



Annual Village Meeting

28 April 2008

This is the Annual Parish meeting for Ashurst Wood 2008



Annual Village Meeting 2008



Agenda

- Introduction & welcome
- Parish Council facilities
- Village Action Plan update
- Mid-Sussex Core Strategy
- Conservation Group report
- Summer Fair 2009
- Question & answers
- Refreshments and socialising

Don Sinclair

(Chairman Parish Council)

Susan Wellerd

(Clerk to Parish Council)

Brian Phillips

(Chairman Village Plan)
(Parish Councillor)

Jenny Forbes

(Vice Ch. Parish Council)

Tanya Hayman

Keith Stacey

All



Introductions



The new Parish Council - elected May 2007

- **Chairman** **Don Sinclair**
- **Vice-chair** **Jenny Forbes**
- **Councillors**
 - Ian Arnott**
 - Michael Box**
 - Paul Bridgland**
 - Alan Del Mar**
 - Malcolm Elliott**
 - Brian Phillips**
 - Jonathan Samways**

- **Clerk to Parish Council**
 - Susan Wellerd**



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Parish Council Facilities



- **Ashurst Wood Map**

- Produced with assistance of West Sussex County Council
 - Shows: roads, houses, Areas of Special Scientific Interest, village boundaries, strategic gap, built up area etc.
 - Available for inspection in Parish Office

- **Ashurst Wood E-mail addresses**

- Specific addresses for Ashurst Wood Parish Council
 - clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
 - news@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

- **Village Centre screen**

- In use now!
- Available for hire for events



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Plan process reminder



**Initial Guidance
and advice**

Autumn 2005 to Spring 2006

**Community
Consultation**

Summer 2006

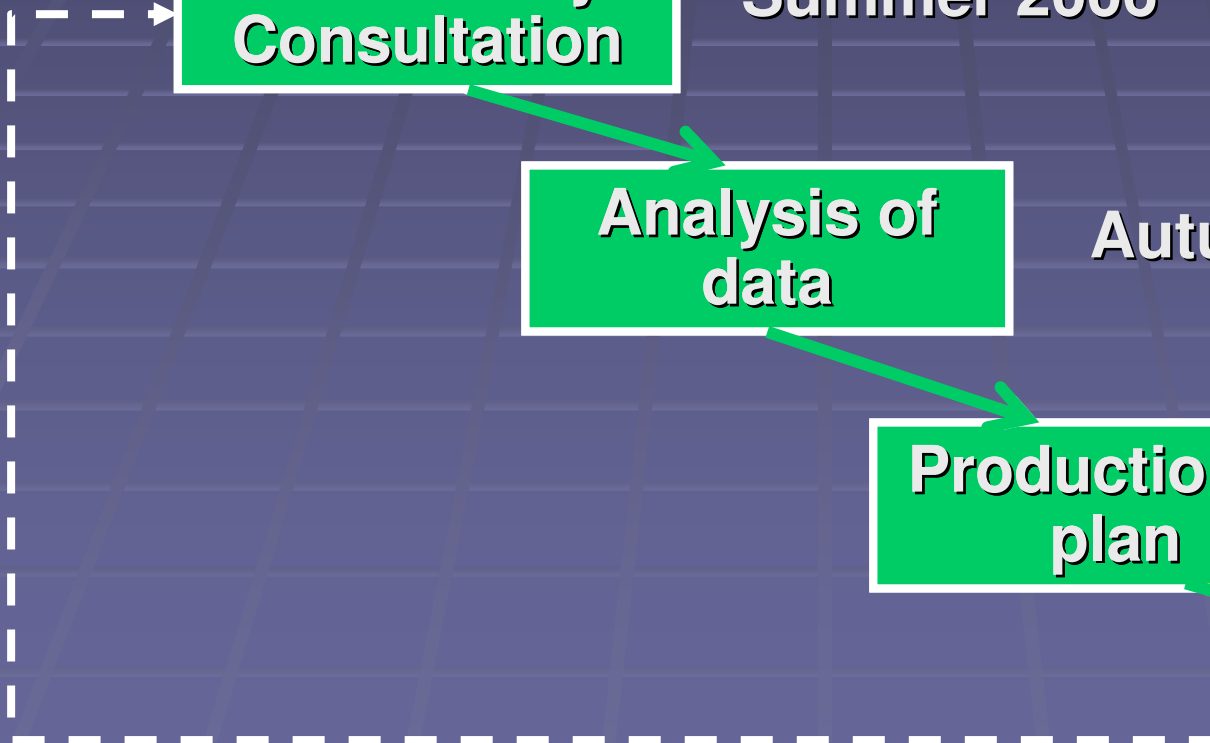
**Analysis of
data**

Autumn - Winter 2006

**Production of
plan**

Spring 2007

**Implementation
of plan**





Reminder from 2007 Meeting



The Projects

- Total of 18 projects identified
 - Many are interdependent
 - Improving one may cause another to deteriorate

- **Project 1 – Communications**
 - **1st priority**

- Other projects are in no order of priority
 - Suggested implementation timetables depend on volunteers to assist



Project 1 - Communications



What did we say we would do?

- Explore ways to improve
- Implement improvements
- Keep under review



Autumn 2007

Winter 2007

On going



Project 1 - New Communications

Brian Phillips



- Monthly update via E-mail (3 to 4 topics)
 - Started Nov 2007
- Those not on E-mail, topics reflected in:
 - Church Parish Magazine
 - East Grinstead Courier
- Present status
 - Village plan showed 60% residents on E-mail
 - i.e. 400 E-mail addresses
 - Present list nearly 100 addresses

Send your E-mail address to:
news@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk



Project 2 - Bus Services



What did we say we would do?



- **Initiate discussion with bus company and County Council** **Winter 2007**
- **Publicise bus timetables** **Winter 2007**
- **Review outcome of above** **On going**



Project 2 - Bus Services actions Jonathan Samways



- **Reviewed**
 - Buses to East Grinstead
 - Connecting train services
- **Highlighted to WSCC and Metrobus**
 - Poor morning / evening bus connections with trains
 - Lack of mid-evening buses
- **Published combined bus and rail timetable**
 - New edition in May with revised bus times and more information
- **Also commented to Community Rail Partnership on:**
 - Maintaining off-peak trains with 8 coaches
 - Extending last train from Oxted to East Grinstead





Project 2 - Bus Services actions Jonathan Samways



- **Liaison established**

- Metrobus
- West Sussex CC

- **Results of liaison**

- Advance information on forthcoming changes
- Action to improve bus stop information and signage
- Improvements to accessibility promised
- A willingness to listen

- **Other news**

- Metrobus have retained contract for 270 and 291
- Service levels unchanged
- East Grinstead “flat fare” scheme – now cheaper than before





Project 3 - Community Bus



What did we say we would do?



- **Review pick up and drop off points** Summer 2007
- **Publicity to seek more drivers** Autumn 2007
- **Promote bus to encourage usage** Winter 2007



Project 3 - Community Bus Susan Wellerd



- Pick up and drop off points
 - Re-instated Church pick-up
 - To Waitrose / Sainsbury
 - Or in between
 - Dropped at “ your door”
- Used by 6 - 9 people each week
 - Can be up to 12
- More drivers requested via:
 - E-mail, Parish Magazine , East Grinstead Courier



- **Do you know anyone who could benefit from bus?**
- **Please volunteer as a driver**

contact Susan Wellerd



Project 4

Facilities for Children up to 11 years



What did we say we would do?



- **Feasibility study and availability of funds**
Winter 2008
- **Publish proposals**
Spring 2009
- **Obtain funds and provide new equipment**
Autumn 2010

Request from Mid-Sussex DC for playground suggestions

Please give your ideas to Susan Wellerd



Project 4

Facilities for Children up to 11 years



What did we say we would do?



- **Feasibility study and availability of funds**
Winter 2008
- **Publish proposals**
Spring 2009
- **Obtain funds and provide new equipment**
Autumn 2010

Request from Mid-Sussex DC for playground suggestions

Please give your ideas to Susan Wellerd



Project 5 Facilities for 11 to 18 year olds



What did we say we would do?

- **Feasibility of meeting requests**
Winter 2008
- **Provide one new facility** **Spring 2009**
- **Explore & monitor need for added facilities**
On going
- **No actions planned until end of 2008**
- **On going encouragement to:**
 - Youth Club
 - Football Club





Project 6 – Housing in the Village



What did we say
we would do?



Identify need for affordable housing

Winter 2007

Protect village from expansion detrimental to its character

On going



Project 6 – Housing in the Village Sub-committee of 4 councillors



- Affordable housing survey
Summer 2007
 - Need for low cost housing
- Planning inspector rejected sites
- put forward for “Small Scale Housing Allocation”
- Meetings held with:
 - English Rural Housing Association, Mid-Sussex DC, Action in Rural Sussex
 - How to provide low cost housing?
 - Discussions on going





Projects 7 to 10 - Road Safety



What did we say in April 2007?

- **Projects are interlinked**
- **Solutions may be compromise**
- **Each to be considered as part of overall road safety**
 - **Example:**
 - **Parked cars may be hindrance**
 - **Remove them and there may then be a speeding problem**



Project 7 – Speeding



What did we say we would do?

- Investigate locations and actual speeds
Summer 2007
- Consider options
Winter 2008
- Publish proposals with timescales
Summer 2009





Project 7 – Speeding Don Sinclair



Speeding strips installed at 4 locations





Project 7 – Speeding Don Sinclair



- Main speeding issue :
(with respect to the 30 mph limit)
 - **both ways on Hammerwood Road
by Leisure Pursuits**
 - Eastbound Hammerwood Road
(bus route part)

- Maypole Road highlighted for speeding in the Village Plan results.
 - Actual speeds are generally lower than 30mph limit
 - Due to the road layout, speed excessive for the conditions?



E-mail for copy of report to: news@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk



Project 7 – Speeding

Don Sinclair



■ Speedwatch

- Group of volunteers to measure speeds in the village
- Defined safe locations (not A22)
- Police will send letters to persistent offenders
- Primarily a visible deterrent



■ Status

- Slow start due to withdrawal of “guns” for calibration
- Locations surveyed for safety and agreed by Police
- Volunteer training starts in May
- Target start in Summer (2008)



Project 7 – Speeding



A22

- Operation of 30m.p.h. limit will be subject of review
-

Key Project for Parish Council

- Improvement of Hammerwood Road junction
 - Easier egress for traffic on to A22
 - Better pedestrian safety when crossing A22
- Proposal
 - Install traffic islands with bollards on A22 by Hammerwood Road
 - Traffic engineers support proposal
 - Funding has to be resolved

Parish Council active on plans with West Sussex CC



Project 8 - Parking



What did we say we would do?

- Investigate locations & issues
Summer 2008
- Determine reasons
Summer 2008
- Consider options
Winter 2008
- Publish proposals with timescale
Winter 2009



Summer 2008

Winter 2008

Winter 2009



Project 8 - Parking



■ Initial premise

- Ashurst Wood is a village with narrow roads
- No intention to cover roads with excessive double yellow lines
- No intention to cover pavements with excessive anti-parking bollards



■ List of parking related issues generated

- Regular
- Short term
- Councillors + police walked the roads to review every location.
- Conclusion (issues agreed to be investigated further):
 - Regular: Hammerwood Road (Three Crowns to Park Lane)
 - Short term : football - Hammerwood Road (by War Memorial)



Project 8 – Parking (continued)



Actions on parking issues

1. Hammerwood Road (Three Crowns to Park Lane)

- Almost no pavement parking on south side (A22 side) – also few pedestrians.
- If cars not on pavement on one side, then buses would have difficulty.
- Need to understand all reasons for parking – questionnaire.



2. Hammerwood Road (by War Memorial)

- Inconsiderate parking for week-end football (also around Chapel Lane etc.)
- Joint Police, Parish Council, Football club notice given to drivers and to visiting clubs
- Police will continue to monitor and request drivers to park more considerately



Project 9 - Pedestrians



What did we say we would do?

- Investigate exact locations and danger
Winter 2007
- Consider practical solutions
Summer 2008
- Publish proposals with timescale
Summer 2009



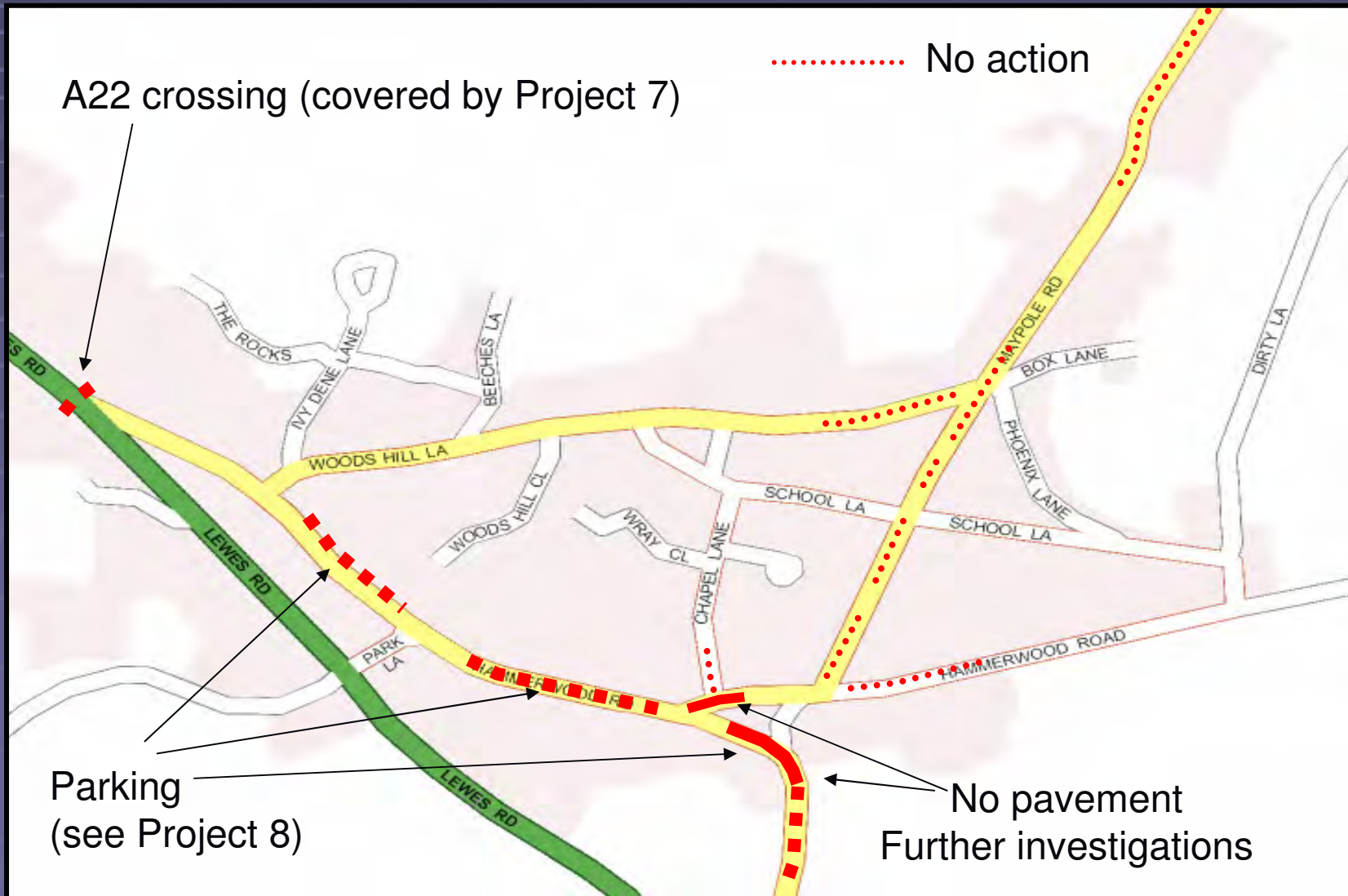
-
- Locations identified and roads walked with police
 - Street lighting under review



Project 9 - Pedestrians



Locations agreed with police for further investigation





Project 10 - Cycling



What did we say we would do?

- **Determine cycling pattern
and future use Spring 2009**
- **Consider practical solutions Autumn 2009**
- **Publish proposals with timescale Autumn 2010**



No action planned until 2009



Project 11 - Schools in the village



What did we say we would do?



- **Set up forum with 3 schools to investigate their needs and facilities on offer**
Spring 2008
- **Contact clubs to investigate needs / facilities**
Spring 2008
- **Facilitate matching of needs with resources**
Autumn 2008

Project planned to start in 2008



Project 12 - Recycling



What did we say we would do?

- **Monitor effect of changes** Summer 2008
- **Investigate alternative sites, container sizes and extending range** Summer 2008
- **Decide best method to communicate** Summer 2008
- **Publish any new proposals** Autumn 2008



Project 12 - Recycling



- **Alternate waste and recycling collection**
 - Increased recycling by 22%
 - Reduced landfill by 1,200 tonnes / year
- **Overall in West Sussex**
 - 37% dry waste now recycled (44% with recycled compost)
 - Target to exceed 50% in 2008
- **Next West Sussex milestone:**
 - Increase kitchen waste recycling
 - At present 31% of landfill waste
- **Need to still reduce non-recycled waste**
 - Land fill sites will be full
 - West Sussex investigating future options

Note :

- **Recycling must not be put in plastic bags**
- **Lids on bins must close**

-
- **Bottle banks removed from John Pears field**



Project 13 - Litter bins & dog waste bins



What did we say we would do?

- **Review litter in areas without bins** **Winter 2007**
- **Review where dog waste left** **Winter 2007**
- **Propose new bin locations** **Spring 2008**
- **Publish proposals with timescale** **Winter 2008**





Project 13 - Litter bins and dog waste bins Dick Tyrrell - Handyman



- Location of all bins listed
- Replace bin in School Lane
- Ensuring Mid-Sussex DC empty bins
- Review underway to locate areas where litter being left
 - New bins will be provided as required
- Village Clean up initiated



Project 14 - Neighbourhood watch



What did we say we would do?

- **Propose ways to increase publicity and generate interest in role of street wardens**

Winter 2007

- **Action publicity and awareness**

Summer 2008

- **Review effectiveness**

On going





Project 14 - Neighbourhood watch Peter Melody & Julie May



- Peter Melody & Julie May agreed to be village co-ordinators June 2007
- Ian Arnott - Parish Council representative
- Street wardens increased from 14 to 29
- Considering new street signs



**Why not volunteer to be a street warden?
Contact Peter Melody or Julie May**



Project 15 - Crime and vandalism



What did we say we would do?

- Encourage support for PCSO
(Street Meetings)



Winter 2007

- Obtain comparative data on crimes committed
Winter 2007

- Encourage membership of Neighbourhood
Watch as means to reduce crime & vandalism
On going



Project 15 - Crime and vandalism

George Lock



Police Community Support Officer

- **PCSO George Lock**
 - A real asset to Ashurst Wood
 - Excellent support
 - Pro-active
 - Approachable
- **Reports and investigates unwelcome activities**
- **Acts on issues raised**
- **Issues quarterly report (includes street meeting dates)**
 - attached to E-newsletters
 - on web site
 - in Parish Office



Meet him at his street meetings



Project 16 - Mobile library



What did we say we would do?

- **Agree method to increase publicity** **Spring 2008**
- **Action new publicity** **Summer 2008**
- **Review increase in use** **On going**



Project planned to start in 2008



Project 17

Meeting places and social events



What did we say we would do?

- Liaise with St Dunstan's with respect to development project Winter 2007
- Set up social co-ordinating group Autumn 2007
- Hold combined annual event Summer 2008
- Discuss pavilion improvements Winter 2009



Project 17- Meeting places & social events Keith Stacey



- St Dustan's development
 - Parish Council supporting improvements

Summer Fair

- Keith Stacey leading initiative
- Village Summer Fair planned 20th June 2009
 - Fully supported by Parish Council
- More from Keith later



Allotments - Alan Del Mar



- **Topic always on Council's agenda**
(even though not a specific issue raised in Village Plan)
- **Site requirements:**
 - Land owner willing to sell or lease land to council
 - Free and easy access to a public road
- **Many options investigated**
 - No site meeting requirements has been forthcoming
- **Need to update list of those wanting allotments**

If you:

- **Want an allotment**
- or
- **Can assist with sites**

Contact Susan Wellerd



Project 18 - Businesses in the village



What did we say we would do?

- **Collate all business data**
(e.g. services available, job opportunities)
Winter 2007
- **Decide on communication means**
see project 1
- **Publish and distribute data** **Summer 2008**
- **Set up updating process** **On going**





Project 18 - Businesses in the village



■ **Failed**

■ Volunteer **URGENTLY** needed

- Contact all on existing list
- Confirm names and business
- Provide data for Parish Council to prepare & publish list



**During Village Plan process this list considered
by residents to be most valuable**

Contact Brian Phillips if you can help

From April 2007 meeting and still true !





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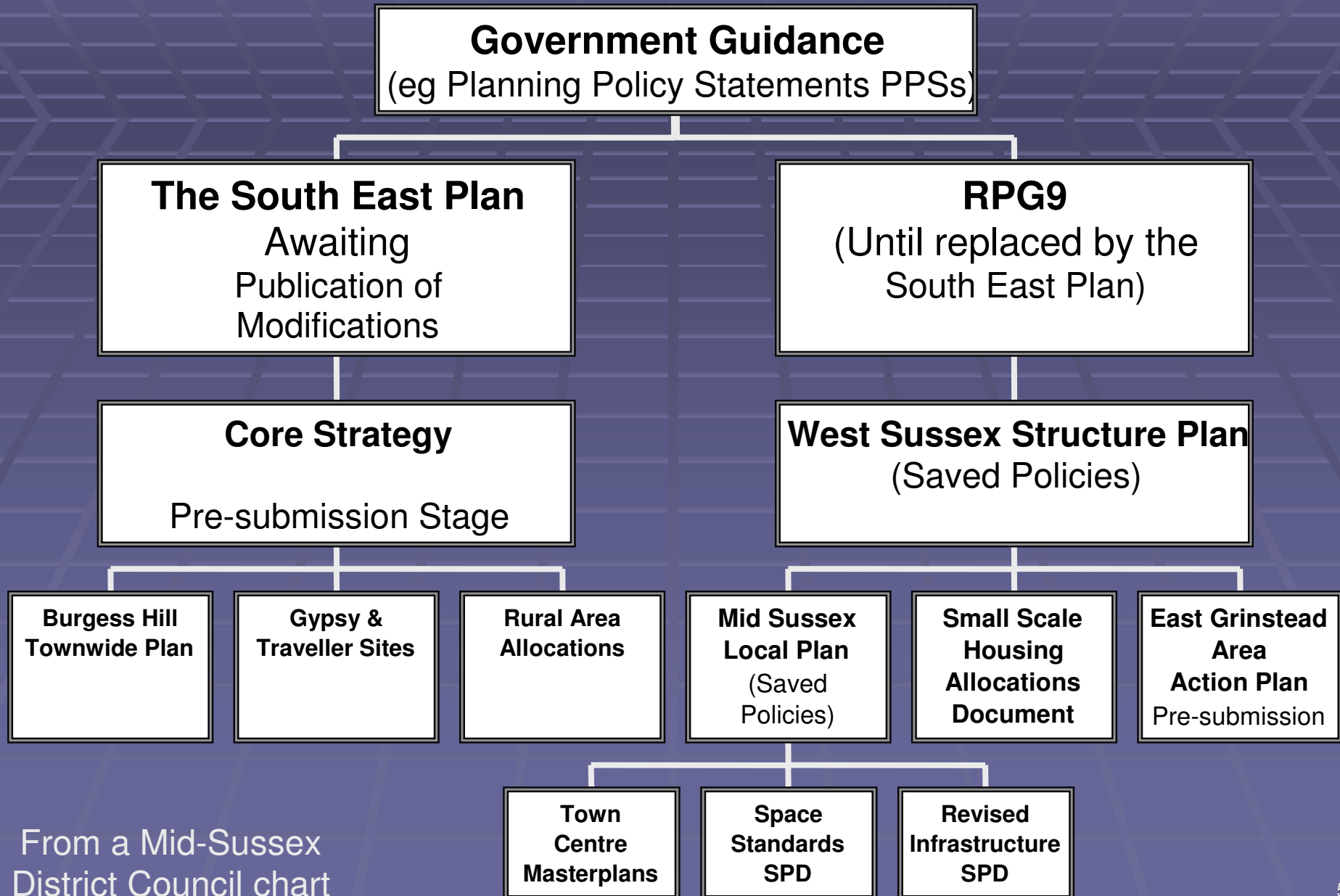
Keith Stacey

All

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The Planning System



From a Mid-Sussex
District Council chart



What is “A Core Strategy”?



The Future of Mid Sussex

- now until 2026 -

- **Vision of the District in 2026**
- **Identifies broad locations for new development:**
 - Houses
 - Employment
 - Shops
 - Leisure
- **Sets guiding principles and policy framework for more detailed documents:**
 - Town centre masterplans
 - Area action plans
 - Rural allocations



Stages of Core Strategy



- **Issues and Options** **2004-2005**
- **Pre-submission public consultation** **Feb–Mar 2008**

(Preparation of Submission Document)

- **Proposed submission public consultation** **May 2009**
- **Alternative sites consultation** **Sept 2009**
- **Submission to Government** **early 2010**
- **Examination (soundness)** **Summer 2010**
- **Binding Inspectors Report** **end 2010**
- **Adoption** **early 2011**



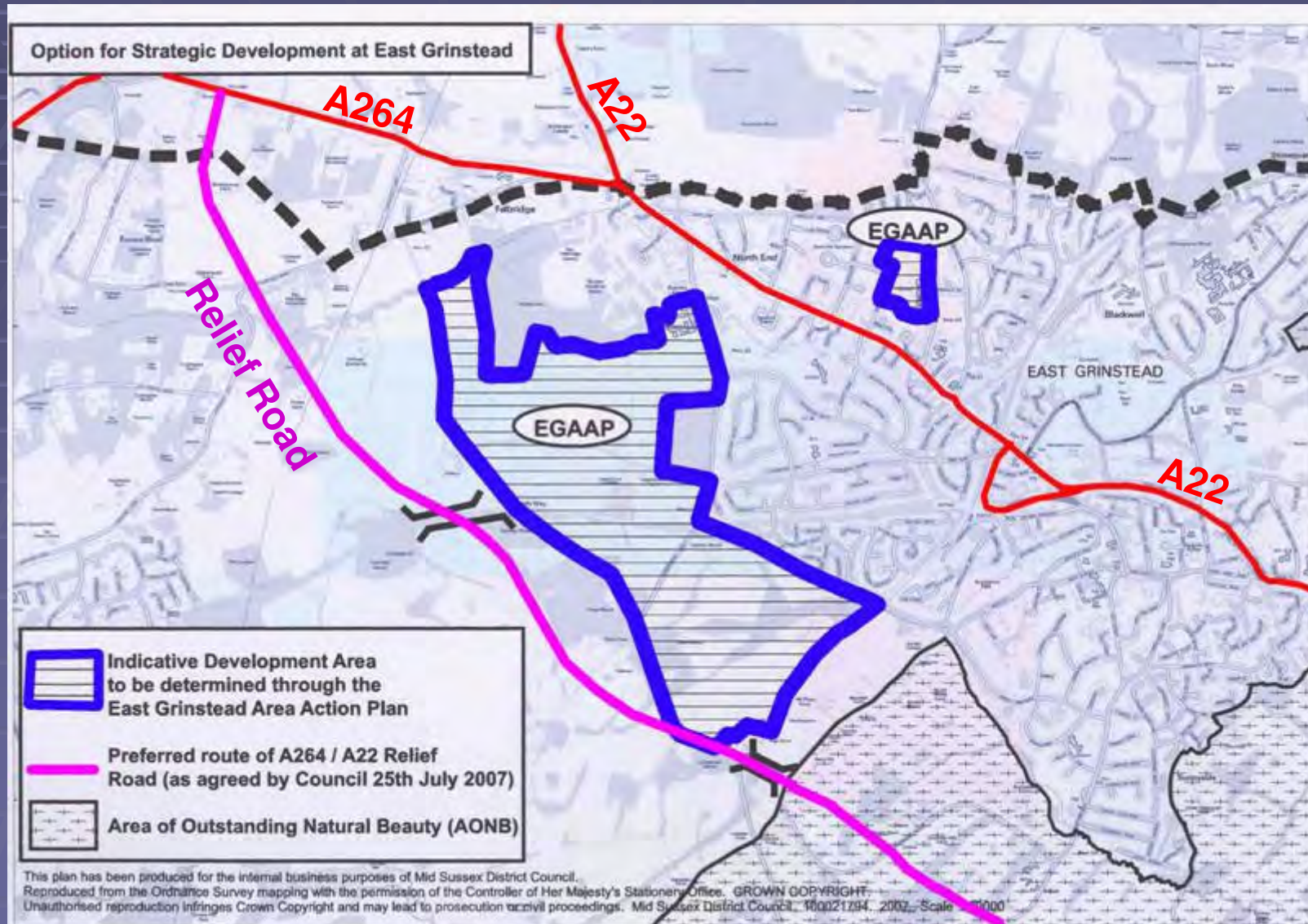
East Grinstead Area Action Plan



- **Pre-submission public consultation** **June 2006**
- **Proposed Submission document consultation**
Sep–Nov 2008
- **Alternative sites** **Jan 2009**
- **Submission to Government** **Jul 2009**
- **Examination** **Nov 2009**
- **Binding Inspectors Report** **Apr 2010**
- **Adoption** **July 2010**

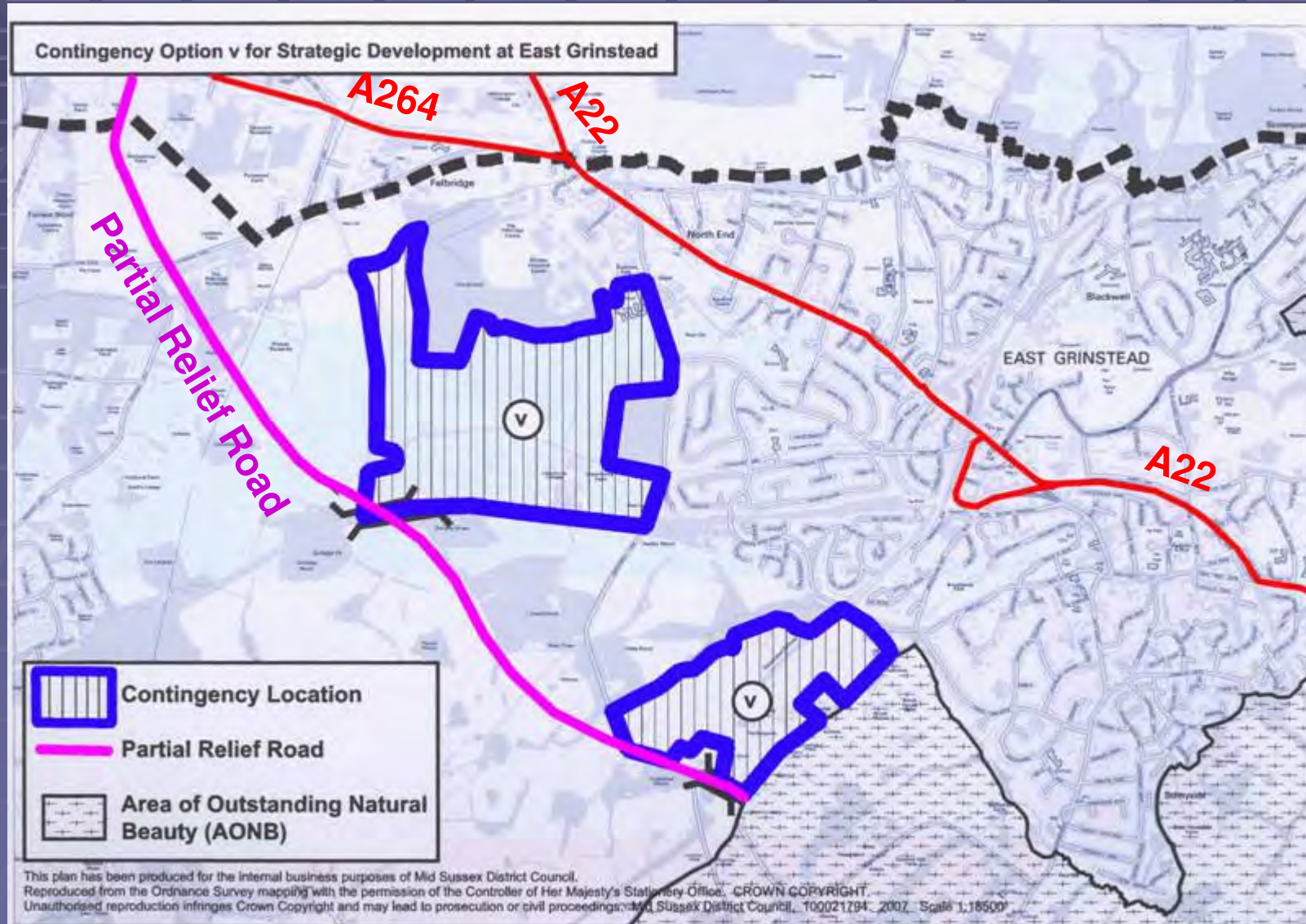


Core Strategy – Action Plan 2007



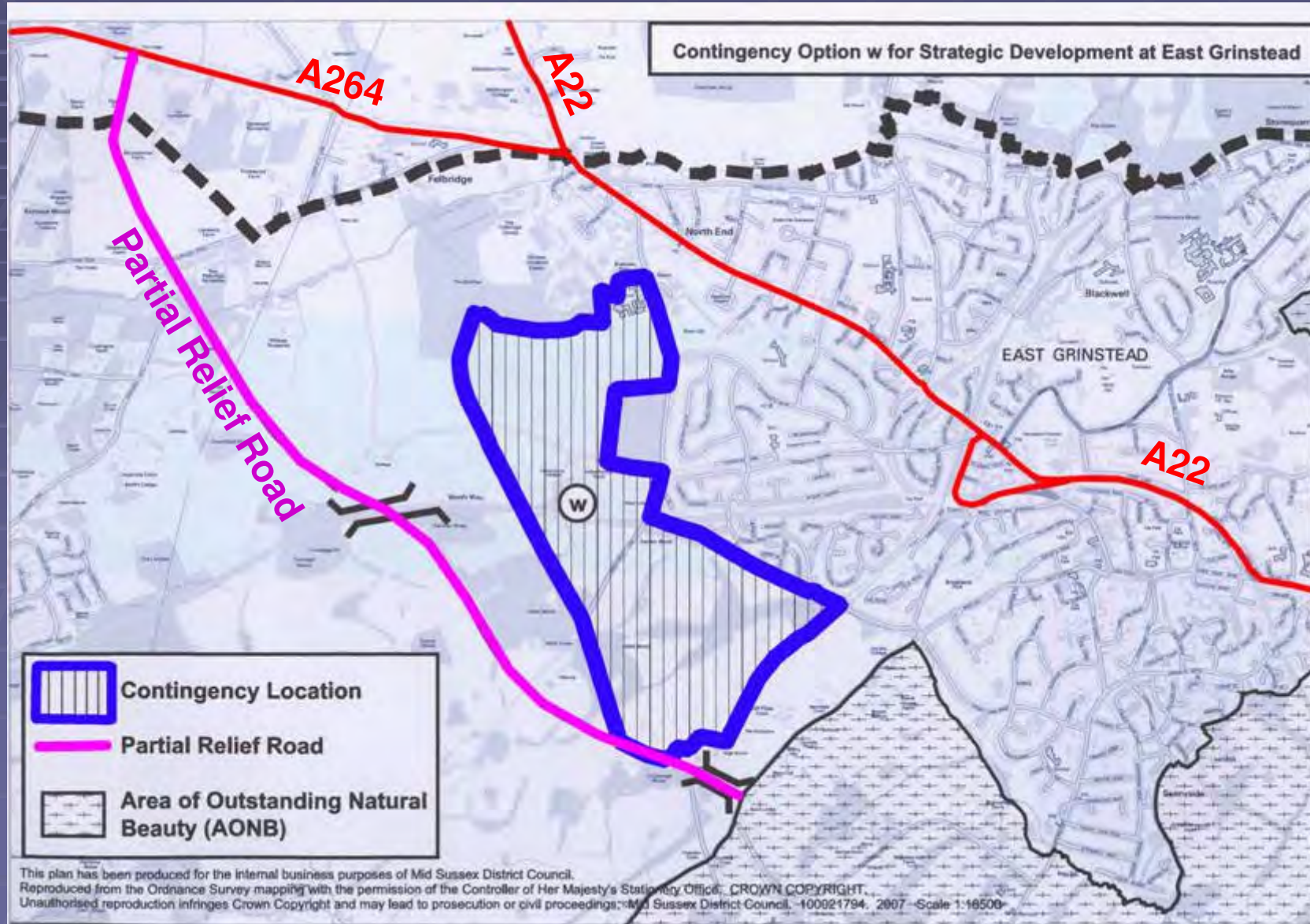


Core Strategy – contingency option v





Core Strategy – contingency option w





Mid-Sussex Core Strategy



- Villages expected to accommodate some of District's housing requirement
- 1000 new homes in the Villages (by 2026)
 - Approx 35 villages in Mid-Sussex
 - Average 30 homes / village
- Rural Issues Background paper
- Parish Council will be hosting open meetings

What do we want for our village?



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Summer Fair 2009



- **Village Action Plan**

- Requested more village events
- Return of “Strawberry Fair”



- **Village Fair Plan**

- Steering Committee formed in Nov 2007
- Bumper fair for 2009 agreed (not practical for 2008)

**20th June 2009
Put it in your diaries
NOW**



Summer Fair 2009



Activities in planning

- Donkey or pony rides
- Football goal competition
- Netball competition
- Dog show/ demonstration
- Morris dancers
- Maypole dancing
- Karate demonstration
- Races
- Fire Engine
- Apple bobbing
- Face painting
- Bouncy castle (with slide)
- Major raffle
- Tombola
- Eco footprint day
- Hog Roast
- Evening entertainment
 - Buffaloes booked
- Licensed bar





Summer Fair 2009



- **Main emphasis**
 - Bring together community
 - Have fun

but

- **Event must raise money**
 - Primary School and Church normally hold individual events
 - Both are combining to join the 2009 Summer Fair
 - Opportunity for other organisations to join
- **Plan to make annual centre piece of community events**



Summer Fair 2009



- **Organisation**
 - **Small committee formed in Nov 2007**
 - **Enthusiasm**
 - **Excellent ideas**

- **Need more volunteers**
 - **More we have the less the work**

Prime need: Project Leader

Contact : Keith Stacey 01342 323880
keith@keithandwendy.net

Next meeting: Maypole Pub, Monday 19th May 8 p.m.



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Reminder of contacts

- **Susan Wellerd (Parish Council clerk)**
 - Telephone : 01342 823770
 - E-mail:
clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
- **Brian Phillips (for E-mail Newsletter)**
news@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
- **Web site:** www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Refreshments and socialising