

**The Policies**, please refer to the main plan document for a full explanation and justification.

## Our Vision

**“By 2039, Ninfield will have retained its character as a safe, vibrant, rural parish, protecting the character of its position between the High Weald AONB and Pevensey levels whilst supporting small scale development opportunities for community, economic and residential uses that meet the needs of its residents in an environmentally-sensitive and sustainable way.**

**Development will have avoided sensitive landscapes and cherished countryside and its diversity, whilst retaining the area’s strong sense of community, green spaces, and thriving natural environment, respecting and preserving the heritage of the Parish.”**

### Policy N1 – Sustainable Location of Development

Development proposals should be located so as to minimise the need to travel by car and minimise loss of countryside its biodiversity.

Within the development boundary of Ninfield village as shown in the adopted Wealden Development Plan documents (including any enlarged development boundary forming part of any adopted replacement Wealden Local Plan), development will in principle be supported subject to the other policies of this Neighbourhood Plan.

**Justification:** Loss of countryside was identified as a significant concern with over 90% of respondents stating this was an issue that worried them. The majority wanted to see future growth as infill within the development boundary and the utilisation of brownfield sites (58%) in preference to development on green field sites outside the development boundary. Almost 60% of respondents to the questionnaire specified the need to address the climate emergency by the provision of sustainable and eco-homes in future developments.

### Policy N2 – Renewable Energy

Small-scale energy production schemes such as proposals by householders for renewable energy generation from solar photovoltaic panels (including associated adaptation of existing buildings) and proposals for Community solar and biomass facilities (including use of anaerobic digestion and wood fuel products) will be supported provided they:

- are appropriate in their siting and scale to their setting having regard to its character and sensitivity, particularly if located in the High Weald AONB, in an Area of Locally Valued Landscape or affecting a Heritage Asset;
- do not have an unacceptable visual impact;
- do not cause harm to biodiversity; and
- do not have a detrimental effect on neighbouring residents.

Development outside this boundary will in principle only be supported if it needs a countryside location in terms of meeting the policy requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and the adopted Wealden Development Plan documents and it accords with the relevant policies of this Neighbourhood Plan.

**Justification:** Ninfield Parish Council has declared a climate emergency (as have Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council). There is a wider awareness of the need to

take appropriate actions as soon as possible. Residents support individual/domestic solar harvesting (69%) and renewable heating such as ASHP/GSHP (65%). Most properties in the Parish are served by overhead electricity supply cables which are vulnerable and power outages are a common occurrence. Most of Ninfield does not have a public gas supply so most properties use oil or LPG for heating and hot water. There is a need to move to renewable energy as soon as practicable.

### **Policy N3 – Flood Risk and Drainage**

**Surface water drainage for development shall be based on sustainable drainage principles allowing for future climate change. The scheme shall be designed to prevent properties both on and off the development site from flooding, including at construction phase, and shall include appropriate ground tests and calculations. Major developments shall include details of proposed maintenance arrangements to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development and, where possible, provide multifunctional benefits such as for biodiversity or amenity and where necessary these will be subject to a legal agreement to ensure their implementation. Drainage schemes should take account of the following:**

- **Wealden Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**
- **ESCC ‘Guide to Sustainable Drainage Systems in East Sussex’**
- **ESCC ‘SuDS Decision Support Tool for Small-scale Development’**

**Justification:** Ninfield Parish Council has declared a climate emergency (as have Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council). There is a wider awareness of the need to take appropriate actions as soon as possible.

### **Policy N4– Protect and Enhance Dark Night Skies**

**Development should not adversely impact the Dark Night Skies of the Parish and must avoid light pollution by careful design, location and mitigation measures where lighting is necessary for health and safety reasons. Security, outside lighting and floodlighting should be designed to be deflected downwards and incorporate control mechanisms to dim or switch off external lighting schemes when not required.**

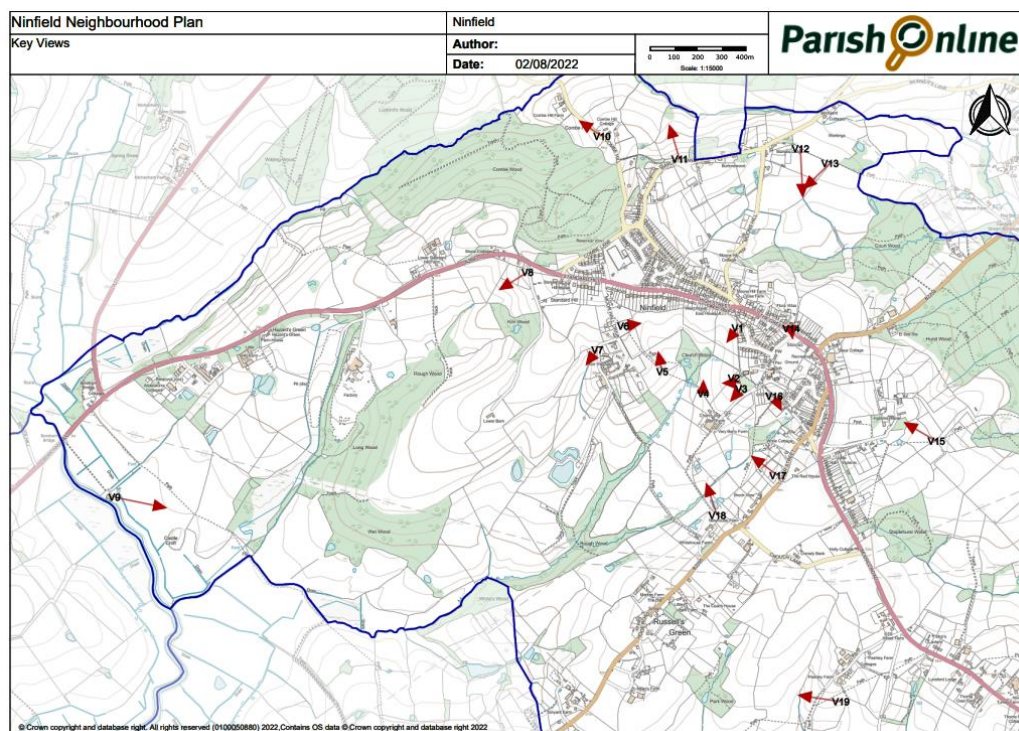
**All development proposals should adhere to the guidance on lighting provided in the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Note GN01: The Reduction of Obtrusive Light (and any subsequent revisions).**

**Justification:** Ninfield Parish Council have declared an intention to protect and enhance our dark night skies. In general, lighting that is well designed, properly maintained and unobtrusive is not problematic. Light pollution has many adverse effects including energy wastage and adverse effect on the natural environment. Obtrusive light, especially in rural locations can affect the natural diurnal rhythms amongst a wide range of animals and plants. Whereas the amenity value of dark night skies and star visibility has a positive effect on human psychology and well-being.

### **Policy N5 – Key Views**

**The Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan identifies Key Views as shown on the Policies Maps. Development proposals should be located and designed to take account of these Views and, where practicable, the development should enhance or provide greater accessibility to the Views concerned. Development proposals which would have an unacceptable impact on a Key View will not be supported.**

Justification: Over 69% of respondents in the Parish -wide questionnaire expressed a concern about the impact of development on public views in the Parish.



## Policy N6 – Areas of Locally Valued Landscape

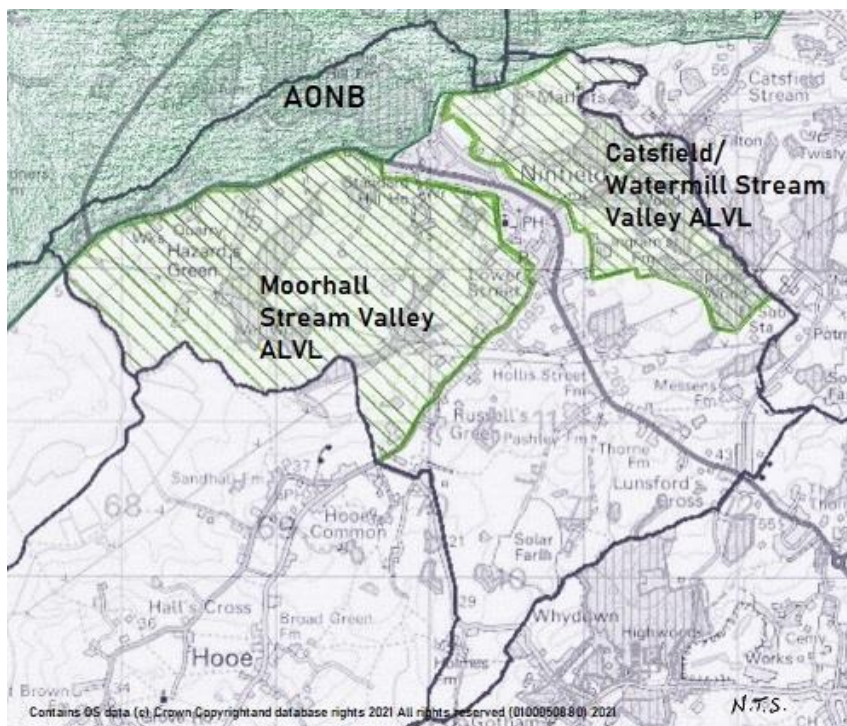
Within the Areas of Locally Valued Landscape as identified on the Policies Map, the distinctive character and inherent scenic qualities of the area concerned will be protected.

The distinctive character and inherent scenic qualities of the Moorhall Stream Valley derive from its topography of ridges and slopes and its ancient pattern of mainly small irregular fields bounded by hedgerows, trees and woodland. There are extensive public views from open high ground including from the network of public rights of way which provide numerous viewpoints over the landscape including to the Downs and sea and towards the village. It includes areas of surviving Ancient Woodland most of which is designated as local wildlife sites or local nature reserve plus ponds and watercourses. The Wallers Haven Levels provide a contrasting flat and open landscape of water meadows and drainage channels, being a protected habitat enclosed by higher ground either side.

The distinctive character and inherent qualities of the Catsfield/Watermill Stream Valley derive from its extensive mostly ancient woodland in pronounced valleys, except close to the village edge where there is an ancient pattern of mainly small pastoral fields enclosed by hedges and trees. There are numerous ponds some in historic marlpits. Lanes and roads are enclosed by hedges and trees with distinctive wooded banks on the uphill approaches to the village. A rural, natural character predominates throughout this area, with tranquillity and a sense of remoteness away from the main roads.

Development will be supported if it preserves or enhances the distinctive character and inherent scenic quality of these areas. The setting of public rights of way and public views over the landscape, including to the sea and South Downs as well as towards the village, with special attention to the protection of the Key Views contained in Policy N5, will be safeguarded from detracting by obtrusive or incongruous development. The details of siting, design, materials and landscaping (including tree and hedge planting) shall be harmonious and minimise the effect of development on the landscape.

Justification: Over 90% of local residents in the parish wide questionnaire stated that they valued the local landscape and natural environment especially features including hedgerows, trees in the landscape, woodlands and footpaths in the countryside. Details of the responses received are contained under the relevant descriptions above.



## Policy N7 - Local Green Spaces

The Neighbourhood Plan designates the following as Local Green Spaces, as shown on the Policies Map. Development requiring planning permission will not be permitted unless there are very special circumstances in line with national policy or where the development will enhance and not compromise their primary function as Local Green Spaces. Our Local Green Spaces are:

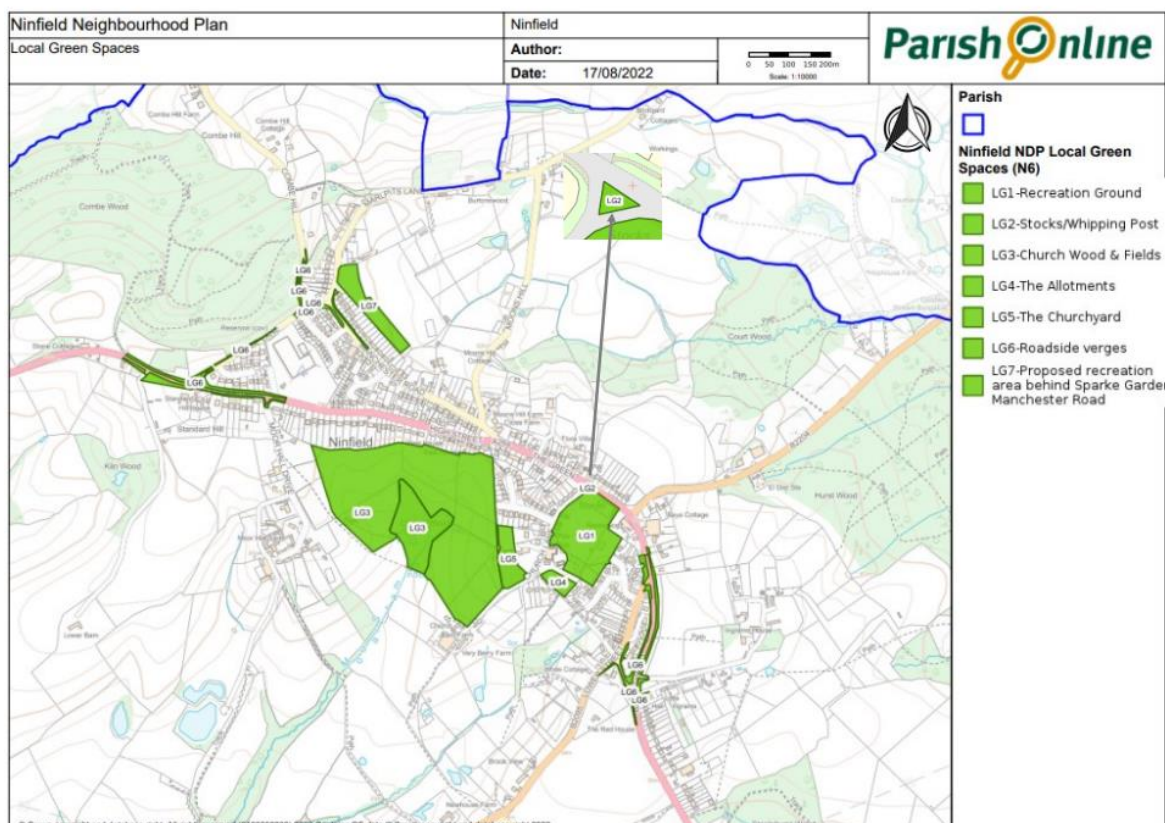
- The Recreation Ground
- Stocks/whipping post
- Church Wood with adjacent valley slopes including Church Fields & Church Path
- The Allotments
- The Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin
- Coombe Lane Verges

- **Standard Hill Verges**
- **Bexhill Road verges**
- **Proposed recreation area behind Sparke Gardens, Manchester Road**

**Any development adjacent to these spaces should take account of their importance to the character of the area and as places valued for their intrinsic beauty, tranquillity, historic significance, wildlife or recreational use.**

**Justification:** Local Green Spaces were cited by residents responding to the questionnaire as specific areas of land that are valued for their intrinsic beauty, tranquillity, views, historic significance, wildlife or recreational use.

The Ninfield NDP Survey 2021 has enabled residents to identify the sites that they consider are special to the local community and hold particular local significance. The recreational use of such spaces has increased markedly during the Covid-19 pandemic when restrictions on travel and opportunities for social contact were reduced. Many local residents have spoken of how valuable these spaces have been to them. A report on Local Green Spaces was prepared as part of the NDP process and forms part of the supporting documentation to this Neighbourhood Plan.



## **Policy N8 - Biodiversity (including Green and Blue Infrastructure or GBI)**

**Development should protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Parish. It should retain and enhance existing green and blue infrastructure (GBI) corridors, including watercourses of all sizes, ponds and wildlife features, with restoration of lost natural features such as historic hedgelines. Development sites should be landscaped sufficiently as an integral part of their layout and design to provide green corridors**

that connect with the open countryside and existing wildlife habitats. Existing trees and hedges (with their associated undergrowth habitats), including those that are not covered by relevant protection, should be retained and enhanced by new planting with native British species preferably of local provenance.

Developments should not disrupt or harm biodiversity and, where alternative siting is not possible, mitigation measures shall be put in place to off-set any negative impacts, and if this is not possible compensatory measures shall be implemented.

Developments of 1-9 dwellings on sites of less than 1ha (and other development types on sites of less than 0.5ha) shall provide biodiversity enhancement in accordance with Natural England's Small Sites Metric (or any updated Metric). Developments larger than this shall provide a measurable net increase of at least 10% in the biodiversity value of the on-site habitat from its pre-development condition to its condition on completion of the development as calculated using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric 3 (or any updated Metric).

Justification: Over 90% of local residents in the parish wide questionnaire stated that they valued the local landscape and natural environment especially features including hedgerows, trees in the landscape, woodlands. Conservation of existing green infrastructure, the creation of new nature reserves and increasing overall biodiversity were specifically mentioned.

## **Policy N9 - Built Heritage**

New development should sustain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the historic built environment which is an irreplaceable resource giving Ninfield its sense of place. Proposals involving the non-designated heritage assets listed in Appendix 3 shall be assessed having regard to the scale of any harm or loss when balanced against the significance of the area, building or feature concerned. Development proposals affecting these non-designated heritage assets will be supported if they sustain or enhance their fabric, character and setting and better reveal their significance.

**Justification:** The questionnaire responses show clearly that residents value their heritage and want to ensure that any development is sympathetic to its surrounding buildings in terms of scale, character, materials and design (over 70% of respondents said these factors were very important to them).

## **Policy N10 - Design**

In terms of its design, new development will be supported where if it meets the following:

- (a) It respects the character of the High Weald landscape and is locally-distinctive in respect of Ninfield's landscape features including topography, woods, trees, hedges, ponds and watercourses. Account shall be taken of public views (with special attention to the protection of the Key Views contained in Policy N5) and, in areas currently lacking public viewpoints, opportunities taken to provide new public viewpoints over the landscape.
- (b) It respects the character of the High Weald vernacular and is locally-distinctive having regard to Ninfield's heritage assets and the 'Design Guide for Ninfield' accompanying this Neighbourhood Plan. It is designed to be sustainable with its scale, density, layout, form, style, materials and landscaping designed to be in keeping with and appropriate to its setting.

- (c) **If it is located in the low-density semi-rural residential areas of the village which adjoin the AONB or the Moorhall Valley Area of Locally Valued Landscape at Standard Hill/ High Street (south side), Marlpits Lane (west side), it maintains their existing low-density character, visually dominated by trees and hedges as well as preserving their 'soft' edge to the countryside.**
- (d) **It does not adversely affect the residential amenities of any neighbouring dwellings including by reason of excessive overlooking, loss of light or overbearing impact;**
- (e) **It complies with all other policies in this Neighbourhood Plan insofar as relevant to the scale, type and location of development proposed in addition to meeting the requirements of the adopted Wealden Development Plan documents and the National Planning Policy Framework.**

**Justification:** The Ninfield Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey 2021 shows the overwhelming extent of the community's current opposition to new housing developments on greenfield sites as well as on anything greater than a small scale. There were 342 responses (not mutually exclusive) of which a substantial proportion oppose any additional dwellings (27%). A negligible 1% consider large estates (over 30 dwellings) to be appropriate. 55% favour housing developments of less than 10 dwellings and 50% individual houses; with only 15% medium estates (10-30 dwellings). As to the siting of any new development in Ninfield during the next 15 years, the 336 responses (not mutually exclusive) state 58% on brownfield sites; 54% only within the development boundary; 21% by conversion of farm buildings; 13% by increasing the density of existing built areas; and a negligible 1.5% on greenfield sites. As to concerns about further development in Ninfield Parish, of the 349 responses, 90% cite loss of countryside; 89% increased traffic; 84% loss of village identity; 82% impact on GP surgery; 72% loss of farmland; 69% impact on views; 69% parking problems; 68% pedestrian safety; 66% lack of school places; and 61% clash with existing character. Only 2% are not concerned.

Similarly, responses to the Survey indicate a marked preference for traditionally styled housing, together with a high level of satisfaction with the existing traditional rural character of Ninfield. 70% would prefer traditional design, with 60% stating a preference for sustainable (eco) homes.

## **Policy N11 – Housing Mix and Space Standards**

**On all developments of 10 dwellings or more, a mix of dwelling sizes shall be provided subject to the following requirements:-**

**Affordable rented dwellings - at least 70% shall have 1 or 2 bedrooms;**

**Affordable home ownership dwellings - at least 60% shall have 1 or 2 bedrooms;**

**Private market housing - a maximum of 25% shall have 4 or more bedrooms.**

**The inclusion of elderly and disability-adapted bungalows will be supported.**

**All new residential development should meet the Government's nationally described space standards.**

**Justification:** From the Ninfield NDP questionnaire responses, which are not mutually exclusive, there was a high level of support for starter homes (44% of the 333 respondents) and smaller homes of 1-2 bedrooms (40%) but not for flats (5%). Family homes (38%) and elderly adapted homes (31%) were also well-supported. There was a significant but lower level of support for disability-adapted homes (19%), homes for rent (18%), residential care (12%) and shared ownership (11%). As stated under Affordable Housing above, regarding

household members being unable to find a dwelling in Ninfield, the large size and high cost of available housing was cited as the main reason. In respect of housing types, 34% of 336 respondents supported bungalows, 32% detached houses (only 4% large executive) and 31% semi-detached but only 10% supported terraced.

## **Policy N12 – Communications**

**Proposals for the development of broadband and mobile communications infrastructure will be supported provided their design and placement pays sufficient regard to their surroundings in respect of environmental and landscape sensitivity, scale, form and colour, that their placement minimises disturbance to road surfaces and that any remedial work complies with approved standards. Wherever possible, existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used and equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.**

**Justification:** The Ninfield NDP Survey 2021 shows that 89% of respondents said the reliable and fast broadband was important to them. 40% of respondents said they experienced problems with mobile phone signal.

## **Policy N13 – Local Employment**

**Within Ninfield village development area, the retention of existing business/ commercial land and premises (in Use Classes B2, B8, E and in ‘Sui Generis’ uses as fuel stations or public houses and drinking establishments with expanded food provision) will be supported. Proposals for extensions and alterations or for redevelopment for employment-related purposes in the above Use Classes or the above sui generis uses will be supported if they result in environmental improvement and comply with the other policies of this Neighbourhood Plan.**

**Outside Ninfield village development area, proposals for expansion, intensification or redevelopment for employment-generating uses within existing business sites will be supported if there would be:**

- (1) no adverse effect on the rural environment including biodiversity and landscape (with particular regard to the protection of the Key Views shown on the Policies Map and contained in Appendix E:**
- (2) no detrimental effect on any dwellings in the locality;**
- (3) no detraction from highway safety or the environment by reason of the quantity or type of traffic generated; and**
- (4) compliance with the other policies of this Neighbourhood Plan.**

**The loss of land and buildings in employment use will be not be supported unless:-**

- (5) ‘permitted development’ rights apply; or**
- (6) evidence exists to show that there is no market demand for the current use or an alternative employment use.**

**Acceptable evidence would be a marketing campaign for a minimum of 18 months, clearly identifying a lack of demand for business/ commercial activity based on marketing via relevant trade organisations offering the property for sale or rental at a realistic valuation with no reasonable offers rejected. If the submitted evidence is**



**considered by the LPA to require review by an independent consultant, the applicant will be required to cover the cost as part of the planning application process.**

**Justification:** The results of the Ninfield NDP survey show that over 54% of residents work within a 5-mile radius (36% do not travel to work). 17% are travelling over 20 miles to get to work. Most people travelling to work used their car (67%). The Ninfield NDP Survey sought views on business/employment related topics but the responses are fairly mixed. 13% of the 339 respondents run a business whereas 87% did not. In response to whether new businesses should be encouraged in Ninfield Parish 42% replied 'yes', 20% 'no' and 38% did not mind.

In response to the question are there any non-residential sites in the Parish that you want to see protected from development, 86% responded the GP surgery, 78% the Pub, 57% the Working Men's Club, 48% the Garage, 26% the Car wash and 17% other. However, as stated earlier, 58% supported new residential development being located on brownfield sites which would most likely be existing business sites. We asked how the NP could help the operation of local businesses and the results show that there was a need for business premises, better broadband and phone signal as well as business promotion and support.

## **Policy N14 Sustainable Rural Enterprise**

**Sustainable rural enterprise including farm diversification will be encouraged in order to generate local employment opportunities and economic, social and environmental benefits for the local community. Outside of the development boundary, development which maintains or improves the rural character, whilst sustaining its varied and productive social and economic activity will be supported provided it:-**

- a) **Contributes to diverse and sustainable farming enterprises or, in the case of other countryside-based enterprises, contributes to the wider rural economy or promotes recreation in the countryside, and is contained within suitably located buildings which are appropriate for conversion. In exceptional cases, new buildings or other development in the rural area may be acceptable if it is small scale and in keeping with the rural character including biodiversity and landscape (with special attention to the protection of the Key Views contained in policy N5), and supports sustainable economic growth towards balanced living and working communities;**
- b) **Does not prejudice the agricultural use of a unit if the proposal relates to diversification of activities on an existing farm;**
- c) **Includes adequate provision of vehicle parking within the immediate surrounds of the buildings, or an alternative, logical solution is proposed; and**
- d) **Does not generate traffic of a type or amount inappropriate for the rural roads affected by the proposal, or require improvements or alterations to these roads which would be detrimental to their character.**

**Development which results in the loss of a sustainable rural enterprise, insofar as subject to planning control, will be not be supported unless evidence exists to show that there is no market demand for the current use or an alternative employment use. Acceptable evidence would be a marketing campaign for a minimum of 18 months, clearly identifying a lack of demand for business/ commercial activity based on marketing via relevant trade organisations offering the property for sale or rental at a realistic valuation with no reasonable offers rejected. If the submitted evidence is considered by the LPA to require review by an independent consultant, the applicant**

**will be required to cover the cost as part of the planning application process. Proposals should not result in the loss of facilities or features which may undermine the viability of the remaining agricultural or other rural enterprise.**

**Justification:**

The Ninfield NDP Survey sought views on business/employment related topics but the responses are fairly mixed. 13% of the 339 respondents run a business whereas 87% did not. In response to whether new businesses should be encouraged in Ninfield Parish 42% replied 'yes', 20% 'no' and 38% did not mind.

In response to the question "do you wish there to be policies that control development of agricultural land?", around 74% were in favour of the conversion of agricultural buildings for residential use. However, 59% were in favour of more diversification (e.g. stables, livery, tourism and leisure). 53% were in favour of farm buildings being used for small businesses, while 50% said they would like to see diversification to include specialised agricultural uses e.g. market gardening.

## **Policy N15 – Infrastructure**

**The provision of new and improved infrastructure to serve Ninfield is supported in principle provided that it accords with the other policies of this Neighbourhood Plan and the associated Design Guide and is sited and designed in a manner sensitive to its surroundings.**

**New development should demonstrate that there is sufficient capacity in the local infrastructure and community facilities to meet the need generated by the proposed development. If there is insufficient capacity to serve it, the development shall be required to include the appropriate provision or upgrading of the infrastructure to serve it (or the necessary financial contribution secured by a section 106 obligation).**

**Infrastructure projects identified are as follows:**

- **Modernisation of the childrens play area on the Recreation Ground**
- **Publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points**
- **Enhanced Broadband provision**
- **Community Hub**
- **Traffic management/speed reduction**

**See Appendix D.**

**Justification:** With regard to the Ninfield NDP survey, there were 341 responses in respect of utilities. 99% had mains electricity with 4% experiencing a problem. 98% had mains water supply with 3% reporting a problem. 87% had main sewer connection with 4% reporting a problem. Only 6% had mains gas (19% problems) whereas 55% had oil-fired boilers (1% problems) and 21% used bottled/tanked gas (19% problems).

Our water supply is also vulnerable, we are reliant on 2 relatively small reservoirs that are filled by pumping water up the hill from Hazards Green by means of diesel fuelled pumps. Developments should also maximise rain water harvesting measures and consider grey water recycling to avoid the waste of potable water. 78% of residents supported better rainwater harvesting in a domestic setting.

## **Policy N16- Community Facilities**

The following community facilities including their curtilage (as identified on the Policies Maps) shall be protected from change of use to other purposes (insofar as subject to planning control) because they fulfil the essential needs of the community of Ninfield:-

- The Recreation Ground including Skate Park and Multi-user Games Areas, sports pitches, Bowls Club and play area.
- Pavilion
- Methodist Church & Hall
- Reading Room
- St Mary's Church
- Primary School
- The Allotments
- Village Shop/Post Office
- Blacksmiths Inn
- GP Surgery
- Memorial Hall
- Working Men's Club
- Headstart School
- Hope Cottage Farm Shop

Development proposals which would result in the loss of any of these existing community facilities and land will only be permitted if:

- a) Evidence exists to show that the existing use has become unviable. In the case of the shop and public house evidence would need to show that there is no market demand for the current use and acceptable evidence would be a marketing campaign for a minimum of 18 months, clearly identifying a lack of demand for the use based on marketing via relevant trade organisations offering the property for sale or rental at a realistic valuation with no reasonable offers rejected. If the submitted evidence is considered by the LPA to require review by an independent consultant, the applicant will be required to cover the cost as part of the planning application process; or
- b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable and accessible location; or
- c) The development is for alternative community provision, the need for which can be clearly demonstrated to outweigh the loss.

Proposals for the enhancement or extension of the above facilities will be supported provided they comply with other relevant policies of the Ninfield Neighbourhood Development Plan, particularly if they are able to contribute directly to one or more of the following community priorities:

- providing multi-purpose rooms to support a range of community users such as groups and organisations, young people (including teenagers) and the older population;
- Encouraging the enjoyment of health, education, recreation, sport and hospitality and expanding the range of retail provision to meet local needs;

- providing the community with a hub/meeting place within easy reach for all residents (including young people, older residents, clubs and societies) for informal socialising and refreshment and for indoor recreational activities;
- providing the community with outdoor recreational space and nature/biodiversity opportunities.

**Justification:** The parish wide survey showed that residents wanted to see additional community facilities including a community hub/café space to be used by a wide range of age groups (in particular young people). Specialist shops and a wide range of other interests and activities were also mentioned.

The survey showed that residents wanted to see additional green infrastructure including nature reserves/wildlife habitats, more land made available for farming and grazing, open spaces for leisure and recreation, allotments, footpaths and play areas. Other ideas put forward included a business hub.

## **Policy N17 - Safer and More Sustainable Travel**

**Development proposals should aim to promote sustainable travel (including for recreational purposes) by increasing the attractiveness of walking, cycling and use of public transport. As appropriate to the scale and type of development proposed:-**

1. It should provide safe public footpath (and, where appropriate, cycle) connections to existing public routes linking to bus stops, community facilities, local green spaces and surrounding countryside;
2. where no such public routes exist or are deficient, the proposals should include the provision or necessary improvement of such routes as part of the development proposals;
3. in addition to being safe, routes should be accessible for people with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters) and for parents with children in pushchairs;
4. Wherever possible, the existing network of public footpaths in the Parish (including the countryside) shall be expanded to provide better linkages between existing public footpaths and to secure new public footpaths in areas where they are currently lacking or limited in extent. This shall be secured by legal agreement where appropriate as part of development proposals.

**Public footpaths should be of appropriate width and use surfaces suitable for the local environment: a tarmac surface in well-used routes; a well-drained surface overlaid with bark for more rural settings and no surfacing for paths across grassy spaces, subject to necessary consultation with the ESCC as the local highway authority.**

**Justification:** The NDP Survey 2021 asked what changes would make it easier to get to work, of the 254 respondents, 28% state improved pavements/footpaths; 23% more frequent buses; 19% dedicated cycle paths; 16% better network of paths; 9% more bus destinations; and 6% Express buses.

The Ninfield NDP Survey 2021 shows the present, extremely high degree of car dependence in the daily lives of Ninfield residents. For shopping and entertainment 99% of respondents use a car; 92% for sport and leisure; 70% for college; 67% for work (another 19% work from home); 51% for secondary school and 46% for primary school.

Buses are mainly used by students to travel to secondary school (49% of respondents) and college (30%) whereas for most other purposes only 6% of respondents use buses except for travel to work when it is only 2%. Walking is significant for primary school (50%), for leisure and sport (29%) and local shop (15%). Cycling is negligible except for sport and leisure purposes (5%).

In terms of distance travelled for Work, of the 204 responses, 36% under 1 mile; 18% 1-5 miles; 31% 6-20 miles; and 17% over 20 miles.

For Shopping, of 310 responses, 5% under 1 mile; 58% 1-5 miles; 50% 6-20 miles; and 5% over 20 miles.

For Leisure, of 258 responses, 14% under 1 mile; 42% 1-5 miles; 53% 6-20 miles; 14% over 20 miles.

For Sport, of 186 responses, 31% under 1 mile; 42% 1-5 miles; 30% 6-20 miles; and 9% over 20 miles.

For Entertainment, of 223 responses, 14% less than 1 mile; 30% 1-5 miles; 60% 6-20 miles; 22% over 20 miles.

Aside from traffic calming measures, 52% of respondents in the survey said that more pavements or improved pathways would improve road safety. People also mentioned the need for cycle paths (32%) as there are none in the parish at present.

## **Policy N18 - Parking**

**New development should provide adequate parking for vehicles, motorcycles and cycles to meet the standards adopted by East Sussex County Council as contained in the following guidance (or replacements thereof):**

**ESCC 'Guidance for Parking at New Residential Developments' 2017**

**ESCC 'Guidance for Parking at Non-residential Development'**

**Development that includes a reliance on parking on existing streets will not be supported if it results in a material adverse impact on the safety of road users including cyclists and pedestrians.**

**Justification:** In the Ninfield NDP Survey 2021, 16% of the 342 respondents replied that car parking was a problem for them whereas 84% said that it was not. There appears to be scope to increase walking or cycling to destinations within the village as, for example, 46% of the 52 respondents in the NDP Survey said they currently used a car to take their children to primary school.

Abbreviations used:

NDP – Neighbourhood Development Plan  
AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
ESCC – East Sussex County Council  
LPA – Local Planning Authority (Wealden)