.

3.24 Henfield needs to understand its priorities and have a list of worked-up, deliverable projects, ready to go, which have cost/benefit evaluations and demonstrate value for money. A prioritised wish list cannot be drawn up for consultation without assessment of cost/benefit. The Parish Council has prepared a schedule of potential infrastructure projects which could be funded from developers' contributions. This needs to be a living document, continually updated with new projects which would deliver against the community's priorities. The projects within the schedule need to be researched and progressed so that they can demonstrate value for money and deliverability and are ready to go when funds are allocated.

3.25 Additionally, in order to allocate resources to projects, those people or organisations sponsoring projects must have drawn up plans for the proposal and have available capacity both to deliver the project and to manage and maintain the asset/facility into the future.

3.26 Developers sometimes offer to include the building of a community asset within their proposal. There may, in the future, be something which the community would like, but at the current time few ideas have been forthcoming. Most importantly, however, any proposal from a developer should include provision for the ongoing running costs and renewal of the asset.

3.27 Policy is needed to protect community assets and facilities and allow for their increase and expansion in line with needs. These needs could result either from

increased demand resulting from any population increase or to maintaining quality as the asset ages.

### **The Haven**

3.28 The Haven was opened in 2015 providing many of the services needed for older people as well as general facilities identified in 3.33 below. Its services are open to all age groups and the Haven also delivers against the objective of a place for young families. It provides a café, a range of community activities, treatments, a hearing centre, specialist support for people with high needs and carer support.

3.29 The Haven has been very successful and now has ambitions to expand and would need to seek funds for this. Expansion of the Haven would be a good candidate for CIL or s106 funding.

3.30 The Haven was set up under a CIC, a not for profit social enterprise for Henfield. Part of the original vision was that the CIC would be able to take over any other community services which might come up in the future. It therefore has structure and people resources (volunteers) already in place.

3.31 Policy is needed to protect the asset which is the Haven and to allow for its expansion.

### **Henfield Hall**

3.32 In 2014 the Focus Group recognised that a policy was needed to counter the threat to stand-alone assets, the changing needs of the village, and the need for a focal point.

3.33 It proposed a policy area/proposed project around conversion of Henfield Village Hall into a multi-use facility, providing facilities for older people and disadvantaged groups:-

- enhancement of its existing facilities and functions
- a meeting place (with option for Day Centre) with Coffee Shop
- services currently provided by the library e.g.
  - community information and
  - Internet access for those without PCs or those who would like help with using PCs
- assistance for people (staffed by volunteers) e.g. low income, age related
- self serve services
- capacity to include e.g. a post office, were the village one to close
- police community support officer
- parking enforcement.

3.34 Since then the Haven has opened addressing many of the needs identified at that time (see above). However Henfield Hall remains the village focal point, operates at capacity and is short of space. The museum which is housed within the Hall has reached its limits. Projects for the expansion of the hall would be good candidates for CIL or s106 funding.



3.35 A policy is needed to protect the facilities operating from them. The Henfield Hall operates at capacity, and as with the Haven, a policy is required to ensure that any proposal to enhance or extend the village hall is considered favourably.

### ***Thriving village centre with adequate car parking***

3.36 As in 2014 a thriving village centre continues to be a high priority for residents. The Community Survey demonstrated a level of satisfaction with the High Street (68.3% generally satisfied) and the village hall – the Henfield Hall, (75.6%).

3.37 For these to continue to thrive, Henfield is dependent on visitors, both those living in the surrounding area and those visiting the area (visitor economy) a fact not always fully appreciated by residents, and therefore there is a need for adequate car parking and access by public transport. The December 2017 Business Survey highlights that many businesses in Henfield feel ample car parking and a thriving High Street are important to their business.

3.38 Ample car parking is necessary both to serve those residents within Henfield Parish who cannot access the community facilities without using their cars, and to attract visitors from outside the parish.

3.39 The introduction of car parking charges in April 2017 has reduced the immediate pressure on the car parks. Henfield Car Parking Survey 2017, an annual survey carried out by the Henfield Community Partnership showed that the utilisation of the car parks is still very high, but unlike previous years there are no longer periods where cars have to wait for spaces.

3.40 The eight disabled spaces provided, are sufficient to cover requirements, utilisation being less than capacity.

3.41 The Community Survey demonstrated that finding space on the edge of the village for long term parking is not seen as an immediate priority. Congestion and illegal parking in the streets is of greater concern to the public than the number of car parking spaces available. However adequate car parking is still important for the vitality of the village centre and will become increasingly important as the population within Henfield and in the surrounding areas continues to increase.

3.42 The creation of another village centre or square was not seen to be important: people were generally satisfied with the Henfield Hall and High Street, and see one or the other of these as the village centre.

3.43 Policies are needed to protect the ongoing vibrancy of the High Street and to ensure the continued adequacy of car park provision.

### ***A better place for walking, cycling and access to facilities***

3.44 Policy areas should deliver an improved cycle and pedestrian network, encouraging sustainable travel. Projects might include:-

- Roads designed for safety, considering lighting, CCTV, signage, pedestrian crossings and traffic:

- For some roads, a mixed model of traffic and pedestrians in same areas. These areas paved and traffic restricted accordingly. Low speeds encouraged: 20 mph restrictions.
- Improved cycle parking.
- Safe pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter routes from new developments to health and recreational services, and schools and from outlying hamlets. Extensive network of footpaths protected and well maintained. Roads should have footpaths and cycle paths. Footpaths improved and widened.
- Provision for Recreational Walking.
- Signposted trails around the village, particularly the Twittens and Conservation area.
- Marked walks in surrounding countryside. Health trails with equipment. Improved connections to Downslink and car parking at recreational sites e.g. Downslink.

3.45 Whilst adequate car parking is necessary for visitors to the village facilities, ensuring safe and attractive non-car access is equally important and an essential feature of sustainable development.

3.46 This area falls more directly under the remits of the Transport and Travel Focus Group and the Environment and Countryside Focus Group, and therefore detailed considerations on policy have not been included in this report.

### ***New and enhanced leisure facilities***

3.47 Expanded or enhanced sports and recreational facilities are needed to ensure Henfield and Small Dole keep pace with modern standards and offer an increased range of activities, appealing to a broad range of people (something for everyone). Good recreational provision supports physical activity and mental wellbeing, and contributes to a high quality of life. Henfield's has great natural resources which it wishes to conserve and ensure residents can take advantage of.

3.48 Horsham District Council's (HDC) Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment 2014 highlighted areas where Henfield and Small Dole are below standard or lacking facilities. These documents, together with feedback from the public have informed this list of potential projects. Enhancement projects might include:-

- artificial turf pitches. For its size, Henfield should have at least one 3G artificial turf pitch.
- improved play provision and facilities
- multi-functional green spaces with good access
- additional sports pitches
- dedicated provision for young people such as basketball hoops, open access ball courts or teenage shelters and skateboarding
- improved leisure facilities with:-
  - Swimming pool (used by the school during the day, and also the public), although it is recognised that Horsham District as a whole has sufficient swimming pools for the population of the District.
  - Daytime activities particularly for the young and the old

- Affiliated sports clubs to ensure a wide spread of sports across Henfield and Small Dole
- Other sports (cricket, tennis, bowling and those not currently provided for, a "Sports for all" centre)
- Ensure an even distribution of leisure facilities throughout the village with new facilities located as part of new developments.

3.49 The HDC reports reflect that more youth activity areas are needed but that these cannot normally be provided on-site as part of residential developments. Rather, contributions should be sought from developers for off-site provision. This is supported by the meetings with the youth club and the guides and the youth survey. Their "centre" was the area containing the Youth Club and Leisure Centre, the area where the current youth provisions of ball court and skate park are located. Indeed the top request from the youth club meeting was an enlarged skate park.

3.50 In addition to facilities lacking at the moment, as new housing developments increase demand and put pressure on existing facilities there will be a need for:-

- additional allotments
- additional play areas, particularly providing the opportunity for "natural play"
- enhancements to the library service.

3.51 Projects for the creation or expansion of recreational or leisure facilities would therefore be good candidates for CIL or s106 funding, particularly where the management of such an asset is already in place.

3.52 A policy is therefore needed to protect Henfield and Small Dole's existing recreational and leisure facilities as well as allowing the expansion of these facilities and the creation of new. (See Section 6)

3.53 Allotments are not within the remit of the CFI Focus Group.

3.54 Leisure, sports and recreational facilities need to be protected adequately.

### ***Diversity and Equality***

3.55 Whilst reviewing the evidence and considering policy areas the Focus Group was mindful of the differing needs of different groups within society, in particular those defined by age, gender, ethnicity (black, minority and ethnic, BME, groups) and disability. The community survey and public Open Meetings consulted the full range of adult ages, with the elderly well represented due to the demography of the parish. Children and young people were consulted through the Youth Survey. In addition, the group assessed the policy areas against equality impacts and concluded that there was no disadvantage to any of these groups.

## Annex A –Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

<u>Strengths</u>		<u>Weaknesses</u>	
Diverse range of retail in High Street (post office, chemist, bank, bakers, newsagent, supermarket, grocers, dry cleaning, opticians, hairdressers, petrol station, coffee shops, take-away food outlets, pubs & restaurants)	H	Many footpaths narrow, discontinuous or poorly maintained and not suitable for elderly (mobile scooters), disabled, pushchairs or cycles	H
Car parks	H	- Access to local countryside limited by lack of, or poor maintenance of footpaths/pavements	
Public Conveniences	H	- Limited car parking at recreational sites	
Education services	H	- Limited provision for cyclists	
- Primary school in the village.		- No dedicated cycle routes/paths	
- Good secondary schools and a range of Sixth form options within reach		Poor public transport limiting further education opportunities, cultural opportunities and increasing use of cars	H
Health Services	H	Recreational facilities	H
- Medical Centre in the village		- No swimming pool,	
- Dentists, HART and other health services in the village		- Shortage of playing fields, particularly a lack of artificial pitches	
Village Hall	H	- Shortage of allotments,	
The Haven	H	- Shortage of furnished children's play areas.	
Library and information services	H	High Street congestion	H
Leisure centre, playing fields and a range of sports clubs	H	Poor ditches and land drainage in some places	M
High proportion of older residents who are fit, own their homes, are relatively well off and have a strong sense of community	H	Insufficient secure cycle storage in the village centre	M
Strong volunteer culture	H	Gas & Mains drainage not universal	M
Surrounding countryside & rivers gives health and recreation opportunities, including Downslink	H	Lack of a village centre – community assets scattered across village	L
Extensive network of footpaths and bridleways reducing dependency on cars and offering recreational opportunities	H		
Cultural activities (Museum, Theatre group,	M		

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<p>Gardens &amp; Arts)                  Pedestrian crossings in High Street                  Youth facilities – youth club, skatepark, scouts, guides                  Historic, conservation area                  Information Displays, Hub                  Churches                  Other Community Assets – Bus shelter, Cemetery                  Fire Station</p>	<p>M                  M                  M                  L                  L                  L                  L</p>		
<p><b><u>Opportunities</u></b>                  To centralise community assets and create a resource which could be used in a multiplicity of ways:-                      Community information                      Assistance                      Run by volunteers/self-serve                      To use the village hall all day, every day by a variety of people                      Place for police community support officer                      Parking enforcement                  To encourage walking and cycling for essential journeys and recreation through measures such as:-                      Signposted trails                      Health trails                      Paths suitable for the disabled, the elderly and the young                      Safe routes                  To improve connections:-                      To surrounding countryside, Downslink and other long distance routes                      To neighbouring communities                      To essential services within the village                      Car parking at recreational sites e.g.</p>	<p>H                    H                    H</p>	<p><b><u>Threats</u></b>                  The village High Street is dependent on the patronage of the surrounding communities and visitors                  Infrastructure reaches capacity:                      Schools                      Health                      Car parks                      Waste water works                  Library and other facilities funded at County or District level                  Economic and related pressures which might cause closure of retail businesses and loss of diversity e.g. post office and bank(s)                  Climate change leading to increased flooding risk                  Ageing population                  If development were to cover a wider area, access to community facilities and level of community cohesiveness could be impaired.                  Some of the services Henfield relies upon are outside the parish e.g swimming pool</p>	<p>H                  H                    H                  H                  M                  M                  M                  L</p>

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Downslink			
Joining up of routes			
Village Wi-fi	M		
Improved broadband services	M		
Increase participation in sports and leisure activities			
Increased range of activities	M		
Appealing to a broader range of people			
Charging points to enable and encourage use of electric vehicles	L		

## Annex B – Stakeholder Communications Strategy Grid

Stakeholder	Medium used for communication	Frequency of communication	Person/Group responsible for communication	What information can we get back from stakeholder
Residents	Survey, Open Days & questionnaire, consultation meetings etc.	Open Days 4/11 and 8/11	HP	Suggestions, ideas, views & preferences. Validation of work done by the Focus Group. Feedback on specific questions. Engagement and support for the approach to community facilities and infrastructure within the Neighbourhood Plan.
Parish Council	Email & face to face		WW	Information re community assets, including the Village Hall
NP Steering Group	Email, meetings	Reports for each meeting	WW/HP	Co-ordination (with other Focus Groups) of the development of the plan. Miscellaneous information. Quality assurance re the Focus Group's output.
St Peter's School	Face to face	28/9/17	HP/DW	Expert information re education facilities. Evidence re capacity, needs, wants and plans for the future.
Medical Centre	Face to face	30/8/17	HP/DW	Expert information re medical facilities, Evidence re capacity, needs, wants and plans for the future.
Other Health professionals incl dentists	Emails		CP	Information, needs, wants and plans for the future.
Leisure Centre management	Emails		CP	Information & evidence re users, capacity, requirements and future plans
Local Sports Clubs	Emails		CP	Information & evidence re users, capacity, requirements and future plans
Youth	Youth Survey & to seek face to face meetings with Youth Club and Guides & Scouts	21/11/17	HP/DW	Information from the specific demographic
The Haven	Face to face		WW	Information & evidence re users, capacity, requirements and future plans
Horsham DC				Information from web site. Communications channels through the HNP Steering Group

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Southern Water	Letter/email			Information through the Steering Group.
Gas & Electricity companies	Letter/email		CP	Details of current capacity headroom, issues and constraints, and any planned expansion of capacity, improvements/enhancements.

Reports from meetings referenced from the Activity Log (Annex to the Focus Group Final Report)

WW – Wendy Whittaker    HP – Helen Prance    DW – Doug Walford    CP – Christina Piatti



## Annex C – Activity Log

Date	Activity and Salient Points
dd mmm yyyy	<b>ACTIVITY, WITH WHOM.</b> How many attended, outcome, salient features, decisions made etc
11 Aug 2017 13 Oct 2017 20 Oct 2017 10 Nov 2017 17 Nov 2017 1 Dec 2017 15 Dec 2017	Focus Group meetings – see Notes from meetings
Sept 2017	Community survey and subsequent analysis of responses. Survey contained several specific questions focused on cfi as well as open questions.
30 Aug 2017	Meeting with Medical Centre Manager. Reviewed the notes from the 2014 meeting and updated the information. See Annex E for details.
28 Sep 2017	Meeting with St Peters Primary School Headmaster. Reviewed the notes from the 2014 meeting and updated the information. See Annex E for details
4 Nov 2017 8 Nov 2017	Open Event – display of information, seeking of views and discussion of issues of importance to the public. Distribution of small questionnaire.
Various	Letter to utilities and sports organisations. See <i>summary of sent emails</i> for responses.
7 Nov 2017	Meeting with Tony Jackson, the Haven
9 Nov 2017	Survey at Youth Club. Talked to Club members, collected responses to the Youth Survey, reviewed where they lived and where they spent their free time. See survey results in Annex D.
5 Dec 2017	Meeting with Malcolm Eastwood, Chairman of Parish Council
14 Nov 2017 28 Nov 2017	Site Presentations public meetings
Nov 2017	Survey provided for Girl Guide meetings. Guide leader collected responses to the Youth Survey. See survey results in Annex D.
Various	Steering Group Meetings

## **Annex D – Key Sources of Evidence Used.**

### General to Neighbourhood Planning

NPPF

HDPF

State of the Parish Report

Housing Needs Assessment

West Sussex County Council Rights of Way Management Plan (draft)

### Specific to Community Facilities and Infrastructure

HDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan February 2016

The Horsham District Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment (2014)

HDC Play Strategy and Action Plan 2007 – 2012

Henfield Community Action Plan 2015-2019 produced jointly by Henfield Parish Council and Henfield Community Partnership

Henfield Community Partnership – Car Parking Survey 2017

### Consultation with Experts and Specialists

Medical Centre

St Peter's School

The Haven

The Parish Council

Henfield Business Survey 2017

### Public Consultation

Neighbourhood Plan Survey Sept 2017

Open Events Nov 2017

Youth Survey Nov 2017

### Overview of potential CFI projects

Henfield Infrastructure Schedule – response to HDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan consultation

## **Annex E: List of Community Buildings, Assets and Facilities and Background Information**

### **LIST OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ASSETS AND FACILITIES**

Henfield Medical Centre  
St Peter's School  
Henfield Hall and Museum  
The Haven  
Public Toilets and Bus Shelter  
2 x Car Parks  
Library  
Fire Station  
Play areas  
Allotments  
Playing Fields including Kingsfield, Memorial Field, Rothery Field, Wantley  
Youth Club<sup>1</sup>  
Sports centre  
Cricket club  
Tennis club  
Bowling club  
Skate park  
Scouts and Guides Hut  
Nursery  
Henfield Club  
Shops on the High Street covering a wide range of retail and other businesses.  
Churches  
Other health services, including dentists, chiropodist, podiatrist, chiropractors, physiotherapists, optician and pharmacy  
Red Oaks

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Henfield Medical Centre  
Educational Facilities  
    St Peters School  
    Secondary Education  
    Pre School  
    Facilities for Children and Young People  
Accommodation for Older people  
Community Buildings  
Social and Cultural Facilities

### **HENFIELD MEDICAL CENTRE**

**(Based on meeting with Katie Hill, Practice Manager, 30 August 2017)**

Currently there are 9,623 patients registered and the practice is running at full capacity with virtually all services running near or above national required standards

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<sup>1</sup> The minor correction: "Youth Club" added to this list and the term "Youth Club" replacing the words "Youth Centre" on the following pages, were made on 17 April 2020 in consultation with HDC and reported in the Statement in Response to the Initial Comments of the Independent Examiner.

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of satisfaction. The most common age is the 50-60 years range though the most frequent users are usually over 70 plus parents with young children.

Staffing in terms of support and qualified medical practitioners is at a suitable level but it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit staff, both administrative and medical, and to retain doctors following their training with the practice. The main factors affecting this are thought to be the lack of reliable public transport, making commuting difficult, and availability of housing, in particular, the provision of affordable housing, both for sale and rent, for lower paid and early career health employees.

The practice has policies of avoiding temporary locum staffing and aiming to provide continuity of care for patients. This raises expectations amongst patients about being able to see their own doctor but the benefits are considered to outweigh occasional difficulties. The practice continues a strong engagement with training, for example in conjunction with Sussex University medical students are trained in the Practice, as well as for qualified doctors who are attached to the Practice whilst training to be GPs through Health Education Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The dispensary is only for use by the furthest patients with all others being sent to Lloyds Pharmacy on the High Street. Recent applications to open a pharmacy on site have all been declined and this will not be pursued again in the near future.

The practice has sufficient space currently, of a good standard. It has limited financial resources to expand and maintain physical space and would aim to cater for any increases in numbers in the near future by extending opening hours, introducing new ways of working and continuing combined working with other members of the Coastal West Sussex area. It is also working with the many clubs and societies in the parish to promote well-being, connect people and to provide support.

Parking provision is good and access to the practice premises in Henfield and Partridge Green for patients further afield is facilitated by a very good volunteer transport facility 'The Link'. The one area of physical space improvement, which is under consideration, is to the waiting room.

The latest CQC rating of the practice is 'good' and a set of key satisfaction measures covering 2005 to present is available on the practice website. "Same day access" to a doctor is always met when patients have emergency needs. Satisfaction as measured in this annual patient questionnaire is running at "satisfactory" and is summarised as follows:

- Satisfaction with Receptionist 77% (Vs 70% national standard)
- Satisfaction with Opening Hours 68% (Vs 65%)
- Satisfaction with Availability of Particular Doctor 44% (Vs 60%)
- Satisfaction with Availability of Any Doctor 64% (Vs 70%)
- Satisfaction with Waiting Times at Practice 51% (Vs 51%)
- Satisfaction with Phoning Through to the Practice 68% (Vs 62%)
- Satisfaction of Phoning Through to Doctor for Advice 64% (Vs 55%)
- Satisfaction of Continuity of Care 62% (Vs 68%)
- Satisfaction with Doctors Questioning 86% (Vs 74%)

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Satisfaction of how well the Doctor listens 87% (Vs 75%)

Satisfaction of how well the Doctor puts the patient at ease 89% (Vs 86%)

Satisfaction of how much the Doctor involves the patient 86% (Vs 82%)

Satisfaction with Doctors explanation 88% (Vs 75%)

Satisfaction with time Doctors spend 84% (Vs 70%)

Satisfaction with Doctors patience 88% (Vs 74%)

Satisfaction with Doctors caring and concern 88% (Vs 74%)

Ability to understand problem after visiting the Doctor 77% (Vs 73%)

Ability to cope with problem after visiting the Doctor 73% (Vs 68%)

Ability to keep healthy after visiting the Doctor 71% (Vs 63%)

**Overall Satisfaction with Practice 84% (Vs 78%)**

### **Educational Facilities**

#### **St Peter's CofE(Aided) Primary School**

St Peter's School is located in Fabians Way and has total capacity of 420 pupils spread over two forms in each year up to year 6 (age 11) with 38 staff. The current roll is under capacity at 381 pupils. Years 1 and 3 are currently full but the intake fluctuates year on year. New strategic priorities mean that plans for nursery provision referred to in the 2013 meeting report are no longer being taken forward.

The pupil catchment area covers Shermanbury, Woodmancote, Small Dole and Henfield. Most teaching staff commute easily from further away while teaching assistants tend to live locally. Local families tend to be able to access the school without a car if they wish, often across the Kings Field. Car use is necessary for families from the wider catchment area, and some locals choose to use their car. In common with many schools, there are ongoing problems with illegal parking outside the school.

The school is "aided" by Horsham District Council, the school's Board of Governors and the Church. Any funding additional to the government grant is minimal and most fundraising is through the PTA, which is well supported by the local community.

The school added significant new capacity and classrooms in three building projects over the last 15 years. The design today is not suitable for significant expansion without causing disruption and there is no requirement for expansion in the foreseeable future. It was noted that the projected impact of currently approved new development at the junction of West End Lane and Stone Pit Lane was not expected to exceed the school's capacity. The buildings are in good condition thanks to an effective premises manager. Some minor repairs to roof and facade are needed, but can be managed.

The school is well served for sport and outdoor activities, with its own school field and occasional use of the King's Field. It also benefits from use of the Henfield Leisure Centre for specialist sports facilities and as a venue for thriving Breakfast and After School clubs. The school would resist strongly any pressures to release its own field. In addition, its location, and the routes taken by families to reach the school, mean

that it has a strong interest in any plans for pedestrian or car access to the Leisure Centre.

The one lack of local provision raised by the Headteacher is for swimming. The need to transport pupils by chartered coach to the Steyning pool means that the school cannot offer more than the statutory minimum of swimming lessons per pupil. It is felt that, if a pool were to be available in Henfield, the school would make extensive use of it.

In the 2016 Ofsted review an effectiveness rating of "Good" was achieved, with a rating of "Good" in all aspects, see the following link

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/126028>

### **Secondary Education**

Henfield is in the catchment area for Steyning Grammar school, with pupils transported to and from the school by bus. The majority of pupils from St Peter's go on to Steyning but around 10-15% progress to other secondaries in the area, including Hurst, Millais, Downlands and St Paul's. The meeting in 2013 noted that, evidence submitted by West Sussex County Council to the recent planning application for 160 dwellings on land at the junction of West End Lane and Stone Pit Lane stated that Steyning Grammar School and Rydon School Storrington, which are pooled for planning purposes, are oversubscribed with commitments forecast to be 115% of capacity. Projects to add further capacity are to be proposed by WSCC.

### **Facilities for Children and Young People**

There are childrens' play areas at King's Field (by Henfield Leisure Centre); Chessbrook Green (Wantley Hill Estate); Deer Park (opposite Henfield Medical Centre). In addition there are children's swings at Wantley Hill Estate, and a multi-play unit at the Rothery Field in Nep Town Road. All play areas are managed by Henfield Parish Council with the exception of Deer Park, which is managed by Horsham District Council.

A skate-park and a basketball hoop are situated on the King's Field between the Youth Club and St Peter's Primary School. There is also a skate park in Small Dole, although this is located outside the Parish.

### **Pre-School Facilities**

Day nurseries/playgroups are located at Dove Nursery School, Henfield Cricket Pavilion; Warren Playgroup, Church Lane, St Peter's View; and Little Gems, Henfield Youth Club, Deer Park.

### **Accommodation for Older people**

There are number of sheltered accommodation and care home developments within the village, as well as bungalows in the Broomfield Road and Furners Mead localities.

### **Community Buildings**

Henfield has a good range of well used community buildings.

Henfield Hall houses the Parish Council facilities and Henfield Museum and provides a large hall and meeting rooms for hire by local groups, individuals and businesses.

The Haven is a day centre managed on behalf of the community. It's vision is

- A centre to promote living to the full through a range of joined up services
- Focussed on the needs of individuals, their carers and family supporters
- A community led development helping to build an even stronger, more cohesive community
- No age restriction

St Peter's Church, Corpus Christi Church and the Evangelical Free Church have facilities that are made available for both religious and secular use. The Henfield Club, George Inn and White Hart in the High Street have function/meeting rooms available for hire, as does the Bull Inn at Mockbridge.

The Leisure Centre and the Youth Club at King's Field, as well as a Scout Hut at the Tanyard and a Guide Hut at Staples Barn, provide further facilities. A number of sports clubs including the Bowling Club, the Cricket Club and the Tennis Club have club houses/pavilions with bar/social areas affording further opportunities for meetings and functions.

### **Henfield High Street (Retail Centre)**

Henfield High Street has a wide range of shops and other businesses including chemist, banks, post office, supermarkets, green-grocer's, bakery, baker's, hairdresser's, funeral director's, petrol station, car-wash, MOT centre, dry cleaner's, newsagent's, estate agents, optician's, dentists, off licence, bookmaker's, cafes, restaurants and pubs.

### **Social and Cultural Facilities**

Henfield is a thriving community and has over 100 clubs and societies.

The West Sussex County Council Library is located to the west of the High Street.

There are three churches, St Peter's Anglican Church, the Corpus Christi Catholic Church, the Evangelical Free Church and other non-conformist groups within the village.

The Henfield Hall provides a hub for larger community events, including amateur dramatic productions, films, parish meetings and various social gatherings.

The Henfield Common provides a venue for travelling fairs, as well as the biannual village fete.

### **Sports and Active Leisure Facilities**

There are many with sports and active leisure facilities within the parish. These include:

- Henfield Common, which comprises the Cricket Club pitch, practice nets and pavilion, football pitches and open space for walking and riding.

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- The Bowling Club: 6 rink outdoor green and well equipped clubhouse
- Rothery Field: football pitch and changing rooms
- The Leisure Centre, providing a multipurpose hall, squash courts, gym, cafeteria / bar, fitness studios and Sharky's Soft Play Centre for toddlers and children up to 12 years of age.
- The King's Field
  - Tennis Club: Pavilion, 4 floodlit tarmac courts
  - Football Club: Pavilion and pitches
  - Skate-park and basketball hoop
- Horton Golf Club: 9 green 18 hole course
- Henfield Club, Cagefoot Lane: 2 snooker tables, bar and meeting room
- Various children's play areas (see Appendix 4)
- The Downs Link long distance trail and surrounding footpaths and bridleways which are well used by residents and bring many cyclists, walkers and equestrians to Henfield.

Small Dole has a playing field and a skate park, although these are located outside the Parish.

There is no public swimming pool in the village: the nearest public swimming pools are at Burgess Hill and Steyning.

Enquiries have been made of the Henfield Football Club, Henfield Cricket Club, Henfield Bowling Club, Henfield Tennis Club and Horton Golf Club regarding any requirements for additional facilities and future plans.



## **Annex F – Working Papers and Other information Sources**

2014

Information from meeting with the Haven and information about the Haven on the Internet

Information displayed at Public Events on 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Sent Emails to Sports organisations, health facilities, utilities etc and responses  
*(summary of sent emails v1 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017)*

HDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Henfield Parish Council response to consultation 8 Sept 2017

Agenda and notes from CFI Focus Group meetings

Task list

Equality Diversity Grid

Notes from Steering Group meetings

Correspondence from Southern Water