

Handforth Neighbourhood Plan: A Brief Summary

The Handforth Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) took 18 months to compose and is necessarily long and complicated. However, the text below describes some constraints imposed on the HNP and some possible consequences should the Plan be adopted by CEC. A brief summary of the major policies within the HNP is also provided.

1. A neighbourhood Plan cannot oppose strategic developments that form part of the CEC Local Plan. Hence HNP cannot oppose the housing development proposed between Sagars Road and Clay Lane, nor can it oppose the North Cheshire Growth Village to the east of the A34.
2. HNP does not allocate any of the (greenbelt) sites on the northern borders of the parish (e.g. fields north of Clay Lane, field adjacent to the Belfry Hotel, fields adjacent to Beech Farm) nor the Knowle House site for development. It is highly likely, therefore, that these sites will be preserved from development until 2030.
3. HNP Policy H1 allows the provision of some new housing within the existing built-up area but imposes a number of conditions.
4. HNP Policy H2 specifies the types of housing (e.g. affordable homes, starter homes, homes for the elderly) that must be provided as part of new developments.
5. HNP Policy H3 seeks to protect Handforth's ten existing Local Green Spaces (e.g. parks, school playing fields etc) and to create an extra Local Green Space
6. HNP Policy H4 seeks to protect Handforth's nine Incidental Open Spaces (e.g. the Paddock Square, St Chad's churchyard, the Grounds of Redesmere)
7. HNP Policy H5 seeks to protect and supplement Handforth's thirteen Community Facilities (e.g. the Health Centre, our primary schools, Honford Hall etc)
8. HNP Policy H5a seeks to protect our public houses from change of use.
9. HNP Policy H6 seeks to ensure the provision, for Handforth children, of adequate nursery, primary school and secondary school places - be they located in Handforth or Wilmslow.
10. HNP Policy H7 seeks to protect and improve health care facilities within the parish.

11. HNP Policies H8 and H9 identify, and seek to protect, the parish's twelve areas of grass verge, hedgerows or woodland.
12. HNP Policy H10 seeks to protect Handforth's Non-Designated Heritage Assets (e.g. St Chad's Church, the cottages at 23-26 Church Road). HNP also seeks to add St Mary's Church to the CEC list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets.

Handforth has 6 grade II listed buildings (e.g. Handforth hall, The Grange) and their grade II listing affords them protection.
13. HNP Policy H11 encourages high quality design within new developments.
14. HNP Policy H12 deals with surface water management - an issue of importance to, for example, Meriton Road Park and houses nearby.
15. HNP Policy H13 is designed to support the local economy by encouraging new small scale employment opportunities.
16. HNP Policies H14 and H15 deal with improvements to Handforth district centre (i.e. the Paddock and the shops that line Wilmslow Road).
17. HNP Policy H16 supports ways and means to reduce local traffic congestion and to increase highway safety
18. HNP Policy H17 aims to improve car parking in the village centre and supports the construction of a station car park in the field adjacent to the Youth Centre.
19. HNP Policy H18 seeks to promote sustainable transport (e.g. cycleways) and supports the provision of new bus routes and "park and ride" systems.
20. HNP Policy H19 seeks to improve Handforth residents' access to the countryside
21. HNP Policy H20 supports investment in infrastructure within the village centre and lists 15 projects (e.g. provision of step-free access to the station, health centre extension, station car park) deemed worthy of support.

Summary prepared by Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
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