



*The Steyning, Wiston, Ashurst and Bramber (SWAB)*

# **Neighbourhood Plan**

## **An update on our progress – December 2015**

The hard work continues for the production of our Neighbourhood Plan, with over 100 local residents, Councillors and business owners helping at every stage of the process.

The 'clustering' of our four parishes has certainly made the whole process more complex with many factors and needs to be considered. Although there has been continued commitment from a large number of local people, it has had to proceed slowly and cautiously to ensure that correct procedures are followed and that the final document properly reflects the future needs of our local communities. We have been working closely with our consultants (AirS and rCOH) and have had regular meetings with Horsham District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

**[www.swabneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.swabneighbourhoodplan.org)** ... *Please do have a look at our website.*

Following the collection and analysis of a great deal of relevant data and evidence on the needs of our communities, a number of key documents have now been produced and are available to view on our website. These include :

- ***The Visioning Document*** : This was produced early in the process and sets out the aims and key points to be considered in the production of our Neighbourhood Plan.
- ***The Stage One Report*** : Formerly known as the 'State of the Parish' report, this document provides details of much of the evidence collected by our six Focus Groups as well as other relevant and important information. It will be used to assist the consultants in the drafting of the final Neighbourhood Plan document.
- ***Residents Survey Results*** : These results are a summary of those answers to the survey forms completed by local residents earlier this year. They cover a wide range of matters affecting our local communities.
- ***Youth Survey Results Report*** : These are the results of an online survey designed and conducted by young people at Steyning Grammar School, reporting views expressed by our local secondary school pupils on a range of topics, including some directly relevant to the *SWAB Neighbourhood Plan*.

The website also includes Minutes and Agendas of the Steering Group meetings.

### ***Potential Development Sites***

When adopted, the *SWAB Neighbourhood Plan* will be a key planning document and will be referred to by the Local Planning Authority for every planning application for new development within the four parishes over the next fifteen years. It will state the preferred location, the size and the style of any new development and this is our opportunity to decide where new housing should be built.

There are pressures for new housing, both locally and nationally and these cannot be ignored but can be moderated and focused more on addressing local housing needs.

As part of this process, we recently called upon local landowners to put their land forward to be considered for inclusion within the final document. As a result of this exercise we now have **23 Potential Development Sites within our four parishes**. These sites are currently being assessed strictly against site assessment criteria and other relevant planning considerations.

**There are 11 sites in Steyning... 5 sites in Wiston... 3 sites in Ashurst... and 4 sites in Bramber.**

## Potential Green Spaces

The SWAB Neighbourhood Plan can also designate a number of important green areas within our parishes to be retained and not developed in the future. The SWAB NP Environment Focus Group have now identified 15 potential areas which they consider do not currently have adequate protection from development but are important for our communities.

### Public Consultation Drop-in Events

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – 10.30am to 1.00pm**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 – 10.30am to 1.00pm**

**To be held at the Saxon Room, Steyning Centre, Fletcher's Croft, Steyning**

We are inviting all local residents and businesses to come and see displays and information on all 23 of the potential development sites and all 15 potential local green spaces suggested for inclusion within the final Neighbourhood Plan document. You will be able to see which are recommended for inclusion and which are not, based upon the assessment criteria we have been using, the views of SDNPA, HDC and other information.

**This is YOUR Neighbourhood Plan and it is vitally important that we hear your views and feedback on what should and should not be included within the final document.**

### *The Next Steps ...*

#### ***Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan***

We are currently working towards the production of a Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan document. Soon after the Public Consultation Event, this document will be circulated for a formal six week consultation with local residents.

#### ***External Examination***

After the public consultations and when we are all (hopefully) broadly in agreement with the contents of the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan document, an independent external examiner will be brought in to study and scrutinise its content. Amongst other things, the examiner will ensure that the document is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Horsham District Council Planning Framework. We all need to remember that the content needs to be properly evidenced and cannot be based upon opinions alone.

#### ***Referendum***

At the very end of the process, all local adults will be asked to vote in a Referendum to say 'Yes' or 'No' to the adoption of the SWAB Neighbourhood Plan. We expect this to be in late Spring or early Summer 2016 and further information will follow in due course.

On behalf of the Steering Group and all those volunteers working hard in our Focus Groups, I thank you for your interest in our Neighbourhood Plan.

Kind regards

**Nick Mills**

**Chairman : The Steyning, Wiston, Ashurst and Bramber Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

**Vice Chairman : Bramber Parish Council**

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