

**DRAFT**

**Hadlow Down Parish**

**Community Plan**

*2011- 2026*

## ***Executive Summary***

This document outlines Hadlow Down Parish Community plan. It has been developed as a tool to assist the Parish Council and other stakeholders (such as Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council) to identify the community priorities for the future of the Parish up to 2026 in line with Wealden District Councils Local Development Framework.

The aim of this document is to assist the Parish Council and wider community to seek funds under the new Localism Bill as a means to achieve some of the objectives highlighted in this document.

The process of this document has been very much driven by local people to which the Parish Council has supported. The outcomes of which give a clear direction of the priorities of the community.

It's called a 'Community Plan' because it is based on what you, the community, have said needs to be done to improve the quality of life for everyone in Hadlow Down. The plan will help us as a community to achieve our vision of what Hadlow Down should be like in the year 2026.

As a local resident myself, I am proud of the way in which local people have been so involved in developing this plan. After all, who knows more about what the real issues are in Hadlow Down than the people who live and work here?

Cllr Michael Lunn  
Hadlow Down Parish Council

## Contents

1. Introduction to Hadlow Down
2. The Community Plan process
3. Summary of results
4. Community plan Issues
  - a. Economy
  - b. Society
  - c. Environment
  - d. Wellbeing

## **Appendix**

Wealden District Council Community Strategy  
East Sussex County Council Community Strategy

## ***1.0 Introduction to Hadlow Down***

Hadlow Down is a small village located on the A272 between Five Ashes and Buxted approximately five miles south of Crowborough. The village is primarily residential in nature with only limited local services.

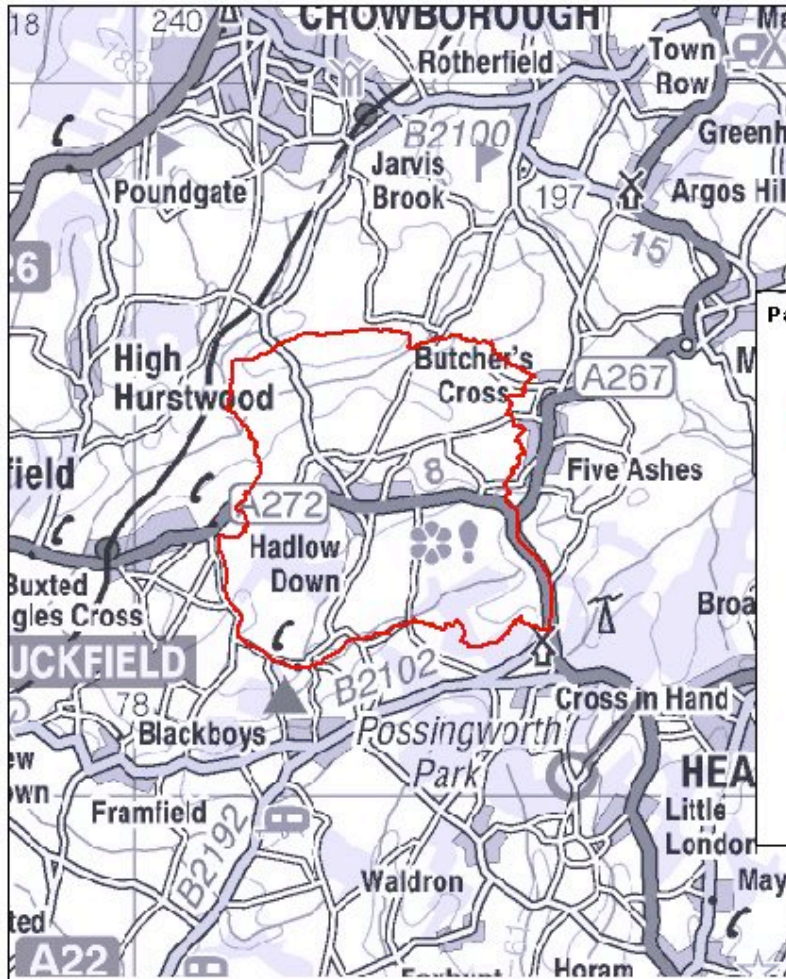
Hadlow Down is situated on an east-west ridge which affords attractive long-distance views over open farmland, woodland and scattered buildings within the undulating landscape of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In a northerly direction there are distant views of Crowborough and Rotherfield, while to the south the Sussex Downs are clearly visible.

Development within the village is essentially linear in its form and largely characterised by detached properties fronting the A272 and Wilderness Lane. The main core of development occurs around the junction of the A272 with School Lane and Wilderness Lane and along the A272 frontage as far as the junction with the Old Main Road. Elsewhere, a more loose-knit scattering of development exists along Wheelers Lane and further east along the A272, with a small grouping of houses along School Lane. It is this pattern of development, interspersed with areas of farmland, glebeland and other open land, together with extensive mature tree cover, hedgerows and landscaped gardens, which gives the village its strong rural character notwithstanding being on a busy cross-country route for traffic.

Hadlow Down Parish lies within Wealden District and its boundaries are shown on the map below. It comprises of 1697 hectares and the population of the parish in 2009 was 761 residents across 306 households.

## Map of Hadlow Down Parish

Hadlow Down parish



Parishes in Wealden



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## **2.0 The Community Plan process**

This document is the result of a local community process to engage with local residents and stakeholders to identify the priorities of the Parish. It's called a 'Community Plan' because it is based on what the community, have said needs to be done to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Hadlow Down Parish. The plan will help us 'the community of Hadlow Down Parish' to achieve our vision of what Hadlow Down should be like in the year 2026. The Parish Council is particularly pleased at the way in which local people have been so involved in developing this plan. After all, who knows more about what the real issues are in Hadlow Down than the people who live and work here?

This plan is about what local people want for themselves and the local area and how local organisations, working with local people, will make things happen. And we want you to continue to be involved with the plan by telling us if we are doing what we said we'd do and helping us review it from time to time.

In all, there have been more than 6 community workshops with a variety of community groups, individuals and local businesses including:

- The village hall committee
- Tinkers Park representatives
- The New Inn
- St Marks School
- Kit Wilson Trust
- St Marks Church
- Wilderness Wood
- Young people
- Local businesses.
- Variety club
- Local landowners
- Horticultural society

The context of those meetings were as follows:

Session 1 – Identifying the Parish Assets, Concerns, Values and Vision for the future

Session 2 – Measuring what matters to people

Session 3 – Understanding our Parish

Session 4 – Addressing the problems and identifying new ideas

Session 5 – Developing a Parish Community Strategy

Session 6 – Building consensus and agreement

All of these sessions considered the Parish's surrounding environment, economy, society and wellbeing.

### 3.0 Summary of the Results

<b>Theme : Environment / Green space</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To develop a circular bridleway / footpath to take in the key features of the village – physical buildings and countryside and to incorporate into a Parish ‘green’ map.
2.	To survey and map key environmentally important features, flora and fauna
3.	To protect village atmosphere from excessive and inappropriate development

<b>Theme : Local Housing</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To provide affordable housing with perpetual rent as a key condition. Incorporate any affordable homes into village sympathetically.
2.	To maintain historic growth rates for housing provision in Hadlow Down i.e 1 or 2 houses per year. Do not bolt on 10 or 20 homes in one year.
3.	To have open and positive dialogue with Wealden District Council to identify suitable locations for housing development.

<b>Theme : Transport and Access</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To ensure speed monitoring through the village and push for a 20mph outside school during school times.
2.	To maintain and enhance access to local footpath and bridleway network.
3.	To seek mechanisms to improve inter-village transport links.

<b>Theme : Prosperity / Employment / Economy</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To protect the village pub (The New Inn) as a going concern and its environs as a community asset.
2.	To support local businesses connected to the area who create added value to the rural economy, such as Wilderness Wood, and Tinkers Park as tourism assets.

3.	To support the feasibility of the establishment of a village shop.
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<b>Theme : Health and Social Care</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	Encourage and develop new 'active' village sports clubs for health and recreation in new village hall.
2.	Improve communications between Emergency planning committee and external agencies with reference to vulnerable and elderly persons, especially in emergencies.
3.	Extend mobile visiting health services at the new village hall.

<b>Theme : Learning / Education / Training</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To support local village community groups.
2.	To support St Marks church, St Marks School, Wilderness Wood, Tinkers Park as community assets.
3.	To extend accessibility of St Marks School for adult education, and community education.

<b>Theme : Community Safety</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To improve community dialogue with external parties – police, district and county councils, association of local councils, health officials.
2.	To improve lines of communication with external agencies and the emergency planning team, and run emergency exercise
3.	To support village magazine and village website to improve local communications.

<b>Theme : Culture / Sport / Leisure / Play</b>	
<b>Three key priorities for Hadlow Down Parish</b>	
1.	To design and develop a new village hall which incorporates the ability for multiple uses, eg meeting rooms, indoor sports facilities, kitchen, changing rooms, male / female toilets, Parish Council office, storage area, suitable car park area.



2.	To establish a local community forum / network that brings together all the community groups together to share ideas, problems, solutions (twice a year)
3.	To re-establish a youth service or create a dedicated youth facility for local young people.

## ***4.0 Community plan issues identified by the community planning process.***

### ***a. Economy***

#### **Top 7 issues identified by the community**

1. Planning the village in a sustainable and ascetic way based on historical growth
2. Developing local affordable housing
3. Supporting the 'New Inn' as a 'village asset' and maintain and protect it as a village pub.
4. Supporting local tourism – Wilderness Wood, Tinkers Park
5. Supporting local rural home working
6. Seek opportunities to incorporate a part time village shop
7. Support traditional rural economy – farming, cottage industry, craft workshops

### ***b. Environment***

#### **Top 6 issues identified by the community**

1. Threat of Excessive Housing Development (Bolt on development)
2. Waste and Recycling (Expanding the materials that can be recycled)
3. Speeding through the village and local lanes
4. Biodiversity and Landscape protection
5. Maintaining and developing public rights of way including linking up existing paths
6. Protecting night sky from light pollution (No to Street lights)

### ***c. Society***

#### **Top 7 issues identified by the community**

1. Developing a new village community hall
2. Supporting village groups
3. Supporting village events
4. Supporting St. Marks Church
5. Supporting St Marks School
6. Crime and anti social behaviour (vandalism, littering)
7. Improving rural public transport

### ***d. Wellbeing***

#### **Top 7 issues identified by the community** *(Note only 3 issues could be identified)*

1. Village apathy (Engaging other people across the Parish)
2. Conserving and enhancing village atmosphere
3. Improving dialogue and communications between different groups / stakeholders
4. None identified
5. None identified
6. None identified
7. None identified

## ***Appendix***

### ***Wealden Community Strategy***

#### Environment

- Sustainable principles for everybody in Wealden.

#### Health and Social Care

- Working in partnership to provide everyone in Wealden with access to appropriate health and social care services to maximise their potential for good health and well-being.

#### Housing

- Working in partnership to provide access to decent, affordable homes suitable for the needs of all those who live in or need to live in Wealden.

#### Learning

- Working in partnership to provide everyone in Wealden with access to lifelong learning, education and skills training to fulfil their potential.

#### Cultural Activities and Leisure

- Working in partnership to provide the people of Wealden with access to a broad range of opportunities including sport, leisure, recreation and the arts, to improve their quality of life, health and well-being.

#### Prosperity

- Working in partnership to create a prosperous sustainable economy that is dynamic, flexible and maintains the environmental qualities of the area.

#### Community Safety

- Working in partnership to enable everyone to live in , work in or visit Wealden confident of their safety and free from the fear of crime.

#### Transport and Access

- Working in partnership to improve accessibility for all and reduce the impact of traffic on people and places.

## ***East Sussex County Council Community Strategy***

### Strategic Management and Economic Development

- A desire to transform the economy of our country, we believe we can deliver a better quality of life and greater wealth for all our residents by raising earnings and profits.

### Corporate Resource Planning and Management

- Delivering quality services for the lowest possible council tax is our key aim. Being clear about what we can and cannot afford to do.

### Community Services

- Community safety remains one of the top priorities and we aim to reduce both crime and the fear of crime and supporting the new approach to neighbourhood policing by Sussex police

### Children's Services

- Continue to work closely with partners and local communities to provide seamless coherent support to children, young people and families to help them maximise their skills for life, their enjoyment and learning and to ensure they are safe and health

### Adult Social Care

- To work in partnership to provide a range of service which promote choice, independent and well-being

### Transport and Environment

- Continue to deliver excellent programme of safety education work with schools and our sward-winning waster management team working in recycling and waster awareness. The condition and safety of our roads remain of paramount important – the implementation of government guidelines in relation to speed limits is a priority.