

An update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
December 2018

Aim of the Bramber Neighbourhood Plan

Our aim is to produce a Plan that will recognise and reflect the needs and wishes of our community over the plan period to 2031. We must strike a balance between the need to preserve and protect our local area, and the local and District needs for growth and development.

Drop-In Event – 24th November 2018

Our Public drop-in event was held at the Maharajah restaurant and I am pleased to say was very well attended by residents. Our aim was to provide an understanding of what a Neighbourhood Plan tries to achieve, where we were up to with the Bramber Neighbourhood Plan and provide residents with an opportunity to give their views on the subject areas we are addressing.

Over 180 residents attended the event and over 70 completed questionnaires were returned as well as some direct comments via email/letter.

The feedback indicated that attendees felt the event was worthwhile, did gain an understanding of our emerging Plan and where we are at, and did take the opportunity to provide constructive feedback which the Focus Groups will now analyse and take into account in their further assessment work. The results from the questionnaires have now been uploaded to the Bramber Parish Website under 'Neighbourhood Plan'. Thanks to all residents who took the time to attend and all volunteers involved in the Plan for making it happen.

A brief summary of progress from each of our Focus Groups is provided below:-

1 - Housing Group

Housing Needs Assessment

A number of queries have been raised on some aspects of the Housing Needs Assessment report we are using and these are currently being raised with AECOM, the authors of the report, and the Neighbourhood Plan Group at Horsham District Council.

Bramber Call For Sites

No further sites have been proposed.

Much of the feedback from the public event was concerned with the 2 sites currently being assessed. The Housing Group will be taking this into account during the coming weeks to consider how this impacts the assessment work they have carried out to-date.

Clay's Field

The latest update to the proposal from Stallards was displayed at the public event. Many residents expressed concern about the proposal in a number of important areas e.g. access, effects on bio-diversity, impact on inter-settlement gap

Land Behind Kingsmead Close

As with Clays Field this site was the subject of much feedback in particular regarding impact on the surrounding area, effects on bio-diversity, impact on the South Downs National Park, impact on views from Annington Hill, and history of rejected applications.

2 - Environment Group

The Environment and Countryside Focus Group have examined 7 possible Green Space sites and assessed them against the standard criteria. The group decided that at least 2 were good candidates for designation and these will now be further assessed in the light of the detailed feedback we received

from the drop-in event. A number of "green" policies have also been assessed and these will now be put forward for further work.

3 - Business and Tourism

The Heritage, Tourism and Commerce group are currently analysing the results from the Business survey and looking at the feedback received on and after the event on 24th November. From our initial findings, there is quite strong support for maximising the use of St. Nicholas church within the community. It is also felt that there is a need to improve youth facilities within the parish. As far as heritage assets are concerned, most people felt that all relevant ones were already protected and there was support for the possible provision of an education centre at St. Marys. Less people felt there was a need to extend the hotel and visitor accommodation facilities. There were several suggestions made to encourage both tourism and local business. The group are very pleased that many people took the time to review our work will be evaluating the comments and suggestions over the next few weeks.

4 - Transport (Highways & Public Rights Of Way)

The focus group's draft policies and suggestions for infrastructure improvements presented at the recent Drop-In event were generally well supported, with the exception of the idea of a new small car park on the western side of the A283 roundabout, which will need re-thinking.

5 - Community Facilities

A list of projects to enhance and improve the infrastructure of the Parish has been established and approved and sent to Horsham District Council (HDC). This will be used by the Parish Council and HDC when assessing projects to be started and funded with monies available via developments. (CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy).

The Plan is for the current and future residents of Bramber and if you would like to help ensure its success please get involved and email us at bramberplan@gmail.com or phone me at 01903 812336 or 07799644727.

Meeting minutes and relevant documentation can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Bramber Parish website at www.bramber.org.uk

Roger Potter

Chairman Bramber Parish Council *December 2018*