

Bramber Neighbourhood Plan – Vision and Objectives

Agreed by the Steering Group 19th September 2018

Challenges for Bramber

The Bramber Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address, as far as is possible, the challenges that face the community of Bramber parish. In summary these challenges are:

- Meeting the demands of an ageing population in terms of providing homes that are suited to their needs.
- Providing homes in the parish that are financially accessible to younger people, especially young families and those stepping onto the property ladder for the first time.
- Safeguarding the rural, tranquil character, biodiversity and green spaces of the parish, particularly given its position partially in the South Downs National Park.
- Protecting the individual identify of Bramber, ensuring that encroachment on neighbouring villages is minimised.
- Maintaining and protecting Bramber’s built heritage features and reflecting this character in any future developments.
- Supporting Bramber’s existing employment and retail offer and, where possible, helping to offer new opportunities.
- Ensuring that tourism activity is sustainable and in keeping with the values of the national park.
- Seeking to improve accessibility to services in and near the parish – through the provision of footpaths, cyclepaths, bridleways and public transport - in order to help reduce over-reliance on car use.

Vision for Bramber

The vision for Bramber up to 2031 is:

The rural parish of Bramber will have retained its own recognisable character, distinct from nearby settlements, 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 ownership and management of facilities, along with their open spaces and natural assets.

The neighbourhood plan will have further enabled strong, positive and supportive working relationships that exist with neighbouring parishes, local schools, the Steyning Health Trust 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 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.

Bramber Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

The proposed objectives of the Bramber Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

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 make integrate them with the footpath and bridleway network.

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.

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