

Plumpton Neighbourhood Plan

Community Evidence



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1 Introduction

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 This report has been compiled jointly by Plumpton Parish Council and Plumpton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Action in rural Sussex.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the report is to provide a comprehensive summary record of the extensive work which has been undertaken as part of the initial phase of developing the Neighbourhood Plan. This provides the context against which a baseline of understanding may be developed, thereby allowing the identification of the existing and emerging issues which the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to address.
- 1.1.3 The report focuses on outlining the community engagement and evidence gathering activity which has been undertaken to date. This provides a statistical summary of the plan area, sets out the information gathered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and any sub-groups and provides details on consultations such as open days, community surveys and stakeholder events.
- 1.1.4 **Functions of the report**
This report outlines the approaches which have been taken in order to gather information about the locality. Its functions are to:
- outline what the Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot realistically achieve;
 - provide a summary of the activity undertaken and information captured as part of the first phase of the Plan's development;
 - ensure that those living in or adjacent to the designated Neighbourhood Plan area are made aware of the key issues identified in the first phase of consultation;
 - provide residents, stakeholders and statutory partners with robust evidence and a summary of the key issues in order to guide their future contributions to the Plan process.

The information contained within the report will be used as the basis for further consultation with the community, key stakeholders (including landowners, statutory bodies and utilities) and the Local Planning Authority in order to establish how the challenges identified may be responded to by the Neighbourhood Plan.

2 Parish Character

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The Parish of Plumpton is located in the western half of Lewes District in the county of East Sussex. It is approximately five miles north west of the county town of Lewes.
- 2.1.2 Two main settlements exist in the Parish. Plumpton is located in the south and is situated along the B2116 road which runs west to east, running from Ditchling through to Lewes. Plumpton Green is located approximately two thirds of the way along the Parish and is primarily situated to the north of the railway station. Plumpton and Plumpton Green are connected via Plumpton Lane, which runs directly northwards from the B2116 and then becomes Station Road north of the railway line.
- 2.1.3 There is a railway station located at Plumpton Green. This provides direct rail connections northwards to London Victoria (via Gatwick) and southwards to Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings as well as connections to Brighton.
- 2.1.4 Plumpton contains a limited number of amenities, with only a public house present. Plumpton Agricultural College is located in this portion of the Parish and serves as a local employer and supplier of services for the local area.
- 2.1.5 Plumpton Green has a greater number and diversity of services, which reflects its higher population size. It is the site of both Plumpton railway station and Plumpton Racecourse. The primary school and shop/Post Office are located there, as are the Village Hall, Tennis Club, a public house and two garages.

2.2 Characteristics

- 2.2.1 The Parish is predominantly rural and is characterised by its proximity to the South Downs (National Park) which are located directly to the south of the Parish. Much of the Parish is made up of agricultural land, with a mixture of both arable land and livestock grazing. It is not heavily wooded.
- 2.2.2 Development is concentrated primarily in a ribbon distribution along the primary roads, with the centre of Plumpton Green constituting the only major deviation from this. Outside of this, farms or small clusters of housing exist throughout the Parish area.

3 Selected Parish Statistics

The following statistics and evidence are primarily drawn from the 2011 Census. These are used to provide an overview of the current status of the community. Other sources of data or information are acknowledged where applicable.

3.1 Demographics

The usual resident population of the Parish is 1,644 people¹ (819 male, 825 female). Of these:

- 267 People aged 15 and under (16.2% of Parish population compared to 17.4% across the District and 19% across England)
- 1,111 People aged 16 to 64 (67.6% of Parish population compared to 59.9% across the District and 65% across England)
- 266 People aged 65 and over (16.2% of Parish population compared to 22.7% across the District and 16% across England)

Table 1 - Age structure of Parish

Age band	Parish Figure 2011 (number and %)	District Figure 2011 (number and %)
0 to 4	64 (3.9%)	5,052 (5.2%)
5 to 7	51 (3.1%)	3,158 (3.2%)
8 to 9	30 (1.8%)	2,071 (2.1%)
10 to 14	100 (6.1%)	5,551 (5.7%)
15	22 (1.3%)	1,136 (1.2%)
16 to 17	79 (4.8%)	2,336 (2.4%)
18 to 19	75 (4.6%)	2,077 (2.1%)
20 to 24	95 (5.8%)	4,679 (4.8%)
25 to 29	63 (3.8%)	4,596 (4.7%)
30 to 44	254 (15.5%)	16,907 (17.3%)
45 to 59	425 (25.9%)	20,541 (21.1%)
60 to 64	120 (7.3%)	7,214 (7.4%)
65 to 74	150 (9.1%)	10,889 (11.2%)
75 to 84	82 (5.0%)	7,731 (7.9%)
85 to 89	23 (1.4%)	2,232 (2.3%)
90 and over	11 (0.7%)	1,302 (1.3%)
All Usual Residents	1,644	97,502

¹

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=up+per+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978800&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2474>

3.2 Economic status of residents²

Of the 1,644 usual residents of the Parish, 1,261 were aged between 16 and 74.

- 946 (75.0%) of whom were economically active*:
 - 469 were Employed full-time (37.2% compared to 34.3% across District)
 - 177 were Employed part-time (14.0% compared to 15.3% across District)
 - 201 were Self-employed (15.9% compared to 13.9% across District)
 - 23 were Unemployed (1.8% compared to 3.3% across District)
 - 76 were Full-time students (6.0% compared to 2.7% across District)

**Economically Active - All people usually resident in the area at the time of the 2011 Census aged 16 to 74 and who were economically active (either in employment, or not in employment but seeking work and ready to start work within two weeks, or waiting to start a job already obtained). As defined by the Office for National Statistics (2014).*

- 315 (25.0%) of whom were economically inactive*:
 - 143 were Retired (11.3% compared to 17.6% across District)
 - 100 were Students (7.9% compared to 3.7% across District)
 - 46 were Looking after home or family (3.7% compared to 3.9% across District)
 - 16 were Long-term sick or disabled (1.3% compared to 3.5% across District)
 - 10 were classified as Other (0.8% compared to 1.8% across District)

**Economically Inactive - All people usually resident in the area at the time of the 2011 Census aged 16 to 74, who were economically inactive (anyone who was not in employment and did not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed). As defined by ONS (2014).*

3.3 Occupations³

- Of the 916 residents in the Parish in employment and aged between 16 and 74:
 - 134 were Managers, Directors and Senior Officials (14.6% compared to 11.6% across the District).
 - 187 were Professional Occupations (20.4% compared to 18.0% across the District).
 - 128 were Associate Professional and Technical Occupations (14.0% compared to 13.5% across the District).
 - 94 were Administrative and Secretarial Occupations (10.3% compared to 10.6% across the District).

²

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=up+per+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978800&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2484>

³

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=up+per+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978816&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2541>

- 103 were Skilled Trades Occupations (11.2% compared to 12.9% across the District).
- 76 were Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations (8.3% compared to 10.9% across the District).
- 59 were Sales and Customer Service Occupations (6.4% compared to 7.6% across the District).
- 46 were Process, Plant and Machine Operatives (5.0% compared to 5.8% across the District).
- 89 were in Elementary Occupations (9.7% compared to 9.0% across the District).

3.4 Qualifications & Skills⁴

- Of the 1,377 usual residents in the Parish aged 16 and over:
 - 142 possessed no qualifications (10.3% compared to 21.5% across the District).
 - 201 possessed Level 1 qualifications (14.6% compared to 13.8% across the District).
 - 234 possessed Level 2 qualifications (17.0% compared to 15.7% across the District).
 - 32 possessed Apprenticeship qualifications (2.3% compared to 3.4% across the District).
 - 190 possessed Level 3 qualifications (13.8% compared to 11.8% across the District).
 - 521 possessed Level 4 and above qualifications (37.8% compared to 29.4% across the District).
 - 57 possessed other qualifications (4.1% compared to 4.4% across the District).

⁴

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=upper+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978816&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2536>

3.5 Industry of employment⁵

- The 916 usual residents aged between 16 and 74 in employment are employed in the following industries:

Table 2 - Industry of Employment

Industry	Parish Figure 2011 (number and %)	District Figure 2011 (number and %)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	37 (4.0%)	386 (0.8%)
Mining and Quarrying	2 (0.2%)	20 (0.0%)
Manufacturing	46 (5.0%)	2,771 (6.1%)
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	0 (0.0%)	151 (0.3%)
Water Supply	4 (0.4%)	444 (1.0%)
Construction	60 (6.6%)	3,947 (8.7%)
Wholesale & Retail Trade	103 (11.2%)	6,657 (14.6%)
Transport & Storage	36 (3.9%)	2,203 (4.8%)
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	50 (5.5%)	2,267 (5.0%)
Information and Communication	43 (4.7%)	1,577 (3.5%)
Financial and Insurance Activities	60 (6.6%)	2,111 (4.6%)
Real Estate Activities	20 (2.2%)	748 (1.6%)
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	68 (7.4%)	2,957 (6.5%)
Administrative and Support Service Activities	44 (4.8%)	2,048 (4.5%)
Public Administration and Defence	47 (5.1%)	2,799 (6.1%)
Education	144 (15.7%)	5,359 (11.8%)
Human Health and Social Activities Work	98 (10.7%)	6,267 (13.8%)
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	49 (5.3%)	2,712 (6.0%)
Activities of Householders as employers	5 (0.6%)	92 (0.2%)
Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies	0 (0.0%)	16 (0.03%)

5

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=upper+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978816&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2538>

3.6 Housing⁶

- There are 622 households located within the Parish. Of these:
 - 265 were owner-occupier households, owned outright (42.6% compared to 39.8% across the District)
 - 221 were owner-occupier households, owned with a mortgage or loan (35.5% compared to 32.8% across the District).
 - 2 were Shared Ownership (0.3% compared to 0.7% across the District).
 - 43 were Social Rented from Council (6.9% compared to 7.6% across the District).
 - 5 were Social Rented Other (0.8% compared to 3.3% across the District).
 - 65 were Privately rented (10.5% compared to 14.5% across the District).
 - 21 were Living Rent Free (3.4% compared to 1.3% across the District).

**A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room, sitting room or dining area. As defined by the Office for National Statistics (2014).*

- There are 639 dwellings located within the Parish. Of these:
 - 321 of these are Detached Houses/Bungalows (50.3% compared to 35.1% across the District);
 - 217 of these are Semi-detached Houses/Bungalows (34.0% compared to 26.5% across the District);
 - 56 of these are Terraced properties (8.8% compared to 19.1% across the District);
 - 44 of these are Flats, Maisonettes or Apartments (6.9% compared to 18.9% across the District);
 - 1 of these are Caravans or other Mobile or Temporary Structures (0.2% compared to 0.5% across the District).

**A dwelling is a unit of accommodation with all rooms, including kitchen, bathroom and toilet behind a door that only that household can use. As defined by the Office for National Statistics (2014).*

6

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=up+per+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978800&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2481>

3.7 Transport⁷

Of the 622 households:

- 56 households had no car or van (9.0% compared to 20.1% across District and 25.8% across England);
- 218 households had 1 car or van (35.0% compared to 45.6% across District and 42.2% across England);
- 231 households had 2 cars or vans (37.1% compared to 26.0% across District and 24.7% across England);
- 88 households had 3 cars or vans (14.1% compared to 6.1% across District and 5.5% across England);
- 29 households had 4 or more cars or vans (4.7% compared to 2.1% across the District and 1.9% across England).

3.8 Health⁸

Of the 1,644 usual residents of the Parish were classified as having the following health status:

- 873 were in Very Good health (53.1% compared to 44.8% across the District)
- 573 were in Good health (34.9% compared to 35.5% across the District)
- 151 were in Fair health (9.2% compared to 14.3% across the District)
- 39 were in Bad health (2.4% compared to 4.2% across the District)
- 8 were in Very Bad health (0.5% compared to 1.2% across the District)

7

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=upper+beeding&d=16&e=62&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416574978800&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2483>

8

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11129982&c=upper+beeding&d=16&e=61&g=6474260&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1416575245956&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2503>

3.9 Biodiversity⁹

- The South Downs National Park covers the southern half of the Parish along a line just south of Plumpton Racecourse.
- No Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty exist within the Parish.
- The following Sites of Special Scientific Interest exist within the Parish:
 - The Clayton to Offham Escarpment SSSI – which runs the full width of the Parish along a line just south of the B2116 road.
- There are no Local Nature Reserve located within the Parish.
- The Parish contains areas identified by Natural England as Priority Habitats and are subject to Habitat Action Plans:
 - Undetermined Grassland Priority Habitat – A single zone covering the same (total) land area as the Clayton to Offham Escarpment SSSI.
 - Lowland Meadows Priority Habitat – A single zone located in the Clayton to Offham Escarpment SSSI located directly west of Plumpton Bostal.
 - Lowland Calcareous Grassland Habitat – Three zones located in the Clayton to Offham Escarpment SSSI, with one located to the east of The Coombe and two located to the east of Ditchling Cross (one of which straddles the border with East Chiltington Parish.
 - Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat – Numerous zones with concentrations located: to the east, west and north of Beresford Manor, east of Downs House, south of Bluebell Cottage, at Riddens Wood, north of Riddens Lane, north of East View Fields, High Burrows, Reed Pond, Plumpton Wood, surrounding Plumpton Place, at The Coombe, around Ditchling Cross and at Streathill Farm Enclosure.
- The following areas are subject to an Environmental Stewardship Agreement:
 - Organic Entry Level Stewardship Scheme – 1 zone located directly to the south of the Roman Road to the south west of Plumpton Racecourse.
 - Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship – 1 zone located in the south west corner of the Parish, located to the south of The Coombe and to the west of Plumpton Plain.
 - Entry Level Stewardship Scheme

⁹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship Scheme: 2 primary zones – 1 being all land south of the B2116 road not in the Organic and Higher Level Stewardship area and 1 being the land surrounding Plumpton College extending as far northwards as the zone of Organic Entry Level Stewardship Scheme adjacent to the racecourse.
- The following areas are in Woodland Grant Scheme 1:
 - None in the Parish.
- The following areas are in Woodland Grant Scheme 2:
 - None in the Parish.
- The following areas are in Woodland Grant Scheme 3:
 - One small area at Stanton's Farm in the central eastern part of the Parish.

3.10 Heritage¹⁰

The English Heritage classification of Listed Buildings shows that the Parish of Plumpton contains the following Grade I listed buildings and structures including:

- THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex

3.10.1 Grade II Listed:

- THE COTTAGES AND GATEWAY AT PLUMPTON PLACE TO WEST OF THE HOUSE, PLUMPTON PLACE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE MILL HOUSE, PLUMPTON PLACE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- MOAT BARN, PLUMPTON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, PLUMPTON, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE LAINES, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE EUGH, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE FORMER SCHOOLROOM, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- 106 AND 107, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- MILL COTTAGE, UPPER MILL, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE COTTAGE, DITCHLING ROAD, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- OLD MILL HOUSE, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE FORMER MILL BUILDING, OLD MILL HOUSE, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- RYLANDS, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- MAIN STATION BUILDING ON NORTH SIDE OF THE LINE SUBSIDIARY STATION BUILDING ON SOUTH SIDE OF LINE AND CONNECTING FOOTBRIDGE AT PLUMPTON STATION, PLUMPTON, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex II
- THE SIGNAL BOX AT PLUMPTON RAILWAY STATION, PLUMPTON, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- DREWS FARMHOUSE, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- WHITEHOUSE FARMHOUSE, PLUMPTON GREEN, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex

¹⁰ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

- THE HALF MOON INN, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- HACKMANS, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- THE WELL HOUSE, PLUMPTON GREEN, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex

3.10.2 Grade II* Listed:

- PLUMPTON PLACE, PLUMPTON PLACE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- UPPER MILL, PLUMPTON LANE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex

3.10.3 Scheduled Monuments:

- Plumpton Plain earthworks, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Faulkner's Bottom entrenchment, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Earthwork near Horseshoe Plantation, Stamer, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Bowl barrow 530m south east of Ditchling Cross: part of Plumpton Plain round barrow cemetery, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Bowl barrow 550m south east of Ditchling Cross: part of Plumpton Plain round barrow cemetery, East Chiltington, Lewes, East Sussex
- Bowl barrow 200m east of Plumpton Bostall (top end), Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Oval barrow 775m south of Plumpton Place on Plumpton Plain, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Saucer barrow 170m SW of Ditchling Cross, Plumpton Plain, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex
- Two bowl barrows north-east of Streathill Farm, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex

3.10.4 Registered Parks and Gardens:

- PLUMPTON PLACE, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex

3.10.5 Registered Battlefields:

- None exist in the Parish.

4 Community Engagement

4.1 Process

- 4.1.1 In November 2013, Plumpton Parish Council voted to commence the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting and proceeded to apply for the area of Plumpton Parish to be designated. Lewes District Council (LDC) approved this application and the designation was granted on 28 April 2014.
- 4.1.2 The Parish Council publicised the setting up of a Working Group in the Parish Magazine and on its website during the spring of 2014 resulting in six members of the Parish coming forward. The Parish Council nominated the chairman of the Working Group from the council and three other councillors to be members of the Working Group. There were 12 members of the Working Group, including the four Councillors. The first meeting of the Working Group was then held on 2 April 2014.
- 4.1.3 The Working Group title was changed to Steering Group on 23 June 2014. A Terms of Reference and Topic Groups were approved by the Parish Council on 9 July 2014.
- 4.1.4 The group made community engagement and consultation a leading priority and worked to ensure that everyone in the Parish was aware of the Neighbourhood Plan and was given the opportunity to contribute to the process and/or submit their views. To achieve this the following consultation activities were undertaken.
- A public event was held on 29 April 2014 to engage with the residents with a total turnout of approximately 160 residents.
 - A public event held on 16 September 2014 at the Village Hall
 - A Communications & Publicity strategy was established.
 - Articles were published in the local newspaper.
 - Articles, notices and updates were put on the Parish notice boards.
 - A Neighbourhood Plan section was created and regularly updated on the Plumpton Parish Council website.
 - Updates were published on social media, including Facebook and Twitter.
 - A Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey was created, hand delivered and collected by steering and topic group members in January 2015 and accompanied by extensive publicity to maximise response rates including a prize draw for all completed and returned forms.
 - The Neighbourhood Plan Survey included a Young Persons Survey targeting residents who are 17 years old and younger. This was hand delivered alongside the general household survey.
 - A land sponsors presentation was held on 6 January 2015 at the Village Hall and attracted over 120 residents.
 - A second land sponsors presentation was held on 3 March 2015 and was attended by 110 people.
 - A public drop-in event outlining the proposed sites for housing development was held at the Village Hall on 15 September 2015 and attended by 154 people.

4.2 April 2014 Public Event

4.2.1 Using display boards and tables at the initial open day held on 29 April 2014, residents were invited to comment under six themes. The feedback from this exercise was then analysed and a detailed report prepared. A summary of the outcome is outlined.

4.2.2 Village identity

- This was about what makes Plumpton special, what residents liked about it and how they would want it to be in future. There was a total of 172 comments. The outcome in the order of number of responses received from high to low were as follows:
 - Quiet, peaceful green landscape;
 - Character/ Community;
 - Facilities / Location;
 - Dark nights;
 - Safe.

4.2.3 Housing

- The topic received a mix of response to potential development. The majority of people agreed that some development was acceptable, but had reservations.
- Of those who agreed that some development was acceptable, it was with a condition of affordable housing, two specific groups were mentioned as having needs namely family/young people and older people
- Sites should be small and spread evenly around the village, to include sites north and south as well as east and west. There was only one response that conflicted this.
- Brownfield sites should be used wherever possible and open countryside, views and wildlife protected.
- Affordable housing should be incorporated to allow housing for young families, young people who want to remain in the village and our older neighbours who may be struggling to maintain larger homes.
- The requirement for gas, and the cost of oil, seems most prevalent, followed by the lack of good broadband provision

4.2.4 Business

- Much support for local businesses and shared ideas for improving the economic activity of the village through tourism (cafe and cycle hire) in order to capitalise on the links to the South Downs National Park.
- Infrastructure again emerged as a concern, and space, broadband and utilities were all mentioned.
- Plumpton should NOT become a 'dormitory status' with only commuters residing in the village.

4.2.5 Transport

- There were a wide range of concerns raised in response to transport issues, some in direct conflict with each other.
- The main issue identified was parking with a requirement for more spaces, controlled parking and the train station.
- Many felt that extra speed limits were necessary, such as extending the 40 mile per hour upon entry / exit to the village, however some felt this was unnecessary and were particularly opposed to the introduction of a 20 mph zone.
- Encourage greener transport
- More trains and buses

4.2.6 Leisure:

With regards to maintaining and developing leisure activities, the following themes emerged (from high to low comments).

- Access to green spaces.
- Improved use of village facilities such as the Village Hall green and the Pavilion.
- Provision of fitness activities.
- Broadband access and utilities.
- Provisions specifically for older people.
- Provisions specifically for children and teenagers.
- Support for clubs and societies.

4.2.7 Wildlife and public spaces:

- An overwhelming 90% of responses favoured conservation, of some form, as a village priority, which dovetails with the indications from the Village Identity.
- Of these, some referred particularly to the wildlife, others to trees and hedges and others to the need for natural public space and nature reserves.
- Two responses in particular highlighted a need to avoid overly managed open spaces and the emphasis was on natural, as opposed to just 'green'.

4.3 September 2014 Public Event

4.3.1 The emphasis on the September 2014 public event was to identify what residents would like for the future of the Parish and what they liked about the Parish now. It was also an opportunity to involve residents in identifying the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats under the five key topics namely housing, environment, economy, transport, and heritage.

4.3.2 What would we like for our future? In order of comments received from high to low:

- retain natural countryside and wildlife;
- retain character of village;

- local groups and facilities;
- small discreet affordable development;
- retain dark skies;
- transport & infrastructure problems solved;
- no development.

4.3.3 What do we like about Plumpton/Plumpton Green now? In order of comments received from high to low:

- quiet/peace & landscape;
- community;
- facilities & location;
- "love the village just as it is";
- dark skies;
- safe.

4.3.4 Housing SWOT

- Strengths
 - Visually attractive.
 - Good spread of housing.
 - Rural community.
- Weaknesses
 - Services and infrastructure insufficient for large developments.
 - Flooding risk.
- Opportunities
 - Affordable housing for young families and older people.
 - Develop local nature reserves.
 - Improve flood defences.
- Threats
 - Risk of damaging public trust if covenants not honoured.
 - Countryside and wildlife damage.
 - Flooding risk.
 - Traffic and parking.
 - Risk to village Character.

4.3.5 Environment SWOT

- Strengths
 - Unspoilt countryside and wildlife.
 - Dark skies.
 - Footpath network and leaflets.
- Weaknesses
 - Lack of wild flowers.
 - Lack of bee keepers.
 - Lack of pavements and signposts.
- Opportunities
 - To consider wildlife in development.
 - To improve flood defences.
- Threats

- Any development is a threat.
- Wildlife and countryside are in jeopardy.
- Privacy and damage to existing property.
- Flooding.

4.3.6 Local Economy SWOT

- Strengths
 - Rail links.
 - The skills and trades in the village.
 - Facilities.
- Weaknesses
 - Broadband capacity.
 - Parking.
 - Local businesses struggling.
 - Poor public transport.
 - Lack of amenities.
- Opportunities
 - Business development (e.g. tourism).
 - Improved transport and pathways.
 - Community collaboration.
- Threats
 - Multi-national companies moving in (e.g. Tesco).

4.3.7 Transport SWOT

- Strengths
 - Railway.
 - Buses.
 - Car sharing.
- Weaknesses
 - Parking (availability and danger of bad parking).
 - Junctions and speeding issues.
 - Lack of buses.
 - Lack of late night trains.
- Opportunities
 - Limit speed.
 - Improve parking.
 - More cycle routes.
 - Creating pavements.
- Threats
 - Increasing bottlenecks at Half Moon and Plough junctions.
 - Increased parking.
 - Increased speeding.

4.3.8 Heritage SWOT

- Strengths
 - Historic landscape.
 - Beautiful countryside.

- Well connected footpaths.
- Racecourse.
- Church.
- Amenities.
- Has always been somewhere where people get involved and volunteer.
- Safe place for children to grow up.
- Beautiful location.
- Strong community feel.
- Weaknesses
 - No Bonfire Society.
 - No Plumpton signage on B2116.
 - No village carnivals anymore.
 - Pit Stop in terrible condition and looks dangerous.
 - Not enough flowers.
- Opportunities
 - Village walking groups.
 - More events at Racecourse.
 - Park and ride scheme.
 - Community involvement from pub.
 - Pit Stop chance to promote Plumpton at SDNP.
 - Getting people to work together re parking.
 - Leaflet on how to use defibrillator.
- Threats
 - Old Plumpton not part of village.
 - Risk to landscape and wildlife.
 - Pocket park risks natural habitat.
 - Light pollution.
 - Suburban dormitory feel.
 - Threat to walking of reduced access to fields and loss of countryside.
 - Loss of historic landscape and network of hedges etc.
 - Dilution of family friendly feel.
 - Beautiful location – over development of natural habitats.

4.3.9 Conclusions

- In the May 2014 analysis, an overwhelming 90% of responses favoured conservation, of some form, as a village priority, which dovetails with the indications from the Village Identity board of Plumpton as a rural community. Of these, some referred particularly to the wildlife, others to trees and hedges and others to the need for natural public space. Two responses in particular highlighted a need to avoid overly managed open spaces and the emphasis was on natural, as opposed to just 'green', which wasn't mentioned at all.
- The same sentiments are expressed in the current set of responses, which have raised significant concerns about the possibility of damage to the environment that development may bring. While a large number of people are positive about the opportunities that development can bring in terms of

affordable housing and contributions to infrastructure, the needs of the wildlife and landscape must be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.4 Call for Sites

4.4.1 A "Call for Sites" exercise was undertaken at the beginning of September 2014. The Call for Sites invitation resulted in 14 potential sites being put forward across the entire Parish, some of which had already been identified within the Lewes DC SHLAA process and some are new ones. These sites were then listed in the November Parish magazine and on also on the website. The list of sites is below.

4.4.2 List of Sites

- 001 Land south of Riddens Lane – 1.4 hectares
- 002 Land to north east of Wells Close – 0.5 hectares
- 003 Fallbrook, Plumpton Lane – 1.75 hectares
- 004 Land at Little Inholmes Farm – 4.53 hectares
- 005 Land to the rear of Plumpton Primary School, North Barnes Lane – 5.3 hectares
- 006 Land off Riddens Lane – c. 10 hectares
- 007 Drews Farm, Plumpton Lane – 7.5 hectares
- 008 Land to rear of Oakfield, East of Station Road, Plumpton – 1.5 hectares
- 009 Nolands Farm, Plumpton Green – 6.14 hectares
- 010 Six acres in Plumpton (form not submitted) – 2.45 hectares
- 011 Southview Cottage, Riddens Lane
- 012 Land West of Riddens Lane – 7.62 hectares
- 013 North Barnes Farm – 188 hectares
- 014 Woodley House, South Road, Wivelsfield Green – 4 hectares

4.4.3 With the completion of the call for sites exercise the Steering Group developed a set of criteria against which each site proposal was to be measured based on the feedback from the public events and other information. The criteria was made available to each site sponsor to enable them to prepare for the landowners presentation which was an opportunity for each sponsor to talk about the potential of their sites to the to the Steering Group. Members of the public were invited.

4.4.4 The land sponsors presentation was then held on the evening of January 6th from 6pm-10pm at the Village Hall and attracted over 120 residents.

4.4.5 A second land sponsors meeting was held on 3 March 2015 at Plumpton Village Hall and was attended by 110 people.

4.5 September 2015 public drop-in event

4.5.1 The purpose of this event was to present the sites selected for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan and to gather feedback on the choices made.

4.5.2 While this was an informal session, verbal feedback from the 154 people who attended was collated by the Steering Group. It was felt the main points of feedback to address in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan were:

- How were measurements from housing sites to the village centre taken?
- How is the Steering Group guiding the location of housing on sites 3, 5 and 11?
- What if site 11 (land south of the railway) is rejected by statutory consultees?

4.6 The Plumpton Parish Action Plan 2007

4.6.1 The Plumpton Village Action Plan started in May 2006 when a steering group of volunteers was formed from a cross-section of the community and the Parish Council.

4.6.2 This steering group held a number of talks with local groups, held drop-in events and circulated information widely in order to consult with the village community.

4.6.3 In July 2007 a questionnaire was designed and 575 copies were delivered by hand to each household. A total of 469 completed questionnaires were received back, an 82% response, At the same time a separate youth questionnaire was delivered and completed, and the children at Plumpton Primary School also took part by completing a survey within school.

4.6.4 The surveys were analysed and the statistical results were presented to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2008 for comment and suggestions.

4.6.5 Priorities and timescales were established for all the action points by taking into account the statistical data and likely achievability.

4.6.6 The Parish Council adopted the Action Plan in May 2008 and later that month a further public display and consultation was held setting out how they proposed to achieve the objectives with detailed action points, responsibilities, priorities and timescales.

4.6.7 The Village Action Plan was printed and distributed to all households in July 2008 and was made up of 49 action points, some of which have been completed. The other actions points that could be relevant to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan are listed in the table below.

Table 3 – Action Points from the 2007 Plumpton Parish Action Plan

Theme	Action
Affordable housing	Consider in greater detail the housing data (from the survey results), taking into account current and future demographic trends. <i>This action has been completed with new affordable housing development in 2014. The Neighbourhood Plan survey however revealed a need for</i>

	<i>starter homes and homes to downsize to.</i>
Economy	Explore the desire expressed for home growers' produce market.
	Work with the shop/Post office owner to maintain high standards and promote services available, to ensure that whenever threatened, both parts of the business remain open in the short term, but also in to the future, so that all options and benefits for the shop and community can be explored.
	While taking into account that the majority of residents do not want street lighting, consider lighting solutions (such as low level lighting) in small number of targeted areas, where concerns have been raised.
Facilities	The community should work together to ensure that the high standards of facilities in the village are maintained through regular maintenance and upgrading of equipment. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
Parking	Consider parking policy in the vicinity of the shop. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
	Consider parking policy within the vicinity of the station. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
Road Safety	Review with ESCC Highways measures that could be taken to improve road safety in identified areas. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
Transport and Access	Review with ESCC Highways to seek a reduction in the speed limit throughout the village and identify improved signage/measures to control speeding. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
	Engage with users of mobility aids and the visually impaired to seek a better understanding of access difficulties within the village. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
	Research whether it is feasible to widen the pavement from the shop to the Village Green.
	Ensure footpaths are maintained and improved and not allowed to become overgrown. <i>(this action is still ongoing)</i>
	Explore if it is possible to put a path from the village to the Plough.

4.7 Plumpton's wildlife habitats: a survey (Edited by Jacqui Hutson)

4.7.1 Although there were several sources of information about Plumpton's wildlife and habitats, there was no single document bringing all the information together.

4.7.2 In 2004, the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group was formed and decided it would be interesting to compare the present land use with the tithe map to see how things had changed. They also decided to record the present land use, the wildlife

habitats and the species found there as a 'snapshot' in time.

4.7.3 A survey was undertaken by the group after some initial training from the Sussex Wildlife Trust. The members divided into groups and walked their areas to record the habitats found. They also noted features of special interest. The results were all analysed and the staff and Staff and volunteers at the Sussex Wildlife Trust Biodiversity Record Centre produced a final digitised version of the map from their hand-coloured maps. The major habitat types found are seen in the table below.

4.7.4 A full report of this survey can be downloaded from the Parish Council website.

Table 4 – Major Habitat Types Found

Habitat type	Habitat description
Semi-natural woodland	Comprises all woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of the species generally reflects natural variations in the site and its soil. Both ancient and recent stands are included. Woodland with both semi-natural and planted trees is classified as semi-natural if the planted trees account for less than 30% of the canopy.
Plantation woodland	Includes all obviously planted woodland (except plantations more than 120 years old), orchards, and ornamental tree gardens.
Scrub	Vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5m tall, occasionally including a few scattered trees.
Unimproved grassland	Rare examples of species-rich grassland on neutral or calcareous soil that have not had sufficient applications of fertiliser or herbicide to significantly change the composition of the sward.
Semi-improved grassland	Grasslands on neutral or calcareous soil that have been modified by artificial fertilisers, slurry, intensive grazing, herbicides or drainage. They have fewer species than unimproved grassland but are still of some conservation value.
Improved grassland	Meadows or pastures that have been so affected by heavy grazing, drainage or the application of herbicides, inorganic fertiliser, slurry or high doses of manure that they have lost many of the species that one would expect to find in an unimproved sward. They have only a limited range of species.

Marshy grassland	Wet grasslands containing purple moor grass, rushes, sedges, meadowsweet and other species such as marsh marigold.
Open water	Ponds and lakes, varying in nutrient levels.
Running water	All streams.
Arable	Arable cropland, horticultural land, vegetable plots, freshly-ploughed land and recently reseeded grassland.
Amenity grassland	Intensively managed and regularly mown grasslands – lawns, playing fields etc.
Hedges	Range from species-rich, dense hedges with high conservation value to species-poor, gappy hedges.



From left: Sedgebrook Wood (semi-natural) with marshy grassland beyond; improved grassland and arable; Riddens Wood (semi-natural) Photos©Jacqui Hutson

5 Community Survey

5.1 NDP Survey Overview

- 5.1.1 As part of the process of consulting with residents over the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group developed and undertook a survey in order to gather opinions and views on the issues which the document should prioritise.
- 5.1.2 The survey was conducted using a questionnaire consisting of both closed and open-ended questions. This mix allowed questions to focus on obtaining specific pieces of information tailored at responding to certain issues or themes (closed questions), while allowing a degree of freedom in the responses which people provide (open questions).
- 5.1.3 It is important to support objective information with contextual and subjective reasoning in order to fully understand certain issues and to allow people to explain their reasoning or preferences.
- 5.1.4 The survey was issued in January 2015 with a closing date of 2 February 2015 with a 57% response rate. A summary is outlined below:
- In terms of the future development of the Parish, 63% of residents would like to see the Parish retain its linear shape on a north-south axis.
 - Rather than wishing to see the Parish grow to encourage an increase in services, Parishioners would prefer to encourage people to live and work locally and to encourage tourism in the village.
 - The vast majority (91%) of respondents would like all those listed aspects of current village life preserved i.e. no street lighting, clubs and societies, bus/train services, post office and shop, school, pavilion and village hall. Additional aspects to be preserved include the church (19%), pubs (13%) and railway crossing gates (9%).
 - The majority of people (95%) felt that the countryside, footpaths and views of the South Downs contribute to their quality of life.
 - 90% of residents would like wildlife considerations to be incorporated into any new developments. Most (87%) would prefer any new housing to be in small developments of 10 to 20 units being built over a long period of time. The majority (81%) would like these developments to consist of small- and medium-sized units with provision being made for retirement/warden assisted homes and possibly a care or nursing home.
 - The majority (68%) would support a community led approach to the management of housing and other community assets in the PPNP.

- In terms of employment, more opportunities were welcomed, but Parishioners were against (57%) more land being used to provide this.
- 50% of respondents think that our roads are not well maintained with 54% thinking that the footpaths are well maintained. 82% have no particular view about cycle paths, and 84% thought the same about bridleways. People were of an equally divided opinion on whether pavements are well maintained or not and most people either had no particular view (47%) or thought that parking areas were poorly maintained (41%).
- 55% of respondents feel that there should be no paid for parking at the station and 68% feel that there should be no paid for parking at the playing field. 16% had no particular view and 28% would welcome paid for parking at the station and 18% at the playing field.
- In terms of sustainable energy, 56% of Parishioners had no particular view or said that it wasn't important although 44% supported the options outlined.
- The prize draw was made at the Parish Council meeting on 10 February and the two lucky winners were notified.

5.2 Young Persons Survey

5.2.1 A total of 65 responses were received from young people with the highest from the 14-15 years old and the least from 16-17 years old groups. It must be noted that the responses were evenly spread across the age groups. (6-8 years old – 23.8%; 9-11 years old – 17.4%; 12-13 years old – 20.6%; 14-15 years old – 25.4%; 16-17 years old – 15.8%)

5.2.2 A summary of the responses is outlined below:

- Approximately 82% of those responding indicated they lived in Plumpton Green with 18% living in Plumpton.
- When asked about what they liked most about living in the Parish, a majority of the respondents mentioned the countryside, the fields, parks and proximity to the South Downs National Park.
- When asked about what they liked least about living in the Parish, the children raised concerns about lack of something to do or not enough for them to do. They were also concerns about not enough transport, speeding and dangerous roads.
- Approximately 53% of the respondents felt they would be stopped from setting up a home in the Parish when they grow up due to the high house prices, employment prospects and the fact that they didn't want to stay in a small village. 47% however responded that nothing would stop them setting up a home in the Parish when they grow up.

- Approximately 88% of respondents use the local rail service while 12% do not.
- 59% felt the facilities in the Parish were adequate for young people while 41% felt they were not.
- 89% of respondents regularly walk, run or cycle around the Parish while 11% do not.
- Additional opportunities they would like to see in the Parish included drama club, cycling club, social activities aimed for young people, gymnastics, music, swimming and chances for older children to play football.

5.2.3 Other general comments included but not limited to

- *"I like the events and fairs that are arranged and the fact that everyone knows each other"*
- *"I don't like how they are trying to get rid of the crossing gates"*
- *"The Pavilion is old. Plans to build houses in sheep fields"*
- *"Nothing to do for young people"*
- *"Poor internet connection" "Cars drive a bit too fast"*
- *"No takeaways or easy taxi service"*
- *"No street lighting" "Not enough buses"*
- *"If there are new houses they have to be nice. But you shouldn't take away fields and trees because that is killing the planet. You should be planting more trees"*
- *"I don't want to stay in one place forever especially a tiny one"*
- *"The youth club which has just got started is good but would be better if more frequent"*
- *"Summer BBQ"*
- *"More activities in the village hall such as music events/theatre / plays"*
- *"Roller disco in village hall once a month or disco/dance for teenagers"*
- *"I suggest an area like the park but for older children"*
- *"Place to hang out with friends such as seated area at the park"*
- *"Plumpton is a great place to walk and run"*
- *"Cars drive too fast and large vehicles are dangerous"*
- *"The road next to the Plough is too fast for young cyclists"*

6 Contributions from Neighbourhood Plan Topic Groups

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was also divided up into topic groups to enable them to handle specific areas of concerns. These topic groups were extended out of the Steering Group with other interested Parishioners joining. The areas identified to be of concern to the Parish are identified below.

- Local Economy *(to include employment, existing businesses, potential for new businesses, tourism)*
- Local Green Space *(to include built and natural environment, open spaces, conservation areas, allotments and community gardens)*
- Landscape & Biodiversity *(to include the natural environment, conservation areas, Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] and other designations, future public spaces)*
- Housing *(to include mix of housing, design control, potential sites, housing needs)*

6.1.2 These topic groups were tasked with looking at the relevant issues, strengths, opportunities and threats for the Parish from their thematic perspective. This involved reviewing existing evidence, including previous community consultation conducted in the Parish in the last 10 years.

6.2 Local Economy: A business survey was undertaken by the topic group and a report published as part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.

6.3 Local Green Spaces: A local green space report has been prepared by the topic group as part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.

6.4 Landscape & Biodiversity: A detailed landscape and biodiversity report has been prepared by the topic group as part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.

6.5 Housing: A full site assessment report has been prepared by the topic group as part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.