

Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HNP)
Meeting of the Steering Group
 7.00pm Monday 2nd February 2026 Harberton Parish Hall

Steering Group Members Present: Jono Stirrup, Francesca Smith, Cat Radford (Clerk/Minutes Secretary), Anne Watson
Working Group Members Present: None
Apologies: Guy Soulsby

Public Session No public present

Agenda

1. **Apologies** Received as above
2. **Steering Group Membership** No resignations from the committee or new members.
3. **Declaration of Interests**
 - 3.1. Register of Interests: Steering Group members were reminded of the need to update their register of interests if they have changed.
 - 3.2. To declare any interests No interests were declared on items on the agenda.
4. **Minutes** *Consider approval of the following minutes:*
Minutes of the meeting of the Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 5th January 2026 Were approved as an accurate record.
5. **Update on actions from the previous meeting**

Ref	Action	Update
1	JS cover email from CR to get drafted by JP to go with Reg 14 plan copy for SHDC and adjust to include question about non designated heritage sites.	COMPLETED JS compiled cover email, as CR had not received a draft from JP.
2	Plan to be sent out to stat cons by JS on 12 th Jan 26 asking to respond to Gmail address within 6 weeks. Questionnaire will be made available to parishioners also on 12 th Jan 26 via PC website.	COMPLETED Noting some emails bounced back. These email addresses have been checked with the LPA and updates provided.
3	GS to work on amendment to HNP plan including inserting photos and advise team when ready for final review with deadline of 12 th Jan to send out.	COMPLETED
4	JS to ask Cr to update the PC website to indicated the Reg 14 consultation will open on the 12 th Jan 26	COMPLETED
5	The need to have an open day to allow parishioners to ask questions was discussed. It was agreed that HF school would be provisionally booked for 7 th March. A decision on going ahead or not will be made at the next meeting of the HNPSG based on the level of response received.	IN PROCESS Waiting for confirmation of the school on the preferred date. JS will chase.
6	DCC/Devon Rivers Trust will be asked as stat cons to comment the Reg 14 plan with the aim of incorporating details of their survey.	IN PROCESS DCC has received the Reg.14 draft for comment. ACTION: JR/CR to send a copy to the Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) to invite comment.

6. Receive and review the Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Steering Group had received a completed Environmental Report which is complete and ready to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan at Regulation 14 consultation.

The appraisal concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan performs favourably in sustainability terms, identifying 'broadly neutral' or 'minor positive' effects across all SEA themes. Once finalised and approved, the Environmental Report needs to be available on your consultation page for a period of six weeks alongside the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to forward the following queries, comments and amendments to AECOM ahead of finalising the document:

Page	Section	Query/Comment
Throughout	Header	Refers to 'Harberton Neighbourhood Plan' Request amend to 'Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan'.
Title page	Title Page	'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Harberton Neighbourhood Plan' Request amend to 'Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan'.
	Figure 1.1	'Harberton neighbourhood area' Request amend to 'Harberton Parish Neighbourhood area'.
7	Climate Change (including Flood Risk)	Check origin of statement: 'Harbertonford experiences a higher level of surface water flooding'. This is unexpected, can this be checked? Where is this referenced from? There are references to the River Harbourne overtopping, without indicating which of the villages this affects. Request this is clarified with 'the River Harbourne at Harberton/ford' Add to the bullet point that there was a significant flooding event that affected both villages in September 2023. The Devon County Council's Section 19 Flood investigation report can be provided for reference.
13	3.8	References to Land East of Harberton (Site SH_23_17_16) as being rated 'Green'. This is the site that became 'Amber' after the 2025 The SEA is referring to the original grading, this narrative needs changing at this point or updated with commentary to reflect the reassessment from Green to Amber, as otherwise is misleading.
13	Footnote	Noting that past tense should be used here, as, whilst it was true that the CLT had planning permission at the time of both assessments, planning has lapsed. <i>"The Community Land Trust (CLT) site within Harberton village was not included in the assessment, as this site currently has planning permission"</i> Suggest amending to: <i>"The Community Land Trust (CLT) site within Harberton village was not included in the assessment, as this site had planning permission at the time when the assessments were undertaken"</i>
17	Air Quality	Narrative comments that Harberton "Largely relies on coal and woodburning." Noting that residents of Harberton also use tanked fuel: off mains gas (tanks) and oil , and request this is reflected for accuracy
18	Climate Change	Is there a typo here? 'Harberton' mentioned twice, would expect this paragraph to be comparing differences between villages. <i>However, in terms of climate change mitigation, Harberton has limited opportunities to engage with sustainable transportation, whereas sustainable transportation in Harberton is a more viable option given there are more bus services that stop in the settlement</i> Should the second 'Harberton' not say 'Harbertonford'

Members of the HNP pleased with the outcome of the report. In reviewing the document, it was noted that:

- **ACTION: JS** to check that the Reg.14 draft has been sent to Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency as consultees on the SEA scoping document.
- A policy should be drafted to cover comments under 4.52 of the SEA, that stipulates assessment of the soil should be carried out by any potential development to ensure high quality agricultural land is not developed.

ACTION: CR will forward comments to AECOM, copying in AW, and request revision as soon as possible (before the end of the week). It was **RESOLVED** that checking final amendments/signing off

the report would be delegated to AW. **ACTION: AW** to check amendments/sign off report. If approved, **ACTION: CR** will publish on the Parish Council website and **JR** will circulate to the Statutory Consultees.

7. Consideration of actions required to progress Regulation 14 consultation process

- Whilst the Regulation 14 draft has been published on the Parish Council website, and notification circulated through Harbertonford’s Village Life, no responses have been received to date.
- A notice encouraging residents to view the plan and make comments will be circulated through Harberton Village Circular as soon SEA is approved. **ACTION: JS** will provide copy.
- Fliers and posters will be circulated in both villages. **ACTION: JS** will arrange for them to be printed. **HNPSG** will post in relevant places.
- **ACTION: JS** will ensure Historic England have been included in the distribution as a Statutory Consultee.
- As noted under Item 5, the HNPSG is considering an engagement exercise with local residents at the school on 7th March. The event format is still under discussion, as is availability of Steering Group members.

8. Maps

Discussion about publication of maps under licence:

- Existing Public Footpaths in the Parish: It was proposed that rather than replicating the map in the Plan, to include a link to Devon County Council’s definitive map.
- Proposed Footpaths: **ACTION: For CR** to produce two new maps for proposed footpaths in Harberton, using Parish Online
- Local Green Spaces: **ACTION: For CR** to reproduce a Local Green Spaces map, to include the Cricket pitch.
- Parish Map: **ACTION: For CR** to provide the Parish Map with the appropriate licence.
- Parish Views: To use the OS map version under licence, rather than the Google Earth version that is currently published. **ACTION: CR** will forward the JPG to the Steering Group.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Workstream The workstream will be adjusted when the SEA is approved and published.

10. Summary of actions before next meeting

Ref	Action	Owner
1	Check that the Reg.14 draft has been sent to Historic England, as consultees on the SEA scoping document.	JS
2	Forward comments on the SEA to AECOM, copying in AW, and request revision as soon as possible (before the end of the week).	CR
3	Check amendments/sign off SEA report.	AW
4	On notification (from AW) that the SEA has been approved, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR will publish on the Parish Council website • JS will circulate to the Statutory Consultees • JS will send a notice encouraging residents to view the plan and make comments to the Harberton Village Circular • JS will arrange for posters/fliers advertising the reg.14 consultation to be printed • ALL MEMBERS will post fliers/posters in relevant places. 	CR JS ALL
5	MAPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a link to Devon County Council’s definitive map. • to produce two new maps for proposed footpaths in Harberton, using Parish Online • to reproduce a Local Green Spaces map, to include the Cricket pitch. • To provide a map of the Parish Boundary under appropriate licence. • forward the JPG of the Parish Views map that was produced under licence to the Steering Group, to replace the Google Maps version currently inserted. 	CR

11. Confirmation of next meeting date and venue 7pm Monday 2nd March 2026, Harberton Parish Hall.