

***Steyning, Wiston, Ashurst and Bramber (SWAB) Neighbourhood Plan***  
***Achievements and progress to date relating to the Parish of Bramber***

***Housing***

- A Housing needs Survey (HNS) was completed in Bramber to identify requirements for local affordable homes
- A strong Housing Focus Group, including representatives from Bramber, objectively assessed the suitability of sites put forward by landowners against strict but reasoned criteria.
- Three sites were put forward by landowners in Bramber but were assessed and identified as not being suitable for development
- One site in Bramber was identified as being suitable for a limited amount of new housing to suit local needs. This site was subsequently withdrawn by the landowner
- It was established that there is limited space in Bramber for new sustainable housing.
- The proximity of the South Downs National Park, the built up area boundary of Bramber village, the Conservation Area, flood plains and the A283 restrict areas for new development.

***Green Spaces***

Roger Potter was Environment Focus Group Co-ordinator for the Neighbourhood Plan. He worked hard with his group to identify those local important green spaces which have adequate protection against development and those which need increased protection. In Bramber, the recommended areas for new Green Space protection within the Neighbourhood Plan are –

- Clays Field - part only
- Maudlin Farm – the lower sloping field closest to the roundabout
- The Gardens of St Mary's House
- Bramber Brooks - to the north of the Conservation Area - part only

Other areas were identified as being important green spaces but already have adequate protection (eg Scheduled Ancient Monument protection).

***Community***

The importance of Steyning as a centre for Bramber residents was very much highlighted by the work completed by the Focus Groups and Steering Group. Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan document will consider the need for improved and sustainable health

care facilities, local retail needs, schools and education, leisure amenities and community integration between the four parishes within the Neighbourhood Plan. Transport links between the local parishes were also considered, especially by foot or bicycle and there will be policies based around those needs identified.

### ***Challenges***

- Legal challenges to Neighbourhood Plans (eg Henfield NP)
- Horsham District Council no longer taking a 'light touch' approach
- SDNPA resisting new housing within the National Park
- Fierce and prolonged criticism from a small local minority causing additional work for volunteers and consultants

### ***Work still required***

- Sustainability Assessment (SA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- More robust evidence for recommended housing sites and green spaces
- More work on community needs
- Improved evidence of housing needs, especially market housing
- Increased and improved communication with the community
- Push towards the Pre-submission Document being finished and public consultation on the proposals
- New volunteers with energy, time and enthusiasm to drive the project forward

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2017**