

Warnham Parish Plan (Updated) – Aligned with Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040

1. Vision & Strategy

Warnham Parish aims to guide sustainable, community-led development over the coming decades by articulating a clear vision for growth, conservation, and infrastructure. The Parish Plan sets out how new development should be shaped so as to:

- Conserve and enhance the local environment, biodiversity, heritage, and rural character
- Meet local housing needs — including affordable homes, homes for families, young people, and older residents. While prioritising residents with a strong link to the community.
- Deliver high-quality design, sustainable construction, and energy efficiency
- Strengthen community facilities, services, and connectivity
- Support sustainable transport, pedestrian and cycle access, and reduce reliance on private cars
- Safeguard and improve local infrastructure (e.g., open space, rights of way, community buildings)

This vision reflects both the values of the Warnham community and the strategic objectives of Horsham District Council as set out in its Local Plan.

2. How the Plan Was Developed

- Independent Steering Group: Although the Parish Council champions the Plan, its development has been led by an independent steering group, enabling broad and unbiased community input.
- Community Engagement: A detailed parish-wide survey was conducted, with tailored questionnaires for adults and young people distributed to every household. The data collected formed the basis for the Plan's policies and actions.
- Consultation & Refinement: Policies and actions have been refined over time through public meetings, feedback from parishioners, and ongoing dialogue with Horsham District Council planning officers.

3. Alignment with Horsham District Local Plan (2023–2040)

This updated Parish Plan aligns with the emerging Horsham District Local Plan (Regulation 19) in several key respects:

1. Housing and Growth
 - Recognises Horsham District's need to deliver new homes sustainably, and defines local housing priorities (including affordable housing) in a way that supports the Local Plan's housing strategy. [Horsham District Council+2Horsham District Council+2](#)
 - Supports development that respects Warnham's character while contributing to the district's targets. The Local Plan's viability assessment highlights the importance of a range of housing sizes and types. [Horsham District Council](#)
2. Environmental Protection & Biodiversity
 - Requires that new development in Warnham should deliver biodiversity net gain, in line with Horsham's Local Plan ambition (minimum 12% net gain). [Horsham District Council+1](#)
 - Encourages green infrastructure, ecological corridors, and habitat enhancements, aligned with Horsham's *Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Planning Advice Note*. [Horsham District Council](#)
 - Supports energy-efficient, low-carbon design in development, consistent with Local Plan policy for carbon reduction (e.g., building regulation standards). [Horsham District Council](#)
3. Infrastructure and Community Facilities
 - Identifies and safeguards community assets (village halls, recreation spaces, paths) as part of

development planning, contributing to the Local Plan's infrastructure strategy. [Horsham District Council+1](#)

- Proposes that any new development should contribute via planning obligations (e.g., Section 106) to local infrastructure improvements, ensuring growth does not outpace facilities.
- 4. Transport & Accessibility
 - Promotes improvements to sustainable transport (walking, cycling) and better connectivity in line with the Local Plan's requirement for developments to provide safe, attractive walking and cycling routes. [Horsham District Council](#)
 - Encourages any new development to consider transport impact, especially given constraints such as water neutrality and environmental sustainability.
- 5. Monitoring & Review
 - Establishes a regime of annual monitoring by the Parish Council to track progress on action items.
 - Proposes a 5-year full review of the Plan to ensure alignment with Local Plan updates, including any modifications following the Local Plan's examination or adoption.

4. Policies and Action Areas

Underneath the vision, the Plan is structured around the following thematic policy areas, each with specific actions:

1. Population & Employment
 - Policy: Encourage small-scale, appropriate home-building to meet local demand.
 - Action: Identify potential infill sites, work with HDC on neighbourhood planning, and survey whether local businesses need premises or support.
2. Housing
 - Policy: Promote a mix of housing, especially affordable and "local needs" housing.
 - Action: Work with housing associations, HDC, and developers to bring forward schemes that incorporate community priorities.
3. Community Services & Infrastructure
 - Policy: Protect and enhance key community buildings (village hall, meeting spaces).
 - Action: Develop a list of necessary improvements, apply for grant funding, and negotiate community benefits on new developments.
4. Recreation & Leisure
 - Policy: Preserve and improve open space, green corridors, and public rights of way.
 - Action: Map current rights of way, identify underused green spaces, and propose enhancements (benches, signage, biodiversity planting).
5. Public Transport & Connectivity
 - Policy: Support better public transport links and safe walking/cycling.
 - Action: Engage with West Sussex County Council and HDC transport planners to identify "pinch points" and propose solutions (e.g., footpath upgrades).
6. Roads, Traffic & Rights of Way
 - Policy: Minimise traffic impact from new development; support traffic calming.
 - Action: Monitor traffic speeds, petition for calming measures, and include transport mitigation proposals when commenting on planning applications.
7. Environment & Sustainability
 - Policy: Ensure all development contributes to biodiversity net gain and low-carbon design.
 - Action: Create a local ecological baseline, identify priority habitat areas, and liaise with developers about biodiversity enhancements.

5. Governance, Monitoring & Review

- Parish Council Oversight: The Parish Council will oversee delivery of the Plan, with the independent steering group providing advice.
- Annual Review: Every year, a report will be produced summarising progress on all action items, including successes, delays, and emerging issues.
- Five-Year Full Review: A detailed review of the Plan every five years to ensure continued relevance, especially in light of changes to Horsham's Local Plan, planning policy, or major infrastructure shifts.
- Community Engagement: Use community meetings, newsletter updates, and the parish website to keep residents informed and involved in next steps.

6. Implementation & Funding

- Planning Contributions: Use the Parish Plan formally when responding to planning applications to secure Section 106 contributions for community infrastructure.
- Grant Funding: Pursue external funding (e.g., from the National Lottery, Local Authority grants) for community facilities, green infrastructure, and rights of way improvements.
- Partnerships: Work with HDC, West Sussex County Council, local environmental groups, and neighbouring parishes to maximise impact.
- Prioritisation: Identify "quick wins" (low-cost, high-impact community actions) and longer-term infrastructure projects requiring major funding or planning input.

Summary — How This Updated Plan Better Fits Current Planning Policy

- It directly aligns with the strategic objectives of the Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040 (housing, environment, infrastructure).
- It emphasises sustainability, including biodiversity net gain and carbon performance, matching Local Plan policy.
- It strengthens the Parish Council's voice in planning application consultations, giving them a well-evidenced, community-backed policy basis.
- It builds in monitoring and review, ensuring the Plan remains relevant as local and national planning policy evolves.