

RUSPER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2018 – 2031

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

Published by Ruser Parish Council under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

November 2019

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 This statement has been prepared by Rusper Parish Council ("the Parish Council") to accompany its submission of the Rusper Neighbourhood Plan ("the Neighbourhood Plan") to the local planning authority, Horsham District Council ("the District Council"), under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("the Regulations").

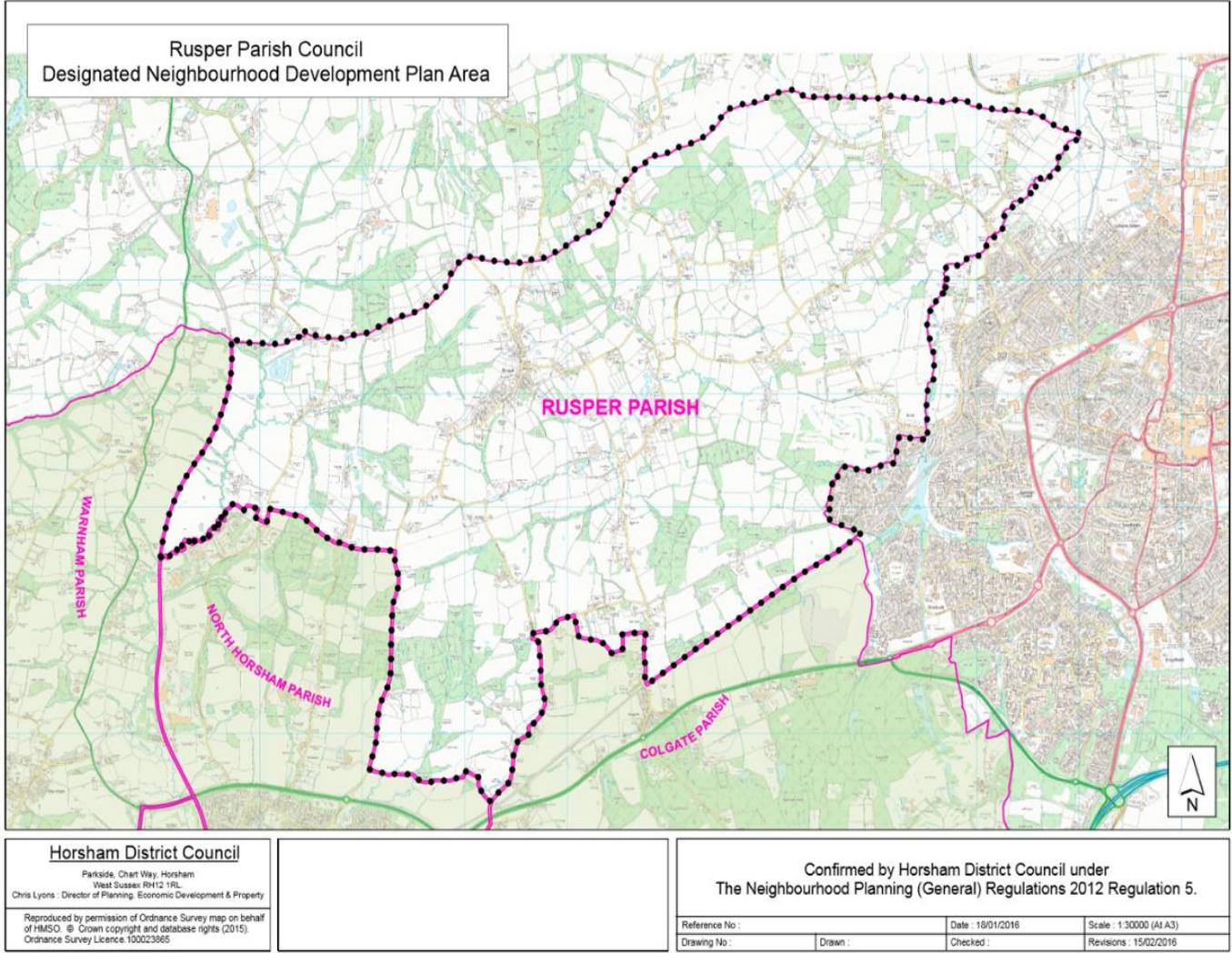
1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Parish Council, a qualifying body, for the Neighbourhood Area, which coincides with the boundary of the Parish of Rusper and which was designated by the District Council on 18 February 2016 (see Plan A overleaf). The Parish Council has consulted the local community, the statutory bodies and other stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, as required by the Regulations. This is detailed in the Consultation Statement, which is published separately as part of the submission documentation.

1.3 The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Area only. They do not relate to 'excluded development', as defined by the Regulations. The plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan is from 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2031, which corresponds with the plan period of the adopted Horsham District Planning Framework 2015 – 2031. This will eventually be replaced by the emerging Local Plan that will run to 2036. The Neighbourhood Plan will therefore undergo an early review to roll forward the plan period to 2036, in line with the emerging Local Plan.

1.4 The statement addresses each of the four 'Basic Conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.

1.5 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the conditions if:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Development Plan,
- The making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
- The making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- The making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations



Plan A: Rusper Designated Neighbourhood Area

2.BACKGROUND

2.1 The decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan was made by the Parish Council in 2016. The key driver of this decision was a sense of wanting to plan positively for the future of the village and the Parish as a whole, with the encouragement of the District Council to local communities across the District to prepare Neighbourhood Plans.

2.2 A steering group was formed comprising the residents and Parish Council representatives. The group has been delegated authority by the Parish Council to make day-to-day decisions on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, as the qualifying body, the Parish Council approved the publication of the Pre-Submission plan in August 2019 and the Submission Plan now.

2.3 The Parish Council has consulted local communities extensively over the duration of the project. It has also worked closely with officers of the District Council since the start of the project to collate and examine the evidence base, to design and iterate policy proposals and to define the proper relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the adopted Horsham District Planning Framework 2031 ("the adopted Local Plan") and, of more of a challenge, with the emerging Local Plan 2018 – 2036 ("the new Local Plan"). The outcome of that work is the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.4 The Neighbourhood Plan contains thirteen land use policies, some of which are defined on the Policies Map. The Plan has deliberately avoided containing policies that duplicate saved or forthcoming development plan policies or national policies that are already or will be used to determine planning applications. The potential amendments to the spatial strategy for the District in its new Local Plan and the absence of a true indicative housing number means that it will be difficult for this Neighbourhood Plan to effectively anticipate its quantum of housing growth. This matter will be dealt with in an early review of the Neighbourhood Plan. The policies in this Neighbourhood Plan therefore deal with development management matters that seek to deliver national planning objectives and complement and refine adopted Local Plan policies.

3.CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with full regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and is mindful of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) in respect of formulating Neighbourhood Plans. The NPPF was first published in 2012 and subsequently revised in July 2018 and in February 2019. In overall terms, there are three NPPF paragraphs (§28 - §30) that provide general guidance on neighbourhood planning, to which the Neighbourhood Plan has directly responded.

3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan contains non-strategic policies to manage development in the Parish. The Parish Council believes the Neighbourhood Plan is planning positively to support the strategic development needs of the District, as framed by the adopted and emerging Local Plan, by supporting development within the existing built-up area of Rusper. The Plan represents a vision, objectives and policies for the Parish that reflect the desires of the majority of the local community for the kind of place that the Parish should be in the coming years.

3.3 The Parish Council believes the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the policies of the development plan and effectively anticipate the policies of the emerging Local Plan. It acknowledges the physical and policy constraints of the Parish but plans to guide suitable infill development in the right locations and to be of an appropriate design.

3.4 None of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan have required a balancing exercise to be undertaken in having regard to national policy as none are considered to be inconsistent with national policy.

Table A: Neighbourhood Plan & NPPF Conformity Summary

No.	Policy Title	Commentary
RUS1	Spatial Plan	<p>The policy defines a built-up area boundary for Rusper Village to distinguish between the built up areas and the surrounding countryside to bring clarity and remove ambiguity, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals (§16d). The convention of built-up area boundaries is provided for in strategic policy (Policy 3) of the development plan and the Neighbourhood Plan has used this as a 'clear starting point' (§21) for its non-strategic policy.</p> <p>'Neighbourhood plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of</p>

		<p>each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development.' (§125) Although Ifieldwood and Lambs Green are of a scale which HDC concluded do not justify the definition of a built-up area boundary, nonetheless, they play an important role in the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>'Planning policies should recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including ... trees and woodland' (§170b). The Parish does not lie within a designated landscape, but, as shown in the Evidence Report, there are some demonstrable physical attributes within the surrounding landscape that have a particular local value, including framing views between, from and to each settlement that are above the norm in defining the rural character of those settlements.</p> <p>The second part of the policy therefore seeks to ensure that the distinctive landscape character, and 'special qualities' of these settlements, is protected.</p> <p>In recognising the local status of the policy, it does not seek to prevent any development as a matter of principle, but rather requires development proposals to avoid unnecessary harm by way of their height, massing or obstructive location. Further, the policy does not unduly constrain the delivery of new development, as the built-up area boundary of Policy RUS1 will assist in directing the location of any future proposals for rural exception sites (§77) and for entry-level homes schemes (§71), until such a time when the District Council is able to provide an indicative housing requirement figure (§67). In which case, the review will consider making provision for future development of a scale that is in line with strategic policy.</p>
RUS2	Rural Diversification	<p>The policy sets out the conditions in which 'sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas can come forward' (§83a). The policy endorses existing policy in the development plan for the Rural Economy. Although the Parish Council recognises that the policy does not materially differ from the Local Plan, it considers rural employment is such an important asset for Rusper the local community will expect a policy on the issue in the Plan, and therefore it is not considered 'unnecessary duplication' (§16f).</p>
RUS3	Design	<p>'Neighbourhood plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development (§125). The policy seeks to bring 'clarity about design expectations' in the Parish (§126) to secure high</p>

		<p>quality design (§124). The specific matters included in the policy 'provide a framework for creating distinctive places' to deliver a 'consistent and high quality standard of design'. When the Parish Council considers planning applications as a consultee, these matters are those that in its experience lead to successful or unsuccessful design outcomes, and so they are 'tailored to the circumstances' in the Parish but 'allow a suitable degree of variety', which reflects the existing variety between its settlements.</p> <p>'Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change.' (§149). The policy seeks to achieve this by requiring applicants to demonstrate how sustainable design standards are integral to proposals. In doing so it recognises 'the need to plan new development in ways to avoid vulnerability to climate change impacts' (§150).</p> <p>The policy also alerts applicants to the publication of the National Design Guide (a material planning requirement by virtue of the Written Ministerial Statement on 1st October 2019 - HLWS1803/HCWS1840) which confirms the Government's intention to publish a National Model Design Code in early 2020 as a requirement in considering the design of their proposals.</p>
RUS4	Local Heritage Assets	'Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.' (§185). The policy therefore seeks to identify the local heritage value of buildings as merit for inclusion in the Local List in due course and for the application of existing policy in the development plan (Policy 34) which engage the provisions of §197.
RUS5	Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	'Plans should ... take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure' (§171). In addition, plans should 'safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks' (§174). The policy identifies a series of green infrastructure attributes of the Parish that are especially important to its biodiversity value.
RUS6	Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Routes	'Planning policies should ... provide for high quality walking and cycling networks' (§104). The Parish benefits from large network of public rights of way and other informal walking and riding routes. The policy seeks to protect those routes from unnecessary loss or obstruction and to encourage suitably-located development schemes to respond positively to opportunities to improve route connectivity.

RUS7	Local Green Spaces	'The designation of land as Local Green Space through ... neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them' (§99). The policy seeks to designate ten spaces and each space is considered to meet the tests of §100, as shown in the Evidence Report.
RUS8	Landscape Character and Local Gaps	<p>The policy seeks to 'protect and enhance valued landscapes ... recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside' (§170a) and 'draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of the place' (§185d) by identifying key attributes that form an essential part of the character of the Parish.</p> <p>Supporting the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment, as detailed in the Evidence Report, the report sets out the quality of the landscape surrounding its settlements and the area chosen to be designated as a Local Gap and their value as landscapes and in preventing the coalescence of the settlement of Rusper with Lambs Green. The policy therefore responds by identifying the minimum amount of land necessary to 'protect' this 'valued landscape'.</p>
RUS9	Community Facilities	'To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies ... should ... plan positively for the provision and use of ... community facilities (and) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services...ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community' (§92). The policy identifies those facilities in the Parish to which these objectives apply. It seeks both to protect but also to enhance those facilities providing a mechanism that will allow a partial change of use of a facility it secures longer-term viability.
RUS10	Rusper Primary School	<p>'...great weight' should be given to the 'need to create, expand or alter schools through the preparation of plans...' (§94). The policy therefore supports proposals to secure the long-term future of the village school by enabling its expansion.</p> <p>The policy also seeks for this to be accommodated carefully, in terms of '... impacts of development on transport networks ...' (§102a) and adjoining uses so development does ' ... not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.' (§127f). It also encourages schemes to identify and pursue '... opportunities to promote walking, cycling...' (§102c).</p>

		Finally, the policy seeks to '... guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs ...' (§92c).
RUS11	Dark Skies	Most of Rusper parish has relatively dark skies, and the policy therefore seeks to ' ... limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.' (§180c).
RUS12	Promoting Sustainable Transport	'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making so that ... the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed' (§102). Walking and riding are very popular in the Parish, but its lanes are increasingly busy with through traffic, which also creates safety concerns. The policy therefore seeks to ensure that proposals contribute to the goal of managing traffic speeds in the settlements, depending on their location.
RUS13	Developer Contributions	'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making so that ... the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed' (§102). The policy seeks to secure any funding that could be made available from suitably located development schemes to invest in the provision of reducing traffic speeds.

4.CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Horsham District Council, in its screening opinion of August 2019 following a consultation period with the statutory bodies, confirmed that the Plan is not likely to have any significant environmental effects and therefore that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the European Directive 2001/42/EC (see Section 6) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is not required.

4.2 To demonstrate that the Plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the absence of a SEA, this basic condition is addressed in Table B below. The potential of the Plan to have social, economic and environmental effects –positive (+), neutral (0) and negative (-) – is assessed for each of its policies, together with a summary commentary.

Table B: Neighbourhood Plan & Sustainable Development					
Policy		Social	Economic	Environ	Commentary
RUS1	Spatial Plan	+	0	0	The policy will have positive social effect by containing and managing the sustainable growth of the Parish settlements. The containment of the villages will ensure that their historic rural character, and the surrounding landscape, will be protected to avoid causing a negative environmental effect.
RUS2	Rural Diversification	0	+	0	The policy will have a positive economic effect in retaining and supporting local businesses that contribute to the local economy.
RUS3	Design	0	0	+	This policy will have a positive environmental effect in helping to ensure the future standards of design reflect the characteristics of the Parish, and the Conservation Area.
RUS4	Local Heritage Assets	0	0	+	The policy will have a positive environmental effect by seeking to retain a number of locally important buildings, which not only play an important role in defining the streetscene of the village but also have some intrinsic, local architectural merit or historical associations with the village.

RUS5	Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	0	0	+	The policy will therefore have a positive environmental effect by ensuring that development proposals have regard to a series of important biodiversity and other principles.
RUS6	Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Routes	0	0	+	By promoting sustainable methods of transport, the policy will result in positive environmental effects in reducing the need to travel by car.
RUS7	Local Green Spaces	+	0	+	The policy will have a positive social effect by protecting the character of these spaces that are special to the local community. The spaces also play a role in defining the setting to the settlements and listed buildings in some cases, resulting in a positive environmental effect.
RUS8	Landscape Character and Local Gaps	0	0	+	The policy will avoid a negative environmental effect by ensuring that the contribution these valued landscapes play are maintained.
RUS9	Community Facilities	+	0	0	The policy will have a positive social effect in retaining and supporting the continued viability of facilities for the use and enjoyment of the local community.
RUS10	Rusper Primary School	+	0	0	This policy will have a positive social effect by encouraging new educational provision, to meet future demand and the demand for improved facilities.
RUS11	Dark Skies	+	0	+	This policy has both social and environmental benefits by improving enjoyment of the night skies while at the same time reducing the impact of artificial light on wildlife.
RUS12	Promoting Sustainable Transport	0	0	+	The policy will result in positive environmental effects ensuring that new developments continue to promote sustainable methods of transport. It will also result in an improvement to the local character.

RUS13	Developer Contributions	0	0	+	By seeking to reduce traffic speed and promote sustainable methods of transport through contributions, the policy will result in positive environmental effects.
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5. GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to ensure its general conformity with the development plan for the District, that is the adopted Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared prior to a review of the adopted Local Plan. Its Issues and Options consultation was carried out in April/May 2018 with adoption predicted in December 2021. The Neighbourhood Plan will be examined before that plan is adopted. It is anticipated that Horsham will have to provide additional homes to that planned for in the adopted Local Plan and the evolving reasoning and emerging evidence base have been taken into consideration during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Additionally, when the new Local Plan has reached a stage where a revised housing requirement for the District and any housing number that maybe distributed to the Parish (in line with NPPF paragraph 65) has been agreed and which is consistent with Rusper's role in the settlement hierarchy, the Parish Council will consider any resulting opportunities to allocate local needs housing on small and medium sites consistent with NPPF paragraphs 68 and 69. It will also review the current plan, to determine the need for any material modifications necessary to bring the policies up to date or where they may conflict with the policies of the emerging Local Plan.

5.2 The adopted Local Plan defines a built-up area boundary for Rusper village. It makes a strategic allocation at Land North of Horsham which extends into the Parish and establishes a role for neighbourhood plans in assisting housing delivery. None of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan have required a balancing exercise to be undertaken in having regard to general conformity with strategic policy as none are considered to be inconsistent with strategic policy.

5.3 An assessment of the general conformity of each policy with the current development plan is contained in Table C below.

Table C: Neighbourhood Plan & Development Plan Conformity Summary

No.	Policy Title & Refs	Commentary
RUS1	Spatial Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Development will be permitted within towns and villages which have defined built-up areas. Any infilling and redevelopment will be required to demonstrate that it is of an appropriate nature and scale to maintain characteristics and function of the settlement in accordance with the settlement hierarchy below: ... (Rusper)Smaller Villages: Villages with limited services, facilities, social networks but with good accessibility to larger settlements (e.g. road or rail) or settlements with some employment but limited services facilities or accessibility. Residents are reliant on larger settlements to access most of their requirements...'</i> (Local Plan Policy 3) • <i>'The growth of settlements across the District will continue to be supported in order to meet identified local housing, employment and community needs. Outside built-up area boundaries, the expansion of settlements will be supported where;</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The site is allocated in the Local Plan or in a Neighbourhood Plan and adjoins an existing settlement edge.</i> 2. <i>The level of expansion is appropriate to the scale and function of the settlement type.</i> 3. <i>The development is demonstrated to meet the identified local housing needs and/or employment needs or will assist the retention and enhancement of community facilities and services.</i> 4. <i>The impact of the development individually or cumulatively does not prejudice comprehensive long term development, in order not to conflict with the development strategy; and</i> 5. <i>The development is contained within an existing defensible boundary and the landscape and townscape character features are maintained and enhanced.'</i> (Policy 4) <p>The policy does not attempt to revise the ways in which development plan policies apply within the built-up area boundaries or countryside areas, it only reinforces the boundary at Rusper and describes the landscape features in the Parish.</p>
RUS2	Rural Diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Sustainable rural economic development and enterprise within the district will be encouraged in order to generate local employment opportunities and economic, social and environmental benefits for local communities. In the countryside, development which maintains the quality and character of the area, whilst sustaining its varied and productive</i>

		<p><i>social and economic activity will be supported in principle....' (Policy 10)</i></p> <p>The policy is consistent with the provisions of this adopted Local Plan Policy in respect of its encouragement of rural employment.</p>
RUS3	Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'High quality and inclusive design for all development in the district will be required based on a clear understanding of the local, physical, social, economic, environmental and policy context for development....' (Policy 32)</i> • <i>'In order to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment developments shall be required to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Make efficient use of land, and prioritise the use of previously developed land and buildings whilst respecting any constraints that exist;</i> 2. <i>Ensure that it is designed to avoid unacceptable harm to the amenity of occupiers/users of nearby property and land, for example through overlooking or noise, whilst having regard to the sensitivities of surrounding development;</i> 3. <i>Ensure that the scale, massing and appearance of the development is of a high standard of design and layout and where relevant relates sympathetically with the built surroundings, landscape, open spaces and routes within and adjoining the site, including any impact on the skyline and important views;</i> 4. <i>Are locally distinctive in character, respect the character of the surrounding area (including its overall setting, townscape features, views and green corridors) and, where available and applicable, take account of the recommendations/policies of the relevant Design Statements and Character Assessments;</i> 5. <i>Use high standards of building materials, finishes and landscaping; and includes the provision of street furniture and public art where appropriate;</i> 6. <i>Presume in favour of the retention of existing important landscape and natural features, for example trees, hedges, banks and watercourses. Development must relate sympathetically to the local landscape and justify and mitigate against any losses that may occur through the development; and,</i> 7. <i>Ensure buildings and spaces are orientated to gain maximum benefit from sunlight and passive solar energy, unless this conflicts with the character of the surrounding townscape, landscape or topography where it is of good quality.'</i> (Policy 33) • <i>'The Council recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and as such the Council will sustain and enhance its historic environment through positive management of development affecting heritage assets....' (Policy 34)</i>

		<p>The policy supplements Local Plan Policies 32 and 33 by identifying features that contribute to the local distinctive character of Rusper. Its provisions are also consistent with Local Plan Policy 34 on heritage assets in relation to the listed buildings in the Parish. There is no current development plan provision in relation to the National Design Guide. Nonetheless, the policy is consistent with, and supplements, Local Plan policy in terms of securing well design development and proposals making contributions to minimising carbon dioxide emissions.</p>
RUS4	Local Heritage Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'The Council recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and as such the Council will sustain and enhance its historic environment through positive management of development affecting heritage assets. Applications for such development will be required to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Make reference to the significance of the asset, including drawing from research and documentation such as the West Sussex Historic Environment Record;</i> 2. <i>Reflect the current best practice guidance produced by English Heritage and Conservation Area Character Statements;</i> 3. <i>Reinforce the special character of the district's historic environment through appropriate siting, scale, form and design; including the use of traditional materials and techniques;</i> 4. <i>Make a positive contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the area, and ensuring that development in conservation areas is consistent with the special character of those areas;</i> 5. <i>Preserve, and ensure clear legibility of, locally distinctive vernacular building forms and their settings, features, fabric and materials;</i> 6. <i>Secure the viable and sustainable future of heritage assets through continued preservation by uses that are consistent with the significance of the heritage asset;</i> 7. <i>Retain and improves the setting of heritage assets, including views, public rights of way, trees and landscape features, including historic public realm features; and</i> 8. <i>Ensure appropriate archaeological research, investigation, recording and reporting of both above and below-ground archaeology, and retention where required, with any assessment provided as appropriate.'</i> (Policy 34) <p>In its supporting text (§9.41), Local Plan Policy makes it clear that local heritage assets are included in its definition of 'heritage assets'. The policy therefore defines a number of buildings as Local Heritage Assets to which Local Plan Policy 34 will apply.</p>
RUS5	Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'The high quality of the district's environment will be protected through the planning process and the provision of local guidance documents...'</i> (Policy 24)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'The Natural Environment and landscape character of the District, including the landscape, landform and development pattern, together with protected landscapes and habitats will be protected against inappropriate development...'</i> (Policy 25) • <i>'Development will be supported where it can demonstrate that it maintains or enhances the existing network of green infrastructure. Proposals that would result in the loss of existing green infrastructure will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that new opportunities will be provided that mitigates or compensates for this loss and ensures that the ecosystem services of the area are retained. Development proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of existing biodiversity and should create and manage new habitats where appropriate. The Council will support new development which retains and /or enhances significant features of nature conservation on development sites. The Council will also support development which makes a positive contribution to biodiversity through the creation of green spaces, and linkages between habitats to create local and regional ecological networks...'</i> (Policy 31) <p>The policy is consistent, and supplements, these policies to acknowledge the extent of the existing Green Infrastructure Network, including biodiversity, in the Parish and the contribution of the Low Weald landscape in this context.</p>
RUS6	Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Measures which should be used to mitigate the effects of climate change include; ... 4. The use of patterns of development which reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and include good accessibility to public transport and other forms of sustainable transport; and...'</i> (Policy 35) <p>The policy is consistent with, and refines, Policy 35 to acknowledge the extent of existing walking, cycling and riding routes in the Parish and their popularity with the local community.</p>
RUS7	Local Green Spaces	No current or new development plan provision.
RUS8	Landscape Character and Local Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Outside built-up area boundaries, the rural character and undeveloped nature of the countryside will be protected against inappropriate development. Any proposal must be essential to its countryside location, and in addition meet one of the following criteria:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Support the needs of agriculture or forestry;</i> 2. <i>Enable the extraction of minerals or the disposal of waste;</i> 3. <i>Provide for quiet informal recreational use; or</i> 4. <i>Enable the sustainable development of rural areas.</i>

		<p><i>In addition, proposals must be of a scale appropriate to its countryside character and location. Development will be considered acceptable where it does not lead, either individually or cumulatively, to a significant increase in the overall level of activity in the countryside, and protects, and/or conserves, and/or enhances, the key features and characteristics of the landscape character area in which it is located, including;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The development pattern of the area, its historical and ecological qualities, tranquillity and sensitivity to change;</i> <i>2. The pattern of woodlands, fields, hedgerows, trees, waterbodies and other features; and</i> <i>3. The landform of the area.' (Policy 26)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Landscapes will be protected from development which would result in the coalescence of settlements. Development between settlements will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. There is no significant reduction in the openness and 'break' between settlements.</i> <i>2. It does not generate urbanising effects within the settlement gap, including artificial lighting, development along key road corridors, and traffic movements.</i> <i>3. Redevelopment of existing sites that seek to reduce the existing urbanised character and appearance of an area between settlements, particularly along road corridors, will be supported.</i> <i>4. Proposals contribute to the conservation, enhancement and amenity of the countryside, including where appropriate enhancements to the Green Infrastructure network or provide opportunities for quiet informal recreation.'</i> (Policy 27) <p>The policy regards the defined local gap as a 'landscape to be protected from development which could result in the coalescence of settlements. The policy is therefore consistent with, and refines in specific detail, the policies on valued landscapes and on the landscape setting to settlements.</p>
RUS9	Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'...Proposals that would result in the loss of sites and premises currently or last used for the provision of community facilities or services, leisure or cultural activities for the community will be resisted unless equally usable facilities can be conveniently provided nearby. It will be necessary to demonstrate that continued use of a community facility or service is no longer feasible, taking into account factors such as; appropriate marketing, the demand for the use of the site or premises, its quality and usability, and the identification of a potential future occupier. Where it cannot be demonstrated that such a loss is surplus to requirements, a loss may be considered acceptable provided that:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. an alternative facility of equivalent or better quality and scale to meet community</i>

		<p><i>needs is available, or will be provided at an equally accessible location within the vicinity; or</i></p> <p><i>b. a significant enhancement to the nature and quality of an existing facility will result from the redevelopment for alternative uses on an appropriate proportion of the site.” (Policy 43)</i></p> <p>The policy identifies those community facilities in the Parish and is consistent with the policy in its requirements of development proposals. It adds further provisions to protect and ensure longer term viability of those facilities.</p>
RUS10	Rusper Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>‘The release of land for development will be dependent on there being sufficient capacity in the existing local infrastructure to meet the additional requirements arising from new development, or suitable necessary mitigation arrangements for the improvement of the infrastructure, services and community facilities caused by the development being provided. Where there is a need for extra capacity, this will need to be provided in time to serve the development or the relevant phase of the development, in order to ensure that the environment and amenities of existing or new local residents is not adversely affected. To ensure required standards are met, arrangements for new or improved infrastructure provision, will be secured by planning obligation / Community Infrastructure Levy, or in some cases conditions attached to a planning permission, so that the appropriate improvement can be completed prior to occupation of the development, or the relevant phase of the development.’ (Policy 39)</i> <p>The policy is consistent with the provisions of adopted Policy in respect of its encouragement of new educational provision to meet future demand and the demand for improved facilities.</p>
RUS11	Dark Skies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>‘The high quality of the district’s environment will be protected through the planning process and the provision of local guidance documents. Taking into account any relevant Planning Guidance Documents, developments will be expected to minimise exposure to and the emission of pollutants including noise, odour, air and light pollution ...’ (Policy 24)</i> <p>The policy is consistent with, and refines, Local Plan policy in identifying the exiting status of dark skies in the Parish that form an essential part of the distinctive rural character of the area.</p>
RUS12	Promoting Sustainable Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>‘There is commitment to developing an integrated community connected by a sustainable transport system. In order to manage the anticipated growth in demand for</i>

		<p><i>travel, development proposals which promote an improved and integrated transport network, with a re-balancing in favour of non-car modes as a means of access to jobs, homes, services and facilities, will be encouraged and supported...'</i> (Policy 40)</p> <p>The policy is consistent with, and refines, this adopted policy to address specific connectivity issues and traffic concerns in the Parish.</p>
RUS13	Developer Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'There is commitment to developing an integrated community connected by a sustainable transport system. In order to manage the anticipated growth in demand for travel, development proposals which promote an improved and integrated transport network, with a re-balancing in favour of non-car modes as a means of access to jobs, homes, services and facilities, will be encouraged and supported...'</i> (Policy 40) <p>The policy is consistent with, and refines, this adopted policy to address specific connectivity issues and traffic concerns in the Parish.</p>

6.COMPATABILITY WITH EU LEGISLATIONS

6.1 As set out in Section 4 the Parish Council has met its obligations in relation to the EU Directive on the requirement of a SEA. The District Council screening opinion of August 2019 concluded that *“the conclusions of the above screening assessment on the ‘Rusper Neighbourhood Plan August 2019’ indicate that Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required for the Rusper Neighbourhood Plan.”* (see screening opinion published separately).

6.2 In the District Council's Habitat's Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening of August 2019 it is confirmed that an appropriate assessment is not considered necessary in relation to the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Its screening opinion concludes: *“On the basis of the above it is not considered that an Appropriate Assessment of the Rusper Neighbourhood Plan is required following this screening. It may however be helpful for the Parish Council cross refer to the relevant HDPF policies to further strengthen the mitigation for the Arun Valley SPA and the Mens Woodland SPA.”*.

6.3 The Parish Council has been mindful of the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights in process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and considers that it complies with the Human Rights Act.