

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee

Herstmonceux Proposed Neighbourhood Area Designation

Consultation Information

What is the consultation about?

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new, local tier to the planning system called neighbourhood planning. This allows local communities the option of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, a Neighbourhood Development Order or a Community Right to Build Order for their area. When produced, these will become statutory planning documents carrying legal weight in informing local planning decisions.

A Plan can show where, how much and what type of development will take place in the Neighbourhood Area and may also include detailed policies for the management of this development.

Notice

Notice is given that Herstmonceux has submitted an application to Wealden District Council for a Designated Neighbourhood Area under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as its first step in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Area will cover all of Herstmonceux Parish.

A consultation of six weeks on the suitability of the proposed Neighbourhood Area in respect of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 will be open between Monday 26 November 2012 and 14 January 2013.

All responses should be returned to:

Neighbourhood Planning, Planning Policy Team, Wealden District Council, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2AX or nplans@wealden.gov.uk

More information about Neighbourhood Planning is available on the Wealden District Council web site (www.wealden.gov.uk), including the Wealden Guide to Neighbourhood Planning and a Wealden Frequently Asked Questions Paper.

Herstmonceux Parish

Herstmonceux is a rural parish in Wealden District, situated to the north east of Hailsham; its boundaries are shown on the map attached. Most of the parish lies within the Low Weald but the north eastern third is part of the High Wealden Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the southern part extends into the Coastal Levels and includes area of the Pevensy Levels which have SSSI and Ramsar status.

The population of the parish is approximately 2500; over 40% live in the village of Herstmonceux and the hamlet of Windmill Hill, approximately 20% in Cowbeech and the remaining 40% live in smaller settlement and rural areas.

The parish benefits from:

- a range of shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses.
- a Church of England church, a Free Church and a Friends' Meeting House.
- Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School with over 200 pupils on the roll and Herstmonceux Pre-School.
- Health Centre (a new Health Centre which will improve and extend the existing facilities is currently under construction).
- a modern village hall.
- recreation areas for bowls, football, tennis, multi games area, skateboard park and children's playground.
- village green.
- Village Information Centre.
- over 40 local clubs and interest groups for all ages.
- tourist attractions: Herstmonceux Castle (Bader international Study Centre -part of Queen's University, Canada), Science Centre, Listed Windmill.

Overview of the project

The development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Herstmonceux Parish is being facilitated by Herstmonceux Parish Council with help for volunteers across the community. The Parish's

responsibilities will include the collection of evidence and engagement with the community on a number of options and proposals for development in the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council believes that this is a real opportunity for the community to have some ownership on future planning policy for the parish.

Through the creation of the Plan, local people will have the opportunity to help shape policies for land use and the scale of development; such as where new homes, or businesses should be built and what they should look like.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Herstmonceux Parish will cover the parish of Herstmonceux and subject to passing the formal tests, a local referendum and assessment, it will become part of the planning framework. Its policies will apply until 2027.

The Parish Council will be supported by Wealden District Council.

Community Engagement

Herstmonceux Parish Council discussed the possibility of created a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish early in 2012 and a Public Meeting was held on 11 October 2012 to allow the community to find out the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan and how they can get involved with its development. Approximately 150 attended the meeting and there was overwhelming support for the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Over 30 volunteers put forward their names as willing to help with the Plan and a sub-committee of Herstmonceux Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee was formed on 30 October 2012. Six parish councillors and ten residents form the committee with other volunteers willing to help with the practicalities of community consultation and engagement.

The committee has agreed that extensive community consultation will be undertaken to identify the issues concerning residents, businesses and community groups which can then be reflected in the questionnaire which will be sent out to all households in the parish.

A survey sheet, asking for information on important issues in the parish will be available via the web site, from the Village Information Centre, at the church Christmas Fairs in Herstmonceux and Wartling, Herstmonceux School Christmas Fair, the Health Centre, Herstmonceux School Council, youth groups, Lunch Club and all other clubs and societies in the parish.

For more information, please contact Mrs J. McInnes, the clerk to Herstmonceux Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-committee:

Herstmonceux Village Hall, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4JX

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