

Halstead Parish Neighbourhood Priorities Statement

I. Your Details

Information Required	Response
Contact name	Pip Nott
Town or Parish Council	Halstead Parish Council
Main contact address	The Parish Room, Church Road, Halstead, Kent, TN14 7HG
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Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	The NPPS has been informed by Halstead Parish Council's community questionnaire work for the Halstead Parish Priorities Statement, including the consultation draft questionnaires prepared in 2026. The consultation invited one response per person, welcomed younger residents, and asked residents to respond online where possible or by paper copy, delivered to every village household, to be completed and delivered to the Parish Room, Church Road, Halstead. Halstead Parish Council distributed the questionnaire to 750 properties over 320 completed forms were returned to HPC for analysis. The consultation covered development and land management, housing, design, the natural environment, jobs, roads, traffic, infrastructure, public transport, services, recreation, and household information. It was produced jointly between Halstead Parish Council and Halstead Green Belt Future Group. Further evidence has been taken from planning material, including consultation on Broke Hill and wider concerns about Green Belt, countryside encroachment, transport, parking, infrastructure, ecology and landscape impacts.



The vision for the future...

Three key changes villagers would like to see in the Parish over the next 15 years? These changes relate to the priorities set out below.

1. Protect Halstead's rural character, Green Belt setting, historic village pattern, green views, hedgerows, trees and ancient woodland. This should be a continuing priority throughout the 15-year period.
2. Support only limited, small-scale and sensitively designed development where it is needed locally, with priority for affordability, downsizing options and homes that match the character of the village.
3. Improve local infrastructure and community wellbeing, including safer roads, better active travel links and footpaths, improved public spaces such as Southdene Green, protection of community facilities, and improved access to services.

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	• The community preference is for no large-scale expansion of the village. • Any development should be limited, small-scale, and focused on infill or extensions within the existing built form. • With affordable housing and homes for local needs considered only where they do not harm village character. • Green Belt openness, landscape sensitivity, biodiversity or infrastructure capacity.
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	• No specific new development areas are identified as community priorities. • The consultation material points instead to caution about further development, especially where it would extend into open countryside, affect the Green Belt, increase traffic or parking pressure, or reduce green space.
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	Areas to protect include: • Green Belt around Halstead, • Ancient woodland such as woodland shaws and the mature hedgerows and trees, • Communal open spaces, Recreation ground, , Southdene Green, the old Village Green in Church Road, crossroads paddocks, • Important approaches and views into the village, and farmland that contributes to the rural setting.

Information required	Response

Housing Development

Information required	Response
Do you think there is a need for additional housing in the village?	• The overall priorities evidence indicates strong concern about village character, traffic and parking, infrastructure capacity, loss of green space, scale and density. • Any additional housing should therefore be modest, locally justified and carefully located, rather than strategic or speculative growth.
What type of home is needed locally?	Where housing is supported, the consultation identifies: • Bungalows, terraces, and limited semi-detached homes, • Priority should be given to smaller homes, accessible accommodation and affordable homes that allow residents with local links to remain in Halstead, while respecting the village scale and setting.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	Important areas of local character include; • The rural approaches to Halstead, • The Conservation Area, Church Road and village centre, • The recreation ground, Southdene Green, the old Village Green, • Open paddocks and farmland, mature hedgerows and tree-lined lanes, • The relationship between the settlement and surrounding countryside.
Particular features of buildings of local character	• New buildings, extensions and refurbishment should use materials and detailing that respond to local character, including flint, clapboard, red tiles, red brick, and appropriate materials matched to surrounding buildings. • Natural hedging, trees, garden space and retention of Halstead's dark village character with no street lighting

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	Priorities include; • Protecting and connecting ancient woodland, woodland shaws, hedgerows, trees, old orchards, green corridors and public green spaces. • Opportunities should focus on nature recovery, replacing lost hedgerows and trees, improving community green spaces, maintaining wildlife corridors and strengthening links between woodland, farmland, gardens and open spaces.

Jobs

Information Required	Response
Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided	• The consultation identifies interest in the return or protection of valued local services and businesses. • A Post Office, pub, café/tea room and doctor/health-related provision. • Home working is relevant locally, so reliable internet and mobile connectivity should support residents and small businesses.

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i>	Important public spaces include; • The recreation ground, Southdene Green, the old Village Green in Church Road, Village Hall garden/field. • Communal open spaces, footpaths, green verges, woodland edges and green views. • Opportunities include improving seating, litter and dog-waste bins, planting, picnic areas and biodiversity value, while retaining informal rural character.

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy	Infrastructure priorities include; • Managing traffic speeds and parking, avoiding development that worsens existing parking pressure. • Improving safe walking and cycling links, exploring additional Public Rights of Way to connect isolated areas with the village centre, • Maintaining bus access and recognising the importance of the nearby rail station. The consultation also highlights the need to consider; • Electricity, water/sewerage, internet and mobile phone access, community buildings, waste services • Recreation and sporting interests • The capacity of local health, education and transport services before any further growth is supported.

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT Any personal data provided, will not be shared with Sevenoaks District Council. Any personal information provided (names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other contact details) will not be made public in accordance with the data Protection Act 2018.

All information held by Halstead Parish Council may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. If any information included is sensitive and you would like to have the opportunity to object to its release in the event of a Freedom of Information request, please contact us.

DISCLAIMER

We cannot guarantee the delivery of specific community aspirations in our Halstead Neighbourhood Priority Statement will be fully taken onboard and implemented by Local or National Government.

HPC Chair	
Print Name	Jean Peel
Signature	<i>Jean M Peel</i>

HPC Clerk	
Print Name	Pip Nott
Signature	<i>Pip Nott</i>

Date 14 September 2026

To be reviewed in 2029