



Bramber Neighbourhood Plan

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An update from the Steering Group October 2018

The volunteers for the Steering Group and Focus Groups have made good progress on their respective areas of responsibility over the Summer months. The Steering Group have met 6 times since March 2018 and the Focus Groups have conducted their own meetings, feeding their ideas and recommendations into the Steering Group. Although the overall aim of doing the Plan appeared in the last Newsletter it is worth re-stating as a reminder to all as to why we are doing it:-

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.

Our proposed Vision and associated Objectives for Bramber, developed to complement this aim are as follows:

Proposed Vision

- *The rural parish of Bramber will have retained its own recognisable character, with the quality of the landscape spaces within and surrounding it continuing to define its identity.*
- *Bramber's role as a small village and place to visit will have evolved to continue to meet the needs of local residents, but without compromising the special character that makes The Street so unique, including the built heritage, the Conservation Area and listed buildings.*
- *Community facilities (e.g. Bramber Castle, Bramber Brooks) will remain a focal point for the community and they will, where possible, be improved to become more attractive to both residents and visitors alike; the parish council will have expanded its role in the management of such facilities, along with open green spaces and other natural assets.*
- *The neighbourhood plan will have further enabled strong, positive and supportive working relationships with neighbouring parishes, local schools, the Steyning Health Centre and local businesses. These will all continue to contribute to the vitality of the area, making a greater range of facilities available to the parish, and contributing to a shared sense of community pride in Bramber.*
- *Bramber will continue to support local employment and businesses. Its sustainable tourism offer will have grown, making a positive contribution to the local economy and employment. This will be supported by a plan developed in partnership with the South Downs National Park and Horsham District Council to protect the shared rural setting of Bramber and make improvements to connectivity, green infrastructure and heritage assets.*
- *Accessibility to and connectivity between facilities, amenities, green space and recreational areas, both within Bramber and with neighbouring settlements, will have been improved. This will include maintaining and expanding, where necessary, the existing network of footpaths, bridleways, and cycle routes, thus encouraging more people to find more sustainable ways to access local facilities rather than using their cars, helping to cut down on congestion and pollution.*

- *There will have been a modest growth in housing numbers across the parish through the provision of new homes, designed to meet local needs including elderly downsizers and those starting out on the housing ladder, including families. This will help to provide a balance of dwelling types to serve the community over the long term, enabling those connected with Bramber to live here if they wish while also encouraging new residents. New homes will have been provided in areas that do not detract from the character and setting of the parish and will, where possible, encourage sustainable living.*

Proposed Objectives

Objective 1: Protect the rural character of the parish, the qualities of its landscape setting and its biodiversity, managing the impacts of any future growth.

Objective 2: Carefully manage the siting of development to protect the individual identity and setting of Bramber.

Objective 3: Ensure that development is sustainable and sympathetic to the scale, landscape setting, topography and architectural and historic character of where it is sited in the parish.

Objective 4: Plan for some additional housing to meet predominantly local housing needs, bearing in mind changing demographics, to provide a more balanced housing mix, in particular for local affordability and elderly downsizers.

Objective 5: Address local transport issues, including car and parking issues, but predominantly promoting sustainable transport options by improving connectivity to facilities within and beyond the parish by integrating and, where possible, extending the existing network of paths to provide safe pedestrian, cycle and horse riding routes.

Objective 6: Promote opportunities for sustainable tourism, particularly where it enables increased public accessibility to and enjoyment of the national park for recreation and leisure.

Objective 7: Safeguard local green spaces that are valued by the community, improve their biodiversity and integrate them with the footpath and bridleway network where possible.

Objective 8: Support existing businesses operating in the parish and provide opportunities for new ones where this can be achieved sustainably.

Objective 9: Retain and, where possible, expand the range of facilities and amenities available for local residents.

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

1 - Housing Group

Housing Needs Assessment

A Housing Needs Assessment report has been produced for Bramber by AECOM, the recommended consultancy for such work. They have taken data from a variety of sources and used a recognized and accepted methodology to assess the overall housing needs for Bramber up to 2031 and as a result have identified a need for a total of 60 new dwellings. These are split between the Horsham District Council area of Bramber (52 dwellings) and the South Downs National Park area of Bramber (8 dwellings). A copy of the report may be found on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council website.

Bramber Call For Sites

A Call for Sites exercise was carried out during May/June and resulted in 3 potential sites being submitted. One of the sites was subsequently withdrawn leaving the following two:

Clay's Field

An outline proposal has been submitted by DMH Stallard to develop approximately 25% of Clay's Field leaving the remaining 75% for use as a public recreational area. This proposal has generated significant resident interest and was presented and discussed at an open meeting of the Parish Council on the 30th May where over 100 residents were present. We are seeking further clarification and detail on this from DMH Stallard and will have more detail for review and discussion at our Public Drop-In session in November

Land Behind Kingsmead Close

The owner of this land has submitted an outline proposal to develop this land on the edge of the Bramber Building Line. The land is in the South Downs National Park who are the Planning Authority, and with whom we have had discussions whilst assessing the site. We are currently seeking further clarification from the owner on a number of areas and again, will have more detail for review and discussion at our Public Drop-In session in November

2 - Environment Group

- A SWOT analysis has been conducted by the group to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the environment in and around Bramber.
- The proposed Local Green Spaces identified in the previous SWAB Neighbourhood Plan have been examined and found to be still relevant to this Plan
- The Group is currently working on producing the Policies to be adopted for this area.

3 - Business and Tourism

- The group have reviewed the work carried out in the previous SWAB Neighbourhood Plan to assess its' usefulness in this Plan
- A Business Survey questionnaire has been produced and will be circulated to all Bramber business's later in October, seeking their input/suggestions for this area of the Plan
- The Group are currently working on producing the Policies to be adopted for this area.

4 - Transport (Highways & Public Rights Of Way)

- The Focus Group have re-analysed previous survey questions and noted residents' comments and concerns.
- A revised set of survey questions has been drafted regarding modes of transport, safe routes and on-street parking
- A list of policies has been drafted, with reference to HDC and SDNPA Policies, and is currently being reviewed by The Steering Committee.

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)

Our Public Drop-In event is being planned for Saturday November 24th at a venue to be decided. We would like to encourage our residents to attend to give us their feedback on the progress we have made so far and help ensure the final Plan is representative of the majority. More details will be issued nearer the time.

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 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

October 2018