

Review of the Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan

Resident Survey

Background and introduction

The purpose of neighbourhood planning is to give local people and businesses a much greater say in how the places where they live and work should change and develop over time. Sedlescombe Parish Council is preparing a review of our village's neighbourhood plan. The neighbourhood plan is a document that sets out planning policies that help determine planning applications for development within Sedlescombe. Sedlescombe Parish Council uses it, in conjunction with Rother District Council's local plan, to inform our responses to planning applications, and the District Council uses it to help its decisions on these applications.

Why are we doing this?

Our current neighbourhood plan was completed in 2018. We want to review the plan to ensure that it is up-to-date and relevant.

You can find the current plan at <https://www.sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk/2018-neighbourhood-plan>.

We are not intending to allocate new sites for development (housing or other uses) in the neighbourhood plan review. This is because Rother District Council is doing so in its update to its own local plan.

Our review will focus on new planning policies that guide future development in our area. This includes policies that shape the design and appearance of new buildings, as well as those that influence environmental protection, local infrastructure, and economic growth.

We have seen that the Rother local plan has identified new development sites in Sedlescombe, and we will submit a response to Rother District Council about this separately.

How can you get involved?

Please fill in this short survey to give us your views on the new policies that we intend to include in the plan. More than one person in a household can fill in a questionnaire, and we invite all members of the household over the age of 18 to return a completed questionnaire.

Privacy Statement

This questionnaire is anonymous. You will not be asked to provide your name or any information that could identify you personally. The parish council will only use your responses to help inform the neighbourhood plan review. Individual responses will not be shared outside the parish council, and results will be reported only in summary or aggregated form.

Taking part is entirely voluntary, and you may skip any question you do not wish to answer.

All information collected will be stored securely and managed in accordance with UK data protection requirements. The data will be retained only for as long as needed to support the preparation of the neighbourhood plan and any related reporting, after which it will be securely deleted.

By completing this questionnaire, you are giving consent for your responses to be used for these purposes.

Section one: About you

1. Please tick the appropriate box:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Please tell us which age bracket you are in:

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+

3. What is your connection to the area?

- ☐ Live in the village / Parish
Please add your postcode.....

If you are not a resident, please tick one of the following boxes:

- ☐ Business owner
- ☐ Other
Please tell us your connection.....

4. If you live in the village or wider parish, please tell us how long you lived here?

- ☐ under 5 years
- ☐ 5 to 10 years
- ☐ 10 to 30 years
- ☐ 30 years +

5. What do you value most about living in the area? **Tick your top three.**

- ☐ Historic buildings
- ☐ Green spaces
- ☐ Building styles
- ☐ Open views
- ☐ Quiet streets
- ☐ Rural/village feel
- ☐ Amenities
- ☐ Sense of community
- ☐ Clubs and activities

Other (please specify)

6. In your view, what will be the three most important issues for Sedlescombe over the next 15 years? **Tick your top three.**

- ☐ Housing (type, size, affordability)
- ☐ Traffic and road safety
- ☐ Parking
- ☐ Protecting green spaces and countryside
- ☐ Supporting local shops and businesses

- ☐ Community facilities (halls, sports, youth provision)
- ☐ Walking, cycling and public transport
- ☐ Environment and climate change
- ☐ Infrastructure (drainage, broadband, utilities)

Other (please specify)

7. The Parish Council has drafted three vision statements that set out the priorities for our village over the next 15 years. To what extent do you agree with them? **Please circle as appropriate.**

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / strongly disagree

To ensure Sedlescombe continues to be a vibrant place that values its past but looks to the future, where people are proud to live and work and be part of a caring community.

To ensure the historic character and identity of the village is maintained and enhanced whilst allowing growth and encouraging a sense of community through well designed, planned and appropriate development to meet the needs of the community.

To ensure the natural beauty and historic characteristics of this part of the High Weald National Landscape are conserved and enhanced.

If you have any further comments or suggestions about the vision statements, **please comment below.**

8. The Natural Environment

We would like to hear your views on a set of draft policies under the theme of the natural environment.

Summary of draft policies:

Taken together, the policies ensure that all development within Sedlescombe supports the long-term environmental, heritage and rural character of the Parish while responding positively to local needs. Any development must contribute to mitigating the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by the Parish Council. Development must preserve the distinctive landscape of Sedlescombe and the High Weald National Landscape, including open spaces, views, rural lanes and the traditional village settlement pattern. Biodiversity must be protected and enhanced.

8. a Do you think these policies are the right approach for protecting and enhancing Sedlescombe's natural environment and rural character? **Please circle as appropriate.**

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / strongly disagree

If you want, you can view the whole policy in detail at

www.sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk/draft-policies and then give your feedback below.

Policy	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
12a. Landscape Character					
12b. The High Weald National Landscape					
12c. Biodiversity					
12d. Natural Features					
12e. Blue Infrastructure					
12f. Dark Skies					

Do you have any further comments about the policies that make up the natural environment?

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9. The Village Environment

We would like to hear your views on a set of policies under the theme of the village environment.

Summary of draft policies: Taken together, the policies ensure that development strengthens community life, promotes inclusion and supports the physical and mental wellbeing of residents of all ages and abilities. Community assets and green spaces — including the Village Hall, The Green, Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and field, Riverside playground, Village Pub, Red Barn Field and Public Rights of Way — will be protected, enhanced and supported to meet current and future needs.

New or improved community facilities and infrastructure will be encouraged where there is local need and acceptable environmental impact. Development should support the long-term sustainability and energy efficiency of community assets. Housing should meet local needs, including those of first-time buyers, families, older residents and people unable to access the housing market. Open spaces, recreation areas, countryside access, safe walking and active travel will be protected and enhanced to support a healthy, connected and resilient community.

9. a Do you agree with the overall approach of these policies for housing, community facilities, open spaces and wellbeing in Sedlescombe? **Please circle as appropriate**

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / strongly disagree

If you want, you can view the whole policy in detail at

www.sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk/draft-policies and then give your feedback below.

Policy	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
13a. Community and Recreational Facilities.					
13b. Rights of Way and Recreation					
13c. Local Green Space					

Do you have any further comments about the policies that make up the village environment?

10. The Economy

We would like to hear your views on the set of draft policies under the theme of the economy.

Summary of draft policies: The policies support existing businesses and encourage new sustainable economic activity that protects Sedlescombe's rural character, landscape, and environment.

It backs growth such as farm buildings, business conversions, tourism, home-working, and live/work units where these are small-scale, suitable, and meet other planning policies.

It incorporates a policy on renewables.

10.a Do you agree with the overall approach of these policies for the local economy?
Please tick as appropriate.

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / strongly disagree

If you want, you can view the whole policy in detail at

www.sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk/draft-policies and then give your feedback below.

Policy	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
11. Economic Sustainability					
11a. Renewables					

Do you have any further comments about the policies that make up the economy?

Thank you for giving your time and completing the survey. **Please drop it into the yellow box in the village shop**

Or return to the parish clerk:

Email - clerk@sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Post - Sedlescombe Parish Council: The Red House, Lower Street, Ninfield, TN33 9ED

Stay in touch

If you would like to receive email updates about the neighbourhood plan. Please contact the parish clerk.

Email clerk@sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07531 065469

Privacy Notice - if you choose to stay in touch.

We will add your details to our email database so we can keep you informed. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Interested in getting more involved?

We are currently looking for residents to join the neighbourhood plan review committee.

We are inviting up to four residents to work alongside Parish Councillors. If this is something you might be interested in, we would love to hear from you.

For an informal chat about what's involved, please contact the parish clerk using the contact details above.

Other Opportunities

We currently have vacancies for parish councillors which we would like to fill. Would you consider becoming a parish councillor?

Would you be interested in volunteering to support village activities?

Please contact the parish clerk using the contact details above and we will get back to you with more information.