

Neighbourhood Planning and the Horndean Village Design Statement

Horndean Parish Council's Strategic Vision Statement, produced earlier this year, included reference to incoming housing development and a possible Horndean Neighbourhood Plan:

The Horndean Parish Council area contains a population of around 13,500, in 5,600 households (approximately 2.4 persons per household). New residential developments will continue to be a significant issue for Horndean. The latest draft EHDC Local Plan contained 443 additional homes, on top of 981 outstanding permissions. With more recently increased government targets, this number could exceed 2,000 households and 5,000 additional residents, taking Horndean's totals up by over a third to 7,500 households and to 18,500 residents.

Developer contributions (CIL) can be used to enhance existing infrastructure. We can draw on Neighbourhood CIL as a matter of course (up to 15% can be drawn on directly). Having a contemporary Neighbourhood Plan would allow the Parish Council to directly secure – and direct the use of - 25%, rather than 15% of CIL funding.

A Neighbourhood Plan would also need to be taken into account by the planning authority, provided it meets local housing requirements.

The Parish Council should establish whether the benefits of developing a Neighbourhood Plan outweigh the costs.

The Vision was consulted on, both via our website and also at the 28 April Annual Parish Meeting. At the latter a significant majority of attendees wanted us to look at the feasibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Horndean.

In July 2025, supporting the recommendations of a Parish Plan Feasibility Working Party, HPC determined that we should:

- *Request the “designation” of Horndean Parish as a Neighbourhood Planning area.*
- *Monitor the progress of the EHDC Local Plan and of Local Government Review and emerging changes.*
- *Prepare a process for updating the 2000 Village Design Statement, working with others across the community.*
- *Engage with existing forums, from Community Meetings and Green Trail meetings to the Parish Meeting and the Horndean Improvement Forum to develop and test ideas.*

We subsequently applied to both of our local Planning Authorities (East Hants District Council and South Downs National Park Authority) for “designation” as a Planning Area and have been designated by both in November 2025. Designation does not expire and allows a Neighbourhood Planning process to begin at an appropriate time.

As the external environment is currently unsettled by LGR, Devolution, revised housing targets and other external changes, this is not a good time to embark upon the full

Neighbourhood Planning process - not least because an eventual plan must tie in with an appropriate Local Plan, which does not currently exist!

However, we can begin a key first step - that of updating the Village Design Statement. The existing Design Statement contains much valuable material, is still referred to by incoming developers, but is over a quarter of a century old. We now wish to review its suitability for the future and to determine necessary changes and updates to allow it to complement a full Neighbourhood Plan.

As the Design Statement is not a Parish Council document, but one that belongs to the whole community, this update should be worked on, and steered, by a broadly based group drawn from across the community. We will be inviting some people to join this group, which will begin its work early in 2026, aiming to complete within 12 months, but would love to hear from anyone else who might wish to get involved. If you would be interested in getting involved, please drop an email to contact@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk or call us on 02392 597766.