

HONEYBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 25th August 2026

Time: 6:45pm

Venue: Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, Honeybourne WR11 7RH (hybrid meeting)

Present:

Cllr Heath Jobes (Chair – Steering Group and Parish Council), Cllr J Mellor, Mrs W Pickler, Mr M Clark, Mr I Mellor, Mr S Nimmo (in person at the Village Hall)

Cllr S Walsh (remote)

In attendance:

Mr Nick Pellegram (Andrea Pellegram Ltd – Planning Consultant) (remote)

Mrs Linda Stanton (Clerk) (remote)

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Mrs M Bent, Mr T Askew and Cllr S Sidwell. Apologies were accepted by the Steering Group.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed those present and apologies were noted as above.

2. Declarations of Interest

- I. Mr Martin Clark declared a personal interest in item 3 (approval of the minutes of 16th July 2026), on the basis that those minutes record his declarable pecuniary interest in Site 12 (Manor Farm/The Green).
- II. Cllr J Mellor and Mr I Mellor declared a personal interest, residing on the Fair Acres estate with their home bordering Site 8. (approval of the minutes of 16th July 2026)

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (16th July 2026)

Resolved: The minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 16th July 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Vision and Objectives

Mr Pellegram noted that, as there had not been time to circulate his full topic paper (ED2) on the Vision and Objectives in advance of the meeting, he would present it directly by sharing his screen, in addition to the extract from the adopted 2020 Neighbourhood Plan circulated with the agenda (Appendix 1). He talked through proposed amendments to the vision and to each of the six objectives, referencing relevant 2026 NPPF policies.

Length of the objectives

Members raised a concern that some of the objectives were too long and risked not being read by residents. Mr Pellegram noted that the plan serves both a technical/statutory audience and the parish's own working planning roadmap. It was agreed that the objectives would be retained as

drafted, in Mr Pellegram's professional judgement, and that a plain-English summary would instead be produced separately for residents ahead of the in-person consultation at the Village Hall.

Plan period

Members queried why the vision referred to a fixed end date of 2049. Mr Pellegram explained that this reflected the emerging South Worcestershire Local Plan, which Wychavon District Council has confirmed will cover the period 2029–2049. However, the new NPPF (published 17th August 2026) now sets a minimum plan period of 10 years from adoption under policy PM2, down from the previous 15 years, meaning the SWLP's eventual adopted period cannot be assumed to remain 2029–2049. To avoid tying the Neighbourhood Plan's vision to a fixed year that may not ultimately align with the adopted Local Plan period, it was agreed to amend "By 2049" to "By the end of the plan period" throughout the vision and objectives.

What the previous Plan achieved

There was discussion as to whether the plan should reference what the previous (2020) Neighbourhood Plan had achieved, to build positivity about the review. The Chair, Cllr Jobes, noted by way of example that a policy in the adopted 2020 Plan relating to bungalows had been influential in the recent Bretforton Road reserved matters application. It was agreed that this would not be included within the plan document itself, but would instead form part of a separate communications piece timed to coincide with the opening of Regulation 14 consultation.

Rural character and gateways

Cllr Walsh raised a concern that the vision's description of Honeybourne as a "rural village" should also reflect the character of its approaches and gateways into the village, citing the solar farm at the Honeybourne Road gateway (the approach from Bidford-on-Avon). The Clerk noted at the meeting that the wording could be looked at further outside the meeting.

Other agreed amendments

- Retain the description of Honeybourne as a rural village.
- Amend the infrastructure sentence in the vision to "provide improvements" rather than "provide or improve".
- Keep infrastructure references general in the vision/objectives, with specific concerns (e.g. flooding) to be addressed through policies.
- Replace Objective 1 with a new housing needs and location objective.
- Consolidate design and heritage matters under Objective 2.
- Refocus Objective 3 on nature recovery, to be checked by Mr Pellegram against the Parish Council's Biodiversity Policy.
- Add "attractiveness" to Objective 4's treatment of walking and cycling connections.
- Retain "people of all ages"; no addition regarding "all abilities" was agreed.
- Retain employment and the economy within Objective 5.
- Retain Objective 6, with climate change to run as a golden thread through the policies.

Resolved: Subject to the amendments above, Mr Pellegram to finalise the Vision and Objectives (ED2) and circulate this to members of the Steering Group. The amended Vision and Objectives to be recommended to Full Council for approval.

5. New National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Mr Pellegram gave a brief headline update on the new NPPF, published on 17th August 2026, noting that he was still working through the document in detail given its substantial length. A full review would follow at the October meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next Steering Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th October 2026, to consider the sites received through the Call for Sites.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

ACTIONS

- Mr Pellegram to update ED2 (Vision and Objectives) to reflect the amendments agreed at the meeting and in subsequent correspondence, and provide the final version to the Clerk to circulate to members of the Steering Group.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

(Chair)

Members of the Steering Group:

Cllrs H Jobes (Chair), J Mellor, S Walsh, S Sidwell, Mr T Askew, Mr M Clark, Mr I Mellor, Mrs M Bent, Mrs W Pickler, Mr S Nimmo

ED2: Vision and Objectives

Honeybourne Neighbourhood Plan

Version 1: For Parish Council comment

August 2026



Andrea Pellegram Ltd.

Prepared by
Nick Pellegram MRTPI
On behalf of
Honeybourne Parish Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is prepared on behalf of Honeybourne Parish Council (HPC) to support its review of the Honeybourne Neighbourhood Plan (HNP), adopted in 2020.
- 1.2 Following engagement with the local community (EDX) and a baseline assessment of the neighbourhood area (ED1), this document is prepared to explain how the vision and objectives have been updated for the draft HNP.

Legal requirements

- 1.3 Neighbourhood plans are legally required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development is defined in paragraph 17 of the NPPF, and can be split into social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
- 1.4 Neighbourhood plans are legally required to consider how it can be designed to support the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, in accordance with Policy CC1 of the NPPF, and support implementation of the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in accordance with Policy N1 of the NPPF.

Vision

- 1.5 Existing vision in the made HNP (adopted 2020):

Honeybourne's rural setting and natural environment should be maintained and where possible enhanced with improved access for the community's enjoyment and appreciation of these assets.

New development will be sensitively integrated into the existing settlement and contribute positively to its immediate surroundings without detriment to the existing facilities, services and infrastructure in the parish.

Honeybourne will be a safe and welcoming place for everyone with excellent connections to village facilities and further afield, whether by foot, bicycle, rail, bus and road, making it an accessible and sustainable place to live, work and visit.

1.6 Overall, the existing vision is considered an accurate representation of the findings of EDX and ED1. However, with regard to the guidance noted in paragraphs 1.3-1.8 above, and the findings of EDX and ED1, it could be improved/updated in a number of ways:

- To state when the vision will be achieved by (i.e. the end of the plan period)
- It does not mention a few aims in the existing plan, such as development in the right places, deliver needed housing types, or the economy.
- It could reference “connecting”, as well as “protecting” and “enhancing” the natural environment, in line with the new Local Nature Recovery agenda.
- It could add locally specific environmental aims such as native tree species or traditional orchards, or the better integration of nature within development.
- It could address the challenge of climate change and identify ways that this will be achieved, including through nature recovery.
- Walking safety could be a more prominent concern as highlighted by ED1.

1.7 The steering group also discussed the vision and provided the following comments:

- Change “By 2049” to “By the end of the plan period”.
- Retain the description of Honeybourne as a rural village.
- Amend the infrastructure sentence in the second vision paragraph to ‘provide improvements’, rather than ‘provide or improve’.
- Retain “people of all ages” in the third paragraph.

1.8 Proposed changes to the draft HNP vision (for parish council comment):

By the end of the plan period, Honeybourne's will be a safe, welcoming and thriving rural village, valued for its distinctive character and landscape setting. Its principal approaches and gateways will reflect and reinforce this rural character. and Its natural environment will ~~should be maintained and where possible~~ protected, enhanced and better connected, with improved access for the community's enjoyment and appreciation of these assets, and delivered in a way that is sensitive to native species.

New development will be in the most appropriate locations and sensitively integrated into the existing settlement and ~~contribute positively to its immediate~~ surroundings. Any provision will meet identified local needs and provide necessary improvements to ~~without detriment to the~~ facilities, services and infrastructure in the parish. Nature and climate resilience will be integrated into the design of new development.

~~Honeybourne will be a safe and welcoming place for everyone with~~ People of all ages will be able to move safely and conveniently around the village and excellent connections to village facilities and further afield, whether by foot, bicycle, rail, bus and road, making it an accessible and sustainable place to live, work and visit.

Objectives

Existing Objective	Agreed updates
1. To protect and enhance the built environment through well designed buildings which reflect local architecture and building traditions whilst being tailored to the needs and context of their location within the Honeybourne parish.	Objective 1 and 2 are treated as a single objective in the above diagram. They both focus on design, and do not mention housing that meets local needs. This suggests that objective 1 and 2 should be merged and a new objective could be added to cover the objective to allocate housing and require developments to meet local needs supported by the necessary infrastructure.
2. To conserve and enhance heritage assets and improve features which contribute to the local character and distinctiveness of the area.	See above comment. Retain the proposed focus on the historic environment, distinctive architecture, local materials, building forms and traditions.
3. To protect and enhance the local natural environment for the benefit of future generations including green and open spaces, wildlife corridor's and public footpaths and bridleways.	Refocus the objective to reflect Local Nature Recovery, ecological connectivity, and embedding nature into the design of new developments. Move footpaths into objective 4 and open spaces into objective 5.
4. To maintain and enhance connectivity throughout the parish and further afield on foot, bicycle, train and bus to reduce the reliance on the motorcar and reduce congestion.	Could add reference to safety and convenience which is a highlighted concern from engagement. The Steering Group also suggested adding "attractive" to the qualities sought for connections.
5. To encourage and enhance a strong sense of community by maintaining, supporting and improving existing community and social facilities for a range of age groups.	Employment is not referenced in the existing objectives and it was agreed that it should be included here.
Suggested new objective: Climate resilience	Agreed to introduce this objective as a 'golden thread' running through the plan's objectives/policies.

1.9 Suggested re-wording of objectives:

Objective
1. To meet identified housing needs, by directing development to the most appropriate locations, delivering the right mix of housing, and being supported by the necessary infrastructure.
2. To conserve and enhance Honeybourne's historic environment, distinctive local architecture, and rural landscape character, including at its principal approaches and gateways into the village, by securing well-designed development that responds positively to its context, including reflects local materials, forms and building traditions.
3. To protect, enhance and connect Honeybourne's natural environment, supporting the implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and integrating nature recovery into new development, with particular emphasis on native species and traditional orchards.
4. To maintain and improve safe, attractive, and convenient connections within the parish and further afield, prioritising walking, cycling, rail and bus travel and reducing congestion and the reliance on the private motorcar.
5. To protect valued community facilities and local services, and support new or improved facilities, services and employment opportunities where it would meet identified needs, to help strengthen the local economy and foster a strong sense of community.
6. To ensure that all development contributes to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and adapting to climate change, as appropriate.