

Wealden issues

ENVIRONMENT

A clean and healthy environment was top of the list of priorities in making somewhere a good place to live and most residents were happy with this aspect of life in Wealden.²³ Concern about the environment recognised the need to protect what is already here, but action for improvement is also an important factor. The beauty and tranquillity of the area is what people said they valued most about living in Wealden. The importance of protecting the environment was equally important to all age groups.

Priorities

- Recognise and adapt to climate change and its impact on Wealden, including management of CO2 emissions, the demand for water and the provision of adequate water resources, including new resources where there is environmental capacity
- Support flood risk assessments and appropriate plans to reduce flood risk and make space for water; and providing of a network of green spaces to buffer the effects of climate change on wildlife
- Strive for the provision of adequate environmental infrastructure to be in place before more houses are built
- Encourage sustainable design through the introduction of a Supplementary Planning Document which includes energy efficiency, greater use of renewables and sustainable transport
- Protect, maintain and enhance both rural and urban environments
- Encourage support for farmers, other landowners and managers who maintain the landscape and contribute to the quality and visual attractiveness of rural environments
- Encourage the sale of local food and non-food products including bio-diesel

- Support efforts to ensure that proposed new development takes account of the appearance and unique character of the area
- Encourage improved facilities for pedestrians and adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space, to include facilities for children's recreation in safe, central locations with minimal nuisance to neighbours, a safe and comprehensive network of footpaths, bridleways, and rationalised signage and street furniture
- Maintain and improve public open space for people and wildlife, to include the general tidiness, maintenance of verges, removal of litter, tree planting and maintenance of existing trees and planting schemes
- Strengthen policies for dealing with waste and encourage waste reduction and more recycling by providing additional opportunities, and their inclusion as standard in new developments
- Address the issues of litter, fly-tipping, abandoned cars, dog litter and graffiti

²³ Wealden LSP (2002) Wealden Community Planning Consultation Report of Findings