



Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019 - 2034

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Foreword

The popularity and attraction of the villages of Barnham and Eastergate are principally based on the separate characters of the two settlements, their geographical location between the South Downs and the coast, with the open landscape of fields laced with water courses and hedgerows which surround the settlements, and the presence of patches and strips of ancient woodland throughout the area. In addition each village has conservation areas and an area of special character, with a mixture of statutory and locally listed historical buildings, and those with special character.

Investment in the villages, and change in future years, will only be worthwhile if these make a real difference to the lives of local people and the future of their community.

The Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan started in September 2012. The Parish Councils wanted the people of Barnham and Eastergate to have a say in all aspects of the future of the villages, but more importantly wanted local people to decide what changes should occur, rather than leaving such decisions to Arun District Council.

Barnham and Eastergate's Neighbourhood Plan set out a vision for the area that reflected the thoughts and feelings of local people with a real interest in their community. The Plan set objectives on key identified themes such as getting around, business, tourism, community, leisure and well-being, the environment and design quality of physical structures. It built on current and future planned activity and said what the Parish Councils and their partners would work towards.

Since the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan the two parishes have joined together to form Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council. The Arun Local Plan was adopted on 18th July 2018 and this includes a strategic housing allocation to provide at least 2500 new homes in Barnham, Eastergate and neighbouring Westergate (testing by the developers believes the site can accommodate up to 4300 homes which is supported in principle by ADC). Policy H SP1 also allows for additional non-strategic allocations (at least 1,250) to be made through emerging Neighbourhood Plans, reviews of made Neighbourhood Plans and a Non-Strategic Site Allocations DPD. Barnham and Eastergate parish has been allocated 75 homes.

A team of volunteers has focussed on updating the Plan in respect of housing policy whilst saving the remaining policies, which were previously subject to extensive local consultation. The Parish Council would like to thank the members of this Working Group for their hard work and commitment in bringing this Plan to fruition and dealing with the challenges along the way.

Whilst the Parish Council was required to allocate a minimum of 75 houses, in order to "future proof" its Neighbourhood Plan it has allocated sites for a total of eighty five. The expectation is that the new Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate Community Land Trust will be offered first refusal on the affordable housing at these sites so that local

people will be able to remain living and working here, with all the benefits this brings for family and community support.

The Council is concerned about the impact of large scale developments to the west (Nyton Nurseries) and to the east (Lake Lane) and the Barnham Eastergate Westergate, or BEW, strategic allocation. The area is now overdeveloped in relation to infrastructure. The Parish needs time to assimilate the new development and for local infrastructure to expand and adapt to meet the growing needs from new local residents. (For example the Croft surgery requires expansion). In the light of the significant growth committed in the Arun Local Plan for this Parish and the adjacent Parishes of Aldingbourne and Yapton there is now a lack of existing capacity in local infrastructure.

Future planning decisions must demonstrate a clear approach to sustainable development and demonstrate that local residents will continue to have access to adequate local facilities, which are sustainably located and that sufficient capacity exists or can be provided to accommodate additional needs.

1. The Neighbourhood Plan

1.1 The Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan (referred to hereafter as the Plan) was 'made' by Arun District Council in July 2014 following a Referendum at which 95.25% of residents voted in favour.

1.2 The Plan has provided a vision for the future of the parish, and set out clear policies, principles and objectives to realise those visions. The policies accorded with higher level planning policy principally the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Arun District Council Local Plan 2003 as well as the Draft Arun District Local Plan 2011-2031, as required by the Localism Act.

1.3 Since the completion of the Plan, which was one of the first in the country, a lot has changed both in national policy terms and at a local level with the Arun District Local Plan which has now been adopted. Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council's have also amalgamated to form one Council called Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council (referred to hereafter as the Council).

1.4 The adoption of the Arun District Local Plan 2018 required a review and where appropriate amendment of the Plan to ensure the two documents are in alignment and reflect the new policies.

How the Neighbourhood Plan fits into the Planning System

1.5 Although the Government's intention is for local people to decide what goes on in their parishes/villages, the Localism Act sets out some important guidance.

1.6 Neighbourhood Plans must be in line with European Regulations on strategic environmental assessment and habitat regulations. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Plan has been deemed necessary by Arun DC.

The Plan Preparation Process

1.7 The Plan has been based on proper and well advertised consultation with parishioners and others with an interest in Barnham and Eastergate (the Parish). Details of the consultations can be viewed on the Parish Council web site barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk

1.8 A Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement have been provided which demonstrate that the Plan fully accords with the requirements of the Localism Act.

The Scope of the Neighbourhood Plan

1.9 Although deciding where possible future housing could go is an important part of the Plan, it is about much more than this. The Plan is for the villages as a whole looking at a wider range of issues, including:

- how the open landscape and rural nature of the villages can be protected and preserved, enhanced and maintained
- how travel around the villages should be improved
- how the retail and business areas could be developed
- how education will be provided for a growing community, both young and old
- how health and wellbeing facilities will meet the changing demand for their services
- what open spaces, play and community facilities are required and how existing ones can be enhanced
- how the heritage assets of Barnham and Eastergate can be preserved and maintained
- how the villages can meet their housing allocations whilst protecting the character of the villages
- How the green and blue assets of the Parish can be preserved, protected and enhanced

1.10 The Plan is organised into the following sections;

Section 1.0 - Introduction: provides an introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan process and how the Plan was formulated.

Section 2.0 - Context: provides the evidence base and baseline conditions which support the Plan proposals.

Section 3.0 - The Parish Today: includes selected statistics.

Section 4.0 - Vision and Core Objectives.

Section 5.0 - Neighbourhood Plan Policies: this provides the criteria and framework upon which future development is judged and how the community should grow.

The Evidence Base

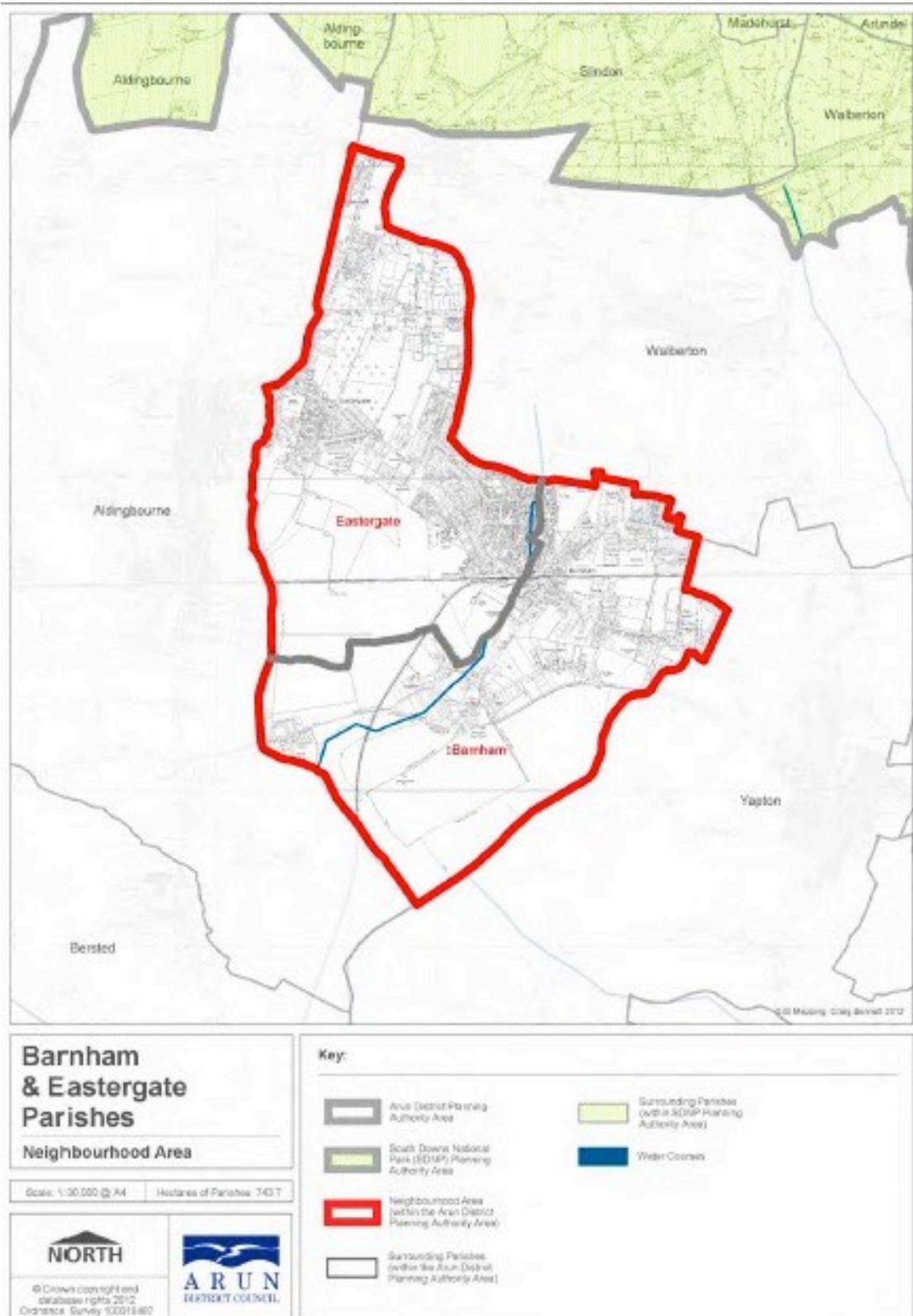
1.11 There is a large amount of background information that has helped in producing the Plan (this is known as the Evidence Base). Links to all of the relevant documents are available via the Parish Council's website at:

<https://barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk>

Monitoring and review

1.12 The Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored by Arun DC on an annual basis and formally reviewed on a five year cycle or to coincide with the review of the Arun Local Plan if this cycle is different.

1.13 Map of the Barnham and Eastergate NP area



2. Context

Introduction

2.1 This chapter sets out the evidence base that supports the Plan proposals, drawing on existing planning policy, social and demographic statistics and information about the local community today such as housing issues, transport and movement patterns, local employment, environment and heritage, flood risk and strategic development constraints.

Planning Policy Context

This section provides an overview of the planning policy context affecting Barnham and Eastergate.

National Guidance

2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012, provided guidance for local planning authorities (LPAs) in drawing up plans for development and was a material consideration in determining applications. The Framework was revised in July 2018 and work has been undertaken to revise the references in this Plan to align them with the new Framework. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the core of the RNPPF which in practice means that LPAs and communities in locations where Plans are being prepared need to positively seek opportunities to meet their area's development needs.

Neighbourhood Planning gives communities the direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and must be in line with the strategic policies of the Arun District Local Plan.

At examination, the submitted Neighbourhood Plan must demonstrate that it is consistent with the policies and intent of the RNPPF. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it becomes part of the Arun District Development Plan.

Local Planning Policy

2.3 The Parish falls within the planning authority area of Arun District Council.

Arun District Local Plan

2.4 The Arun District Local Plan 2011 - 2031 was adopted in 2018.

Strategic Policy H SP1 includes a housing allocation at Barnham/Eastergate/Westergate (site SD5 the eastern edge of which lies within the Parish) for 2,300 houses (see site context map on page 12).

Strategic Policy HSP 2 -Strategic Site Allocations – requires that the strategic sites must be comprehensively planned and should have a master plan endorsed by the Council. It also sets out a number of key requirements for the provision of the strategic allocations.

Strategic Policy H SP2c sets out the policy requirements for allocation SD5. It requires at least 2,300 dwellings over the plan period and up to 4,000 in total (a further 700 beyond 2031).

Policy H SP1 of the Arun Local Plan (ALP) allows for additional non-strategic allocations to be made through emerging Neighbourhood Plans or reviews of made Neighbourhood Plans. Barnham and Eastergate Parish are required to allocate sites(s) for a minimum 75 units in addition to the SD5 allocation.

Neighbourhood Plan Review 2019 - 2036

2.5 The revised Plan comprises of saved policies from the Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan 2014- 2034 and new policies along with an amendment to Map E to show the revised BUAB.

Modification Proposal Statement

2.6 The Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 14(a)(v) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in respect of the Modification Proposal to the made Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2034.

2.7 The modifications made are as follows:

2019-2031 Proposed	Type of Modification	Notes
ES1 Flooding, drainage and new development	Material modification does not change the nature	Inline with ADC policy

ES2 Watercourses	Saved	
ES3 Local Gap/Green Infrastructure Corridors	Material modification does not change the nature	Inline with ADC policy
ES4 Protection of open views	Material modification does not change the nature	Policy amended to specify views
ES5 Quality of Design	Material modification does not change the nature	Policy amended to reflect the new Parish Design Guide
ES6 Contribution to local character	Deleted	Incorporated into the Parish Design Guide
ES7 Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets	Material modification does not change the nature	Policy amended to include new locally listed assets inline with ADC policy.
ES8 Buildings should be designed to reflect the three-dimensional qualities of traditional buildings	Deleted	Incorporated into the Parish Design Guide
ES9 The Portsmouth and Arundel Canal	Saved	
ES10 Trees and Hedgrows	Material modification does not change the nature	Amended to introduce local species requirement. Inline with ADC policy
ES11 Energy efficiency of new development	Material modification does not change the nature	Amended as the Code for Sustainable Homes has been scrapped. Inline with ADC policy
ES12 Energy efficiency of existing development	Material modification does not change the nature	Minor wording change. Does not change the policy intent
ES13 Renewable and low carbon energy	Material modification does not change the nature	Minor wording change. Does not change the policy intent
ES14 Development of agricultural land	Material modification does not change the nature	Inline with ADC policy
ES15 Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services	Material modification does not change the nature	Inline with ADC policy to protect and preserve green and blue assets

ES16 Dark night skies	Material modification does not change the nature	New policy recognising the proximity of the South Downs National Park and local unlit environments. Inline with ADC policy
GA1 Connection to sustainable transport	Material modification does not change the nature	Wording addition to reflect the need for connections to new strategic site. Inline with ADC policy.
GA2 Footpath, cycle path and bridleway network	Material modification does not change the nature	Wording change to include bridleways and reflect the need for connections to new strategic site. Inline with ADC policy.
GA3 Contributions to maintain and improve the network	Saved	
GA4 Parking and new development	Saved	
GA5 Commuter parking	Material modification does not change the nature	Policy changed to allocate land.
CLW 1 Support independent living	Saved	
CLW2 Support for new medical facilities	Saved	
CLW3 Recreation facilities	Saved	
CLW4 Provision of allotments	Saved	
CLW5 Protection of assets of community value	Saved	
CLW6 Designation of local green spaces	Saved	
CLW7 Protection of open spaces	Saved	
CLW8 Provision and improvement of school facilities	Saved	
EE1 Support for business -	Saved	
EE2 Retention of employment land	Saved	

EE3 Support for new commercial uses	Saved	
Retention of retail frontages	Saved	
EE5 Retention of existing car parks	Saved	
EE6 Improving signage	Saved	
EE7 Support and promote recreational and tourism activities	Saved	
EE8 Support and retain Equine businesses	Material modification does not change the nature	New policy to reflect the importance of equine businesses to the parish. Inline with ADC policy
H1 Housing	Material modification does not change the nature	Housing allocation to meet LPA designation. Inline with ADC policy
H2 Windfall sites	Material modification does not change the nature	Policy wording strengthened.
H3 Housing Mix	Saved	
H4 Integration of new housing into surroundings	Material modification does not change the nature	Policy wording strengthened.
H5 Outdoor space	Saved	
H6 Attention to detail	Saved	
H7 Drainage for new housing	Deleted	Incorporated into Policy ES1
H8 Built up Area Boundary	Material modification does not change the nature	Inline with ADC policy

3 Barnham and Eastergate today

Introduction

3.1 Understanding Barnham and Eastergate is the starting point for producing a good Neighbourhood Plan. This is because the Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan presents a valuable opportunity to plan the future of the two villages. Barnham and Eastergate Parish Councils joined to form one Parish Council in 2019 but the two villages and communities remain distinct from one another whilst sharing facilities.

History

3.2 The two villages are both areas of historic importance containing 24 Listed Buildings (there are also three additional buildings which are in the neighbouring parish of Aldingbourne but which form a cluster around the centre of Eastergate), 14 Buildings of Special Character, 3 Conservation Areas and 1 Area of Special Character.

It is known that an ancient settlement of Berneham was recorded in the Domesday Book with a mill and the Church of St Mary the Virgin. The original Parish is thought to have taken its name from an individual named 'Beorna' whose 'ham' or enclosure was in this low-lying countryside.

Until the Middle Ages, a tidal creek ran to within a few yards of the church and fishing, not farming, was the main occupation of the villagers, as was smuggling. With the arrival of the railway in the nineteenth century and subsequent development of the glasshouse industry the village of Barnham grew around the railway station rather than the church which had previously been the case.

The first record of Eastergate Parish is believed to be that in the Domesday Book where it is listed as a hamlet of about 100 people and called 'Gate.' There is mention of a church but opinions differ as to whether the existing church is the original referred to. It is thought that a tollgate stood between Eastergate and Westergate, hence the origin of the name.

"The land has undergone a tremendous change in this area over the centuries with the encroachment of the sea claiming Middleton and Cudlow near Climping. Barnham was built on slightly higher ground and in time the land between Barnham and the coast was drained so that the land could be used for farming. The drainage ditches remain and

are as necessary today as they have always been.” Sandra Lowton - Local Historian.

General Character

3.3 Barnham and Eastergate are two semi-rural villages with separate characters. They are both geographically located between the South Downs and the coast, with the open landscape of fields laced with water courses and hedgerows which surround the settlements, together with the presence of patches and strips woodland and ancient woodland throughout the area. A network of public footpaths provides access to country walks between neighbouring villages and all the way to the South Downs and the coast, complimented by a network of bridleways and - more recently - the emergence of a cycle path network. Each village has conservation areas and an area of special character, with a mixture of statutory and locally listed historical buildings, and those with special character.

The villages have a rich natural landscape and evidenced wildlife habitats that show that species cross the parish en-route from the South Downs to the coast.

The two villages, whilst having very separate characters, are linked by the B2233. This single carriageway winding rural road provides a short-cut route from the A259 Coastal Road to the A27 Trunk Road and Chichester. As well as local traffic, it is used by through traffic wishing to avoid the longer circuitous routes via Arundel or Bognor Regis. The semi-rural nature of both parishes means that there are several farms and more remote dwellings where residents have to rely upon travel by car to the village centres.

The hub of Barnham village is built around the short length of the B2233 in close proximity to Barnham station. The majority of the retail outlets cluster along this stretch of road. This main shopping street provides a range of local shops including three small supermarkets one of which hosts a Post Office, a pharmacy, several independent retailers and a number of food outlets. On the outskirts of Barnham village, the Windmill shopping area provides a mix of very small independent retailers.

Church Lane to the south leads to the historic heart of Barnham with the church, Barnham Court and conservation area.

Eastergate village is centred on Elm Tree Stores, which is also the local Post Office; the Six Villages Sports Centre (actually in Westergate, lying in Aldingbourne parish); the secondary school playing fields and Church Lane leading to the primary school, local pub, parish church and the conservation area. The Eastergate War Memorial (a Listed monument) is set in a small roundabout at the busy A29/B2233 junction, within the

conservation area. It is the key focus for Remembrance Day observance in both villages, whose people wish it to remain in its current location.

Eastergate' has the much larger population on paper that is – in part – due to much of the established housing along Barnham Road being within the Eastergate parish boundary yet regarded locally as being "in Barnham" (the Eastergate village sign is located about 5 metres south of Church Lane).

Local residents like being able to 'pop' into the two centres to use the services and do their day to day shopping and to pick up newspapers, bread and other necessary items. In addition, there is a thriving take-away food sector in Barnham and each village has a traditional pub. Twice a day there is a surge of young people making their way through Barnham village centre to and from Barnham station and schools on foot whilst other schools see large numbers of pupils arriving by car.

Barnham village centre is difficult for pedestrians to navigate due to design and layout with the B2233 through the middle often becoming congested at times. There is also poor car-parking.

The villages each have their own groups of historical and socially significant buildings listed, either nationally or locally, mostly within its own conservation areas. Linear development has followed the B2233 between the village centres and those roads leading out from Barnham and Eastergate. Development in both villages consists of a mixture of properties which have been constructed at different time periods and ages. Until the start of the 20th century most housing was contained within the village centres. Only in more recent times has the countryside seen increased pressure for development.

Lanes to the east and north are narrow country lanes with tall trees forming leafy arches over the road in places. The busy Yapton Road (B2233) also has an arch under the railway line stopping high HGVs and double decker buses passing under. There is cycle track by the road to Walberton and another across the fields to Felpham. The other lanes also prohibit HGVs.

All three roads have rather restricted pavements and no dedicated cycle paths. More modern developments are built off these roads, both private and high-density low-cost housing but access to local facilities is often along roads with restricted or no pavements.

Barnham and Eastergate are semi rural parishes defined by their open spaces, surrounding fields and woodland and views to the south downs. Over the past few years the villages have expanded significantly (7.35% between 2001 and 2011 - source ONS)

with several new housing estates being added both within and on the borders of the villages. In some cases little attempt has been made to integrate these new developments with local features and mobility infrastructure. As well as increasing the pressure on local schools and health provision there has been an increase in local traffic and increased pressure on parking and the A29 which will only be upgraded at the cost of more housing. This has led to an erosion in the quality of life in the villages for both existing and new residents. The proposal to increase the area by a further 2 to 3000 homes has been met with horror locally and this Plan will seek to mitigate some of the impacts of this development.

Environment and Sustainability

Flooding

3.4 The villagers of Barnham and Eastergate face flooding from the rifes and ditches whenever there is heavy rainfall. In theory the sewerage system is adequate for existing levels of population, but unfortunately nothing effective has yet been done to prevent groundwater infiltrating the system and expansion work at local sewerage plants has yet to be undertaken to manage increased waste due to housing development. The geology of the area creates a very high-water table and fracturing of sewerage pipes in the areas where there is running sand is an ongoing, unresolved problem. Consequently, in a wet winter heavy rainfall results in surcharge adding to any surface water and fluvial flooding.

The fields in the south of the parish are part of a large flood plain allowing flood waters from the rifes and rainwater to be contained, preventing even worse flooding in and around Bognor Regis. A Surface Water Action Plan has been discussed as a matter of urgency by WSCC, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and ADC. It is therefore increasingly important to preserve all the open land which provides a natural means of absorbing flood water, preventing problems to the north and the south. WSCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has identified Barnham as being at risk from flooding from surface water, rivers and sewers. Sewerage discharge into the Rife is permitted by the Water Authority but the Parish wishes to avoid increased pressure on the sewerage system to avoid environmental and health hazards. The Lidsey Rife goes north to south through the centre of Barnham Village and if it becomes blocked flooding in the village will occur as it did in 1994. Residents regularly endure sewerage discharge into areas close to schools and play areas.

Because of the essential function of the floodplain in providing a release of floodwater in order to help with what is an already recognised problem of inadequate drainage in Barnham and Eastergate and the protection of settlements far beyond the parish boundaries, this area needs to be protected and enhanced.

Environment and Habitats

3.5 The nature of the flood plain in the southern part of the villages attracts a number of bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian and insect species, whose habitat and feeding grounds would be negatively affected if a significant part was covered in inappropriate development. The rich resources of this area of fields (often flooded), meadows, hedges, copses, rifes and ditches provide a rich resource for wildlife, detailed in the Biodiversity report. The cycle track and footpaths in this area are well used by walkers, cyclists and birdwatchers, as the fields and rifes attract large numbers of resident and migratory species. This area also borders the main historical conservation areas of Eastergate and Barnham.

Several patches of ancient and significant woodland have been identified within the two parishes and protection to many trees has been established by TPOs. Lanes and public rights of way are bordered by established hedgerows. Because of their proximity to the dwellings, residents can observe a wide range of birdlife, often coming to feed in gardens, that thrive in wooded and other surrounding areas.

Throughout both villages proximity to farm fields, meadows and woodland bring a significant variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects and plants within easy access of the community.

Local sightings of species have been regularly recorded by the Sussex Wildlife Trust and Sussex Ornithological Society and included in the local biodiversity report, details of which are included in the Evidence Base.

Evidence

3.6 Evidence of the extensive research carried out to understand the local environment and sustainability issues can be found on the web site.

Getting Around

3.7 Connectivity, trade and interaction lie at the heart of vibrant communities. The centres of Barnham and Eastergate are compact, walkable areas but further out there are poor links and villagers are very reliant on their cars. Around 53% are economically active with 23% of residents travelling between five and ten kilometres to work (source 2001 Census). The two most significant transport features of the Barnham & Eastergate parishes are the Network Rail mainline station and the B2233 road.

Rail

3.8 Barnham station is a hub for Network Rail and Southern Railway. It provides direct commuter links to London, Chichester, Southampton, Brighton and beyond. The station serves Barnham and Eastergate and the other villages in the area (from Climping through to Aldingbourne), some 25,000+ residents. The station has a small car park, which dominates the centre of Barnham physically and visually. The sidings and platforms behind it amplify the overall stark, albeit open and light, ambience.

Traffic

3.9 The B2233 carries local traffic between the villages and links the A259 and to the A27 trunk road (Chichester). It is a direct shortcut for significant through traffic avoiding the longer, circuitous routes via Arundel and Bognor Regis. Traffic levels, over 7000 vehicles per day, are greater than the north/south flow along the A29 Fontwell Avenue.

The road has some severe pinch points, down to a single lane in Barnham centre, with nose to tail traffic evident during both the morning and evening 'rush hours' and queuing at the Eastergate War Memorial roundabout. Whilst this helps to calm traffic, at other times speeds in excess of the 30-mph limit are evident. Pavements are limited and pedestrians and vehicles pass closely, particularly near the schools, shops and the south from the railway bridge/underpass. There have been several accidents and there is anecdotal evidence of frequent "near misses". Residents' concerns are that new developments will increase the danger from traffic and worsen the queuing, whilst road safety improvements are needed.

Excessive speed and unsuitable vehicles are a problem on other roads in the villages. Examples include:

The Farnhurst Road residential estate, suffers commuter parking and speeding vehicles.

Residents in homes near to the Trading Post store in Barnham also suffer from commuter parking.

Lake Lane, a narrow lane with minimal foundations over running sand, suffers high levels of HGV traffic, road damage, sewer collapse and consequent delays.

Damage to the Eastergate Memorial roundabout, caused by HGVs, is a recurring issue which threatens one of the villages' Listed items

Public consultation reveals a need for speed restrictions and diversion of HGVs on such roads.

With the increasing numbers of children being driven to school, there has been an inevitable increase in vehicle traffic outside some of the schools during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Despite clear No Parking designated areas these surges lead to significant congestion. Anecdotally, this has led to lost tempers and on numerous occasions heated verbal confrontations.

Parking

3.10 There are two pay car parks in Barnham and several free on-street spaces, for stays up to one hour, with good access to the shops. Commuters avoiding parking fees cause conflicts with short-term, retail parking in the centre and residential parking in local roads. Four disabled bays (one in front of Tesco opposite the railway station) are available in Barnham whilst none is available in Eastergate.

Short-term roadside parking by customers using Elm Stores contributes to the bottle neck at the neighbouring Eastergate Memorial.

Other Public Transport

3.11 There is good access to limited bus services. Coach services to major cities are available within four miles of the villages. Unpaid volunteers of the Community Minibus Association provide access to transport for residents unable to use public transport. Residents rate improvements to bus services as important.

Footpaths and Cycleways

3.12 Walking is an everyday part of village life. There is an existing network of

pavements, footpaths, bridleways and a cycle trail linking Felpham to Barnham and Walberton that provide good travel round the villages and increasing access to farmlands for cyclists and walkers. These are all heavily used and well supported by both residents and visitors alike. Residents would like to see further foot and cycle access to the countryside.

Evidence

3.13 Evidence of the extensive research carried out to understand the local transport infrastructure can be found on the web site.

Community Leisure and Wellbeing

Schools

3.14 Each village has a primary school and a good range of pre-school facilities. There are two senior schools, St Philip Howard Catholic High School in Barnham and Ormiston Six Villages Academy School (which lies in Westergate but serves Eastergate as well as the surrounding area), all of which are very much part of the community. Three of the four schools noted received 'Good' in the most recent Ofsted reports. The area is also served by train or bus to other schools and colleges in Chichester, Bognor and beyond. Statistics show that with the growth of housing there is insufficient school capacity (see Evidence Base CIL and Section 106 Detail Report)

Community Facilities

3.15 Barnham and Eastergate have a range of facilities including Eastergate Village Hall and Barnham Community Hall.

Community Facilities include:

Barnham Village	Eastergate Village
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public house • Train station • Small Retail centre including three small supermarkets, one with Post Office • Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnham Primary School • St Philip Howard Catholic School • Barnham Community Hall • Parish church • Murrells Field with trim trail and play area • Recreation areas (3 LEAPS, 1 NEAP) • Dentist • Vet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public House • Convenience store with Post Office • Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastergate Primary School • Village Hall • Eastergate playing field and pavilion • Recreation Area • Parish Church • GP Surgery with pharmacy

Play Provision

3.16 16% of the population is aged under 16 (source 2001 Census). There is a lack of good quality play areas in the villages. At present, with the exception of Murrell's Field, developed by Barnham PC through its charitable enterprise BLADE, and Eastergate Sports Field provided by EPC, there is a paucity of quality play areas in the two villages and support and maintenance by ADC for several of those is to be discontinued. The Farnhurst Road recreation and play area does have more play equipment and a large open area of grass and is perceived by ADC as an important asset. Unfortunately it has the significant drawback of being regularly subject to sewage discharge whenever there is heavy rain. Other small play areas have a standard limited range of equipment aimed at

small children. Because of this and their location within small clusters of housing, several of these are underused and are no longer to be maintained by Arun DC.

Medical Services

3.17 Survey results indicated a concern locally about pressure on medical facilities currently even without new homes being built. There is no medical centre in Barnham and residents need to travel to either Eastergate where there is a GP surgery, Walberton or Yapton.

Care Services

3.18 Over 22% of the community are aged over 65. 4% of the current population claims attendance allowance. This will put pressure on local services including:

- social and healthcare - greater likelihood of long term illness;
- public transport - through decreased mobility;
- leisure facilities - people are living longer and have more spare time;
- changing housing needs - smaller properties, adaptations and need for onsite or nearby carers.

There are 7 communal establishments in the parishes providing nursing and residential care.

There is a lack of future burial space in the main churchyards.

Policing

3.19 The community has a Police Community Support Officer. Effective and visible policing is recognised as being important to this community.

Allotments

3.20 The villages of Barnham and Eastergate are situated in an area that has traditionally been used for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables and flowers. A commercial horticulture industry has developed all around the villages, taking advantage of soil that is rich in

nutrients and ideal for large-scale and small-scale growers and gardeners.

The demand for allotments among Barnham and Eastergate residents has steadily grown.

Portsmouth and Arundel Canal

3.21 The route of the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal, an early 19th century industrial waterway which linked Portsmouth to the River Arun as part of a network of waterways linking the coastal industry in the Solent to London, stretches across the southern landscape of the two parishes. It has been identified by ADC in the Local Plan as worthy of special measures to preserve and enhance its presence. Some preservation work has taken place near Barnham Court Farm, where the site of a swing bridge is identified and the winding stone on show, and where some girders from a canal bridge are on display. A footpath follows the length of the canal but some stretches are less accessible and less well-kept than others.

Evidence

3.22 Evidence of the extensive research carried out to understand the Community, Leisure and Wellbeing issues can be found on the web site.

Employment and Enterprise

Retail and Entertainment

3.23 The majority of retail outlets in Barnham cluster along the B2233, close to the station. They include, three small supermarkets, one including a Post Office, a restaurant, and thriving takeaways. They are convenient and well used by residents walking, cycling and driving there. Elm Tree Stores in Eastergate is a small but important retail drop-in for locals which also includes the local Post Office.

The majority of villagers use the local retail outlets for convenience shopping only. Consequently residents are regular visitors to Chichester and other local towns. Chichester is the most popular destination for retail visits, especially non-food, leisure and entertainment including restaurants and cinema. Bognor Regis is the preferred destination for DIY and grocery in the easily accessible out of town retail parks, the town centre having a limited draw, with Arundel and Littlehampton having less frequent visits.

Residents would like to see more convenient free retail parking (see 2.4.5 above) and improved signage in each village to promote local services.

Employment

3.24 Barnham and Eastergate is generally perceived as an affluent area but there are challenges for the local economy to address, such as pockets of significant deprivation within the two parishes, changes in the working population and the evolving nature of modern employment.

Registered unemployment is low at 3% but a quarter of these are long term unemployed, not having worked in over a year. Youth unemployment levels are double the overall rate and many local job opportunities are seasonal.

The parish hosts some large employers in the horticulture, education and care sectors but the key employment areas lie outside the villages in Bognor Regis, Chichester and beyond, with consequent high levels of commuting.

Local shops and businesses provide a range of services but many are worried about future viability due to the increase in out of town shopping, as planned in the enterprise@Bognor Regis schemes.

As a result of the open and semi-rural aspect of the villages and location between the South Downs and the seaside, tourism can play an increasing part in the villages' economy with a range of local attractions, visitor accommodation and services to meet visitor needs.

Good broadband links are seen as important to support home working for around 30% of residents, whilst facilitating the growth of enterprise and e-commerce.

Promoting local trade and encouraging networking between businesses and the community is considered to be important for the long-term development of the local economy. Connections between local schools and businesses are seen as important by residents.

Employment locally is dominated by wholesale and retail trades. A lot of work is seasonal and most residents travel more than two kilometres to work.

The main employment locally is in horticulture. Eric Wall Ltd grows tomatoes on 30 acres of land at Barnham and employs 90 permanent staff and a further 80 in the summer months. Fleurie Nursery is now part of Tristram Plants along with Walberton and Binsted Nurseries and operates across almost a dozen sites in the local area employing 115 permanent members of staff, who with seasonal helpers, grow 7.5 million plants a year to sell to Farplants Cooperative whose sites are accessed via Lake Lane. They are the largest

supplier of garden plants to Garden Centres in the UK producing over 11 million plants a year on 70 hectares. The group employs 350 staff directly and a further 150 indirectly through haulage companies and support services. Over half are permanent employees.

There is significant employment in horseculture with a number of liveried stables and Fontwell Racecourse.

Increasing house prices and the consequent rise in the value of land has encouraged the owners of several of the nurseries to sell their land for new housing developments. These developments not only impact detrimentally on the employment opportunities in the Parish but also on the environmental assets.

Evidence

3.25 Evidence of the extensive research carried out to understand the Employment and Enterprise issues can be found on the web site.

Housing

3.26 Barnham and Eastergate have a mix of housing types and densities, consistent with their semi-rural character and historical development. The Conservation areas of each village feature heritage buildings.

Average house price: £445,047

	Owner occupier	Shared ownership	Social rented	Private rented	Other
Household tenure	1,604	17	146	203	23

Household tenure 2011:

The houses bordering the B2233 and in the west of Barnham are largely detached or semidetached houses built in the 1920s and 1930s. Later development provided medium sized estates which were well laid out with several green spaces yet increased building density within the defined Built Up Area. Rural outlying properties exhibit a blend of agricultural, individual and public housing in low density, consistent with their surroundings.

3.27 Land Supply consistent with the requirements of the NPPF has left the villages open to speculative development. There are currently approved plans for 426 new dwellings in the Parish.

Planning permissions/Commitments:

	HLS Commitments (total commitments) Gross Figures	Small Site Commitments 2018 Gross Figures
Barnham	203	18
Eastergate	460	11
Total	663	29

Major planning permissions pending construction

- Strategic Site – 400
- Other - 426

Number of homes built (net completions):

Number	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Barnham	0	0	0	8	63	35	69
Eastergate	0	14	7	39	11	6	1
B&E Total	0	14	7	47	74	41	70

Strategic Allocations

Reference	Number	Comments
SD5; Barnham /Eastergate/ Westergate	2,300	Development due to commence during 2018-19

Neighbourhood Plan Allocation

Reference	Number of units	Comments
H1 North of Barnham Road	60	Construction not commenced

3.28 The Parish has a revised housing allocation of 75 homes to be delivered from the 1st April 2018. It has also created a Community Land Trust to ensure affordable housing is delivered to meet the needs of residents in the Parishes of Aldingbourne and Barnham and Eastergate.

Evidence

3.29 Evidence of the extensive research carried out to understand the local Housing issues can be found on the web site.

4 Vision and Core Objectives

Introduction

4.1 The Vision Statement and the principles underlying the Plan were developed with the local community at a community engagement event. They form the foundation of the Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan.

The vision underlying this Plan is to value, protect and promote the unique parish of Barnham and Eastergate, by respecting the heritage, appreciating the current community and being aspirational when planning their future.

The main view from local people is that existing gaps between villages/settlements should be maintained to avoid coalescence and there should be no further large scale development in the villages.

The Principles

4.2 Using the vision statement and the views of local people helped us to put together a set of principles for delivering our vision. These are that Barnham and Eastergate should:

- a. support, encourage and promote a range of shops and businesses and provide an environment for local enterprise to flourish
- b. make the most of the semi-rural aspect through protecting views, providing good access, enhancing facilities, retaining existing gaps between villages/settlements and maintaining biodiversity
- c. preserve, protect and enhance and ensure the enjoyment for all, of the valued green and blue assets and habitats for flora and wildlife
- d. promote and support safe travel for all and resolution of parking issues while ensuring that new developments integrate with the current green infrastructure network and provide access to public and community transport, and community and retail facilities of the villages.

- e. foster and promote a thriving healthy community with plentiful opportunities for education, training, leisure and employment for people young and old
- f. continue to be an attractive, diverse, well ordered and vibrant community in which residents, visitors and businesses can thrive.
- g. continue to be distinctive, vital and thriving communities where identity, heritage and aspirations for the future are valued, protected and promoted
- h. ensure that the community is supported by an effective infrastructure particularly in relation to drainage and flood protection
- i. preserve high quality agricultural land