



REPORT

Barnham and Eastergate Strategic Plan

Chris Allington, Chair Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council

Final – Version 2
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1 INTRODUCTION

This document is a high-level summary of the B&E Strategic Plan. It should be read in conjunction with:

- The Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Plan
- Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate (ABE) S106 and CIL Requirements

The Strategic Plan sets the key priorities that the Parish Council will focus on over the next 5 years.

The Plan will be reviewed annually and will be used in the budgeting process, to plan activities for the forthcoming year and will enable the Parish Council to monitor its progress against key priorities.

Whilst the Parish Council has Strategic Priorities it will also continue to focus on its core objectives of:

- To promote and represent the community's views and aspirations.
- To provide high standard, cost-effective services and amenities to help meet the needs and wishes of residents.
- To work in partnership, or otherwise, with other statutory and voluntary bodies, businesses and individuals to ensure an improving standard of services and facilities to meet the needs and expectations of residents.
- To promote and support local voluntary groups and clubs that seek to assist residents and visitors
- To help to create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, culture, income, race, sexual orientation or religion, and which seeks to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation.

2 Strategic Priorities

We have identified the following strategic priorities that the Parish Council will focus on over the next 5 years:

- **Barnham and Eastergate Neighbourhood Development Plan:**
 - 2019 Review. Complete and 'made' by Arun District Council March 2022
- **Community Programmes:** Facilitate programmes to coordinate, grow and develop the work of the volunteer led organisations in the villages to increase social connections and reduce loneliness. Our ambition is to deliver a vibrant and interesting range of clubs, societies and events that are valuable alternatives to other, more chargeable leisure pursuits which are typically 8 to 10 miles away.
- **A Wide choice of Outdoor Sports:** Work with existing sport clubs and adjacent parishes to deliver a rich choice of sports facilities within a 1 to 2-mile radius of Barnham Village Centre
- **Improving Spaces and Places:** Continue to invest in the Management and Maintenance Plan for our community assets including the community/village halls, playing fields, village centres and all green infrastructure

2.1 Delivery of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

On 2nd July 2014 a Parish referendum (turnout 36.3%) delivered a 95% 'yes' vote and Arun District Council have accepted our original Plan which is now part of their planning process. ADC are obliged to use it in considering planning matters in this area. The Plan describes how our villages should develop over the next 15+ years and is reviewed every five years. The last review was 2019/21 and this plan was Made in Mar-22.

Barnham and Eastergate's Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the area that reflects the thoughts and feelings of local people with a real interest in their community. The Plan sets 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 builds on current and future planned activity and says what the Parish Councils and their partners will work towards.

Document 'Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate (ABE) S106 and CIL Requirements' shows our S106/CIL demands on future housing development but this will not reduce the existing community infrastructure deficit

and is unlikely to fully fund all of our community priorities. The current forecast growth in housing to 2031 is above the current upper limit of sustainability which will be a key issue for the BENP to address.

We will need to develop a team that will access grants to raise the full funding required.

2.2 Community Programmes

Barnham and Eastergate have been investing in a Community Facilities Manager who is also delivering grant funded programmes. The objectives of this are to coordinate the work of the Parish Councils, Partner Charitable Trusts and volunteers to improve the places and spaces that matter to our local community, which is growing rapidly as new housing is built. Improving places and spaces is still a priority but having created the key infrastructure we are now focussed on supporting the community to bring people together and build stronger relationships. As a result, we are seeing more people becoming engaged and developing a sense of pride and ownership in what they have achieved, whether as volunteers or simply through supporting the events programmes. Our work has focussed on supporting the ambition within our community to deliver a vibrant and interesting range of clubs, societies and events that are valuable alternatives to other, more chargeable leisure pursuits which are typically 8 to 10 miles away.

2.3 A Wide choice of Outdoor Sports

Our overarching strategy is that the community offer at each of the three venues and Aldingbourne is complimentary. This is likely to be a model where each hall offers similar services (e.g. venue hire for clubs, societies, private hire and events) but also that they offer something unique such as:

- Aldingbourne Sports Centre: Bowls, football, tennis, dry play pitches for hockey ...)
- Barnham Community Hall: Open parkland (drained and landscaped) with 24/7 access. Community garden, alternative sports offers such as skate park, netball, basketball, disabled sports; jogging track ...
- Eastergate Memorial Hall: Theatre ...
- Eastergate Sports field: Cricket, Football ...

This strategy is in discussion and will need champions and leaders for each are.

2.4 Improving Spaces and Places

Develop policies within the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Promote and encourage the protection of the natural environment and wildlife habitats
- Promote and encourage the development of green spaces and corridors for the appreciation and sustainable enjoyment of residents and visitors. Work with Arun District Council green infrastructure and environmental initiatives.
- Develop and promote strong policies on the protection of wildlife habitats, air pollution, pesticides/herbicides.
- Promote the importance of public education about climate change and how they can contribute.

In addition, the Parish Council will seek to:

- Develop community transport initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of road users and to manage the in-commuting of car users to Barnham railway station.
- Develop programmes that:
 - Improve Barnham Village Centre
 - Improve and add to the community facilities such as village halls, parks and sports fields