

# *Bramber Parish Council*

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## **An update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** **January 2019**

### **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.

### **Progress to 16/01/2019**

- Mr Norman Kwan, Neighbourhood Planning Officer from Horsham District Council, attended our Steering Committee in December, minutes of which may be found on the Bramber Parish Council website. He confirmed they were currently reviewing the local plan (Horsham District Planning Framework) to reflect changes at National level. The target date for publication is Sept 2019. Parish Councillors will be attending an HDC Workshop on the 1<sup>st</sup> February to find out how this will impact the Bramber Plan.
- Central Government is pushing hard regarding housing numbers. They will be standardizing the methodology of calculating the number of homes required per parish.
- Target numbers of houses for Horsham District are likely to increase. The District Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will lead to the development of an appropriate housing number as required by the NPPF. Made plans may need to be revised in light of the increased number.
- Regarding development areas that sit on a parish boundary, the examiner has the power to extend the referendum boundary, if residents across the boundary are likely to be affected by any potential development, but will not include all of the residents of a neighbouring parish.

### **1 - Housing Group**

#### **Housing Needs Assessment**

AECOM has provided a response to the queries raised regarding the calculation used to derive a housing target number for Bramber. The response does not provide the necessary detail to address the queries raised but only provides a high level summary defending the calculations used. Given the imminent changes at Horsham to the recommended methodology together with the low number of sites coming forward in our Plan it is felt we should wait to find out from the Horsham Workshop (1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2019) how these changes will impact us and then decide how to proceed to an agreed number.

#### **Clays Field and Kingsmead**

Further assessment work has been carried out by the Housing Group on the 2 potential sites (Clays Field and Kingsmead) and the outcomes of this will be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting (31<sup>st</sup> January 2019) in order to reach recommendations to put to the Bramber Parish Council

### **2 - Environment Group**

The Environment & Countryside group have now considered the responses from the Drop-In Event and the results were generally in line with expectations - over 75% of Bramber residents were in favour of Clays Field being made a Local Green Space. The group agreed with the prevalent view that the whole of the field should be designated if at all possible. One resident had suggested that the parish council make an offer to buy the field in order to preserve it but, given the current price of residential development land in the county, this would require a large amount of money and so was agreed to be totally out of the question. The group also reviewed both Maudlin Farm Field and Kingsmead Close but concluded that both currently had protection consistent with their status and neither merited further designation. Over 80% of residents were in favour of the environmental policies outlined at the event so further work will now be done to firm these up.

### **3 - Tourism, Heritage and Commerce Group**

The **Tourism, Heritage and Commerce Group** are reviewing the feedback from the public drop-in event and integrating it with the results from the Business Survey. We are looking at the feedback received and comparing it to the initially proposed vision and objectives of the Plan. In particular we have noted that there is strong support for increasing the community use of St. Nicholas church and will be working with the Transport and Movement group who are currently looking at public parking capacity, which would of course be impacted by any increased usage of the church.

A date for your diaries is Saturday 27th April, when we are working with a separate group on a community event linked to the Horsham District Year of Culture, which will be centred around Bramber Castle, St. Nicholas Church and St. Mary's House. More details to come.....

### **4 - Transport and Movement**

The group's focus since the community engagement event has been mostly on public car parking. We still feel that there is a pressing need to improve capacity at the western end of The Street, especially as there is a move to increase community use of St Nicholas' church. The English Heritage car park adjacent to the castle and church might have scope for a few more places, but already there is frequently parking all down the access road in the summer months, and along The Street outside. We continue to examine options for a rural (ie just a rough stone surface in-between the mature trees) park in the copse west of the A283 roundabout, as well as possible enhancements at Botolphs, adjacent to the South Downs Way / Downslink junction.

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.bramber.org.uk)

### **Other Matters**

#### **1 – Overhanging Foliage**

We often receive complaints from drivers and pedestrians regarding branches overhanging or obstructing highways, pavements and footpaths, and sometimes even reports of damage to passing vehicles. We would like to remind landowners that it is their responsibility to ensure that trees and vegetation on their property, does not cause a nuisance to neighbours and members of the public and that works should be undertaken to remove branches or vegetation that may cause inconvenience, damage or injury.

#### **2 - Neighbourhood Warden Welfare**

Do you know of anyone who is elderly or vulnerable that would benefit from Regular Welfare checks.

The Neighbourhood Wardens offer a Welfare Visit on a regular basis once fortnightly to check on the well-being and welfare of your loved ones. This may be of particular interest for those relatives of older people suffering from forms of dementia and who may already be participating in the Community Link Alarm Scheme. For more details of the scheme contact your Neighbourhood Wardens.

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