

## **May 2020 – Neighbourhood Plan next steps**

### **Main objectives**

*The six priorities that emerged from the initial scoping event were generally supported, although the final objective on carbon neutral design was less strongly supported, with the retention of local character a competing priority.*

### **Encourage a more appropriate mix of housing types, not just flats.**

*The main concern appears to be that there is too much focus on building flats in recent years. We research housing data to provide more information on housing need, although the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) for the BCP area should also help (the data on need from the household survey is relatively limited given the limited responses). On this basis, the Neighbourhood Plan should be able to provide guidance on the mix of house types and other factors such as design requirements.*

### **Encourage walking and cycling as a way of getting about - through the provision of safe cycle routes (and cycle rack locations) and improved pavements.**

*We now have some data on key routes – the beach and cliff paths in particular, and also Lymington Road and Highcliffe High Street. Further analysis will be needed to decide whether the data can be used to identify specific priorities for improvement (and what implications this might have in terms of future plans for the area).*

*The levels of on-street parking in unsafe locations was the top issue for residents that can be addressed in part by ensuring new developments do not add further to these problems. We now have some data we can look at on parking ‘reality’ in relation to house sizes, that we can check against the current parking standards and see what, if anything, needs to change.*

### **Revitalise the High Street – in particular improving the outdoor areas, traffic management and encouraging a better range of shops and services**

*This objective would focus on (1) recommendations from the 2017 retail study and (2) projects for improvement as identified in the household survey and also being investigated through the Parish Council.*

### **Look after our green spaces – in particular enhancing wildlife / natural areas and connecting corridors areas and having good access to the beach.**

*Green spaces were very much supported in the household questionnaire – and whilst these are protected in current policies a key thing the NP can do is designate the most valued spaces as ‘Local Green Spaces’ to ensure their continued protection. This requires an assessment of all candidate spaces to see if it fits the criteria. Once these are mapped, the NP can also consider whether there are missing links / wildlife corridors that could or should be added.*

**Retain and improve our community facilities**

*The household survey helped identify facilities that are particularly valued and should be protected, and also potential needs for new or expanded facilities. Ideas particular focused on provision for young families / children and changes that could support and strengthen the High Street. These facilities and project priorities can be capture in the Neighbourhood Plan.*

**Encourage new building designs to be carbon-neutral**

*The Neighbourhood Plan can encourage the use of more sustainable and energy efficient buildings – although minimum standards are generally covered under the building regulations legislation. It can also make clear that this is a priority over other design considerations.*

*However what was also clear from the household survey was that there may need to be exceptions where this would result in buildings that differ significantly from the area's local character. So it would be appropriate to provide more guidance on what would and would not be acceptable.*