

# ARDINGLY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## Scoping Report for Sustainability Appraisal

Submitted for Consultation with Statutory Authorities  
by Ardingly Parish Council  
30 April 2012



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# 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to identify the sustainability issues within Ardingly Parish and to set objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan that can be used to determine how the Neighbourhood Plan will look to address some or all of these issues. The Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan objectives are in compliance with the Strategic Objectives of the Mid Sussex District Plan, and consistent with local and national planning policy, while taking into account the local circumstances and needs of the parish of Ardingly.

This document will be the subject of consultation with Mid Sussex District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage and the High Weald AONB Unit before the draft Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal are published in summer 2012. The outcome of the consultation on this scoping report may result in further issues being identified.

In accordance with European and national legislation Neighbourhood Plans must be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal for consultation with environmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

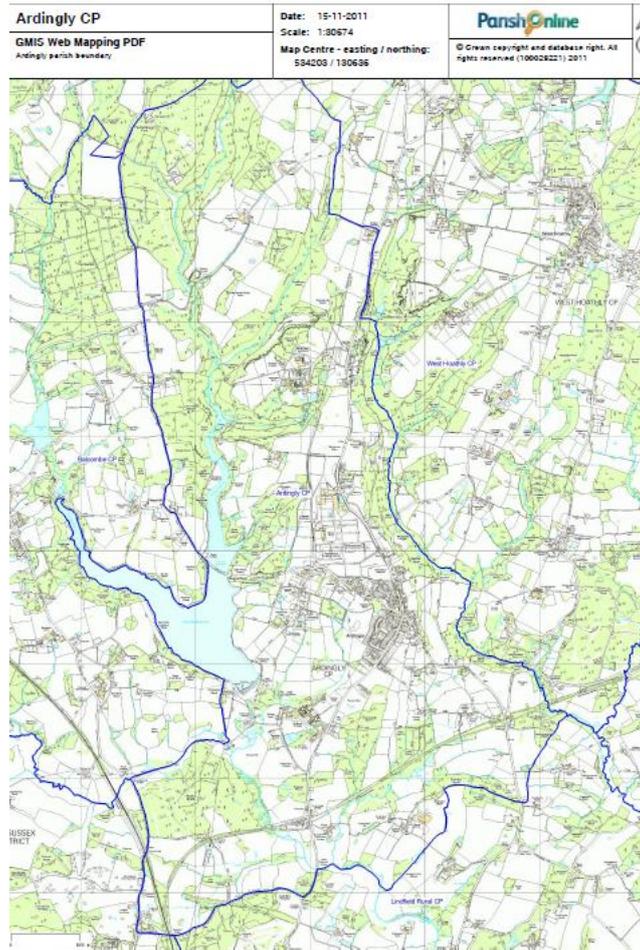
The commitment to the achievement of sustainable development has been set out in legislation introduced at both European and national level. In 2004 the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was implemented in the UK. This sets out the requirement for SEA, which has been incorporated into the SA process. Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Development Documents, to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. This Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the SEA process – for ease, this report is referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal from now on in this document, although incorporates the elements required for SEA.

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 environmental, social and economic 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:

- Living within Environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land-use planning process. The Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan which is currently being prepared, will need to be in conformity with the Mid Sussex District Plan. It will be adopted under the framework of the District Plan and will comprise part of the planning policy framework for the district. The Neighbourhood Plan can help to achieve sustainable development as it aims to ensure that development meets the needs of people living and working in the parish, while at the same time helping to ensure that adverse environmental impact is minimised. This Sustainability Appraisal will help inform the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the plan prepared is the most sustainable possible, given all alternative options for the plan's overall strategy and the policies within it to deliver the strategy.

## 2. Methodology



The Neighbourhood Plan covers the whole of the parish of Ardingly, and is being prepared by a Steering Committee comprising the 11 members of Ardingly Parish Council plus four coopted residents. To inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan, three working groups were set up to collect data about Ardingly as it is today, on demographic, sites/landscape and infrastructure characteristics and issues. The majority of the District wide data has already been collected for the Sustainability Appraisal for the Mid Sussex District Plan and had been obtained from the various sources best placed to provide accurate data in their relevant area of expertise. This information has enabled the environmental, social and economic issues facing both the district and Ardingly to be established.

At a more local level, the Ardingly Village Plan published in 2010 was created through a process in which the community established the issues and key priorities for the village. It used the Parish Council as a conduit for community involvement and drive to benefit village life. The Village Plan evolved by consulting with the entire community to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to have their say, and the actions put forward were those considered to be important by residents. The Plan also acknowledged issues that are pertinent to smaller groups, as well as those issues identified by the Parish Council. The issues identified in the Village Plan have been useful in helping to inform this Scoping Report.

Mid Sussex District Council has published a set of 18 Sustainability Objectives in its 'Sustainability Appraisal Consultation Draft, November 2011' and this document uses and expands upon those that are relevant to the issues relevant to Ardingly. In particular, local issues and objectives have been identified, and the indicators used to measure these are from local sources at a local scale where possible. These will help assess the sustainability issues facing Ardingly Parish, to be addressed where possible in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 3. Policy context

The Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan will need to comply with both national and local planning policies. The Mid Sussex District Plan Sustainability Appraisal in Appendix 1, reviews all programmes, policies strategies guidance and Initiatives that have influenced the development of the District Plan. The Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal will need to be in conformity with the District Plan and it is therefore not proposed to review in this scoping report all international, national and local documents that are relevant.

**Appendix A** at the end of this report, provides a summary of the local programmes, plans and other documents which influence the Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to those outlined above. Key objectives and indicators have been identified from the District Plan and these have been incorporated into the sustainability framework and used to inform baseline data and the identification of key issues.

The aims, objectives and indicators from these policy documents have been used to develop the Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan sustainability objectives set out in this Scoping Report. It should be noted that the policy context for the Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal is not static. Therefore, as further relevant plans or programmes are developed, they will be reviewed and incorporated within the assessment at future stages of publication of this Sustainability Appraisal report.

## 4. Parish characteristics and issues

A collection of information on environmental, social and economic characteristics of the parish is required to provide a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. The legislation suggests that the Sustainability Appraisal should describe the baseline environment in terms of a series of topics which are set out below.

### Nature conservation

The parish of Ardingly covers around 16 square kilometres of attractive countryside, all located within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which was designated in 1983. There is a rich and varied pattern of habitats, species and biodiversity, recognised by the extensive and varied landscape and nature conservation designations that cover land within the parish.

SSSI: Wakehurst and Chiddingly Woods – 116.92Ha

LNR: Ardingly Reservoir – 67.95Ha

Registered Parks and Gardens:

- Wakehurst Place – 52.68Ha
- Stonehurst – 16.87Ha

SNCI:

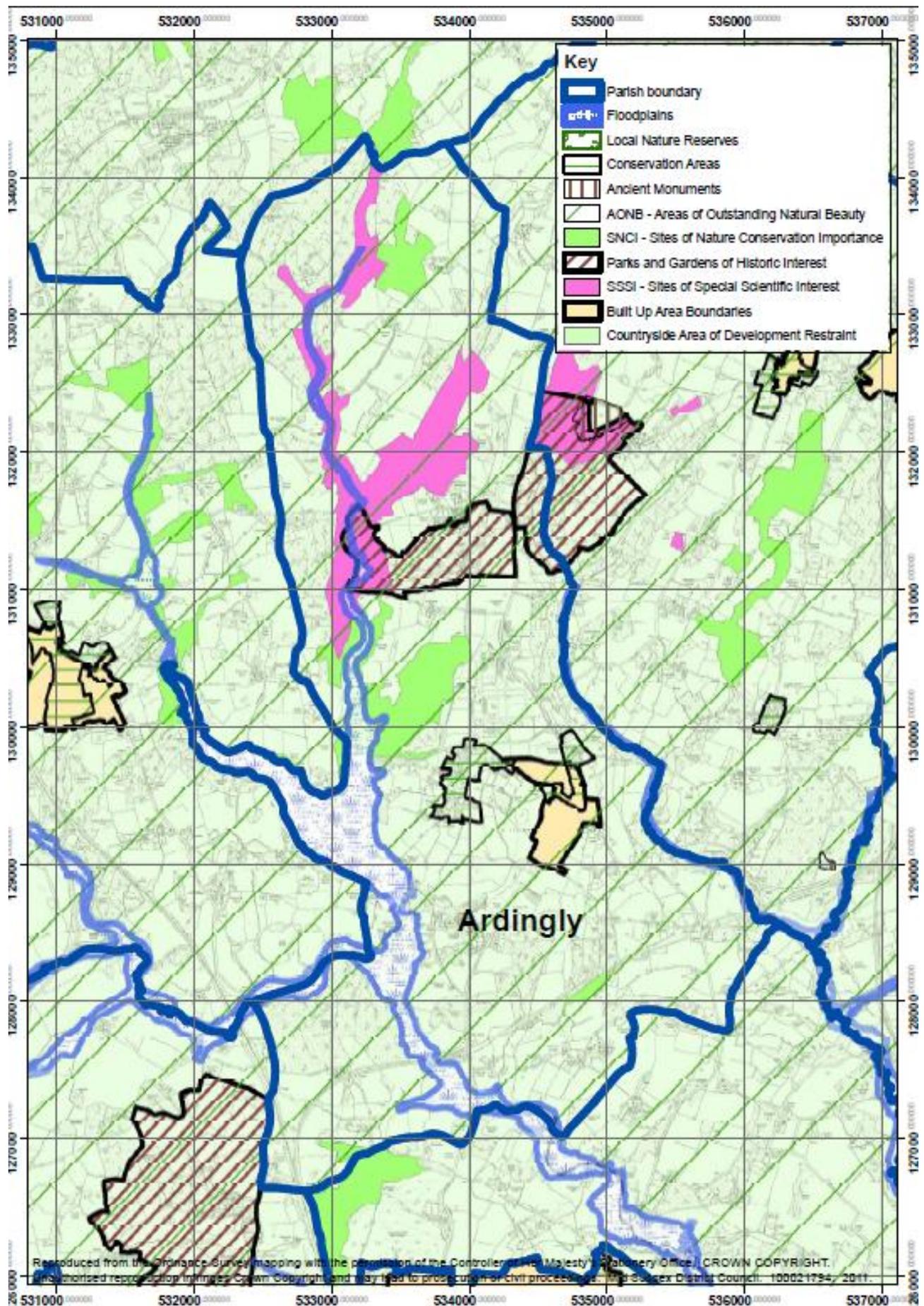
- Grove, Threepoint and Green Woods – 14.98Ha
- Bursteye Farm Meadow – 3.12Ha
- Wickham Woods – 3.03Ha
- Ardingly Reservoir and Loder Valley Nature Reserve – 128.55 Ha

Strategic flood risk assessment : 255.11Ha

Ancient Woodland: 571.36Ha

Conservation Area: 24.68Ha

In addition to the whole parish being located within the High Weald AONB, the designations outlined above cover 1255 Ha, highlighting the very special character of Ardingly parish.



## Landscape

Ardingly is situated at the southern end of a long and major north-south aligned ridgeline. The top of this ridgeline is comparatively gently rounded, but with steeply sloping and deeply indented sides. At its southern limit (in the vicinity of the village) the top broadens, to an almost plateau-like form before it rolls over and down to the valley of the River Ouse at the southern end of the parish. The two contrasting parts of the village span the end of the 'plateau' along Street Lane. South of this the landform splits into two minor ridges and these descend down to the valley floor. The former historic core along Church Lane runs down the western of the two minor ridges and the now main part of the village down the eastern ridge.

The landscape of the parish is typical of the High Weald AONB, being characterised by the dispersed historic settlement pattern, with farmsteads approached along ancient tracks and routeways, an abundance of ancient woodland, and irregularly shaped fields, enclosed by deciduous hedges and shaws.

The land rises from south to north, reaching 500 feet at the northern boundary of the parish. The discrete hilltop location of the village is defined by an extremely attractive countryside setting, being surrounded on all sides by high quality landscape. Its elevated position affords extensive views from the village, reaching as far as the Downs to the south, Balcombe to the west and Highbook/West Hoathly to the east. There are many attractive views looking out from the village, towards the village, and from local rights of way. The High Weald Landscape Trail and the Sussex Border Path pass through the parish. The views are very much appreciated both by those who live locally and also by the many visitors to the area, such as to the South of England Showground and Wakehurst Place. As a result of the settlement pattern, important open spaces of countryside extend right up to the village like green fingers. Views into, along, across and out of the open spaces are an important asset to the village, contributing to its setting and defining its character within the outstanding landscape of the High Weald.

## Heritage

Archaeological evidence shows that the parish has always been a popular place to settle. Heavily wooded from early times, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Iron Age people made their way through Ardingly forests, creating clearings and leaving a trail of hunter gatherer tools. Further evidence from Roman times suggests that the Weald was much used with a Roman military road constructed through the parish as a direct link from the coast to London. The road would have been used for the transport of timber, charcoal and iron which was made in a number of places within reach of the road. In Saxon times settlements were established, and Ardingly (Erdingelaga) became a cluster of outliers to around six South Down manors.

Life in Ardingly was influenced by the topography of the two steep valleys to the east and west with a useable plateau in between. The parish was divided into two centres. Firstly the original village and parish church to the west on the Roman Road, and secondly the later houses and shops on the drove road to the east, known as Hapstead Green.

The centres of each of the original hamlets were designated as Conservation Areas in 1984, characterised by many buildings and features built of local sandstone and clay bricks and tiles. The western section is centred around St Peter's Church which contains stones dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is grade 1 listed. The 19<sup>th</sup> century school building and several buildings dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century are also listed. This part of the village is residential with large dwellings set in spacious grounds. The dispersed settlement pattern is typical of settlements in the High Weald

AONB. The eastern section of the Conservation Area contains a number of buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It has expanded considerably and now forms the main centre of the village.

The village has developed principally along the north-south B2028, which runs north from Lindfield towards Turners Hill and beyond, and centred on the junctions of the B2028 with Street Lane and College Road, with Hapstead Hall forming an important landmark at this point. Street Lane connects the main body of the village with the Church and the historic and former core of the village. The two parts have strongly contrasting characters. The main part to the east is Victorian in essence, quite densely arranged along the streets, with late twentieth century development in clusters within the original pattern and also in the form of larger estates, for example west of College Road and north of Street Lane.

The western part of the village is a very low density residential area of generous detached houses, many being significant redevelopments of older properties, in substantial and especially well-wooded gardens, formed around the Church and original farmsteads along Street Lane and Church Lane. This part lies outside the built-up area boundary which was defined for Ardingly in order to conserve the rural setting of the village and to protect the surrounding countryside from unnecessary development.

To help conserve the historic core of the village and to preserve the attractive setting of St Peter's Church, the District Council designated a Conservation Area in two parts in 1984, extended in 1990. There are 49 listed buildings in the parish, including two that are Grade I listed, St Peter's Church which dates from Norman times and the mansion at Wakehurst Place.

## Air and climate

The main sources of atmospheric pollution arise from the proximity of Gatwick Airport, busy roads, particularly the B2028, and until recently the asphalt plant at the Ardingly Rail Depot. This is in the process of being replaced with a new plant which will result in significant improvements for local residents. The climate of the parish is described as a local variant of the British sub oceanic climate.

## Water

Water supply to the village is sourced from the aquifer at Selsfield Common. Ardingly reservoir acts as a top up supply for settlements to the south. The low rainfall over the past year resulted in the water level dropping to just 12% of capacity. Designations as Local Nature Reserve and Site of Nature Conservation Interest at Ardingly reservoir help to protect the water quality of this important resource.

## Soils

The geology of the parish largely comprises weald clay and sand, with outcrops of Ardingly sandstone visible for example at Wakehurst, Stonehurst and Balcombe Lane. The landform is deeply incised, with wooded valleys descending to ghyll streams and the Ouse valley with alluvial deposits at the southern end of the parish.

## Human characteristics

Ardingly is not a deprived area when measured against national statistics. However some residents find it difficult to access the benefits enjoyed by others, and there are some elements of the community, particularly the elderly and those who live alone, who do not enjoy the same level of prosperity or access to services. The population of the parish was 1833 at the date of the Census in 2001. Ardingly represented 1.44% of the total Mid Sussex population of 127,378. Whereas 80% of dwellings in Mid Sussex were owner occupied in 2001, in Ardingly parish the figure was 67%.

The mean age in the parish in 2001 was 35, surprisingly significantly lower than that in England as a whole (39). This suggests that Ardingly is a popular place for families to live, perhaps due to excellent local schools, an unusually good range of local employment, and within reach of other employment, such as at Gatwick, Brighton and London. 20% of households in the parish comprise just one person, meaning that about 130 people live alone.

Nursery and preschool education is available in the village. St Peter's Primary School provides schooling for 134 children, of which 75% live within the parish. Secondary schooling is provided at Oathall Community School in Haywards Heath, Warden Park at Cuckfield and St Paul's Catholic College in Burgess Hill. Sixth form colleges are located at Haywards Heath, Crawley and Lewes. Ardingly College provides fee paying education from nursery to age 18.

## Roads and Transport

Arising from its position on the B2028, its proximity to Haywards Heath, and the existence of large commercial concerns adjacent to the village, Ardingly is adversely affected by the volume, nature and speed of traffic. It is particularly vulnerable to the movement of heavy goods vehicles, some of which are passing through to locations elsewhere, with others gaining access to existing commercial sites. The High Street, College Road and Lindfield Road are particularly affected in this respect, and heavy traffic causes danger and inconvenience to pedestrians and other road users because the roads themselves are poorly suited to accommodate it.

Speeding and pedestrian safety have long been of worry in the village. This was identified as the issue of greatest concern in both the 2003 Parish Action Plan and the 2010 Ardingly Village Plan. An 'action' arising from the latter Plan is to commission an independent professional study to address the three strands of traffic management/ improving pedestrian safety/enhancing the village streetscape. Funds have been raised from the parish and county councils and from local business organisations. It is intended that the study will get underway during 2012. There is no consistent style of street furniture which results in a somewhat cluttered and untidy look to the streets. Likewise there is no real thought apparent in the design and placing of many road signs, and a further aspect of this is that there is a tendency for each sign to have its own unattractive post. This adds to the clutter and tends to make signs harder to notice and read. While some residents would like better street lighting, others object to the intrusion of lighting and would prefer to see low intensity provision. Street lights over 15 years old are due to be replaced in 2014, which will allow improvements to be made in terms of shielding and the introduction of energy saving light sources.

Local bus services are currently under threat with funding for some rural bus services being reviewed and withdrawn by West Sussex County Council. Responses to the Village Plan consultations expressed interest in car sharing, and if bus services are further reduced this may be something that would support the local community. The nearest railway stations are at Haywards Heath, Balcombe and East Grinstead.

## Infrastructure

Ardingly is well served with a recreation ground, including football/ cricket pitches, pavilion, multi courts, a recently extended and upgraded playground, and for teenagers a youth shelter and activity wall. The sports pitches were drained and a footpath restored in 2011. The Hapstead Hall was extensively upgraded in 2008 with access for the disabled, new kitchen and toilets. St Peter's Church Centre was renovated in 2010 to provide new kitchens, toilets and larger hall area.

Village services include a post office, bakers, Chinese restaurant, café, three public houses, hairdressers and car park. However in recent years the village has lost its doctor's surgery, petrol filling station, Congregational Church and two shops, the bus service and mobile library are much reduced, and the mobile waste service cancelled.

In Village Plan consultations there was widespread support (80% of responses) for the provision of allotments, which were lost in the 1960s when St Peters School and Holmans were built. Interest has also been expressed in establishing a community orchard. 'Garden Share' may be a way to provide land for growing until permanent sites for these uses can be found.

## Economic characteristics

The parish is fortunate to be home to a number of organisations that provide a wide range of employment. The world renowned Gardens at Wakehurst Place, the country estate of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is the most visited National Trust property in the country with an average of around 450,000 visitors pa for each of the last five years; the Millennium Seed bank contains over 10% of global plant species. The South of England Showground hosts diverse events and is one of the most significant land uses within the District. Ardingly College is an independent school with around 800 pupils and is a key local employer. Ardingly reservoir is a Local Nature Reserve, popular for walking and fishing. It is also home to the Ardingly Activity Centre which offers a wide range of water sports. These organizations bring a substantial amount of revenue and employment into the local economy and have a significant beneficial impact on the quality of life of residents in the parish and beyond.

## 5. Key sustainability issues

### SWOT assessment

The following table has been informed by the issues identified in the Ardingly Village Plan, and the baseline information collected in Section 4.

<p><u>Strengths</u> Safe community environment, quality schools, outstanding landscape setting, designated land eg AONB, SSSI, LNR, strong village identity, good range leisure opportunities, choice of pubs, Post Office, bakers, thriving village clubs, Youth Club, friendly Church.</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses</u> Traffic speed, visual clutter, pedestrian vulnerability, infrequent public transport, no health facilities eg doctors surgery, limited activities for older children, high house prices, high rental prices, lack of affordable housing, no allotments or community orchard, pavements and verges blocked by bins and parked cars, poor bus service.</p>
<p><u>Opportunities</u> Improve pedestrian safety, implement traffic management, improve contact and service to elderly, strengthen identity and pride in community, reduce street clutter, provide allotments, garden share and community growing, car share, organise events to encourage inclusion, grow fruit trees on roadside verges, encourage use of renewable energy, links between local businesses.</p>	<p><u>Threats</u> Climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought, danger from HGVs and fast traffic, over development leading to loss of rural character, loss of services such as buses, shops, mobile library, loss of agricultural land and local food self sufficiency, loss of local distinctiveness through cumulative loss of local vernacular such as building materials of sandstone walls and local stock bricks.</p>

## Key issues

There are a number of sustainability issues and challenges facing the parish. While Ardingly offers a high quality environment to residents and local businesses, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to manage and seek to resolve a series of issues over its lifetime if the parish is to continue to be successful while respecting its outstanding landscape setting.

In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan (and as a consequence a lack of vision and strategy for Ardingly), there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing the parish, as well as contributing to a reduction in the potential benefit to the community.

<b>Challenges Facing Ardingly Parish</b>	<b>Effect without the Neighbourhood Plan</b>
Problem of traffic speed and lack of pedestrian safety in village	Could get worse with no policy on sustainable transport and outcome of Traffic Study
Lack of affordable housing for Ardingly residents	No suitable sites for housing for local people would be allocated.
No allotments or community orchard (sustainable food production/recreation/leisure)	No allotments or community orchard would be allocated.
Support and flexibility for local businesses	Existing policies may not meet their needs and aspirations
Infrastructure improvements such as roads, crossings, parking, school facilities	Funding for infrastructure requirements may not be achieved
Use of redundant farm buildings	Existing policies may not be appropriate for the specific circumstances in Ardingly
Pressures for development in countryside	District Plan policies are strategic in nature and may not provide adequate protection
Loss of agricultural land to development	Could get worse with no policy on protection
Poor access to services and facilities	Could get worse with no policy on sustainable transport
Need to maintain and enhance the high quality natural environment, wildlife networks and biodiversity of the parish	Strategic policies may not give adequate protection
Need to protect and enhance the historic buildings and environment of the parish	Existing strategic policies may not address issues in parish

## 6. Objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal

The issues for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal, have been informed by the policy documents identified in section 2 (in particular the Mid Sussex Local Plan adopted in 2004, Mid Sussex District Plan, consultative draft Nov 2011, the Ardingly Village Plan published and adopted by the Parish Council in 2010, and the results of the household survey and consultations with local business organisations conducted in March 2012), the baseline information collected in section 4 and the sustainability challenges for Ardingly Parish identified in section 5.

The Objectives, and the Indicators used to measure them, are collectively known as the Sustainability Framework.

The Sustainability Appraisal will measure the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan through the identification of objectives and indicators. These will be used to predict the sustainability effects of the strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan, and the policies to deliver the strategy. The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal will include consideration of alternatives and information about likely future changes that will occur even without a new Neighbourhood Plan. These alternatives will be assessed against the Sustainability Framework in order to determine which option is the most sustainable. This will be used to inform the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan in order to make sure it is the most sustainable plan possible, given all realistic alternatives.

The Sustainability Appraisal will be carried out by considering the Neighbourhood Plan policies against the Sustainability Objectives, which are in effect a measure of sustainability. Each policy will be tested by applying a number of “indicators” to it. This will help to judge the performance of the policy against each of the sustainability objectives. It is proposed that the performance of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will be measured against the objectives as follows:

**Minor positive / Major positive / Neutral / Negative / Major negative / Uncertain**

## 7. Sustainability Objectives

In order to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Neighbourhood Plan, it is necessary to identify sustainability objectives and indicators to enable an assessment to be made of the emerging options and allow for recommendations and mitigation measures to be proposed. The sustainability objectives have emerged through the following considerations:

- Through the review of documents listed in Appendix A
- as identified in the baseline section
- to help address sustainability issues known locally
- to help address the ‘weaknesses’ outlined in the SWOT analysis

The proposed sustainability objectives and indicators (Sustainability Framework) for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- 1/Env.** To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Ardingly in terms of its:
- geology, landform, water systems and climate,
  - ridgetop settlement pattern and historic farmsteads,
  - routeways, ancient woodlands and small fields
  - *area of Ancient Woodland within the parish*
  - *number of Tree Preservation Orders within the parish*
  - *loss of any of these features through grant of planning consent*
- 2/Soc.** To ensure that those in housing need with genuine local connections with Ardingly have the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.
- *bands A, B and C of Common Housing Register,*
  - *number rehoused,*
  - *number of affordable homes completed,*
  - *turnover of dwellings in Hett Close, Affinity Sutton dwellings, Priceholme*
- 3/Soc.** To ensure that the community has adequate access to the key services it needs, including health facilities, convenience shops, and schools
- *distance the population of the parish live from key services*
  - *availability of regular public transport*
  - *number of shops in village*
- 4/Soc.** To ensure a cohesive and safe village community
- *crime statistics*
  - *secured by design*
  - *neighbourhood and farm watch*
- 5/Soc.** To ensure that the community has a high quality and healthy lifestyle.
- *Census figures on long term illness and general health*
  - *Number/area of greenspaces within walking distance of homes*
- 6/Env.** To protect the outstanding landscape setting of the village through the reuse of previously developed land and buildings where appropriate, including reuse of materials.
- *development of brownfield sites*
  - *new employment floorspace on previously developed land*
  - *quality and quantity of agricultural land lost to development*
- 7/Env.** To increase energy efficiency in existing and new homes, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the parish, and to use sustainably produced and local products where possible in new development.
- *number of photovoltaic panels installed*
  - *renewable energy schemes obtaining planning permission*
  - *reduction in energy use in public buildings in parish*

**8/Env.** To maintain and improve the water quality of Ardingly Reservoir and the water courses and aquifers in the parish, and to conserve water and achieve sustainable water resources management.

- *data from SE Water on water consumption*
- *type of operations within catchment area*
- *data from Environment Agency on water quality*
- *water usage of APC*

**9/Env.** To protect and enhance the biodiversity of the parish, its wildlife habitats and species.

- *Data from Sussex Biodiversity Records Office*
- *Land in EU Stewardship schemes*
- *Condition of ancient woodland in parish*

**10/Env.** To encourage local food production and community growing within the village community.

- *number of families on allotments waiting list*
- *number of allotment spaces*

**11/Econ.** To encourage the community to shop locally and utilise local businesses.

- *number of incentive schemes to shop locally in the village*
- *number of shops within the parish*

**12/Econ.** To protect and support local businesses including the development of a sustainable visitor and tourism sector.

- *data on local employment including part time and work experience*
- *visitor numbers to Wakehurst Place, S of E Showground and Bluebell Railway*

**13/Env.** To reduce impact of traffic in village, improve pedestrian safety and encourage people to walk or cycle around the village.

- *speed data from police*
- *proportion of journeys to work by sustainable methods*
- *number of local businesses with green travel plans*
- *number of safe crossing points in village*

**14/Env.** To protect the historic environment of the parish, and to enhance the village streetscape and local distinctiveness.

- *number of Listed Buildings in parish*
- *number of applications applying for Listed Building Consent*

**15/Env.** To encourage reuse, recycling and food composting in the parish

- *amount of waste collected*
- *amount of recycling material in blue bins*
- *initiatives on recycling of toxic products eg batteries, mobile phones*

## 8. Next steps

As the Neighbourhood Plan is developed, the strategy and policies will be tested against these sustainability objectives, to identify appropriate policies for inclusion in the Plan. All realistic policy options will be appraised against the Sustainability Framework set out in Section 7 of this report, in order to ensure that the policies chosen for the Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan are the most sustainable, given all realistic alternatives.

This document sets out the baseline information on the parish, the plans and policies influencing the production of the Neighbourhood Plan, current sustainability issues that are facing the village and the sustainability objectives that the Neighbourhood Plan should strive to achieve.

The proposed timetable for the Neighbourhood Plan is set out in the timeline below. It is intended that the Sustainability Appraisal and draft Neighbourhood Plan will be published together in summer 2012, enabling them to be published for joint consultation.

Consultation responses on this Scoping Report will be taken into account when preparing the final sustainability framework on which to test the emerging policies. Where necessary, further assessment of the options will be undertaken, along with any updating of baseline data, plans and policies.

ARDINGLY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TIMELINE March 2012																								
	2012												2013											
Stage	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
District Plan Timetable	Amend Draft District Plan						Consult and Submit			Examination and Inspectors Report						Adopt District Plan								
<b>Informal Stage</b>																								
Gathering evidence on issues and options for the parish	█	█	█	█																				
Scoping Sustainability Appraisal (ie identifying objectives)	█	█	█	█																				
Informal community engagement			█	█	█																			
<b>Neighbourhood Planning regulations published ( circa May 2012 )</b>																								
<b>Formal Plan Preparation</b>																								
Submit Plan area to District Council						█																		
District Council publicise for 6 weeks						█	█	█	█	█	█													
Draft Plan published							█	█	█	█	█													
Publish for public consultation (min 6 weeks)								█	█	█	█	█												
Consider consultation responses and make amendments to Plan									█	█	█													
<b>Submission and Examination Stage</b>																								
Submit Plan to District Council												█												
District Council checks for compliance with policy etc												█	█											
District Council publicise for 6 weeks													█	█	█	█	█	█						
MSDC appoints Examiner (in consultation with Parish Council)															█	█	█							
Examination takes place																█	█							
Examiner's Decision issued																█	█							
<b>Referendum and Adoption Stage</b>																								
Referendum, including necessary publication & issuing polling cards																	█	█						
If outcome is positive, District Council adopts Neighbourhood Plan																		█	█					

## Appendix A Summary of Plans and Programmes

NAME OF DOCUMENT	BROAD AIMS/RELEVANT POLICIES	REQUIREMENTS OF THE DOCUMENT IN RELATION TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012	This document sets out the Govt's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework for District and Neighbourhood Plans.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to pay particular regard to this new Planning Framework.
Mid Sx Local Plan, 2004	This document was statutorily adopted in 2004. It defines built up area boundaries and contains some policies that have been retained in the District Plan.	MSLP Policies for Ardingly have been retained and will need to be taken into account in the Neighbourhood Plan
Mid Sx District Plan, Consultative Draft 2011	The draft District Plan has been written in the context of the Localism Act and changes to the planning system. It sets out strategic policies and provides the framework for subsequent planning documents including Neighbourhood Plans.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to comply with the strategic aims and policies of the District Plan.
High Weald AONB Management Plan, 2009	Identifies the important features of the AONB and sets out guidance and objectives on the ways in which these features can be protected, restored and enhanced.	As the parish is located entirely within the AONB, the NP will need to take full account of the aims of AONB designation and the land and countryside management issues in this document.
Mid Sx Landscape Character Assessment, 2005	This document looks in detail at the landscape character of the District and contains detailed management guidelines	The management guidelines will need to be taken into consideration in the NP
Ancient Woodland Inventory for Mid Sx, 2007	This survey identifies the areas of ancient woodland within Mid Sussex	Ancient woodland is a key biodiversity asset for the parish and needs to be recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan.
Mid Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Strategy, 2007	This document identifies a strategy to enable the Council to meet the housing needs of local residents in rural areas.	The Neighbourhood Plan will consider how it can contribute to this in the light of a new Housing Needs Study.
Biodiversity Action Plan for Sussex	Focuses resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Sussex by means of local partnerships, taking account of national and local priorities.	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to take account of nature conservation and biodiversity issues.
Mid Sussex Economic Development Strategy, MSDC 2010	The document lists objectives for economic development and states how the Council will assist in meeting these aims	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in broad compliance with the economic development and tourism policies of the District Plan
Mid Sussex Infrastructure Devt Plan, draft 2011	Sets out infrastructure requirements that development will be expected to contribute towards.	The Neighbourhood Plan should contain a policy on infrastructure to comply with these requirements.
Mid Sussex Landscape Capacity Study, 2007	The study identifies the capacity of the Mid Sussex landscape to accommodate strategic development.	The study has been a key piece of evidence in the formulation of policies concerning the District's landscape
Register of Listed Buildings	Lists and describes the buildings included in the List of Buildings of Special Arch and Historic Interest	The NP will take account of the need to protect and conserve this asset.
West Sx Sites of Nature Cons Importance Register	Identifies and describes sites of importance	The Neighbourhood Plan will need to contain policies to protect these sites
Ardingly Village Plan, 2010	This community led plan contains aims and actions identified by the community	The issues identified in the Village Plan will be used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan.
Ardingly Housing Needs Study, 2007	Initial study published 2007	New study commissioned April 2012