**EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE SEPTEMBER 24 2018**

There have been two main objectives for the Steering Group of the Neighbourhood Plan during the last three months.

The main area of interest has been the publication of the Wealden Draft Local Plan and its implications for the Parish and the Neighbourhood Plan. Overall the Steering Group welcomed the Draft Local Plan and is supportive of Wealden’s change of approach with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.

As might be expected there were several matters requiring clarification and therefore the Steering Group has written to the Head of Planning Policy and has also submitted queries and comments through the Planning Portals.

The Steering Group has also arranged a meeting with Officers at Wealden District Council to discuss matters arising from the Draft Local Plan on October 9th. A report on this meeting will follow.

The Steering Group agreed to appoint Richard Eastham of Feria as our consultant once more and Feria will lead the Neighbourhood Plan forward to its first draft and public consultation. The Parish Council has agreed to financially support this next stage in the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was realised that the Chair of the Steering Group carried a workload which was difficult to sustain and therefore there has been some reorganisation of the Steering Group to share some of the duties previously carried by the Chair. One of the innovations is the formation of discussion groups where individual members of the Steering Group will contact residents and discuss with them objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan. This will give residents input into the Neighbourhood Plan as it proceeds to completion.

Following the resignation of the Chair, Diane Knill, who is leaving the Parish, Councillor Chris Magness has taken on the role and will be bringing fresh ideas and incentives to the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan.