



Barnham
Parish Council

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Eastergate Parish Council



Happy New Year

The two Parish Councils are combining resources and skills on the important matters affecting our villages, and these joint newsletters are one way we are seeking to do this.

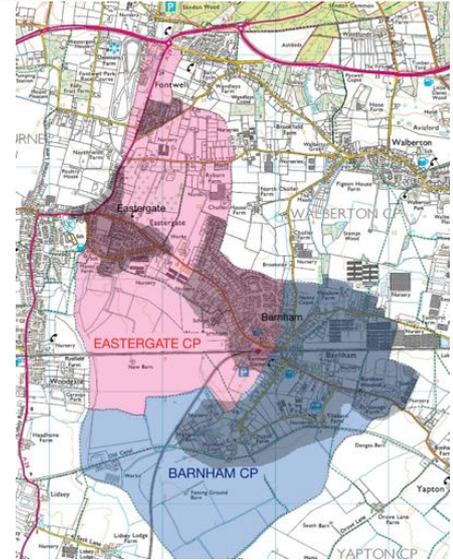
This newsletter celebrates the success of our Neighbourhood Plan, and invites participation in the follow-up to this triumph of Localism in action.

It also describes the current progress of Arun District Council's Local Plan. We describe the actions being taking to oppose the proposed unsustainable development of 2,000+ houses on the farm land to the south of Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate and the rerouting of the A29 through the Poling Motors gap and onwards across Eastergate Lane to Fontwell.

Finally there is a round-up on issues which we believe are of interest or concern to our parishioners.

David Phillips
Chair Barnham PC

Chris Allington
Chair Eastergate PC



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Neighbourhood Development Plan Turnout 36.3%, 95% YES vote

This is the blueprint for our community which was drawn up by a group of volunteers. It is based on your input in 2012 and 2013 from questionnaires sent to every household, open days, interviews and exhibitions. It describes how our villages should develop over the next 15+ years.

Our joint Neighbourhood Plan document, plus the huge background evidence base, is viewable on both of the parish websites (barnham.arun.gov.uk or eastergate.arun.gov.uk)

On 2nd July you voted in a referendum on whether you wanted to adopt our NP, and you said YES.

This turnout, for a non-election issue, is remarkably high and

demonstrates your concern about our villages. Comparable votes elsewhere are coming in at around half this turnout.

Arun District Council have accepted our Plan which is now part of their planning process and they are obliged to use it in considering planning matters in this area.

Because we now have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan there should be a proportion of "Developer contributions" money arising from new housing coming directly to the Parish councils for the benefit of our community. This won't happen yet as Arun District Council need to agree to the new system (Community Infrastructure Levy). We will press Arun to do this quickly as the current system means that the money from developers is spent based on Arun District Council priorities which often means that there is no money to support community facilities despite our community absorbing significant increases in housing numbers.

Bluffer's Guide?

Fancy terms get used in planning like 'Sustainable' and 'Community Infrastructure Levy'. But what do they mean?

In short the planning system should ensure that as more houses are built that essential services such as schools, doctors, drainage, sewerage, roads, buses/trains, social services, community halls etc. are developed to support the growing

community. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is paid by housing developers and can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want.

One of the objections we have with Arun's Local Plan is that it if the 2000+ houses get approved then it appears that all the CIL money is going to fund the new A29. There is no coherent, well evidenced, plan to provide everything else excepting an implied assumption that the parishes of Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate already have it! This suggests that we have twice what we currently need in terms of schools, doctors etc..

Villages Action Plan

The two Parish Councils and the team of local volunteers who worked on the Neighbourhood Plan have identified the next steps to build on the work and enthusiasm generated by the Neighbourhood Plan process. This is a Villages Action Plan, and what this means is that further groups of volunteers get together to work on specific topics, to identify how our villages can be improved – and then to put these plans into action....

The Barnham & Eastergate VAP will be organised into four broad subject areas:

1. Marketing the villages – making the villages & countryside a destination rather than a place to drive through. This is important for our shops and other businesses but also matters for those that want to access the countryside around us.
2. The heritage & environment of our villages and countryside, including our Conservation Areas.
3. A design guide to inform house builders on appropriate & acceptable house, garden and street design.
4. Parking, transport and access.

These four topics are inter-related/ overlapping e.g. parking impacts on the retail side, Design guide will draw on and be affected by the heritage buildings and neighbourhoods etc .

Gerry Reeves, who led the Neighbourhood Plan team says:

“ Would you like to help improve our villages? ”

We would like to make our area somewhere where people would visit rather than just travel through. This can be done by:

Improving the look of Barnham Village centre.

Improving the design of new buildings.

Improving access with safe cycleways and footpaths.

Improving access to the countryside.

Providing more information about local wildlife.

Extending the conservation areas in both Barnham and Eastergate.

If you would like to help, you will be very welcome to attend an open meeting at Barnham Community Hall. Please register your interest to barnhamparish@hotmail.co.uk so we can invite you personally to the meeting. Barnham and Eastergate Parish Councillors will be taking the lead in forming the four groups to tackle what can be realistically be achieved.”

Arun District Council (ADC) - Local Plan Update

Every District Council in England is required to have a Local Plan, a blueprint for economic and social development across the District. This includes housing and employment land. The Local plan is supposed to take account of the Neighbourhood Plans produced by communities and Parishes like ours, and to coordinate with neighbouring councils and the County Council to produce the best of all possible futures for its citizens. It is also supposed to have the support of its electors.

The "Emerging Local Plan" has been published. Sadly no changes were achieved as a result of the massive local opposition which was most visible at the May 2014 Full Council Meeting that formally voted to include the 2,000+ house development south of Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate villages. The formal processes are proceeding and the next stage is that the Emerging Local Plan moves to an Examination in Public which will be chaired by a Planning

Inspector some time in 2015.

We are now past the point where public opinion, objections and protests will influence the content of the Local Plan. The Parishes are now preparing for the Examination in Public and a large technical submission was made by our appointed planning advisor on the 12th December 2014.

In the meantime individuals and community groups (Villages Action Group) should keep up their excellent campaigning to ensure that Arun District Councillors and the Examiner are in no doubt that the Villages do not want to be submerged in a "New Garden City" divided by a major road and a multiplicity of roundabouts.

You may be assured that your Parish Councils are doing their utmost to represent the views of our community and change the Local Plan to protect the Villages. We are working in close partnership with Aldingbourne and Walberton Parish Councils.

Crime, Drugs and Antisocial Behaviour

The Parish Councils were greatly concerned by reports from local residents to the Police about drug dealing in our community over the past 6 months – including apparently selling drugs to local schoolchildren from one Barnham property and public spaces.

Many, including the authors of this newsletter, have been horrified by the growth and visibility of these problems and we are determined to ensure that they receive proper focus and are stamped out.

Based on residents representations the Parish Councils have raised their concerns with our Police Commissioner, Katy

Bourne and pressed the point at the December Joint Downland Area Committee meeting which Sussex Police attend.

Sussex Police have responded and report some arrests, meetings with some affected local residents and school based drugs education days.

The clear message is that the Police need to be made constantly aware of this sort of problem. They require a very high level of evidence before they can act. So if you are aware of this or similar criminal activity please inform the Police (101 or 999) and let the Parish Councils know as well so that we can monitor the situation.

Archaeology – The Romans in Barnham

Many villagers visited the Angel's Nursery site in late November to see the Big Barnham Dig. There was a Roman farmstead sited next to the Yapton Road, and a major excavation to see what was there 1900 years ago has taken place. WSCC funded this dig, and their official press release, as follows, gives more detail:

An ancient pond and Roman artefacts dating back to AD100 have been discovered in a West Sussex village by archaeologists. The objects found show there was a Roman settlement in the village of Barnham, West Sussex County Council says. Over the last six weeks, Roman pottery, ancient rubbish pits and ditches have been found at the site. It is thought the settlement may have started in the late Iron Age before the Roman conquest in AD43.. The pottery vessels were made in kilns in the Arun Valley, with some high-class Samian ware and other imports from Gaul.

John Mills, the council's senior archaeologist, said: "All the archaeological features appear today as filled with pale grey silt, and it is usually easy to see that these must be silted-up ditches, pits and post-holes but a large round grey splodge on the site was puzzling everyone. Digging... showed it to be a shallow depression, which is now thought to be a silted up Roman pond. Most of the pits where the inhabitants were burying their household rubbish surrounded the pond."

"Tiles, of the type used in under-floor heating in Roman stone buildings, were also found, which may indicate a more important Roman building nearby."

Trial trenches on another development site at Goodacres on the other side of the railway have disappointingly revealed no further archaeology.



*The pond, ditches and Roman artefacts date back to about AD100
[Credit: West Sussex County Council]*



*The pottery vessels were made in kilns in the Arun Valley
[Credit: West Sussex County Council]*

Shopping

Tesco has acquired the derelict Barnham Bridge Hotel with the intention of converting it to a Tesco's Express mini-supermarket. There was some disquiet in the two Parish Councils, as there was little consultation with the local community about what we want and need. But current planning law permits the conversion of local pubs to a shop without Planning Permission.

Although many residents may welcome a further retail outlet in Barnham, the present situation is that work has apparently been abandoned for the time being. **STOP PRESS** Tesco have just advised that work will recommence in the New Year with a view to opening in April.



Sadly we understand that our existing Post Office is closing after many years of excellent & friendly service. A new Post Office is expected to open in the Trading Post to continue this vital community service.



Finally, the two Parish Councils supported the plans to enlarge and improve Elm Tree Stores in Eastergate. These works are expected to start in early 2015.

Traffic and Parking - The perennial problems continue

A Tidal Wave of Commuters

Eastergate Parish Council supported a proposal to WSCC from the residents of Rose Cottages (opposite the Station) for a restricted parking scheme to allow them to park near to their homes in the face of aggressive commuter parking. The Parish Councils take the view that this small section of the village is an exceptional and deserving "special case" but thus far WSCC have said no.

Elsewhere, local shops continue to suffer from commuter parking blocking access for shoppers, made worse by the imposition of charges in the car-park behind the Co-op. In addition, residential streets in both parishes are increasingly under siege from commuters from the ever-expanding nearby other villages seeking free parking spaces. Recent action by Arun DC (who are the local parking enforcement authority), after repeated requests by local shopkeepers, has reduced the all-day parkers in the village centre.

These problems are worsening and it appears to many that Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council are unable to do anything with constrained funding and little political will to make our villages a priority.

If the Emerging Local Plan survives the Examination in Public this year then the 2,000+ housing development can only mean further problems and no money to solve them.

It is hoped that the "parking, traffic and access" group in our Villages Action Plan will look at the worsening problem and provide further evidence and ideas for a better solution. The Parish Councils cannot do this alone so we implore businesses and residents to please get involved with this group. We keep proving in Barnham and Eastergate that Localism can make a difference but we need participation.

Traffic Increasing

If you ask a typical local resident about traffic, he or she will probably agree that queueing at pinch points in the villages (such as the Eastergate War Memorial) at peak times appears to be increasing. This will be worsened as more houses are built for commuters.

Lake Lane has yet again been closed recently for major sewer works. WSCC has once again declined to put up suitable signage at the entrance of Lake Lane, citing official rules as their excuse.

Residents at the far end of the Lane continue to press for risk assessments arising from the increasing HGV traffic from businesses on the Lane.

Elsewhere, drainage works are planned for flood-prone sections of Barnham Lane, in conjunction with an extension to the cycle way.

May Parish Elections

Ever thought of becoming a Parish Councillor? This coming May the current councillors will step down and some will stand for election. Why not join your local parish council and make a real difference! Parish councillors are just ordinary people and a small contribution from many is always better than letting a few do all the work.

Being a Parish Councillor is rewarding and the teams of councillors do make a significant difference to the well-being of our communities. There are of course routine matters to

deal with, but over the past few years there have been a number of major projects achieved. Some notable examples include the new Barnham Community Hall at Murrell's Field, the programme of modernisation at Eastergate Parish Hall, the success of our Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, the Parish Councils have been leading the community opposition to the current Local Plan, and working with other parish councils, lobbying groups such as the Villages Action Group, and our MP Nick Herbert. We have pushed hard on flooding, opportunistic housing, parking and traffic, and policing issues.

On occasions it can seem daunting, but it is always a team effort. If interested please contact the parish Clerks using the contact details on the Parish web-sites (below).

Eastergate Players Panto

Eastergate Players Present

Cinderella

By Limelight Scripts

January 27th - 31st

Evenings 7:30 pm

Saturday Matinee 2:00 pm

Tickets sales at Barnham Opticians

mail@eastergateplayers.org.uk

Contacts

Arun Councillors

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John Charles 07889 988612

Parish Councils

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B.L.A.D.E.

Web site: barnham.info

Venues

Barnham Community Hall Bookings/Enquiries Isabel Kendrick 07772 543 418
www.barnhamcommunityhall.org

Eastergate Parish Hall Bookings/Enquiries Mrs S Upton 01243 543183
eastergate.arun.gov.uk