

Environment & Countryside Emerging Policies

A number of policy areas have been considered by the Environment and Countryside Focus Group:-

Green Infrastructure

The Neighbourhood Plan recognises the positive impact that trees have on the character of Bramber. They:

- Reduce Stress
- Encourage walking
- Reduce surface floodwater run-off
- Provide a sense of place and community
- Increase property values
- Provide habitats for wildlife
- Provide shade and reduce ambient temperatures
- Lower levels of noise and dust
- Produce oxygen and reduce carbon dioxide

We will therefore encourage extensive tree planting on all new developments and protect existing trees and woodlands.

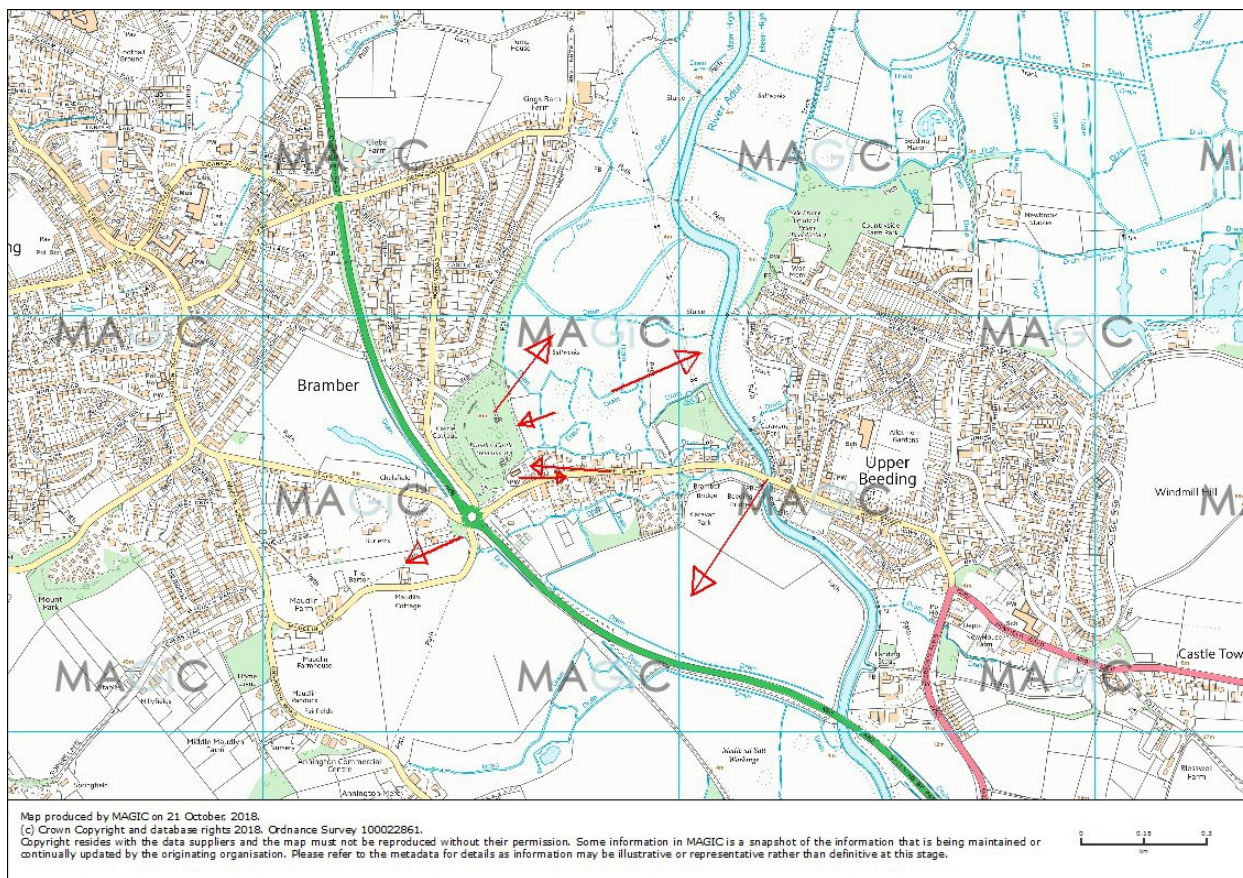
Native shrubs attract invertebrates, which lay eggs on the leaves and stems of plants, as well as visit the flowers for nectar and pollen. Many species of moth and butterfly cannot complete their life-cycle without specific plants, such as birch, oak and hawthorn. Any developments that would result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality of, hedgerows or roadside verges will therefore not be supported.

New builds will be encouraged to provide communal ponds, hedgehog holes in border fencing and bird and bat nesting boxes.

Protection of Landscape Views

We recognise that one of the most important aspects of Bramber is the iconic views that we have of the surrounding countryside and these should be protected from adverse development.

Typical views that may be included in the Plan are shown on the map below:-



Botolphs and the South Downs



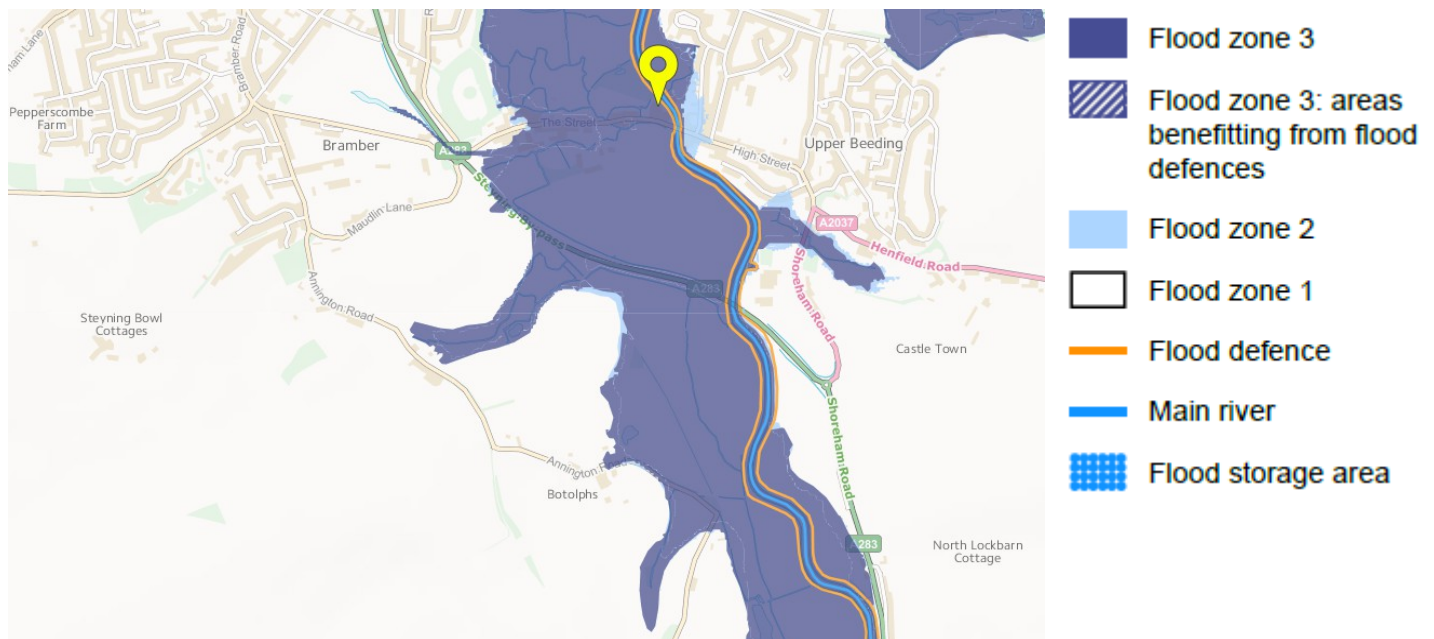
Steyning Bowl from the South Downs Way

Minimising Flood Risk

The eastern part of the parish is situated in Flood Zone 3 (i.e. most danger of flooding) where the River Adur runs through. Apart from small areas of Flood Zone 2 on the edges of Zone 3, the remainder of the parish lies in Flood Zone 1 (i.e. least danger of flooding).

Flood risk is predicted to increase in the future. Extended periods of high water levels in the Adur prevent drainage from land behind the defences, often causing the land to become seasonally waterlogged.

Residential development within areas of high flood risk will not normally be supported unless fully justified. In addition, all developments should provide for adequate surface water and foul drainage capacity.



Renewable Energy

The Focus Group recognised the community's stated wish for increased use of renewable energy generated both by domestic and small-scale local installations. In the SWAB residents' survey in 2014 the most support was for solar panels (58%) and energy from waste (52%). However, renewable energy facilities would only be supported if they did not adversely affect areas of nature conservation or landscape views and did not significantly contribute to an increase in road traffic flows.

